

POTLUCK

Luncheon

You're invited to a Town Hall & Potluck Lunch: April 28

The Church around the world is going through a rummage sale. Rev. Mark Dyer noticed that every 500 years, the Church goes through a major change where the empowered structures of institutionalized Christianity become so intolerable that they must be shattered in order for renewal and new growth to occur. And from that, three things always emerge:

1. A new, more vital form of Christianity
2. A brand-new expression of the faith, as well as a refurbished expression of the faith
3. Christianity spreads dramatically into new geographic and demographic areas

About 500 years ago, the Church encountered the **Great Reformation**, birthing Protestantism as well as forcing Roman Catholicism to make changes. Rewind another 500, the Eastern and Western churches split, creating the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church, called the **Great Schism**. Rewinding again 500 years, Gregory the Great ordered the **Council of Chalcedon**, where the Church codified thoughts on Christ's incarnation. This started the divisions that would lead to the Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Oriental Orthodox traditions, and it also formed the beginnings of monasticism. (The pattern continues as we go back in time with the incarnation, Babylonian captivity, Age of the Judges, so on and so forth.)

The late Phyllis Tickle expanded upon Dyer's work and writes that we, as part of the Church, are entering into the **Great Emergence**. It's exciting! It's scary! What might God be holding in our future?

Every time I look at Christian Century, Sojourners, or Presbyterian Outlook, there is another article about decline and how we face that as the church. But that's only part of the story; this is only the church in the West. The Church is growing in almost every other part of the world, and God is calling us into something new. But what is that new thing?

As you may recall, **FPCE completed a survey in November called the CAT Scan** (Church Assessment Tool). In February, the Session and Deacons received the results, and they were **EXCITING**. What did we learn? Well, we learned that things at FPCE are going well—unusually well for a congregation of our size and composure. However, we are like an airplane cruising at 35,000 feet, with clear skies and nothing but mild turbulence, but it's dangerously low on fuel. All will be fine until the fuel runs out, and then things will come crashing down.

In light of the Church's rummage sale and this "Great Emergence" thing, and in light of our CAT Scan results, FPCE will possibly be undergoing some change. This change means talking about what the future holds and what the Spirit might be leading us into. It means praying and discerning God's will for not only our congregation but for Edgewood and our neighborhood.

There are some options on the table for how we might move forward, and Session is forming a Steering Committee to help us all listen to God's voice in this discernment. But I invite you to come to the **Town Hall and Potluck on April 28th** as we listen to Rev. Brian Wallace's fuller presentation and listen to the proposed options for how we move into the future as FPCE.

Peace,

Rev. Jason A. Dauer



What's next

April 2024 Worship Schedule

Join us Sunday mornings at 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary.
Services are livestreamed on Facebook and posted to YouTube.
If you are not receiving the weekly emails and would like to,
visit fpcedgewood.org and fill out the pop-up form.

April 7: Second Sunday of Easter Communion!
Wandering Heart: "Here's My Heart" | John 21:1-19.
Liturgist: Wayne Dean

April 14: Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48
The Rev. Dr. Angela Dienhart Hancock will offer God's Word this morning. Dr. Hancock serves as the vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty and Howard C. Scharfe Associate Professor of Homiletics at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. She is an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament in the PC(U.S.A.). Dr. Hancock is the author of *Karl Barth's Emergency Homiletic, 1932-33: A Summons to Prophetic Witness at the Dawn of the Third Reich*, a contextual interpretation of Swiss theologian Karl Barth's lectures on preaching in the early 1930s. Her current research explores the practice of deliberation in Christian communities as a vital dimension of prophetic proclamation in polarized contexts. Liturgist: Amanda Rineer

Saturday, April 20: Spiritual Hike
1:00 PM; hike departs at 1:15 PM
Frick Park Beechwood Gate Entrance:
1981 Beechwood Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Rain or shine! We will gather in God's creation to celebrate the Springtime. We will hike the Clayton Loop, which is an easy 1-mile trail that encompasses Clayton Hill. All ages. Dogs welcome.

April 21: Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

Pancake Communion in the Gathering Place! What the heck does that mean? Come find out! We'll be enjoying a pancake breakfast, courtesy of the deacons. Bring hungry bellies as we gather around Christ's table in fellowship. Liturgist: Tyler McGuigan

April 28: Fifth Sunday of Easter



Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8.
Liturgist: Roberta Thompson

Coffee with the Pastor

THURSDAYS, 9AM-12PM, at 61B Café in Regent Square. NO COFFEE ON APRIL 11. Drop by to catch up, ask questions, etc. You can also schedule something with Pastor Jason via calendly.com/pastorjasondauer.

The B-I-B-L-E
Yes, that's the book for me!
I stand with you on the Word of God,
The B-I-B-L-E
"...I was in prison and you visited me." –
Matthew 25:36

There is one book the Allegheny County Jail cannot keep in stock: THE BOOK that changes lives.

Pittsburgh Presbytery's Matthew 25 Initiative is asking each church in Allegheny County to donate at least one copy or more of:

The Life Recovery Bible
or the \$17 purchase price.

Bring it to the May 23, 2024 Presbytery meeting at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, 1 p.m.

We will dedicate the Bibles and monetary donations and take them to the jail.

For more information on how your church can spread the Word,
Contact Charissa.howe@alleghenycounty.us
412.350.2302.

Session Notes

At their March meeting, Session approved the following:

- The dates for 2024 Community Dinners: June 5, July 3, August 7, and September 4.
- A chili cook-off on April 17.
- Communion and a pancake breakfast on April 21.
- Forming a Steering Committee, members to be determined, to discuss progressing from the results of the CAT Scan.
- Entry of the death of Myrna Roller on March 8, 2024 into the church records.



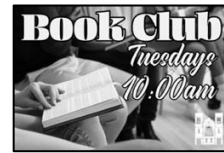
Help Get the Word Out!

The Communication and Outreach Committee will hold its first meeting after worship on April 7. Our committee consists of Elder Judy Mysels, Deacons Rick Masten, Abigail and Angel Lehrian, David Falk, Shaun Cloonan, and brand new members: Sue Pollick, Martha Crean and Michelle Santo. If anyone else is interested in welcoming

guests to FPCE, advertising, caring for our community, etc., please feel free to come to our meeting or contact Judy at the Church Office at 412-241-4613 or office@fpcedgewood.org or talk with the other members of our committee.



FOCUS 
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Tuesday Book Club

This group meets weekly at 10:00AM at the Apossos home, 361 Maple Avenue. They are currently reading *The Triumph of Christianity: How a Forbidden Religion Swept the World* by Bart D. Ehrman. All are welcome! Snacks and coffee provided.

Sunday School

Sunday School for our littlest ones takes place during worship in the Gathering Place. Just drop your child off and Rhonda will lead them in a Bible activity while you are in worship!



Community Planning Meeting Set for April 17, 7PM

This is the 2nd installment of meeting with community groups to meet in person, plan calendar events, exchange information, etc. We will be looking at dates June through December. If you are involved with an Edgewood community group, come and share.

Want to be a Liturgist and/or Greeter?

We're looking for interested folks to be liturgist or be greeters on Sunday mornings. We have several members who regularly help as liturgists and greeters, but we have a few dates that still need filled in. There is a sign-up sheet for each at the side entrance of sanctuary on clipboards. Liturgists assist with the beginning of our service, leading prayers and reading scripture. Contact Pastor Jason if interested in being a liturgist and Angel Lehrian or Rick Masten for greeter questions.

April 17 Chili Dinner

Please join us on Wednesday April 17 at 6:00PM for our preseason Community Dinner. The FPCE Mission Committee is holding an inaugural chili dinner. There will be a smorgasbord of chili recipes, salad, bread, and desserts. Vote for your favorite chili. Please let Rhonda, Judy, or Marcia know if you are able to bring something or help in any way. **Salads and desserts are still needed.** Thank you.



Community Dinners Return

Save the Dates: The First Wednesdays of June, July, August, and September, from 6–8PM we'll be firing up the grill on the side lawn with your favorites, plus some new, soon-to-be-favorites. And, as usual, they're FREE! So, bring your family, friends and neighbors for good food and fellowship!!! Menus will be posted as the dates get closer.

Wednesdays: June 5, July 3, August 7, September 4



Join in WCM's Food Ministry

Wilkinsburg Community Ministry Mobile Food Pantry is now offering a distribution site at FPCE! The food truck will be parked on East Swissvale Avenue in front of our side lawn every Friday from 2:00-4:00PM. Wilkinsburg Community Ministry offers 6 separate locations around the community to distribute fresh food and canned goods to those in need. Stop by to say hi, get fresh produce, or volunteer to help with the distribution!

Sign up to volunteer at <https://tinyurl.com/WCMatFPCE> or using the clipboard on the side entrance bulletin board!

Blessing Bags

FPCE is going to be building Blessing Bags on **June 2** following the church service. These bags will be available for anyone to take and pass out to those in need. If you would like to make a financial donation please do so by May 26 or consider dropping off requested items (see list below) before June 1. If you have any questions, please email Tyler McGuigan at mcguigantylers@yahoo.com



****Please try to only donate the items on this list below. We may update with additional items, particularly for those in need with animals****

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| toothbrush | hand sanitizer (small bottles) | jerky sticks |
| toothpaste | applesauce (squeeze packets) | bottled water |
| mouthwash | granola bars | socks |
| comb | crackers | plastic forks/spoons |
| chapstick | tuna/chicken packets | |
| small packs of tissues | (squeeze, not canned) | |

Harmony Dog Rescue

A new nonprofit that serves individuals and families in crisis is seeking volunteers and donations. The mission of Harmony Dog Rescue is to provide safe homes for dogs whose owners are experiencing homelessness, domestic violence or medical emergencies. Please email info@harmonydogrescue.org or visit their website at www.harmonydogrescue.org for more information.



Alliance for Honor and Repair

The charge for this Alliance is 'to support the Black Presbyterian Churches by engaging in a thorough review of the experience of these congregations through history and to offer recommendations on actions of repair. This charge is given so that the Pittsburgh Presbytery may become a more harmonious, joyful, and just community within the Body of Christ.'

The Alliance will be hosting a **six-week book club on *From Here to Equality* by William Darity & Kirsten Mullen**. This book examines why and how reparations should be made for Black Americans today. If you'd like to talk further about the topics brought up in this book club, reach out to Pastor Jason who will be joining for the 6-week study.

The club will gather from 6:00 to 7:00pm for six Mondays, starting April 15th.

Book club - <https://form.jotform.com/240435692421049>

Matthew 25 Opportunities:

Celebration Corner: Update on RIP Medical Debt Campaign. Thanks to an outreach at Bower Hill Community Church, nearly \$49,000 was collected in the Synod region, which was used to pay off nearly \$6 million in medical debt for more than 6,500 families in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio.

Malawi Partnership Trip – visiting in May; spending 2 weeks with us; hosting and having events
“ANIMATING ANTIRACIST WAYS OF BEING” Workshop presented by Crossroads Anti-Racism Organizing and Training. Wednesday, April 10, and Thursday, April 11, 2024, 9 AM to 1 PM, via Zoom. Sponsored by the Anti-Racism Transformation Team (ARTT) of the Pittsburgh Presbytery. Begin exploring how systemic racism, regardless of intent, provides advantages to white people and harms People of Color. This workshop will build a shared understanding of how inherited systemic racism operates within institutions, including Pittsburgh Presbytery. Participants will work towards identifying the impact of systemic racism and begin to provide tools for imagining solutions. For further information or questions, contact arttpittsburgh@gmail.com. Sign up at <https://form.jotform.com/232636150221040>.

Free lunch on April 24th with other Matthew 25 congregations in our area. If you are interested, please speak with Pastor Jason.

The **Allegheny County Jail is requesting donations** – copies of the *Life Recovery Bible*. They give out 30-50 copies every month, but they have run out. If you would like to donate a copy or two, Pastor Jason can deliver copies at the May 23rd Presbytery Meeting

“The Presbytery of Pittsburgh overtures the 226th General Assembly (2024) to

...direct the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) to begin focused engagement with General Electric (GE) and Palantir Technologies, Inc. in the 2025 and 2026 proxy seasons and to report back to the 227th General Assembly (2026) with possible divestment recommendations for the companies that are not moving toward compliance with established General Assembly policies.”

The Presbyterian Church (USA) has long recognized that church investment is “an instrument of mission.” General Electric and Palantir Technologies are both involved in activities that bring them into direct conflict with our policy of mission-directed investment:

- Military Production and Human Rights Violations in Israel and Palestine
- Human Rights Violations in Yemen and China
- Contribution to Human Rights Violations against Migrants and Asylum Seekers
- Contributions to U.S. Police Forces and Military

Rev. Brian Wallace's "State of the Presbytery" Address

The Pittsburgh Presbytery consists of all Presbyterian Church (USA) congregations in Allegheny County. In 2022, our General Minister Sheldon Sorge retired (the less fancy version of what might be our bishop). In his place, Rev. Wallace currently serves as the Associate Minister for Congregational Support & Emerging Ministries and Acting Head of Staff.

Rev. Wallace identified three themes he has noticed over the last year in our presbytery:

1. The Power of Gathering

Everyone wants to be meeting. Attendance at Presbytery meetings as well as committee and commission meetings has been high. We are all finding deep value in being together—most likely brought about by lockdowns in 2020. Our proximity to one another is a strength. Many pastors and elders in other parts of the US might drive 2-3 hours to get to a presbytery meeting, whereas most of us can throw a stone and hit another Presbyterian congregation. Let's use this to our advantage.

2. Openness and Desire for Deep Work

As Presbyterians, we often do social justice ministry an inch deep and mile wide. However, this is changing. The Presbytery has formed the Alliance for Honor and Repair, which is taking a long hard look at our history. Read more about this earlier in my article.

3. Engagement

Our committees and commissions are more engaged. Not only do we have better attendance, but the energy folks are bringing into the meetings is positive—we want to get our hands dirty and dig into the work in front of us. This hasn't always been true, but it's exciting to think about as we move forward as the church.

Final words from Brian: **"Look to where God is leading us, not where we have been."**

FPCE serving the Presbytery:

Tyler McGuigan - Commission on Ministry (COM)

Rev. Jason Dauer - New Worshiping Community Commission (NWCC)

Upcoming Meetings:

Anyone is invited to attend these meetings as a visitor, but if you are an ordained Ruling Elder, you are invited to also vote at these meetings. Based on the size of our congregation, we are invited to bring one Ruling Elder who has a vote, but this person must be elected by session prior to the meeting. Please talk with Pastor Jason or Flo Raisig if you are interested in attending.

Thursday, May 23 – Pittsburgh Theological Seminary at 1:00 PM

Thursday, October 3 – Crestfield Camp and Conference Center at 10:00 AM

Thursday, December 12 – Northmont United Presbyterian Church at 1:00 PM

If you have any questions about these updates and announcements, please reach out to me!

In Christ,
Rev. Jason Dauer

What's on Session's Mind?

Maybe I should back up a bit. What even *is* Session?

In a Presbyterian Church, Session is like the religious version of a Board of Directors.

Maybe you recall from history class discussions on the Council of Nicaea or the Council of Chalcedon. Similarly, a session is a council of the church. We also have a Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly which are all bigger and encompass the prior body. The bigger bodies govern the smaller bodies, and session is our smallest body.

The session is responsible to *guide and govern* the life of the congregation, and it leads the congregation in fulfilling its responsibilities for the service of all people, for the upbuilding of the whole church, and for the glory of God. The Session is made up of Ruling Elders, and at FPCE, this includes Flo Raisig, Marcia Haley, Amy Moore, Judy Mysels, Mandy Rineer, Lisa Segedy, and Roberta Thompson.

So what is our Session thinking about right now?

Well, the conversation always involves approving building usage. We are a different church than we were a few years ago, and our doors are open daily to multiple community groups doing exciting work in our area. Session also forms the budget and approves purchases.

The conversation has shifted a bit since hearing the results of the CAT Scan, and we are excited for everyone to hear the results from Rev. Brian Wallace on April 28th during our Town Hall and Potluck. Session is working to form a Steering Committee that will help lead us in conversations reflecting on the CAT Scan results and help discern what God might be holding FPCE's future.

At our most recent meeting, we reflected on how there was a family the Christmas Eve service, where the daughter signed the entire service to her mother in ASL. After reaching out to the Western PA School for the Deaf, we received recommendations for local agencies that provide ASL interpretation for worship services. However, we are postponing this conversation until later in the year to give us more time to research and learn of other opportunities in the area. If you know someone that might be interested in signing up for an occasional church service, please let someone on session know!

In Christ,
Rev. Jason Dauer

ESO presents "Songs of the Earth"

Edgewood Symphony's final concert of the season will take place at the JCC in Squirrel Hill on Saturday May 11th at 7:30 p.m. Guest artist Sandro Leal-Santisteban will perform the Brahms Violin Concerto and the ESO will take on The Rite of Spring! Tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance at www.edgewoodsymphony.org. And be on the lookout for next season's announcement.



Thank you to all who joined us on our Lenten journey through "Wandering Hearts" over the past 6 weeks. We walked alongside Peter, using the words to the hymn "Come, Thou Fount" to guide us. We learned some new words to old hymns that aligned with each week's theme. Hopefully, you found a deeper connection to the scripture and message in our singing together.

Easter proved to be yet another glorious Resurrection Celebration with our choir's a cappella anthem and the congregation's rousing chorus of "up from the grave he arose!" Thanks to the choir and Sunny for making our Lenten season special. On to 6 weeks of Easter and more vibrant worship!

Peace,

Shaun Cloonan, minister of music

The Bulletin Board

Sharing the Joys & Concerns of the FPCE Family

- Thanks to the Deacons for making baskets to deliver to our “friends of the church” this Easter season, and to our little ones who made some cards during Sunday School to accompany the baskets!
- Many thanks to Ruth, Elaine, Sue, Jan and Bob, David, Lorraine for decorating the sanctuary so beautifully for the Easter season.
- Speaking of decorations, did you notice the 2 new banners hanging on the side walls of the sanctuary? Special thanks to our resident liturgical artist, Lorraine Douthett for her work in crafting these beautiful banners that will be hung during the season of Easter!
- Sympathies to Tim Hoffman and family on the passing of his sister.
- Happy belated March birthdays to Stephanie McGuigan & Sunny Sakai
- Happy April birthday to Erin McShane & Elaine Cloonan
- Good luck to David and the members of Vocal Confluence as they travel to Ohio to compete for the Johnny Appleseed District title, and hear quartets sing to qualify for the 2024 International Convention!
- Traveling mercies and good luck to Shaun as he travels with over 300 students, directors, and chaperones from the North Hills Choirs, Bands, and Orchestras to Virginia Beach April 11-14.

in Memoriam

HUFFMAN

It is with sadness at his passing and with joy that he touched so many lives, that we remember Charles (Bill) Huffman. Mr. Huffman passed away March 17, 2024 at the age of 97. He spent his educational career in the Edgewood School District as a Social Studies and History teacher, as well as Principal of Edgewood Elementary School. He was a former resident of Edgewood. Mr. Huffman was an Elder and Deacon of FPCE.



SCIULLI

Also, long-time Edgewood crossing guard Mary Leigh Sciulli, 94, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at her home, surrounded by her loving family. Mary was a beloved member of the Edgewood community where she served as a crossing guard for 47 years. Mary took care and watched over multiple generations of children as they went to and from school and gave countless dogs treats as they passed by her corner.

She retired from her post as Captain of the Edgewood crossing guards in 2018, upon which she was honored by the Mayor of Edgewood, Borough Council, and Police Department. Arrangements are under the care of the Thomas L. Nied Funeral Home Inc., 7441 Washington Ave, Swissvale, PA. Friends will be received 2:00 - 4:00 pm and 6:00 - 8:00 pm on Thursday, April 4th. An 11:00 am service will be held at Thomas L. Nied Funeral Home Inc. on Friday, April 5th at 11:00 am followed by a burial at Allegheny Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to Animal Friends of Pittsburgh in Mary's honor.

Excerpts from “In defense of the common congregation”

By Dr. Scott Hagley (*emphases added by Pastor Jason*)

Published in Presbyterian Outlook, February 6, 2024.

Despite an invisibility made possible by their ubiquity, the quiet, ordinary churches that have sat—and still sit—on the corners of sometimes-overlooked spaces are where we can cultivate communities of abundance and care, social healing and spiritual renewal.

One Saturday afternoon this past June, 40 people in the Kenmore neighborhood of Akron, Ohio, gathered for what they hope will become an annual summer festival. People thronged around tables with hot dogs and potato chips, while under the low hum of conversation, a local DJ played music. Kids took advantage of sidewalk chalk to make life-sized art exhibits, and a young bike mechanic in a t-shirt patiently walked families and kids through basic bike repairs — cleaning and greasing the chains, adjusting the brakes, checking the tire pressure, performing a standard safety check. The summer festival emerged from what has become a monthly ritual in Kenmore, where strangers and neighbors meet for a meal in a small church building and share their concerns and hopes for their neighborhood.

*Scott Hagley serves on the faculty at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, where he teaches Missiology. His work helps communities discern faithful and plausible expressions of the Christian faith in our contemporary context. He is the author of *Eat What is Set Before You: A Missiology of the Congregation in Context*.*

In 2022, Allenside Presbyterian Church found itself the victim of several vandalism incidents. Each time congregants arrived at the building to find another window broken, police and neighbors would gather to talk about the neighborhood. These broken windows felt like an ominous sign. Like many neighborhoods in Akron and across the so-called Rust Belt, Kenmore has suffered consecutive waves of disruption and disinvestment.

The congregation was not sure how to respond to the vandalism. **With only 12 active members, they felt powerless to effect any change in the neighborhood.** When the church members consulted with neighbors, they suggested a neighborhood meeting. The congregation set to work printing and posting reusable yard signs and inviting their neighbors. **They planned a meal.** They also reached out to a community liaison police officer, who told them to prepare for a handful – four or five – concerned neighbors to show up. But when the night came, congregants watched people stream through the doors. At the start of the meeting, they counted 35 neighbors in attendance. **After a night of conversation, they learned that their neighbors did not really want a community watch program. They wanted community.**

So Allenside Presbyterian – all 12 of them – has hosted a meal and a conversation every month since, with more and more community partners coming out in support. This experiment in community-building, I suspect, witnesses to the uncommon possibilities within the common (read: ordinary, small, often beleaguered) congregation. In a world marked by division and polarization, Allenside discloses an unrealized capacity of the local congregation to curate common ground among great diversity.

Small local congregations have fallen on hard times... The average size of a congregation in the United States continues to fall while the median number of churchgoers attend larger and larger congregations... Large program-driven and attractional churches can offer age-specific programming, high-energy contemporary worship, and a variety of niche religious products, consolidating churchgoers in the process...

But we neglect Allenside – and the thousands of congregations like it – at the peril of neighborhoods across the country. As we wring our hands in collective anxiety over declining religious institutions, we miss the larger story within which this decline takes place. People are not just leaving the church. They are wandering from institutional and public life in general. Since the 1950s, rates of voluntarism have dropped off a cliff, leaving neighborhood associations and PTOs and community service organizations scrambling for help. Once trusted institutions are now viewed with skepticism. Measures of social trust

are in free fall. Gun sales continue to climb. And we are lonely, dangerously so, caught in a vicious cycle driven by disconnection and despair. Places like Akron, cut off from sleek, social innovation entrepreneurs and big-city think tanks for civil society renewal, have few spaces or opportunities to imagine social possibilities beyond the menu of distrust and disconnection. But they do have Allenside Presbyterian: 12 neighbors who curate and maintain a public space, whose hospitality just might be a witness to the good news of God in this time and place...

For decades, Peter Block and John McKnight, who co-wrote *The Abundant Community: Awakening the Power of Families and Neighborhoods*, have argued for **a return to neighborhood-based solutions to our social maladies**. To rebuild trust, we need to rediscover the gift economies that make community possible, and that starts by identifying the goods we hold in common by nature of being creatures. We live in this place, breathe this air, drink this water, enjoy recreation in this outdoor space, and are worried about this act of vandalism. To identify the common good, we need to know that we hold goods in common... Such communities, they suggest, are made possible by people and organizations seeking to cultivate connections between the divergent gifts, concerns, passions, experiences and hopes of the people in any given place. **An abundant community is a community that has become aware of the gifts and wisdom of its people, and it is a community that takes responsibility for shared well-being.**

Akron, like so many cities in the United States, has suffered from the flight of capital to new places and the hoarding of opportunity by elites; it has persevered through bouts of public disinvestment and the slow decline of social trust. But it has residents with gifts and wisdom, who love Akron and hope for a better future. It also has Allenside Presbyterian Church – an ordinary congregation that inhabits a social space not necessarily governed by market pressures, a place where people can congregate and discern a future together.

Left behind by the program-driven mega-churches, smallish and mid-sized congregations are inefficient and clumsy competitors in the religious marketplace. They do not offer high-value curated experiences for their guests, but they can offer a steady rhythm of presence, a baseline of care and attention humming underneath whatever else happens in that place, in that neighborhood.

In opening their church building and serving a meal, Allenside created space for neighbors to discover goods they held in common apart from the machinations of the market. Allenside had no program to offer the neighbors, nobody had a product to offer or a consumer service to provide. In a neighborhood like Kenmore, few spaces remain, and few organizations exist where such a group can be convened. Kenmore's "third spaces," such as coffee shops and pubs for gathering, remain governed by commercial logic. Also, most non-profits in the area do not have the regular rhythm of meeting, the building with a fellowship hall, and the long-term presence in the neighborhood of a congregation. **What makes Allenside nearly invisible – this small building sitting on the edge of a residential neighborhood along a school bus stop and where neighbors walk their dogs – is what also offers something vital and uncommon in this time and place: a space where the haze of market rationality might clear just long enough for neighbors to see one another and, in doing so, begin to recognize the gifts they hold in common.**

April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30 Scouts 7:00 VC (S)	2 10:00 Book Club 2:00 Flute (CE) 7:00 ESO (S)	3 2:00 Flute (CE)	4 9:00 Coffee (61B) 2:00 Flute (CE) 7:00 SAA (L) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	5 2:00 Flute (CE) 2:00 WCM Mobile Food Pantry (SL) 8:30 AA (SR)	6 8:00 AA (SR)
7 9:30 Choir (CR) 11:00 Worship Communion 12:15 Fellowship Committee Mtgs	8 2:00 Flute (CE) 6:30 Scouts 7:00 VC (S)	9 10:00 Book Club 2:00 Flute (CE) 7:00 ESO (S)	10 2:00 Flute (CE)	11 2:00 Flute (CE) 7:00 SAA (L) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	12 2:00 Flute (CE) 2:00 WCM Mobile Food Pantry (SL) 8:30 AA (SR)	13 8:00 AA (SR)
14 9:30 Choir (CR) 11:00 Worship 12:15 Fellowship	15 2:00 Flute (CE) 6:30 Scouts	16 10:00 Book Club 2:00 Flute (CE) 7:00 ESO (S)	17 2:00 Flute (CE) 6:00 Chili Cook-off 7:00 Edgewood Planning Mtg (GP)	18 9:00 Coffee (61B) 2:00 Flute (CE) 7:00 SAA (L) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	19 2:00 Flute (CE) 2:00 WCM Mobile Food Pantry (SL) 8:30 AA (SR)	20 1:00 Spiritual Hike (Frick Park) 8:00 AA (SR)
21 <i>No Choir today</i> 11:00 Pancake Worship (GP) 12:00 Mission & Personnel Mtgs.	22 2:00 Flute (CE) 6:30 Scouts 7:00 VC (S)	23 10:00 Book Club 2:00 Flute (CE) 7:00 Session (L) 7:00 ESO (S)	24 2:00 Flute (CE)	25 9:00 Coffee (61B) 2:00 Flute (CE) 7:00 SAA (L) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	26 2:00 Flute (CE) 2:00 WCM Mobile Food Pantry (SL) 8:30 AA (SR)	27 8:00 AA (SR)
28 9:30 Choir (CR) 11:00 Worship 12:15 Town Hall/ Potluck Lunch/ CAT Scan results (GP)	29 2:00 Flute (CE) 6:30 Scouts 7:00 VC (S)	30 10:00 Book Club 2:00 Flute (CE) 7:00 ESO (S)	<p><i>Meeting Locations:</i> 61B=61B Café, AH=Apessos Home, B=Basement Band Room, CR=Choir Room, CE=CE Office, GP=Gathering Place, L=Lounge, MS=ESO Music Suite, O=Office, PS=Pastor's Study, S=Sanctuary, Sc=Scout Room, SL=Side Lawn, SR=Social Room</p>			





First Presbyterian Church of

EDGEWOOD

The Community Church

120 East Swissvale Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15218



April 17: Chili Cook-off

April 20: Pancake Worship



April 28: Town Hall/Potluck