

The Season of Epiphany?

While the Presbyterian Church (USA) does not specifically recognize this as a liturgical season, many other denominations mark the “Sundays after Epiphany” as a dedicated time of the Christian year. The Epiphany season is a period of four to nine weeks, lasting from the Feast of the Epiphany (on January 6 which is always 12 days after Christmas) through the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. The length of the season varies according to the date of Easter. The gospel stories of this season describe various events that manifest the divinity of Jesus. The coming of the Magi is celebrated on the Epiphany. The Baptism of our Lord is observed on the Sunday after Epiphany. The gospels for the other Sundays of the Epiphany season describe the wedding at Cana, the calling of the disciples, and various miracles and teachings of Jesus.

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany is always devoted to the Transfiguration. Jesus' identity as the Son of God is dramatically revealed in the Transfiguration gospel, as well as the gospel of the baptism of Christ. We are called to respond to Christ in faith through the showings of his divinity as recorded in the gospels of the Epiphany season.

Stronger Together

From d365.org, a daily online devotional

pause

listen

think

pray

go

pause

“Do your little bit of good where you are; it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”

-- Desmond Tutu

listen

Christ is just like the human body—a body is a unit and has many parts; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many. We were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jew or Greek, or slave or free, and we all were given one Spirit to drink. -- 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

think

In sixth grade, my brother and I were both in the middle school band. I played the flute; he played the bassoon. If you’ve never heard a middle schooler playing pep-band songs on a bassoon before, just imagine a duck stuck in a washing machine (best way I can describe it, sorry brother). For this reason, whenever my parents heard my brother practicing by himself, they never could tell which songs he was playing. When other members of the band joined in, the songs began to unfold, and you could hear every different instrument working together to create a unified sound.

That is much like the role that we have as Christ followers, all functioning together to be a part of the body of Christ. Only joining in with people like us might make sense to us, but it isn’t much help to anybody else. We can make a larger impact when we join together, advocating for justice in and with a community made of all types of people. -- Milligan Burroughs

pray

God of Fellowship, help me to know that we are stronger when we are together. I want to make an impact in the world – so let me not be afraid to ask for help or to offer help, as I join in together with the larger community around me. Community still looks different this year. Please provide ways we can still meet the needs of fellowship outside of what we are used to. Amen.

go

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord. And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love. Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love!

from “They’ll Know We Are Christians” by Peter Scholtes (1966)



First Presbyterian Church of
EDGEWOOD
The Community Church

120 East Swissvale Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15218
www.fpcedgewood.org
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*Believing we are
called together
by God's love
through Jesus Christ,
our mission as the
First Presbyterian Church
of Edgewood
is to love God,
to love each other,
and to love our neighbors.*

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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Judy Mysels
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Sunny Sakai
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LOVE GOD
EACH OTHER
OUR NEIGHBORS



We continue our Sunday morning worship at 11:00AM in the sanctuary with various guest pastors, liturgists, and members of our music ministry. The service is livestreamed on Facebook and then posted to YouTube and SoundCloud within the next day or 2 for online viewing and listening.

Music Ministry Pause

Due to the surge in COVID cases related to the Omicron variant in Allegheny County and for the safety of all, the Sanctuary Choir and Emerging Worship Ensemble will not meet for rehearsals or participate in our worship services for the next several weeks. We will revert back to having just Sunny and Shaun lead music in the weekly service. Once the transmission rate decreases and safety risks are lowered, we will resume our fuller worship participation. Please continue to practice social distancing, masking, and if you don't feel well or safe, stay at home and join us via the Livestream on Facebook.



February 2022 Worship Schedule

February 6: Scout Sunday. We welcome Keith Kondrich to lead our service honoring the commitment FPCE and the PC(USA) has made to support the members of Boy & Cub Scout Troop/Pack 23. Keith is an ordained Deacon at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, and serves as a chaplain for the Allegheny County Jail as well as Director of Aftercare at Foundation of HOPE, an interfaith non-profit with the mission of "Empowering people impacted by the criminal justice system to renew their faith, rebuild their lives, and restore positive relationships."

February 13: Guest pastor yet to be confirmed. If we are able to secure an ordained pastor for this Sunday, we will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

February 21: Heather Henkel returns to our pulpit. If the music ministry pause has ended by this date, we will be joined by the worship ensemble for an emerging service.

February 28: Transfiguration of the Lord. The last Sunday before we begin our Lenten journey celebrates the day that Jesus revealed his true nature on the mountaintop. Heather Henkel leads us.

Looking ahead...

Lent begins with our Ash Wednesday service on March 2 at 7pm.

At their January 11, 2022 Zoom meeting, Session voted:

- to enter the death of Connie Black in church records.
- to elect Tom Ochs as church treasurer and Flo Raisig as clerk of Session for 2022.
- approval of our 2021 General Assembly report.

Stewardship Update from the Presbytery *Why Per Capita?*

Per Capita

Like many Presbyterians, you may have wondered, “Exactly what does per capita do?”

Per capita is the amount of support, per member, that our congregation remits to our Presbytery that is then sent onto our Synod and the General Assembly. This money is part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. It is the money that enables us to work with other Presbyterian churches in our Presbytery and across the country. It is also money that allows us to work with other churches to further the mission of Jesus Christ around the world.

How important is per capita? Here are some examples:

- Your per capita pays for the General Assembly meeting every two years where Presbyterians gather together to worship and discern the mind of Christ for the church.
- In many places in our world, it is difficult to “do mission” except by working ecumenically with other churches. Your per capita helps to pay for meetings of Presbyterians with people of other Christian churches, allowing us to maintain those ties for mission.
- Your per capita pays for producing the Book of Order and The Book of Confessions, including in Spanish, Korean, and Braille.
- Your per capita helps to fund the Presbyterian Historical Society – preserving and sharing the Presbyterian experience.
- Your per capita funds the preparation, administration, and grading of standard ordination examinations for seminary students.
- Your per capita pays for annual training events for presbytery executives, stated clerks, and others who help lead our work and mission.
- Your per capita pays for the travel expenses of the Moderator and Vice Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as they make their way across the church to share with and listen to folks like you about the exciting things God is doing in our midst.

We do not believe in being lone rangers in the PC(USA). We need each other as we work together to share the good news of Jesus Christ. As we benefit from the gifts, skills, vision, and ministry of each other in this place, so, too, do we benefit from an even wider array of gifts and ministry of our Presbyterian brothers and sisters across the church. Your per capita pays for the programs, training, and resources that help us work together and discern the mind of Christ for the PC(USA).

Thank you to all of you who have already paid your share. By contributing your portion of per capita, you have freed up dollars in our regular budget for the work of our congregation in this community.

Per Capita Apportionment for Pittsburgh Presbytery

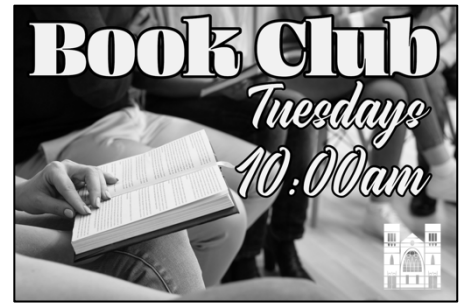
	2021	2022
Presbytery	\$23.44	\$23.41
Synod	\$2.40	\$2.40
GA	\$8.95	\$8.98
TOTALS:	\$34.79	\$34.79



FOCUS CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

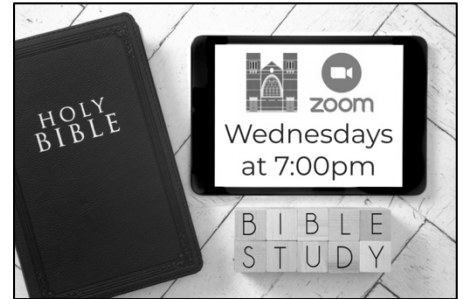
Tuesday Book Club

Our weekly Book Club is currently discussing “Stranger in the Lifeboat” by Mitch Albom. This group meets at 10:00AM on Tuesdays at the home of Rhonda Apossos, 361 Maple Avenue, just a few blocks away from the church. All are welcome!



Wednesday Night Zoom Bible Study

The Wednesday evening online Zoom Bible Study group led by Tim Hoffman is discussing the stories of Elijah and Elisha. Tim also reports that sometime soon, Tim McKee will also join in leading some discussions, but the dates have not yet been confirmed as to when that will begin. The Zoom link is available on the website and in the weekly member email updates. No password is needed, just the link. Tim will let you in from the waiting room as you join. Come and join the discussion on Wednesday nights at 7:00pm online! Questions? Shoot an email to Tim Hoffman at HoffmanTL@gmail.com.



Sunday School

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



PASTOR SEARCH

PNC Search Update

The Pastor Nominating Committee has been hard at work during the month of January. We reviewed another batch of matches from the Church Leadership Connection site as well as several self-referrals. To date, the committee has read/discussed nearly 100 Pastor Information

Forms (PIFs) and have watched or listened to 30-40 sermons before determining who we might invite to a conversation. If the person is a self-referral, they are already familiar with our Ministry Information Form (MIF), but if it is a site match, they may not know that we have matched and we invite them to review our MIF to see if they are interested in us as well.

Much of the past few weeks have been devoted to coordinating dates that all members and candidates might be available to meet and then waiting on responses. First round interviews have begun via Zoom. We expect to continue more interviews over the first half of February before prayerfully considering who from those conversations would be worth further discussions in a second round.

After second rounds, the process goes something like this: Once we have narrowed the field down to a final 2 or 3 candidates, we will contact Presbytery to conduct reference checks. At that point, we would begin discussions about bringing them in for an in-person visit and a possible “neutral pulpit” opportunity for preaching. The Presbytery’s Commission on Ministry would then be contacted and go through their process of a clearance interview. Terms of Call are negotiated, and a whole “candidating” weekend will be planned once we have the person selected to present to the congregation for a vote.

If you are interested in seeing what is in our FPCE Ministry Information Form, you can find it linked under the “Leadership” page of our website next to the Pastor listing. Please continue to keep the search, the committee, the potential candidates, and the mission and ministry of the Edgewood congregation in your prayers as we continue this journey of discerning God’s call to pastoral leadership.

Church Leaders Elected, Ordained, and Installed

On Sunday, January 23, church officers were ordained and installed during our worship service. We welcome Scott Letherbery as a new ruling elder on Session along with returning elders Judy Mysels and Lisa Segedy who are continuing for another term. Deacons Mary Ann Hartman and Rick Masten were also reinstalled for another term. At the congregational meeting following the service, Sue Pollick was elected as a deacon and will be ordained/installed at an upcoming service. Lisa Segedy also agreed to serve on the next Nominating Committee with chair Elder Marcia Haley.

We are still in need of a few more deacons to fill spots on the board opened by the passing of some of our beloved members in the past year. Additionally, we need to fill the slot of auditor, and congregation representatives on the 2023 nominating committee (the group who puts forth the slate of nominees). If you are interested in serving in any of these areas of church leadership, please contact Marcia Haley as soon as possible.

LOCAL MISSION OPPORTUNITIES



WCM Seeks Coordinator

Wilksburg Community Ministry seeks a part-time pantry coordinator to schedule and train staff and volunteers, monitor donated food supplies, document statistics, and engage the public. Job requires good interpersonal skills, ability to listen, learn and take direction, willingness to learn and work in a collaborative environment. WCM is a 52-year-old non-profit that provides food to neighbors in need. WCM is a small and agile organization serving a neighborhood of approximately 42000 residents in eastern Allegheny County. Welcome applications from serious folks with willingness to learn. Will train you to do what is needed. We will check your references. Clean driver's license a must. We also expect a clean child abuse clearance. Position can start immediately pending clearance. Regular reviews in first year and subsequent annual reviews. For more information, contact WCM:

Wilksburg Community Ministry

702/704 Wood Street

Wilksburg, PA 15221

Email: caring@wcm15221.org

Phone: 412-241-8072 | Fax: 412-241-8315

WCM is open Monday – Friday from 9:00am – 1:00pm

The Woodland Hills Alumni Scholarship Fund

CALLING ALL ALUMNI! We need YOU to help build our Scholarship Program! Now is your chance to PAY IT FORWARD to deserving future Woodland Hills Alumni! 77 scholarships totaling \$113,500 have been awarded to date. Help us provide even more scholarships in 2022 and beyond! Which class will lead the charge? We'll keep track of which class has donated the most, so please spread the word. Students in Woodland Hills need support from their community now more than ever!

To make a contribution, visit: <https://woodlandhillsfoundation.salsalabs.org/AlumniScholarshipFund>



Scouting

Cub Scout Pack 23 in Edgewood is always looking for new members to join in the fun! Cub Scouting is open to youth from Kindergarten to 5th grade. Meetings are on Monday nights at 6:30pm in the church basement. Check Edgewood Cub Scout Pack 23 on Facebook to see what we are up to! For more information, please email edgewoodcubscoutpack23@gmail.com.

Praying for others

Ask questions and keep it simple

by Elizabeth Gibbs Zehnder | *Presbyterians Today*



I have never used the praying hands emoji as much as I have the past two years. I serve as a chaplain in a city trauma center, so I pray a lot. But the COVID pandemic provoked more need for prayer than I have ever felt before; thus, the use of the praying hands emoji increased as the pandemic continued.

As people of faith, when we come to the edge of what we can fix on our own, we draw near to God in prayer. And when we are with someone else amid their suffering, we know to bring them to God in prayer. It's precisely when the stakes are high that we don't want to mess up the prayer. It's natural to worry: What if we say the wrong thing so God won't read our text or open our snap? What if the prayer doesn't work and nothing changes?

[Mark 2:1-12](#) makes a great prayer road map. The day began with five friends realizing that Jesus had come to town. One of them was paralyzed; four were able-bodied. All of them agreed that it would be good to get closer to Jesus. So, they conspired to make that happen with four of them carrying the one paralyzed fellow on a mat. Mark is sparse on details, but we get the picture: The whole town showed up to see Jesus, gridlock at the front door, rerouting, perilous scrambling up onto the roof, ripping open a hole and lowering the friend on the mat to place him at the feet of Jesus. And Jesus took it from there.

What we learn is that praying for others is collaborative. At first, we see the collaboration between a person who was paralyzed and the able-bodied friends. And by the end, we see a collaboration between Jesus and the person on the mat. We see the able-bodied friends beginning their prayer for their paralyzed friend with the obvious physical considerations: getting him from point A to point B. Sometimes our prayers are practical like this, too, such as doing the grocery run for our homebound friend or going to a follow-up appointment to listen to the test results.

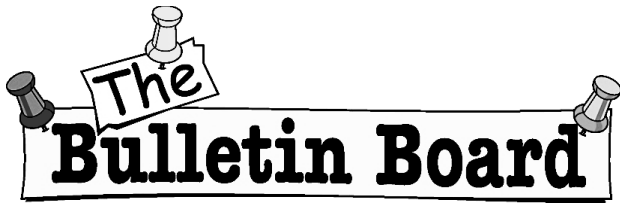
Unlike a text message loaded with praying hands emojis, praying for others requires actual conversation and permission. We need to clarify what our friend really wants. A basic question like "Would you like to pray together?" is helpful. Maybe they will say, "No, but keep me in your prayers" or "Add me to the prayer list at church" or "Yes please! Let's pray together!" But first begin by asking for permission and clarifying the prayer need. If you are physically present with someone you are praying for, be mindful of asking if physical touch is welcomed: "Is it OK if we hold hands?" Sometimes people have hidden pain that we won't know about until we ask.

In the end, the four friends seeking healing for their paralyzed friend brought them all to the feet of Jesus. Prayer for others does that. Remember, though, we take turns in these roles: Some days, we are the ones offering to pray. Other days, we are the people in need of prayer. And some days, we are all the above.

The Rev. Elizabeth Gibbs Zehnder serves as Presbyterian staff chaplain at LAC+USC Medical Center in Los Angeles, where she provides spiritual support to patients, their families, and the hospital staff.

Prayer Warriors

Did you know that we have a dedicated group that prays for you constantly? A core group of FPCE members maintain a prayer list that is continually updated as joys and concerns are passed along in the life of our congregation. They set aside intentional time and pray for specific individuals or situations that are brought to their attention and follow up on those prayer requests with calls and emails. If you would like to know more about our "Prayer Warriors" or would like to be added to the email list and make intentional prayer a focus of yours, please contact Michelle Santo at cshell73@yahoo.com.



The Bulletin Board

Sharing the Joys & Concerns of the FPCE Family

- Prayers of sympathy and comfort to the family of Connie Black who passed away on January 9. FPCE will hold a memorial service soon. Details will be communicated once they have been finalized.
- We've learned of the passing of 2 former members and want to offer our prayers of sympathy to the families of Tom Senkewitz and Joan Sanford.
- Healing prayers for those recently in the hospital: Glenn Allen Monk, Fairlight Lower, Jill Senkewitz Sherwood, Kathy Horner, Jason Hartman
- We lift up all of those who have been involved with the Fern Hollow Bridge collapse by Frick Park. Healing for those injured, support for those emergency personnel who have been responding as well as the congregation at Waverly Presbyterian Church who opened up their doors to offer assistance.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed Monday, February 21 in observance of the Presidents' Day holiday.

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S)	2 7:00 Bible Study (Zoom)	3 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	4 4:00 Flute (L) 8:30 AA (S)	5 8:30 AA (SR)
6 <i>Scout Sunday</i> 11:00 Worship (S)	7 6:30 Scouts (Sc) 7:00 VC (S)	8 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S) 7:00 Session	9 7:00 Bible Study (Zoom)	10 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	11 4:00 Flute (L) 8:30 AA (S)	12 8:30 AA (SR)
13 11:00 Worship (S)	14 6:30 Scouts (Sc) 7:00 VC (S)	15 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S)	16 7:00 Bible Study (Zoom)	17 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	18 4:00 Flute (L) 8:30 AA (SR)	19 8:30 AA (SR)
20 11:00 Worship (S)	21 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 Scouts (Sc) 7:00 VC (S)	22 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S)	23 7:00 Bible Study (Zoom)	24 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	25 4:00 Flute (L) 7:00 VC (S) 8:30 AA (SR)	26 12:00 VC (S) 8:30 AA (SR)
27 <i>Transfiguration</i> 11:00 Worship (S)	28 6:30 Scouts (Sc) 7:00 VC (S)	Meeting Locations: Book Club – Apossos Home AA – Social Room Vocal Confluence & ESO – Sanctuary Milepost6 – Basement Band Room Bible Study – Zoom				PNC – Gathering Place/Zoom Flute Lessons – Lounge Session – Gathering Place/Zoom Choir, Ensemble, Worship – Sanctuary Scouts – Scout or Social Room



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