

Is a Change Gonna Come?

Pastor Jason's Journal – Monthly Reflections

Yes, a change is gonna come. We profess that Christ is moving in and through us all the time, changing us. However, we often lament that change doesn't come fast enough. People say it all the time—we need better schooling, less crime, better roads, more public parks, so on and so forth. But often, those who speak these words don't do anything to make a change—to make the community better.

I'd like to posit that we need to reframe our needs. I'm sure you can see where I'm going with this—if we want to see change, we need to help enact it. However, I'd like to take it a step further: what we really need for change is a group of *angelic troublemakers* working alongside the Spirit.

At least, that's what Bayard Rustin suggested every community needs. We don't just need folks who want to work toward change; we need people who are willing to make a little bit of trouble along the way. We need people who are willing to disturb the norms we've grown accustomed to, who are willing to accept the consequences of their actions.

What does it look like to be an “angelic troublemaker”?

In 1912, Bayard Rustin was born in West Chester, PA. He was raised by his grandparents in both the Quaker and African Methodist Episcopal traditions. Identifying as a Quaker, Bayard believed deeply in peace, justice, and equality. He once said, “My activism did not spring from my being gay, or, for that matter, from my being Black. Rather, it is rooted fundamentally in my Quaker upbringing and the values that were instilled in me by my grandparents who reared me. Those values are based on the concept of a single human family and the belief that all members of that family are equal.” *(Continues on Page 2)*

February 2023 Worship Schedule

Join us Sunday mornings at 11:00AM in the Sanctuary for worship. Services are livestreamed on Facebook and then posted to YouTube and SoundCloud within a day and shared via email to the congregation. If you are not receiving the weekly emails and would like to, visit fpcedgewood.org/contact and fill out the sign-up form.

February 5: Leaders and Members of Pack/Troop 23 join us for Scout Sunday; Matthew 5:13-20 (Communion)

February 12: Guest pastor Nathan Salamacha preaching

February 19: Transfiguration of the Lord Emerging Worship; Matthew 17:1-9 (Communion)

WEDNESDAY, February 22: Ash Wednesday service with imposition of ashes and communion, 7:00PM

February 26: First Sunday in Lent; Matthew 4:1-11

I Dream a World

I dream a world where man
No other man will scorn,
Where love will bless the earth
And peace its paths adorn
I dream a world where all
Will know sweet freedom's way,
Where greed no longer saps the soul
Nor avarice blights our day.
A world I dream where black or white,
Whatever race you be,
Will share the bounties of the earth
And every man is free,
Where wretchedness will hang its head
And joy, like a pearl,
Attends the needs of all mankind-
Of such I dream, my world!

Langston Hughes



First Presbyterian Church of
EDGEWOOD
The Community Church

120 East Swissvale Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15218
www.fpcedgewood.org
412-241-4613



*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

Pastor

The Rev. Jason Dauer

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Office & Cleaning Manager

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Building Manager

Rob Mysels

building@fpcedgewood.org

Minister of Music

Shaun Cloonan

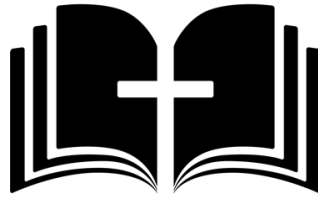
music@fpcedgewood.org

Pianist

Sunny Sakai

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LOVEGOD
EACH OTHER
OUR NEIGHBORS



Pastor Jason's
Journal
Monthly Reflections from
FPCE Pastor Jason Dauer



Is a Change Gonna Come? *(continued)*

As he grew up, he became more and more involved in movements for justice. The Spirit moved deep in his bones, and he was boldly passionate as he sought the Kingdom of God. Too passionate, some might say. He was expelled from his first college after organizing a strike to protest the “bad food in the dorms.” But that was just the beginning.

Throughout his life, Bayard was arrested 23 times for nonviolent protest. He worked to bring AIDS recognition to the NAACP (National Assoc. for the Advancement of Colored People). He helped to organize “The Southern Christian Leadership Conference,” “The Group of Reconciliation,” and “The Congress of Racial Equality.” The man was deeply influential as he advised other civil rights leaders.

His greatest accomplishment was organizing the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, where Dr. King gave his “I Have a Dream Speech.” However, he received little recognition during his life due to his sexual orientation and associations with the community party. He was awarded a posthumous Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Obama in 2013.

In 1943, he conducted a workshop titled “Five Kinds of Nonviolent Direct Action Jesus Used” where he discussed Jesus’s practices of Civil Disobedience (“He deliberately violated the Sabbath laws”), Noncooperation (“He refused to answer ‘quisling’ Herod when questioned by him”), Mass marches (“Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem with a large procession of his followers [including many from Galilee’ shouting revolutionary statements”), and personal nonviolent direct action (“He drove by drastic action the exploiters [moneychangers’ from the temple”) (*I Must Resist: Bayard Rustin’s Life in Letters* (2012), 9.)

So when Rustin says, “We need, in every community, a group of angelic troublemakers,” what does that look like for you? How can you become an *angelic troublemaker*? Show up to an Edgewood Council meeting? Attend a school board meeting? Write a letter to your representatives? Show up to a protest or march?

Our faith requires action—do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with God. Let this be your meditation as we enter Black History Month: “How can I be an angelic troublemaker today?”

Peace be with you,
Pastor Jason

Church Leaders Elected, Ordained, and Installed

On Sunday, January 8, church officers were ordained and installed during our worship service. We welcomed Amy Moore and Roberta Thompson as new ruling elders on Session along with returning elders Rhonda Apossos and Tyler McGuigan who are continuing for another term. Sue Pollick was installed/ordained as a new Deacon. Abigail Lehrian was installed/ordained on January 22 as a new Deacon.



Additionally, we need to fill the slot of auditor and alternate 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, John Foster and/or Lisa Segedy as soon as possible.**



Updates to the Bylaws

At our Congregational Meeting on January 22, two updates were made to the bylaws, and a Bylaws Revision Committee was formed to consider other possible changes. The amendments adopted change the quorum of a congregational meeting and introduces a policy for absences:

1. By-Law Article II, Section 7 of Congregation: A quorum is to 25% of the Congregation's members
2. By-Law Article V, paragraph 1 of Congregation now reads:

After absence without excuse (excused absence is notification of an absence to the Moderator of Session or Board of Deacons, before the meeting) from two (2) consecutive meetings of Session or Board of Deacons, a member thereof shall be notified by the body of membership that, after the third consecutive unexcused absence, the member will automatically forfeit the right of membership and that the vacancy will be filled by the Congregation upon nomination by the Nominating Committee.

If you would like a full copy of the updated bylaws, please email Judy at office@fpcedgewood.org.

Session Notes

At their January meeting, Session voted to:

- Elect Florence Raisig as Clerk of Session for 2023.
- Approve our 2022 General Assembly report.
- Approve communion and baptism at the discretion of Pastor Dauer, in times of emergency and during visitations, to be reported at the following Session meeting.
- Approve use of the Sanctuary on January 14 for a Gun Violence Prevention Forum.
- Finalize Session committees at the Elder Retreat.
- Table a motion to elect church treasurers until the next meeting.
- Approve the purchase of a new laptop or computer for the Treasurer.



Deacon Training

...will take place on **Saturday, February 4, 9:30 AM**. Pastries and coffee will be available at 9 AM. This training is **REQUIRED** for all active deacons currently serving on the board of Deacons, but all

deacons are invited to attend. Please come having read the Introduction, Ch. 1, 2, 3, and 6 of *The Presbyterian Deacon: An Essential Guide* (2014). You can pick up a copy of this book in the church office.



Zen Shakuhachi Concert & Meditation with Grandmaster Cornelius Boots

Sunday, February 5, 2023, 4:00PM in the Sanctuary
General \$20 • Students & Seniors \$10

Tickets at door or advance tickets available online at
<https://corneliusboots.com/zenshakuhachi/>

Edgewood resident and certified Grandmaster (dai shihan) Cornelius Boots presents the living tradition of *shakuhachi* - the rare bamboo flute from ancient Japanese Buddhism. The old monastic repertoire shares the program with robust solo compositions that slowly emerged as the bamboo was

integrated into Boots' original training as a creative jazz woodwinder in the lineage of John Coltrane, Eric Dolphy and Rahsaan Roland Kirk. Meditation, music and nature form the roots of this earthy and ephemeral performing art. Natural bore (jinashi) and larger, low-pitched flutes (bass or alto) flutes are featured on this program: they provide a strong connection - for both the player and the listener - to a deeper, almost primeval past: echoes from the ancient days of the Earth.

Cornelius Boots is a certified Dai Shihan (grandmaster) of Zen shakuhachi and an award-winning composer. A lifelong woodwind performance innovator, Boots also earned three music degrees from the renowned Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University and has released over 12 albums as a leader and written over 100 compositions for under-represented instruments (bass clarinet and shakuhachi). A finalist in the 2018 World Shakuhachi Competition, he was also a featured performer or presenter that same year at the World Bamboo Congress (Xalapa), the World Shakuhachi Festival (London) and the Sony E3 Conference (LA).

Looking ahead to March...

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2023 AT 7:30PM

ESO presents "Serenata Nocturna"

Katz Performing Arts Center, Jewish Community Center
Forbes Avenue, Squirrel Hill

Experience the stirring Latin sounds of Emmanuel Chabrier, Manuel De Falla, Jose Pablo Moncayo, Astor Piazzolla, and Alberto Ginastera. This zesty program features bandoneon soloist Alejandro Pinzon and mezzo-soprano Amanda Russo Stante. Tickets available at edgewoodsymphony.org.

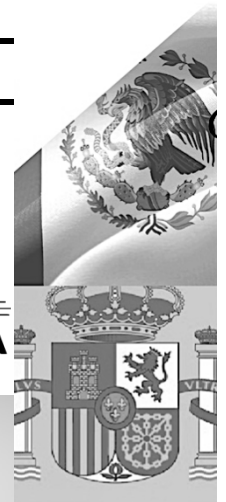
SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023 AT 4:00PM

Munhall Community Band Spring Concert

MCB returns to FPCE for their next concert featuring music from Carmen, The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly, The Beatles, and more! Special guest conductor Dr. Yugo Ikach of the Washington Symphony Orchestra. Tickets are free, with a \$5 suggested donation.

Reserve your seat today!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/521256410957>



Chabrier
De Falla
Moncayo
Piazzolla
Ginastera

Serenata
Nocturna

Stewardship Update from the Presbytery

Why Per Capita?

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

Per Capita

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

	2022	2023
Presbytery	\$23.41	\$23.45
Synod	\$2.40	\$2.40
GA	\$8.98	\$8.95
TOTALS:	\$34.79	\$35.70



Local Mission/Volunteering Opportunities

Wilksburg Community Ministry has several opportunities to volunteer for various projects in the area, including their weekly mobile pantry distribution. Visit <https://app.involvemint.io/projects> to find out more information or scan the QR code to the right.





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. All are welcome!

Wednesday Night Zoom Bible Study

The Wednesday evening online Zoom Bible Study group led by Tim Hoffman. 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 7:30PM 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 or Lorraine will lead them in a Bible activity while you are in worship!

On the Christian Life

What does it mean to be Presbyterian? Who is Jesus? How do we live together? Starting **February 26**, join us after our worship service to discuss these questions together. Everyone is welcome, but if you are considering taking the next steps in your faith journey, you are especially invited.

Coffee with the Pastor

...will start soon, but before Jason sets up regular hours, he would love to take the time to meet with people more directly. Look at your calendar and think of a time you'd like to get together. We can talk about whatever you'd like! This is just a chance to catch up, share ideas about the church, to ask questions about the Bible, or to talk about the latest movie you saw! Call, text, email, or use his Calendly to set up a time: www.calendly.com/pastorjasondauer

Pastor Jason's 10 Recommended Books for Black History Month

- Chinua Achebe: *Things Fall Apart*
- Michelle Alexander: *The New Jim Crow: mass incarceration in the age of colorblindness*
- Cole Arthur Riley: *This Here Flesh: spirituality, liberation, and the stories that make us*
- Austin Channing Brown: *I'm Still Here: Black dignity in a world made for whiteness*
- James Cone: *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*
- Yaa Gyasi: *Homegoing*
- Willie James Jennings: *The Christian Imagination: theology and the origins of race*
- James McBride: *The Color of Water: a Black man's tribute to his white mother*
- Howard Thurman: *Jesus and the Disinherited*
- Isabel Wilkerson: *Caste: the origins of our discontents*



News from our Neighbors

We have received the following late-January update from our next-door neighbors at the School for the Deaf: While the major work for Phase 1 of the campus construction project has been completed, there are several smaller projects that took place recently. In addition to finishing up laying the pavers along the corner section of the new drive, light poles have been installed in the courtyard area outside of the Lion's Den (and the new parking lot).



Recently, there has been a lot of progress made in the courtyard area outside of the Lion's Den. The rails and grid inserts have been installed, landscaping and mulch has been added, and the precast treads on the stairs are being installed. Soon, rails for the stairs and additional precast seating areas will also be installed.

This week, work in the courtyard area will continue. The precast treads for the stairs have almost entirely been installed and precast caps for other areas in the courtyard have begun being delivered. Last week, the final two light poles in the new parking lot were installed.



The Bulletin Board

Sharing the Joys & Concerns of the FPCE Family

- A HUGE thank you to Rick Masten and his friend, Tom, who took down the Christmas decorations, helped reorganized the “old library” to accommodate groups’ equipment, decorations, etc., etc.
- A special thank you to Sophia McGuigan for her brilliant idea about the Blessing Bags and the rest of our FPCE for fulfilling those bags. Take 2 or 3 from the Gathering Place to keep in your car for those in need. Great job McGuigan family!
- Thank you to Cathy Fisher for performing the 2022 audit.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed Monday, February 20 in observance of the Presidents’ Day holiday.

february

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:30 Zoom Study	2 2:00 Writing Class 3:45 Flute (CE) 7:00 Milepost6 (B) 7:00 SAA (L)	3 4:15 Flute (CE) 8:30 AA (S)	4 9:30 Deacon Training (GP) 8:30 AA (SR)
5 <i>Scout Sunday</i> 9:30 Choir (S) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:00 Fellowship 4:00 Concert (S)	6 6:30 Scouts (Sc) 7:00 VC (S)	7 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S)	8 7:30 Zoom Study	9 2:00 Writing Class 3:45 Flute (CE) 7:00 Milepost6 (B) 7:00 SAA (L)	10 4:15 Flute (CE) 8:30 AA (S)	11 8:30 AA (SR)
12 9:30 Choir (S) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:00 Fellowship	13 6:30 Scouts (Sc) 7:00 VC (S)	14 10:00 Book Club 7:00 Session (GP) 7:00 ESO (S)	15 7:30 Zoom Study	16 2:00 Writing Class 3:45 Flute (CE) 7:00 Milepost6 (B) 7:00 SAA (L)	17 4:15 Flute (CE) 8:30 AA (SR)	18 9:00 Pinewood Derby (SR) 8:30 AA (SR)
19 <i>Transfiguration</i> 9:30 EWE (S) 11:00 Emerging Worship (S) 12:00 Fellowship 12:15 Staff Mtg	20 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 Scouts (Sc) 7:00 VC (S)	21 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S)	22 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 7:00 Communion & Ash Service (S)	34 2:00 Writing Class 3:45 Flute (CE) 7:00 Milepost6 (B) 7:00 SAA (L)	24 4:15 Flute (CE) 8:30 AA (SR)	25 8:30 AA (SR)
26 9:30 Choir (S) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:00 Fellowship 12:15 Member Class (L)	27 6:30 Scouts (Sc) 7:00 VC (S)	28 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S)	Meeting Locations: Book Club – Apeposos Home AA – Social Room Vocal Confluence & ESO – Sanctuary Milepost6 – Basement Band Room Bible Study – Zoom		Flute Lessons – CE Office Session, Deacons – Gathering Place Choir, Ensemble, Worship – Sanctuary Scouts – Scout or Social Room SAA, Writing Class – Lounge	

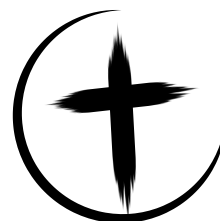


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Zen Shakuhachi Concert & Meditation
February 5

Ash Wednesday Service
February 22



 fpcedgewood.org

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