

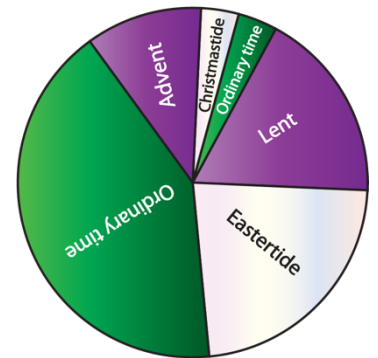
HAPPY
new year
2022

A Return to “Ordinary” Time

Happy New Year! We made it through a busy Advent and Christmas season together and now we settle down for a quieter time in the life of the church. While nothing about our lives in the past 18 months has been “ordinary,” in the church calendar we are about to enter a period of the liturgical year that is called exactly that.

“Ordinary Time” covers two large spans of time per year: the time between Christmas and Lent, and then the time between Pentecost and Advent. The first span of Ordinary Time begins after Epiphany and Baptism of the Lord Sunday (January 9) and runs through the Tuesday before Lent, ending the day before Ash Wednesday (which falls on March 2 this year), commonly known as Shrove Tuesday or Fat Tuesday when Mardi Gras festivities occur. The second span of Ordinary Time begins after Pentecost (June 5) and runs until the first Sunday of Advent in late November.

Liturgical year



Ordinary Time is a time when we grow, nurture, and reflect on living our lives as followers of Christ. The color green is used to represent the Holy Spirit, eternalness, life and hope. Green is also the color of new vegetation and symbolizes all living things. It is used to signify the hope of new life, and to represent the promise of new life which is ours in the life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Look for touches of green in the sanctuary and service, reflecting God’s love for creation.

Annual Congregational Meeting: January 23

All active members of the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood are asked to attend the annual Congregational Meeting immediately following worship on Sunday, January 23. The purpose of this meeting is to receive and review Annual Report and its reports from various committees and to review the final budget approved by Session. Additionally, the remaining slate of nominees not yet secured at the December meeting will be elected to their offices and positions on Session, Deacons, the 2022 nominating committee, and auditors. Please join us as we take care of the business involved in continuing our ministry at FPCE. As required by our FPCE bylaws, this announcement and official notice of the meeting will be made from the pulpit 2 weeks prior to the meeting and printed in the worship bulletin.



Committee reports are due by Friday, January 14. For reference, copies of last year’s reports were emailed to committee chairs. If there are any questions or concerns, call the Church Office or email office@fpcedgewood.org.



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

Office & Cleaning Manager
Judy Mysels
office@fpcedgewood.org

Building Manager
Rob Mysels
building@fpcedgewood.org

Minister of Music
Shaun Cloonan
music@fpcedgewood.org

Pianist
Sunny Sakai
sunnysakai4@gmail.com

**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.

January 2: We observe the Feast of the Epiphany in a special service of the Christmas Story for the Ninth Day of Christmas. *My Gifts...* More than the gifts we often sing about for the 12 Days of Christmas, the Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the arrival of the Three Wise Men that have come to pay their respects to the Infant Jesus. This special service will feature the stories of the three visitors from the East through an original readers' theater production written by Jim & Lisa Segedy, and performed by several members of our congregation.

Who were these unusual visitors? Where did they come from and why? What is the meaning of their gifts? Together we will learn the stories behind these visitors' background and their unique gifts, the meaning of the Twelve Days of Christmas, and more. Adventure awaits...

January 9: Baptism of the Lord Sunday with Communion. We welcome back to our pulpit the Rev. Fairlight Collins Lower to lead us in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in this service where we recall the promises made in our own baptism while recognizing the day when our Lord was baptized.

January 16: Justice Sunday Emerging Worship with the worship ensemble providing music and the Rev. Bob Ruefle returning to lead our service.

January 23: Rev. Ruefle preaches during the service and will moderate the congregational meeting following worship.

January 30: Jason Dauer returns to the pulpit to lead worship.

DID YOU KNOW...

...that only ordained Ministers of Word and Sacrament may lead us in sacraments (baptism, communion, ordination/installation of officers and new members)? Several of our guest pastors have their degrees from seminary but are not yet ordained ministers through the Presbytery's ordination process. They become candidates and must take several exams then come before the Commission on Ministry for approval to be ordained. The worship committee has made sure that on weeks we've held sacraments or official church business that the person leading us has the title of "Reverend" before their name as an ordained pastor.

Session Notes

At Their December 14, 2021 Meeting, the Session of FPCE voted to:

- Place the names of new members Elizabeth and Ethan Headlee into the church rolls.
- Change the date of the next Congregational meeting from January 30 to January 23, 2022.
- Reduce our voting membership by 10, to 72, following the recommendation of the committee to move 10 members to participation status. These members will receive all pastoral services provided to voting members.
- Session also thanked retiring Elder Nancy Ernst for her service.



FOCUS 
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 

Tuesday Book Club

Now that the holidays are over, the weekly Book Club has finished their discussion of the book “Hidden Christmas” and now is starting the book “Stranger in the Lifeboat” by Mitch Albom. It’s a great time to join! 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 will resume on January 12 to begin discussing the stories of Elijah and Elisha. Tim also reports that some time 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 email updates sent out to church members. 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!

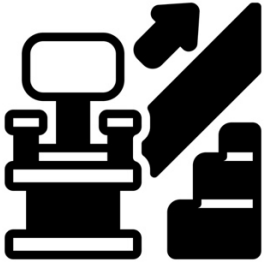
Pastoral Search Update

As Tyler told the membership at our December congregational meeting, the PNC is making good progress in the search process. To date, we have reviewed more than 50 Pastor Information Forms, listened to or viewed at least 15 sermons online, sent several invitations for first round interviews, and even conducted 2 Zoom interviews as of the printing of this newsletter.

**Pastor Search
Committee
Update**



We will start up our regular meetings again after a brief holiday recess and continue reviewing PIFs, determining which matches we think fit with our mission as FPCE and who we might like to speak with. Note that there are 2 different types of matches we work from – self-referrals, who are pastors that have seen our Ministry Information Form online and are specifically interested in us; and online matches through the Church Leadership Connection website, which take the information from PIFs and MIFs to match location, church size and demographics, and leadership competencies. Those matched through the CLC website do not know they have matched with us unless we invite them to a discussion, so some of the folks we reach out to may not necessarily be interested in us specifically even if we are interested. You can imagine there is a lot of waiting on replies and coordinating schedules, but rest assured that we are working expeditiously within the guidelines we’ve been given. Please continue to pray for the committee, the process, and God’s guidance as we work to discern the best fit to be the shepherd of our FPCE family.



The Chair Lift Saga Continues...

As you all know, our chair lift at the side entrance has been “out of commission” for the past few months. A repairman was in during the last week of December to work on it and informed us that the model we have installed is not a commercial stair lift and therefore would not be in compliance with inspections for a public building. The property committee and Session are pursuing options with the company we purchased the lift from to resolve the issue. More details to come...

Christmas Collection Drive Thanks

A huge and hearty thank you to the many friends of MHY at FPCE for their many generous donations to help make the lives of the youth we serve so much better. Three carloads of usable treasures found their way up to Mars. FPCE was again the most generous donating congregation. We are blessed by your ongoing support.

*Jim Segedy, Board of Directors
MHY Family Services (formerly, Mars Home for Youth)*



Deacons' Doings...

January Deacon News

Our Deacons delivered Harvest Baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas poinsettias to our friends of the church in November and December. While we haven't been regularly serving as ushers in worship since we haven't been coming forward to collect offering due to COVID safety protocols, several of our Deacons were there to assist with distributing bulletins, candles, and communion elements on Christmas Eve. We were surprised to see so many in attendance that we ran out of everything, having planned for 60 but seeing 78 in worship! What a Christmas blessing!

May God be with you through the New Year and fill your life with comfort, love, and cheer. May this day and the days ahead hold many blessings for you and yours. Happy New Year!

Mary Ann Harman, Deacons moderator

Treasurer's Report

As of December 31, 2021 the income and expense for FPCE are as follows:



Total Income -	\$197,061.70 Actual	YTD Budget - \$208,564.00
Total Expense -	\$179,664.60 Actual	YTD Budget - \$208,564.00

Actual income is below budget by \$11,502.30, but actual expense is below budget by \$28,899.40 so FPCE has a cash surplus of \$17,397.10 for 2021. Account 4010 -Donations continue to be the major income concern. Expenses were below budget because a part time Pastor was employed for less than a full year and utility and maintenance expenses were under budget. Any questions may be sent to fpce.treasurer@gmail.com

Tom Ochs, Treasurer

NEED A LIFT?

The Session is aware that a few of our members are unable to drive themselves to worship and want to offer some assistance. If you could benefit from a ride to worship on Sunday mornings, please contact the church office. Likewise, if you can OFFER a ride to someone, please let us know!



MUSIC Ministry

A Round of Musical Thanks!

What a full and amazing December we had in the musical life of our Edgewood congregation and community! We welcomed back into our sanctuary not one, but 2 holiday concerts. The Edgewood Symphony Orchestra presented their socially distanced holiday performance featuring the various sections of the orchestra, complete with a visit from our favorite (and resident) jolly elf at the podium to end the night.

Then the next weekend Vocal Confluence shared their barbershop holiday show as their first in-person performance in nearly 2 years. They are very pleased to be in residence at FPCE and look forward to continuing our partnership that may include some collaboration in the future on some events.

We also welcomed about 50 community residents into the sanctuary for our first Light Up Edgewood Community Carol Sing. Thanks to Faye D'Ippolito for jumping in on piano, and to Lorraine Douthett and Judy Mysels for providing cookies and cocoa for those attending. We intend to be in on the planning of the event even earlier in the year for 2022 and hope to make this an annual event that gets bigger and better every year while establishing more community engagement!

Finally, our Advent worship services featured a great number of our members in various capacities, musical or otherwise. Thank you to our regularly featured Sanctuary Choir and Emerging Worship Ensemble for their contributions. In addition to the musical offerings, we had Johnny & Jen Hrebik, Michelle & Jake Santo, the McGuigan Family, Rick Masten & Travis Allabon, and the Lehrian Family all stepping in to light the candles on our Advent wreath.

Christmas Eve was a beautiful night worshipping the Christ Child. Special thanks to Rev. Kellie Weekley-Mills for her inspired messages through all of Advent and Christmas Eve, to the Lehrians for doubling as readers and candle lighters during the candlelighting ceremony, to deacons, Rhonda & Lisa in getting communion ready, Lorraine for serving as liturgist, Jim jumping on camera duty, and of course, Tyler & Sunny for assisting with the wonderful music at the service. Tyler and I realized that due to a variety of reasons, it's been 5 years since he and I have been able to share in our musical duets of "Mary Did You Know" and "Oh Holy Night."

I look forward to exploring more musical offerings and inviting more musical groups into our space as we move into 2022. As always, if you feel the call upon your heart to raise your voice in song or to make a joyful noise on an instrument, let me know and we can add you to our ranks in the choir or ensemble!

Shaun Cloonan, minister of music

Santa conducts the ESO



Shaun leads the Carol Sing



Vocal Confluence Show



Recipe For Friendship

shared by Ruth Miller

Assemble 1 group of people in assorted shapes, sizes and personalities.

Measure accurately:

1 cup Friendly Words

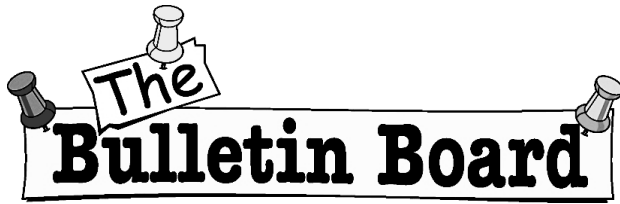
1 cup Courtesy and Patience

2 heaping cups of Understanding

Sift carefully to remove malice and ego. Add a dash of wit and humor, a pinch of personality, a handful of forgiveness, and an ounce of praise.

Mix until well blended, cook slowly, keep temperature low, season to taste with a spice of life.

Top each serving with a goodly amount of kindness, charity and temperance, a little bit of love for flavor. Serve in generous portions. (Author Unknown)



*Sharing the Joys & Concerns
of the FPCE Family*

During the December 26 Lessons & Carols service, we lifted up the following prayers:

- Sympathies to the family of Scott Wilson, son of Elinor McGoldrick, who passed away the week before Christmas in New Jersey
- Kelly Hart, who was in the hospital with pneumonia
- Connie Black, in the hospital
- Shaun's cousin, Will, who was hit by a bus while on his trike, recovering and colleague Joe, who was in the hospital getting a pacemaker
- From Mary Ann Hartman: Aunt Jean (father's sister) who had a mini-stroke, thanks from nephew Jason for all of the prayers, and for Glenn Allen Monk who is having ankle surgery on January 13.
- To Ruth Miller, Elaine Cloonan, Flo Raisig, and Lorraine Douthett for arranging the Christmas poinsettias in the sanctuary
- Thanksgiving for all involved in the Christmas Eve service who made it so special
- A Joy that Johnny Hrebik has accepted a full-time position teaching at a college, but sad for us that it is in North Carolina and that he and Jen will be moving very quickly as the job starts January 4.
- Lorraine's friend Janice Fisher
- Marilyn Lobert
- Ruth Miller, her sisters, daughter Sharon, and friend Joey
- Jim & Amy Moore
- Our Pastor Nominating Committee
- For all whose holiday plans may have been adjusted at the last minute due to positive COVID cases
- For all of the frontline workers – police, fire, EMT, doctors, nurses, for those in the travel, hospitality, retail, and food service industries who always put in extra time at the holidays and were working extra hard amidst the constant changing path of this virus and its variants.
- For those dealing with depression, anxiety, addiction, and mental health issues that may have been triggered by the holidays
- Traveling mercies for all who were visiting family and friends

If you have a request you would like to be read during the service (Judy) or added to the prayer chain (Michelle), contact Judy (office@fpcedgewood.org) or Michelle Santo (cshell73@yahoo.com).

January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Meeting Locations: Book Club – Apossos Home AA – Social Room Vocal Confluence & ESO – Sanctuary Milepost6 – Basement Band Room	PNC – Gathering Place Flute Lessons – Lounge Session – Gathering Place Choir, Ensemble, Worship – Sanctuary Scouts – Scout or Social Room					1 8:30 AA (SR)
2 Epiphany Sunday 9:30 Choir 11:00 Worship/ Readers Theater	3 <i>Office Closed</i> 6:30 Scouts (SC) 7:00 VC (S)	4 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S) 8:00 AA (SR)	5 7:00 Zoom Study 7:30 PNC (GP)	6 5:00 Flute (L) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	7 5:00 Flute (L) 8:00 AA (SR)	8 8:30 AA (SR)
9 Baptism of the Lord 9:30 Choir 11:00 Worship/ Communion	10 6:30 Scouts (SC) 7:00 VC (S)	11 10:00 Book Club 7:00 Session (GP) 7:00 ESO (S) 8:00 AA (SR)	12 7:00 Zoom Study	13 5:00 Flute (L) 7:00 Milepost6 (S)	14 5:00 Flute (L) 8:00 AA (SR)	15 8:30 AA (SR)
16 9:30 Worship Ens. 11:00 Emerging	17 <i>Office Closed</i> 6:30 Scouts (SC) 7:00 VC (S)	18 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S) 8:00 AA (SR)	19 7:00 Zoom Study	20 5:00 Flute (L) 7:00 Milepost6 (S)	21 5:00 Flute (L) 8:00 AA (SR)	22 8:30 AA (SR)
23 9:30 Choir 11:00 Worship & Congregational Meeting	24 6:30 Scouts (SC) 7:00 VC (S)	25 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S) 8:00 AA (SR)	26 7:00 Zoom Study	27 5:00 Flute (L) 7:00 Milepost6 (S)	28 5:00 Flute (L) 8:00 AA (SR)	29 8:30 AA (SR)
30 9:30 Choir 11:00 Worship	31 6:30 Scouts (SC) 7:00 VC (S)					



First Presbyterian Church of

EDGEWOOD

The Community Church

120 East Swissvale Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15218