

FPCE Continues the Work of “Loving Our Neighbors” This Summer

You’ve seen the commercial or at least heard the jingle:

“Like a good neighbor...”

Can you hear the rest of it?

“...State Farm is there!”

Well, we’re not exactly an insurance company, but we’d certainly like the folks in the Edgewood and surrounding communities to think of us when they talk about what it means to be a good neighbor.

We’ve been working hard in the last year to revive our church post-Covid, during a second pastoral transition. And while the Sunday

morning service is certainly an important part of our life as a congregation, many other things have been happening that help us to live out our mission to “love our neighbors.”

You already know that we’ve opened our doors to Vocal Confluence, the Edgewood Symphony, Scouts, AA groups, Milepost6 band, Staranka Flute Studio, and the Edgewood Day Care. But did you know that we are now also providing storage space in the old Heritage Room for the Woodland Hills Foundation? And that the ESO has come to an agreement to make FPCE their official home, moving into the office space upstairs that was formerly Edgewood Psychological Services (where Scott Leatherbery practiced for years until his retirement)? Or that the Edgewood Borough Police and Fire Departments are hosting a fundraiser this month at FPCE to help one of their fellow officers who lost his home in a fire?

They may not be BIPs (“butts in pews” to quote an Edgewood favorite, the Rev. Dr. Dan Merry), but it’s a tangible way that we are using the resources we have to help others. And isn’t that what we’re called by Jesus to do? “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13: 34-35)

We’re building relationships with our local government, the School for the Deaf administration, as well as the elementary school. And of course let’s not forget about hosting concerts, our Community Dinners, and the Deacons’ Strawberry Festival!

If you’ve been staying away from worship for any number of reasons (Covid is still a thing even if it’s not as prevalent as it once was), or if you’ve just gotten out of the habit of coming on Sunday mornings, consider this your invitation to come back to our faith family and help us as we continue to listen for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in making us “The Community Church.” *Like a good neighbor, FPCE is there!*

JULY 2022 SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE In-person and Facebook Live at 10:00AM

July 3: Rev. Jane Duffield preaching, Communion

July 10: “The Good Word in Music,” jazz vespers-style service with a bunch of music by Sunny!

July 17: Heather Henkel preaching

July 24: Heather Henkel preaching, possible Christmas in July theme

July 31: Rev. Bob Ruefle preaching





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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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LOVE GOD
EACH OTHER
OUR NEIGHBORS



The Community Dinners are back! Yes, after our little COVID break, we started hosting the ever-popular FPCE Community Dinners in June! Thanks to all who helped with set-up, serving, teardown, and donation of desserts. We beat the rain by about an hour and had about 45-50 in attendance for our first meal since 2019.



Save the Dates: The First Wednesdays of 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!!!

July 6: Sausage & Pierogi Fest

August 3: BBQ (Ribs, Brisket, Chicken, Pulled Pork)

September 7: Burgers and Dogs or Something Yummy



We're asking for folks interested in volunteering as set-up, servers, or clean-up crew, or those donating side dishes or desserts to sign up using the SignUp Genius link on the website and in the weekly email sent out so that we can better plan each month.



Session Notes

At their June 14 meeting, Session took the following action:

- Approved a building usage agreement with the Edgewood Symphony Orchestra.
- Session voted to offer the Heritage Room to the Woodland Hills Foundation/H.U.G.S. for storage.
- Ann Turnock, from the Presbytery's Commission on Ministry, was a guest at this meeting.
- Received information that the Mysels family vacation will take place July 31-August 7. Elaine Cloonan will cover office duties during the week.

Tuesday Morning Book Club

The Tuesday morning Book Group continues to meet each week at 10:00AM at the Apeessos home (361 Maple Ave), generally outdoors, weather dependent. We are currently reading *Pilgrims Progress in Today's English* by John Bunyan. All are welcome. Snacks and coffee provided.



FOCUS
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Youth Sunday School

We continue to offer weekly Youth Sunday School during worship as needed and will continue throughout the summer. Our classes generally follow the lectionary as well as provide basic Bible Study. If interested, please stop by the nursery.



We had our first in-person meeting of the Board of Deacons after church on June 5. We discussed the activities that have taken place in 2021, including Easter baskets (thank you to Nancy Cunningham for funding this effort), Muffins for Moms, and Donuts for Dads.

Edgewood's annual Community Day celebration is Saturday August 27th. The Deacons will check with Session to see if the church will have a booth set up. We also discussed the possibility of an active Deacon presence themselves to raise money.

We brainstormed about cleaning inside the shed on the side lawn. Hoping for the possibility of storing some tables and chairs that would alleviate some of the effort to set up and break down for community dinners.

Finally, our Strawberry Festival was held on June 15 and due to the heat, we met indoors in the cool Social Room. That didn't stop the crowds from coming...we ran out of desserts to sell! Thanks to all who attended and supported our Deacon ministry at FPCE.



PNC Update

The Pastor Nominating Committee continues its work of discernment in hearing God's call for the next leader at FPCE. We have to date reviewed a total of 120 Pastor Information Forms and watched around 30 sermon videos before deciding on interviews. We are overjoyed by the diversity of the candidates in gender, race, sexuality, geographic location, levels of education and experience. It has made the process profoundly more interesting as they represent a wide range of our society and bring so many different perspectives to what it means to be a follower of Christ. We are encouraged that somewhere in this mix we will meet our future pastor. Stay tuned!



PASTOR SEARCH



Pasta Fundraiser: July 9

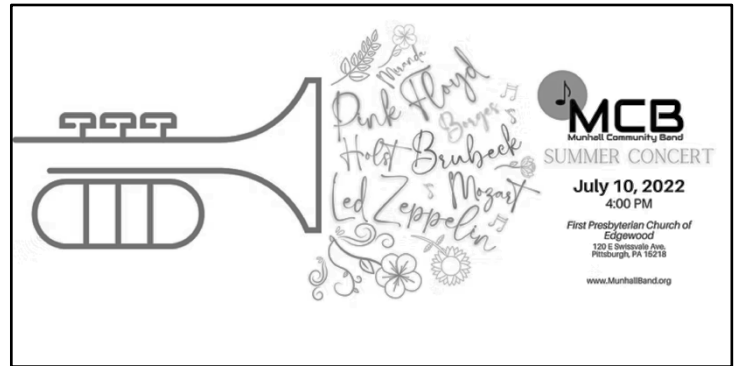
Edgewood Police & Fire will be holding a joint pasta dinner fundraiser at the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood for Edgewood Police Officer Brian Wyke, who lost his home to a devastating fire last month.

Brian has been a dedicated police officer in Edgewood for 17 years. Brian's home sustained considerable damage in the fire. We are asking for your help with donations to help us raise money for him and his children. He will not be able to return to his home for the next 8-12 months. All proceeds will go directly to Officer Wyke and his family.

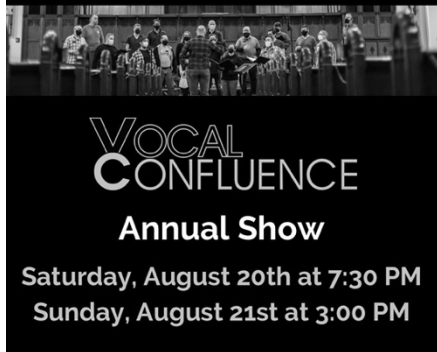
Munhall Community Band: July 10

The concert of the Munhall Community Band originally planned for May 21 has been rescheduled for Sunday, July 10 at 4:00PM in the FPCE Sanctuary. Come see Mandy & Jim play!

Enjoy concert band performances of music by Holst, Mozart, Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, Brubeck, Borges, Miranda, and more! Doors open at 4:30 pm. Raffle baskets will be available to support MCB. More info at munhallband.org.



Second show added!



Looking ahead to August...

Saturday, August 20 & Sunday, August 21

Vocal Confluence Annual Barbershop Show. From the VC event on Facebook: We are so excited to share our music with you that we have added a SECOND show date! We will now be performing our annual show "Together Again" on Saturday, August 20th at 7:30PM as well as Sunday, August 21st at 3:00PM. We can't wait to see you there!

Saturday, August 27

Edgewood Community Day, 2PM to until the end of day at Koenig Field. Anyone interested in running a booth in the afternoon representing FPCE, contact the Church Office.

FPCE Opens Space for WH Foundation

You read in the Session Notes that FPCE has offered the Heritage Room in the church basement to the Woodland Hills Foundation/H.U.G.S. (Helping Unconditionally & Giving Support) for storage. They put out a plea online stating that the space they had would no longer be available to them and that the majority of the supplies they use to hold events that support Woodland Hills students and teachers are kept in their board members' homes. Judy & Shaun chatted about the request and realized that since the FROGS program is no longer held at FPCE, the Heritage Room is no longer used for activity supplies or even overflow from when Shady Side Academy delivers their food drive donations. Session agreed that it would be a way to continue our goal of being the community church by offering our space for a community organization.

What is the Woodland Hills Foundation?

Connecting Our Community to the Classroom. The Woodland Hills Foundation is an independent non-profit organization and a proponent of public education, specifically the Woodland Hills School District. Our mission is to support the Woodland Hills School District and our communities by strengthening the educational experience of our children. We work to fill gaps in public education funding, focus on community building and volunteerism, and help to set the stage for secondary education aspirations.

Our work is made possible by grassroots community backing which allows the foundation to invest in the Woodland Hills School district through scholarships, mini-grants, our "Dream Book", fundraising events and community events through our H.U.G.S. program.

The Woodland Hills Foundation is dedicated to building internal organizational excellence with the primary emphasis placed on quality external support to the Woodland Hills School District for student achievement. Additionally, the foundation is committed to developing a quality staff that builds school and community support and citizen involvement.

WH Foundation

WH Foundation
H.U.G.S.



School for the Deaf Construction Project

You will no doubt notice when you pull into the School Street parking lot next to the church that things are starting to look a little different next door at the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf. A construction project has begun that will completely transform the front of the campus, allowing for a new transportation lane that buses will line up in during dismissal (no more blocked parking spaces for us!) and additional parking.

We have been assured that there will be minimal impact to our existing spaces on School Street, but there may be times during the regular business day that construction vehicles are in spaces or coming through from the back of campus to E. Swissvale Avenue.

Here is a letter shared with us by the school's CEO, Dr. Steven Farmer, about some of what has happened recently (most notably, the removal of a good number of trees from the front of the campus):

It is always a shock and a loss to lose a large tree. As landscape architects, we often go to great lengths to ensure the preservation of these great shade providing, character enhancing, water sucking, carbon sequestering giants. There are however times and places that necessitate the removal of select trees, and on a compact urban campus, the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (WPSD) was no different.

Through work sessions and focus groups, student safety was identified as the top priority for the new campus masterplan. This involved multiple conceptual studies looking at arrival, drop-off, vehicle staging and pedestrian circulation. Where students used to walk across parking lots, drive aisles, and require teacher supervision to cross the path of moving buses, the new campus plan eliminates all these conflicts by safely delivering busses straight to a consolidated and protected student zone. This reorganization of campus then afforded new open spaces and outdoor amenities for the students that were otherwise impossible, such as outdoor learning courtyards, outdoor cafeteria space and improved playground and recreation. The best way to achieve this was by reducing asphalt through creating a single consolidated and more efficient parking lot along Swissvale Avenue. This parking facility, while large, alleviates parking pressure in the surrounding neighborhood while also including large rain gardens, canopy trees, native plants and an equally important (though hidden from view) underground stormwater structure to help eliminate any historically existing runoff on the WPSD campus that could have been contributing to downstream flooding. This plan that helped protect the largest number of historically significant trees on campus then resulted in a number of pines and shorter life ornamental and mid-sized canopy trees being removed. Several trees, including a few great oaks, were in fact designed around utilizing trees protection measures through construction to ensure we could capture the benefits and beauty of their existing canopy. Sadly, upon construction mobilization and tree inspection, some of these were found to be irreparably unhealthy and ultimately unsafe to remain on a student campus. While this was discouraging and sad for all of us to hear, the new WPSD plan remains forward-looking and hopeful for the creation of a lasting landscape that will remain generations into the future.



Though a new tree will take many, many years to replace an established tree, the new plan replaces many of non-native and ornamental trees with long-lived native varieties. In addition to tree canopy, we are also always looking to future threats to flora and fauna and how our landscapes might adapt to become richer in biodiversity.

Wildlife populations are quickly declining because they depend on native plants. Native plants provide food and shelter for wildlife, they help reduce air pollution, they require less water, and do not require fertilizers and other chemicals. They also are beautiful and enchanting. It is no longer feasible to rely on government owned parks and lands to provide this much needed resource. The large property of the school is a perfect opportunity to introduce as many natives as possible for the birds, bees, and pollinators of the Edgewood area and beyond.

The minimal and primarily exotic existing landscape is being replaced, in this first phase alone, with 86 new trees (88% native), almost 500 new shrubs (75% native), and over 2700 new ornamental grasses and perennials that are primarily native.

Additionally, warmer global temperatures have threatened many common plants that used to thrive in this area. The new plant palette has been carefully chosen to withstand these shifts, including large canopy trees that will continue for generations.

The Cub Scouts Return to Edgewood

Submitted by Emily Gomez-Hayes, Den Leader (Lions, Tigers, & Wolves)

Lion Scout Toren Moss looked down at the squirming creature in his palm and smiled. Of all of the Cub Scouts on Pack 23's hike, he had had the most success finding animal signs. This was worm #7 of the day! Nearby, Webelos Scout Henry Palenchar spotted a group of crows taking off, alerted by the Pack's approaching footsteps. Altogether, the Pack rounded out their hike at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve with sightings of worms, slugs, mice, crows, and deer tracks.



During the 2021-22 Scouting year, the kids of Pack 23 had a blast visiting Edgewood's Fire Department, learning about animal tracks, playing freeze tag, and camping out overnight. Between putting on skits, working together to solve codes, and collecting food for the needy, the Scouts made memories that they'll never forget and began building practical skills to last a lifetime.

In one particularly memorable meeting, Pack 23 hiked to a waterfall at the Boy Scouts of America's Camp Guyasuta in Sharpsburg on a hot summer day, where they took turns sliding down the waterfall's gentle grade.

The 2021-22 year represented both a rebirth and a bright new chapter for Edgewood Scouting. Due to previously dwindling enrollment, Cub Scout Pack 23 had gone dormant in 2015, though Boy Scout Troop 23 continued to operate.

However, at the urging of BSA Field Director Charles Huse, a group of current and former Troop 23 parents held a series of planning meetings that culminated in two activity-filled afternoons on Koenig Field in both May and August of 2021. There, Troop 23 showed kids how to put up tents, how to cast a fishing line, and how to make personal pizzas on a grill, among other things.

Thanks to everyone involved, these recruiting events were a tremendous success. New families joined, and Pack 23 was able to re-form. Currently, Pack 23 meets at the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood on Monday nights at 6:30 during the school year. For more information, please call (412) 223-7645 or email edgewoodcubscoutpack23@gmail.com.

Pack 23 would like to extend special thanks to Carl Bolton, Ralph Borsani, Liz Held, Charles Huse, Keith Kondrich, Elizabeth Scott, the Edgewood Fire Department, and the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood for helping make this such a wonderful year.



FPCE Formalizes ESO Residency

It's been years in the making and it has finally happened! From the time our partnership with the Edgewood Symphony Orchestra began back in the 1990s, there has been a desire on both sides for the ESO to have an actual home in Edgewood. We got closer by starting into a more formalized agreement for Tuesday evening rehearsals and more than just the holiday concert a year or so ago, and now the ESO is officially "moving in" to the building! The space on the second floor in Scott Leatherbery's former office has been empty since he retired a year ago, and this seemed like the perfect opportunity to allow the symphony to have an actual Edgewood, PA mailing address. Thanks to the hard work of Jim Segedy, Tim McKee, Judy Mysels, and the rest of the Session for allowing this to happen. Yet again, we're living into that mission of being there for the community! So, welcome to our newest official tenants at FPCE, the Edgewood Symphony!



The Bulletin Board

Sharing the Joys & Concerns of the FPCE Family

- Congratulations to Brian McGuigan and Morgan Matisko who were married on June 25 at Heinz Chapel. Brother Tyler and nieces Sophia and Lily as well as Shane Mysels were in the wedding party.
- Former Pastor Michael Rucker and Heather Wilson are enjoying a beautiful cruise to Alaska this summer. A well-deserved and relaxing vacation for our retirees!
- Thanks to Jim Segedy, Tyler & Stephanie McGuigan, John Foster, Rick Masten, Sue Pollick, Rhonda Apossos, Marcia Haley, Bobbi Thompson, Wayne Dean, and Shaun Cloonan for their work in helping to bring back our first in-person community dinner last month. (Sorry if we missed anyone!)
- Congratulations to Mandy Rineer who was recently named an assistant music director of the Munhall Community Band.
- Last month we mentioned that Spencer Lehrian graduated from Central Catholic and is heading off to Kent State University for Business and Entrepreneurship. We received word from mom Angel that "Spencer also received the Mel Douglass Scholarship for volunteerism. Many of the congregation knew Mel Douglass. We are so proud of Spencer."
- Rhonda Apossos reports that our other collegiate members are continuing their studies: Jon Apossos at Purdue and Travis Allabon at Pitt. We wish them well as they prepare to head back to classes next month!



July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Meeting Locations: AH = Apossos House O = Office B = Basement Band Room S = Sanctuary C = Choir Room Sc = Scout Room GP = Gathering Place SL = Side Lawn L = Lounge SR = Social Room					1 9:15 Flute (O)	2
3 COMMUNION 10:00 Worship	4 OFFICE CLOSED INDEPENDENCE DAY	5 10:00 Book Club (AH)	6 6:00 Community Dinner (SL)	7 4:30 Flute (O) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	8 8:30 AA (SR)	9 3:00 Pasta Fundraiser (SR) 8:30 AA (SR)
10 10:00 Worship 4:00 Munhall Community Band Concert (S)	11 7:00 Vocal Confluence	12 10:00 Book Club (AH) 7:00 Session (GP)	13	14 4:30 Flute (O) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	15 9:15 Flute (O) 8:30 AA (SR)	16 8:30 AA (SR)
17 10:00 Worship	18 7:00 Vocal Confluence	19 10:00 Book Club (AH)	20	21 4:30 Flute (O) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	22 9:15 Flute (O) 12:00 August Newsletter Deadline 8:30 AA (SR)	23 8:30 AA (SR)
24 10:00 Worship	25 7:00 Vocal Confluence	26 10:00 Book Club (AH)	27	28 4:30 Flute (O) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	29 9:15 Flute (O) 8:30 AA (SR)	30 8:30 (SR)
31 10:00 Worship	1 August	2	3	4	5	6
Mysels Family Vacation						
	7:00 Vocal Confluence	10:00 Book Club (AH)	6:00 Community Dinner (SL)	4:30 Flute (O) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	9:15 Flute (O) 8:30 AA (SR)	8:30 AA (SR)



First Presbyterian Church of
EDGEWOOD
The Community Church
 120 East Swissvale Avenue
 Pittsburgh, PA 15218



Monthly Community Dinner
"Sausage & Pierogi Fest"
July 6

**Edgewood Police & Fire
 Pasta Dinner Fundraiser
 July 9**



July 9, 2022
 3-7pm



MCB
 Munhall Community Band

**Munhall Community Band
 Summer Concert
 July 10**

 fpcedgewood.org

 @fpcedgewood