

The Season of Lent – what is it?

The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. It is a period of 40 days — like the flood of Genesis, Moses’ sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah’s journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah’s call to Ninevah to repent and Jesus’ time of testing in the wilderness. (The Sundays in Lent are not counted in this reckoning of the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter, as every Lord’s Day is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.)

In the early church, Lent was a time of preparation for the celebration of baptism at the Easter Vigil. In many communities of faith it remains a time to equip and nurture candidates for baptism and confirmation and to reflect deeply on the theme of baptismal discipleship.

March 2023 Lenten 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.

March 5: Jesus teaches Nicodemus (John 3:1-17). We will celebrate Communion this week! We join our denomination as we “Celebrate Gifts of Women!” Liturgist: Scott Leatherbery

March 12: Jesus meets a woman at the well (John 4:5-42). Liturgist: Sue Pollick.

March 19: The Worship Ensemble returns for a Lenten Emerging Worship service. Jesus heals a man born blind (John 9:1-41). **In honor of Mr. Rogers Day, we encourage everyone to wear a cardigan or sweater (bonus points if you have a red one!)** Thus, we join in celebrating Neighboring Sunday and dedicate this service to our Matthew 25 pledge to become a Vital Congregation. Liturgist: Shaun Cloonan

March 26: Jesus raises his friend Lazarus from death (John 11:1-45). The PC(USA) celebrates “Justice Advocacy Sunday.” Liturgist: Jim Segedy

For Lent, 1966

It is my Lent to break my Lent,
To eat when I would fast,
To know when slender strength is spent,
Take shelter from the blast
When I would run with wind and rain,
To sleep when I would watch.
It is my Lent to smile at pain
But not ignore its touch.

It is my Lent to listen well
When I would be alone,
To talk when I would rather dwell
In silence, turn from none
Who call on me, to try to see
That what is truly meant
Is not my choice. If Christ’s I’d be
It’s thus I’ll keep my Lent.

Madeleine L’Engle



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

“What does it mean for us to be vital today?”

That’s the question many of us in the church are asking. Churches don’t look like what they did when we were kids. The PC(USA) is asking this question as a whole and has charged congregations with pledging to live the gospel. Our denomination calls this living out Matthew 25, and part of the Matthew 25 campaign is building “Congregational Vitality.”

The Office of Vital Congregations (OVC) within the Presbyterian Mission Agency has laid out 7 marks of vital congregations, and I’ll be sharing a bit about each one each month as we continue to look at the saints and heroes of the church. The first is **LIFELONG discipleship formation** versus complacent “Christian” piety, simply teaching good morals, or offering the latest programs. Let’s take Dietrich Bonhoeffer as an example!



Bonhoeffer was born in 1906 in Breslau, Germany. He grew up in an elite German family, with extravagant parties and frequent trips to the family’s country cottage. When he was merely 12 years old, he knew he was called to a life of ministry. It took him many years of education and many encounters with those of different backgrounds to mature in his faith. As Hitler was rising into power, he was reconciling his faith with all of the injustice around him. Eventually, he helped form the Confessing Church, which sought to oppose Nazi Germany. He is most notable for his involvement in an attempt to assassinate Hitler, which ultimately led to his imprisonment and execution.

Bonhoeffer left us with a legacy of the importance of Christian community and Christian formation—having led an underground seminary during Hitler’s reign. Lifelong discipleship formation starts at the cradle and leads to the grave, seeking to be formed for right living with God and with all people.

What is faith? It’s seeking understanding, cultivating wisdom, and actively following Christ. OVC writes, “It is not an extracurricular activity nor merely head-knowledge.” The OVC defines discipleship as being “awakened and engaged in issues facing today’s culture: injustice, inequality, divisive segregation, oppression, suffering, abuse of creation. Discipleship formed and strengthened in the community of Christ permeates daily practices and daily living.”

Bonhoeffer speaks to us today. As the church, we are called to equip and empower all people to interpret faith in daily life. We are to engage in—not hide from—difficult conversations in society (i.e., sexism, racism, classism, ageism, and all other “isms” that divide).

How can we grow as a church so that Lifelong Discipleship Formation takes root? What would need to change in our communal life? Our home life? Our daily life? How can this community help nurture and equip you for lifelong discipleship?

Peace be with you, *Pastor Jason*



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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
Judy Mysels
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Building Manager
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Minister of Music
Shaun Cloonan
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Pianist
Sunny Sakai
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Session Notes

At their February 14 meeting, Session approved:

- Rental of Sanctuary for a recital by Galina Istomina (ESO violinist) on March 12, 1-2PM, fee of \$50.
- EastShore Chorale rental of the Gathering Place, Fridays, starting March 7, 7-9PM at the rate of \$25/rehearsal with a May concert in the Sanctuary for \$100.
- Entry of Participatory member, Louise White (1/13/23) into church records.
- The adjusted 2023 budget with the correction under 6080-Miscellaneous should be \$5,400.
- Election of Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Thompson as co- treasurers of FPCE for 2023.
- Mr. McGuigan to be a voting representative from FPCE at the Presbytery February 16 meeting.
- Placement of extra- large ad for Woodland Hills High School musical "Seussical" program for \$130.
- The application for FPCE to become a Vitalization Congregation.
- Registration as a Matthew 25 Church.

Mission Update: Final Crop Walk Tally

CROP WALK has raised \$40,000.27 to fight hunger around the world and in the East End! Thanks to all FPCE who gave donations toward this wonderful project!



FOCUS 
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 

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!

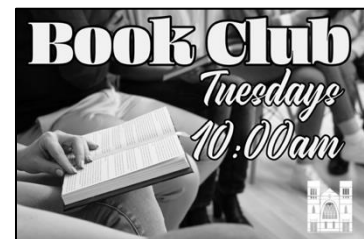


New Members Class

What does it mean to be Presbyterian? Who is Jesus? Join us after worship 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. The group started on Feb. 26th but will continue through Lent. Drop by!

Tuesday Book Club

Our weekly Book Club is currently discussing, "Man Seeks God" by Eric Weiner. This group meets at 10:00AM on Tuesdays at the home of Rhonda Apeessos, 361 Maple Avenue. All are welcome!



Wednesday Night Zoom Bible Study

Our weekly Bible Study is held on Zoom each week and is led by Elder Tim Hoffman discussing what the Bible says about itself, Jesus, devil, angels, heaven, prophecy, and more! 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 at HoffmanTL@gmail.com.

Coffee With The Pastor started last Wednesday at Biddle's Café from 8AM to Noon. You are always welcome to drop by the church or call the office, but this time will specifically be set aside to talk about whatever you'd like! This is a chance to catch up, share ideas about the church, ask questions about the Bible, or talk about the latest movie you saw! You're also welcome to set up another time using Calendly: www.calendly.com/pastorjasondauer

March Musical Activities:

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2023 AT 7:30PM

ESO presents "Serenata Nocturna"

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



The Edgewood Symphony, led by Walter Morales, will be performing an exciting concert on Saturday March 11th at 7:30 p.m. at the Katz Auditorium of the JCC in 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. Learn more and purchase tickets at www.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! Doors open at 3:30PM. Additional parking available next door at Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf.

Tickets are free, \$5 Suggested Donation.



Who are the Deacons?

The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry. –Book of Order, G-2.0201

Small but Mighty! What a group of dedicated caring individuals on our Deacon team! We are all delighted to be in person and ready to serve the church, the people and Christ! Many of us are learning, so we welcome everyone's help and advice along the way.

We are excited to announce that we will be continuing our tradition of the Strawberry Festival this year (June 21st tentatively) and have plenty of ideas for freshening up the event. Please let me know if you'd like to be involved in the planning process - all are welcome.

Our March Deacon's meeting is Sunday March 26th after church, we hope all the Church Deacon's are able to attend. If anyone needs to do a remote meeting, please reach out and we will make that work.

Moderator Angel Lehrian
Vice Moderator Elaine Cloonan
Secretary Rick Masten
Treasurer John Foster

On behalf of all the Deacon's we are excited to serve.

- Angel Lehrian (Moderator)

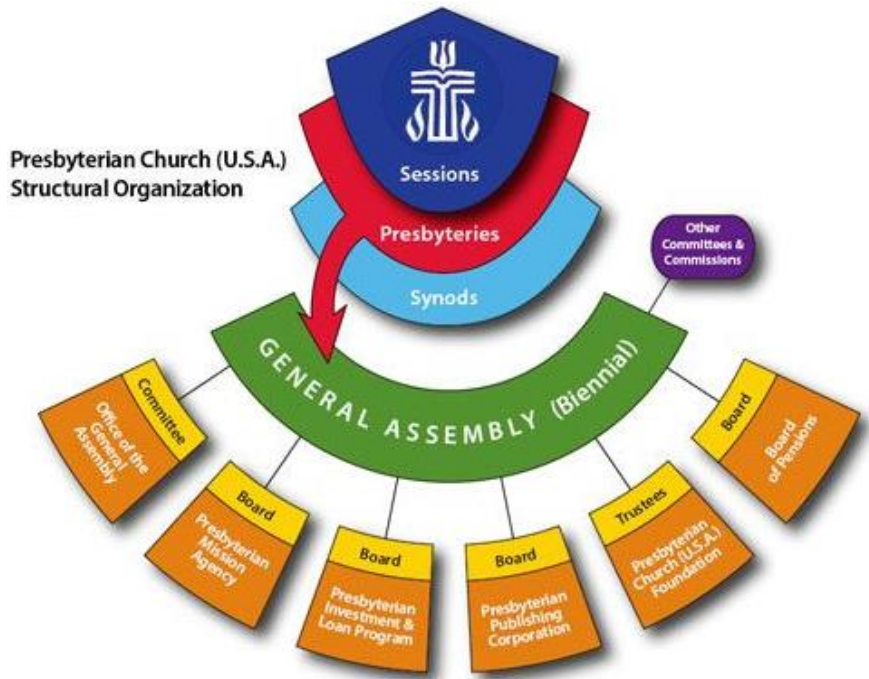
FPCE Organization

The First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood is part of the Presbyterian Church (USA). What does that mean? There are some things we believe or don't believe that are different from other Christians, but we're a big tent full of many beliefs and ideas about who God is! One of the things that distinguishes us from other Christian denominations is how we organize ourselves.

Some denominations are "episcopal." This means they are governed by bishops, which is a hierarchical style. Some denominations that use this structure are Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Anglican, and Lutheran. Another type of structure is "congregational." In this form, the local congregation rules itself, elects its own leaders, and is self-governed. Baptists and many nondenominational churches work in this way. These are two examples of how churches order themselves, but as Presbyterians, we do something a bit different.

The PC(USA) is representational, meaning we are governed by both a hierarchy of councils with elected representatives. At the lowest level, we have the Session which governs our congregational matters. At the local level, we have the Pittsburgh Presbytery. Regionally, there is the Synod of the Trinity, which covers parts of Ohio, PA, WV, and NY. And at the national level is the General Assembly which meets once per year.

Our Session is run by elected "elders" from the congregation, and at our most recent Session Retreat, we reorganized our Session committees to help us live out the gospel in our context. We discussed and discerned what made the most sense for our specific congregation—in regard to energy capacity, interest, and goals. The following is our new structure as well as the co-chairs for each committee. We ask that you prayerfully consider getting involved with one of these committees as we all seek to live out the gospel in our neighborhood!



Administrative Core

- **Nominating & Personnel**
- **Property**
- **Finance & Stewardship**

Elder Tyler McGuigan & Elder Amy Moore
Elder Tim McKee & Elder Roberta Thompson
Elder Rhonda Apossos & Elder Lisa Segedy

Formation Core

- **Christian Ed & Faith Formation**
- **Worship & Music**

Elder Tim Hoffman
Elder Marcia Haley & Deacon Sue Pollick

Compassion Core

- **Communication & Outreach**
- **Mission & Public Witness**

Elder Judy Mysels & Deacon Rick Masten
Elder Jim Segedy & Deacon Stephanie McGuigan



We Are a Matthew 25 Church!!

You've heard Pastor Jason mention this several times.

Our congregation has accepted the PC(USA)'s invitation to follow Jesus' teachings in [Matthew 25:31-46](#) by becoming active disciples and making a difference in our community and the world.

As part of our Matthew 25 commitment, we pledge to embrace one or more of these three areas of focus:

- Building congregational vitality by deepening and energizing our faith and growing as joyful leaders and disciples actively engaged with our community as we share the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed.
- Dismantling structural racism by fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice, and oppression of people of color.
- Eradicating systemic poverty by acting on our beliefs and working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.

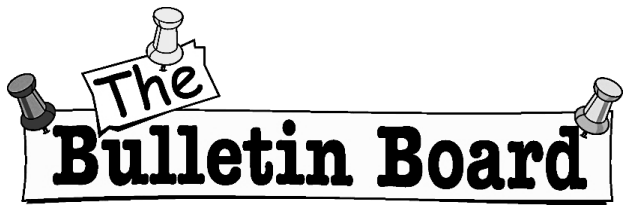
What does that mean at FPCE?

>>>**CHURCH IS A VERB**<<<

This is the focus and direction that the **Mission and Public Witness Committee** is adopting along with our ongoing Mission of being **The Community Church**. We will:

- Continue the **Community Dinners**, the 1st Wednesday of June, July, August, and September;
- Continue and possibly expand the "Blessing Bags" program;
- Reestablish the Stephen Ministry Program;
- Continue to offer workshops **for, and with the community** on a variety of topics;
- Do those three Matthew 25 things listed above, and
- Other things you might think of and can help us put in place.

JOIN US! Elder Jim Segedy, Deacon Stephanie McGuigan and others [mission@fpcedgewood.org]



Sharing the Joys & Concerns of the FPCE Family

- Sympathies to the family of Lousie White, who passed away on February 13.
 - The Pike Family are pleased to announce that Jeremy Pike wed Elizabeth Crail in Kokomo, IN on Sept. 17. The couple now resides in Lansing, MI. Pike picture postcard is posted on side entrance bulletin board.
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Cyber Security: Pastor Scams

In the past month, multiple folks at our church have received text messages claiming to be me (Pastor Jason). They've tended to look something like this:

Hello [your name here], I have a favor to ask. Are you available? Please reply when you get my text. -Rev. Jason Dauer

They're usually sent by automated messages bots, which might then respond to you:

Great! Would have called, but I'm currently in a pressing meeting. I just need to get Apple iTunes gift cards today for some women going through cancer at the hospital for their surgical rehabilitation programs. But I can't do that right now because of my busy schedule. Can you please get it at any nearby store now? I will reimburse you later.

Pastors are often targeted for these scam attempts because they prey on the good-hearted folks in congregations who deeply want to help those in need. As one of my friends puts in all of his emails:

But even if we or an angel from heaven should ask you to wire money or send a gift card number to an email address or phone number without first calling me at the church office or on my cell "because I'm busy or in a meeting," they are lying.

Please call or text me first if you ever receive a message that feels off: 412-636-6152. And if you cannot get ahold of me, please reach out to the church office at 412-241-4613.

Our friends at the Federal Trade Commission list these "Four Signs That It's a Scam":

1. Scammers PRETEND to be from an organization you know.
2. Scammers say there's a PROBLEM or a PRIZE.
3. Scammers PRESSURE you to act immediately.
4. Scammers tell you to PAY in a specific way.

They continue to give this advice:

1. Block unwanted calls and text messages.
2. Don't give your personal or financial information in response to a request that you didn't expect.
3. Resist the pressure to act immediately.
4. Know how scammers tell you to pay: cryptocurrency, wire transfer/Western Union, gift cards
5. Stop and talk to someone you trust.

Source: <https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-avoid-scam>



What will you add to your collection at our annual Book Sale???

We're getting ready for our annual Book Sale, where you'll find armloads of books, most priced at \$2 or less. From children's books to literary fiction, biography to mystery, coffee table books, cookbooks and everything in between, you'll find it all at The Edgewood Club March 3 through March 7!

Here are the details:

Friday, March 3 – 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. (shop early night, \$20)

Saturday, March 4 – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday, March 5 – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday, March 6 – 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Tuesday, March 7 – 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Friday is our special preview/shop early night. It's \$20 at the door, and you'll get first crack at all the books without the crowds of the main sale days.

Monday and Tuesday are bag sale days! Bring a tote, grocery or other bag and fill it for just \$6!

Want to help out?

We're always looking for volunteers to help set up, keep tables stocked during the sale and clean up afterwards. Call the library at (412) 731-0909 or email Sharon Parrish at parrishs@ccmellorlibrary.org if you're interested!

Have books to donate?

That's great! We can take more! **But only until February 15.** That's our cutoff date so that we have time to sort everything. We look forward to seeing you at The Edgewood Club!

Stonewall Abbey's Queer Saints Bonfires

Stonewall Abbey is a new worshiping community that seeks to create holy, intentional places of connection for spiritual wanderers and outcasts. Often, this looks like a bonfire focused on queer saints—people who have disturbed the norm and existed outside of rigid binaries, such as Bayard Rustin and Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Our next three bonfires will be held on the side lawn of the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood starting at 6:00 PM. We will have s'mores!

March 19 - Jesus's Side Wound

April 8 - Queer Stations of the Cross

May 21 - St. Marcella Althaus-Reid



March 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|----------------------------|
| | | | 1 Coffee with Pastor 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) 8:00 AA (SR) | 4 8:30 AA (SR) |
| 5 9:30 Choir (S) 11:00 Worship/ Communion (S) 12:00 Fellowship 12:15 Member Class (L) | 6 7:00 VC (S) 7:00 Scouts (SR) | 7 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S) | 8 Coffee with Pastor 7:30 Bible Study (Zoom) | 9 2:00 Writing Class 3:45 Flute (CE) 7:00 Milepost6 (B) 7:00 SAA (L) | 10 4:15 Flute (CE) 8:00 AA (SR) | 11 8:30 AA (SR) |
| 12 9:30 Choir (S) 11:00 Worship/ Communion (S) 12:00 Fellowship 12:15 Member Class (L) 12:30 Galina Recital (S) | 13 7:00 VC (S) 7:00 Scouts (SR) | 14 10:00 Book Club 7:00 Session Mtg. 7:00 ESO (S) | 15 Coffee with Pastor 7:30 Bible Study (Zoom) | 16 2:00 Writing Class 3:45 Flute (CE) 7:00 Milepost6 (B) 7:00 SAA (L) | 17 4:15 Flute (CE) 8:00 AA (SR) | 18 8:30 AA (SR) |
| 19 9:30 EWE (S) 11:00 Emerging Worship (S) 12:00 Fellowship 12:15 Member Class (L) 12:15 Worship Comm. Mtg. | 20 7:00 VC (S) 7:00 Scouts (SR) | 21 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S) | 22 Coffee with Pastor 7:30 Bible Study (Zoom) | 23 2:00 Writing Class 3:45 Flute (CE) 7:00 Milepost6 (B) 7:00 SAA (L) | 24 4:15 Flute (CE) 8:00 AA (SR) | 25 8:30 AA (SR) |
| 26 9:30 Choir (S) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:00 Fellowship 12:15 Member Class (L) 12:15 Deacon Mtg 3:00 Munhall Band Concert | 27 7:00 VC (S) 7:00 Scouts (SR) | 28 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S) | 29 Coffee with Pastor 7:30 Bible Study (Zoom) | 30 2:00 Writing Class 3:45 Flute (CE) 7:00 Milepost6 (B) 7:00 SAA (L) | 31 4:15 Flute (CE) 8:00 AA (SR) | |
| Meeting Locations: Book Club – Apessos Home AA – Social Room Vocal Confluence & ESO – Sanctuary Milepost6 – Basement Band Room | | | PNC – Pastor’s Study Flute Lessons – Lounge Session – Gathering Place Choir, Ensemble, Worship – Sanctuary Scouts – Scout or Social Room | | | |

Don't forget to "spring ahead" on March 12th!

**Maundy Thursday Service: April 6, 7 PM
Good Friday Service: April 7, 11 AM**



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

EASTER FLOWERS

We seek your help in making our sanctuary a place of graceful beauty and meaning on Easter morning. Through your donation, we can accomplish this:

I wish to contribute an Easter plant. Lily ____ Tulip ____ Hyacinth ____

The wording for the bulletin is:

__ In honor of _____

__ In memory of _____

Order placed by _____

Please check: I would like to take the plant
 I would like it to be planted in the Prayer Garden



The cost of each plant is \$8.00. Please send check (payable to FPCE or pay online at fpcedgewood.org/donate) with form and return it to the Church Office. Deadline is March 27, 2023.