

Lent 2024: “Wandering Heart”

This Lent, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus’ most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter’s journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out—just like us.

As we were studying Peter’s faith journey, the lyrics of “Come Thou Fount” came to mind. It’s as if Peter himself wrote this song. Like many of us, Peter has a wandering heart. His journey is not polished, or linear, or perfect, but he is always tethered to the love of God.

In this series, we want to affirm that faith is a constant journey of steadfast pursuit, one that ebbs and flows. We want to affirm the ways Peter keeps going: he drops his nets, he walks on water, he runs to the empty tomb, he swims to the shore to meet the risen Christ. He keeps searching and yearning and loving, even after missteps or mistakes. Ultimately, in Peter’s story, we are reminded that God loves imperfect people—in fact, time and again, that’s precisely who God claims and calls.

This Lent, we will look for ourselves in the steppingstones of Peter’s story. We will reflect on the stages of our own faith journeys as well as who and what has shaped us along the way. As we wander, let us tune our hearts to sing God’s grace. May we rest in streams of mercy, never ceasing.



March 2024 Lenten Worship Schedule

Join us Sunday mornings at 11:00AM in the Sanctuary for worship.

Services are livestreamed on Facebook and then posted to our website and YouTube channel.

March 3: Third Sunday in Lent (Communion). Wandering Heart: “Praise the Mount” MATTHEW 16:13-20 | PSALM 19. “Praise the mount of God’s unchanging love. . .” This lyric represents Peter’s mountaintop faith moment. It speaks to spiritual euphoria and feeling the closeness of God. In this story, Peter proclaims who Jesus is. He speaks with conviction. Peter claims his faith. If you had to speak your faith in one sentence or phrase, what would you say? When we have the courage to say, “This, I believe...” then that conviction has a ripple effect on others. When life gets rocky, we lean on mountain top moments and our deepest convictions to see us through.
Liturgist: Rhonda Apossos

March 10: Fourth Sunday in Lent. Join us for a Lenten Taizé service! Wandering Heart: “I’m fixed upon it” MATTHEW 16:21-23 | PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22 **Daylight Saving time begins.** When your world unravels and your beliefs are tested, you may cling to what you know. As Jesus foretells his death and resurrection, Peter protests. Peter is fixed upon the way he thinks things should go; he resists the pain of what will come. But Jesus is fixed upon his calling and calls Peter out. For everyone, there comes a time when your faith is tested and you will have to face difficult and inconvenient truths. We may want to take the easier path, the path with less pain. We may want to cling to easy or simplistic answers. Instead, what does it look like to welcome complexity? Can you stay fixed upon your convictions while also expanding your perspective? Liturgist: Jim Segedy

March 17: Fifth Sunday in Lent. In the Orthodox tradition, this is known as Forgiveness Sunday, and in the PC(USA), we recognize this as Justice Advocacy Sunday. Wandering Heart: “Teach Me” MATTHEW 18:15-22 | PSALM 119:9-16 Peter is often all or nothing, either resisting Jesus or drawing closer to him in earnest. In this scripture, we see a version of Peter who is hungry to learn. His posture is humble and open—he wants to absorb Jesus’ teachings like a wet sponge. He asks a question and might expect a straightforward answer: “How many times should I forgive?” Instead, Jesus’ math is not predictable—it’s infinite. Forgiveness is abundant; grace is not earned. In your own faith, do you find comfort in theological formulas? Do you wish for straightforward answers? Can you let go of black-and-white thinking and instead embrace the infinite colors of grace? Liturgist: Lisa Segedy

March 24: Palm Sunday (Communion): Join us for a kid-centered worship service, including a puppet show! Wandering Heart: "Songs of Loudest Praise" JOHN 12:12-16 As Holy week begins, Peter is no longer front and center, and so we imagine he is with the rest of the disciples when Jesus enters Jerusalem on a colt. The disciples are confused as they witness crowds shouting hosannas. When they look back on this experience, they will remember the songs. The singing is surely etched in their memories. As we imagine ourselves in the crowd on this day, may we remember that they are supposed to be praising Caesar, but instead they are shouting for the one entering the city on a donkey. Their singing is subversive, courageous, and contagious. Their praise shows the ripple effect of public displays of praise. Liturgist: Sue Pollick

March 28: Maundy Thursday service in the Sanctuary, 7PM
Wandering Heart: "Streams of Mercy;" "Prone to leave the God I love" JOHN 13:1-20, 18:15-27
During his last supper with the disciples, Jesus got up to wash their feet. Since this was a servant's job, Peter said, "You shouldn't be washing my feet!" But Jesus told him, "Unless I wash your feet, you won't really be one of my disciples. Just because I am your Lord doesn't mean I can't also serve you. I wash your feet as an example. Just as I have taken care of you, you should also take care of others."
When the leaders arrested Jesus after dinner, Peter followed. Outside the place where they took Jesus, a girl asked Peter, "Aren't you one of his followers?" But Peter lied and told her he wasn't. Another person asked if Peter knew Jesus and again, he denied it. Someone else said, "Didn't I see you when he was arrested?" A third time, Peter lied and said he didn't know Jesus just as the rooster crowed. Later that day, Jesus was sentenced to die on the cross.

March 29: Good Friday, 11AM Good Friday service in the Sanctuary.
"It can't be carried alone" Join us for a grief ritual, where we will sit with our own and each other's sadness, fear, and anger. After this contemplative time of holding each other's grief, we will decorate the sanctuary for Easter. This liturgy comes from *The Universal Christ Liturgies* (Fr. Richard Rohr, Center for Action and Contemplation).

March 31: Sunrise Service: 9AM Sunrise Service in the Lounge!
"We shall all be changed" For new Christians (those newly baptized), the early church had a tradition of serving a cup of milk sweetened with honey to break the Lenten fast, a tradition taken from the Exodus story to signify the promised land. Join us for a contemplative start to the Easter Season as we partake in this ancient tradition to remember our baptisms. This liturgy comes from *The Universal Christ Liturgies* (Fr. Richard Rohr, Center for Action and Contemplation).

March 31, 11 AM (Communion): Resurrection Sunday!
Wandering Heart: "And I hope" LUKE 24:1-12 Women went to the tomb where Jesus had been laid after he died. When they arrived, they looked around but couldn't find Jesus' body anywhere! Instead, two angels told them that Jesus was alive, and the women ran to tell the other disciples. Even though it sounded impossible, Peter ran to the tomb and saw for himself that Jesus was not there. So he went back home, wondering what it could mean.
Easter Sunday Liturgist: David Falk



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
pastorjason@fpcedgewood.org

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 Sakal
sunny@fpcedgewood.org



Session Notes

At their February 10 meeting, Session approved:

- Summer worship starting at 10AM from June 2-Sept. 2, 2024
- An Elder volunteer to the February 2024 Presbytery Zoom mtg.
- Laura Reynold's piano recital on May 19, 2024
- HVAC repairs in church offices est. \$1000-2000
- HVAC repairs to the furnace by the boiler est. \$1000
- Minutes of January 9, 2024 and January 21, 2024 Congregational and Corporate meetings



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!

Tuesday Book Club

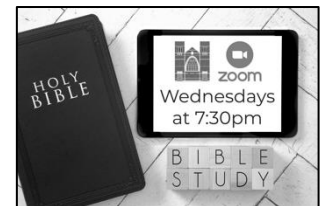
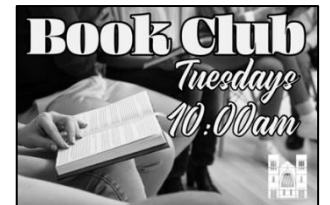
Our weekly Book Club is currently reading, *"The Poisonwood Bible"* by Barbara Kingsolver. This group meets at 10:00AM on Tuesdays at the home of Rhonda Apossos, 361 Maple Avenue. All are welcome!

Wednesday Night Zoom Bible Study

Our weekly Bible Study is held on Zoom each week and is led by Elder Tim Hoffman. The Zoom link is available on the website and in the weekly member email updates. No password is needed, just the link. Come and join the discussion on Wednesday nights at 7:30pm online! Questions? Shoot an email to Tim at HoffmanTL@gmail.com.

Coffee With The Pastor

Thursdays at Biddle's Café from 9AM 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



Musical Activities:

The Edgewood Symphony, led by Walter Morales, will be performing an exciting concert on Saturday March 2 at 7:30PM at the JCC in Squirrel Hill for a magnificent program of French music with guest soloist Gretchen Van Hoesen on harp. Learn more and purchase tickets at www.edgewoodsymphony.org.



Edgewood Symphony's final concert of the season will take place at the JCC on Saturday May 11th. Sandro Leal-Santiestaban will perform the Brahms Violin Concerto and the ESO will take on The Rite of Spring! Tickets for both concerts may be purchased at the door or in advance at www.edgewoodsymphony.org.



Sarah Steranka, our resident flute teacher, is still accepting new students for the Spring semester! Lessons are offered at First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood on weekdays from 2:00-6:30. Email Sarah directly to ask about a FREE trial lesson! sterankaflutestudio@gmail.com

MUSIC Ministry

"When the storms of life are raging, stand by me..."

That was the first verse of our final hymn in February, and the final selection in our musical celebration of Black History Month. Throughout the month, we highlighted music from the African American tradition or pieces that were written by Black composers. Each week in the bulletin, I shared a little biographical information about the composers as well as some info about the tunes themselves. We sang hymns, gospel songs and spirituals, all tied to the scripture for the week. Thanks to the choir for their leadership in the anthems and hymns.

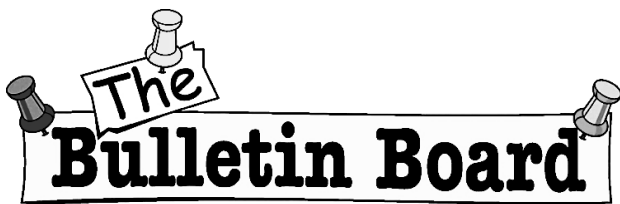
Speaking of hymns, this Lent, as we travel through "Wandering Heart" with Peter, the creators of the series have included original hymns connected to the theme for the week. These are familiar hymn tunes with new texts. Our hope is that you will deepen your Lenten journey in worship through these songs, as well as the poetry during the Lenten candle lighting and the artwork displayed on the screen at the front of the sanctuary.

Finally, I didn't get a chance due to the timing of deadlines for last month to properly thank everyone for the wonderful anniversary celebration for my 20 years as music director. Your kind words and sharing of memories filled my heart and reaffirmed that you all are my family. And given the "storms of life" that have hit me personally in the past month, I appreciate how the FPCE community continues to "stand by me." I remain humbled and grateful for the trust you place in me week in and week out.

I look forward to continuing on the journey with you to the cross and celebrating the empty tomb on Easter morning at the end of the month!

Peace,

Shaun Cloonan, *minister of music*



Sharing the Joys & Concerns of the FPCE Family

- The Crean Family is pleased to announce the planned marriage of daughter Allison to Marion Barkley. The ceremony will be held in Annapolis, Maryland, in June 2024.
- Many thanks to Lorraine Douthett for the Lenten adornments.



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 after the Easter service
 ___ 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 11, 2024

Per Capita

It is that time of year again when we discuss per capita. Each year in January, every church in the Presbytery is asked to give money to help with the costs of the larger church organization. This year's per capita **is \$36.35 for each member** on our roll.

This money is sent to Presbytery (similar to county level) who keeps \$24.15 for Presbytery services and support, \$2.40 is sent to the Synod (similar to the state level), and \$9.80 is sent for the General Assembly, our overall governing body in PC(USA) for expenses of overseeing FPCE pays for each of the 67 members on our roll at the beginning of the year in order to get a slight discount. We hope that each member of the congregation can pay \$36.35 for the per capita assessment in addition to the regular donation.

UPCOMING CALENDAR EVENTS FROM OUR NEIGHBORHOOD FRIENDS



Want to refresh your home library? It's time for the C.C Mellor Memorial Library Annual Book Sale!

Join us at the Edgewood Club, 1 Pennwood Avenue for our biggest fundraiser of the year. Want a sneak peek? The weekend will kick off at 6PM on March 8 for shop early night. Shoppers will have until 9PM to get first crack at the large selection of books and take their time browsing in a relaxed atmosphere. Admission is \$20 at the door. Get ready to shop! **Main sale days are from 9AM- 4PM on Saturday, March 9 and Sunday, March 10. Monday, March 11 from 10AM-8PM and Tuesday March 12 from 10AM-noon are bag sale days!** Shoppers can bring a grocery bag to fill with books for only \$6. We hope to see everyone there! To learn more about the book sale and how you can get involved, go to our website ccmellorlibrary.org.

Join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt!

Join us for our annual spring Egg Hunt at Koenig Field, Saturday, March 23 (Rain date will be Sunday, March 24) at 1pm. Bring your own bag or basket to collect treats and prizes. All kids are welcome to come and enjoy our FREE Easter Tradition!

Participating kids will be grouped into three age ranges, as follows:

Toddlers (1-2) – Tennis/Pickleball Court*

Little Kids (3-6) – Field A**

Big Kids (7+) – Field B**

*The eggs for the Toddler hunt will be EMPTY due to age appropriateness of candy/toys in filled eggs. Soft prizes will be available for Toddler participants following the hunt.

**The Little Kids/Big Kids hunts will take place side by side on the field, with a divider in the middle. This is to allow for a more fair opportunity for all ages to collect eggs.

All participants should arrive by 1pm. Toddlers will be given a head start, starting at 1pm. Everyone else will start a few minutes later. We ask that parents/guardians please ensure proper supervision, especially of younger children. Stick around, because Edgewood Cub Scout Pack 23 presents 'Photos with the Easter Bunny!'

PLUS!

Edgewood VFD Coffee Fundraiser

For all of those adults who need a pick-me-up after the Egg Hunt, coffee will be available for purchase from the Edgewood VFD. All proceeds benefit the Edgewood Volunteer Fire Department.



March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 9:30 Choir (CR) 11:00 Worship/ Communion (S) 12:00 Fellowship 1:00 Galina Recital (S)	4 2-6 Flute Lessons 7:00 VC (S) 7:00 Scouts (SR)	5 2-6 Flute Lessons 7:00 ESO (S)	6 2-6 Flute Lessons 7:30 Zoom Study	7 Coffee with Pastor 2-6 Flute Lessons 7:00 Milepost6 (B) 7:00 SAA (L)	8 2-6 Flute Lessons 8:00 AA (SR)	9 8:30 AA (SR)
10 Daylight Saving 9:30 Choir (CR) 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fellowship	11 2-6 Flute Lessons 7:00 VC (S) 7:00 Scouts (SR)	12 10:00 Book Club 2-6 Flute Lessons 7:00 Session Mtg. 7:00 ESO (S)	13 2-6 Flute Lessons 7:30 Bible Study (Zoom)	14 Coffee with Pastor 2-6 Flute Lessons 7:00 Milepost6 (B) 7:00 SAA (L)	15 2-6 Flute Lessons 8:00 AA (SR)	16 11-12 Steranka Workshop (GP) 8:30 AA (SR)
17 9:30 Choir (CR) 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fellowship	18 2-6 Flute Lessons 7:00 VC (S) 7:00 Scouts (SR)	19 10:00 Book Club 2-6 Flute Lessons 7:00 ESO (S)	20 2-6 Flute Lessons 7:30 Bible Study (Zoom)	21 Coffee with Pastor 2-6 Flute Lessons 7:00 Milepost6 (B) 7:00 SAA (L)	22 2-6 Flute Lessons 8:00 AA (SR)	23 8:30 AA (SR)
24 Palm Sunday 9:30 Choir (CR) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:00 Fellowship	25 2-6 Flute Lessons 7:00 VC (S) 7:00 Scouts (SR)	26 10:00 Book Club 2-6 Flute Lessons 7:00 ESO (S)	27 2-6 Flute Lessons 7:30 Bible Study (Zoom)	28 Maundy Thursday 2-6 Flute Lessons 7:00 SAA (SR) 7:00 Service	29 Good Friday 11:00 Service 2-6 Flute Lessons 8:00 AA (SR)	30 8:30 AA (SR)
31 Easter 9:00 Sunrise Srv. 9:30 Choir (CR) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:00 Fellowship		Meeting Locations: Book Club – Apessos Home AA – Social Room Vocal Confluence & ESO – Sanctuary Milepost6 – Basement Band Room Flute Lessons – C.E. Office, Choir Room Session - Lounge Choir, Worship - Sanctuary Scouts – Scout or Social Room				

Starry Night Gala

SAVE THE DATE

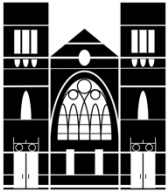
Saturday, March 09, 2024 • Edgewood Country Club

*An evening celebrating some of the Stars of
Woodland Hills School District*

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI OF THE YEAR
 DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR
 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

www.woodlandhillsfoundation.com/2024starrynightgala

WH Foundation



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

Don't forget to "spring ahead" on March 10th!

Maundy Thursday Service: March 28, 7 PM

Good Friday Service: March 29, 11 AM