



## Welcome, Pastor Tony!

The Pastor Nominating Committee is pleased to announce Rev. Anthony Rivera as our new pastor at FPCE. Rev. Rivera is originally from New York and received his Master of Divinity degree and Master of Theology degree from Princeton Theological Seminary. Rev. Rivera has worked as an accountant and has experience teaching in colleges and seminaries. For many years, he was involved in the Office of Admissions at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary where he started as the Associate Director of Admissions and then served as the Director of Admissions. More recently, Rev. Rivera was the transitional pastor at Forest Hills Presbyterian Church until earlier this year. The congregation members and his colleagues were impressed with his knowledge of scripture, compassion and sincerity. He has been known as a pastor who responds to those in need and loves developing relationships with others. **Please welcome Rev. Rivera to FPCE! He began his position at our church on Monday October 19, 2020 and led the worship service on the following Sunday October 25.**



In Christ,

The Pastor Nominating Committee

Paul Otori, Chair

Tom Ochs

Marcia Haley

Tim Hoffman

Tim McKee



We are working on putting together our worship services for the month of November with Pastor Tony leading. A few highlights to note as we work out details:

November 1: All Saints' Day Communion. We remember those members of our church who have passed on to the church triumphant and joined the communion of saints in our annual All Saints' observance. Additionally, we will share in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

November 22: Stewardship Sunday. As you consider your gifts to support the ministry of FPCE, we renew our commitments of time and talent by dedicating our pledges.

November 29: First Sunday of Advent. Hard to believe it, but the journey to Bethlehem and the new church year begins today!



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

**Anthony Rivera**

pastortony@fpcedgewood.org

Office & Cleaning Manager  
FROGS Program Director

**Judy Mysels**

office@fpcedgewood.org  
frogs@fpcedgewood.org

Building Manager

**Rob Mysels**

building@fpcedgewood.org

Minister of Music

**Shaun Cloonan**

music@fpcedgewood.org

Pianist

**Sunny Sakai**

sunmysakai4@gmail.com

**LOVE GOD  
EACH OTHER  
OUR NEIGHBORS**

## Stewardship Update

Stewardship is -

- our thanksgiving to God
- the tie that binds us to others
- Christian way of life

Thanks be to God for your contributions. Please continue to pray and produce good works for our church and the church universal.



Stewardship Sunday is scheduled for November 22. Look in your mail for upcoming Stewardship letters with commitment cards included. These cards can either be mailed in or brought with you and dropped into the offering plate by November 22.

Blessings,  
Paul Otori  
Chair, Stewardship



Presbyterians have used per capita—an annual per member apportionment assessed by the General Assembly (*Book of Order*, G-3.0106; see also Standing Rule F.4.b.), and by many synods and presbyteries, to enable Presbyterians mutually and equitably to share the ecclesiastical and administrative costs of sustaining our witness to Christ—as a sign of the covenant that binds us together.

General Assembly per capita is the primary source of funding for the Office of the General Assembly and makes possible numerous services on which Presbyterians depend, including the biennial meeting of the General Assembly. **2020 Per Capita is \$34.79 per member.**



## Worship Committee

The Worship Committee will meet during the month of November to plan upcoming services, including how we will hold our annual Christmas Eve worship. Once decisions are made, they will be communicated via email, announcements during worship, and posted on the church website at fpcedgewood.org.

## Crop Walk News

The Crop Walk this year was different (as is everything during the COVID 19 pandemic). However, walkers still participated (Judy and Mariah walked the usual 6.2-mile course), others did virtual walks, shorter walks, turning into longer walks...all for a great cause. We are still accepting donations by sending into church office or via on-line giving. Thank you for your support. Next month will report what the final tally was.



## Session Notes

At their October 13 Zoom meeting, Session approved the following:

- The baptism of Kenneth Craig Simon, son of Elizabeth Raisig-Simon and Scott Simon, grandson of Russ and Flo Raisig, on Sunday, November 29, 2020.
- The entry of the deaths of Helen Ebken (9/21/20 and Tim Carr (10/2/20) into the church register.
- Tuition return to any FROG parents who paid for months when the program was cancelled.
- Rekeying 3 doors, the main side door on School Street, the Social Hall door, and the door leading to the scout room on the Maple Avenue side of the building. No more than \$350 will be spent for rekeying these 3 doors and 2 keys/ door. A building use form will require a \$50 deposit that will be returned when the key is returned.
- Session heard from the PNC that our new pastor at FPCE is Pastor Anthony Rivera. He is scheduled to begin on October 19.



In a regular year, we would put out an all-call for everyone to help decorate the sanctuary for the holidays in our annual Hanging of the Greens event. However, we all know that 2020 is anything but ordinary, and so group gatherings are a concern for many. We WILL meet after worship on Sunday, November 22 to pull out the decorations to “deck the hall” (or in our case, the sanctuary!). If you feel safe, healthy, and comfortable enough to join us, you are welcome. Judy has everything well-organized, with directions and photos of where items should be placed. We can make sure to socially distance ourselves with masks on while serving as the worker bees of the church.



Shadyside Academy is again collecting food for our pantry/Thanksgiving needs for the local community. If anyone is interested in collecting food, needs are: boxed stuffing mix, canned turkey or chicken broth, canned green beans, corn, cranberry sauce, yams or sweet potatoes, boxes of corn bread mix, assorted dessert mixes. Donations can be dropped off at the church during office hours of M-F, 9AM to 2PM or during Sunday worship. If you aren't able to collect food, donations of Giant Eagle gift cards or checks earmarked for WCM food drive would also be appreciated.

## The Upper Room

As a subscriber to *The Upper Room* devotional, FPCE was given access to a PDF version of issues through a private link on the publisher's website. We do also have the paper copies of the November-December issue available at the entrances to the church, and one can be mailed to you if preferred. Just call the church office or email Judy at [office@fpcedgewood.org](mailto:office@fpcedgewood.org). To access the PDF, go to [upperroom.org/standingorderchurches](http://upperroom.org/standingorderchurches)

## Prayer Warriors

Did you know that we have a dedicated group that prays for you constantly? A core group of FPCE members maintain a prayer list that is continually updated as joys and concerns are passed along in the life of our congregation. They set aside intentional time and pray for specific individuals or situations that are brought to their attention and follow up on those prayer requests with calls and emails. If you would like to know more about our "Prayer Warriors" or would like to be added to the email list and make intentional prayer a focus of yours, please contact Michelle Santo at [cshell73@yahoo.com](mailto:cshell73@yahoo.com).

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devotionals 365 days a year



[www.d365.org](http://www.d365.org)

### Whom will you serve?

#### pause

Take a moment. Close your eyes and mind to everything around you. Let the noise of the world fade. "Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)

In the quiet of this time, rest in that promise.

#### listen

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders of Israel, its leaders, judges, and officers. They presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to the entire people, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Long ago your ancestors lived on the other side of the Euphrates. They served other gods. Among them was Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor. I took Abraham your ancestor from the other side of the Euphrates. I led him around through the whole land of Canaan. I added to his descendants and gave him Isaac."

Joshua 24:1-3

#### think

Sometimes we need to get back to basics. Here, Joshua, the successor to Moses and a dynamic warrior for Israel, was nearing the end of his leadership. He brings Israel together in a special place to make sure the people understand just who they are as a nation – where they came from. Using the words of God, he reminds them that God started all of this. God made the nation of Israel from people who originally didn't know God. God deserves their service.

Too often, I lose my spiritual compass and overvalue my role in who I am or have become. The simple truth is that God started all of this. God made you, and God made me. God made us deliberately and has plans for our lives. It's our role – through a process of spiritual deliberation and growth – to live into God's purpose for us. Today your purpose might be showing kindness to a friend, offering forgiveness and mercy to someone who harmed you, or simply being compassionate in a divided world.

God started our stories. Serve God by searching for and living into God's purpose for you.

Bill Ogletree

#### pray

God, bring me back to basics today. You started all of this, and you have a plan for my life. Help me to know and follow your plans for me, and re-direct me when I get off course. I want to serve you. Amen.

#### go

Go from this time asking, "Whom will I serve today?" Remember, you're not a random accident. God, the author of all things, started your story and has your back. God is worthy of your service.

The  
**Bulletin Board**

**Sharing the Joys & Concerns of FPCE**

- Congratulations to Mandy Rineer on her new position with the City of Pittsburgh as a Community Development Planner with the Office of Management and Budget. She will be managing grant processes for the Community Block Development Grant program through HUD.
- Condolences and sympathies to the family and friends of Tim Carr, who passed away on October 2. A memorial service was held in the FPCE sanctuary on Friday, October 9 with Pastor Michael officiating.
- Christian sympathies to the family and friends of Dr. George MacDonald, who passed away October 22. Dr. MacDonald was one of our homebound members who was visited for many years by Deacon Tim Carr.
- We offer our condolences to Ruth Miller on the passing of her sister Carol on October 30.
- Please update your directories: Brenda McCrady no longer has a land line, only cell phone: 404-436-4904

**CHRISTMAS**



**POINSETTIAS**

Poinsettia plants may be contributed by anyone to help decorate the sanctuary for the Advent season. Please fill out the order blank below and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the Church Office.  
**Deadline is December 11, 2020.**

I wish to contribute \_\_\_\_\_ Poinsettia(s) for the beautification of the Church Sanctuary for Christmas.

I would like choice of color: \_\_\_ red      \_\_\_ white      \_\_\_ marble

Please attach a check or money to this order form. Make all checks payable to First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood. **The cost is \$7.50 per plant.**

The wording:                      \_\_\_ In honor of:                      \_\_\_ In loving memory of:

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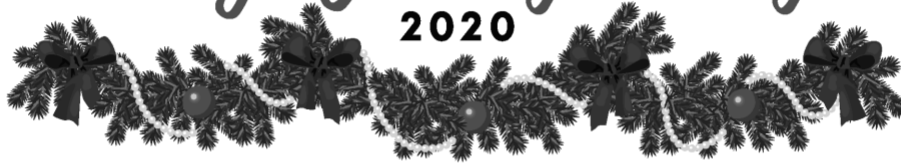
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By: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I wish to take my plant after the Christmas Eve candlelight service.

# MHY Family Services' Holiday Giving Program

2020



Our top priority throughout this year has been the health and safety of our children, staff, friends and local community supporters. For this holiday season, we are excited to share the variety of ways we hope you will consider to continue to safely donate and give to the children and families in our care. It is because of YOU that we are able to keep our kids safe and our doors open as an essential service, and we are grateful for your continued support and generosity!

## You Can Support MHY through:

### ONLINE SHOPPING - Purchase essential items from our Christmas Wish List

- Visit sites such as Amazon Smile\*, Target & Walmart and have gifts shipped directly to MHY Family Services ~ Holiday Program, 521 Route 228, Mars, PA 16046 (\*Please consider making MHY your Amazon Smile charity of choice.)
- If shipping gifts is not possible, we will have limited drop-off available by appointment only. Please contact Karen Harvey 724-625-3141 x 283 or by email [kharvey@mhyfamilyservices.org](mailto:kharvey@mhyfamilyservices.org) to schedule an appointment and receive further information.
- **Please include your name and address so we may acknowledge your gift**
- **Please plan to have gifts delivered no later than December 7th**



### GIFT CARDS

- Giant Eagle, Target, Walmart, Amazon, Kohl's, Five Below, Dollar Tree, Subway & McDonald's
- Mail to MHY Family Services ~ Holiday Program, 521 Route 228, Mars, PA 16046



### MONETARY DONATIONS

- Please make all checks payable to "Mars Home for Youth Foundation" and mail to MHY Family Services ~ Holiday Program, 521 Route 228, Mars, PA 16046
- Visit our secure on-line donation portal at [mhyfamilyservices.org/give-now/](https://mhyfamilyservices.org/give-now/)
- Please note if you would like to restrict your gift for a specific need

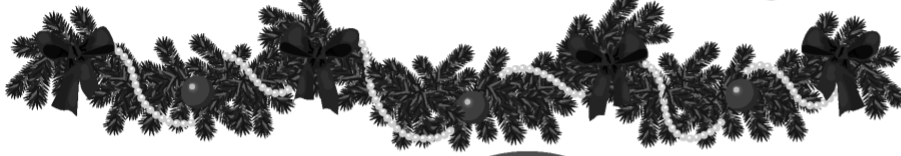


Thank you for your kindness and for making our children and families a priority this holiday season!



# Christmas Wish List

## 2020



### **Critical Needs**

- Twin Size Comforters
- Twin Size Sheets
- Pillows
- Bath Towels & Wash Clothes
- Body Wash
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Deodorant

### **Personal Hygiene Products**

- Chapstick
- Toothpaste & Toothbrush Covers
- Hair Brushes & Hair Picks
- Multicultural Hair Products
- Dove Soap or Sensitive Skin Soap
- Lotion for Sensitive Skin
- Plastic Reusable Water Bottles
- Feminine Products
- Plastic Soap Box Containers

### **Miscellaneous Needs**

- Laundry Baskets
- Storage Containers
- Duffle Bags
- Bean Bag Chairs
- Batteries (AAA, AA or C)
- Large Reusable Shopping Bags (from TJ Maxx & Marshalls)
- Lysol Wipes & Hand Sanitizer
- Tissues
- Plastic Laundry Baskets
- Weighted Blankets



### **Electronics**

- Headphones & Earbuds (noise cancelling)
- Alarm Clocks with Radio
- G or PG DVD's
- DVD Players
- Nintendo Switch
- Nintendo Switch E Games (all ages)

### **Attire**

- Athletic Shoes & Winter Boots - Adult Sizes 6-12
- Coats, Hats & Gloves - Kids & Adult Sizes
- Socks & Underwear (all ages)

### **Games & Other Fun**

- Card Games/Board Games
- Legos
- Puzzles
- Rubik's Cube
- Remote Control Cars
- Young Adult Books
- Fidget Spinners & Gadgets
- Stress Balls
- Thinking Putty/Play-Doh

### **Arts & Crafts**

- Craft & Art Kits
- Construction & Drawing Paper
- Copy Paper
- Mechanical Pencils & Replacement Lead
- Journals without Wires
- Stationery & Stamps
- Origami Kits
- Kinetic Sand
- Calming Coloring Books (all ages)

### **Sporting Equipment**

- Footballs & Flag Football Kits
- Basketballs
- Volleyballs
- Kickballs
- Wiffle Ball Sets
- Ball Pumps



## **\*ALL DONATIONS NEED TO BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 7th\***

Please consider shopping online to purchase items from this list and shipping gifts directly to MHY Family Services ~ Holiday Program, 521 Route 228, Mars, PA 16046 by December 7th, or you may send a monetary donation made payable to "Mars Home for Youth Foundation."

**\*Please include your name and address so we may acknowledge your gift.\***

Please contact Karen Harvey at 724-625-3141 x 283 or by email [kharvey@mhyfamilyservices.org](mailto:kharvey@mhyfamilyservices.org) with any questions or to schedule an appointment to drop off holiday gifts.



First Presbyterian Church of

**EDGEWOOD**

*The Community Church*

120 East Swissvale Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15218

# Join us for worship



In-person, socially distanced



Facebook Live Stream



YouTube channel