



We Give Thanks...

No doubt the past year and a half has been hard on all of us. Quarantine, social distancing, masking, virtual meetings, canceled gatherings, travel plans, and family occasions could easily put many into a feeling of hopeless and helplessness. But we as Christians can always find ways to give thanks and praise to the One who provides for us in all aspects of our lives.

We, like many churches, are in the midst of yet another transition in the life of the Edgewood congregation. As we've emerged from closed doors on Sunday mornings and have slowly added to our church calendars, and as we look ahead to the future of our ministry with a new leader whenever he or she is called to us, we have much to be grateful for...

We give thanks for the blessings God provides us each and every day.

We give thanks for individual health and safety, and access to many healthcare services in our area.

We give thanks for food security and the comfort that we are assured our next meal.

We give thanks for generous and caring brothers and sisters in Christ as part of our church family who rally around those in need through intentional prayer, providing meals, rides and phone calls.

We give thanks for resilient and consistent leadership in our congregation as elders and staff continue the work of maintaining our ministry while we search for a pastor.

We give thanks for dynamic worship full of inspired Word from many guest pastors and songs of praise from our music ministry, and for the ability to share it both in-person and online.

We give thanks for our historic and beautiful building and sanctuary that is getting more use weekly than ever in the past with our friends at the Edgewood Symphony Orchestra and Vocal Confluence.

We give thanks for the beginnings of relationships with community organizations and the possibilities of future work together.

We give thanks for the ability to welcome new members to our congregation through reaffirmation of faith and the sacrament of baptism.

We give thanks for the opportunity to continue living out our mission as the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood to love God, love each other, and love our neighbors.

1 Peter 4:8-11 tells us:

⁸ Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Be hospitable to one another without complaining. ¹⁰ Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. ¹¹ Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

As we enter the season of giving thanks around the table at Thanksgiving, we mark the end of another church year with a time to rededicate ourselves to the church through our stewardship campaign. The passage from Peter reflects back on the double love command, calling for love. And one way that love is expressed is by giving generously to provide hospitality and serve our neighbors. These verses also remind us that we are recipients of the incredible gift of God's grace, and we are called to steward that gift by serving others. We give of our time and talents to further the work of the kingdom in the world and in our own community. Ultimately, our giving is one way that we can glorify God and point to God's amazing love and grace for all of us, and that should be cause for generosity and celebration!



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

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.

November 7

All Saints' Communion. Each year on the first Sunday in November we create space in our service to remember those brothers and sisters we have lost in the past year through prayer and lighting of candles. We will also share in the sacrament of the Lord's supper. The Rev. Gail Mason, honorably retired, returns to our pulpit to lead worship. Gail did her internship at FPCE in the early 80s and our members will most recently remember her as the pastor who presided over Sallie Monk's memorial service this summer.

November 14

Stewardship Sunday. Recent seminary graduate Jason Dauer will lead us in worship when we dedicate our estimate of giving commitments to continuing the ministry of FPCE.

November 21

Christ the King Sunday Emerging Worship. The last Sunday of the church year before we start new in Advent, Hanging of the Greens follows worship. We welcome back Heather Humphries Henkel as our guest pastor.

November 28

It's the First Sunday of Advent! The Rev. Kellie Weekley-Mills returns to the pulpit and will lead us throughout the season of Advent where we will focus each week on various biblical characters and their connection to the Christmas story.

Looking ahead...

December 5 – 2nd Sunday of Advent, Communion

December 12 – 3rd Sunday of Advent, Receiving of new members unable to join us last month. Congregational Meeting to review the budget and elect officers follows worship

December 19 – 4th Sunday of Advent (possible emerging or inclusion of Blue Christmas elements, to be confirmed)

December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion, 8:00PM

December 26 – Lessons & Carols

“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

STEWARDSHIP: WHAT WILL YOU CHOOSE TO DO?

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

As a member of a small congregation, we share the joys and responsibility of acting as the body of Christ. We are in this together. This year, we have had change, but continue with our Worship and mission. The PNC is searching for a new Pastor and we have work to do!

Please prayerfully consider what you will give to the church. There are plenty reasons not to give. I’m sure each of us would have no problem adding to the list. However, we’re asking you to do the opposite. Please add to the reasons we do give...

It is more blessed to give than to receive. Acts 20:35

Store for yourselves treasures in heaven...

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:20-21

Stewardship Sunday is scheduled for November 14. Look in your mail for 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 14.

CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



Crop Walk News

The Crop Walk this year was different again. 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 online giving. Make checks payable to CWS/Crop Walk. Thank you for your support. Next month will report what the final tally was.

Session Notes

At their October 12 meeting, Session approved the following:

- Receive as new members: Sue Pollick, Roberta Thompson, D.J. Kovylanski, Ethan and Elizabeth Headlee, and Johnny and Jen Hrebik.
- Enter the baptisms of Maren Lynn Headlee (10/12/19) and Malcolm Carroll Headlee (8/6/21), children of Ethan and Elizabeth Headlee, on October 10, 2021 into the church register.
- Form an ongoing grounds committee to maintain the outside of the church.

Session also approved 2 motions via email.

- On September 19, 2021 Session voted approval of the MIF necessary for our pastor search.
- On September 27, 2021 Session voted approval of a room to be used by Mary Barr’s writing group on Wed., Oct. 6, 20, 27, Nov. 3, 10, and Tue., Oct. 12 at 1-4 PM.

It’s Time for the Hanging of the Greens!

Mark your calendar – Sunday, November 21, following worship.

We WILL meet after worship 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.



Pastor Nominating Committee Update

The PNC is making good progress in our search for the next called pastor at Edgewood. To date, we have reviewed over 30 Personal Information Forms (PIFs) from pastors who either matched with our Ministry Information Form (MIF) through the PC(USA) Church Leadership Connection website or self-referred their PIF directly to the committee. The past month has been dedicated to discussing and rating our interest in pursuing discussions with individuals after reading the PIFs and listening to or watching sample sermon recordings.

Pastor Search Committee Update



Next, the committee will reach out to those who we are most interested in to see if those individuals would be interested in starting a conversation with us. The pastors who have matched through the CLC website only know they have been matched but don't know with which churches, so it's possible they may not actually be interested in us specifically even though we "matched" from checking similar boxes on our forms! Once we hear back from those we contact, we can begin scheduling first round Zoom interviews. Our hope is to begin those by the end of November and then see where the process goes after as we head into the holiday season and work around busier schedules. There will likely be a break for a couple of weeks in December and we will pick up after the start of the new year.

Please continue to pray for the work of the committee, for the discernment process, and for the members as we listen for God's voice leading us to the person called to share in our ministry together.

In Christ's Love,

Tyler McGuigan (chair), Shaun Cloonan, Lorraine Douthett, John Foster, Lisa Segedy



November Deacon News

The Deacons are assembling harvest baskets and/or cards on November 14. If anyone knows of someone who might benefit from these, contact Mary Ann Hartman at mare76@comcast.net.

The second graders at Shady Side Academy are again collecting food for our pantry. We are truly blessed to have this connection between Shady Side Academy and FPCE which has continued, even through COVID-19. The kids are so anxious and eager to continue this well-needed collection and those of us who are on the receiving end of their generosity see the good and appreciate their hard work and dedication. They are bringing their collection to FPCE on November 18.

Christian Education News

Tuesday Book Club Continues

Our weekly Book Club continues to discuss "The Prayer Box" by Lisa Wyngate, 10:00AM, Tuesdays at the home of Rhonda Apossos, 361 Maple Avenue, Edgewood. All are welcome!

Wednesday Night Zoom Bible Study

Join Elder Tim Hoffman for a weekly one-hour bible study on the life of Joseph held on Zoom at 7:00pm Wednesday nights. <https://pitt.zoom.us/j/6670286724> No password is needed. Just copy paste the link into your browser and load the page. You will be automatically placed into a waiting room then brought into the main room by the host and moderator, Tim Hoffman. Email HoffmanTL@gmail.com with questions.

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!



Treasurer's Report

As of October 31, 2021 the income and expenses for FPCE are as follows:

Total Income - \$147,726.28

Actual YTD Budget - \$167,841.34

Total Expense - \$149,876.37

Actual YTD Budget - \$174,305.82

Actual expenses exceed income by \$2,150.09. The budget at this date projects expenses exceeding income by \$6,464.48 so we are actually doing better than what is budgeted. The reason is that maintenance and utility expenses so far this year have been well below budget. The worst period of utility usage has passed, so unless there are unexpected maintenance expenses the year-end Total Expenses should be below budget. Congregation donations are below budget, and I expect that to continue throughout 2021.

Tom Ochs, Treasurer

Nominating Committee Seeks Church Leaders

Nominations are being accepted for the Board of Deacons and Session. At least 4 slots need to be filled for the Deacons and at least 1 for Session. If you have never served on one of these boards and have new ideas or energy or have a nominee in mind, please contact Tim Hoffman at hoffmantl@gmail.com or call the Church Office.

In addition, the nominating committee must also fill spots for auditor, alternate auditor, and the 2022 nominating committee. Here are some details about what each is asked to do if you receive a call to consider a nomination:

Deacons: They are responsible for handling the charitable work of the church. Deacons meet monthly: 1st Tuesday of each month (usually off in July, August). Each Deacon usually is responsible for 1 or 2 shut-in and keeps in touch with them by phone call, note or visitation. During the regular calendar year, shut-ins receive Valentine cards, Easter baskets, Harvest baskets and a poinsettia at Christmas. Two events Deacons take charge of are the Strawberry Festival in June and the Manger Tree in November/December. Deacons also oversee the Food Pantry: help in bringing in supplies, checking expiration dates, etc. For Mother's and Father's Day, Deacons host a fellowship hour following worship. I wish/hope you will seriously consider this nomination to the Board of Deacons.

Elders: The Session is the governing body of the church made up of ruling elders. Session meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month (usually off in August unless there is business to discuss) and special meetings called when necessary. If you cannot attend a meeting, let the Pastor, Church Office, Clerk know and you will be excused. Each member is asked to either chair a committee or be a member of: Mission, Parish Life, Personnel, Property, Stewardship or Worship. These committees meet during the church year and perform certain duties.

Auditor/Alternate Auditor: once a year, before the Annual Report is published in January, the auditor meets with our treasurer to review the financial books of church as well as the Deacons and Presbyterian Women. An Alternate auditor is also nominated in case the Auditor isn't able to perform these duties when asked.

Nominating Committee: asks people to fill a vacancy on one of the Boards: Deacon or Session or Auditor/Alternate Auditor either by calling nominees on the phone or by email. Committee consists of a member of Session (in charge), a Deacon and 3 members of the congregation. Phone calls/emails should start in October in order to present results to Session by the December Congregational Meeting.

⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸ A third time the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹ So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰ The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." — 1 Samuel 3:7-10

Please consider responding to the call "here I am, Lord," if you are invited to join one of our boards or committees as we move forward in our mission at the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood to love God, love each other, and love our neighbors.

MUSIC Ministry

Lots of musical things are happening at FPCE! In addition to having our choir and worship ensemble back in worship on Sundays, we weekly host several community musicians. Mondays and Wednesdays the sanctuary is filled with barbershop harmonies by 2 different ensembles that make up Vocal Confluence. Mark your calendars: Sunday, December 12 at 3:00PM is their FREE holiday show in our sanctuary. Tuesdays the Edgewood Symphony has been utilizing FPCE as their official Edgewood home with rehearsals and their first in-person concert last month. They are gearing up for their annual holiday performance on December 4. And Steranka Flute Studios holds private lessons in the Lounge on Thursdays and Fridays by appointment. Sarah is holding a private recital for her students on Saturday, December 18 (she's limiting audience and will be live streaming for families).

We're also in talks with the Edgewood Foundation about having some sort of FPCE presence at Light Up Edgewood on **Saturday, December 11**. I haven't officially confirmed anything yet, but I have in my mind a collaboration between our Sanctuary Choir, Vocal Confluence, Voces Solis, and the East Shore Chorale to do a carol sing in the sanctuary followed by walking across the street to Memorial Park to sing a few carols at the official tree lighting ceremony. More details to come as they are finalized and if they come to fruition!

I also want to draw your attention to something truly remarkable that has taken place in worship over the past month or so. We all know how gifted our wonderful pianist, Sunny Sakai, is. The most amazing thing has been happening each week. After the guest pastor gives the benediction, everyone sits down and intently watches and listens to the postlude that Sunny comes up with for the week. Often it ties in several songs we've sung during the service or she pulls in a melody from something that may have been touched on in the sermon (like "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" after Pastor Fairlight's sermon on rainbows!). It has truly been the most amazing experience to see how the service continues right up until the last note is played. And while I did ask the choir to make sure they don't start conversations until the video recording ends (as it was being picked up by the microphones), this has happened in a very organic way. There has even been applause after several weeks. What a blessing and a musical treat to hear these mini concerts leading us into the week ahead!

I continue to be grateful week in and week out for the chance to share in ministry through music with each and every one of you. I wish you the most blessed of Thanksgivings and look forward to starting our Advent journey together at the end of the month!

*Peace,
Shaun Cloonan, minister of music*

Steranka Flute Studio

Sarah Steranka, an Edgewood-based flutist, is now offering flute lessons at First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood! A member of the Westmoreland Symphony and the new music collective Kamratōn, she holds degrees in flute performance from Carnegie Mellon and Duquesne Universities. Sarah is now accepting students of all ages. Whether you are nine or ninety, your journey as a flutist begins here. Contact Sarah at sterankaflutestudio@gmail.com to schedule your free 30-minute introductory lesson!



STERANKA FLUTE STUDIO, LLC

Flute lessons available at locations
in Edgewood & Shadyside. Study
the flute with a qualified instructor.

Contact Sarah for a **FREE**
30-minute trial lesson today!



Visit sterankaflutestudio.com
for more information.



For the past several years, FPCE has partnered with Mars Home for Youth when collecting donations for the annual Manger Tree drive.

MHY Family Services is a non-profit organization serving youth with intensive behavioral needs and social challenges, and providing them a safe environment on their journey to wellness. Each year, MHY supports over 300 children through our residential program, and over 1,000 boys, girls and families in our community through our specialized trauma-based treatment. Our own Jim and Lisa Segedy are active with MHY as volunteers and members of the board of directors.

Here is the 2021 Christmas Wish List sent to us from MHY:

Critical Needs: Twin Size Comforters & Sheets, Big Bath Towels & Washcloths, Body Wash & Deodorant, Shampoo/Conditioner/2 in 1 Shampoo, Multicultural Hair Products

Personal Care Needs: New Duffle Bags & Backpacks, Large Reusable Shopping Bags (*from TJ Maxx & Marshalls*), Plastic Reusable Water Bottles, (*new*) Batteries (AA & AAA), Feminine Products, Hair Brushes & Hair Picks, Body Spray/Cologne Gift Sets, Athletic Shoes (*Men sizes 6-13, Women sizes 6-11*), Sports Bras (*Adult sizes*), Boxer Briefs (*Men & Women sizes*), Socks & Underwear (*Adult sizes*)

Gift Cards: Amazon, Walmart, Giant Eagle, Target, Aldi, Chick-fil-A, Dollar Tree, Five Below, Kohl's, Michaels

Arts & Crafts: Tie Dye & Jewelry Making Kits, Gem Art & Paint by Number Kits, Art Canvas without staples, Acrylic & Pastel Paints and Brushes, Kinetic Sand & Molding Clay, Poster Boards & Markers, Origami Books & Paper

Electronics: MP3 Players, Small Portable Speakers, Alarm Clocks with Radios, DVD's & 3D movies - G/PG/PG13, Nintendo Switch & E games (*all ages*), Noise-cancelling Headphones & Earbuds

Games & Other Fun: Legos (*all types*), New Stuffed Animals, Squishies & Squishmallows, Stress Balls & Fidget Spinners, Push Pop Bubble Toys, Thinking Putty & Play-Doh, Young Adult Books, Wall Stickers for Décor, Puzzles, Board & Card Games, Magic: The Gathering Cards, Word Search & Crossword Games, Candy & Holiday Treats

Monetary Donations: To ensure MHY youth have all they need to support their individual, personal care and therapeutic needs, please consider a monetary gift. Giving is easy! Simply visit mhyfamilyservices.org

All Donations Need to be Received by December 6th Shop online and ship gifts directly to: MHY Family Services "HOLIDAY PROGRAM" 521 Route 228 Mars, PA 16046



*Sharing the Joys & Concerns
of the FPCE Family*

- Blessing of the Pets was a "howling" success thanks to Jim Segedy and crew.
- Special thanks to Lisa and Jim Segedy for their hard work in gardening and planting a tree in the Prayer Garden.
- Congratulations to Maren and Malcolm Headlee on their baptism on October 10, 2021, and to their big brother, Everett and proud parents, Liz and Ethan Headlee.
- Congratulations to our new members: Johnny and Jen Hrebik, Sue Pollick, and Roberta (Bobbie) Thompson received on October 24, 2021. We are blessed to have them among us. We also look forward to officially welcoming Liz and Ethan Headlee and DJ Kovylanski in December!



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

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 13, 2021.

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:

By: _____

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