

## Love God, Love each other, Love our neighbors...

You've seen these words printed in our weekly bulletin and in the newsletter for years. It's the first thing under the name of the church on our website and in the profile descriptions of our social media accounts. Our mission statement: "Believing we are called 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."

**LOVE GOD  
EACH OTHER  
OUR NEIGHBORS**

But did you know there is more to our mission than this one sentence? When the team that created the mission statement years ago crafted it, a more fleshed out version was also included, helping to guide us as we move forward in living out the Gospel. As the pastor nominating committee begins its work of discerning who will be the next shepherd for our congregation, a brief self-reflection/mission study occurs as part of the creation of our Ministry Information Form. While revisiting our mission, the PNC came across this list and thought it was worth sharing with everyone. Consider how we might imagine our congregation's future of love in the community with the following:

### *We love God...*

- through worship that is dynamic, joyful, exuberant, vibrant, and spirit-filled
- by reading scripture as the inspired Word of God
- by taking time to be holy through prayer

### *We love each other...*

- through fellowship
- by ministering to each other through the Holy Spirit
- by sharing in the sacraments

### *We love our neighbors...*

- through outreach and evangelism
- by doing mission and justice/peacemaking
- with compassion in the name of Jesus

Due to the rise in cases of COVID-19 and the Delta Variant, and in response to Allegheny County moving from the moderate to substantial, and now to the high transmission rate, the Worship Committee/Session has reinstated safety protocols for in-person worship following CDC recommendations as follows:

- **Properly worn masks are required for all those attending worship regardless of vaccination status.** (Those leading worship may remove masks when speaking or singing unless masking becomes mandated by the Allegheny County Health Department or the Governor.)
- Please continue to observe social distancing in the marked pews.
- **Congregational singing may continue while masked.** You are welcome to use the hymnals in the pews, stand and join in singing of hymns and responses. Lyrics will continue to be printed in the bulletin for those following along online.

We understand that each person is different with the possible risks he or she may have. Live-streamed online worship will continue to be available on Facebook and YouTube for those who choose to stay home until they feel safe to rejoin in person.





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## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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**LOVE GOD  
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**September 5:** The Rev. Kellie Weekley-Mills will lead us on this Labor Day weekend in a communion worship as the last of our summer 10AM services.

**September 12:** It's Rally Day! We resume the 11:00 worship hour with Faye D'Ippolito preaching and welcome back our Sanctuary Choir, who have not participated in worship since March 2020. We will also take a moment in worship to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11/01. Join us for a small lunch of Triangle subs and snacks afterward! A former member of FPCE, Faye D'Ippolito completed the 2-year Commissioned Lay Pastor program at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. She is a supply pastor accepting occasional preaching engagements after finishing a 7-month supply term at Oak Hill Disciples of Christ Church in Butler. Faye is also a trained and experienced Stephen Minister.

**September 19:** Emerging worship with Faye D'Ippolito preaching and the worship ensemble leading music.

**September 26:** Heather Henkel preaching. Heather is a lifelong Pittsburgher, growing up in Edgewood, and attending FPCE throughout her youth (older members may remember her by her maiden name of Heather Humphries). She went to college at Miami University in Ohio (before Big Ben) and has worked in technology at PNC since 1999. She heard her calling to ministry while selling jewelry on the side in a home-show-based business and applied to Seminary in 2012. She took evening classes part time. Her home church is Parkwood Presbyterian Church in Allison Park, and she completed her Field Education with Rev. Beckie Hickok at Waverly Presbyterian Church. Her time in Seminary, and particularly her Field Education experience have confirmed for her that ministry is her passion, and where she belongs. She graduated from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in May 2020 and is working on ordination. She lives in McCandless Township with her husband and children (but don't forget the dog and cat!).

### *Looking ahead...*

October 3: World Communion Sunday with Rev. Weekley-Mills  
October 10: CROP Walk Sunday (TBD)  
October 17: Emerging with Rev. Bob Ruefle  
October 24: Rev. Bob Ruefle  
October 31: Reformation Sunday (TBD)

## Planning Meeting

As we continue to bring back in-person activities at FPCE, a meeting has been scheduled for Session, Deacons, the staff, and anyone else interested to set the calendar of activities and events in the ministry of FPCE. The calendar for September through February will be discussed and set on **Thursday, September 9 at 7:00pm in the Gathering Place**. If you have an idea for an outreach effort, event, activity or just something church leadership should discuss moving forward, join us! Another meeting to plan through Summer 2022 will take place in January.

### Join us on September 12 for Rally Day!

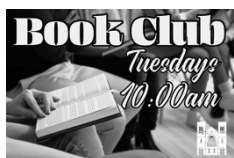
9:30AM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (in the Sanctuary)  
11:00AM Regular Worship Hour Resumes, 9/11 memorial  
Youth Sunday School Begins during worship  
12:15PM Triangle Hoagies in the Gathering Place!  
Eat together or "grab and go"



## Christian Education News

We are gauging interest for a Pre-Worship Bible Study. If you would be interested in participating, please contact Rhonda Apossos or Tim Hoffman.

Youth Sunday School, during Worship, is starting on Sunday, September 12. Please let us know if you have a child interested in Sunday School.



### Tuesday Book Club

The weekly discussion group is currently reading "Women of the Bible Speak" by Shannon Bream. If you would like to join, they meet at 10:00AM on Tuesdays at the home of Rhonda Apossos, 361 Maple Avenue, Edgewood.

## Session Notes

At their August Zoom Session meeting, Session approved:

- The formation of a Music Outreach Task Force to coordinate the use of music programs to encourage people to come to FPCE. Members of this Task Force include Shaun Cloonan, Tyler McGuigan, Tim McKee, Judy Mysels, and Jim Segedy.
- The reinstatement of mask wearing and social distancing during worship.
- The inclusion of the passing of Ed Masten in our church rolls.
- Permission (if the way be clear) for Clutterer's Anonymous to use a second floor room for meetings Monday nights at 6:30-7:30PM for a donation of \$15, increasing to \$25 as membership grows.
- Also in August, Session approved the visit of architectural historian, John Smagner. Mr. Smagner is traveling around the country photo documenting the work of Ralph Adams Cram, who was associated with FPCE.
- The Rev. Cheryl Khylllep moderated the August Session meeting. She will serve as moderator until a new pastor is called.

## Stewardship = Gratitude

"The compassionate life is a grateful life, and actions born out of gratefulness are not compulsive but free, not somber, but joyful, not fanatical but liberating. When gratitude is the source of our actions, our giving becomes receiving and those to whom we minister become our ministers." – Unknown

## Treasurer's Report

As of August 30, 2021 the income and expenses for FPCE are as follows:

Total Income - \$111,793.20 Actual	YTD Budget - \$127,118.68
Total Expense - \$122,267.57 Actual	YTD Budget - \$140,047.64



Actual expenses exceed income by \$10,474.37. The budget at this date projected expenses exceeding income by \$12,928.96 so we 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*



## Pastor Nominating Committee Begins Its Work

At the congregational meeting after worship on August 1, the new pastor nominating committee (PNC) was formally elected. Members include Elders Tyler McGuigan (chair) and Lisa Segedy, Deacon John Foster, Lorraine Douthett, and Shaun Cloonan (with alternate: Rhonda Apossos).

The committee met with Associate Minister to Pittsburgh Presbytery Brian Wallace on August 16 for orientation, where the process was explained. Session has tasked the PNC with searching for a full time, installed pastor, rather than the part-time covenant pastor we most recently had. While the process for part time is technically faster, the pool of candidates will be much larger for a full-time search since it will be a national search through the PC(USA) Church Leadership Connection site.

Here is a brief overview of the process we have begun:

### Starting Up

1. PNC begins meeting, with initial orientation by COM/Branch Minister **(complete)**
2. PNC meets on a regular schedule, with the COM liaison present frequently **(begun)**
3. PNC Prepares Ministry Information Form (MIF) **(in process)**
4. MIF Form approved by Session, COM Liaison, and Branch Minister **(goal by end of September)**

### The Work of Discernment

1. PNC receives and reviews Personal Information Forms (PIFs)
2. PNC identifies candidates for initial interview
3. PNC requests executive reference checks from Presbytery and contacts references of candidates
4. PNC conducts additional interview(s), arranges a neutral pulpit if desired, and identifies a finalist(s) to meet with COM for a Clearance interview.
5. PNC extends call/offer and negotiates terms of call

### Wrapping Up

1. Candidate and terms presented to Session for approval; congregational meeting is scheduled.
2. First Sunday and "Meet 'n Greet" activities scheduled.
3. Pastor begins!

The most important thing that you as a member of the congregation can do for us is PRAY! Pray for guidance, wisdom, and discernment. Pray for our continued ministry at FPCE. Pray for each other and our neighbors. And continue to support what is happening during this "in between" time by attending worship, participating in events, and helping or offering to help when called upon. Now is the time for us to come together and show what it means to be the body of Christ in this corner of the kingdom known as Edgewood.

# MUSIC *Ministry*

“Since love is lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?”

The day is almost here! Our beloved Sanctuary Choir will join us, praising God in song for the first time since before the pandemic closed our doors. I look forward to Sunday, September 12 with eager anticipation of gathering our musical family for rehearsal and sharing the joyful noise unto God. For the safety of all, and to allow for social distancing and aerosol particle dissipation, we will meet in the front of the sanctuary rather than the choir room at 9:30am. We'll rehearse masked (as I'm doing in school), but we will be together and making music at the same time!

It's yet another step toward getting our church back, even if slightly adjusted. If you'd like to join us, just show up at 9:30 and we'll find a place for you!

“Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?”

*Shaun Cloonan, minister of music*

## **Liturgists Assist in Service Leadership**

Thank you to Rhonda Apossos, Shaun Cloonan, Marcia Haley, Rick Masten, Flo Raisig, Jim Segedy, and Lisa Segedy for offering to serve as liturgists during our Sundays with guest pastors. If anyone else would like to serve in this capacity by speaking from the pulpit, sharing announcements, prayer concerns, and leading the call to worship, prayer of confession, and reading a scripture, please let Rhonda or Shaun know. We can easily add you to the rotation in helping our guests feel welcome and providing support in sharing worship leadership.

## **Growing Pains**

Do you remember that TV show from the 80s with the Seaver family? The iconic theme song: “As long as we've got each other, we can take anything that comes our way...sharing the laughter and love.” Well, we've got something that has come our way now that we have opened our doors to more groups at FPCE – a new wrinkle we haven't had to think about in quite some time when scheduling events: PARKING!

Our evenings have become quite busy at 120 East Swissvale Avenue lately. Monday and Wednesday the 2 different groups from Vocal Confluence rehearse at 7pm in the Sanctuary (or in several rooms if they break into sectionals). Our Scouts also meet on Monday evenings down in the social room and/or scout room (when it's not flooded). Tuesdays are now rehearsals for the Edgewood Symphony in the sanctuary, and Session typically meets on Tuesday evenings in the Lounge once per month, along with our weekly AA group downstairs. Thursday nights Milepost6 rehearses in the basement band room (former youth room), with the Scouts also sometimes meeting then. And the other 2 AA groups meet Friday and Saturday nights in the Social Room. The new Clutterers group will also meet in the Lounge one night per week.

With all this activity going on, parking spaces are at a premium in our small lot. If you happen to meet during one of these busy times, remember that you CAN park on East Swissvale Avenue in the evenings in front of the side lawn (a sign about limited parking is mostly for buses during school dismissal times). It also means now it's even more critical that folks contact Judy in the office to let her know about groups scheduling meetings. It's quite possible that the space you thought you were going to meet in some evening may not be available to you. Help us to work through our “growing pains” by keeping the office in the loop. It will help us to continue “sharing the laughter and love!”

## CROP Walk

On October 10, the Pittsburgh East community will celebrate its 44th year of walking to end hunger one step at a time. The oldest walk in the country, is sponsored by Church World Service ([www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org)). 25% of what we raise is returned as grants to East End Common Ministries and

Wilksburg Community Ministry. FPCE will participate in this event with walkers Judy and Mariah Mysels and Rhonda Apeessos, who aim to raise \$800. If anyone else would like to join our small group of walkers, let Rhonda or Judy know. We gather at the South Avenue United Methodist Church at 1:00 to prepare for the 10K loop through Squirrel Hill and back. The walk distance is 6.2 miles. Walking time is approximately 2.5 hours. You can participate by either walking or sponsoring FPCE walkers. You can also go to their website: <http://www.crophungerwalk.org/pittsburgheastpa> to electronically send money or sponsor a walker.



## “I Come to the Garden Alone...”

To help beautify FPCE, weeding/gardening was started on the side lawn/prayer garden area of the church. This is only a start and needs on-going help. If you find yourself with extra time any time of the day or evening, come over and pull some weeds, trim, etc. If this upkeep is done on a more regular basis, it won't be as hard to control. Contact Judy for more info.

## Note About the Chair Lift

The lift that was installed at the side entrance is currently inoperable. An inspector came by last month and informed us we were missing a permit or notification that must be posted in order to have it running. He tagged it and unplugged it until we resolve the issue. Tim McKee is on the case and will update us once we are good to go again.



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

**OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE**

## Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

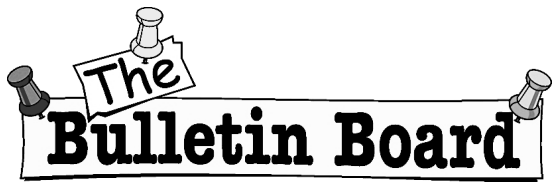
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance enables congregations and mission partners of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic event.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. The core budget, including staff and administrative costs, is funded through the One Great Hour of Sharing, and its program work is additionally funded through designated gifts.

### Presbyterian Disaster Assistance...

- Focuses on the long term recovery of disaster impacted communities.
- Provides training and disaster preparedness for presbyteries and synods.
- [Works collaboratively with church partners](#) and members of the ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together) internationally, and nationally with other faith based responders.
- Connects partners locally and internationally with key organizations active in the response — United Nations, NVOAD (National Voluntary Agencies Active in Disaster), World Food Program, Red Cross, FEMA and others.

Currently, PDA is responding to Hurricane Ida, North Carolina Flooding, Tennessee Flooding, and the Haiti earthquake, among others. For details on how to give, act, or pray for these situations, visit <https://pda.pcusa.org/>



# The Bulletin Board

## Sharing the Joys & Concerns of the FPCE Family

- Judy Mysels and family would like to sincerely thank FPCE for allowing us to have the Celebration of Life ceremony for Eleanor Elliott on Saturday, August 7.
- Thank you to Pastor Michael Rucker for returning to FPCE as officiant at the memorial services for Ed Masten and Doris Hamilton.
- Thank you to Jim Segedy for coordinating with the Edgewood Symphony to facilitate the removal of pews in the front of the sanctuary for their rehearsals and concerts this fall/winter.
- From Mary Ann Hartman: we neglected to thank Paul Ohori and Karen Schoedel for providing the cake at Sallie's memorial service in last month's article.
- Prayers for Ruth Miller for her upcoming surgery on September 8.

## September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00 VC (S)	2 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	3 8:00 AA (SR)	4 8:30 AA (SR)
5 10:00 Worship (S) Communion	6 LABOR DAY <b>Office Closed</b> 10:00 PNC (PS) 7:00 VC (S)	7 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S) 8:00 AA (SR)	8 7:00 VC (S)	9 <b>7:00 Planning Meeting (GP)</b> 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	10 8:00 AA (SR)	11 8:30 AA (SR)
12 <b>RALLY DAY</b> 9:30 Choir (S) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:00 Picnic	13 7:00 VC (S) 7:00 Scouts (SR)	14 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S) 8:00 AA (SR)	18 7:00 VC (S)	19 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	20 8:00 AA (SR)	21 8:30 AA (SR)
19 9:30 Ensemble 11:00 Emerging Worship (S)	20 7:00 VC (S) 7:00 Scouts (SR)	21 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S) 8:00 AA (SR)	25 7:00 VC (S)	26 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	27 8:00 AA (SR)	28 8:30 AA (SR)
26 9:30 Choir (S) 11:00 Worship (S)	27 7:00 VC (S) 7:00 Scouts (SR)	28 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S) 8:00 AA (SR)	Meeting Locations: Book Club – Apossos 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	



First Presbyterian Church of

**EDGEWOOD**

*The Community Church*

120 East Swissvale Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15218

# **FALL KICKOFF**

**Sunday, September 12, 2021**

**Choir Returns to Worship**

**11:00AM Service Hour Resumes**

**Youth Sunday School Begins**

**Triangle Subs for Lunch**