

FOX CHAPEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Highlights

## A Letter from Ginger Thomas, Co-Senior Pastor

Dear friends,

“The church has taken such good care of us!” a church member said to me with an embrace just after a family member’s memorial service. As a pastor, it’s reassuring to hear that congregation members like this feel cared for in some of their most difficult times.

The care that our church offers takes many forms—a meal delivered, a prayer shawl given, a pastor praying, a Stephen Minister’s visit, blessing bags delivered, or a letter of concern mailed, to name a few. And our Minister of Congregational Care, Nikki Rosswog, is working to expand our congregational care ministries even more.

In 2021, Nikki was a church member whose heart of compassion led her to apply for a church position that would focus on visiting those who needed care a couple days a week. Since then, Nikki’s love and faith have been a blessing as she has built relationships with those in our congregation who are ill, aging, grieving, lonely, or facing other challenges in their lives.

Nikki has also been expanding the reach of our church’s congregational care ministries beyond the one-on-one visits she makes. She meets with a group every month at a local retirement home for Caring Conversations that brings faith and connection to residents associated with FCPC and others who are forming a relationship with our church through this caring outreach. Nikki has started a monthly Caregiver Coffeehour at the church to provide connection and support for those who are caregivers to family members, both for church members and community members. And this fall, Nikki trained and equipped congregation members to lead a 13-week experience of GriefShare, inviting grieving church and community members to come together for support and care in a loving, faith-based setting. ...**CONTINUE PG. 2**

## Sermon Series: “Simple Gifts: Receiving Christ’s Gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love”

Hope, peace, joy, and love—don’t our hearts long to know their richness? These four words, traditionally associated with the four Sundays of Advent, can help us experience the fullness of what God gives us in Christ at Christmas. Join us for worship this December as we open our hearts to receive these simple, meaningful gifts.

**Dec. 1st - Hope**

**Dec. 15th - Joy**

**Dec. 8th - Peace**

**Dec. 22nd - Love**



## Christmas Eve Poinsettia Orders

Beautiful Christmas poinsettias will decorate the worship areas on Christmas Eve.

Poinsettias can be donated in memory of loved ones or to honor family or friends.

**Today is the deadline to order flowers.** Scan the QR code to order online.



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...These creative ministries are multiplying the number of people receiving the church's care and providing a ripple effect of God's love into our congregation and community.

In the past twelve months, Nikki has also been looking to expand the caring ministries of the church by equipping church members who have compassion to share. She has been actively attentive to identifying congregation members who have passion about caring for others and cultivating ways for them to be equipped, supported, and trained to offer care and love on behalf of the church. She has started to equip some church members to make visits to those who need care and has also begun to meet with a team to think together about strategically expanding the church's care to others. In recognition of this more expansive work she is doing to equip the church for the work of congregational care, her hours have been expanded and title changed from Minister of Visitation to Minister of Congregational Care.

In his letter to the Romans, Paul writes to the church an exhortation to use their God-given gifts to lovingly serve and care for others.

"As in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. Let love be genuine...love one another with mutual affection...serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers... Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly." (Romans 12: 4-16)

If you have love to share with others, that is a gift that God has given you that can be a blessing to many in our congregation and community. Find time to connect with Nikki so that you can be a part of the love and care that our church is extending to others who really need it. Whether you want to join in one of the congregational care ministries already in place or have an idea for a new way our church can provide love, care, or connection, Nikki can help you find ways to use your gift of compassion to be a blessing to others.

In faith,



Rev. Ginger Thomas, Co-Senior Pastor



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## **The Longest Night Service**

### **A Service of Hope and Remembrance**

**TUESDAY / DEC 17 / 7:00 PM / ATRIUM**

Join us for a special service of reflection and comfort. If you're going through a difficult time, whether it be grief, loss, illness, or life's challenges, you are not alone.

We invite you to come and experience a quiet evening of meditation, special music, and prayer. We will gather to acknowledge the darkness and find encouragement in the light of Christ's love.

**Questions?** Contact Nikki Rosswog, Minister of Congregational Care, at [nikki@fcpc.us](mailto:nikki@fcpc.us)

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## Stewardship Campaign Update



As pledges continue to come in to financially support the church's ministries in 2025, we are excited to share that 17 new households have made pledges totaling more than \$46,600, and 67 households have increased their annual pledge amount by a total of more than \$61,800. It's exciting that so many are investing in significant new ways as our church is "Following Jesus to Flourishing Ministry" in 2025. If you have submitted a pledge, thank you!

We have a good deal of progress still to make in funding the ministries we all count on and hope for in the coming year. Our pledges received for 2025 total \$123,000 less than the pledges made for the current year. Our ministry commitments are dependent on every person's giving. If you have not yet made a commitment, we hope you will prayerfully consider how you will be a part of supporting our church's ministries financially in the coming year. Pledge cards can be found throughout the church, and online pledges can be made on our website at [www.fcpc.us/giving](http://www.fcpc.us/giving).

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## Congregational Meeting

**JANUARY 5 / 10:40 AM / SANCTUARY**

A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 5, at 10:40am in the Sanctuary, to form an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC). Our current designated associate pastor, Rev. Rebecca DePoe, is serving our church for a designated time period that ends in September. The Session has approved a new job description for a future associate pastor and the Nominating Committee is prepared to nominate the following individuals to serve on the APNC to search for and identify a new associate pastor: Judy Grune, Mark Haas, Judy Leininger, Lynn Leppert, Jimmy Minor, Tim Oberlin, and Jaye Tupponce. The congregational meeting will have one agenda item: to receive nominations and officially elect members to the APNC.



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## Dove Tree Donations Thank You

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Dove Tree Gift Collection. We collected more than 400 gifts to support 80 local families associated with Poppin Tags Store, East End Cooperative Ministry, Homewood-Brushston Ministry, and Sojourner House. Thanks for helping make Christmas a little more joyful for so many local families! - FCPC Deacons

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## Staff Christmas Gift Donations Thank You

Dear congregation members,

Thank you for your many contributions toward the Staff Christmas Gift! Your gifts totaled \$4,145 and were shared evenly between the 13 individuals on staff who work 15 hours/week or more. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by our staff. Thank you for making this holiday bright!



With gratitude,  
Your FCPC staff members





# Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12)

We invite all middle and high school students to join our weekly Sunday afternoon youth group. We meet in the Youth Lounge for games, snacks, discussions on how scripture impacts our life, and to grow together as a community. Bring a friend!

**Questions?** Contact Emma Kate Lander, Interim Minister of Youth, at [emmakate@fcpc.us](mailto:emmakate@fcpc.us) or 410-858-7311

## DO YOU HAVE A 9TH GRADER WHO'S INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CHURCH? SIGN THEM UP FOR CONFIRMATION!

Confirmation prepares youth to engage in the life of the church! It provides a space to wrestle with big questions like, "Who is God?" or "What is God doing?" or "How can my faith impact the world around me?" This exciting journey invites students to deepen their faith and officially become members of Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church.

SIGN UP FOR MORE INFORMATION USING THE QR CODE BELOW.



CONTACT EMMA KATE LANDER, INTERIM MINISTER OF YOUTH, AT [EMMAKATE@FCPC.US](mailto:EMMAKATE@FCPC.US) OR (410) 858-7311 WITH ANY QUESTIONS!

### DECEMBER FCPC YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

DEC. 1: MS 2:00-3:30/HS 4:00-5:30  
DEC. 8: MS 2:00-3:30/HS 4:00-5:30  
DEC. 15: COMBINED CHRISTMAS PARTY 2:00-4:30  
DEC. 22: NO YOUTH GROUP - HAVE A GREAT XMAS BREAK!  
DEC. 29: WILD ILLUMINATIONS AT THE PITTSBURGH ZOO @ 5:30 - ADVANCED SIGN UP REQUIRED!

## COMBINED FCPC YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 15 2:00-4:30

Wear your favorite ugly Christmas sweater and come celebrate the holidays with FCPC! We'll eat holiday cookies and drink hot cocoa while we watch *How The Grinch Stole Christmas (1966)*, play some fun games, and do a "White Elephant Gift Exchange."

\*For the White Elephant Gift Exchange, please bring a wrapped gift under \$15. If you have any questions, please reach out to Emma Kate at [emmakate@fcpc.us](mailto:emmakate@fcpc.us) or (410) 858-7311.



## Wild Illuminations

AT PITTSBURGH ZOO & AQUARIUM  
DEC 29 5:30-8:00

JOIN FCPC YOUTH FOR A SPECIAL OUTING TO SEE THE HOLIDAY LANTERNS AT THE PITTSBURGH ZOO. ADVANCED SIGN UP IS REQUIRED! PLEASE USE THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP AND SEE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT TICKET COSTS.

## Make a Difference as a Youth Group Volunteer!

Want to share Christ's love and support with teens? Talk to Emma Kate Lander about serving as a volunteer for youth ministry for youth group gatherings, special youth events, or a trip with youth.



# Children & Family Ministries (Infant-5th Grade)

## SUNDAY MORNINGS

### 8:15 AM WORSHIP

No children's programming during this service.

### 9:30 AM KIDS' CHURCH

For age 3 to 5th grade. Children are encouraged to stay in the service to enjoy the music but are also welcome to join Pastor Lori at any time during the service in the lowest level for nativity crafts. Parents must escort their children to the lowest level.

### 9:30 & 11 AM NURSERY CARE

Room 109, ages 0-3. Staffed by experienced adults.

### 9:30 & 11 AM COMFORT SPACE

Room 107. A place to comfort or feed a child and watch the worship service.

### 11 AM KIDS' CHURCH

For ages 3 to 5th grade. Children are encouraged to stay in the service to enjoy the music but are also welcome to join Pastor Lori at any time during the service in the chapel for nativity crafts. Parents must escort their children to the chapel.

**Questions?** Contact our Minister of Children and Families, Pastor Lori Bass-Riley, by email at [lori@fcpc.us](mailto:lori@fcpc.us) or call/text at 412-737-1412.



## Wednesday Night Live! Kids Club

WNL will be off for the rest of December and will resume Wednesday, January 8!

**Questions?** Contact Pastor Lori at 412-737-1412 (call/text)

## FCPC Preschool Tours

### TIME TO SCHEDULE A TOUR!

Families interested in learning more about the preschool and the enrollment process are encouraged to schedule a tour with us. Contact Karin, Stephanie, or Jason in the preschool office at [karin@fcpc.us](mailto:karin@fcpc.us), 412-552-9382, or [preschooladmin@fcpc.us](mailto:preschooladmin@fcpc.us). We're excited to hear from you!



## Birthdays

**DEC 15** Jake Siddons

**DEC 16** George Grune, Alejandro Motschman

**DEC 17** Clint Guyaux, Dedee Wilson, Maria DeMotte, Lucy Lattimore, Ben Johnston

**DEC 18** Chet Karas, Theresa Doerfler

**DEC 19** Chip Friday, Currie Crookston

**DEC 21** Christopher Karas, Liam Loeffler



# Music at FCPC

## Organist Position

In consultation with the Minister of Music and Pastor/Head of Staff, FCPC seeks an organist to provide organ and/or piano accompaniment for scheduled worship services and other occasions in support of the music ministry.

### Duties:

- Play the organ and/or piano for two Sunday morning worship service and other regularly-scheduled special services (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, etc.)
- Play for rehearsals of the Chancel Choir
- First right of refusal for weddings and funerals (paid separately, not included in compensation)

### Education/Training:

While a degree(s) in music is/are preferred; private study, course work, and experience will be considered.

### Experience:

Minimum of three years experience in service playing, accompanying at the organ and piano, and hymn playing required.

**Interested?** Please send any resumes to S.C. Toe at [sc@fcpc.us](mailto:sc@fcpc.us)



## Call for Musicians

Interested in leading musically in one of our worship services? You are most welcome! We have opportunities to play the piano, other instruments, and sing at 8:15am; play in the band or sing, at 9:30am; play an instrument or sing in the choir at 11:00am. There is also the opportunity to play in the handbell choir on Thursdays at 6:15pm.

**Contact** S.C. Toes if interested or with any questions at [sc@fcpc.us](mailto:sc@fcpc.us)

## Join the FCPC Children's Choir

Children K-5th grade welcome to join

Rehearsals are held weekly on Sundays from 10:15-10:55 AM in the choir room (room 209).

**Questions?** Please reach out to S.C. Toe, Minister of Music at [sc@fcpc.us](mailto:sc@fcpc.us)



## Christmas Eve Service Youth Instrumentalists

DEC 24 / 4:30 PM / SANCTUARY

We are having any youth who play instruments (outside of piano) accompany our hymns at our 4:30 Christmas Eve Worship. Scan the QR code to sign up. Youth **MUST** attend the Dec 22 rehearsal from 12-2 in order to participate.

**Questions?** Contact Pastor Lori at 412-737-1412





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## Care & Concern

### We hold these friends in prayer:

Ryan Frohlich  
Dave Houggy  
Barry Freeman  
Charles MacDonald, friend of Bob Heister  
Elijah Goulet  
Kim Power  
Dorothy Hill's niece, Helen  
Hutch Hutchison  
Jonny Wallisch  
Jane May, sister of Sue Patrick  
Lorraine, friend of Diane Tung  
Ewan Boag, Grandson of Emy and Bill Boag  
MacKenzie and Chasen Strawn, family of Marcia  
Mayhew

### We celebrate with:

• Erica Sandbothe and Evan Wright on the birth of their daughter Mabel Sandbothe Wright, born November 30th.

### We pray for those who grieve:

• For Toby Eberhart and family at the death of his brother Alan.  
• For the Leslie family, at the death of M. Russell Leslie on November 23rd.  
• For Pat Taylor, at the death of her husband Tom Taylor on November 7th.

### We pray for peace, aid, and consolation for all who suffer, including:

• For addicts in our community to heal and recover.  
• The people of Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Haiti, Sudan, and places in conflict, violence, and hunger.  
• Refugees throughout the world.  
• For our republic.

To keep this list current, please renew requests on a monthly basis for continued prayers.



## Letters of Concern

Every week the deacons send letters of concern to members of our church family who are experiencing joys or concerns. You are invited to sign these letters each week before or after all worship services.

## Staff Contacts

FCPC Office.....412-963-8243  
Rev. Ginger Thomas, Co-Senior Pastor.....ginger@fcpc.us / ext. 16  
Rev. Roger Owens, Co-Senior Pastor.....roger@fcpc.us / ext. 17  
Rev. Rebecca DePoe, Designated Associate Pastor.....rebecca@fcpc.us / ext. 18  
Rev. Lori Bass-Riley, Minister of Children and Families.....lori@fcpc.us / ext. 25  
S.C. Toe, Minister of Music.....sc@fcpc.us / ext. 29  
Nikki Rosswog, Minister of Congregational Care.....nikki@fcpc.us / ext. 07  
Emma Kate Lander, Interim Minister of Youth.....emmakate@fcpc.us  
Sarah Hays, Office Manager.....sarah@fcpc.us / ext. 10

# This Week at FCPC

## SUN DEC 15

### Lessons & Carols Services

**8:15 AM** Cup and Loaf Worship Service (Chapel)

**9:30 AM** Contemporary Worship (Fellowship Hall), Kids' Church (Lowest Level), Nursery Care (Room 109), Comfort Space (Room 107)

**10:15 AM** Children's Choir (Choir Room)

**11 AM** Traditional Worship Service (Sanctuary), Kids' Church (Lowest Level), Nursery Care (Room 109), Comfort Space (Room 107)

**12 PM** Cookie Reception (Atrium)

**2 PM** Combined Youth Group Party (Youth Lounge)

## MON DEC 16

**9 AM** Preschool

**9 AM** Backpack for Hunger (Chapel)

**2 PM** Knitting Group (Library)

**3 PM** Deacon Service Project (Library)

**7 PM** Session Meeting (Lounge)

## TUE DEC 17

**8 AM** Men's Prayer Fellowship (Lounge)

**9 AM** Preschool

**9:30 AM** Staff Devotions & Meeting (Lounge)

**5:45 PM** Meditation/Contemplative Prayer Group (Lounge)

**7 PM** Longest Night Worship Service (Atrium)

## WED DEC 18

**9AM** Preschool

**9:30 AM** Women's Bible Study (Chapel)

**11 AM** Congressional Care Team Meeting (Lounge)

**7 PM** Preschool Committee Meeting (Zoom)

## THURS DEC 19

**9 AM** Preschool

**9:30 AM** Preschool Pageant (Sanctuary)

**9:30 AM** Griefshare (Chapel)

**6:15 PM** Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

**7:30 PM** Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

## FRI DEC 20

**9 AM** Preschool Closed

## SAT DEC 21

## SUN DEC 22

**8:15 AM** Cup and Loaf Worship Service (Chapel)

**9:30 AM** Contemporary Worship (Fellowship Hall)

**10:15 AM** Children's Choir (Choir Room)

**11 AM** Traditional Worship Service (Sanctuary)

**12 PM** Christmas Eve Children's Service Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

## Giving

### Give Online

+ Scan the QR code to give online

+ Text the word GIVE to 412-201-0557



### 2024 Giving Statement

Annual giving statements will be emailed in January 2024.

Please be sure to you are able to receive emails from giving@fcpc.us. Please contact the church office if you are unable to receive an emailed giving statement.

### 2025 Financial Pledge

If you have not yet made your stewardship pledge for the coming year, there is still time. 2025 pledges can be made online via our website at [www.fcpc.us/giving](http://www.fcpc.us/giving) or by contacting Sarah Hays, Office Manager at [sarah@fcpc.us](mailto:sarah@fcpc.us) or call 412-963-8479.

**FOX CHAPEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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