

FOX CHAPEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Highlights



Dear friends,

Next Sunday, December 1, begins the season of Advent. The word "Advent" comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "coming" or "arrival." It refers to the anticipation of both the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas and the eventual Second Coming of Christ. It is also the start of our Christian year. This particular overlap of the Christian and worldly calendars has always been an interesting intersection to me. Our Christian calendar begins right at the world calendar's end. For those who don't really think about the Christian calendar, Christmas can be seen as the kickoff celebration to the final week of the year, the last big hoorah before beginning again on January 1.

But it isn't. It isn't the gateway to the end. It is the birthplace of our year's faith journey. In some ways, it is counterintuitive and countercultural. Given how our ancestors interpolated Christian beliefs within other religion's holy days and symbols, shouldn't we have changed things a long time ago to neatly lock our calendars in together?

But we didn't. I kind of like that. I like that our religious system doesn't quite square up comfortably into our secular world; because comfort can sometimes be dangerous. I think once we fit all snug into the world around us, we can be apt to curl up, get comfy, and fall asleep, riding the wave of traditions and general sentiment and giving less and less attention to intentional faith and growth... **CONTINUE ON PG. 2**

Celebrating Elected Elders & Deacons

We welcome our newest Elders and Deacons, elected at the congregational meeting on Nov. 17! These incoming leaders will serve a three-year term (except as noted below), beginning January 2025.

ELDERS:

Ann Boyd
Chris Chamberlain
Ryan DeMotte
Toby Eberhart
Morgan Oberlin
Jeffrey Todd

DEACONS:

Christine Bennett
David Clark
Debbie Demmler
Juli Huntington
Kathleen McGhee
Dagny Mol
Rob Scott
Amy Stabingas
Beth Lockwood (2 year term)
Wayne Hoover (2 year term)



ADVENT-URING!

TODAY / NOV 24 / 10:30 AM - 1 PM / ATRIUM

Let's go on an Advent-ure to get ready for the Advent season together. All ages are welcome to come for a variety of Advent related crafts. Design an Advent wreath, make treats for animal shelters, pick up an Advent devotional, and more! Snacks will be provided and it is a suggested \$15 donation for the wreath kits.

...I think one of the things that worries me at times about Advent in our current context is that though our Christian calendar starts next Sunday, we often jump out of it and into the comfortable secular understanding. We simply wind down to the end with the smell of gingerbread and pine lulling us to inaction.

But we don't have to. In fact, let's not. Let's make sure that in this last month of the calendar year, we don't conform. This year, I encourage you to really focus on Advent as a new beginning. Wake up! Shake off the world's understanding of December. Instead, breathe in the radical story about our all-powerful God doing the unpredictable by becoming a fragile mortal child. See anew the pictures of this God-man who touched people's rotting sores, whipped tables on their sides, and unabashedly contradicted the revered know-it-all. Then begin to imagine and wonder and plan for how you will move in the world because this is the God you follow. Does it feel different than before? Good. Is it uncomfortable? Even better. From my understanding of Christ's life, you are in good company. Happy Advent!

Lori

Rev. Lori Bass-Riley, Minister of Children and Families

 **Doves are Here!** 

Please join the FCPC Deacons in their annual Dove Tree ministry, bringing the love of Christ to needy families this Christmas! Dove Tree adoptions will be available on **Nov 24, and Dec 1** before and after all three worship services. All gifts need to be returned to the church on Sunday, December 8th between 9:00 am and 12:00 noon.

Benefiting agencies are East End Cooperative Ministries, Sojourner House, Homewood Early Learning Hub and Family Center, and Poppin' Tags Free Store in Russellton. Thank you for helping to make this a Merry Christmas for these families.

Questions? Contact:
Kathy Smith at 412-965-9592 or Brenda Karas at 724-393-4161



Harvest Fair Mission Partners

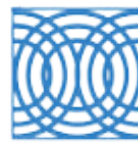
This year the Harvest Fair raised \$115,000 to be donated to 39 local mission partners. Thank you to everyone who helped make our 2024 Harvest Fair Distributions possible!

- BREAD OF LIFE FOOD PANTRY
- BROTHER'S BROTHER
- HAITI H20
- HOSANNA HOUSE
- THE NEIGHBORHOOD ACADEMY
- OPEN HANDS MINISTRY
- PEDIATRIC PALLIATIVE CARE COALITION
- PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES OF IRAQ
- ROOTS OF FAITH
- VOAPA-YEP
- SOJOURNER HOUSE
- ANGEL'S PLACE
- ASPINWALL MEALS ON WHEELS
- BACKPACKS FOR HUNGER
- ALLEGHENY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
- FUN AND FREEDOM SPORTS
- HEARTH
- HOSANNA INDUSTRIES
- IMANI CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
- PITTSBURGH PRISON PROJECT
- POPPIN' TAGS FREE STORE
- POWER
- PROVIDENT CHARTER SCHOOL
- SHARPSBURG FOOD PANTRY
- WOMEN'S CENTER AND SHELTER OF GREATER PITTSBURGH
- SEMBEC
- FOX FAMILIES CARES
- BETHLEHEM HAVEN
- FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DUQUESNE
- BLESSING BOARD
- CIVICALLY
- FCPC GRIEFSHARE
- PRESBYTERIAN SENIOR CARE
- ASCENSION REFUGEE COMMUNITY CO-SPONSORSHIP INITIATIVE
- JEWISH FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
- MAYA
- TREE OF HOPE
- ALLE KISKI HOPE CENTER
- EIGHT FIFTEEN

Prepared Meals for Circles Sharpsburg

Circles Sharpsburg is a comprehensive anti-poverty program to empower participants to achieve personal and community goals.

Our church has committed to providing dinner for 30 people on the first Tuesday of each month. We are looking for people to provide various dishes for the dinner each month--dates and what is needed are given in the SignUpGenius below. If you are able, please consider signing up! The Circles program really appreciates the dinners we bring.



Circles
Sharpsburg



Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f054da9aa28a1fa7-circles#/> or scan the QR code

Questions? Contact JoEllen Leech at leechjoellen@gmail.com



The Longest Night Service

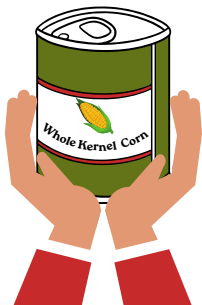
A Service of Hope and Remembrance

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



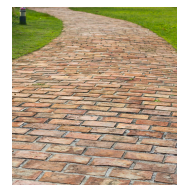
Canned Corn Donation Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the canned corn food drive. We collected 380 cans of corn for Light of Life Rescue Mission's Thanksgiving boxes! We exceeded our goal by 180 cans!! The corn will be added to other donated items and provided to appropriately 2400 households who might not have the means for a holiday dinner on Thanksgiving.

Many thanks, The Mission Committee

Proposed Brick Path

The Building & Grounds Committee thanks those who indicated interest in purchasing bricks for the walkway. A minimum number of brick requests wasn't reached so the project won't happen at this time. We can keep this idea for consideration at a later date.



Staff Christmas Gift

The Session invites congregation members to contribute to a "Staff Christmas Gift" offering to express the congregation's love and gratitude for the FCPC staff at Christmastime. Contributions received for the "Staff Christmas Gift" will be split evenly among the 13 individuals on staff who work 15 hours/week or more. This love gift will be in place of year-end bonuses for staff.

Contributions made to the "Staff Christmas Gift" should be gifts that are above and beyond regular pledged offerings and contributions that support the ministries of the church. Please have contributions to the church office by Dec 9, marked on the memo line with "Staff Christmas Gift."

Music at FCPC

Sounds of the Season Concert

DEC 7 / 7:30 PM / SANCTUARY

It is time for this year's Sounds of the Season concert. Come listen as the Pittsburgh Concert Chorale sings holiday favorites, including traditional classics, familiar carols, and popular songs. The audience is invited to sing along on some of its favorites. This concert is a great way to start your holiday season with family and friends. Get your tickets today at <https://www.pccsin.org/holidayconcert> or by scanning the QR code.



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

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.

Instrumental Rehearsal

DEC 8th / 1:00 PM / SANCTUARY

Brass, woodwinds, strings, bring your instruments! We will meet on Sunday December 8th in the Sanctuary at 1:00 pm for a time to play music together. There is no advance registration, just come with a stand, your instrument, and yourself. All music will be provided.

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

Weekly Rehearsals
Thursdays at 7:30 pm

Service of Lessons & Carols
December 15th 11:00 am

Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church Lessons & Carols Festival Choir

It's not too late to join in the Festival Choir for Lessons and Carols! Rehearsals are Thursdays at 7:30pm to 8:30pm. See you there!

Care & Concern

We hold these friends in prayer:

Kim Power
Helen, Dorothy Hill's niece
Hutch Hutchison
Jonny Wallisch
Jane May, sister of Sue Patrick
Lorraine, friend of Diane Tung
Ewan Boag, Grandson of Emy and Bill Boag
Armand Caldwell, FCPC caretaker
Noah and Aysha Baker, family of Corinne Baker
Shawn Stelitano, husband of Heather
Mary Hanna
Alison Bischoff
Friends of Gail dealing with end of life issues
MacKenzie and Chasen Strawn, family of Marcia Mayhew
Lorraine Tabish, mother of Kim Siddons

We celebrate with:

- Barbara Frey on the birth of her grandson George James Longo on October 22.

We pray for those who grieve:

- For Pat Taylor, at the death of her husband Tom Taylor on November 7th.
- For Cheryl Dattilo, at the death of her husband James Dattilo on October 12th.

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

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

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 or 410-858-7311



November FCPC Youth Group Schedule

- Nov. 1-3: MS Laurelville Mud Weekend
- Nov. 3: NO YOUTH GROUP
- Nov. 10: One Service Sunday @ 10:00
- Nov. 10: MS 2:00-3:30 / HS 4:00-5:30
- Nov. 15-17: HS Laurelville Mud Weekend
- Nov. 17: MS Hang Out 2:00-3:30 / NO HS YG
- Nov. 24: MS 2:00-3:30 / HS 4:00-5:30

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.

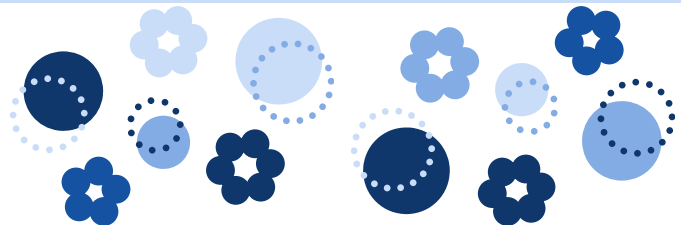


CONTACT EMMA KATE LANDER, INTERIM MINISTER OF YOUTH, AT EMMAKATE@FCPC.US OR (410) 858-7311 WITH ANY QUESTIONS!



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 & Youth Sunday Thank You!

Thank you to all those who participated in our Children and Youth Service Sunday November 10, 2024! We appreciate all who gave their speaking, singing, and instrumental gifts to make this experience so special. We also thank our children and youth who supported our service through ushering. What a wonderful thing to see all generations working together in celebration of our Lord Jesus Christ in worship!

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, 412-552-9382, or preschooladmin@fcpc.us. We're excited to hear from you!



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 signed in prior to worship and begin the service on the children's rugs at the back of Fellowship Hall. After the Children's Message, children will be led to the Lowest Level. Parents/guardians can pick up their children in 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 signed in before worship and begin the service with loved ones. After the Children's Message, children will be led to the Lowest Level. Parents/guardians can pick up their children in the Lowest Level.

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



Wednesday Night Live! Kids Club

WEDNESDAYS / 6:00-7:30 PM

A place for your child to Have Fun! Make Friends! Grow in Faith! Children ages K-5th are welcome.

No Wednesday Night Live Nov 27th for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Contact Pastor Lori with any questions! 412-737-1412 (call/text)



Christmas Eve Service Leaders!

DEC 24/ 4:30 PM / SANCTUARY

Looking for children to lead worship at our 4:30pm Christmas Eve service! Must be in grades K-5 to participate. We need readers, nativity characters, musicians, & ushers! Sign up by Dec 8th using the link or by scanning the QR code. <https://fcpc.shelbnextchms.com/external/form/38c306a4-0dc8-4478-b0b7-5ac4b19775b3>

Questions? Contact Pastor Lori at 412-737-1412



Birthdays

NOV 24 Beth Brunins

NOV 25 Cindy Thaete, John Bell, Ian Patterson, Katy Everett, Juliet McGann, Alison Bischoff

NOV 26 John Power, Billy Frohlich, Matt Scott

NOV 27 Bev Reding, Scott Trabant

NOV 28 Kim Power, Heather Drune, Lindsey Grune, Meg Delaney, Hugh Mettenburg

NOV 29 David Heiner

NOV 30 Loraine Murphey, Margaret Groninger, Astrid Bitzer, Chloe Gulati, Jake Williams, Pippa Junger



This Week at FCPC

SUN NOV 24

- 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)
- 9:45 AM** Small Group (Lounge)
- 10:15 AM** Children's Choir (Choir Room)
- 10:30 AM** Advent-uring! (Atrium)
- 10:40 AM** Small Group (Library)
- 11 AM** Traditional Worship Service (Sanctuary), Kids' Church (Lowest Level), Nursery Care (Room 109), Comfort Space (Room 107)
- 2 PM** Middle School Youth Group (Youth Lounge)
- 4 PM** High School Youth Group (Youth Lounge)
- 7 PM** Small Group (Lounge)

MON NOV 25

- 9 AM** Preschool
- 10 AM** Small Group (Lounge)
- 2 PM** Knitting Group (Library)
- 7:30 PM** Small Group (Zoom)

TUE NOV 26

- 8 AM** Men's Prayer Fellowship (Lounge)
- 9 AM** Preschool
- 9:30 AM** Staff Devotions & Meeting (Lounge)
- 11 AM** Small Group (Sharpsburg Tower)
- 2 PM** Small Group (Longwood Retirement Home)
- 5:45 PM** Meditation/Contemplative Prayer Group (Lounge)

WED NOV 27

Preschool Closed

THURS NOV 28

Happy Thanksgiving!

Preschool Closed

Church Building Closed



FRI NOV 29

Preschool Closed

Church Building Closed

SAT NOV 30

SUN DEC 1

- 8:15 AM** Cup and Loaf Worship Service (Chapel)
- 9:30 AM** Contemporary Worship (Fellowship Hall)
- 9:45 AM** Small Group (Lounge)
- 10:15 AM** Children's Choir (Choir Room)
- 10:40 AM** Small Group (Library)
- 11 AM** Traditional Worship Service (Sanctuary),
- 2 PM** Middle School Youth Group (Youth Lounge)
- 4 PM** High School Youth Group (Youth Lounge)
- 7 PM** Small Group (Lounge)



Giving

Give Online

- + Scan the QR code to give online
- + Text the word GIVE to 412-201-0557



2024 Giving Statement

If you have questions about your 2024 giving statement, please reach out to our designated email at giving@fcpc.us.

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 or by contacting Sarah Hays, Office Manager at sarah@fcpc.us or call 412- 963-8479.

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