

FOX CHAPEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Highlights



A Letter from Roger, Co-Senior Pastor

Dear Friends,

I wasn't a great athlete as a child. I was slow, a little chubby. So when I played on my elementary school basketball team, I wasn't exactly the star of the team, to say the least. Mr. Kramer, my fourth-grade teacher, coached the team. He was a stern taskmaster, barking orders at us from the sideline. My greatest fear was getting the ball because I was never sure what to do with it. When someone threw me the ball—which was, admittedly, rare—I passed it on as quickly as possible. I didn't want to screw up and become the focus of the coach's wrath.

But that doesn't mean I didn't like to shoot baskets. When I was a freshman in high school, we had a basketball goal installed next to the driveway. I spent a lot of time alone tossing the ball at the hoop, and I got pretty good at it. It was an introvert's ideal situation. I didn't have to worry about someone firing the ball in my direction when I wasn't ready. I didn't have to fear a giant hand blocking a shot. I didn't have to look at a disappointed coach on the sideline wondering how soon he could bench me. To this day, I play a mean game of HORSE. **Continue on pg. 2**

It's a Team Thing! Finding a Place in Spirit-led Ministry

No Christian is a lone ranger. Jesus's mission through the church has a place for everyone. Just as a team functions when everyone knows that they belong and what their role is, so it is with the church. Over the next three weeks, we'll be exploring in worship what it means to belong to Team Jesus and how each person can find their place in the mission Jesus has given the church as together we move toward the goal.

January 12—Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

- "On the Team"

January 19—1 Corinthians 12:1-11

- "What Position Do You Play?"

January 26—Luke 4:14-21

- "Score!"



Use the insert questionnaire to indicate your gifts, passions, and interests for ministry.

Annual Chili Cook-Off

JAN 26, 2025 / 12-2 PM / FELLOWSHIP HALL

For the 18th year, the entire congregation is invited to attend and sample the products of the church's best chili cooks, who will be vying for bragging rights (and hot prizes). Again this year, the Cook-off will remember its late, great champion of champions, B.J. Ferguson. B.J. surely would want to know: Who will be able to say that he or she has the best chili in the church and whether prior years' winners repeat in 2025!!



E-mail Chet Karas at karas756@comcast.net to sign up before Jan 22nd.

SUNDAY JAN 26th - One Service Sunday & More

Join us for one combined worship service January 26th at 10:00 am. All are encouraged to attend service, along with the ordination and installation of elders and deacons, followed by the annual meeting of the congregation at 11:05 am for the congregation to approve terms of call for the installed pastors and receive the 2024 annual report. After, come on down to the fellowship hall for the chili cookoff to follow.

- 10 am - One Combined Service (Sanctuary)
- 11:05 am - Annual Congregation Meeting
- 12 pm - Annual Chili Cook-Off (Fellowship Hall)

Just the other night, some college-aged friends texted my son Silas to see if he could join them at the gym so they could play three-on-three—there were five of them, and they needed a sixth. When he got home, Silas said that one of the five hadn't shown, so they'd invited a stranger at the gym to play. "Why didn't you call me? I would have come," I said. He just laughed. He knows: I'm not cut out for team ball.


Being church is a team sport. There are no lone-ranger Christians. From the beginning, Jesus called a group of disciples (who missed a lot of shots, by the way). When you read Paul's letters, he's constantly referencing his colleagues and friends in ministry: I couldn't do this without them, he's always saying. When you read the book of Acts, the emphasis consistently falls on the church as a new community following the way of Jesus in the world. Yes, there are things we do alone—silence, solitude, prayer, spiritual disciplines, some forms of service. But given our union with each other through Christ, even those solitary pursuits of faith are part of a larger whole.

As we begin this new year together at FCPC, we are going to spend three weeks in January considering what it means for the church to be a team where everyone belongs and has a role to play as we move toward the goal-line Jesus has set for us. Along the way, there will be opportunity for each of us to respond by exploring our spiritual gifts, naming our passions for service, or expressing interest to serve in a particular area of the church's ministry. My prayer is that we will take this time at the beginning of the year to hear how God is inviting us to claim our part as an essential member of Team Jesus, and how being on the team finds tangible expression through participation in ministry at FCPC.

Paul in his letters doesn't use the image of a team. He uses the language of a body with its many parts, but the point is the same: we are in this together. As he says in the letter to the Ephesians, God has given the church leaders—pastors, preacher, evangelists, etc.—whose role is to equip the whole body (that's all of us!) for the work of ministry, so that we can all "grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love" (Eph. 4:15-16).

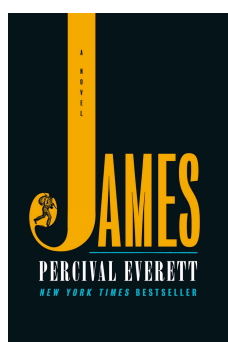
In other words, it's a team thing.

Peace,


Roger

Fill the Truck Food Drive

Get involved in FCPC's annual Fill the Truck event. Gather non-perishable items, such as cereal, pasta, peanut butter, paper towels, toiletries, etc., and bring them in during the month of January. Items will be sorted, packed and delivered to: Bread of Life Food Pantry, Sharpsburg Food Pantry, Singing Winds Food Pantry on February 2. All ages and skill levels are welcome!



Friday Book Group

First meeting of 2025 is on January 10th, 9:30 am over Zoom.

The book selected for discussion is *James* by Percival Everett, which won the 2024 National Book Award for fiction and the 2024 Kirkus Prize as well as being selected as Barnes and Noble's Book of the Year. It is a retelling of *Huckleberry Finn* from the viewpoint of Huck's black companion Jim. The book can be obtained from Barnes and Noble and Amazon, among other booksellers.

Questions? Contact Bev Reding at 412-780-2444

Notice for Scripture Lay Reader Volunteers

Pastor Roger: "Having other voices present in worship has made a wonderful contribution." If you are looking for an opportunity to share your voice and to get involved in worship services, give scripture reading a try. We are now working on the schedule for the first quarter of 2025, and are looking for volunteers to participate in the 11:00 service. No experience is needed, just share your Sunday availabilities.

Interested or have questions? Contact Judy Grune at grunefamily@gmail.com or at 412-780-5053.



Women's Bible Study

Join us for the second half of Women's Bible Study in January focusing on the life of Nehemiah and Esther. This study is open to the community, so invite a friend! Materials cost is \$25. Meetings start again January 22, and continue every Wednesday at 9:30 in the Chapel.



For questions, reach out by email to: sarahdatt@gmail.com, cristiegood@gmail.com, cmettenburg@gmail.com, or juli_huntington@msn.com

Financial assistance is available. Contact Pastor Ginger (ginger@fcpc.us) for more information.



2025 Chancel Flower Orders

The chancel flowers in the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings are something we have all come to enjoy. These flowers not only beautify our sanctuary, but they also honor very special people in our lives. Please consider a Sunday (or two) when you would like to thank God and honor a special person with a gift of flowers. Find a pink order form in any worship space to fill out and send in to the office.

My Garden on Harts Run Road provides the arrangements at the cost of \$55.00 per arrangement. Thank you for your consideration of blessing our sanctuary and worship service with beautiful flowers!

Interested or have questions? Contact Katie Caracciolo (katie@fcpc.us)

New Giving System: PushPay

We will be transitioning from our current online giving platform (Shelby) to a new online giving platform called Pushpay in January. This platform is much more flexible than Shelby, will provide you with easier access to your giving statements, will integrate more smoothly with FCPC's accounting system and membership database, and ultimately enable you to access a mobile-enabled "My Church" app for information about our activities and events and to connect with church staff and other members from anywhere.

PushPay has been implemented at the start of 2025. Step by step instructions for first time giving using the new system can be found at <https://www.fcpc.us/giving>. More information will follow as new systems are integrated, such as: Church directory, calendar, forms, newsletters, event info, and more.

If you have questions, please email (giving@fcpc.us) or call for assistance:

- o David Tupponce (Finance Committee): 412-354-1492
- o Sarah Hays or Katie Caracciolo (FCPC office): 412-963-8243

Blessings,

The Stewardship and Finance Transition Team at Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church

Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12)

January FCPC Youth Group Schedule

JAN. 5: 2:00-3:30

JAN. 12: 2:00-3:30

JAN. 19: 2:00-3:30

JAN. 26: ANNUAL CHILI COOKOFF 12:00

JAN. 26: 2:00-3:30

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!

FCPC Youth Group

6th-12th graders are invited to join us weekly from 2:00-3:30 on Sunday afternoons for youth group!

Youth group provides a safe space for youth to have fun, be known, build community, and experience God. Our goal is to help youth grow in their love for God, their love for others, and their love for who they are.

Sign up for our weekly newsletter here:



Questions about Youth Ministry events?

Contact Emma Kate Lander, Interim Minister of Youth, at emmakate@fcpc.us or 410-858-7311

NOW HIRING - Minister of Youth and Young Adults (Part Time)

Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church (FCPC) is seeking an individual who is passionate about youth ministry to join our team as the Minister of Youth and Young Adults. The candidate will possess a joyful Christian faith, a welcoming and hospitable spirit, as well as strong leadership and relational skills. As the Minister of Youth and Young Adults, the position will continue our traditional youth group and confirmation class programming and explore other opportunities and initiatives to increase youth involvement and discipleship.

Scan the QR code to view full job description, responsibilities, and qualifications or visit <https://www.fcpc.us/youth-ministry> to learn more.



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.

JANUARY 25
5:30PM-8PM

WINTER FAMILY Fun Night

DROP IN AND HANG OUT!

Dinner, Crafts, Open Gym, Toys & Board Games

SIGN UP! FOLLOW OUR QR CODE OR CLICK HERE!
DINNER IS AVAILABLE!
TURKEY & CHEESE SANDWICHES, FRUIT, BAGGED SNACKS, DRINKS!

It's time to dive in!

Wednesday Night Live Kids' Club

Open to all kids K-5th grade

Wednesdays 6pm-7:30pm Starting January 8
Get closer to God and to each other through crazy games, fun art projects, snacks, and so much more!

Drop in or Sign Up!

Questions? Contact Pastor Lori 412-737-1412



Birthdays

JAN 12 Susan DeRiggi, Judy Forbes, Sue Johnston, Bob Otte, Marcia Kline

JAN 13 Stuart Campbell, J. William Futrell, Steve Breuner, Thomas Stelitano

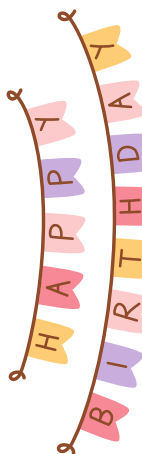
JAN 14 Brendan Valley, Patrick Alexander, Shelly Marcussen, Teddy Brubaker

JAN 15 George Stewart, Beth Rygelski, Carie Pecci, Laura Bruno, Vadim Gazarov

JAN 16 Naomi Killian, Taylor Burke, Adam Lauer

JAN 17 Neil Chrisman IV

JAN 18 Carol Squires, Richard Sweringen, Esme Hirshberg, Jim Bischoff, Karen Jueng



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

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



Call for Musicians

Interested in leading through sharing 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. Toe if interested or with any questions at sc@fcpc.us

Care & Concern

We hold these friends in prayer:

Carol Squires
Ewen Boag
June Balzer
Jack Oehrle
Sue Heitzenroder
Beth and Bill Meyer
Laurie
Molly and Chris
Ryan Frohlich
Dave Houggy
Barry Freeman
Charles MacDonald, friend of Bob Heister
Kim Power
Dorothy Hill's niece, Helen
Hutch Hutchison
Jonny Wallisch



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

We celebrate with:

- Faith DeBolt and Matt Bean on the birth of their daughter Grace Margaret McElroy Bean on December 24th.
- Erica Sandbothe and Evan Wright on the birth of their daughter Mabel Sandbothe Wright, born November 30th.

We pray for those who grieve:

- For the family of Verne Koch, who passed away January 2nd.
- For the family of Dick Sweringen, who passed away on December 29th.
- For Toby Eberhart and family at the death of his brother Alan.

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.

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
Katie Caracciolo, Administrative Assistant.....katie@fcpc.us / ext. 11

This Week at FCPC

SUN JAN 12

- 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)
- 10:30 AM** Communion Servers Meeting (Library)
- 11 AM** Traditional Worship Service (Sanctuary), Kids' Church (Lowest Level), Nursery Care (Room 109), Comfort Space (Room 107)
- 2 PM** Combined Youth Group (Youth Lounge)

MON JAN 13

- 9 AM** Preschool
- 2 PM** Knitting Group (Library)
- 7 PM** Building & Grounds Committee (Chapel)
- 7 PM** Deacon Meeting (Youth Lounge)
- 7 PM** Fellowship Team Meeting (Lounge)

TUE JAN 14

- 8 AM** Men's Prayer Fellowship (Lounge)
- 9 AM** Preschool
- 9 AM** AAUW Meeting (Chapel)
- 9:30 AM** Staff Meeting and Devotions (Lounge)
- 5:45 PM** Meditation Group (Chapel)

WED JAN 15

- 9 AM** Preschool
- 6 PM** Wednesday Night Live Kids Club (Fellowship Hall)
- 7 PM** Preschool Committee Meeting (Zoom)

THURS JAN 16

- 9 AM** Preschool
- 6:15 PM** Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 7:30 PM** Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

FRI JAN 17

- 9 AM** Preschool

SAT JAN 18

- 2:30 PM** Bell-Newman Wedding (Sanctuary)

SUN JAN 19

- 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** New Deacon Orientation (Lounge)
- 2 PM** Combined Youth Group (Youth Lounge)

Giving

New Online Giving

Now using new giving platform, PushPay.

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

FOX CHAPEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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