

FOX CHAPEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Highlights

A Letter from Rebecca DePoe, Associate Pastor

Friends,

My favorite Disney character of all time is Mary Poppins. One night she is putting Jane and Michael to bed and Michael asks her, "Will you stay if we promise to be good?" To which Mary Poppins responds, "Oh! That's a piecrust promise. Easily made, easily broken." Jane then asks, "Whatever will we do without you?" To which Mary responds, "I shall stay until the wind changes."

I remember as a child watching this scene and thinking "there's no way Mary Poppins will ever leave Jane and Michael. She's their nanny!" But as I grew up, I realized that the job of nanny is never meant to be a permanent one. Children grow up and no longer require a nanny's constant care. Really great nannies, like Mary Poppins, inspire parents, like George and Winifred Banks, to give their children what a nanny never can- their unwavering love and unconditional support.

Since I began at FCPC in October of 2021, many of you have asked me if I could stay here as your pastor forever. I usually responded with some version of "I shall stay until the wind changes." Well friends, the wind is changing. My term as your designated associate pastor will expire at the end of September 2025. ...**CONTINUE PG. 2**

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) and to elect an elder. 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. In addition, the Nominating Committee is planning to nominate Amy Szlachetka for an open elder position with a two-year term.

Annual Chili Cook-Off

JAN 26, 2025 / 12:30-2 PM / FELLOWSHIP HALL

For the 17th 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.

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!

FCPC was in a very different place in the fall of 2021 than it is today. The congregation was reeling from the exodus of three pastors, and a global pandemic. Both of which caused our church to question and reimagine who we are, and what God is calling us to be. Roger and I spent our first year of ministry together crafting a purpose and pathways statement and providing consistent, and inspiring (I hope!) leadership. Ginger joined the pastoral team in 2022, and the three of us reimagined the pastoral responsibilities going from three full time pastors to two.

Unlike when I started, the new associate pastor will inherit a fifty plus page playbook that outlines all the associate pastor job responsibilities. There will be clear systems in place for things like reimbursement requests, payroll, and a shared company drive. But most importantly, the new associate pastor will walk into a congregation that has been through adversity and come out the other side. And that other side includes excitement a clear sense of purpose in the types of ministry God has entrusted to our care.

As I write this, I'm not sure what the latter half of 2025 is going to look like for me. I'm not sure where I'll be working. If I'll be able to pass Economics as Business Strategy. Or what preschool my niece will be attending. But I do know that it has been the joy of my life to serve as your associate pastor. And I'm excited to see what God will do through us for the remainder of my designated term.

Grateful to be in ministry with you,

Rebecca

Pastor Rebecca DePoe

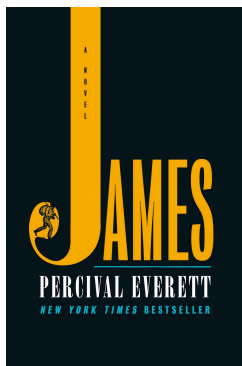


Women's Bible Study

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.

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.



Friday Book Group

First meeting of 2025 on January 10th.

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. 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.



2025 Chancel Flower Orders

The Chancel Flowers 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 around worship spaces 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. When you place your order, you may request that certain types of flowers or a specific color scheme be used. 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)

Stewardship Update & Financial Info



As pledges continue to come in to financially support the church's ministries in 2025, we are excited to share that 22 new households have made pledges totaling more than \$111,000, and 75 households have increased their annual pledge amount by a total of more than \$71,000. It's exciting that so many are investing in significant new ways as our church is "Following Jesus to Flourishing Ministry" in 2025. Our pledges received for 2025 total over \$38,000 more than the pledges made for the current year. If you have submitted a pledge, thank you!

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.

Per Capita

You can help offset FCPC's Per Capita assessment, paid to the presbytery based on church membership. This year our church will pay \$35,061, which represents \$38.11 per member. Your donation of \$38.11 can help offset this obligation. So far this year, \$ has been donated to help cover FCPC's Per Capita amount.

2024 Reimbursements Due!

The deadline to request reimbursement for expenses incurred in 2024 is Tuesday, January 7th, 2025. You must submit a completed expense request with approval signature by this date. You can obtain expense request forms in the church office. If you are not sure how to fill out the form, please ask your committee chairperson to help you.

All 2024 pledge contributions, 2025 pledge prepayments or 2024 non-pledge contributions to FCPC must follow the deadlines below to be eligible for a 2024 tax deduction:

- Credit card donations must be made by midnight on December 31 in your time zone (your credit card statement must be time-stamped with a 2024 date).
- Check envelopes must be postmarked by USPS on or before December 31, 2024.
- Checks/cash must be dropped off at FCPC or put into the offering place by noon on December 31, 2024.

If you have any questions, contact Sarah Hays, Office Manager (sarah@fcpc.us).

Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12)

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!

Questions about Youth Ministry events?

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

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:



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.

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

DEC 29 Jake Hofer, Barbara Patterson

DEC 30 Bob Ball, Bonnie Dake, Holly Shoup

DEC 31 Rob Strohm, Carl Feige, Quinn Ward

JAN 1 Carol Huff, Andrew Karas, Bruce Laswell, Lois Smith, Jean Perkins, Will Eberhart, Joe Joyce

JAN 2 Margo Troutman, Katie Staum, Mary Hetrick, Will Jacobs, Sarah Winter, Sue Moyer

JAN 3 Bob Patterson, McKenna Anderson

JAN 4 Randy Feenstra, Diane Demmler, Judy Due



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

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. Toes if interested or with any questions 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



Lessons & Carols Thank You

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Lessons and Carols Services for sharing their musical gifts this holiday season!

- S.C. Toe, Minister of Music



Care & Concern

We hold these friends in prayer:

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
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 29

- 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)

MON DEC 30

- Preschool Closed
- 9 AM** Backpacks for Hunger (Chapel)
- 2 PM** Knitting Group (Library)

TUE DEC 31

- Preschool Closed
- 8 AM** Men's Prayer Fellowship (Lounge)

WED JAN 1

- New Years Day**
- Preschool Closed
- Building Closed

THURS JAN 2

- Preschool Closed

FRI JAN 3

- Preschool Closed

SAT JAN 4

SUN JAN 5

- 8:15 AM** Cup and Loaf Worship Service (Chapel)
- 9:30 AM** Contemporary Worship (Fellowship Hall)
- 10:15 AM** Children's Choir (Choir Room)
- 10:30 AM** Communion Servers Meeting (Library)
- 11 AM** Traditional Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 2 PM** Combined Youth Group (Youth Lounge)

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

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