

FOX CHAPEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Highlights

## A Letter from S.C. Toe, Minister of Music

Dear friends,

Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing!

It happens every year. It even happens on the same date every year. And yet, Christmas takes me by surprise. Generally speaking, most of us find ourselves running around during this time of year. From the shopping and party preparations to the school pageants and community concerts, our lists seem extensive in December.

While I immediately get caught up in the hustle and bustle with everyone else, I do find myself from time to time wondering, why? Sure, we all love the music and the decorations and the traditions, but why?

In getting ready for this year's Lessons and Carols service, I asked the children's choir what the time between Thanksgiving and Christmas is called. Being the astute young people they are, they answered "Advent." They proceeded to share with me that this is the time we get ready for the birth of Christ on Christmas. They continued to tell me that we give and receive gifts to remember the gift that we received in Jesus.

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## 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**



## Lunch with the Pastors for Newcomers

SUNDAY DEC 8 / 12:15-1:30 PM / FELLOWSHIP HALL

Join us for a light lunch and an opportunity to learn more about FCPC's ministry, mission, pastors, staff, and membership – and for us to get to know you as well! Childcare is provided.

Please RSVP with number attending and childcare needs to Sarah (sarah@fcpc.us).



**LUNCH**  
with the  
**PASTORS**

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Quickly changing gears as they had completely taken my lesson for that day and summed it up more succinctly than I could have, I thought to myself, "I really needed to hear that."

I wonder like me, who else needs this reminder? Who else needs to take a pause and remember the meanings behind our traditions and the words we sing this time of year? Who else needs a reminder of why we are frantically cleaning our homes, making ready for our guests?

We here in the music department at Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church are indeed "in the thick of it" preparing music for our holiday services, the first of which is next week's Lessons and Carols services at all three worship times. I do hope you make plans to join us this year, and that in so doing, the words of our Children's Choir stay with you.

Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing!



Mr. S.C. Toe,  
Minister of Music

## Instrumental Rehearsal

TODAY / DEC 8 / 1:00 PM / SANCTUARY

Brass, woodwinds, strings, bring your instruments! We will meet today, 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.

## Dove Tree Gift Drop Off

Please bring your Dove Tree gifts with you to worship on Sunday December 8, 2024. You may drop them off in the Lounge before or after any of the worship services on Sunday morning.

Thank you for supporting our Dove Tree Families this Christmas Season!  
- FCPC Deacons



## 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."





# Christmas Season at FCPC

## Service of Lessons & Carols

December 15 / ALL SERVICES

Get ready for our annual Lessons & Carols Sunday services. Experience the story of Christmas, through readings and music, and hear the lessons it has to teach us.

Come enjoy the music of our festival choir, chancel choir, childrens' choir, and welcome back the West Virginia Brass Quintet at the 11 am worship service.



## 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)

## Christmas Eve Worship Services

### WORSHIP LED BY CHILDREN

Tuesday, Dec 24, 4:30 PM  
in the Sanctuary  
Worship for all ages

### TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

Tuesday, Dec 24, 7:30 PM  
in the Sanctuary  
Traditional candlelight worship  
\*Childcare provided

### CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Tuesday, Dec 24, 6:00 PM  
in Fellowship Hall  
Contemporary service  
featuring our worship band  
\*Childcare provided

### TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

Tuesday, Dec 24, 10:00 PM  
in the Sanctuary  
Traditional candlelight worship



# 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 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](mailto: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! We invite all kids K-5th grade to our WNL Christmas party December 11 6-7:30pm with Games, Crafts, and Snacks!

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)



## 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



## 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!



# 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)

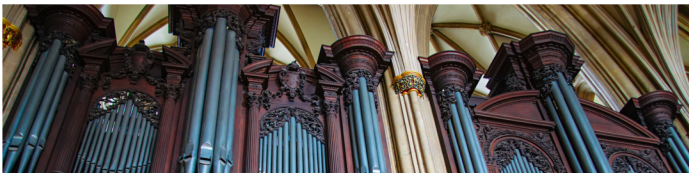
### Education/Training:

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.

## 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

## Birthdays

**DEC 8** Amy Szlachetka

**DEC 9** Zach Work, Bennet Link, Gillian Pekarcik, Lillian Scott

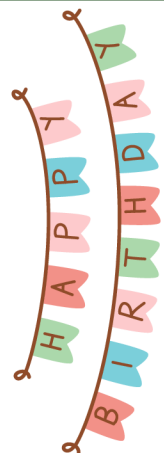
**DEC 10** Paul Hopper, Cristie Good, Adeline Dor

**DEC 11** Karen Galey, Verne Koch, Zoe Beard

**DEC 12** Jack Oehrle, Holden Junger

**DEC 13** Jack Cornelius, Susan Liken, Susan Thibadeau, Sarah Lundgren, Katie Haas, Elise Greb-Link

**DEC 14** Sharon Lee, Christy Farell, Russell Gardner





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## Care & Concern

### We hold these friends in prayer:

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  
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 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 8

- 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)
- 12:15 PM** Lunch with the Pastors (Fellowship Hall)
- 1 PM** Instrumental Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 2 PM** Middle School Youth Group (Youth Lounge)
- 4 PM** High School Youth Group (Youth Lounge)

## MON DEC 9

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

## TUE DEC 10

- 8 AM** Men's Prayer Fellowship (Lounge)
- 9 AM** Preschool
- 9 AM** AAUW (Chapel, Atrium, Sanctuary)
- 9:30 AM** Staff Devotions & Meeting (Lounge)
- 5:45 PM** Meditation/Contemplative Prayer Group (Lounge)
- 6 PM** Safety Team Meeting (Library)

## WED DEC 11

- 9 AM** Preschool
- 9:30 AM** Women's Bible Study (Chapel)
- 12 PM** Staff Christmas Party (Out of Office)
- 6 PM** Weds Night Live! Kids Club (Fellowship Hall)

## THURS DEC 12

- 9 AM** Preschool
- 9:30 AM** Griefshare (Chapel)
- 6:15 PM** Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 7:30 PM** Lessons & Carols Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 8:30 PM** Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

## FRI DEC 13

- 9 AM** Preschool

## SAT DEC 14

## SUN DEC 15

### Lessons & Carols Services

- 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** Cookie Reception (Atrium)
- 2 PM** Combined Youth Group Christmas Party (Youth 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](mailto: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](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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