



SOUNDINGS

JULY 2023

40 DAYS OF PRAYER

As we all know, our church is in a time of discernment. Decisions need to be made about where we are going and how we see ourselves as CHURCH. How can we be the church God wants us to be, and how can we best serve our members and the community?

To aid in this effort of discernment, we offer to our members and friends a 40-day prayer outreach. It comes from a book by Mark Tidsworth, entitled *40 Days of Prayer – Preparing Ourselves for God’s Calling*.

From Monday through Friday beginning July 3rd, you will receive a link on your email - a short video with a reading from the Bible, time to reflect on God’s message to you, and a question for reflection during the day.

As the book says, “God invites us to pray: According to the Scriptures, God encourages frequent praying. We are encouraged to come to God in prayer, just as we are...but we rarely leave sincere prayer staying the same.

Embrace this opportunity. Engage your Lord these 40 days with faith. Trust that God will act, with this Season of Prayer as a channel of God’s love.”



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Session has called a congregational meeting for **Sunday, July 16** after worship to vote on a candidate for the Board of Elders. All members are encouraged to attend.



We welcomed Rev. Vernon Van Hise and his wife Angie to FPCE on June 18. Rev. Van Hise was chosen by Session to lead our congregation as part-time temporary supply pastor. He will lead us in worship, moderate Session, and work with team leaders as we discern the future of our church.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Saints,

Entering a new church for the first time is always an adventure of sorts, whether one is the incoming new pastor, a guest preacher, or just someone looking for a new faith community, i.e. church shopping. Regardless, it's difficult to dismiss a sense of anxiety when walking into something new and different. And finding a new church home – a place that is both “welcoming” as well as spiritually fulfilling – is, well, an adventure – at times not for the faint of heart.

I have never been in a church that did not consider themselves as friendly or welcoming. But as you have most likely experienced as well, some churches are more welcoming than others. And there are some that are just not “welcoming” at all, despite their own perspective of being the “Fred Rogers” of churches.

You, my friends, thankfully are of the most welcoming variety. I felt it during my first visit with the Session and have witnessed it each Sunday morning that I have been here. I understand fully the challenges of our future here, but being a “welcoming” presence is a huge positive step in the direction of a future of exciting possibilities. May we utilize our time together to build an outreaching ministry in our communities, based solidly on a foundation of being a “welcoming” presence to all in our midst.

-Larry Van Hise, Pastor

A MESSAGE FROM SESSION

The first session meeting with Rev, Vernon “Larry” Van Hise moderating was held on June 19th. In addition to welcoming Rev. Larry, session welcomed new elders Noralee Manzek. Bud Martin, Bill Schroeher, Jim Middendorf, and Bill Bartlett. Session elected Art Charlton to continue as Clerk and Susan Mackay to continue as Treasurer for one-year terms.

Financial reports for May were distributed and discussed. In a related matter, it was noted that there is no money in the budget to do a professional audit (approx. \$7000) or review (approx. \$4500) for 2022. Instead, a three-member team will perform an in-house audit to be completed no later than August 31st. Elders Bill Schroeher and Jim Middendorf agreed to be on the team with a third person to be named later. Treasurer Susan Mackay and Office Administrator Jonathan Acheson will assist with accessing the information.

Ruthann Arras and Susan Mackay attended a meeting at Trinity Episcopal Church where a Trinity leader proposed a Lehigh Valley Pride event for downtown churches. A possible date would be in mid-August. Participation in this event was discussed and the session's response was positive, conditioned on further details of what is involved.

Nancy Udut, mission team leader updated session on plans for community outreach, suggesting the church be open on Heritage Day and planning to host another “neighborhood social” for the fall.

Elder Udut also suggested we resume sending postcards to new movers in the area. With so many new apartments and developments in and around Easton, this is one way to reach out. Elder Mackay offered to assist as she was involved in this program pre-Covid. Money is available in the community connections team budget line to pay for this for the rest of this year.

The Session

[DEACON UPDATE](#)

Members of the FPC Board of Deacons are reaching out to serve the needs of our church family!

DEACONS

Class of 2024: Susan Charlton, Rich Linnell, Chris Gulotta, Sherrie Moki and Carol Schroeher

Class of 2025: Ruthann Arras, Shirley Heinsohn, and Jacob Van Norman

Class of 2026: Linda Martin and Carol Butler

COFFEE HOUR

Deacons will be hosting the weekly coffee hour after worship, so that we can all enjoy some goodies and fellowship together. If you'd like to be a helper with a Deacon in a future coffee hour, please let Ruthann know.

HELLO, HOW ARE YOU?

Every church family has a Deacon! Deacons will be calling members to chat, and share joys and concerns. You can expect a monthly or bi-monthly phone call from your Deacon.

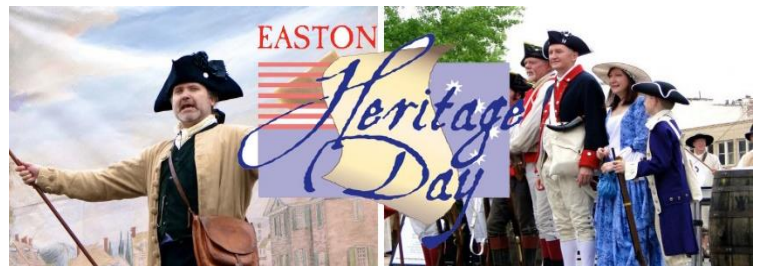
DEACON HONEY

Your sweet tooth will be happy that the Deacons are providing local Heinsohn honey at coffee hour for a donation of \$8.00 per 1-pound jar. Check your cupboard to see if you're running low!

[WORSHIP AND MUSIC](#)

HERITAGE DAY

On Heritage Day, **Sunday, July 9** we will have our regular service at FPCE at 10:30am. Then, FPCE will have an open house from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. We'll give out bottles of water and provide a place to rest, and let people tour our beautiful sanctuary. Volunteers are needed to staff the open house, so if you can help, contact Carol Schroeher or the church office.



SUMMER MUSIC

The FPCE Choir and Handbell Choir are on hiatus for the summer, but we have lots of special music lined up for summer Sundays! Our Chancel Choir will return to worship on September 10.

ONLINE WORSHIP

Our services are streamed live on our Facebook page - [EastonFPC](#) - at 10:30am Sunday. The recording of the live worship is posted each Sunday by 12:30pm- on our website: <https://eastonfpc.org/online-worship> and YouTube channel is [Easton First Presbyterian Church](#).

JERUSALEM SINGERS CONCERT

Save the date! The Jerusalem Singers will perform a concert at FPCE on **Sunday, July 30 at 7:30pm**. Their repertoire includes favorites such as "Ride the Chariot", "Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel", "Lord, for Thy Tender Mercy's Sake", and many more. This concert is free and open to the public; invite your friends, family and neighbors!

FREE CONCERT

Jerusalem



Singers

The Jerusalem Singers, led by Director Peter Deshler, perform traditional and contemporary classical choral music with Christian texts.

SUNDAY, JULY 30
at 7:30pm



First Presbyterian Church of Easton
333 Spring Garden Street,
between 3rd and 4th Streets,
Downtown Easton
For more information, contact
office@eastonfpc.org

MISSION



BLESSING BOX

Did you know there are three ways you can help to keep it filled for those in need? You can **sponsor an entire week**; you can also **sponsor a mid-week fill up** on a day of your choosing. There is a sign-up sheet outside the church office for both those options. You may also give a donation of non-perishable food anytime by **putting donations in the Blessing Baskets**, located in the narthex and by the parking lot door. Those donations will be used to fill the Box in between sponsors. Thank you for all your prayers and help with this very necessary mission project.
Mission Team

PASTA SUNDAY

Sunday, July 2, is Pasta Sunday! We'll accept your donations of canned, microwavable, or dry pasta until Wednesday, July 5 at 12pm, when they will be delivered to ProJeCt's food pantry. Thank you!

HIGHMARK WALK

The Mission Team would like to thank all who donated to the Highmark Walk for ProJeCt. As a result of your generosity, we delivered \$140 to ProJeCt. This money will benefit all those in the Easton community who benefit from its services.

STITCHING

Thank you for those busy needles! If you need yarn, patterns or help making any of these items call or email Nancy Udut, 610-253-5455, naomiudut@yahoo.com.

FAITH FORMATION AND FELLOWSHIP

BRUNCH BUNCH

Brunch Bunch will be going to Marblehead Chowder House (4101 William Penn Highway, Easton) on Sunday, July 9. Please let Ruthann know if you're interested by Friday, July 7 if possible. If you have a last-minute change of plans, we can always accommodate you.

BUILDING USE – RECOVERY PARTNERSHIP

We are pleased to have Recovery Partnership, a community drop-in center, renting Legacy Hall on a temporary basis, which will continue through July. They will be in our building 10am to 4pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

DISCUSSION ON CHURCH HISTORY

Rick Taylor is willing to lead a three-session discussion on Presbyterian and Congregational church early history in the Middle Atlantic States. Each session would run between an hour and an hour and a half. A free study book would be provided, though the sessions would involve stories to stimulate discussions. If 3 or more people are interested and we can find a common time to meet, let's plan it for the summer or the fall. Contact Rick at pilgrimrht@rcn.com or 610-438-3771.

JULY BIRTHDAYS



July 3	Noralee Manzek
July 8	Shirley Van Norman
July 12	Chris Gulotta
July 13	Gary Evans
July 13	Alexa Hughes
July 22	AnnaMarie Fehr
July 26	Richard Ellis
July 29	Darcel Hayes-Bridges
July 29	Michael Muthoka
July 30	Art Charlton

PRAYERS

We pray for...

Our church, its leaders, staff, members and friends as we navigate a significant financial crisis.

All who grieve for the loss of loved ones.

Peg Opthof, as she recovers from surgery on her wrist, and her recovery from a fall in her home.

The Fugeres' grandson Max, who is suffering from the deaths of two close friends.

Members addressing ongoing medical concerns, including Victoria Opthof-Cordaro and Dave Foster.

All those who live with dementia and their care givers.

For neighbors near and far recovering from natural disasters and extreme weather.

Peace and goodwill for all God's children, especially in places of war and conflict.

Victims of gun violence and acts of hate.

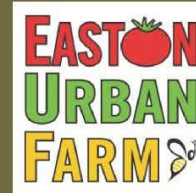
Those who suffer from mental illness.

For injustice in our nation and world, that people of goodwill might work together for the greater good.

Prayers can be sent to office@eastonfpc.org, please include "prayer list" in the subject line.

SUMMER SQUASH FESTIVAL

PRESENTED
BY



Sunday, July 16, 2023
12:30 - 4 pm

Location: 902 Philadelphia Road, Easton, Pa

Free sample from Tasting Menu

- variety of dishes prepared
highlighting summer squash

Presentation by famous Italian
PBS Chef Mary Ann Esposito

Cooking competition with local
chefs

Judges include our own Easton
mayor, Sal Panto

Healthy lifestyle presentation by
Master Gardener, Kristen Lissy



BRING YOUR OWN LAWN CHAIRS OR BLANKETS



ANY AND ALL DONATIONS GO TO THE FARM

Music and live entertainment



Yoga for all ages - bring
your own mat/blanket



Farm Tours



Kid-friendly activities - STEM
Project, face painting, crafts,
games, and more!



Easton Wine Project, Food
Trucks, and more!



