

From the Pastor's Desk...

Friends,

In a Prayers of the People last month, I used the descriptor “Patient” to refer to God: Patient God. God is willing and able to work slowly for good outcomes, knowing that they are being revealed. God accompanies us in our faith without growing weary, angry, or frustrated with us. It’s a characteristic I wish to embrace, but am often not very good at. As I look at our life together, I am thinking about how patience can help ground us through a chaotic time. Patience has something to do with taking the long view; being willing to stick with a project not knowing exactly what the outcome will be; and with trusting other people to play their part in the bigger picture.

This month, one of our remaining 5F fellowship groups celebrated that they have been together for 20 years, having formed in October 2005. The groups were originally formed around people gathering monthly for ‘the 5F’s’: faith, friendship, fun, fellowship, food. When the groups formed, no one could imagine the relationships, challenges, and joys those groups would share together. Though we have since taken to other ways of connecting people, the enduring legacy of 5Fs shows the fruits of sustained commitment. Through the patience of years, and the commitment of participants, three of those groups still meet for support, prayer, and connection in Christ.

In much more recent history, we have been planting seeds through our family ministry, hoping that they would grow. Today, we see them sprouting and getting stronger. Our weekly Sunday school activities strengthen our kids in faith. The Sunburst Singers program supports faith and music development. Vacation Bible School is a ministry to church children as well as a great outreach. The Backyard Playroom blesses young children and their caregivers. Families continue to visit with us on Sundays and report that you truly welcome them with open arms. Through patient efforts and God’s grace, new families are continuing to arrive and choosing to stay to grow in faith here.

This fall, we are excited to share the Building Hope capital campaign with the whole congregation. I hope you’ll join us as we reveal the vision for our church and for this campaign at a **special coffee hour on Sunday, October 5**. The campaign team, staff, and I have been working for many months on the campaign already. As with any big project, I wonder if the response will be as robust as the energy and joy in our congregation. Yet the call to patience reminds me that I can trust in God’s unhurried and gentle work. I can trust in the people who are hearing of the campaign and getting behind it with their excitement and their pledges. And I know that this project is one small piece of all that God is doing—moment by moment—to reveal the kingdom among us.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Emma



Church Bell



fpcro

In-Person Worship

Sunday Worship is at 10:30am
in the sanctuary.

Livestream Worship

Sundays at 10:30am watch worship
on Vimeo, Facebook or YouTube.
(Or anytime later in the day/week.)

Sunday School for children pre-K through 5th grade begins after the *Time with Children* in worship. The nursery is open for infant and toddler care.

our staff

pastor/head of staff, enickel@fpcro.org **Rev. Emma Nickel**

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newsletter editor **Tere Ryan**

baritone **Bryan Clinthorne**

soprano **Olivia Donnel**

soprano **Audrey Frieberg**

tenor **Kayvon Kashani-Gharavi**

our soloists



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The **Church Bell** is published monthly
September through June. Email
contributions to newsletter@fpcro.org.
Deadline is the 15th of each month.

IS YOUR INFO CURRENT?

Please let Sally Gilreath (sgilreath@fpcro.org) know of changes to your contact information so we can maintain current and up-to-date records of your member information.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

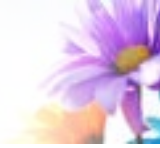
FPCRO is a Stephen Ministry church. Stephen Ministers are lay caregivers trained to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.



OF NOTE:

Deaths:

Jean Russell, September 2, 2025

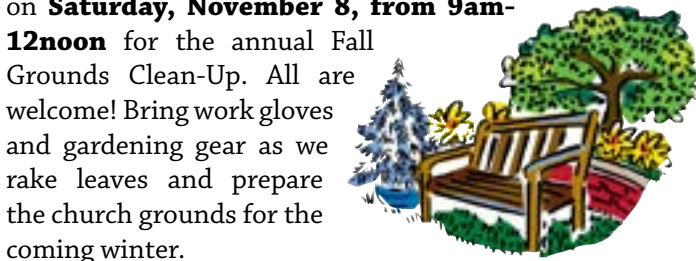


How could you use your star word and your journey with it to teach someone about faith?



FALL GROUNDS CLEAN-UP

The House and Grounds Committee invites you to join us on **Saturday, November 8, from 9am-12noon** for the annual Fall Grounds Clean-Up. All are welcome! Bring work gloves and gardening gear as we rake leaves and prepare the church grounds for the coming winter.



COULD YOU HOST A COFFEE HOUR?

We all love a good cookie and cup of coffee! But coffee hour only happens when church members or groups are willing to host it by bringing goodies to eat, making coffee (staff can show you how!), serving, and cleaning up.

- Could you team up with some friends to host?
- Could your 5F group or committee host?
- Do you want to celebrate an anniversary or mark a special event with your church family by hosting?

Sign-up on the sheet outside the reception office to host or call the office with questions.



memorials & gifts

Memorial gifts
were given
in memory of
Bruce Harrington and Dorothy Hay

VISION EVENT AND COFFEE HOUR

FPCRO is called to be a beacon of hope and constancy in an uncertain world. To fulfill our vision, over the next three years we are **Building Hope** through a capital campaign. On **Sunday, October 5**, join us after worship in Kirkman Fellowship Hall to learn more about the vision and the campaign.

Children and families are encouraged to attend, along with members of all ages!



BUILDING HOPE KICK-OFF, NOV 2

Building Hope is FPCRO's campaign seeking your financial gifts to support necessary repairs and improvements within the church, but it is also much more. Don't miss the kick-off to our Building Hope campaign on **Sunday, November 2**. In worship, hear how *hope is what we do!* After worship, join us for a special reception to build our hopeful future on the strong foundation of Christ. Worshippers will receive a building block in worship to take to Kirkman Fellowship Hall where we will all build a new creation together.



Victoria Dusenbury became a citizen of the United States on September 15. We celebrate all her hard work and this celebration in her family's life!

Worship and Nurture

S.T.A.G.E. YOUTH MINISTRY

S.T.A.G.E. (Somewhere To Ask God Everything) is a collaborative youth group which strives to build lifelong relationships, impact the communities we live in, and learn about and share the love of Christ! Email stageyouth@gmail.com to receive our newsletter by for all the details on meetings, added service events during the year, and summer mission work! Meetings are open to all middle and high school students (6th-12th grade). Meetings are from 6-8pm unless otherwise specified.



SCAN TO
LEARN
MORE



- **October 12:** Care Packages Service Project at Greenfield Presbyterian Church
- **October 26:** Regular meeting at FPCRO



NEW MEMBER CLASSES

For those interested in learning more about the church or who are ready to join, our classes meet **Sundays from 9-10am in the Fireside Room and conclude October 26** with breakfast and a brief Session meeting to receive new members. We'll welcome you in worship at 10:30am that day! Childcare is provided upon request. Please RSVP to Pastor Emma at enickel@fpcro.org or call the church office at (248) 541-0108.

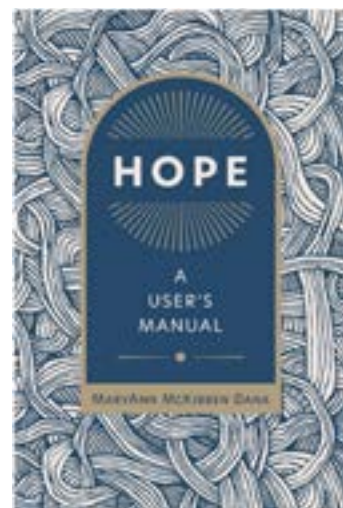
MEN'S CONTEMPLATIVE GROUP

This October, Rev. Matt Nickel will offer guided practices to increase mindful awareness of self, body, and connection to others. The practices will engage contemplative spirituality, breath work, mind-fullness, and nervous system regulation. No previous experience is required. Men of FPCRO and friends from the community are invited to participate on **Mondays, October 13, 20, 27 at 7:30pm in the Fireside Room**. Participants are encouraged to sign-up online using Sign-Up Genius: <http://bit.ly/4nkUCp4>



BUILDING HOPE BOOK STUDY

This fall our congregation will consider how God is building hope among us and how we can join God in that work. We'll read *Hope: A User's Manual* by MaryAnn McKibben Dana during October. We'll talk about where we see hope, how we understand it, and how our faith helps us live into it. Join the book discussion in one of two ways:



- Either meet weekly on **Wednesdays at 1pm** at the church during **October (October 8, 15, 22, and 29)** to discuss portions of the book each week.
- Or, come for a one-time discussion of the whole book on **Tuesday, October 28 at 7:30pm**. All events will take place in the Fireside Room.

The church has 25 signed copies of the book available for purchase for \$16 each. Visit the reception desk to get yours. Or order your own copy online in paperback or Kindle version. An audio version is also available.



Bible Study • 9am Sundays
Jubilate Bells Rehearsal • 6:30pm Thursdays
Chancel Choir Rehearsal • 7:30pm Thursdays



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRUNK OR TREAT

We are seeking volunteers to help with our annual Trunk or Treat. We are looking for people to help with activities as well as decorate their cars. We would love to have you join us! Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/4upv454h> or call the church office. The event is **Friday, October 24 at 5pm**. Your theme can be as simple as you would like it.



TRUNK OR TREAT CANDY DONATIONS!

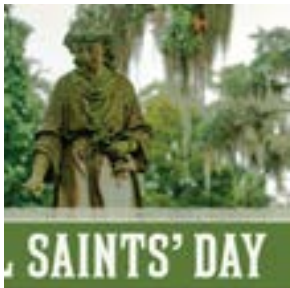
Our exciting Trunk or Treat event is Friday, October 24. To make the event a success we need candy donations. In the CE lobby there's a kiddie pool for candy collection. Our goal is to fill the pool so we have enough for over 250 children we expect to attend.

We would appreciate all candy donations by Sunday, October 12 to allow time for preparation. If you would like to make a monetary donation, include "trunk or treat" on your donation.



SUNDAY SCHOOL WEEKLY EMAILS AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

For families with children, we have a weekly email that is sent every Wednesday around noon. It has information for the upcoming Sunday as well as future events. It also has special videos from Ms. Audrey, our children's music director. If you are not receiving these emails, please reach out to Joelle Jarrait. This is a great opportunity to stay up to date on what is happening in our children's ministry



ALL SAINTS' SPECIAL SERVICE

The congregation and wider community are invited to join us on **Wednesday, October 29 at 7pm**, in-person and online, to celebrate All Saints'. We will give thanks for members

of the congregation who have died and joined the church triumphant in the past year. There will also be an opportunity for all those in attendance to submit names of loved ones who have died to be read aloud in the worship service. Come for candle-lighting, blessings, scripture, and music in this service of remembrance and hope, offered by the Music Department and Stephen Ministers.

pew racks. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex. Questions? Contact Gail Meengs.

CHANCEL FLOWER DEDICATIONS

A flower dedication is a special opportunity to celebrate, remember, or honor a member of our church or your family. Please consider signing up for a dedication in the coming year. Plenty of dates are open! Contact Chris Klein if you have any questions.



SUNDAY MORNING USHER OPPORTUNITIES

The Worship and Nurture Committee is looking for ushers. Simply arrive 20-25 minutes ahead of the worship service to greet folks and hand out worship bulletins. After worship, retrieve the completed friendship pad forms from the



SHINING GOD'S LIGHT INTO THE FUTURE...

Sunburst Stewards honors members who have included the church in their estate plans with a gift to the endowment. Knowledge of future gifts offers the church an opportunity to thank donors and allows church leadership to plan for the future. The ultimate benefit comes from knowing that we have recognized the importance of God in our lives and have made a powerful witness of that love through a gift to the church.

For more information about Sunburst Stewards, please contact Rev. Emma Nickel or the chair of the Generosity and Resources Committee. All information given will remain confidential.



Mission in Service

TEEN CLEAN CLOSET

After worship on **Sunday, October 12**, please join us in Kirkman Fellowship Hall where we will assemble Hygiene Kits for the Teen Clean Closet. Their mission is to supply free new toiletry and hygiene items to young people and adults in the community who are in need. Royal Oak schools, YMCA, Youth Club, Mahany/Meininger Senior Center, have mini closets in their facilities. They also supply nearby cities. Come and help support their mission. Thank you!



FORGOTTEN HARVEST VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Mission in Service committee is offering two kinds of opportunities to volunteer at Forgotten Harvest (15000 W. Eight Mile, Oak Park). FH collects and delivers thousands of pounds of surplus food weekly to alleviate hunger and end food waste by providing nutritious food to families facing food insecurity. The Warehouse on 8 Mile is where we help pack rescued food from businesses to prevent food waste. We bundle food into sizable portions for food pantries, soup kitchens, and individual families. The Client Choice Mobile Pantry (next to the Warehouse) is a small venue where the volunteers help guests make food selections, much like shopping in a grocery store!



- **Weekday:** Six volunteers needed in the Client Choice Pantry **Thursday, October 23 from 8:45am-12pm**. Volunteers must be 18 years and up. To sign-up, please contact Dave Keener at dakeener00@gmail.com.
- **Weekend:** 25 volunteers needed in the Warehouse **Saturday, November 1, from 9am-12 noon**. Volunteers 10 years and up must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Sign-up online at <http://bit.ly/4mRLmcj>. You will then receive an email from Dave Keener inviting you to pre-register on the Forgotten Harvest website.

Sign-up online, or on the Mission in Service bulletin board. Volunteer slots may be added if necessary. Questions? Contact: Dave Keener or Denise Huebner.

LITTLE FREE PANTRY



FPCRO's Little Free Pantry serves unhoused neighbors as well as those who may be running short of funds. Below is a suggested list of non-perishable items which may be dropped off during church office hours. For cash or check donations, please indicate the "Little Free Pantry" on the check or note. Pull-Tab Cans: stew (beef and chicken), fruit (cocktails, peaches, pears, etc.), vegetables (corn, green beans, peas, etc.), baked beans, soup (any variety), beefaroni/ravioli (ready-to-eat), canned tuna, chicken, or turkey. Non-perishables: granola bars (soft/chewy, any flavor), cereal (small individual boxes), tuna/chicken (ready-to-eat pouches), Knorr rice/pasta sides, peanut butter, snack crackers/cookies, small bottled waters, juice boxes, Easy Mac and Cheese (pouches/cups).

Sunflowers Christian Preschool



A fun new year of Sunflowers Christian Preschool has begun. We are having a great time with new friends and enjoying the routines of our school day. There are a lot of busy activities in the classroom and the playground is always fun on a sunny day.

October is fire safety month and keeping safe becomes a topic of focus for us.

The beautiful autumn colors outside our classroom window come inside as we paint with 'orange' this month. Our three-year-olds are practicing their fine motor skills, learning how to play cooperatively, and doing some wonderful art projects. Our four-year-olds are jumping into the alphabet, studying one letter per week, as well as all the other things that make preschool fun.

Our hallway and classroom are being filled with beautiful artwork. We love displaying them to keep us in the fall mood.

Mrs. Gibson, Mrs. Kerfoot

Generosity and Resources

WHAT IS PER CAPITA?

This year our congregation pays a per capita amount of \$38 per member to the Presbyterian Church USA. The yearly payment is given to allow every church the ability to engage in shared activities and to connect to the universal church. Like a family, we share costs to demonstrate unity. One of our missions is to connect to other Presbyterian churches; we create a more equitable communal relationship as Jesus taught us "to love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39). We give to this fund to increase our effort of helping people around the world. Per capita is not retained by our individual church, but given to the larger church in ministry to the world.



PER CAPITA FOCUS

Have you contributed your per capita gift for this year? If not, please consider doing so and giving it this month. You can use the blue envelope at the front of the contribution boxes, pick up a per capita envelope in the narthex, or just write "per capita" on the memo of your check and put it in the plate on Sunday. If you are an electronic giver, you can send Kari Peruski an email (kperuski@fpcro.org) and let her know how much you would like automatically deducted for per capita. Electronic Givers who authorized their per capita payment on their pledge card don't need to send an email and likely had their per capita gift processed in September. Thanks for your gifts!

**Worship with us Sunday at 10:30 am
or online anytime at www.fpcro.org**

www.fpcro.org • facebook.com/fpcro

instagram: [fpcro1914](https://www.instagram.com/fpcro1914)

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Spirituality • Service • Sharing

find us on:



October Events at FPCRO — Mark Your Calendar!

Oct 3 • Parents' Night Out, 6pm

Oct 5 • Building Hope Vision Event
Coffee Hour, 11:30am

Oct 5 • Sunburst Singers, 11:30am

Oct 8 • Naomi-Ruth Circle, 10:30am

Oct 8 • Building Hope
Book Study, 1pm

Oct 12 • New Member Class, 9am

Oct 12 • Mission in Service Event:
Teen Clean Closet, 11:30am

Oct 13 • Men's Contemplative
Group, 7:30pm

Oct 15 • Building Hope Book Study, 1pm

Oct 19 • New Member Class, 9am

Oct 19 • Sunburst Singers, 11:30am

Oct 20 • Men's Contemplative
Group, 7:30pm

Oct 22 • Building Hope

Book Study, 1pm

Oct 24 • Trunk or Treat, 5pm

Oct 26 • New Member Class, Brunch,
and Welcome, 9am

Oct 27 • Men's Contemplative
Group, 7:30pm

Oct 28 • Building Hope Book
Study Discussion
Group, 7:30pm

Oct 29 • Building Hope
Book Study, 1pm

Oct 29 • All Saints Special
Service, 7pm

