

## First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak



### From the Pastor's Desk...

#### Friends,

Summer is coming! I have finally come to terms with the fact that, here in Michigan, I have just three months to wear summer clothes and take walks outside (at a temperature I find enjoyable, at least!) So I am planning to fully savor playground time, trips to the splash pad, sunshine, evenings on the porch, grilled food, and picking fresh kale and lettuce from the garden all summer.



This month is full of important Sunday activities at the church. Our new **summer worship** schedule of a single service at 10 am each Sunday begins on June 18 and runs through Labor Day weekend. On the third Sunday of June, July, and August, we will worship outside on the Hendrie Lawn, weather permitting.

- **Sunday, June 4 at <u>10:30 am</u>** We celebrate our confirmation students in worship as they affirm their faith in Christ.
- **Sunday, June 11 at <u>10:30 am</u>** The choir leads us in worship for a Global Hymn Fest of anthems and songs that help us understand the fullness of God through other languages and cultures.
- Sunday, June 18 at <u>10:00 am</u>, worship outside on the Hendrie Lawn New members will join the church and we will celebrate with them on this day.
- **Sunday, June 25 at** <u>10:00 am</u> Elders and deacons who are entering a new term of service will be ordained and installed during worship.

Summer can get busy as we try to pack in all our favorite activities. But God also urges us to rest and renew. Our church is taking a **July Sabbath** this year. I hope you'll join me, the church leaders, and staff in this experiment.

- What does it mean to have a *July Sabbath*? During July, we will focus on having meaningful worship each Sunday at 10 am. But we won't have much other programming. Our committees and boards will not meet. You won't see other activities scheduled on the calendar.
- Why are we taking a sabbath month? This has been our busiest year yet since the pandemic closure of 2020. We embraced the ability to be together, to sing, to do mission projects and come to events at the church. But in those pandemic days, we all promised ourselves that we wouldn't return to the normal hustle and bustle of life as we had known it. That's been a hard promise to keep. Yet an intentional time of rest in our congregation can help us renew our energy and have space to reflect on where we've been, as well as where we're headed. (We also have a lot planned for the fall!)
- What is the spiritual meaning of a sabbath? The fourth commandment is "Remember the Sabbath." Today, most Christians follow this commandment by taking time to rest, setting work aside—even when it's not done yet—and enjoying the life God has given us. Doing this reminds us that everything does not rely on us. Working harder is not the solution to life. God is always in control, regardless of what we do or don't do. This letting go, caring for our spirits, and focusing on God is a way to nourish our discipleship and strengthen our faith.

I hope the church's July Sabbath will invite you into some intentional sabbath-keeping in your own life, too. Let it be an invitation to say no to some things and yes to the goodness God offers.

Grace and peace, Pastor Emma

#### In-Person Worship

Sunday Worship: June 4 & 11, 10:30am in the sanctuary; June 18, 10am outside on the lawn; June 25, 10am in the sanctuary.

#### Livestream Worship

Watch the livestream of the worship service on Vimeo, Facebook or YouTube. (Or anytime later in the day/week.) Sunday school for children prekindergarten through 5th grade begins after the Time with Children in worship.

The nursery is open for infant-toddler care.

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#### The Church office will be closed on Fridays through Labor Day.

pastor/head of staff, enickel@fpcro.org **Rev. Emma Nickel** parish associate, nnichols@fpcro,org **Rev. Neeta Nichols** director of music ministries & organist, jjackson@fpcro.org **Joseph Jackson** chancel choir director, kwattleworth@fpcro.org **Kent Wattleworth** sunburst singers director, afrieberg@fpcro.org **Audrey Frieberg** director of christian education, jjarrait@fpcro.org **Joelle Jarrait** church administrator, kperuski@fpcro.org **Sally Gilreath** evening reception/security, tcrawford@fpcro.org **Sarah Gibson** preschool director, preschool@fpcro.org **Alan Glasel** nursery care worker **Julia Carroll** wedding coordinator, weddings@fpcro.org **Ginny O'Brien** newsletter editor **Sandra Olah** 

> baritone Brian Clinthorne tenor Brady DelVecchio soprano Olivia Donnel soprano Audrey Frieberg

## our soloists



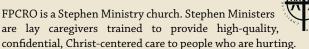
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The **Church Bell** is published monthly September through June. Email contributions to **newsletter@fpcro.org**. Deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

#### 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-todate records of your member information.

#### **Stephen Ministry**



## **Congregational News**

#### OF NOTE:

Deaths:

Jacqueline "Jackie" Davis, May 2, 2023

Λ**7**e're halfway through the year! Revisit the initial thoughts, impressions, and prayers you had with your star word. Have they changed? How have you grown?

## H.O.M.E. PROJECT

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Birthday in a Bag H.O.M.E. project last month. As in the past, many of you filled a bag with birthday essentials to

distribute to families in need. Birthday celebrations that might not have been possible will now be celebrated!

-Marilyn Sutton, Christian Education Committee

The House and Grounds Committee would like to thank the volunteers who came out for the annual Spring Clean Up on Saturday, May 6. We did trimming, pruning, clean-up of the beds, weed



pulling, and transplanting to get the grounds and garden beds ready for this season of growth. Many thanks to the following for lending a hand:

Greg Gillham, Bob Lengjel, Dan Kline, Ellen Burns, Barbara Stafford, Ken Millinger, Barb Hayes, Derek & Kavanaugh Helenberger, Roger & Edie Watson.

> COLUMBARIUM Contact the church office for an information packet.

Memorial gifts

were given in memory of Vicki Dickinson and Maryjane Jarman.

#### **NEW MEMBER CLASS**

For those ready to join the church, or for those interested in exploring what that means, join us on Sundays, June 4, 11, and 18 from 9-10 am.



#### Sunday, June 4 and Sunday,

June 11 from 9 am-10 am — Join our facilitator, Suzanne Lewand, to learn more about the history of Presbyterians, our general beliefs, and what it means to be part of this church community. Sunday, June 18 at 9 am — Enjoy a delicious brunch with our Session members. They will welcome you and officially vote to receive as members anyone who would like to join. We will welcome you in the worship service that morning, which will be at 10 am.

Questions and to RSVP, contact Pastor Emma at **enickel@fpcro.org** or by phone at the church.

#### **SUMMER MOVIE NIGHT: "FINDING NEMO"**



Friday, August 11 at 8 pm on the Hendrie Lawn. Bring a lawn chair and a friend. We'll bring the popcorn!

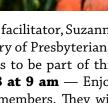
### SHINING GOD'S LIGHT INTO THE FUTURE...

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 chairperson of the Finance and Investment Committee. All information given will remain confidential.





## **Mission and Benevolence**

The Mission & Benevolence Committee would like to share with the congregation how our budgeted funds were used and some of the Hands-On Mission activities and collections we sponsored this fiscal year.

The Committee continued to focus on the impact giving areas of **home, health, and hunger**. Donations made on behalf of the congregation were: \$4,000 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (to help disaster survivors in the United States and around the world); \$3,000 to the Arab-American Chaldean Council (which supports Middle East and other communities, including Refugees, in Southeast Michigan, and has helped our church support the Afghan family); \$2,000 each to Lighthouse and Shared Mission for



Presbytery (a way to support local missions throughout our Presbytery that are not funded through Per Capita gifts); and \$1,000 each to Forgotten Harvest, Gleaners, Open Hands Food Pantry, and Westminster Church of Detroit for their Thanksgiving dinner programs.

Hands-On sponsored events included the CROP Walk, Days for Girls, providing a meal for the South Oakland Warming Shelter, Song and Spirit's SnackPax program, and plarn making for Song and Spirit. Items were collected for Common Ground (now part of Lighthouse), Cereal for Summer (sponsored by the Presbytery of Detroit), FPCRO's Little Free Pantry, the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program, the Mitten Tree, and Operation Paperback.

neighbors

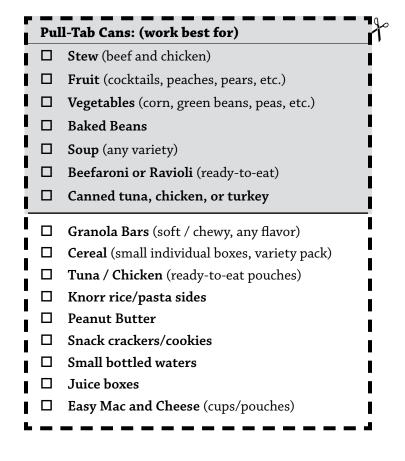
Neighbors

### FPCRO's Little Free Pantry

One way to help our neighbors in need is by donating to the Little Free Pantry. It serves unhoused neighbors as well as folks who may be running short on funds for groceries.

At the right is a list of suggested items which may be dropped off during church office hours. Feel free to clip out the list and use it the next time you are at the store. For cash

or check donations, please indicate "Little Free Pantry" on the check memo line.



## After Church Celebration June 11



Get your Flu Shot from Rite Aid at church September 10!

# N**}}CHO**GRILL

A fter worship on **Sunday, June 11,** join us on the Hendrie Lawn for a picnic celebration!

Nacho Grill food truck, which rents FPCRO's Kirkman Fellowship Hall Kitchen, will offer a limited menu for sale. Kids can receive a free serving of chips and cheese. Adults may purchase a tasty lunch or snack and enjoy time together as we kick-off the summer season.

#### **CEREAL FOR SUMMER**

During the **month of June**, bring a box or two of cereal to be donated through our regional Presbytery to help kids and families in need. No child should



go hungry. However, many kids who rely on receiving a subsidized breakfast or lunch during the school year often face long summer days without enough to eat. FPCRO will support the Cereal for Summer campaign at the **Presbytery of Detroit** again this year.

#### **SNACKPAX**

After worship on **July 23**, join



us to pack 400 more snack bags for children in the area who might not be getting enough to eat at home. This is a great intergenerational event for all abilities. Look for bags to decorate in the coming weeks ahead of the event. We're grateful to partner with **Song and Spirit Center** in Royal Oak for this mission project.

#### **CROP WALK IS SEPTEMBER 17**

The 2023 Ferndale/Royal Oak CROP Hunger Walk will take place on **Sunday, September 17**. Online registration is now open for walkers, and you can make donations to sponsor the FPCRO team members at any time. Please think about joining our team whether it's a tradition for you to walk or if it's your first time!

Find the website to register or give at: **https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/event/ferndalemi**. The funds you raise and donate will help people in neighborhoods in our community and in places around the world to overcome the challenges of hunger and food insecurity. Thanks for your generosity!

## **Summer Mission Activities**

#### **SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

In **August**, we'll collect school supplies for neighbors at Oakland Elementary school. Look for sales and pick up a few items when you see them.



Boxes will be out in the church to receive donations during August. Check the worship bulletin for exact dates.

Teacher requested items:

- Crayons
- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Glue sticks
- Composition notebooks
- Primary journals (composition notebook, but with a spot to draw a picture for K-2 classes)
- Plastic folders with prongs
- Colored dry erase markers
- Pencils (pre-sharpened)
- Play-Doh
- Bingo daubers
- Socks (for feet and white board erasers)



## **Congratulations FPCRO Graduates!**

#### Annika Helenberger

Annika Helenberger (she/her) graduated with honors from the University of Michigan's School of Public Health. She majored in Public Health Sciences, and minored in Gender and Health. During her time at UM, Annika was a volunteer and later a site leader with



Michigan Active Citizens Alternative Spring Break, a student organization that spent the school year learning and training to volunteer at a site across the U.S. during spring break.

Annika was also a member of UM's intersectional feminist sorority, Zeta Omega Eta, where she was a secretary and later president. Her class work gave her the opportunity to work with a Community Based Organization in Kenya where she and her partners created educational materials for the betterment of LGBTQ+ people's health. After graduation, Annika is continuing her internship with Rocket Central as a Product Owner for Data Intelligence this summer. She plans on engaging in community health work to combat health inequities before returning to graduate school to earn her Masters in Public Health.



#### **Ryan Pochron**

Ryan is graduating Magna Cum Laude from Berkley High School and is a National Honor Society member. He has been playing cello for the last seven years, and was a member of orchestra in the Berkley schools from 5th through 12th grade. Ryan is an active member of S.T.A.G.E.

Youth Ministry and will be attending his third mission trip this summer with the youth group. His future plan is to attend Northern Illinois University to study Marketing.

#### **Austin Ryan**

Austin graduated with his master's degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor on April 28, 2023. His undergraduate degree in Mechanical was Engineering with concentration in а thermal fluids and a minor in aeronautical engineering from



Lawrence Tech University, where he graduated Summa Cum Laude. (Sometimes it is rocket science!)

Starting in June, he will be at his new job with Pratt & Whitney, Aerospace Company in East Hartford, Connecticut. Austin is looking forward to his new job in his field of interest and experiencing all Connecticut has to offer.



#### Rachel Wattleworth

Rachel is graduating Summa Cum Laude from Royal Oak High School. She will be attending the school of Kinesiology at the University of Michigan next year.



## Children's Ministry

#### SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

It has been a wonderful Sunday school season! Here are some upcoming dates to remember. Our **regular Sunday school season will conclude on June 4**. **Sunday, June 11 is a Family Worship Sunday**. Nursery and young preschool



care will be available. **Beginning June 18**, and continuing through August, we will have **"Sunday School Lite."** Families may choose for their children to stay in worship with kid friendly worship guides. Or, children may go outside (weather permitting) for a Bible story, snack, and time on the playground.

#### **THANK YOU TEACHERS!**

Our congregation is blessed to have a group of loving and dedicated Sunday school teachers. Thank you to those who answer God's call to help share God's story with your little disciples.

#### **Nursery Care**

Krispen Carroll Kay Rediers Barb Hayes Wendy Schnieders Brianne Prisciandaro

#### **Preschool Class**

Helen Dusenbury Lindsey Harris Karen Kline Amy Pochron Abby Pochron

#### **Elementary Class**

Jessica Gibbs Heather Gleason Melissa Ross Glenn Shepard Tamara Shepard

#### **Special Helpers & Substitutes**

Emma Jarrait Robin Hanks Riley Schnieders

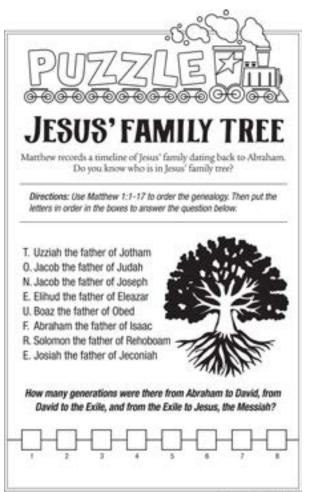


### Don't Miss Out! There is still Time to Register for VBS!

Children ages 4 years through 5th grade are invited to attend our STELLAR VBS where we will Shine Jesus' Light! The event is June 26-30, 9 am-12 pm. Register at https://form.jotform.com/223405660685054

#### **VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH VBS!**

We could use a few more volunteers to help during the week of VBS. The dates are June 26-30 9 am-12 pm. Please visit our sign-up genius at **https://tinyurl.com/ycka7hwf** to join in on the fun! Be sure to talk to Joelle Jarrait for more information. Youth are also welcome to volunteer



NEUDIDOL SHARP

## **Meet Our Incoming Elders and Deacons**

#### **ELDERS ON SESSION:**

Returning for another term of service as elders on Session are Karen Kline, Derek Helenberger, and Anne-Marie DeVantier (Class of 2026). We welcome Robin Hanks for a full term (Class of 2026) and Rick Dusenbury to complete an open one-year term (Class of 2024)



**Derek Helenberger:** Derek has been a member for some twenty years. He has two kids: Annika, who just graduated with honors from U of M's School of Public Health and Kavanaugh who just finished his first year at Michigan State University. The rest of his family is in Texas. He feels this is a time of transition in the church and our country, and Derek hopes to help the

congregation navigate this time, as he feels energized by God's presence. He enjoys lots of hobbies, including reading history and mysteries, watching and playing soccer (go Chelsea!), listening to music, fixing things to extend their useful life to keep them out of landfills, and watching movies.



**Karen Kline:** Karen and her husband Kevin feel blessed to worship and share our church with son, Dan, and daughter and son-in-law Audrey & Brad and grandchildren Oliver, Patrick, and Abigail. Karen was baptized at the church as a baby and remembers standing between her grandparents in worship, listening to the bass and soprano of their voices blending

over hers. She has spent hours (and hours) in the church kitchens, where bodies and relationships are nourished. Karen says, "I feel God is leading us toward a church that speaks the Word in both worship and activities. I believe we are developing into a place where all are welcome, all are important, and all have something to contribute."



**Anne-Marie DeVantier:** Anne-Marie married her husband Ted in 2000 and was blessed with Luke and Alia in 2003. She is President of Financial One Accounting, which offers outsourced accounting services for non profits. She and her family live just down the street from the church, which is how they got involved. Seeing her children experience the church

community was wonderful and watching them in the children's musicals was a favorite moment. In sharing her hopes for the future, Anne-Marie writes, "Keep up the momentum. There is a lot of positive energy happening and I want to see it continue and grow. God saw us through the pandemic. I believe we actually came out stronger."



**Robin Hanks:** Robin is an accomplished neuropsychologist who teaches and practices at Wayne State University and in the community. She and her husband James have been members of the church for about 19 years and she has two college-age children who she loves spending time with. The sense of community at the church and our commitment to

children's programming originally brought her family here. She looks forward to growing our church's commitment to the community.



**Rick Dusenbury:** Rick is married to Victoria and they have a daughter, Priscillia, who is 17 years old. Rick is a handyman and caregiver, as well as engaging in various construction projects, including around the church. He's had two stints of membership at FPCRO, growing up in the church from 1956-1980 and then returning again in 2016. Rick envisions

the church caring for our elderly members as we also add new members, all while relying on the steadfast love of God. Rick's hobbies include history, ancestry, and tending to the needs of his family.

## Meet Our Incoming Elders and Deacons

#### **DEACONS:**

Returning for another term of service are Barb Stafford and Linda Willemsen (Class of 2026). We welcome Norm Bayne and Luke DeVantier to the Class of 2026, and Ruth Goode to complete an open one-year term in the class of 2024.



**Barb Stafford:** Barb served as the Deacon moderator for the past year. She is a retired fourth grade teacher and has been a member of FPCRO, with her husband Larry, for about 35 years. Barb first got affiliated with the church through the softball league and liked the Sunday school experience offered for her sons, Brian and Brent. Previously, Barb has

participated in the hand bell choir, too. Barb serves as a volunteer reader in the Ferndale schools, enjoys her book club, kayaking at her cottage up north, and walking her dog, Charlie. She has two grandchildren, Tyler and Travis.



Willemsen: Linda Linda's immediate and extended family mean everything to her. She is so excited to be a new grandmother. Linda works as a marketing manager in the legal industry. She was at the church for about ten years in the past, then after a time away, returned five years ago. Continued growth and service to the community are important priorities to Linda

for our church, as well as supporting each other. In her free time, Linda loves reading, walking, music, and gardening.



**Norm Bayne:** Norm is part of a third-generation family at FPCRO, with his wife Gail and her parents, John and Vera-Anne Corwin. Being married at the church forty-two years ago brought him here originally. Normis a dedicated veterinarian. In his time as a deacon, he hopes to help individuals who are seeking God, and to show them that God is everywhere. In his

spare time, Norm enjoys woodworking.



**Luke DeVantier:** Luke has been part of FPCRO since 2005. Some of his favorite memories are going on the youth mission trips and his experience volunteering in Detroit on a youth trip. Luke's hope is that we can ignite the hearts and minds of our church and community, being more open and vulnerable to God's message in each of us. Luke's

hobbies include photography, reading, hiking, cloudwatching, card-making, and graphic design.



**Ruth Goode:** Ruth's family includes two daughters and sons-in-law, six grandchildren and two cats. She works as a caregiver, currently helping a 30-year-old autistic man. Ruth originally found FPCRO in the yellow pages and has been here about 30 years. She has felt at home here, where a few members knew her parents and where she often feels like the sermons are

offered personally for her. She is hopeful about the fun new things that are happening in our congregation.

## **Global Hymn Festival**

On **Sunday, June 11**, the Music Department will lead us in a worship service based on music from many cultures and countries around the world. With the state of our country and our world, we need things that bring us together and bridge the divide that so many feel. Through the music of this service, we will strive to show the connection we have to the Global Church, and how, even though we may worship differently, we make music in praise of one God.

The Jubilate Bell Choir will begin the service with a lovely setting of a Brazilian hymn based on Psalm 98 "O Sing to the Lord a New Song." The Chancel Choir will begin with an Introit sung by women in Cameroon, West Africa calling us all to "Praise God's Holy Alleluia!" This name. processional song is accompanied by drums and our Sunburst Singers will demonstrate the traditional procession steps that accompany it.

As a response to the Assurance of Pardon, the Chancel Choir will sing a South African hymn calling us to testify to God's saving grace in the world. Soloists portray the roles of religious leaders calling us to testify.

The Sunburst Singers will share a beautiful anthem, which tells us we are more than neighbors, we are family. This piece incorporates the familiar Sunday School Song "Jesus Loves the Little Children." As a response to the first scripture, the Chancel Choir will sing the Hebrew maxim "Al Shlosha D'Varim," which translates as "*The world is sustained by three things, by truth, by justice, and by peace.*"

In response to the second scripture, we will hear a beautiful Japanese tune patterned after the ancient gagaku music

of the imperial court of China dating back to the tang dynasty. This lovely piece, accompanied by flute, percussion and hand bells, tells the story of the beginning of the Church when the Spirit descended on the twelve disciples.

> As an offertory, the choir sings an exceptionally beautiful Latin American setting of the text from Matthew, "where two or three are gathered in My name, there will I be also."

We will be called to prayer by a bhajan from North India. This song invites us into prayer as we seek God's guidance and leading in our lives and as we pray for the entire world.

As a benediction response, we will hear the jubilant "Hands are Knockin." This piece comes from the Middle East, and with the juxtaposition of English and Arabic texts is intended to reinforce the universality of the message: an invitation to open our minds, hearts, and hands to each other.

We hope that your faith and understanding of the world will be enhanced and enriched through this service.

# GLOBAL HYMN FESTIVAL SUNDAY, JUNE 11

## **Choral Scholars: Into the Future**

#### **FUNDRAISING NEWS!**

Thanks to the congregation's generosity, we are delighted to announce that we have met, and even exceeded, our goal of \$18,000 to fund the Choral Scholars program for the coming two years! To date, \$23,419 has been raised. What a joy to continue welcoming young people to join with us in praising God in song. We are grateful for your contributions, support, and prayers. Enjoy these pictures of the brunch and concert from May 7, 2023.





## **FPCRO Member on Safari!**

enn Muse returned from her Kenya and Tanzania trip with many photos, great memories, and a summit certificate from her hike of Kilimanjaro.

Highlights included getting to see all of the big five animals (lion, leopard, rhino, cape buffalo, and elephant), learning a few words of Swahili, and watching the sunrise over Mount Kilimanjaro.





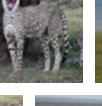
















Worship with us at 9 & 10:30 am, or online anytime at www.fpcro.org www.fpcro.org • facebook.com/fpcro instagram: fpcro1914 529 Hendrie Blvd., Royal Oak, Michigan 48067 248.541.0108





opportunities for all ages! serving • learning • growing find us on:

## FPCRO's June at a Glance



- June 4 10:30 am Trinity Sunday / Confirmation Sunday
- June 11 10:30 am Global Hymn Festival & After Church Celebration on the Hendrie Lawn

You Tube

#### **Summer Worship Time Begins:**

- June 18 10 am Outdoor Worship on the Hendrie Lawn / Father's Day
- June 19 Juneteenth
- June 21 First day of summer
- June 25 10 am Worship Service, Ordination of New Officers / Fellowship Coffee Hour after worship