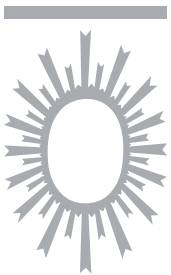


Church Bell



fpcro

From the Pastor's Desk...

Siblings in love,

Did you rest well this summer? Were you able to find a rhythm of sabbath, or at least some moments of it? What joys or discoveries marked this season? What sorrows unexpectedly showed up? I hope you can bring all those experiences with you as we gather for the fall.

This is always a season that feels like a fresh start to me. As we head into it, I want to share with you where our church is headed for the fall. In worship this year, we are going to be reading a different set of scriptures called the Narrative Lectionary. A lectionary is just a cycle of particular Bible passages that are laid out to be read on certain days. The Narrative Lectionary takes us on a journey through the *whole Bible*, mostly in chronological order, in one year.

- In September, we'll start with creation in Genesis.
- The fall will lead us through God's covenant and many of the prophets, who proclaim God's hope.
- In Advent, we'll take a journey in Luke to hear all the parts of the story leading up to Jesus' birth and the fulfillment of that hope.
- From January through Lent, we'll read stories of Jesus' ministry all in the gospel of Mark.
- Then after Jesus' death and resurrection at Easter, we will hear how the early church started living out their hope in Jesus through the book of Acts and other letters, or epistles (1 Corinthians, 1 Thessalonians).

The children's Sunday school classes will be reading the same scripture passages that we will hear in worship each week. We hope this can spark conversation in families about what each member has heard and learned. Pastor Neeta will be leading a short study of the Old Testament during October, which will be another way to learn more about the stories we're hearing in worship each week. There will also be a visual element in the sanctuary that ties in with the scripture passage each week.

The goal is to help us better understand the overall story, or arc, of the Bible. When we hear the story in order, over the course of the year, we can better grasp what God's promises mean and how salvation in Christ came about. These readings allow us to go deeply into the story and to see how one event sets up the next one. This context can help us when we hear other passages in future Bible study or worship experiences because we will have a sense of the bigger story. All of that helps us to see our own stories reflected in scripture so that we can focus on God's activity in our lives today.

This fall, we also have the joy of welcoming a **seminary intern** to our congregation. Lon Kuehn is a candidate for ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA) through our local Presbytery of Detroit. Which means he's training to become a pastor. He will complete his Master of Divinity degree in the spring and will first spend the fall learning and serving in our congregation for a few hours each week. You'll see Lon leading worship, attending Bible study, participating in Sunday school and other activities. Please introduce yourself (wear your name tag!), and welcome him to our church!



Grace and peace,

Pastor Emma

In-Person Worship

Sunday Worship:
September 3, one service
at 10am. September 10
& following Sundays,
9am in Evans Chapel,
and 10:30am in the
sanctuary. (*Masks are
welcome, but not required.*)

Livestream Worship

On Sundays, watch
the livestream of the
worship service 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 at 10:30
beginning Sept 10.

The nursery is open for
infant-toddler care.

our staff

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, afriberg@fpcro.org **Audrey Frieberg**

director of christian education, jjarrait@fpcro.org **Joelle Jarrait**

seminary intern, lkuehn@fpcro.org **Lon Kuehn**

church administrator, kperuski@fpcro.org **Kari Peruski**

S.T.A.G.E. youth ministry director, stageyouth@gmail.com **Jessica Gibbs**

administrative assistant, sgilreath@fpcro.org **Sally Gilreath**

evening reception/security, tcrawford@fpcro.org **Todd Crawford**

preschool director, preschool@fpcro.org **Sarah Gibson**

preschool teacher **Beth Heitchue**

facility manager, aglasel@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
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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:

Betty Kirk (Shirley Gillham's sister), August 21, 2023

Melvin "Mel" Janney, June 1, 2023



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



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held **immediately after the 10:30am worship service on Sunday, September 17**. All members are encouraged to attend. Copies of the Annual Report will be available beginning Sunday, September 10 online or at the reception desk in hard copy.



ORGAN CONCERT: SAVE THE DATE!

Save the date of **Friday, November 3 at 7pm** for ***Pulling Out All the Stops: An Organ Concert with Joseph Jackson***. The concert is free and open to the public. The Session has approved hosting a ticketed Wine and Cheese Reception prior to the event from 5-6:45pm in Kirkman Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$10 for those under 21.



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.



memorials & gifts

Memorial gifts were given in memory of Mildred "Millie" Brissette, Jacqueline "Jackie" Davis, Vicki Dickinson, Melvin "Mel" Janney, and Maryjane Jarman.

FLU SHOTS AFTER WORSHIP SEPT 10

Protect yourself this season and get your flu shot from Rite Aid after worship on **Sunday, September 10**. Bring your driver's license and insurance card and fill out your form ahead of time <https://tinyurl.com/ycxrwkdz>. Children ages three and up may receive a vaccine. Deacons will be hosting a Fellowship Coffee Hour in Kirkman Fellowship Hall.



Thank you to the congregation of FPCRO for the many donations made during our school supply drive for Oakland Elementary school in Royal Oak during the month of August! Your gifts will help many children start off the school year in a positive way.




COLUMBARIUM
Contact the church office for an information packet

Congregational News

NEW COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Our church has implemented a new structure for our committees, which we are living into this fall. Last year, a task force of the Session determined that our previous structure with nine committees, plus Session and Deacons, was a bit unwieldy. Also, elders were asked to serve on two committees, in addition to their time on Session. The task force proposed a structure with just six committees, which was approved by the Session for implementation in August 2023. This format allows for two elders on each committee, along with one or more deacons and additional at-large members.

Several of our previous committees have combined to create new ways of planning and executing our ministries. Though the Evangelism and Communication Committee has been eliminated, its goals of outreach and communication to the wider community are being lodged in each individual committee, and with the staff. We value sharing all that we are doing and want each of our leaders to take this work seriously. Below is the new committee structure.

If you are interested in learning more about any of these ministries or serving on one of the committees, please contact Pastor Emma Nickel or the committee chair person.

Nominating—Responsible for calling forth people in the congregation with gifts to serve on Session, Deacons, and as at-large members of the Nominating Committee. **Robin Hanks, Chair**

Mission in Service—Responsible for creating opportunities for the congregation to serve our neighbors, both in the community and through events at church. Oversees the church's mission budget, which may be given to support organizations in the community or the church's mission projects. **Karen Thomas, Chair**

House and Grounds—Responsible for maintenance, upkeep, and repairs to the church's building and grounds. Manages contracts and works closely with the Facilities Manager. **Derek Helenberger, Chair**

Worship and Nurture—Responsible for the congregation's worship life and spiritual growth, including music ministries, and education for all ages. This committee encompasses the previous ministry of the Worship & Music and Christian Education Committees. **Julie Matthews, Chair**

Generosity and Resources—Responsible for the financial health and stewardship of the church. Plans the annual giving campaign, including activities, worship, and sharing gratitude with the congregation. Prepares the operating budget, oversees the church's investments, and participates in an annual financial review. This committee encompasses the previous ministries of the Stewardship and Finance and Investment Committees. **Karen Kline and Anne-Marie DeVantier, Co-Chairs**

Personnel—Responsible for ministering to the church's staff through decisions related to compensation, staffing levels, and the staff members' well-being. **Kevin Schnieders, Chair**



NAOMI-RUTH CIRCLE

Our Friendship Circle meets the **second Wednesday of the month**, September to June, at 10:30am in the Fireside Room. Meetings begin with a time of fellowship (chatting) and snacks. Time is set aside to share joys and concerns of church members, and to receive information of various missions—locally and around the world. Circle concludes with a Bible Study. This year, the study is “Sacred Encounters—The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke through Acts.” The study is produced by Presbyterian Women/Horizons Bible Study, and is presented by a Circle member.

Women of FPCRO, please consider attending Naomi-Ruth Circle. **The first meeting is Wednesday, September 13 at 10:30am.** Mark your calendars!



Thank you to the very generous FPCRO community for your donation of 185 boxes of cereal for the Presbytery of Detroit's Cereal for Summer collection. Many children who rely on receiving a subsidized breakfast or lunch during the school year often face long summer days without enough to eat. Our donation, along with those from other congregations, are given to feed hungry children in our presbytery.



GOLFING FOR GLACIERS

September 25 Charity Golf Tournament

Greenfield Presbyterian Church's Climate Action Now Team is hosting a fun day of golf at the Pontiac Country Club, benefitting the Michigan Climate Action Network. The \$75 cost includes 18 holes of golf with a cart, along with food, prizes, and chances to win a 50/50 raffle. It's open to all levels of golfers, but it is limited to 72 participants total. Register today by following the link: <https://tinyurl.com/4kap6jxd>

Further information, including starting times, will be provided closer to the day of the event. Sponsorships are also available at a cost of \$75. Please follow the link if you, or your company, would be interested in sponsoring a hole.

Sign up, join the fun, all while showing your support for climate action! Questions? Contact Deb Basierbe at 248-497-2767 or dm.basierbe@att.net. Or contact Chris Klein at FPCRO with questions.



Worship and Nurture

CHILD INFORMATION FORMS

Just a reminder for parents and guardians to complete a Child Information Form for your children. As we focus on the safety of our children, it is important for us to have current information. The form can be filled out online at <https://form.jotform.com/221714493449158>. If you have any questions, please contact Joelle Jarrait.

A graphic with the word "Reminder" written in a large, black, cursive font, set against a yellow brushstroke background.

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK OFF

Our fall season of Sunday school begins **September 10**. Children of all ages will begin in the sanctuary and go to their age appropriate class following the Time with Children. Our Curriculum, Living the Word, follows the same scripture explored in worship. This creates a great opportunity for children and their grown-ups to share in conversation about how they experience the Word of God.

A graphic with the words "LIVING THE WORD" in a bold, blue, blocky font with a yellow outline, set against a white background.

SUNBURST SINGERS BEGINS SEPTEMBER 17

Join our music program for children (preschool through early middle school), following worship on **Sunday, September 17 until 12:15pm**. Children will receive a healthy snack in Sunday school. Immediately following Sunday school, they will join Ms. Audrey upstairs until 12:15pm. Sunburst Singers meets after worship on the **first and third Sundays** of each month. Contact Audrey Frieberg alkline221@gmail.com with questions.



DECORATE YOUR CAR FOR TRUNK OR TREAT

Our Trunk or Treat is a great time to be with children and their families in our community. To help make the event a success

A graphic with the words "TRUNK OR TREAT" in a green, blocky font with a yellow outline, and "treat" in a purple, cursive font below it.

we need decorated cars. Choose a fun theme for your car and join us! Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/4upv454h> or call the church office. The event is **Friday, October 20 at 5pm**. Your theme can be as simple as you'd like it to be.

TRUNK OR TREAT CANDY DONATIONS!

Our exciting Trunk or Treat event is happening **Friday, October 20**. To ensure the event is a success, we need candy donations. In the CE lobby, you will find a kiddie pool for the candy collection. Our goal is to fill the pool so we have enough treats for the over 200 children expected to attend. We would appreciate all candy donations be made by **Wednesday, October 11** to allow for preparation time. If you would like to make a monetary donation instead, indicate "trunk or treat" on your donation. Thank you!



RETREAT WEEKEND

Come take part in the Great Lakes Pilgrimage during the weekend of **October 13-15**. The Pilgrimage is a retreat held at the Echo Grove Camp and Conference Center in Leonard, MI on beautiful Lakeville Lake. The weekend is filled with group discussion, talks by laity and pastors, singing, and lots of laughter. It truly is a spiritual renewal weekend. Please see Norm Bayne for more information.



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Starting **October 2**, FPCRO will offer an eight-week grief support group for those experiencing the loss of a loved one. Group sessions will consist of sharing, support, and resources. Sessions will be facilitated by Commissioned Ruling Elder, Pat Johnson, who has led similar groups for hospice families and families of those who passed away at a local hospital where she worked as a chaplain. Sign up confidentially using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/feh3w36j>. Please note there are only eight participant slots available. If you have questions, please email Pat at pjohnson71@gmail.com.



CHANCEL CHOIR WEEKLY REHEARSALS BEGIN SEPTEMBER 7

“O Sing to the Lord a New Song”

Ephesians 5:19 says “**Sing and make melody to the Lord with your heart.**”

In fact, the Bible contains hundreds of references to singing, and fifty direct commands to do so. Singing has a unique way of bringing heart, soul, mind, and body into play to make praise to the Lord.



As we approach the coming season at church, I encourage you to remember the Bible’s call to sing with all your heart, whether in the pew or by participating in one of our choirs. **Chancel Choir begins weekly rehearsals Thursday, September 7 from 7:30-9pm**, and Sunburst Singers, our music program for children, begins on the first and third Sundays of the month beginning September 17.

For more information regarding any of our music ensembles, please speak to Joseph Jackson, Kent Wattleworth, or Audrey Frieberg.

BIBLE READINGS IN WORSHIP 2023-24

Beginning on **September 10**, we will be reading passages in worship each week from the Narrative Lectionary. This annual cycle of readings takes us through the overall story of the Bible, in chronological order, in one year. From September through May, we’ll journey from creation to God’s covenant; the prophets to the incarnation of Jesus; his ministry, death, and resurrection, through stories of the early church. The goal is to help us better understand the overall story, or arc, of the entire Bible. The Sunday morning Bible Study (9am in the Fireside Room) and children’s Sunday school classes will also read these same passages each week. Join us to dig deeper into God’s message.



FOUR-WEEK BIBLE STUDY IN OCTOBER “God and the Old Testament”

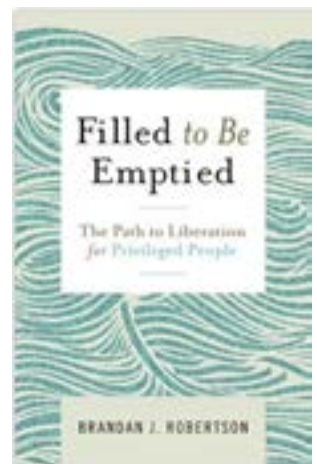
As Christians, we focus intensely on Jesus and the Gospels as the primary source for revealing God’s activity with humanity. But before the incarnation, God’s purposes for the earth and its people were taking shape. That activity is described in the Hebrew Scriptures.



What can we learn about God from the Old Testament? Join Pastor Neeta for this four-week study Wednesday evenings on October 4, 11, 18, and 25. We will meet at 7pm in the Fireside Room. Sign up using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/4e4wmjax>

FALL BOOK DISCUSSION— GET YOUR BOOK AND SAVE THE DATE FOR NOVEMBER 8

During 2023-24, Pastor Emma will lead several book discussions focused around the themes of our church’s Matthew 25 commitment. That commitment entails working to end structural racism, eliminate systemic poverty, and act as a vital congregation in our community.



On **November 8 at 7pm**, we’ll meet in the Fireside Room to talk about *Filled to be Emptied: The Path to Liberation for Privileged People* by Brandan J. Robertson. Buy a copy of the paperback book or read it on your Kindle. This book is part Bible study, part invitation to self-reflection, part theological work. Robertson traces the Kenosis Hymn—a short passage in the book of Philippians 2:5-11—which describes the way Christ emptied himself of power to become humble in service to God. Readers are invited to consider how we can choose humility by thinking differently about the various privileges we carry. The book touches on race and poverty, among other issues, and is an invitation to people across the spectrum to faithfully consider our own lives in relation to our wider community. It is highly readable and offers a fresh perspective. If you would like to read a copy, but purchasing one is hard for you, simply contact Pastor Emma.

Mission in Service

CROP WALK IS SEPTEMBER 17

The 2023 Ferndale/Royal Oak CROP Hunger Walk is on **Sunday, September 17**. Plan to arrive at **1:30pm at Ferndale First United Methodist Church**, 22331 Woodward Ave, Ferndale. Online registration is open for walkers, and you can make donations and sponsor the FPCRO team members. Join our team whether it's a tradition for you to walk or if it's your first time!

Support your favorite walker and leave a donation in their envelope on the sign up/donation table located in the Christian Education Lobby. Register to walk, or give at: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/event/ferndalemi>. The funds raised will help people in our community and in places around the world to overcome the challenges of hunger and food insecurity.



RISE AGAINST HUNGER MISSION EVENT



This energizing mission event for all ages is back! Sign up to pack meals to send around the world on **Sunday, September 24**. Following lunch together, this intergenerational event will run from 12:15pm to about 2:30pm and is high energy and open to all. We need 50 participants to complete the job! Sign up online to participate: <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/FPCRO2023> Lunch will be provided for all participants between worship and the start of the event. Feel free to invite a friend to sign up and join in, too!

SAVE THE DATE — ON THE RISE BAKERY!



On **Sunday, October 1**, after the 10:30am worship service, On the Rise Bakery will be selling baked goods. Goodies such as bread, cookies, muffins, pies, and cakes, ranging in price from \$2 to \$8, will be available for purchase. In purchasing their baked goods, you are helping make possible the provision of supportive housing, training, counseling services, educational opportunities, and self-help programs. On the Rise Bakery is a program where each man is responsible to reach back and support the newest member.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



FPCRO had reserved 15 spots to volunteer in the Oak Park Forgotten Harvest warehouse on **Saturday, October 7 from 9am-12pm**. Volunteers must be at least 10 years of age. Please sign up on the link provided: <https://tinyurl.com/29yuzfcn> We will then provide you with more information about signing up on the Forgotten Harvest website. Please contact Edie Watson or the church for more information.

Forgotten Harvest is fighting hunger and food insecurity in Metro Detroit by picking up food from over 520 food donors. Volunteers then clean and repack food into family-sized portions which are distributed to families in Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties. Their team delivers 144,000 pounds of surplus food per day to local charities.

On the Rise Bakery and R.O.P.E. (Reaching Our Potential Everyday) are two of the many programs of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. The R.O.P.E. Program provides men who have been incarcerated or completed a Substance Use Disorder Program a way to "re-enter" society by training them in baking skills. The extended residential program offers the opportunity for them to develop abilities that will solidify their sobriety, further their education, and hone their life skills.



Sunflowers Christian Preschool



Welcome back Sunflower Families! It's time for another preschool year to begin. The teachers have been anticipating the arrival of our wonderful little preschoolers, and have been very busy preparing and organizing a safe and loving environment. The school year begins on Tuesday, September 5, where our three-years-olds will be accompanied by one parent on this first day. We will introduce ourselves, the classroom, and share what each and every day of school looks like. Our four-year-old class will begin independently on Wednesday, September 6. We have three new four-year-olds joining us this year and 13 returning friends from last year.

September always brings new friends to learn about or reacquaint with, classroom rules to remember, and lots of enthusiasm and excitement for new routines. The children come with wide eyes, hopefully not too many tears, and an eagerness to meet new friends, play and to learn, and make lots of wonderful memories. Both classes will focus on fall themes, including apples and the color red. You might even smell something delicious coming from our room when we cook with apples! We will also start our Bible study right at the very beginning with the creation story.

The four-year-old class will begin studying the letters of the alphabet and begin to learn about word families. Our three-year-olds will start counting the very first day as we count the days we are in school each month. All the children will be busy each day developing their fine motor skills in many ways. The playground is also a wonderful place to play in September. Come and stroll through the halls of our preschool area to see all the bright and colorful projects we share throughout the year.

We all will be looking forward to a wonderful school year!

Mrs. Gibson and Mrs. Heitchue

EAGLE SCOUT SERVICE PROJECT

An Eagle Scout Service Project, led by Aiden Davis, Boy Scout Troop 1629, was to clean and refurbish FPCRO's garage. His project cleared, cleaned, sorted, donated, recycled, re-purposed, and scrapped items in the garage. At the start of the project, the garage was packed so full there was no room to move around and much of the content was decades old. For instance, signs for a rummage sale were dated 1999!

Aiden and his crew began April 29 and worked until May 20 with 166 hours logged. In that time, the entire garage was emptied out and the floors were power washed. Items inside were sorted under the supervision of Alan Glasel and Kari Peruski. Items that could be recycled were, and the remainder that couldn't be recycled were disposed. Two new walls, with shelves between the garage door bays, were built utilizing wood that had been stored in the garage. A work table was added along the back wall, and new hooks for tools, rakes, and brooms were installed. During heavy rains, water can seep into the garage, so the lowest shelves were built 4-6" off the ground to ensure stored items remain dry.



Aiden raised and spent about \$650 on materials and supplies for the project and FPCRO supplied the dumpsters. Two 20-yard dumpsters were filled! We are grateful Aiden chose to benefit FPCRO with this Eagle Scout Project. His project has been approved by the Boy Scout Council and he will be awarded his Eagle Scout Badge in November. FPCRO is the chartering organization for Troop 1629, with Chris Allen as Scoutmaster and Kevin Kline serving as Troop Committee Chair and Institutional Representative.



Annual Notice to Electronic Givers

We thank you for your continued support to FPCRO. Approximately 37% of our pledging congregation and 38% of all pledge dollars (roughly \$206,308) will come through electronic giving during 2023-24. Thank you!

A few points to remember:

- At the start of this new fiscal year, your gift will continue to be deducted in the same manner as requested on your ACH request form.
- If you turned in a pledge card, the new amount will be reflected starting the withdrawal after August 1.
- If you didn't turn in a new pledge card, the amount will remain the same as the ACH Request form or the last pledge card received, including your *per capita* payment preference.
- Per Capita payments, if you so authorized, will be taken in your first withdrawal in September.
- Special gifts options, if you so authorized, will be taken in your first withdrawal in the month of selected holiday.
- If your chosen withdrawal date lands on a weekend or banking holiday, your gift will be withdrawn on the **preceding day**.
- You may change, suspend, or terminate your electronic giving option by giving seven-day advance written notice to the church administrator.



If you have any questions or concerns, please email our Church Administrator, Kari Peruski at kperuski@fpcro.org.



Pictured is a thank you card received from the Rev. Frederick Bowden. It was given in gratitude for FPCRO funding the purchase of socks for the Song & Spirit Center's outreach to homeless individuals through our 2023 Mission Grant.

Tiny Homes—Cass Community Social Services

For the past two years, our church has received a generous grant from an anonymous giver to do mission in our community. For 2023, the grant was over \$32,000. The Session proposed a plan to use those funds to assist some of our hands-on mission projects, including the Snack Pax project and the Good Book Nook, last year. We also planned to support some new projects with these funds that have a broad reach in our community. Ten thousand dollars was dedicated to support the building of a portion of one Tiny Home in the Tiny Homes community in Detroit, built by Cass Community Social Services (CCSS). In July, Pastor Emma and four members of Session visited CCSS and received a tour of the Tiny Homes community, including current homes and the location of the next phase.

At the moment, the Tiny Homes community consists of 25 tiny houses just off the Lodge Freeway near Elmhurst. Each Tiny Home is between 250-400 sq. ft. and has a unique exterior façade and interior footprint, making them as unique as the residents that live in them. The residents have qualified as low-income for the Tiny Homes. Many were once homeless, incarcerated, aged out of the foster care system, and /or senior citizens.

For the Tiny Homes residents, they initially rent their homes on an annual basis. Those who remain in their house and the program for seven years earn the opportunity to own their homes and build wealth associated with home ownership. The first group of residents are scheduled to become homeowners next year.

As mentioned, CCSS is planning to build another phase of Tiny Homes next year. This phase consists of seven

more Tiny Homes. Our donation will go toward one of these seven new Tiny Homes.

The Tiny Homes program is only a small part of what CCSS does to help provide food, housing, health & mental health services and jobs programs. Some of you may remember trips to prepare and provide meals at one of their kitchens. Besides the Tiny Homes, CCSS provides both emergency and permanent support housing in a number of apartment buildings near the Tiny Homes community in the broader

CCSS community. CCSS also provides health and mental health services through daily clinics. Cass Green Industries is a unit of CCSS that helps provide jobs in a sustainable way. They pick up and sort scrap metal, pick up and shred paper, and use illegally dumped tires as the base material for mud mats and key chains stamped with the Old English D. Another initiative underway is the construction of a car wash near the Tiny Homes community that will use only one cup of water per car and be staffed by adults with developmental issues. We saw the concrete block superstructure under construction on our tour.

Rev. Fowler is not stopping there. She continues to look for creative ways to advance the goals of CCSS. CCSS has received a grant to allow them to engage a consultant to determine how to establish a no-plastic grocery store in the CCSS community. This combines several of their goals, including green sustainability, promoting self-reliance, and creating a commercial, job-providing corridor in the community.

For more information on these programs and more, please visit casscommunity.org.



**Worship with us at 9am & 10:30am,
or online *anytime* at www.fpcro.org**

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Royal Oak, Michigan 48067

248-541-0108

www.fpcro.org • facebook.com/fpcro • [instagram: fpcro1914](https://instagram.com/fpcro1914)



fpcro

Spirituality • Service • Sharing

find us on:



Fall Events at FPCRO — Mark Your Calendar!

**Sept 5 • Sunflowers Preschool
Begins for Three-year-olds**

**Sept 6 • Sunflowers Preschool
Begins for Four-year-olds**

**Sept 7 • Chancel Choir Weekly
Rehearsals Begin**

Sept 10 • Flu Shot Clinic

**Sept 10 • Kick Off Sunday/Fall
Worship Schedule Begins**

Sept 13 • Naomi-Ruth Circle

Sept 17 • Sunburst Singers

**Sept 17 • Annual Meeting of
the Congregation**

Sept 17 • CROP Hunger Walk

Sept 24 • Rise Against Hunger

Sept 25 • Charity Golf Tournament

Oct 1 • On the Rise Bakery

**Oct 4 • Four-Week “God and
The Old Testament” Bible
Study Begins**

**Oct 7 • Forgotten Harvest
Volunteer Event**

Oct 11 • Candy Donation Deadline

Oct 20 • Trunk or Treat