

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

My friends,

The sale of the Cana Lutheran Church building in Berkley to the Berkley Public Schools is having ripple effects for us here at FPCRO. It means there are new activities happening in our building at 529 Hendrie Boulevard, which is a wonderful and holy thing! And it is also keeping us on our toes!

### **Drayton Presbyterian Church worshipping at FPCRO beginning May 5, 2024**

The congregation of Drayton Presbyterian Church, which has been worshipping at Cana Lutheran for several years, will be moving their worship services to our church in May. We celebrate that we can offer a worship space that fits Drayton's needs. Their congregation will worship in Evans Chapel at 11am each Sunday. That means we'll have two concurrent worship services in the building, as we continue with worship at 10:30am in the sanctuary each week. We don't anticipate any issues, but it will be good to be aware that another service is taking place as our congregation exits the sanctuary around 11:30am. Additionally, on the weeks when their pastor, the Rev. Scott Miller is out of town, Drayton's Session is encouraging its members to worship with us in the sanctuary, or to visit another local congregation. This is in anticipation of the Drayton congregation ending its ministry together in March of 2025 when Pastor Scott retires. Their members will be encouraged to join a local congregation where they feel most called. Thank you for welcoming them to our building and offering hospitality!

### **Backyard Playroom relocating to FPCRO in May 2024**

As many of you heard in worship on April 7, Cana Lutheran has been home for some years to a free play space for kids age five and under called the Backyard Playroom. The BYP is open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9am until 12pm, staffed by Ashleigh McKnight and is a highly utilized resource in the community. We are excited that the BYP is relocating to FPCRO and that Ashleigh will join us here! The BYP will occupy the two back classrooms in our Sunday school hallway, known in past years to some as the Oasis and the Session rooms.

Members and staff are hard at work cleaning out rooms, preparing the spaces, and making plans to move the equipment, furniture, and amazing wooden playscape to FPCRO in early May. Can you help with this effort?

- Those with carpentry skills, tools, and/or willing hands should contact Derek Helenberger (call the office for contact info, or if you need a new church directory). We truly need the gifts and skills of lots of folks to install this playscape!
- Those willing to help organize and arrange the furniture, toys, etc. can sign-up to do so here, <https://tinyurl.com/4x5yrxe9>.
- Other ideas? Want to get involved? Speak to Pastor Emma or Joelle Jarrait.

There will be more information to come on the planned opening date, a blessing for the space, and giving thanks for Cana's ministry with it for so many years. We invite you to pray for all the congregations being touched by these events, for the children and families who will visit the BYP, and for all those making these ministries possible.

*Pastor Emma*



# Church Bell



fpcro

## In-Person Worship

Sunday Worship:  
9 am in Evans Chapel,  
and 10:30 am in  
the sanctuary.

## Livestream Worship

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

Sunday school  
for children pre-  
kindergarten through  
5th grade begins after  
the Time with Children  
in worship at 10:30.

The nursery is open for  
infant-toddler care.

## our staff

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

*baritone* **Bryan Clinthorne**  
*tenor* **Brady DelVecchio**  
*soprano* **Olivia Donnel**  
*soprano* **Audrey Frieberg**

## our soloists



First Presbyterian Church  
of Royal Oak

529 Hendrie Blvd., Royal Oak MI 48067  
248.541.0108 • fax 248.541.1859  
www.fpcro.org • facebook.com/fpcro



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

### IS YOUR INFO CURRENT?

Please let Sally Gilreath ([sgilreath@fpcro.org](mailto: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.



As we prepare for Pentecost, how has the Holy Spirit lit a fire in you through your star word? What new thing has it inspired you to do?



## SPRING GROUNDS CLEAN-UP

The House and Grounds Committee invites you to join us **Saturday, May 4 from 9am-12pm** as we prepare the church's grounds and garden beds for the upcoming spring and summer growing season.



Bring your gloves and gardening tools as many hands do make light work taking care of the church grounds. *Rain date is May 11.*

## CELEBRATING A GRADUATE?

Graduation season is upon us! If your family is celebrating a graduate associated with FPCRO, we would love to share about them in an upcoming June issue of the *Church Bell* newsletter. Please send the student's name,



a photo, school, program from which they are graduating, and any special interests, accolades, or future plans to Sally Gilreath ([sgilreath@fpcro.org](mailto:sgilreath@fpcro.org)) no later than **May 15**.

## 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 Skip Eddy, Jean Lichtenberg, and Rev. Neeta Nichols. A gift was given to our Technology Fund honoring Greg Gillham.*

## BUY NOTHING FREE SALE EVENT

On **Saturday, May 18 from 9am to 12pm** (rain date, June 15),

FPCRO will host a group from Royal Oak to have a Buy Nothing Free Sale in our parking lot. Many RO residents are members of Buy Nothing Facebook groups, where they can take unwanted/unused items from their homes and gift them to others in the community. Usually these arrangements are made individually. This year the group wants to host an in-person event and we have the parking lot space to do that! This event encourages community connections, and cares for creation by keeping items out of landfills.



To offer this service to our community, we need some volunteers! Could you:

- Serve as a parking lot attendant on this day, directing people where to park and set-up?
- Serve as a host at a booth for our church offering greetings, giving directions to our church's bathrooms, water fountains, and pointing people to the event's coordinators for other assistance?

Sign-up here, <https://tinyurl.com/3mpttsn2> or email Pastor Emma to let her know you want to participate.



**COLUMBARIUM**  
Contact the church office for an information packet



# Worship and Nurture

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Women's Group will meet from **9:30-10:30am** on the following Fridays: **May 10, and June 7** at Coffee and Bark (2733 Coolidge Hwy) in Berkley. Questions? Contact Amanda Curry.



Their program will include solos, duets, trios and quartets from classical Art Song, Opera and Musical Theater. Within this huge variety of pieces there will be something for everyone to enjoy. The singers will be accompanied by our own Joseph Jackson at the piano.

Join us in support of our talented singers for a beautiful concert which will showcase the versatility of their gifts. The concert will be free and open to the public.

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Men's Fellowship Group will gather on **Monday, May 13, at 7:30pm** at Bagger Dave's (2972 Coolidge Hwy) in Berkley. Please join us for a return visit or your first time for some free-flowing conversation on a wide-ranging variety of subjects! Questions? Contact Derek Helenberger or Matthew Nickel.



## SERVICE OF PEACE AND JUSTICE

On **Sunday, June 9 at 10:30am**, the FPCRO choirs will lead a special worship service focusing on peace and justice. The Chancel Choir, Sunburst



Singers children's choir, and Jubilate Bell Choir will offer music that witnesses to the peace of Christ and God's commitment to justice and equity in the world. As we see wars and violence in the world, we are called to proclaim the good news of the Prince of Peace, just as we are called to work for peace and justice in our own communities. Join us for this powerful worship service.

## SUNDAY SERENADE, JUNE 2

On the afternoon of **Sunday, June 2 at 2pm**, our talented section leaders/soloists Bryan Clinthorne, Brady DelVecchio, Olivia Donnel, and Audrey Frieberg will be sharing their gifts with us in an afternoon of song. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful quartet of soloists here at FPCRO, and this concert will feature them in ways that go beyond what we hear on a Sunday morning.



# Sunflowers Christian Preschool



**H**ow quickly the year has passed! We can't believe there are only a few more weeks in the school year. It's been a fun year and our preschoolers have certainly grown by leaps and bounds.

For the three-year-olds, we will spend this sunny month painting with the color yellow, finishing our special handprint books, making Sunflower t-shirts, and creating Mother's Day gifts. Caterpillars turning into butterflies are in our plans. Our three-year-olds will finish the year with a fun day outdoor (hopefully) on the church grounds on May 21.

How sad we are to see our four-year-olds finish preschool! They have worked so hard all year to prepare for kindergarten; we are just not quite ready to say goodbye to them. This month, they will finish their alphabet study, learn about insects—especially butterflies, make special gifts for Mom, plant beans in a bag and watch them grow, and prepare for our graduation ceremony to be held on May 22 at 10am, in Kirkman Fellowship Hall.

If you are interested in learning more about our preschool, please call 248-541-0108, x220. We would love to tell you all about Sunflowers! Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

*Mrs. Gibson and Mrs. Heitchue*

## REGISTER TODAY FOR SCUBA VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)!

June 24-28 • 9am-12pm

<http://tinyurl.com/yc42r5m8>

**Deadline to register is June 1.** Kids receive a free gift with registration!



## VOLUNTEER AND BE PART OF THE FUN AT SCUBA VBS!

In order for our VBS week to be successful, we need folks who can help in a variety of ways. Adults and youth are welcome to volunteer. Our program runs **Monday-Friday, June 24-28 from 9am-12pm**. If you can help on all five days, that's great! If you can only come two or three days, that's great too! Even one day is a big help.

So, what does it require to be a VBS volunteer? We just ask that you love being around children and you want to share God's Word with them. You do not have to be an experienced teacher or an expert in any of the areas. Everything is set up for you and you'll have a chance to look at things ahead of time. Per our church safety policy, we do require a background check be on file for adults working with children. It's a simple process with a quick form to fill out. Be sure to see Joelle Jarrait if you have any questions, and to sign up. You can also sign up online at <https://tinyurl.com/mr53bmr>

### What's needed?

1. **Crew Leaders** who will oversee a group of children as they move from station to station.
2. **Station Leaders** are needed for each area. The areas include:
  - **Bible Adventures** where children hear the story and dive into God's word in simple hands-on ways.
  - **Sticky Scripture** where children hear the scripture and enjoy fun experiments with water.
  - **Imagination Station** where children wonder together as they dip into water activities.
  - VBS isn't complete without **games!** We have some fun things in store that might even involve getting a little wet.



## TOM AND RUTH KIRKMAN SCHOLARSHIP HONORS

**Congratulations to our  
2024 Kirkman Scholarship recipients!**

**Ryan Gleason  
Mia Montgomery  
Lauren Schnieders**

**Christopher Walters  
Julia Watson**

The Tom and Ruth Kirkman Scholarship is awarded to those in our church family who are pursuing higher education. The fund is named after Tom and Ruth Kirkman. Dr. Kirkman served as FPCRO pastor from 1955-1985. Congratulations to our recipients! May God continue to uphold you, and may you feel the love of your church family as you grow in your journeys.

## HAVE YOU CONSIDERED A STEPHEN MINISTER?

*Do you need a listening  
ear? Could you use a  
regular visit or phone  
call from a caring friend?*



FPCRO is blessed to have Stephen Ministers who provide confidential care and conversation to those struggling with life's challenges. Through grief, transition, or perhaps a scary diagnosis, we are there to lend an ear and offer Christian care. If you feel this is something that would be helpful to you, please contact Pastor Emma, Gretchen Hirsch, Joelle Jarrait, or Norm Dell.

## Monthly Spotlight:

### Temporarily Restricted Income — Part 1

Temporarily Restricted Income are gifts or funds that are given to the church for a designated purpose. The church, upon accepting these gifts, is legally obligated to only use this money for the specified purpose and are shown on the first page of the Income and Expense Statement. Because we need to track the spending of these funds, we also have liability accounts on the Balance Sheet for each Temporarily Restricted account showing the balance of these gifts. You can think of these liability accounts like you would the envelope method of budgeting. When a gift comes in for the Choral Scholar Fund, for instance, it is put in the Choral Scholar envelope. When we pay the Choral Scholars, we take that money out of that envelope. On the financial reports, you would see the money we spent on the very bottom of the income section of the Income and Expense Statement, under Release From Restriction, Temp Restricted Release.

Often times, the Temporarily Restricted Income will not be spent in the current fiscal year, so on the last page of the Income and Expense Statement, we show the Net Income/(Deficit) first, with the Temporarily Restricted Income, and then, less the Temporarily Restricted Income. This can give us a true picture of how we are performing against our General Operating Budget for the fiscal year.

#### WILLIAM BOOTH LEGAL AID CLINIC



Benefiting Impoverished Families and Veterans Throughout Metro Detroit

**At the Detroit Zoo on Saturday, May 11, 2024 at 8am**

#### ADMISSION

Adult Advanced Registration: \$40; Kids: Free!

Law Students: \$30; At the Door: \$45

#### PRICE INCLUDES

Zoo Entry, Parking, Gift, Entry for Door Prize, and Refreshments!

#### PLEDGES

A prize will be given to the walker with the highest pledge total. A pledge form is available on the website. Visit [walkforjustice.org](http://walkforjustice.org). For more information email [info@walkforjustice.org](mailto:info@walkforjustice.org) or call 313-361-6340.



SILENT AUCTION



FAMILY ACTIVITIES



PRIZES



ENTERTAINMENT





## HYGIENE KIT MISSION PROJECT

Join the Mission in Service committee **after the 10:30am service on Sunday, May 19** to pack hygiene kits for Church World Service. All ages are invited to pack the kits which will be sent to places and people in need, throughout the world. The Deacons are hosting coffee hour, so we can enjoy a cookie before we get packing!

## S.T.A.G.E. Youth Ministry

**M**iddle and high schoolers and friends are invited to our collaborative S.T.A.G.E. (Somewhere To Ask God Everything) youth ministry. Meetings are on select Sundays, from 4:30-6:30pm, unless otherwise specified. Questions? Contact Director, Jessica Gibbs, at [stageyouth@gmail.com](mailto:stageyouth@gmail.com). Scan the QR code below for more information.



### S.T.A.G.E. SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

**May 7** – Regular meeting at FPCRO

**May 18** – Flower Sale set-up and distribution at Greenfield Presbyterian Church

**June 4** – End of Year Picnic at FPCRO

**July 7-13** – High school mission trip to Mayfield, KY

**June 24-27** – F.R.O.G. *Friends Reaching Out for God*—Middle School Mission Week



## Refugee Co-Sponsor Team Celebration



### CELEBRATING WITH THE MOTAKHASIV FAMILY

After worship on April 14, a luncheon was held to give thanks for the refugee co-sponsorship with Samaritas. The Motahasiv family, along with the many volunteers who have helped out these past two years, attended the luncheon.

**Worship with us at 9 & 10:30 am,  
or online anytime at [www.fpcro.org](http://www.fpcro.org)**

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## May 2024 Special Dates

- May 5 • Drayton Presbyterian, 11am worship in Evans Chapel**
- May 5 • Sunburst Singers, 11:15am**
- May 10 • Women's Fellowship Group, 9:30am**
- May 11 • William Booth Legal Aid Clinic Walk for Justice, 8am**
- May 13 • Men's Fellowship Group, 7:30pm**
- May 18 • Buy Nothing event in FPCRO Parking Lot, 9am-12pm**
- May 18 • S.T.A.G.E. Flower Sale order pickup,  
Greenfield Presbyterian Church, 12pm-2pm**
- May 19 • Sunburst Singers, 11:15am**
- May 19 • Congregational Meeting to elect leaders**
- May 19 • Hygiene Kit mission project, after 10:30am worship**
- June 2 • Sunday Serenade concert, 2pm**
- June 7 • Women's Fellowship Group, 9:30am**