fpcro

From the Pastor's Desk...

Friends in Christ,

Last month, church staff and leaders attended an ALICE-based training led by Officer Joseph Yerke from the Royal Oak Police Department. There are lots of things about which pastors say, "seminary never prepared me for that!" Those usually involve unclogging toilets, removing animals from the church who shouldn't be there, or refereeing arguments



about the color of the carpet in the sanctuary. Thankfully, I have never had to do any of those at FPCRO. But yet, seminary also didn't prepare me to partake in an active shooter training as part of my pastoral responsibilities.

ALICE stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate. This training is a respected method for helping schools and places of business or worship think through and plan for the unthinkable—which in this case, involves the unlikely possibility of an active shooter in our building. No matter how unlikely, with a preschool and vulnerable populations often inside our doors, it seems prudent to increase our preparedness for such events. Yet as a Christian, I also have to put this training in conversation with my faith. I remember that no amount of planning and preparation ensures 100% safety. We entrust our whole lives to God and we believe in God's presence with us in all things. We seek to offer safety and protection to those in our care, while also balancing that approach with hospitality and welcome, especially to those very different from us. It's another time when it's important to think about what it looks like to follow in the way of Jesus—living out his love, mercy, and compassion—knowing that the answer is not clear-cut and will be slightly different for each of us.

Many of us came into the training with some hesitation. It's hard to talk about such a scary situation. Doing so often brings back memories of past shootings and the dread and horror we witnessed then, even just through our screens. For anyone who has children in their life, the thought also puts a pit in our stomachs because so much of the information shared has been learned through the devastation of school shootings.

I commend Officer Yerke for his compassionate, realistic, and helpful approach to the training. As a leader at the Royal Oak Salvation Army church, he understood the perspective of church communities in such training. We walked away with helpful information and a better understanding of how to act in the case of an emergency. I want you to know that church staff and volunteers took the information seriously and are working to implement changes and ideas that we learned. I also believe we are already very safe and that we do not need to live in fear. Here are some of our takeaways from the training:

- The necessity of a preparedness plan that details expectations, meeting points, and responses in the case of emergency. Work has begun on such a document.
- Our preschool classroom is quite safe due to the door locations and new types of locks recently installed.
- The importance of certain types of door locks, and economical ways of installing these in sensitive areas to increase safety.
- Taking seriously any situation that seems out of the norm. If something seems out of the ordinary, take precautions until you understand what is happening.
- Considering differences in managing adults versus children in emergencies, as well as those who might have mobility challenges.

Grace and peace, Pastor Emma

In-Person Worship

Sunday Worship:
9 am in Evans Chapel,
and 10:30 am in
the sanctuary.
(Masks are welcome,
but not required.)

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 prekindergarten through 5th grade begins after the Time with Children in worship at 10:30.

The nursery is open for infant-toddler care at 10:15 am.

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 preschool music director, afrieberg@fpcro.org Audrey Frieberg director of christian education, jjarrait@fpcro.org Joelle Jarrait church administrator, kperuski@fpcro.org Kari Peruski 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 child care provider, Hazumi Hagopian wedding coordinator, weddings@fpcro.org Ginny O'Brien newsletter editor Gretchen Hirsch

tenor Brady DelVecchio soprano Olivia Donnel soprano Audrey Frieberg

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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.

Congregational News

OF NOTE:

Deaths:

William "Bill" Roberts, September 16, 2022

Nancy Marsh, September 15, 2022

Barbara Luttrell, September 11, 2022

Shirley Cranbury, August 25, 2022

Are there any actions, habits, etc. that you've decided need to fall by the wayside as you've reflected on your star word?



FLOWER DEDICATION MINISTRY

A flower dedication is a wonderful way to glorify God and beautify our worship services. Dedications may be made in honor of or in memory of someone, in celebration of an anniversary or a milestone, or in thanksgiving for friends or family. The dedication will appear in the bulletin on the



Sunday of your choosing. Flower dedications are used in the chapel and sanctuary for the 9 and 10:30 am services.

To make a dedication, sign up on the Flower Dedication Chart in the hallway across from the reception area and complete a "Flower Dedication Card." Include a \$45 check made out to FPCRO with "flowers" on the memo line. Place the card and check in the Flower Donation basket at the reception desk. Questions? Contact Chris Klein (CKlein8000@live.com) or call 248-990-8586. Thank you for donating to this ministry.

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.

Memorial gifts were given in memory of Shirley Cranbury, Phyllis Hertler, Barbara Luttrell, and Pam Moultrup. A gift was given to the Technology Fund in honor of Greg Gillham.

REFORMATION SUNDAY • OCTOBER 30

Worship will highlight our "reformed and always reforming" spirit on this special Sunday. We will praise God for the history of our tradition and think about how it speaks to us anew today! At the 10:30 am service, join us as we welcome new members and hear a bagpiper who highlights our denomination's Scottish heritage.



SUNDAY MORNING USHERS

The friendship and welcoming nature of our congregation starts right at the door. Ushers are



an important "face" of the church and are often the first people seen upon arrival. Please consider becoming an usher this year at either the 9 or 10:30 am service. To become involved, sign up on the table in the Narthex, or contact Chris Klein (CKlein8000@live.com, or call 248 990 8586). Ushering adds just a few minutes to your Sunday morning worship time. Sign up today!

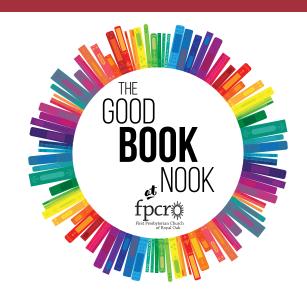


The Good Book Nook

GRAND OPENING IS OCTOBER 16!

Announcing the Good Book Nook — a special new spot for young kids and families. Preschoolers, early elementary students and their families will find a peaceful, comfy spot to explore stories at the Good Book Nook — a newly renovated space inside FPCRO. It's the perfect spot to bring babies and toddlers to explore the adventure of reading! The Good Book Nook will be open weekdays during church hours. For details, visit www.fpcro.org.

On **Sunday, October 16**, following the 10:30 am worship service, join us in the CE Lobby to celebrate the grand opening of The Good Book Nook. There will be cake to enjoy, so please plan to stay after worship and check out the new space!



Worship and Music

CELEBRATE WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY WITH BREADS AND SPREADS

On October 2, part of our celebration of World Communion Sunday will be a chance to enjoy tasty international breads. To top off the breads, there will be many choices of delicious spreads. Please join in for this special coffee hour on Sunday, October 2, 2022 after the 10:30 service.





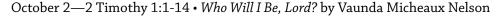
SUNBURST SINGERS KIDS' MUSIC PROGRAM

Our new kids' music program, Sunburst Singers, meets **11:30 am-12:15 pm** on the **First** and **Third Sunday of the month**. Kids from young preschool through 5th grade are welcome and invited! Questions? Contact Ms. Audrey or Pastor Emma. We can't wait to see you this fall!

Worship and Music

GOOD BOOKS AND THE GOOD BOOK

As we celebrate the grand opening of our new Good Book Nook for young children and families, our worship services in October will feature children's stories (some classics, some new-to-us tales) that help us understand God's story in the Bible. Children's books make many themes and ideas more approachable and help us relate to God's message. Join us at 9 am in Evans Chapel or 10:30 am in the Sanctuary October 2 through October 23 to enjoy a lot of good books!



October 9—Jesus Heal 10 Lepers, Luke 17:11-19 • *The Thank You Book* by Mo Willems

October 16—The Persistent Widow, Luke 18:1-8 • Are You My Mother? by P.D. Eastman

October 23—The Pharisee and the Tax Collector, Luke 18:9-14 • Better Than You by Trudy Ludwig



INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW...

I thought I would use this space to address questions that come to me from congregation members. It has been my experience that if one person has a question for me, chances are many have the same question.

Early in September, I played a Prelude whose title was listed in the bulletin as "Prelude on Slane." A congregation member recognized that it was a piece based on the hymn we know as "Be Thou My Vision" but wondered what the Slane in the title meant. Slane is the official name of the tune we use to sing "Be Thou My Vision." All hymn tunes have a tune name given to them by the composer or names added later by musicians or editors. The reason for this is many hymn texts were composed with no specific tune in mind, so it became the editor's

challenge to compliment the text with a tune for publication.



Texts and tunes of the same meter may be interchanged: As an example, sing the words to "Amazing Grace" tune name *New Britain*, to the tune we normally sing for "O God our Help in Ages Past" tune name *St. Anne*. This works because both of the texts and tunes are of the same meter.

The practice of naming hymn tunes developed to help identify a particular tune. Many tunes have a connection with the composer who wrote them such as "Go to Dark Gethsemane" tune name *Redhead*, because it was written by Richard Redhead. Some are named after a place such as "Jesus, Lover of My Soul" tune name *Aberystweth*, named after the city in Wales where Joseph Parry composed it. One of my favorite tune names is *Ton-Y-Botel*, a tune associated with the text "Once to Every Man and Nation," called so because of the legend that this tune was found in a bottle that washed ashore on the Welsh coast. Get it?: "tune in a bottle."

There are rare instances where the composer has written both text and tune such as "A Mighty Fortress." This hymn composed by Martin Luther bears the tune name *Ein Feste Burg*, German for A Mighty Fortress.

Knowing the name of a tune allows a musician to locate arrangements of hymn tunes in published sources outside of the hymn book for use as service music and anthems. The next time you open your hymnal look down to the bottom right corner of the page and there you will find its tune name and poetic meter. An excellent source to learn more about a specific hymn or hymns in general is **Hymnary.org**

Joseph Jackson, Director of Music Ministries

Stewardship

"SHOW AND TELL" • OCTOBER 30!

Do you like to knit or crochet? Maybe photography or genealogy is your passion. Or, you like to bake. Maybe you enjoy community theater, strategy board games, or playing bagpipes (yes, even bagpipes!).

On **Sunday, October 30** in Kirkman Fellowship Hall, immediately following our 10:30 am service, the Stewardship Committee will host a "Show and Tell." This event will provide time for our church family to share their skills, hobbies, talents, and passions—or anything you're 'into!' Sign up for a space to share what you do, find others in the church who do it also, and learn about members' hobbies and skills.

https://tinyurl.com/2fs47p7t

This time together will help us share, learn, and appreciate our church family. By knowing more about each other, we can more easily care about each other. When we care about our church family, we want the best for them and, by association, for our church that brings us together.



You don't have to be an expert at anything. You don't need any elaborate set-up or display, but you're invited to bring photos, examples or equipment, memorabilia, or a demonstration of your activity. Just sign up and share what makes you happy. And find others at church who do the same or other cool stuff.

To sign-up or ask a question, contact Karen Kline **kkline3628@gmail.com** or any Stewardship Committee member.

WHAT IS PER CAPITA?

This year our congregation pays a per capita amount of \$34 per member to the Presbyterian Church USA. The yearly payment is given to allow every church the ability to engage in shared activities as a presbytery, 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 donated to our individual church, but given to the larger church.

The per capita cost assigned to our church must be paid whether each of our members specifically designates a



payment for the cost of their per capita. When you pay for your per capita, that frees up budget dollars we can use to fulfill the mission of the Church. We are assigned per capita for each confirmed member we have on our books. When calculating your family's per capita donation, multiply \$34 by each confirmed member in your household.

Children's Ministry

DECORATE YOUR CAR FOR

TRUNK OR TREAT

Our Trunk or Treat is a great time to be with children in our community. To help make the event a success, we need decorated cars. Choose a fun theme for your car



and join us! Sign up at https://tinyurl.com/3vxzjvrs or call the church office. The event is at **5 pm on Friday**, October 21, and your theme can be as simple as you'd like it. Children will do a scavenger hunt at each car as they make their way through the line.

TRUNK OR TREAT CANDY DONATIONS!

Our exciting Trunk or Treat event is happening Friday, October 21. To help make the event a success, we need donations of candy. In the CE lobby you will find a kiddie pool just waiting to be filled. Our goal is to fill the pool so that we have enough to make over 200 goodie bags for the children who attend. We would appreciate all candy donations by Wednesday, October **12** to allow time to fill goodie bags. If you would like to make a monetary donation, you may include "trunk or treat" on your donation.





NURSERY NEWS

We are excited to announce our new Nursery Care Worker, Hazumi Hagopian. Zumi is a familiar face to us as she grew up here at FPCRO. She will be caring for our babies and toddlers during the 10:30 am worship service and occasional special services. Zumi graduated from high school this past spring and is attending Oakland Community College. Welcome Zumi!

Sunflowers Christian Preschool



fun new year of 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 school room and the playground is always fun on a sunny day.

October is fire safety month and keeping safe becomes a topic for our month.

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

Our hallway and classroom are being filled with beautiful artwork. We love displaying them to keep us in the fall mood. We still have openings in our class! If you are interested, please call us (248-541-0108 ext. 220) and come to visit. We would love to meet you.

Mrs. Gibson and Mrs. Heitchue

Evangelism and Communication

AN FPCRO PODCAST IS COMING!

The Evangelism and Communication committee was awarded funding from the 2022-2023 Earla B. Smith grant to produce a podcast for our church.

What is a podcast?

A podcast is like a radio show. It is a digital audio file that you download to your computer, phone, or tablet to listen to on your own schedule. Many podcasts come in a short series of six to eight episodes, released on a weekly or biweekly schedule. Most people access podcasts through their device on Apple Podcasts (a built-in app on Apple phones or iPads) or Spotify, for Android phone users. Other apps are also available where podcasts can be easily downloaded. Some people listen to podcasts while driving in the car, doing housework or gardening, or just while hanging out at home.

What will the FPCRO podcast be like?

Our podcast will be hosted by Pastor Emma and feature one on one interviews with church members, friends of the church, and others in our orbit whose compelling stories illustrate the way our congregation lives and talks about faith in God. Each episode will be around 30 minutes long. We plan to release eight episodes for this pilot season beginning in January 2023, with a new episode released every other week. We are still working on a name for the show.

Why is the church creating a podcast?

We want to offer our members additional faith-related content, which goes beyond worship and other in-person activities. We also want to demonstrate to folks looking for a church or those who are visiting with us, what we are about and how they might live out their faith among us. This is a way they can find out more about us on their own time in a way that is especially convenient for busy, younger generations. The podcast will not be about the church *per se*, but it will show how people like us live out their faith in the real world, especially through challenging experiences. We believe God calls us to proclaim good news and love, and to invite people into a life of faith. Using a newer media like podcasting is one other way we can tell the world about the goodness of Jesus Christ while inviting folks into a faith that asks questions, welcomes doubts, and isn't afraid of dealing with challenges.

Who is the intended audience for the podcast?

Current members, visitors, people in the community who are "church shopping," as well as folks we may never meet who are seeking a connection to spirituality in a way that makes sense in our modern world.

Who is involved with the podcast?

The Evangelism and Communication Committee has spearheaded the planning and contracted Community Marketing Revolution (formerly Michigan Podcast Productions) to help us with visioning, recording, editing, and marketing. Committee members are Linda Willemsen, chair, Jess Thorburn, Kevin Schnieders, Keith Weber, and Pastor Emma Nickel (ex officio). FPCRO members James Hanks and Kevin Ball also assisted in the planning process.

How will we share info about the podcast and how can I listen?

We will advertise our podcast at the church and through our media as the release date nears, including press releases to local media outlets. Word of mouth helps a lot, too! The podcast will be available on the FPCRO website, Apple podcasts/iTunes, Spotify, Stitcher, TuneIn, iHeartRadio, Google Podcasts, and Pandora.

Where are we in the development process right now? When should I expect to hear more about the podcast?

Currently, we are in the process of inviting guests onto the show and planning and recording interviews. Community Marketing Revolution is editing those interviews, and will be working with us to create a promo, select art and music for the show, and think through our marketing. Stay on the lookout over the next few months as we land on a name for the podcast and begin to release more details. If you have questions, contact one of the people named above or Pastor Emma. Even if you've never listened to a podcast before, we hope you will dive into something new in 2023 and give ours a listen!

Mission and Benevolence



DAYS FOR GIRLS CONGREGATIONAL MISSION EVENT

Sunday, October 9 • Sign up today to help girls and women around the world

Intergenerational mission helps us do good while spending time together. **After the 10:30 am service on Sunday, October 9**, we'll eat lunch (\$5 per adult; kids eat free) and then join together in service. Days for Girls creates

sustainable menstrual products for girls around the world, allowing them to attend school full-time and reclaim days they might otherwise have had to spend at home. We'll partner with the North Detroit chapter of Days for Girls to cut fabric and patterns, sew some pads and bags, and assemble kits to empower girls who receive these products. All folks—kids, and youth, are encouraged to participate!

We will collect items to stock the kits, too. **September 11 through October 9**, bring donations to the church of:

- **New 100% Cotton Washcloths** (Moderate in size, sturdy, colorful with good finished edges. Micro fiber is not suitable.)
- New 100% Cotton Underwear in Girl's sizes 12 & 14 (Colors and patterns preferred. No thongs or boy shorts.)
- New 100% Cotton Underwear in Women's sizes 6, 7 & 8 (Colors and patterns preferred. No thongs or boy shorts.)
- New Travel / Hotel-Size Bars of Soap (45g or smaller)
- 100% Cotton or Cotton Flannel Fabric to sew our washable pads (Bright colors and busy prints help hide stains and are well received. Military style/colored camouflage patterns, flag prints or prints showing religious symbols are not appropriate. Fabric for bags can be a cotton/polyester blend.)

Sign-up online or at the reception desk: https://tinyurl.com/bdfpdu2b

MISSION OPPORTUNITY WITH COMMON GROUND

Starting October 23 and going through November 20, we will continue to support Common Ground by holding a churchwide collection of household items to help young people to live in their first apartment. There will be opportunities to sign up to donate new items from toiletries to baking sheets to cleaning supplies, so that a young person's new apartment is well-stocked and offers a welcoming space to call home.

You may sign up to donate suggested items starting at Church on October 16, 2022. There will be an opportunity to sign up online for any remaining items shortly after October 16.



Mission and Benevolence

An enthusiastic group of members joined the Motakhasiv family for a trip through the Detroit Zoo on Sunday, September 11. The Motakhasivs were dropped off at the front where we all gathered to begin our safari. Children were given a small scavenger hunt that kept them engaged in finding zoo animals in their habitats. We believe our Afghan friends learned some English names of animals as they explored the Zoo. Penguins were a big hit, but the tigers and lions were the goal of Usman and Bilal. Bibi Hawa showed her hospitality once again by bringing her rice pressure cooker full of a delicious meal. She shared it with us as we took a bit of rest near the lions.

Thanks to everyone who helped out by driving, being welcoming, and making the outing fun for everyone!















THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who donated, and to the 16 walkers from our church who participated in the CROP Walk last Sunday. Of the funds raised, 25% will go locally to Zion Food Pantry in Ferndale and Beacon of Hope Food Pantry in Royal Oak. The other 75% will go to Church World Services to help people throughout the world. Again, thank you all for making this another successful event. Those in our community, and around the world who will receive food because of your generosity, thank you.





Mission and Benevolence

Turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, and dessert all make Thanksgiving special. Yet many people can't afford to buy food or don't have a way to prepare it.



Westminster Church of Detroit (17567 Hubbell) wants everyone to have a bountiful, hot Thanksgiving meal.

This year they will serve their 40th Thanksgiving dinner, making sure everyone can share in the bounty of Thanksgiving.

Each year, partner churches help make it a success, and we are grateful for the help!

Would you like to volunteer? If so, email **PKaye.Westminster@gmail.com** or call the dedicated Thanksgiving line at 313-341-2697 x 314 for more information. Volunteers are needed Monday-Wednesday for set-up, and on Thursday to serve, deliver meals, and clean up. The mission is using Signup Genius to organize volunteers and follow Covid-19 protocol. Church policy is that all people working on any program within the building must be vaccinated and wear a mask.

If you would like to make a monetary contribution, it would be welcome. Please make your check payable to **Westminster Church** and mark it "*Thanksgiving*." Any amount is a blessing. Thank you for helping to make their 40th annual Thanksgiving dinner to the community a success again this year! We are deeply thankful for your help.



Dawn Hicks, Chair, Westminster Church Mission Committee

Patricia Kaye, Westminster Church Mission Committee

Annual Notice to Electronic Givers

We want to thank you for your continued support to FPCRO. About 32% of our pledging congregation and 36% of all our pledge dollars, about \$181,100, will come in through electronic giving during 2021-2022. 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 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 previous business day.
- You can 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**.



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

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opportunities for all ages! serving • learning • growing









October Events at FPCRO — Mark Your Calendar!

Sunday, October 2 • Breads and Spreads at Coffee Hour

Sunburst Singers Kids' Music Program

Sunday, October 9 • Days for Girls Congregational Mission Event

Sunday, October 16 • New Member Class

• The Good Book Nook Grand Opening

• Sunburst Singers Kids' Music Program

Sunday, October 21 • Trunk or Treat, 5-6 pm

Sunday, October 23 · New Member Class

Sunday, October 30 · New Member Class

Show and Tell Stewardship Event