

Church Bell



fpcro

From the Pastor's Desk...

Friends,

Are you ready to dive into apple-picking, hearty soups, and pumpkin-spice everything as we look toward the fall season? Or are you clinging to sunscreen, porch-sitting, and high temps to squeeze the last few drops out of summer? As fall approaches, our congregation has renewed focus on connecting everyday life with meaningful faith and worship. My colleague in Louisville, Rev. Abbi Heimach-Snipes, pastor of Covenant Community Church, wrote this poem that expresses what she envisions the church to be when we're at our best. As we launch into this season, I'm remembering that FPCRO seeks to be that kind of place too.



Pastor Emma

Please can I have a church
That welcomes in all of me
The bags under my eyes
the wounds on my heart
My past and holy hopes

Please can I have a church
That wiggles with my children
Keeps my babies safe
And fights for their existence

Please can I have a church
That affirms my identities
From how I feel at home in my body
to the ways my body changes

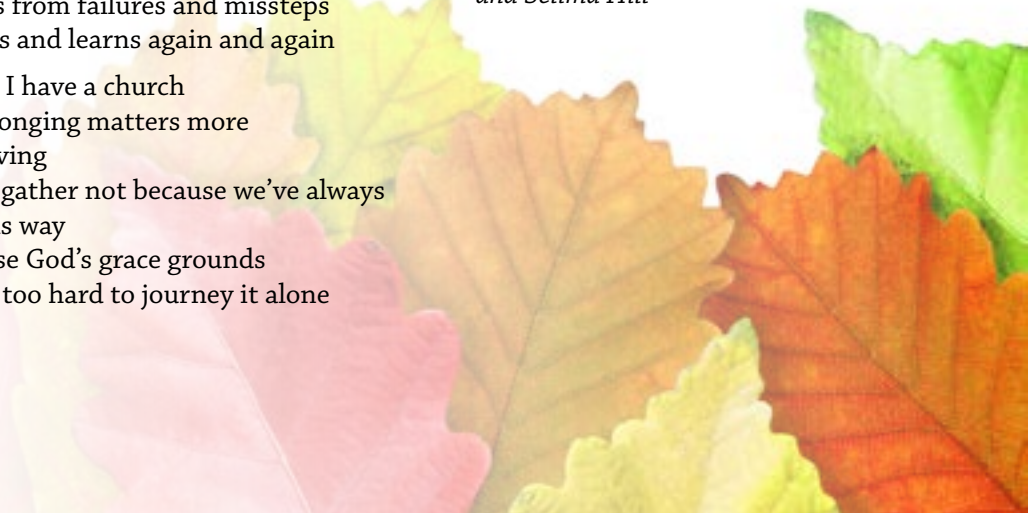
Please can I have a church
That takes risks for God's radical kin-dom
And learns from failures and missteps
And listens and learns again and again

Please can I have a church
Where belonging matters more
than believing
Where we gather not because we've always
done it this way
But because God's grace grounds
And life is too hard to journey it alone

Please can I have a church
That brings me closer to God's mystery
That holds all of my questions
And rarely gives definitive answers

Please can I have a church
Where I can learn and love
Play and cry
Dance and laugh
Shout and march
And know deep in my bones
That no matter what the politicians and
popstars say on any given day
God calls us beloved.

*Poem inspired by Christine Valters Painter
and Selima Hill*



In-Person Worship

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

Livestream Worship

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

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

our staff

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tenor **Brady DelVecchio**
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our soloists



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

IS YOUR INFO CURRENT?

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

STEPHEN MINISTRY

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



OF NOTE:

Deaths:

Lucille Smith, August 21, 2024
 Fern Barette, August 3, 2024
 George Cromer, May 30, 2024
 Lois Mosher, May 29, 2024



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



CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS RESUME

Chancel Choir returns to lead us in worship on Sunday, September 8. **Regular rehearsals will begin from 7:30-9pm on September 5** and we will be having a kick-off retreat at the church on September 7 from 10am-2pm to get a head start on some of our music for the year.



There is a wonderful African American spiritual "I'm Gonna Sing" whose text goes "I'm gonna sing when the Spirit says, sing, and obey the Spirit of the Lord." Maybe this is the year that you are being called to "obey the Spirit" and join us in Choir! We would love to have you join us. Kent Wattleworth or Joseph Jackson would love to speak with you about becoming a choir member.

MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Fellowship Group will re-convene on **Monday, September 9 at 7:30pm** at Bagger Dave's (2972 Coolidge) in Berkley. This is a change from our usual first Monday of the month due to Labor Day. Please join us, whether a newcomer or a regular, for some wide-ranging conversation. Contact Derek Helenberger or Matthew Nickel for more details.



memorials & gifts

Memorial gifts were given in memory of

Skip Eddy, Joyce King, Jean Lichtenberg, Lois Mosher, and Rev. Neeta Nichols.

A gift in celebration of Shirley Gillham's 90th Birthday was received.

FLU SHOTS

Get your flu shot before or after worship on **Sunday, September 8 from 9am-12pm**. This year, Kroger pharmacy will offer the shots for ages 3 and up. Bring your ID and insurance card. The flu shot for age 65+ will be available. The pharmacist will also be able to offer vaccines for RSV, pneumonia, COVID-19 and shingles for those who are eligible. Thanks to the Deacons for sponsoring this annual event! A registration form will be available soon.



NEW MEMBER CLASS October 6, 13, and 20

Classes meet Sundays from **9-10am** and conclude October 20 with breakfast and a brief Session meeting to receive new members. We'll welcome you in worship at 10:30am that day! Childcare is provided upon request. Please RSVP to Pastor Emma at enickel@fpcro.org or call the church office at (248) 541-0108.



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.



Congregational News

FACILITY IMPROVEMENT FORUM

After worship in the Fireside Room on **Sunday, September 15**, join us as we begin discerning what upgrades and updates our church facility requires for the years ahead and those we might also benefit from. Hear about the facility assessment that has been completed and possibilities for updates in the sanctuary, lobby, and/or other areas that would improve the spaces' function and hospitality. Childcare will be available in the nursery for young children.



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION AND CORPORATION

The annual meeting of the congregation and corporation will take place immediately following worship on **Sunday, September 29** in the sanctuary. We'll receive the Annual Report, hear brief updates from the pastor and leaders, and vote on the pastor's terms of call for the coming year. Members are encouraged to attend and visitors are also welcome to be present.



S.T.A.G.E. KICK-OFF PARTY

Our S.T.A.G.E. (Somewhere To Ask God Everything) Kick-Off Party is **September 15 at 4:30pm at FPCRO** and is open to all 6th grade through 12th grade youth. Bring a friend!

S.T.A.G.E. (Somewhere To Ask God Everything) is a collaborative youth group which strives to build lifelong relationships, impact the communities we live in, and learn about, and share the love of Christ!

Meetings, on select Sundays, are held at one of our collaborating churches. Join our newsletter by emailing stageyouth@gmail.com for all the details on our meetings, added service events during the year, and summer mission work!



SAVE THE DATE FOR 2025! BUY NOTHING FREE SALE EVENT

On **Saturday, April 26, 2025**, from **10am to 12pm**, FPCRO will host and participate in a **Buy Nothing Free Sale** in the FPCRO parking lot. Local residents and church members will be able to bring unwanted/unused items from their homes and gift them to others in the community. Think about what you may have to gift to others and put April 26, 2025 on your calendar. Contact Chris Klein (CKlein8000@live.com) if you have questions.



RISE AGAINST HUNGER—SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 12PM-2PM

Join us for the 3rd annual Rise Against Hunger meal-packing event after worship on **Sunday, September 22**. We'll have lunch in the Fireside Room and then proceed to Kirkman Fellowship Hall to pack 10,000 meals. This event has opportunities for all ages—kids through seniors! We especially need a few volunteers for set-up from 9am-10am and clean-up 2-2:30pm. The main event requires 50 volunteers and runs about **12pm-2pm**. Sign-up for all the shifts here: <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/FPCRO2024>



CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

CROP WALK IS SEPTEMBER 22

The 2024 Ferndale/Royal Oak CROP Hunger Walk is **Sunday, September 22**. Plan to arrive at **1:45pm at St. Luke's Episcopal Church**, 540 Lewiston, Ferndale. Plan to arrive early as street parking is limited. Walk start time is 2pm. Walk the "Golden Mile" or walk the full three-mile walk.

Hope Food Pantry. 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://tinyurl.com/y7fpaskb>. The funds raised will help people in our community and in places around the world to overcome the challenges of hunger and food insecurity. Questions? See Scott Rieck.

RETURNING HOPE TO RETURNING CITIZENS

A PROGRAM OF HERE TO HELP FOUNDATION

The **Here to Help Foundation** operates the **Returning Hope to Returning Citizens** program. Their success and reach continues to grow, as those exiting the prison system get back on their feet and become contributing citizens again. Their recidivism rate is extremely low and their founder, Bob Schwarz, is key to their success. FPCRO supports this outreach by inviting Bob and the organization to meet up with clients in our church parking lot six days per week. The Mission in Service Committee annually offers financial gifts to support their important work as well. Read their August newsletter by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/ywjbhm8c>

SCOTTY

In addition to the usual difficulties one returning from prison experiences, they often face more challenges in caring for a disabled family member. Scotty and his wife have been married

for nearly seven years, and half of that time he was in prison until just recently having been released. He returned to their home where he has the ongoing responsibility to take care of his wife who suffered a stroke and has many limitations.



It is a struggle for him to obtain a job given the time-consuming nature of the care he lovingly provides to his wife. He has a chauffeur's license, and we are connecting him with jobs to better accommodate his personal schedule.

Also, he's just 33 credits shy of completing his associates degree which he's working on completing. His plate is full, and we're trying to relieve some of that burden by getting him employed, etc. Scotty is devoted to caring for his wife in a gentle and dedicated manner. We are optimistic that after a job arises, we will be able to assist him with a vehicle which would make his life a lot easier!

Worship & Nurture

NEW MUSIC MINISTRY ROLE

Session and the Personnel Committee are excited to announce the creation of a new role in music ministry here at FPCRO: the Organ Scholar. Recognizing the success of our Choral Scholar program and embracing the teaching mind-set of our congregation and church staff, the Personnel Committee explored with Joseph the idea of bringing in an organ student to learn the intricacies of day-to-day life as an organist at a church. This would be hands-on learning experience for one student each academic year to gain instruction in topics that are not covered during formal music education. In exchange, the Organ Scholar would have access to our wonderful organ and play in services and with the choir on occasion. We're delighted to report that the proposal was met with resounding acceptance across the board and that we will be welcoming our First organ Scholar in September. The Organ Scholar position for the 2024-2025 year is being funded by the Earla B. Smith grant, which provides funds to FPCRO for new ministries with particular focus on music and Christian education.



~Jenn Muse, Personnel Committee



It is with great enthusiasm that I am able to introduce to you our Organ Scholar for this season, **Mr. John Etsell**. John is an extraordinary pianist and musician and joins us to learn more about the organ and church music. We are blessed to have someone of his caliber as our first Organ Scholar.

John currently works with Detroit Opera, The University of Michigan, and Adrian College, and has been a pianist and vocal coach at the Brancaleoni International Music Festival in Piobbico, Italy, and the Institute for Young Dramatic voices in Reno, Nevada. In addition to performing, John is also a passionate teacher, having taught at the Santa Barbara Music Conservatory and Adrian College. John holds degrees in Piano Performance from Oberlin Conservatory and the University of Nevada, Reno, and received his D.M.A. in Collaborative Piano at the University of Michigan, where he studied with Martin Katz.

~Joseph Jackson

LUNCH AND LEARN, “BARMEN DECLARATION: A STATUS CONFSSIONIS”

Sunday, October 13 • 11:30am-1pm

As the Nazi regime took shape, much of the German Church acquiesced to their brand of nationalism. A small minority of German Christians responded by writing a statement of faith called the Barmen Declaration, which is one of the historic confessions of faith of the Presbyterian Church (USA). This was a time when the integrity of the gospel's proclamation was at stake. A status confessions describes a time when the Christian who is faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ may have to lay his or her own life on the line.

The Worship & Nurture Committee invite all to lunch, and then to learn why the Barmen Declaration holds importance for Christians like us today. The Rev. Dr. Loren Scribner will present on this topic. Rev. Dr. Scribner is a retired PCUSA minister who, after a tour in the U.S. Navy at the age of 19, decided to study Christianity. He graduated from San Francisco Theological Seminary in 1966, served churches in Westland and Sturgis, Michigan. Longing to teach, in 1988 he accepted a teaching chaplain position at Schreiner University, a Presbyterian college in Kerrville, Texas. Loren worships at the Grosse Ile Presbyterian Church with his wife, Sharon.

Sign-up for lunch and the presentation by October 7. If you would like to have childcare during the presentation, contact Pastor Emma Nickel.



COULD YOU HOST A COFFEE HOUR?

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

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

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



RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The City of Royal Oak has contracted with Legal Aid and Defender Association (LADA) of Detroit to help low-to-moderate-income Royal Oak renters from being evicted for non-payment. Renters may be eligible for free financial assistance for unpaid rent, associated late fees, penalties, etc., dating back no more than three (3) months. Interested parties should contact LADA to inquire about their eligibility for rental assistance. Call Legal Aid & Defender Association at 248-554-1052 or email royal-oak@ladadetroit.org

FREE INCONTINENCE PRODUCTS

First United Methodist Church of Ferndale is offering adult incontinence products at no charge. Items are donated, and so may have been opened, but are resealed. If you, or someone you know, needs these items, drop by the First United Methodist Church of Ferndale located at: 22331 Woodward Ave., Monday through Thursday between 9am and 12pm. Questions? Call 248-545-4467 for help.

Reminder

FOR PARENTS:

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.

KICK OFF SUNDAY

Our fall season of Sunday school begins **September 8**. 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.



SUNBURST SINGERS

Our Sunburst Singers Program will begin **Sunday, September 15**. Children will receive a healthy snack in Sunday school. Immediately following Sunday school, they will join Ms. Audrey upstairs until 12:15pm. Sunburst Singers will meet on the **first and third Sunday of each month**.



PARENTS Night Out

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Are you looking for an opportunity to have an adult night out? On **Friday, October 4**, we are hosting a Parents' Night Out for our church families. Parents may drop off their children at the church between **6pm and 9pm**. Activities will include a movie and light snack. Nursery care will also be available for infants and toddlers. Please sign-up with Joelle Jarrait.

CONFIRMATION CLASS INFORMATION MEETING

Middle school students and their families are invited to an information meeting about Confirmation Classes after worship on **Sunday, October 6**. Learn what the confirmation process is about, ask questions, and help us plan a schedule for the coming year. Questions? Contact Pastor Emma Nickel.



VOLUNTEERS 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 volunteers to help with activities as well as 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 25 at 5pm**. Your theme can be as simple as you'd like it to be!



CANDY DONATIONS FOR TRUNK OR TREAT!

Our exciting Trunk or Treat event is happening Friday, October 25. To help make the event 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 that we have enough for over 200 children we expect to attend. **We would appreciate all candy donations by Sunday, October 13** to allow time for preparation. If you would like to make a monetary donation, you may include “trunk or treat” on your donation.



a Brainy breakfast

Add a smart start to your school day with **superfoods** that promote a healthy body and mind.

What you need:

- Large bowl
- 1 medium avocado
- 3 hard-boiled eggs
- Salt
- Whole wheat toast
- Pumpkin seeds, chopped
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Mash the avocado in the bowl.
2. Chop the eggs into cubes and add to the bowl.
3. Add salt to taste. Mix well.
4. Spread over two pieces of toast. Top with chopped pumpkin seeds.
5. Adjust this recipe with your favorite flavors. Add herbs, “everything bagel” seasoning or hot sauce.
6. Refrigerate leftovers in an airtight container.

PUZZLE

AMAZING ILLUMINATION

God grants us knowledge and understanding through his holy Word, which is like a flashlight.

Directions: Arrange the words from Psalm 119:105 (NIV) in order. Then unscramble the circled letters to complete James 1:5 (NIV).

PATH IS LIGHT WORD
YOUR A FEET
MY FOR LAMP A ON MY

Psalm 119:105, NIV

If any of you lacks _____, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. James 1:5, NIV

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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 3, where our three-year-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 4.

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



Annual Notice to Electronic Givers

We want to thank you for your continued support to FPCRO. **About 38% of our pledging congregation and 39% of all our pledge dollars, about \$215,600 will come in through electronic giving during 2024-25.** 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 can change, suspend, or terminate your electronic giving option by giving seven (7) 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.

“Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

—2 Corinthians 9:7



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

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

instagram: fpcro1914

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fpcro

Spirituality • Service • Sharing

find us on:



Fall Events at FPCRO — Mark Your Calendar!

Sept 3 • Sunflowers 3's Begin

Sept 4 • Sunflowers 4's Begin

**Sept 5 • Chancel Choir Weekly
Rehearsals Begin**

Sept 8 • Flu Shot Clinic

Sept 10 • Naomi-Ruth Circle

**Sept 15 • Facility Improvement
Forum after worship**

Sept 15 • Sunburst Singers

Sept 15 • S.T.A.G.E. Kick-Off Party

Sept 22 • CROP Hunger Walk

Sept 22 • Rise Against Hunger

Sept 29 • Annual Congregation Mtg

Oct 4 • Parents' Night Out Event

Oct 6 • New Member Class

Oct 6 • Sunburst Singers

**Oct 6 • Confirmation Class
Information Mtg**

Oct 13 • New Member Class

**Oct 13 • Lunch & Learn: Barmen
Declaration Presentation**

**Oct 20 • New Member Class/
Brunch/Welcome**

Oct 20 • Sunburst Singers

Oct 25 • Trunk or Treat Event