

THE MESSENGER

FIRESTONE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



OCTOBER 2022

THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR FRANCIE...



For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

In October, we witness a beautiful changing of the seasons – from summer to autumn. The leaves change color, the temperature gets cooler, and the air becomes more crisp. One of the great things about Ohio is that we experience all the different seasons: spring, summer, autumn, and winter. Most of us have a season we like the best and a season we like least. And within each season, there are parts that are good and parts that are not so good.

The same is true of the journey of life as a Christian. We experience more than four seasons in our life journey. From our first day of school to our first job to the addition of new family members and the loss of family members, we go through multiple seasons of life. Some seasons of life are mountaintop experiences, and some seasons of life involve going through deep valleys. Some seasons of life include growing, while other include waiting or loss.

In the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon lists some examples of seasons that we will experience:
a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. (Eccl. 3:2-8)

None of these seasons or experiences of life is wasted. God will use every season of life to draw us closer to God. God loves us and goes with us through each season. Every season of life has a purpose, and we can entrust all the seasons of our life to God. There is a time for everything.

Blessings, Francie

FPPC FINANCIAL REPORT

Due to unforeseen circumstances, there is no Financial Report for October. The next edition of the Messenger will contain the updated Financial Report.

MISSION AND COMMUNITY

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

Submitted by Kitty Johnson

"For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace." Isaiah 55:12

These strong words by the prophet Isaiah form the theme of this year's Peace and Global Witness Offering. During this Season of Peace, we are reminded that we are all connected, we are loved and we are not alone. "Christ's peace extends throughout all creation." Extending Christ's peace is an active part of our faith, one that reminds us that we are connected to each other.

The 25% of the offering that remains with us will be donated locally to South Street Ministries, a ministry and mission that has grown out of the many needs in the South Akron area and a commitment by Joe Tucker, Executive Director, and many others to address those needs and to provide both support and hope to many in the area. In a portion of a recent "Word on the Street" newsletter that was included in a recent Messenger, Joe addressed the many hurts and killings in Akron and stressed "love" throughout his comments. He is calling others to move to action to help to bring peace to many volatile situations in the area. He encourages us to "act in love, to lead with love, to say and share love."

There are many groups within South Street Ministries we have supported in the past: the Re-Entry Program, Rich Kids, Bike Shop, and many homeless in the area. With our contributions, we can continue to support these programs and Joe and those who work with him, who continue to offer hope and joy to our brothers and sisters in the South Akron community. As Joe urges in his article, "Pray for the steps to come within our city to bring justice, change, and peace." And so we will pray.

Please give as you can to this special mission. Envelopes are in the church, or you may mail a check to the church and write "Peace and Global Witness" on the memo line. Our offerings will be dedicated on Worldwide Communion Sunday; however, contributions will be accepted through the end of October. Through our donations to this special offering, we commit to building a more just and peaceful world. Let us remember that peace begins with each of us.

COMMUNITY BLESSING BOX

Submitted by Jona Rohrs, Community Blessing Box Coordinator

"Take what you need, Leave what you can"

The Presbyterian Hunger Program acknowledges Food Week of Action and World Food Day. Food Week of Action is October 10-17, 2022, with World Food Day recognized every October 16th.

As stated on the Presbyterian Mission website, **People and Planet First** is the theme of this year's Oct. 10-17 Food Week of Action. 'People and Planet First' mean prioritizing family farmers, fishers and others producing in harmony with nature – agroecologically – and achieving food sovereignty. As communities continue to face the pandemic and vulnerable food chains, we realize the necessity of building resilient agricultural systems that protect and cool the planet and put farmers and workers first. This year's Food Week will highlight groups and initiatives that are building an equitable and sustainable food systems, while also tackling the economic and racial drivers of hunger, poverty, and oppression.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program has invited congregations to share an event happening in October related to food, hunger, climate, or poverty.

To honor their request, on Saturday October 15, 2022, Firestone Park Presbyterian Church will sponsor a "Stock the Box" event from 9 to 11 a.m. with plans to reach out to the community seeking donations for the Blessing Box. We will use social media and the installation of a banner on South Firestone Blvd. to spread the word and do our part to help fight hunger. FPPC's and Firestone Community's Facebook page has a great following and will reach several people.

ACME CASH BACK PROGRAM

Submitted by Kitty Johnson

Hopefully, you are collecting your cash register receipts from Acme and placing them in one of the Acme bags, either at the northeast entrance to the church or on the table in the hallway by the offices. This year's Cash Back program began on August 4th and will end on December 24th.

As mentioned in the September Messenger, this year we will be donating our earnings to the **Blessing Box** for food and non-food items. It has been obvious that the need in the Firestone Park community is very great and will continue to be. Providing items is one way we can help our brothers and sisters locally. We can help by shopping at Acme and saving our receipts for the current Cash Back Program.

Here are the items that will count toward the program and from which we will earn **5%**:
Acme Food Club, TopCare, Simply Done, Full Circle, ValuTime, Wide Awake Coffee Co., Paws Happy Life, and Tippy Toes.

Please help to continue to support the **Blessing Box** by participating in the Acme Cash Back Program. Reaching out to your relatives and neighbors and letting them know how their Acme receipts will help the Firestone Park community is an additional way to support this important mission. We often say we are a "missional church." Providing help to our brothers and sisters in need in our community is one way we can show that we are.

DEDICATION OF LITTLE LIBRARIES

Submitted by Pastor Francie Fischer

In the fall of 2021, the Firestone Park Presbyterian Church worked with Councilman Donnie Kammer to obtain a grant for several projects, one of which was the installation of Little Libraries in 3 parks in the Firestone Park area. We received the grant near year-end 2021, and we purchased the material and made plans for installation this year. Church members painted each of the Little Libraries and purchased several hundred books to initially stock the libraries. The libraries were installed by Councilman Donnie, members of the Firestone Park Citizens Council, and other community members about a month ago. They have been open and available since that time. Their installation was dedicated on September 17, 2022. Below is the dedication and prayer that was read at the dedication service.



Dedication:

We are facing a growing literacy crisis. Today in the United States, more than 30 million adults cannot read or write above a third-grade level. Studies have repeatedly shown that books in the hands of children have a meaningful impact on improving literacy. The more books in or near the home, the more likely a child will learn and love to read.

May this Little Library increase the joy of reading by the children in our community.

The theme of the Little Libraries is "take a book, share a book." We celebrate that this Little Library is now one of over 150,000 Little Free Libraries spread across over 100 countries sharing over 70 million books annually.

May those who receive and share books from this Little Library know that others care about them.

This Little Free Library will provide access to books 7 days per week, 24 hours per day, and it is freely accessible to all, removing barriers to book access.

May this Little Library show love to our community.

We dedicate this Little Library, that all who take books and share books will benefit from it.

May God bless all who use this Little Library, and may this Little Library be a blessing to all who use it.

Prayer and Benediction

Dear God, we pray for those who worked to provide this library here at Firestone Park / Atwood-Galena Park / Heintz-Hillcrest Park. We pray for those who will receive books and those who will contribute books, that these books will increase the love of reading by the children in this community. Bless the children as they enjoy these books, and may these little libraries serve our community for many years into the future. Amen.

May we go in peace to love and serve God.

NOTE REGARDING THE FIRESTONE PARK LITTLE LIBRARY:

Unfortunately, the Little Library here at Firestone Park has been damaged, and we are in the process of getting it repaired. As soon as the repairs are completed, we will restock the library and put it back in service.



EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

THIS MONTH'S WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Here's the September/October Sunday worship schedule for you to clip and save:

All services are at 10:30 AM, alternating between the Allenside Presbyterian and Firestone Park Presbyterian buildings. Firestone Park is located at 275 S. Firestone Blvd. Services are also offered on Zoom.

- October 2: Allenside – World Communion Sunday
- October 9: Firestone Park
- October 16: Allenside, Organ Dedication
- October 23: Firestone Park
- October 30: Firestone Park
- November 6: Allenside, All Saints Sunday, Communion
- November 13: Firestone Park
- November 20: Allenside
- November 27: Firestone Park, First Sunday of Advent, Communion

To join our services by computer/tablet/smartphone, click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5118335841?pwd=Z3VFQktHYUINa1RoTEhGU2p2WTErdz09>

To join via phone:

Phone number: 1-646-558-8656 (this is a New York number- note it is not toll-free)

Meeting ID: 511 833 5841 (then key "#"), No participant ID (key "#"),

Password required: 4430144314 (then key "#")

OCTOBER BOOK CLUB

Submitted by Kitty Johnson

"Before We Were Yours" by Lisa Wingate is award-winning historical fiction based on the true scandal of Georgia Tann, whose Memphis adoption center kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families in 1939. It is a "polyvocal narrative that switches back and forth between two central characters to uncover the mystery behind the infamous Tann's illegal adoptions and trafficking." Lisa Wingate's book will remind us that how, "even though the paths we take can lead to many places, the heart never forgets where we belong."

SENIOR SAFETY SERIES AT THE YMCA

Submitted by Pastor Francie Fischer

Please see the attached flyer at the end of this edition of the Messenger for information about the Senior Safety Series. It is held Mondays from 10:30-11:15 at the Firestone Park YMCA. Learn about various topics such as protecting yourself from scams, healthy living, and technology.

FALL BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES

Submitted by Karen Babri

The Monday evening Zoom Bible study will continue throughout October to discuss John Pavlovitz's "If God Is Love Don't Be a Jerk". In this book from our own WJK Press, Pavlovitz explores how we can embrace the love of Christ more fully in the ways we treat one another.

The study meets at 7:00 pm on Monday evenings via Zoom and in Room 14 as needed. Please let Karen Babri or Jean Garrett know in advance if you plan to participate at church. Everyone is welcome to participate.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

ELDER NOMINATIONS

Submitted by Kari Phillips

It's that time of year again! Time to select two members to fill the Elder positions for the class of 2025. If you would like to submit a name to be considered, please either e-mail Kari at kariphillips57@yahoo.com or call/text her at 330-730-5983. Please remember submitting a name does not guarantee their election.

FIONA COUGLIN CONCERT

Submitted by Carolyn Duvall

Hope You Didn't Miss It! – Fiona Coughlin, Our Very Own Award-Winning Soloist, and Her Host of Music Stars Gave an Outstanding Performance!

Thanks to Fiona Coughlin who brought sunshine and beautiful music into the sanctuary at Allenside Presbyterian Church on Friday, September 2, when she and her choirmates from Firestone High School gave us a variety of works from show tunes and some of their personal favorites. Fiona treated us to "Poor Wandering One" from the Pirates of Penzance, "The Bird" and "Meet Me There."

Fiona's classmates displayed their musical and theatrical talents as well, as they sang with their expressions of inner emotion along with their melodious sounds ranging from deep, strong sounds to the lilt of soft, yet tender tones of the music. Allenside wants to express their sincere thanks to Fiona for showcasing the immense talents of Firestone High's musical organization and are extremely happy and fortunate to be the recipients of their ability to entertain.

Kudos goes out to:

Jackson Bird who sang "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" and "Johann." Talia Green, who lent her voice to the chorus of "Salmo" and "Ubi."



Kyle McFalls who sang "Freeze Your Brain" from Heathers: The Musical and "What Do I Need with Love" from Thoroughly Modern Millie

Austin Prince who sang "Money O!" and a German song by Mozart, "O Isis Und Osiris"

Those who participated freely in this wonderful concert, asked for voluntary donations for funding of the Menorah Park Foundation, a nursing home that provides both short-term rehabilitative services as well as long-term care services for adults as they age. Should you wish to donate, please send your donations to Menorah Park Foundation, 27100 Cedar Rd, Beachwood, OH 44122.

UNSUNG HEROES OF THE MONTH



We all know what the various FPPC committees do. But FPPC is full of unsung heroes who don't serve on a committee but use their time and talents to keep the church functional and interesting. This month, we're shining a spotlight on our Bulletin Board Creator – Chris Tilenni

Ever wonder who creates the eye-catching bulletin boards? Chris does. In fact she's quietly taken care of it for many years, using her crafty talents to make our hallways a little brighter. Thank you, Chris!

CONGRATULATIONS ON A NEW BABY

Submitted by Megan Eret

The Eret Family welcomed Bryce Anthony on September 9th, weighing 7lbs 8oz and 20in long. He is the great grandson of the late Mary and Adam Eret, nephew of Ann (Allenside church), Rick, and Laura and the cousin of Megan and Matt.

THANK YOU

Submitted by Elaine Izzi

To my dear church family,

I would like to thank you all for the many thoughts and prayers, hugs, gift card and cards during my brother Mitchell's fall, recovery and subsequent passing. I can't begin to put into words the emotions I have; my heart is so broken. We were barely recovering from my Mother's passing when this happened. Our family dynamic has changed so drastically in just a years' time! I know I will continue to heal with God's help. A special thank you to Pastor Francie for the beautiful service she performed for Mitchell. It so helped to add closure to his passing.

Love, Elaine





SENIOR SAFETY SERIES

EVERY MONDAY IN OCTOBER!

10:30-11:15 @ THE FIRESTONE PARK YMCA

With new seasons of life come new responsibilities and worries. Put your mind and your heart at ease with the Firestone Park YMCA's Senior Safety Series!

Every Monday in October, we'll be hosting a seminar on a variety of topics that will be most beneficial to the Seniors in our community.

SENIOR SAFETY SESSIONS & DATES

- 10/3 - Safety Against Scams - Learn how to protect yourself against common scams! Program by Tania Nemer, SCPO Outreach Prosecutor.
- 10/10 - Senior Self-Defense - Learn some basic self-defense skills to help keep you physically safe. Program by SCPO's Heaven DiMartino & John Galonski.
- 10/17 - Healthy Living - Take a demo of a Silver Sneakers class, learn if you qualify for a free Y membership through insurance, and get some exercising and nutrition tips.
- 10/24 - Asset Protection and "Clear the Clutter" - Magistrate Steve Elliott from SC Probate Court will give simple, free tools to protect your family, property, and heirs. Sara Eddy, local realtor, will give tips to help organize your belongings.
- 10/31- Technology Basics - Learn how to best utilize your devices! Bring your tablet or smartphone and we will assist you as needed.

Stop by for whatever session(s) you're interested in! Sessions are open to all members of our community--including non-YMCA members. Caregivers of seniors are also encouraged to attend!

QUESTIONS? CONTACT HAYLEY RAYL AT HAYLEYR@AKRONYMCA.ORG OR (330) 724-1255