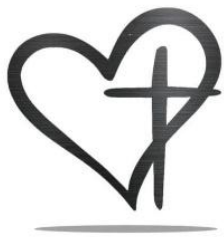


THE CONNECTION

a bi-monthly publication of the
ALLENSIDE & FIRESTONE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES



Dreaming Together ...

One of the greatest gifts of being a small church is that everyone matters. Every story, every idea, every hope, and even every concern has value. In larger churches, it's easy to feel like one voice gets lost. In our congregations, each voice can help shape the future.

As your pastor, I don't believe God is asking me to create a vision *for* us. I believe God is inviting us to discover it *together*. Through prayer, conversation, and listening to one another, we can discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us.

I hope you'll join this journey with an open heart and a willingness to dream. God isn't finished with our churches yet, and I can't wait to see what we discover together.

*Walking with you in faith,
Pastor Lisa*

ALLENSIDE COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Submitted by Barb Graham, APC

Allenside will not be hosting a Community Meeting in the month of August.

We notify all by e-mail when the meetings will resume. Thank you to all our friends and neighbors for the attendance. Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Per Capita 2026

Submitted by Kim Birk, APC

Per Capita is a way in which all of the nearly 10,000 congregations and mid councils of the Presbyterian Church connect, participate, and share in the work of the wider church. Per Capita is the primary source of funding for the Office of the General Assembly and is how Presbyterians mutually share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future. The Per Capita amount for 2026 is \$35.00. \$11.08 goes to the General Assembly PCUSA, \$3.40 to the Synod of the Covenant and \$20.52 to Eastminster Presbytery. Thank you to those who have already donated. Contributions will be received until the end of the year.

THANK YOU!

Community Blessing Box/Community Garden

Submitted by Jona Rohrs, FPPC

The blessing box continues to be an integral part of our primary local mission to our neighbors in need and to those who simply just want to give. The overwhelming support from our congregations and the community is incredible.

Social media --- *Firestone Park Community and Firestone Park Presbyterian Facebook pages* - -- has been a huge influence in spreading the word about the blessing box. Several times a week, people will post on Facebook they have put items in the blessing box. In response, some people will ask where it is located so they can help or it reminds people it still exists.

Every once in a while, we will post on our Facebook page specific goods we need and remind people they can order through our Amazon wish list. The link is

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/32SDXET14FJ27/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1.

A few weeks ago we posted we were in need of items such as peanut butter, chicken noodle soup and apple sauce, and within a few days, Amazon packages arrived at my house.

Unfortunately, this year we did not receive as much grant money from the city as in the past and our funds and backup supply of food is getting low. To supplement what we already have, we are doing a **"Blessing Box Drive"** seeking monetary donations or items as you are able. Items in need are hygiene products, peanut butter, jelly, instant mash potatoes, spaghetti noodles and sauce, chicken noodle soup, applesauce, baked beans, cereal, pancake mix and syrup to name a few. Megan Erath does a fantastic job shopping for items and can stretch a dollar.

There is a real need in our community and our blessing box continues to impact people's lives in ways we can't imagine.

Community Garden

Our community garden is coming along quite nicely. Thank goodness for all the rain we had to help with keeping the garden watered.

In 2025, we had great yield with our cucumbers, green beans, and peppers therefore continued with these vegetables.

Jona Rohrs

Community Blessing Box Coordinator

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Here is the August - September 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.

August 2, 2026	Allenside
August 9, 2026	Firestone Park
August 16, 2026	Allenside
August 23, 2026	Firestone Park
August 30, 2026	Allenside
September 6, 2026	Allenside
September 13, 2026	Firestone Park
September 20, 2026	Allenside
September 27, 2026	Firestone Park

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5118335841?pwd=Z3VFQktHYUlna1RoTEhGU2p2WTErdz09>

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 “#”)

Favorite Scripture Readings

Submitted by Pastor Lisa Zimmerman

Diane Cox has asked that Pastor Lisa collect favorite scriptures from members for her card ministry. Index cards are available at each church by the "Ask the Pastor" jar. Please write down your name and your favorite scripture, then place it in the "Ask the Pastor" jar.

Celebrate the Christmas Season with Music and Fellowship

Submitted by Laura Ereth, FPPC

Come join us for an evening of music featuring a mix of favorites and Christmas classics! Celebrate the joy of the Christmas season while enjoying an evening of music and fellowship.

Friday, December 11 at 7:00 PM

Ticket prices will be announced at a later date. If you have any questions, please see Laura Ereth.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

Allenside Elders on Session

Submitted by Treassa Cumpston, APC

Treassa Cumpston - Clerk of Session

Kim Birk - Mission

Becky Holden - Worship

Ann Wintrow - No set Committee

Firestone Park Session Members

Submitted by Judy Abdallah, FPPC

Session

Building & Grounds Liaison - Judy Abdallah
Clerk of Session - Judy Abdallah
Congregational Care - Julie Barden
Finance - Julie Barden
Mission Liaison to Allenside - Judy Abdallah
Nominating - Kari Phillips
Personnel - Kari Phillips
Safety - Steve Rohrs
Worship - Megan Ereth

Special Responsibilities

Blessing Box - Megan Ereth
Blessing Box - Jona Rohrs
Card Ministry - Diane Cox
Community Garden - Megan Ereth
Community Garden - Mark Oravec
Community Garden - Sherry Priest
Community Garden - Jona Rohrs
Communion Coordinator - Laura Ereth
Event Manager - Laura Ereth
Event Manager - Kari Phillips
Memorial Secretary - Goldie Ross
Music Liaison - Kari Phillips
Special Occasion Flowers - Megan Ereth
Treasurer - Sherry Priest
Website/Communications - Judy Abdallah
Zoom Coordinator - Megan Ereth

APRIL AND MAY BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

August Birthdays

18 – Matt Ereth, FPPC

September Birthdays

8 – Kim Birk, APC

10 – Larry Miller, APC

18 – Nathan Fast, APC

August Anniversaries

September Anniversaries

19 – Paul and Kim Birk, APC

27 – Wendy and Shelley Waecliff, APC



Loving Each Other

We are doing it! We are putting our faith into action when our members are struggling, need grief support or guidance, or are in the hospital, nursing home, rehab or are homebound! We are:

PRAYING

CALLING or TEXTING

SENDING CARDS

TAKING MEALS & SENDING RESTAURANT GIFT CARDS

OFFERING TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM DOCTOR APPOINTMENTS & ACTIVITIES

**VISITING MEMBERS IN HOSPITALS, NURSING HOMES, REHAB CENTERS, AND HOMES TO OFFER
SUPPORT AND COMPANIONSHIP**

PROVIDING SUPPORT AND RESOURCES FOR THOSE GRIEVING

This is truly a mission of love! God bless you all!

Kari Phillips, Elder, FPPC

We are creating and updating a birthday and anniversary list for Firestone Park. If you would like to share your birthdays/anniversaries, please email the church office at fppchurch@gmail.com.

**The next edition of The Connection will be the October/November edition. Deadline for submissions is September 20th.*