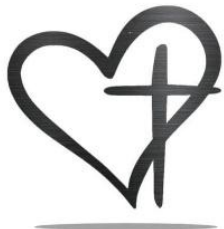


# THE CONNECTION

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



As summer settles in, life often invites us to slow down, even if just a little.

In that slower pace, we are given a gift we don't always take – the

opportunity to remember. In Psalm 77, the psalmist is overwhelmed, searching for God in the midst of struggle. Yet in that place, he makes a choice: "I will remember the deeds of the Lord"

Before anything changes around him, something changes within him. That same invitation is before us as a church. Before we focus on where God is leading us next, we pause to

remember where God has already been faithful. We remember moments of meaningful worship. We remember prayers offered – and prayers answered. We remember how we have

cared for each other in times of need. We remember the quiet ways God has been at work among us. And when we remember, we move forward differently. Remembering strengthens

our faith. It shifts our perspective. It reminds us that the God who has been faithful will continue to lead us. As we slow down for summer, I'm going to be asking that we reflect on our Church's

vision and direction. And as we do this, I want you to ask yourselves, "Where have I seen God at work?" Hold onto those moments, share them, and give thanks for them. We are blessed to

have God walking with us in every season. Trust Gods goodness and Trust Gods Leading.

*Blessings,  
Pastor Lisa*

### ALLENSIDE COMMUNITY MEETINGS

*Submitted by Kim Birk, APC*

On the third Tuesday of the month, Allenside hosts neighborhood meetings. The evening starts at 6:00 pm with a delicious dinner prepared by Barbara Graham and the ladies of the church. After dinner, around 6:30 pm, the program starts. If Ward 9 councilperson, Tina Boyes, is in attendance, she gives a breakdown of what's happening in the Kenmore, Allenside and Castle Home areas. Officer Jeff Smith gives updates on the Akron Police Department. The February speaker was Allison Martzolf representing Friends in Tents Community Outreach. The March speaker was Bridget Ambrisco from the Akron Parks Collaboration updating us on the work being done at Prentiss Park. In April we're having Megan from ACCES, a women and children emergency shelter located on W Market St in Akron. In May, Ryan from Tansy Recycling, (who lives in the Allenside neighborhood) will tell us all about how he makes artwork, jewelry, buttons, benches, etc. out of recyclable plastic. The June meeting will have Joe Kunsler from the City of Akron speaking on the Cargill pipeline project that will be starting this summer on Nesmith Lake Blvd. Because of these meetings, we've gotten to know quite a few of our church neighbors. Not only are Allenside neighborhood residents joining us, but we're also meeting residents from Kenmore and the Akron area. All are welcome to attend! It's an enjoyable evening eating dinner with neighbors and learning about organizations/programs in the Akron area.

### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING 2026

*Submitted by Kim Birk, APC*

What does the Lord require of you?.... to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The work done in support of the causes supported by OGHS – disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees – serves individuals and communities in need. This work provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Thank you for your generous donations received during Lent and dedicated on Easter Sunday. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. Firestone Park sent 70% of their donations to South St Ministries. Allenside sent their 70% to Open M. One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world! When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

## EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Here's the April - June 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.

<b>April 2, 2026</b>	<b>Allenside</b>
<b>April 5, 2026</b>	<b>Allenside</b>
<b>April 12, 2026</b>	<b>Firestone Park</b>
<b>April 19, 2026</b>	<b>Allenside</b>
<b>April 26, 2026</b>	<b>Firestone Park</b>
<b>May 3, 2026</b>	<b>Allenside</b>
<b>May 10, 2026</b>	<b>Firestone Park</b>
<b>May 17, 2026</b>	<b>Allenside</b>
<b>May 24, 2026</b>	<b>Firestone Park - Communion</b>
<b>May 31, 2026</b>	<b>Firestone Park</b>
<b>June 7, 2026</b>	<b>Allenside</b>
<b>June 14, 2026</b>	<b>Firestone Park</b>
<b>June 21, 2026</b>	<b>Allenside</b>
<b>June 28, 2026</b>	<b>Firestone Park</b>

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 “#”)

### LITURGIST TRAINING 2026

*Submitted by Pastor Lisa Zimmerman and Megan Ereth, FPCC*



Have you ever wanted to be a part of the Sunday worship? Megan and Becky are looking for liturgists. You can be the liturgist at either church. It doesn't matter the Sunday. Pastor Lisa will be having a class. If you have any questions or like to pick a Sunday. Please see either Megan or Becky.

Training is for all current liturgists and anyone who is interested in being a liturgist. Do you feel drawn to worship in a deeper way? Do you feel a sense of peace when you lead in prayer? Being a liturgist isn't about performance – it's about being a vessel. And remember, there's a difference between liking something and feeling called to it. Training dates are Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Allenside, after worship, and Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> (or 31<sup>st</sup>) at Firestone Park, after worship.

## T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST: CELEBRATING UNITY IN CHRIST

Submitted by Pastor Lisa Zimmerman

We are to invite members of both of our churches to participate in a special t-shirt design contest! As we continue to worship together in shared services, we celebrate the beautiful truth that while we remain two distinct church families, we are united as one body in Christ.

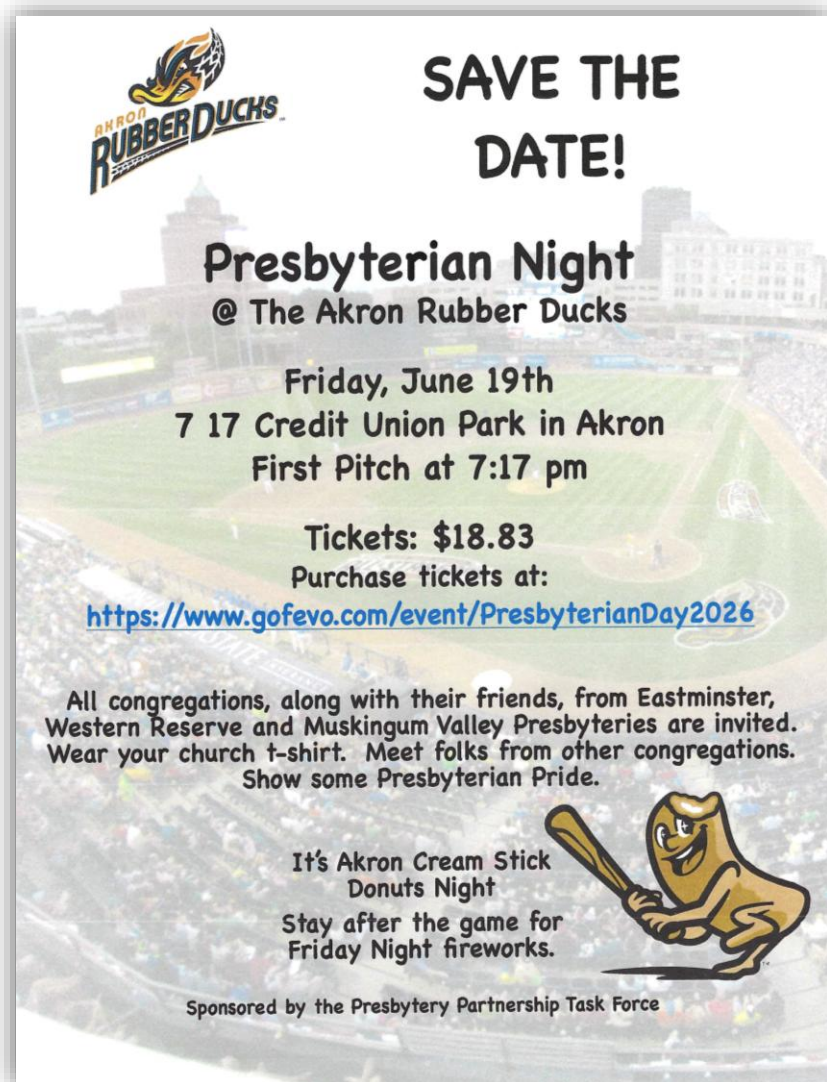
We are looking for a T-shirt design that reflects:

- Our shared worship and partnership
- The uniqueness of each church
- Our unity in Christ

Design Guidelines:

- Must represent both churches in some way
- Should reflect unity without losing individual identity
- Keep designs appropriate for church use

Submit your design to Pastor Lisa by Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. The winning design will be featured on a t-shirt for both congregations to wear to the Presbytery Night @ the Akron Rubber Ducks, Friday June 19<sup>th</sup>.



**AKRON RUBBER DUCKS**

# SAVE THE DATE!


## Presbytery Night @ The Akron Rubber Ducks

Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>  
7 17 Credit Union Park in Akron  
First Pitch at 7:17 pm

Tickets: \$18.83  
Purchase tickets at:  
<https://www.gofevo.com/event/PresbyterianDay2026>

All congregations, along with their friends, from Eastminster, Western Reserve and Muskingum Valley Presbyteries are invited. Wear your church t-shirt. Meet folks from other congregations. Show some Presbyterian Pride.

It's Akron Cream Stick Donuts Night  
Stay after the game for Friday Night fireworks.



Sponsored by the Presbytery Partnership Task Force

### ASK THE PASTOR

*Submitted by Pastor Lisa*

Have you ever had a question about faith, the Bible, or something you've always wondered but didn't know where to ask? Maybe you've heard something in a sermon that sparked your curiosity, or you've faced a real-life situation and wondered how your faith speaks into it. I'm excited to introduce a new opportunity just for that – Ask the Pastor.

Ask the Pastor is a new feature to create space for honest questions, thoughtful dialogue, and spiritual growth. Whether your question is big or small, theological or practical, this is a chance to explore your faith more deeply – together.

Here's how it works – you can submit questions anonymously or with your name attached. Selected questions may be answered in our monthly newsletter, where others can learn and reflect alongside you. Some questions may even inspire future sermon topics, especially if they speak to the heart of what many in our congregation are wondering.

Nothing is off limits – ask about Scripture, traditions, Christian living, current events, or anything else you'd like to better understand from a faith perspective. Look for a submission jar located at each church or email your question directly to me:

[pastorlisa.pcusa@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlisa.pcusa@gmail.com).

### MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

*Submitted by Treassa Cumpston, APC*

I wanted to thank everyone who participated and joined us for Maundy Thursday. It brings us back to the days before Christ was crucified, and helps us see and walk those days with Him. Including two pictures, one for the set-up and with the lights off. It is a new configuration for us, and those I talked to were moved by the service. Thanks again.



### HEARING AND VISION ASSISTANCE COMING SOON

*Submitted by Kari Phillips, FPPC*

A basket with hearing and vision aids will soon be available on the table with the offering plates at the Firestone Park building. Please feel free to use these resources during services. We hope they are helpful and allow us to better support those with vision and hearing challenges. Please return the items to the basket after worship so others may use them as well.



## PASTOR LISA'S TRIP TO VIRGINIA AND VIST WITH PASTOR AMY STARR-REDWINE

Submitted by Judy Abdallah, FPPC

Pastor Lisa recently attended a retreat in Richmond, Virginia where Pastor Amy Starr Redwine is Executive Pastor at First Presbyterian Church. Session asked Pastor Lisa if it was possible to take her a gift from FPPC, to let her know we've been praying for her and wish her well. Pastor Lisa was glad to do so and brought her an angel figurine. They had a nice visit. Pastor Lisa may have more details to tell you at some point.

### APRIL AND MAY BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

#### April Birthdays

- 15 – Carolyn Duvall, APC
- 16 – Chuck McBride, APC
- 25 – Bobby McBride, APC
- 25 – Cindy Dugan, APC
- 27 – Becky Holden, APC
- 28 – Megan Ereth, FPPC



#### May Birthdays

- 19 – Rick Ereth, FPPC

#### April Anniversaries

- 6 – Larry and Debby Miller, APC

#### May Anniversaries

- 10 – Chuck and Michele McBride, APC

We are working on 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](mailto:fppchurch@gmail.com).

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*\*The next edition of The Connection will be the June/July edition. Deadline for submissions is May 20th*