



THE CONNECTION

a monthly publication of the
ALLENSIDE & FIRESTONE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES

Welcome to our new combined newsletter "The Connection". First, I would like to make sure credit is given to Tara for coming up with such a fitting name! Even though Allenside and Firestone Park are two separate churches, you are connected. In a world that often emphasizes division, it's exciting to see both churches work together in worship and mission. Walking together in faith offers a powerful testament to the unity we have in Christ. Though you differ in many ways, you are bound together by a shared mission: to glorify God, serve your communities, and grow in discipleship. This connection is not about uniformity, but unity. Each church continues to maintain their identities and traditions, yet you recognize that the body of Christ is made stronger through collaboration and mutual support. I look forward to finding ways that both churches can continue to work together and still respect the importance of the churches' identities.

Jesus taught that family is a gift from God, meant to nurture love, faith, and support throughout life. Jesus also expanded the idea of family to include all who follow Jesus, creating a new kind of family – the church. In Matthew chapter 12, verses 49-50, Jesus points to His disciples and says, "Look, these are my mother and brothers. Anyone who does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother!"

When I first started with the church, I received the biggest hug from a member and she told me "You are part of our families now". Families are a source of strength and comfort during difficult times, and I have felt that strength and comfort when I was



dealing with my dad's illness and then his death. Your hugs, text messages, cards and prayers have surrounded me with love and compassion.

In both our biological families and our church families, God has given us a beautiful gift: people who walk beside us through every season of life. Whether we are celebrating joys or mourning losses, we are not meant to go through life alone. Just as Jesus redefined family to include all who follow Him, we are called to love, support, and strengthen one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank each of you. I am blessed to have each and every one of you in my life. And I am proud to say that I am your Pastor.

*Blessings,
Pastor Lisa*

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING

Submitted by Kim Birk, APC

For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need in our own country and around the world. In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People – all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From the initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

The OGHS offering was dedicated on Easter Sunday, but donations will be accepted until the end of April. Thank you for your support!

ALLENSIDE COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Submitted by Kim Birk, APC

Allenside's next Community Meeting will be May 20, 2025. Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM. At 6:30 PM, Judge Elinore Marsh Stormer or one of her Magistrates from the Summit County Probate Court will speak on wills and estate administration and of the importance of advanced directives. The court will show us how to make plans that best serve us and our families. They will also explain the importance and process of a guardianship for adults who need extra care due to decline in cognitive or physical abilities or those who are developmentally disabled. Hope to see everyone there!

WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Here's the May/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.

- **May 4: Allenside**
- **May 11: Firestone Park**
- **May 18: Allenside**
- **May 25: Firestone Park**
- **June 1: Allenside**
- **June 8: Firestone Park (Communion)**
- **June 15: Allenside (Communion)**
- **June 22: Firestone Park**
- **June 29: Firestone Park**

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 “#”)

CRAFT DAY AT FPPC

Submitted by Megan Ereth, FPPC

On Saturday, May 31st at 10am come and enjoy fellowship while we make faux stain glass pictures. We will provide the materials. We will have templates, but you can bring your own or do a free-hand design. All you need to do is bring any size picture frame and lunch to enjoy while we are painting.

Please let either Laura or Megan know by May 11th if you are able to come.

For an example of what we are doing, please see Megan.

FPPC COMMUNITY GARDEN

Submitted by Jona Rohrs, FPPC

On Saturday May 17, 2025 at 10:00 a.m., we will be planting our community garden. Rain date will be Sunday May 18th after worship. **All are welcome to participate.** Light refreshments will be served.

2024 was the first year for our garden. We learned a great deal and have adjusted for this year. We had great yield with our cucumbers, green beans, and peppers and will continue with these vegetables. We planted way too many tomatoes therefore we are changing the number of plants. We had much success with lettuce, onions and radishes however we noticed these veggies were not taken so we are eliminating them this year.

Thank you for all your support in this ministry to the community.

BROWN BAG LUNCHES AT FPPC

Submitted by Kari Phillips, FPPC

Members and friends of both Firestone Park and Allenside Presbyterian Churches are invited to the new Brown Bag Lunch program beginning May 25th. See below for more details

Let's Start A New FPPC Tradition!

BROWN BAG LUNCH

ENJOY FELLOWSHIP WITH YOUR CHURCH
FAMILY ON THE 4TH SUNDAY
OF EACH MONTH AFTER WORSHIP!



BRING YOUR LUNCH!
WE'LL PROVIDE COFFEE, TEA
AND HOT CHOCOLATE!

CEASELESS PRAYER INITIATIVE

Submitted by Kari Phillips, FPPC

Rejoice always, **pray without ceasing**,
 give thanks in all circumstances;
 for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - *English Standard Version*

While pray without ceasing does not mean constant verbal prayer, it emphasizes a constant state of prayerfulness, and a life lived in communion with God. It means that we put everything in God's hands. Our church family needs to stay close and be in prayer for one another. It is important to keep our church family in prayer as well as our own families.



To help us do this, we are mirroring what our Presbytery is doing by creating a rotating list of our and Allenside members to pray for each week. Members do not need to be sick. We will list members in the E-blasts and Orders of Worship. Just names will be listed. Our congregations need prayer now more than ever

Below, you will see a calendar with members' names. Please check the schedule each week to see the last name, check the Firestone Park and Allenside directories for all the family's names, and then pray. You might pray for the person/family to have perfect or improved health or that God be with them in whatever way is needed. Once all the people have been scheduled, we will start the list over. Thank you for being part of this wonderful ministry!

2025					
	FPPC	APC		FPPC	APC
MAY 4	ABDALLAH	BARTLETT	SEPTEMBER 7	PRIEST	WAECLIFF
MAY 11	BARDEN	BIRK	SEPTEMBER 14	PUCAK	WINTROW
MAY 18	CARLSON	COUGHLIN	SEPTEMBER 21	ROHRS	BARTLETT
MAY 25	COX	CUMPSTON	SEPTEMBER 28	ROSS	BIRK
JUNE 1	DOBBINS	DUGAN	OCTOBER 5	RUTAN	COUGHLIN
JUNE 8	DRAPER	DUVALL	OCTOBER 12	SHAW	CUMPSTON
JUNE 15	ERETH	FAST	OCTOBER 19	TILENNI	DUGAN
JUNE 22	FISCHER	GRAHAM	OCTOBER 26	WHEELER	DUVALL
JUNE 29	HUKILL	HOLDEN	NOVEMBER 2	WILCOX	FAST
JULY 6	IZZI	SHAW	NOVEMBER 2	WILSON	GRAHAM
JULY 13	JONES	KLEIZA	NOVEMBER 9	WILSON	HOLDEN
JULY 20	KANIOS	KORTZE	NOVEMBER 16	ZIMMERMAN	SHAW
JULY 27	LANCIANESE	McBRIDE	NOVEMBER 23	CUNNINGHAMS	KLEIZA
AUGUST 3	MIAMEN	MILLER	NOVEMBER 30	ABDALLAH	KORTZE
AUGUST 10	MUNRO	MITCHELL	DECEMBER 7	BARDEN	McBRIDE
AUGUST 17	PHILLIPS	POPIEL	DECEMBER 14	CARLSON	MILLER
AUGUST 24	NAROTSKI	ROBERTS	DECEMBER 21	COX	MITCHELL
AUGUST 31	ORAVECZ	SHEAFFER	DECEMBER 28	DOBBINS	POPIEL

LOVING EACH OTHER (LEO) – AN IN-HOUSE MISSION OF LOVE

Submitted by Kari Phillips, FPPC

The concept of caring for one another is rooted in biblical teaching, emphasizing compassion, empathy, and mutual support within the church.

Here are ways we can put our faith into action when our members are struggling, need grief support or guidance, or are in the hospital, nursing home or are homebound:



PRAY

CALL or TEXT

SEND CARDS

TAKE MEALS OR SEND RESTAURANT GIFT CARDS

OFFER TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM DOCTOR APPOINTMENTS

SPIRITUAL COUNSELING/PRAY WITH MEMBERS

VISIT MEMBERS IN HOSPITALS, NURSING HOMES, AND HOMES TO OFFER SUPPORT AND COMPANIONSHIP

PROVIDE SUPPORT AND RESOURCES FOR THOSE GRIEVING

Prayer-blast:

1. Much like an e-blast, if someone needs prayer (and requests to be placed on the Prayer-blast) either Tara, Judy or Lisa will send the Prayer-blast that same day.
2. Prayer requests will be posted as received and not just weekly.
*Before doing so, whoever is adding the person's name and request will need to confirm the exact wording and what the requestor is comfortable with being made public. For example, Mary Smith was diagnosed with breast cancer. Her request may simply be "prayers for Mary Smith as she undergoes treatment." Some folks are very private and may not want the nature of their illness or situation made public. If they would like, their name can be added to the Prayer-blast with nothing noted as to why.
3. Once I receive a Prayer-blast, I will ask Diane Cox to call the few members who do not receive e-mail to inform them.

How to request a Prayer-blast:

1. Either call the church voice mail (330-724-2740) or send an email to fppchurch@gmail.com
2. Leave the person's name (or your own) and circumstances leading up to the request (illness, death in the family etc.).
3. **BE SURE THE PERSON HAS GIVEN PERMISSION TO BE ON THE PRAYER-BLAST!**

Updated Directories will soon be available at both FPPC and APC to all members, so we have the correct information to send cards, make calls etc.

THANK YOU

Submitted by Chris and Frank Tilenni, FPPC

"Frank and I would like to thank everyone for all the prayers and cards Frank received during his recent illness and surgery. It was very comforting for us both to know that when we needed prayers and thoughts to hold us up, you all were there. It meant everything to us. Love, Chris and Frank"