

# THE MESSENGER

## FIRESTONE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



APRIL 2024

### THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR FRANCIE...



"After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said." (Matthew 28:1-6)

Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Easter is the most joyful day of the Christian year. It's the day when we commemorate the most joyful event of the Christian faith – that Jesus is risen, conquering the power of sin and death. We do not need to fear death or anything else.

For the first Christians, the importance of Jesus's resurrection led them to worship on the first day of the week (Sunday) instead of the seventh day of the week (Saturday). It gave them the courage to withstand persecution at the hands of the governing authorities. It led them to share all that they had with others, and eventually to start schools and hospitals as ways of showing God's love to everyone. We are the benefactors of an

amazing legacy of Christ-followers who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, have changed the world by their actions.

We are called to continue that legacy, to share God's love with everyone. By a kind word to someone who is discouraged, by providing food for those who are hungry, by visiting those who are sick or imprisoned – Jesus said that when we do these things for the least of these, it's as if we were doing it for Jesus.

One of my favorite songs is "Find us Faithful," written by Steve Green. The chorus says:

Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful  
May the fire of our devotion light their way  
May the footprints that we leave  
Lead them to believe  
And the lives we live inspire them to obey  
Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful

May our prayer at this Easter season be that "all who come behind us find us faithful."

*Blessings, Francie*

FPPC FINANCIAL REPORT

Submitted by Sherry Priest, Treasurer

\*NOTE: As there was no published March Messenger, there are 2 financial reports below – January 2024 and February 2024.

**As of January 31, 2024**

Our General Fund Income and Expense through January 31st is as follows:

	Total Income	Total Expense	Income Less Expense
Jan 31	\$9,994	\$5,283	\$4,710
YTD	\$9,994	\$5,283	\$4,710

As of January 31st, we had \$148,557.31 in the bank. Most of this money, or \$128,801.17 is in the General Fund.

Each year we collect Per Capita from each of our members. The Per Capita amount this year is \$32.50. That money is forwarded to the Presbytery for various uses. Please make a note with your contribution if you want to pay your Per Capita.

**As of February 29, 2024**

Our General Fund Income and Expense through January 31st is as follows:

	Contribution Income	Rental Income	Other Income	Total Income	Total Expense	Income Less Expense
Jan 31	\$3,838	\$6,055	\$101	\$9,994	\$5,283	\$4,710
Feb 29	\$6,002	\$3,900	\$328	\$10,230	\$5,678	\$4,551
YTD	\$9,840	\$9,955	\$428	\$20,223	\$10,962	\$9,261

As of February 29th, we had \$152,882.37 in the bank. Most of this money, or \$133,352.31 is in the General Fund. Please note that in both January and February, we had quite a bit of rental income. Both Prevail and the daycare paid multiple months in advance. In February, the Presbytery paid a full year of rent in advance.

At the request of session, I will now report income showing whether the money came from contributions, rent, or some other source. The other income category includes interest, investment income, and miscellaneous income.

Each year we collect Per Capita from each of our members. The Per Capita amount this year is \$32.50. That money is forwarded to the Presbytery for various uses. Please make a note with your contribution when you pay your Per Capita.

## MISSION AND COMMUNITY

### COMMUNITY BLESSING BOX

*Submitted by Jona Rohrs, Community Blessing Box Coordinator and Megan Ereth*

It is hard to believe we are entering our fifth year serving our neighbors with our community blessing box. Donations, whether from our congregations or the community, have far exceeded expectations.

The community has embraced this ministry with open arms. There are times a community member will post on Facebook the blessing box is empty and challenges the community to donate.

With all the donations from the community, items such as hygiene products (TP, toothpaste, bar soap, shampoo, etc.), canned fruit, applesauce, tuna and peanut butter are rarely donated. Therefore, these are the items Megan Ereth purchases with monies we have.

While out shopping over the next few weeks, please consider picking up an item or two. Donations of money are welcome as well.

Thank you for your continuous support.

### COMMUNITY GARDEN

*Submitted by Sherry Priest, Megan Ereth, Mark Oravez, & Jona Rohrs*

As we continue to "be the church" in our community, the Adaptive Innovative Ministry (AIM) committee has applied for and received grant monies from Presbytery to fund our community garden initiative.

In the next month, you will notice a few additions to our grounds. Four raised beds will be installed as well as a rain barrel. The produce from the community garden will complement our blessing box and the rain barrel will be used to help water the garden.

We are working with Diana Munro, a Firestone Park resident and *His & Her Landscaping* on the installation of the raised beds. In addition, *His & Her* will patch-up the grass in front of the blessing box. Sherry Priest worked with *Randy the Gardener* and was able to get the rain barrel donated along with the installation.

Diana was instrumental in the community garden project. Diana approached our church last year asking if we would be interested in such a project. Due to the timing of this discussion, it was decided to go with the grow bags and with a community garden in 2024.

Diana is a certified gardener and is very passionate for the betterment of the Firestone Park community and our church. Years back when her husband was laid off our church provided food and Christmas gifts in their time of need. She has never forgotten our generosity. As a note, on a weekly basis, Diana and her daughter fill our blessing box.

On Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup>, we will have a Community Garden Planting party. The fun starts at 11:00 a.m. with a rain date of Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup> at noon. We will provide seeds, plants, and light lunch.

Mark your calendars and plan to join us as we engage the community for this all important ministry.

# EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

## THIS MONTH'S WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Here's the April/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. Allenside Presbyterian is located at 410 Rexford St. Services are also offered on Zoom.

- **April 7: Allenside (410 Rexford St.)**
- **April 14: Firestone Park (275 S. Firestone Blvd.)**
- **April 21: Allenside**
- **April 28: Firestone Park**
- **May 5: Allenside**
- **May 12: Firestone Park**
- **May 19: Firestone Park (NOTE LOCATION CHANGE) – Pentecost – Communion**
- **May 26: Firestone Park**
- **June 2: Allenside**
- **June 9: Firestone Park**
- **June 16: Allenside (Pastor Francie's last Sunday) – Communion**
- **June 23: Firestone Park (General Presbyter Barry Chance preaching)**
- **June 30: Firestone Park (NOTE 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY LOCATION)**

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 "#")

PASTOR FRANCIE'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

*Submitted by Kari Phillips and Kim Birk*

# RETIREMENT CELEBRATION



JOIN US AS WE HONOR OUR BELOVED PASTOR

*Pastor Francie Fischer*

SUNDAY JUNE 16, WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:30 AM  
LUNCHEON AND PROGRAM TO FOLLOW AT NOON

~ at ~

ALLENSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
410 REXFORD STREET  
AKRON OH 44314

~ hosted by ~

ALLENSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
FIRESTONE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

~ rsvp by June 2 to ~

KIM BIRK at 330-603-4277 (kbirk495@gmail.com)  
KARI PHILLIPS at 330-730-5983 (kariphillip57@yahoo.com)



## Allenside Community Meetings Are Continuing!

by Carolyn Duvall, Elder, Allenside Presbyterian Church



The speaker at our Community Meeting on January 16 was Julie Carneal, CEO of Open M, who made a delightful and inspirational presentation on what their organization offers to the Kenmore community and beyond.

Despite the cold, we were very pleased to have so many community members come to hear how Open M has been such a blessing to all of us and what they have to offer to those in need of food, medical attention, dental care, a pharmacy as well as employment services.

Allenside Presbyterian has been aware of this organization for many years and helps to support their mission in the form of making hats (by our Mad Hatters), lap blankets and gifts of small teddy bears, dolls and Hot Wheel cars as Christmas gifts, in addition to our program of monetary donations to Feed the Need.

### **Their website clearly states their mission:**

**They provide pathways out of poverty for all by feeding the hungry, caring for the sick and strengthening the community.**

OPEN M is a Christian non-profit organization that serves more than 50,000 individuals annually with food, health and employment services—all intended to create pathways out of poverty. Located in the Summit Lake neighborhood of Akron, OPEN M leverages a community alliance of churches, businesses and more than 2,000 volunteers to offer programs to those in need residing in the Greater Akron Area and Summit County.

Should someone you know be in need of any of these services, you may contact them at their website:

<https://www.openm.org/> or give them a call on 330-434-0110

Allenside was delighted at the participation of so many and appreciative to have representatives of South Street Mission in attendance as well as our dedicated police officer, Jeff Smith. We all enjoyed our delicious light meal prepared by our illustrious cook, Barb Graham, and her wonderful volunteers. Some of the comments on the meal of ham and bean soup with cornbread, salad and cookies were described as “Amazing! That’s what they are!. Many people were able to avail themselves of the extra soup by having take-out leftovers. (Lucky people ... and I wasn’t one of them)

**Upcoming Meetings are at 6:00 PM at the Allenside Presbyterian Church,  
410 Rexford Street:**



**April 16 – Speaker: Park Ranger from the  
Summit County Metroparks**

**May 21 – Speaker: Mayor Shammias Malik**



### UPDATES ABOUT ALICIA AND ANDY

*Submitted by Pastor Francie Fischer*

We congratulate Alicia Hote and Andy Rambler for their successful performances in the Firestone High School play "Sponge Bob Square Pants." The pictures below are from the play.

We were also thrilled to learn that both Alicia and Andy have been selected to participate in special 2024 summer programs being held at the Juilliard School. We look forward to following their progress and recognizing their continued successes!



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*\*The next newsletter will be the May edition. Deadline for submissions is April 15<sup>th</sup>.*