

THE MESSENGER

FIRESTONE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



JUNE - JULY 2022

THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR FRANCIE...



Summer is upon us! As always we will alternate 10:30 AM Sunday worship between the FPPC building at 275 South Firestone Blvd. and the Allenside building at 410 Rexford Ave. Here's the Sunday worship schedule for June and July for you to clip and save:

June 5 - Firestone Park - Pentecost, Communion and a farewell reception for Robin and Gary Lancianese

June 12 - Allenside

June 19 - Allenside

June 26 - Firestone Park

July 3 - Allenside

July 10 - Firestone Park

July 17 - Allenside - Music Sunday! Email or call us with your favorite hymns by June 30th

July 24 - Firestone Park

July 31 - Allenside

To join the worship services by computer/tablet/smartphone, click the following link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5118335841?pwd=Z3VFQktHYUINa1RoTEhGU2p2WTErdz09>

To join via phone:

Phone Number: 1-646-558-8656 (New York)

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

PASSWORD REQUIRED: 4430144314 (then key "#")

This is not a toll-free number – if your phone service doesn't provide for free calling within the continental United States, you may be charged for this call.

Blessings, Francie

FPPC FINANCIAL REPORT

AS OF APRIL 30, 2022

Submitted by Sherry Priest, Treasurer

Our General Fund Income and Expense through April 30th is as follows:

	Total Income	Total Expense
Jan 31	\$8,411	\$4,822
Feb 28	\$3,385	\$10,610
Mar 31	\$13,986	\$7,529
Apr 30	\$6,073	\$4,508
YTD	\$31,855	\$27,469

As of April 30th, we have \$104,464.57 in the bank, of which \$85,202.92 is available in the General Fund.

Per Capita this year is \$32 per member. Please mark the memo line of your check. Thanks to those of you who have already paid your Per Capita.

MISSION AND COMMUNITY

AKRON COVID GRANT – LITTLE LIBRARIES

Submitted by Chris Tilenni

Our Little Libraries project is gearing up. We will be painting them soon. If you are interested in helping, please contact Frank. As soon as they are painted, we will be turning them over to Donnie Kammer for the city to install in the 3 parks. We have bookmarks with our church name and books for all 3 libraries ready to be stocked when they are installed.

BLESSING BOX

Submitted by Jona Rohrs, Blessing Box Coordinator

I came across this quote stating "When you feed others you are feeding Christ." Our blessing box continues to be a beacon of light in the Firestone Park community feeding those in need.

For the month of June, I would like to collect goods such as spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, jelly, applesauce, and canned fruit. For July, hygiene items such as toothpaste, deodorant, bar and hand soap, and laundry detergent. But by all means, we will take any donation given. I encourage you to look in the weekly paper and see what is on sale. It is amazing the deals listed.

The continued support from both the Firestone Park and Allenside churches and the community has been overwhelming. A heartfelt thank you is the least I can say.

THE "NEW" FRONT PORCH

Submitted by Kitty Johnson

The **Front Porch**, formerly known as The Front Porch Cafe, is now open for business again. The building is newly renovated, and South Street Ministries held its 25th anniversary celebration there recently. For those of you who have not been there recently, it is quite a change.

Although the cafe no longer serves breakfast and lunch, entrepreneurs Daniel and Bridget Weihe are renting space at the Front Porch and offering their new Porchlight Coffee, tea and some pastries. Here is what Joe Tucker, Executive Director of South Street Ministries, had to say about the new co-venture:

"Porchlight Coffee will not serve as an outreach of our ministry but rather an extension — a cooperation between two entities. Porchlight Coffee Co. will rent and operate in the Front Porch space to provide an amazing coffee experience, welcome and engage people from all walks of life, serve the community, and foster relationships."

As we continue to support South Street Ministries through our prayers, and monetary and tangible contributions to their various programs, we now have another opportunity to show our support by stopping by for a hot or cold beverage and some conversation with friends. And, you can even purchase a bag of the Porchlight Coffee to enjoy.

Be sure to check out the South Street newsletter "Word on the Street" on-line each month to keep informed about all the happenings at the **Front Porch**.

NESSL UPDATE – MORE GIFTS OF HOPE

Submitted by Karen Babri

In 2016 Firestone Park Presbyterian Church along with other congregations in the Eastminster Presbytery began supporting the efforts of the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon to help educate and feed Syrian refugee children. FPPC has walked faithfully in this effort each summer by raising funds to continue to support NESSL in its outreach to this community.

Earlier this year we were privileged to have our missionaries, the Reverends Elmarie and Scott Parker lead us in worship via Zoom. They also updated us on conditions in the region. They have recently returned to Beirut and have found conditions to be have deteriorated while they were away for a few months ago. Inflation has gotten worse. Scott reports that a single apple now costs a dollar. Lebanese families are struggling to feed themselves. Our continued support is needed and makes a difference.



During the months of June and July the Mission Committee is sponsoring a campaign to raise money to provide Gifts of Hope for NESSL. You may want to save your change throughout that time or write a check at the end of the campaign. If you decide to write a check, please put NESSL or Gifts of Hope in the memo line. Envelopes for this offering may be found near the collection plates at the back of the sanctuary.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

ANNUAL PORTHOUSE THEATER OUTING

Submitted by Laura Ereth

Come and join us for a fun afternoon at Porthouse Theater while we watch GODSPELL. Show time is SUNDAY JULY 10th 2022 @ 2:00 p.m. Cost is \$30.00 per person & includes a spot in the pavilion where we can eat & drink before the show!! (Yes...we can bring alcohol!!)

Cash or checks...made out to either Laura Ereth or Megan Ereth. All reservations must be made by Sunday, June 26th Any questions...please contact either Laura or Megan Ereth!!

FAMILY FUN WALK

Submitted by Judy Abdallah

Mike Pokorosky, who generously supports our Christmas Families program each year, creates a charity event each summer which in some way benefits children. This year, it is a Family Fun Walk at Quail Hollow on May 22nd, from 10 AM to 2 PM. All proceeds will benefit "Wishes Can Happen" an organization which fulfills the wishes of seriously ill children. Donate whatever you wish and you'll be entered into a raffle to win one of many nice prizes donated by local businesses. Some of those include rounds of golf at area courses, certificates for several very nice restaurants and many others. There will be prizes and games for kids as well.

You do not have to be present for the walk or raffle. If you want to participate in the walk, no sign up is needed – just meet at the pond parking lot, rain or shine. If you do not want to attend, but would like to enter the raffle by donating any amount, call Mike at 330-644-3251 or Judy Abdallah, for raffle tickets.

SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

Submitted by Karen Babri

A summer Bible study will be held at 7:00 PM on Monday evenings (6/6, 6/13, 6/20, 6/27, 7/11, 7/18, 7/25, 8/1, 8/8 and 8/15) in Room 14 using Adam Hamilton's DVD study on the Ten Commandments, Words of Life. Participants' book is \$15.00, payable to the church.

REV. DR. PAUL FISCHER'S CONCERT

Pastor Francie's brother, the Rev. Dr. Paul Fischer, is having a concert of his music on Sunday, June 12th, at 5 PM, at the Allenside Church building. Paul has been writing music for over 30 years. All of the music/lyrics to be performed at the concert were written by him. Performers will include Olivia Roberts and Fiona Coughlin.

At the concert, songs written specifically in honor of the Firestone Park Church and the Allenside Church will be performed for the first time. "Church in the Park" was written for the Firestone Park Church, and "O Church, Sing Praise to God" was written for the Allenside Church. A reception will be held after the concert. Please attend the concert, and please invite your friends to join you!

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Submitted by Chris Tilenni

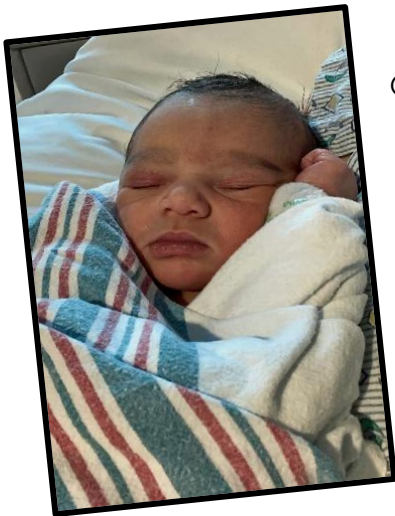
We are currently concentrating on our outdoor areas. We hope to spruce up the Boulevard side of the building. Our goal is to be a more inviting church and neighbor. We are working on the lawn and flower beds. Last year, we got the gutters cleaned, the trees trimmed, and the windows repaired. We need to bring in dirt and mulch the beds, buy flowers for the pots, replace the faucet handles, weed and feed the lawn and fix a few broken items.

We are looking for perennials if you are dividing them. We want to purchase annuals. We will be working on Francie's porch area. We plan to fix some brick work on the parking lot side by the Blessing Box and fix the rails on the stairs. There is a lot of outside work to be done! More than 2 people can do.

If you are able to help out with something or want to contribute to the flowers, mulch, and dirt; please mark your donation "project good neighbor". Or please talk to Chris Tilenni.

We will be putting a list of jobs that need done on the bulletin board. Please check it out at your leisure.

A NEW MEMBER OF THE FPPC FAMILY!



Our FPPC family grew this past month when Kavaughn Wheeler Jr. was born on May 12th! Kavaughn is the son of Kavaughn and Julie Rohrs Wheeler, brother to big sister Sydney Wheeler and grandson of Steve and Jona Rohrs.

Congratulations, everyone!

SHINING THE SPOTLIGHT

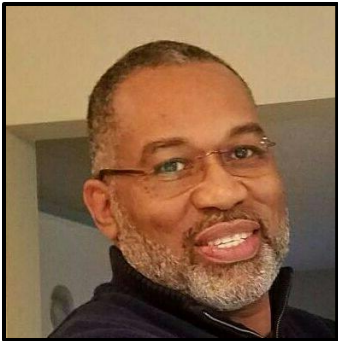
FPPC is full of unsung heroes who don't serve on a committee but use their time and talents to keep the church functional and interesting. This month, we're shining a spotlight on our Zoom Worship Coordinator, Megan Ereth.

Megan is in charge of setting up, operating and maintaining all of the new Zoom equipment in the sanctuary. In addition, she is a newly ordained elder, handles special occasion sanctuary flowers and is active in planning Fellowship events. She's here, there and everywhere. Thanks, Megan, for all you do!

PREVAIL CHURCH

Submitted by Judy Abdallah

This past month, a lease was signed to share the sanctuary and other portions of the building with Prevail Church, which is lead by Pastor Michael Murphy. Prevail was formerly known as New Harmony Worship Center in Jackson Township and is a community and mission-oriented congregation. They felt called to come back to Akron where they can better fulfill their mission.



At present, Pastor Mike and the leadership of the church is doing foundational work and marketing before they begin worship services. They anticipate worship services to begin around July. On the Sundays we worship in the FPPC building, they will worship in Fellowship Hall. On the Sundays we are at Allenside they will worship in the sanctuary.

STRATEGY DOCUMENT

Submitted by the Strategy Team

Session has approved the final revision of the strategy document which will serve as a guide for the church leadership as we plan for the future. We are enclosing a copy of the document at the back of this newsletter for you to keep as a reference.

The Strategy Team has already accomplished one of their goals – to share the sanctuary with another congregation to generate income.

They are now concentrating on 1) researching available grants which would make it possible for FPPC to hire a community liaison and 2) remodeling the back of the sanctuary to make it suitable for small meetings, bible studies as well as coffee hours.

2021 WORSHIP REPORT

Submitted by Arline Hukill

Arline's Worship report was inadvertently omitted from the 2021 Annual Report which was distributed in February at the Annual Congregational Meeting. It is included at the back of this newsletter if you wish to attach it to your copy of the report.

HYMNS OF THE HEART

Submitted by Megan Ereth

On the fourth Sunday of each month we will do Hymns of the Heart music. By the second Sunday of the month, please submit your favorite hymns to sing. Please choose a hymn from the FPPC hymn book. You can suggest more than one song and you can keep adding to your suggestions monthly. You can pick up a request form at the entrances, next to the Orders of Worship. Just fill it out and drop your selection in the box in the front pew. You can also email Megan Ereth at megan.ereth@gmail.com or call her at 330-256-8798 and give her your selections. If you don't know the page number or hymn number, that's OK, we will find it.



FIRESTONE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STRATEGY

Vision Statement: *Grow in Spirit and Make Christ Known*

Strategy: *As a missional congregation, we will strive to bring the love and peace of Christ to our congregation, our community and beyond. We intend to:*

Building:

- Stay in the building for as long as we can; maximize the use of the building as well
- PLANS:
 - Investigate opportunities to increase rental income and retain our current tenants
 - Prepare for the future, by starting now to evaluate creative options for sharing/selling/leaving the building

Community Outreach:

- Increase our involvement and become more relevant to the community
- PLANS:
 - Research/seek grants for hiring a community liaison
 - Work with other churches/schools/organizations in the area (Presbyterian and others)
 - Work with city officials
 - Consider "rebranding" our church (new name?)

Mission:

- Continue mission involvement while reassessing and looking for new opportunities
- PLANS:
 - Expand the Blessing Box to include a "Communications Center" (devotionals, posters, announcements, small community chalkboard)
 - Research/seek grants to fund current and new mission projects

Worship:

- Worship jointly with Allenside and with others beyond our congregation
- PLANS:
 - Work with other churches to have joint worship services (Ash Wednesday, Akron-wide services, etc)
 - Offer our church services to other congregations if their pastor is away
 - Continue our annual Tadmor outdoor services
 - Reach out to Firestone Park schools to add to our worship services (music, drama, etc)

Christian Education:

- Reassess and revitalize our Christian Education program
- PLANS:
 - Ask others outside our congregation to facilitate Bible studies at our building or online
 - Join in Bible studies offered by other churches (in person and online)
 - Evaluate participating in a program such as “Adult Bible Fellowship” (ABF)
 - Reinstitute Pastor's Studies

Fellowship:

- Reassess and revitalize our fellowship opportunities
- PLANS:
 - Redesign the back of the sanctuary to enhance fellowship and create a more inviting space
 - Poll the congregation about the best ways to provide fellowship opportunities

Congregational Care:

- Adapt our methods of congregational care to conform to the changing needs of our congregants
- PLANS:
 - Continue the periodic “care packages” process
 - Assess and help with technology to make worship and congregational activities more inclusive

WORSHIP

Submitted by Arline Hukill, Moderator

In the year 2021, the Firestone Park Presbyterian Church was still experiencing the effects of the Covid virus pandemic. All Sunday worship services were held jointly with Allenside Presbyterian Church. We were blessed to have a pastor and people from both churches who were internet skilled for planning ZOOM worship services and meetings. All morning services started at 10:30 am. We were pleased to have Fiona as soloist during worship.

Thank you so much to our many members who were liturgists during morning worship. This is so very much appreciated. Thank you also to those that helped with other necessary worship services such as communion preparers and servers, greeters, etc.

Thank you to guest pastors and speakers during Pastor Francie's vacation times and study leave. We welcomed members of the New Covenant Church to our worship a couple times while their pastor was on vacation. The Sacrament of Holy Communion was observed 13 times.

During the year 2021, some special worship services were observed which included Prayer Partners, Pet Blessing, dedication of Community Blessing Box, worship at Tadmor Temple with North Springfield and New Covenant churches, Thanksgiving Prayer Service led by Karen Babri, and a special sermon series titled Our Congregation Past, Present and Future, reflecting on how God is at work in our community and in our congregations. On February 17, Ash Wednesday service was observed with use of a shes brought to our homes because of the Covid virus.

We appreciate any ideas that the congregation may add to worship. Many thanks to Pastor Francie for all she has done to make worship a vibrant experience in the year 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Arline Hukill