

THE MESSENGER

FIRESTONE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



NOVEMBER 2023

THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR FRANCIE...



“O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.
who alone does great wonders, for his steadfast love endures forever;
who by understanding made the heavens, for his steadfast love endures forever;
who spread out the earth on the waters, for his steadfast love endures forever;
who made the great lights, for his steadfast love endures forever;
the sun to rule over the day, for his steadfast love endures forever;
the moon and stars to rule over the night, for his steadfast love endures forever;
who struck Egypt through their firstborn, for his steadfast love endures forever;
and brought Israel out from among them, for his steadfast love endures forever;
who divided the Red Sea in two, for his steadfast love endures forever;
and made Israel pass through the midst of it, for his steadfast love endures forever;
who led his people through the wilderness, for his steadfast love endures forever;
It is he who remembered us in our low estate, for his steadfast love endures forever;
and rescued us from our foes, for his steadfast love endures forever;
who gives food to all flesh, for his steadfast love endures forever.
O give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.”
(Psalm 136, selected verses)

Psalm 136 includes 26 verses that list ways in which God demonstrates steadfast love, and every verse ends with the phrase “for his steadfast loves endures forever”. It may appear to be overly repetitious, but the writer of the Psalm wants to show readers repeatedly how God’s love is always present. One by one, the psalm lists the details of the many ways – big and small – that show God’s love.

This month we will celebrate Thanksgiving, and it’s important for us to remember our thankfulness to God for our blessings. Just as the Psalmist was able to list numerous ways in which God’s love had been demonstrated to him, we can also list numerous ways in which God’s love has been demonstrated to us. Using the examples given in Psalm 136, we can reflect on ways that God has provided for us, brought us through wilderness experiences, delivered us in times of trouble, and made sure that our needs were met. We can reflect on the wonders of the universe and our world that God created for us.

During this Thanksgiving season, may we remember to thank God for God’s enduring love in our lives. May God bless us with better memories of all the many ways God has loved us.

Blessings, Francie

FPPC FINANCIAL REPORT

Submitted by Sherry Priest, Treasurer

FPPC Financial Report

As of September 30, 2023

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

	Total Income	Total Expense	Income Less Expense
Jan 31	\$11,176	\$4,871	\$6,305
Feb 28	\$10,623	\$4,676	\$5,946
Mar 31	\$9,708	\$8,157	\$1,551
Apr 30	\$5,193	\$3,785	\$3,592
May 31	\$14,863	\$40,534	(\$25,670)
Jun 30	\$10,391	\$7,046	\$3,344
Jul 31	\$4,183	\$5,638	(\$1,456)
Aug 31	\$10,256	\$5,632	\$4,625
Sep 30	\$3,821	\$4,715	(\$894)
YTD	\$83,176	\$85,294	(\$2,118)

As of September 30th, we had \$133,343.18 in the bank. Most of this money, or \$117,069.24 is in the General Fund. As you can see, money is tight but we are holding our own. Please continue to donate what you can.

COMMUNITY BLESSING BOX

Submitted by Jona Rohrs, Community Blessing Box Coordinator

“Take what you need, Leave what you can”

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

We continue to seek new ways to engage you as well as the community in our efforts to “stock the box”. An Amazon account has been setup with of “Wish List” of items we continually need.

Here's the link anyone can use to order items:

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

The link was communicated to the public via our Firestone Park Facebook page and immediately people started ordering items. The items shipped directly to Jona's house.

With the winter months just around the corner, I would like to stock up on soup, crackers and hot chocolate. Donations of money are welcome as well.

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

THIS MONTH'S WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Here's the November/December 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.

- **November 5: Allenside (All Saints Day, communion)**
- **November 12: Firestone Park (Eastminster General Presbyter / Stated Clerk Barry Chance is preaching), coffee hour after worship**
- **November 19: Allenside**
- **November 26: Firestone Park (First Sunday of Advent, Communion)**
- **December 3: Allenside (Second Sunday of Advent)**
- **December 10: Firestone Park (Third Sunday of Advent)**
- **December 17: Allenside (Fourth Sunday of Advent, communion)**
- **December 24: No Sunday Morning Service**
- **December 24, 7:00 PM – Firestone Park Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service (Special Music at 7:00 PM, service begins at 7:30 PM)**
- **December 24, 10:00 PM – Allenside Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

Special Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve this year is on a Sunday, and the sessions of both the Allenside and Firestone Park Churches have voted to adjust our worship schedule in a couple of ways.

We are celebrating the Sundays of Advent a week earlier than most churches, although Advent will begin on the Sunday after Thanksgiving like we usually do it.

We will not have a worship service on Sunday morning, December 24, because we want to focus on our Christmas Eve services that evening.

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 "#")

DECEMBER BOOK CLUB SELECTION

Submitted by Kitty Johnson

Skipping Christmas in Holly Crescent

Ever thought about skipping the hustle and bustle of Christmas? The protagonists of Skipping Christmas in Holly Crescent by Linzi Carlisle do. When none of their children can come home for Christmas, Mary and Archie decide to just have a quiet day at home. Their son is off on a Christmas vacation to Thailand; their actress daughter is doing the holiday party circuit; and their other daughter is busy with her boyfriend. Mary and Archie have a kind and generous spirit and end up helping strangers and neighbors. All the story plot lines come together on Christmas Day.

The November meeting of the FPPC book club will be in person. Stay tuned to the e-blast for more information on the date and place.

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY – ALLENSIDE AND FIRESTONE PARK INVITED!

Submitted by Barb Graham

Join Us on Tuesday November 28th at 6pm at the Canal Grille in Canal Fulton. We will order from the regular menu (separate checks). All women (friends, family, etc.) are invited to attend this dinner. Reservations are required – please notify Barb Graham (330-745-2242) or Becky Holden (330-882-3054) by November 18th. There will be a \$10 gift exchange if you would like to participate (not required).

Canal Grille
200 Locust St
Canal Fulton, OH

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Submitted by Pastor Francie Fischer

- **Saturday, November 11, 7 PM, Allenside Church building** – Fall Concert by Alicia and Fiona
- **Monday, November 20, 7:00 PM** – Baldwin Wallace Vocal Performance Showcase featuring Fiona Coughlin, to be held at Fynette Kulas Music Hall, Boesel Musical Arts Center, 49 Seminary St., Berea, OH 44017
- **Tuesday, November 21, 7:00 PM, Firestone High School, 470 Castle Blvd.,** – Firestone High School Winter Concert (featuring Alicia Hotes)
- **Tuesday, November 28, 6:00 PM** – Women's Christmas Dinner at Canal Grille. All women are invited – please RSVP to Barb Graham or Becky Holden.
- **Saturday, December 2, 3:00 PM** – Baldwin Wallace Holiday Concert (featuring Fiona Coughlin), Gamble Auditorium, Kulas Musical Arts Building, 96 Front St. Berea, OH
- **Saturday, December 2, 4-6 PM** – Firestone Park Holiday Tree Lighting event at the Firestone Park Presbyterian Church (tree lighting will take place at the tree in the park)
- **Saturday, December 2, 7 PM**, St. Paul's Catholic Church – Firestone Park Community Christmas Concert

- **Tuesday, December 5, 6 PM** – Allenside Community Meeting at the Allenside Presbyterian Church – speaker will be Tina Boyes, candidate for Ward 9 Council person
- **Friday, December 8. 7:30 PM** - Holiday Pops with the Akron Symphony at EJ Thomas Hall (Alicia will be singing with the symphony chorus) – see attached order form.
- **Sunday, December 10, 4-6 PM** – Annual Church Christmas Party at Guy's Party Center. Join us for our annual Christmas party, which will include entertainment by the Firestone High School Madrigal Singers (including our own Alicia Hotes) and a visit from Santa Claus. Please contact Pastor Francie or the church office to let us know of children (names, ages) so Santa can be ready!

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

AROUND THE BUILDING

Submitted by Judy Abdallah

- A new janitorial company will be starting this month. Cleaning will take place a few days prior to the Sundays we have services in the FPPC building.
- A task force is studying the feasibility of replacing the boiler.
- The insurance carrier has been switched from Church Mutual to Mennonite Mutual in an effort to keep costs at the same level.
- Two railings will be installed on the sanctuary steps.

**The next newsletter will be the December edition. Deadline for submissions is November 15th.*

Holiday Pops
With the Akron Symphony

Friday Dec 8th, 2023

7:30pm

E.J Thomas Hall

198 Hill St

Akron 44325

Join us, in evening of fellowship, while listening to the Akron Symphony, playing, and singing holiday music.

Don't miss the merriest concert of the year! Sing along to your favorite holiday tunes, enjoy dazzling musical performances, and create magical memories this holiday season with the Akron Symphony and a very special guest all the way from the North Pole!

Tickets are \$16 per person.

Please let Megan E know by Sunday Nov 12th

Checks can be payable to Megan Erath.

Any questions, please feel free to see either Laura or Megan Erath.

Name: _____

___ # of tickets at \$16.00 Total\$ _____