

THE MESSENGER

FIRESTONE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



June-July 2023

THOUGHTS FROM REV. FRANCIE...



Psalm 96:1 O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

² Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

³ Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

⁴ For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.

⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

⁶ Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

⁸ Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.

⁹ Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

¹⁰ Say among the nations, "The LORD is king! The world is firmly established;

it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity."

¹¹ Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

¹² let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD

Summer is a season of beauty. Trees and flowers, longer days, and times of rest and relaxation – all of these help us see the many ways God has blessed us. We are told in the scripture that during God's act of creation, God saw that it was very good. We have been given this good earth to appreciate and enjoy. During the summertime, the wonder of creation is especially evident.

Psalm 96 reminds us of the importance of expressing our gratitude to God for everything that we have received. It is a blessing to our souls to take time to say "thank you," because it helps us to look beyond ourselves, to The One who is greater than us. Making a list of our blessings prompts us to experience joy and hope. Our God, who has blessed us in the past, will be with us and will bless us in the future.

There are some fun activities planned for the summer, and you may read about them in this issue of the Messenger. May we all have a joyful summer!

Blessings, Rev. Francie

FPPC FINANCIAL REPORT

Submitted by Sherry Priest, Treasurer

FPPC Financial Report

As of April 30, 2023

Our General Fund Income and Expense through April 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 |
| YTD | \$31,506 | \$17,704 | \$12,802 |

As of March 31st, we have \$155,202.96 in the bank, of which \$134,467.11 is available in the General Fund. We are currently operating in the black.

Per Capita this year is \$32.50 per member. Please mark the memo line of your check. Thanks to those of you who have already paid your Per Capita.

I have noticed that many of you are writing separate checks for General Fund, Per Capita, Blessing Box, etc. It is OK to write one check. Just tell us how you would like your contribution broken down on the memo line of your check. If the memo line is blank, we assume your contribution is for the General Fund.

Sherry Priest, Treasurer

MISSION AND COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY BLESSING BOX

Submitted by Jona Rohrs, Community Blessing Box Coordinator

"Take what you need, Leave what you can"

On Saturday, May 20th, we held another *Stock the Box* event. We publicized it to the community by a large banner and through various Firestone Park area Facebook groups.

During the summer, we're emphasizing donations of mac 'n cheese, spaghetti sauce, pasta and Chef Boyardee products as well as soap, shampoo and toothpaste. If you can't get out to shop, monetary donations are always appreciated. Thank you for your continued support!

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Submitted by Jona Rohrs

Diana Munro, a resident of Firestone Park for several years, approached our church asking if we wanted to participate in a community garden. Diana participated in a class this past March and is now a Certified Community Gardener. Rev. Francie, Sherry Priest, Jona Rohrs, Megan Ereth and Deb Rutan met with Diana in April to listen to her ideas. We decided to move forward with a Community Garden.



Diana applied and received grant monies from Let's Grow Akron with a portion of the monies to be used towards our garden. With the grant monies, she purchased 8-10 lb. grow bags (pictured left) from Amazon. She already has seeds. Plans are to plant potatoes, carrots, radishes, peppers, cucumbers and onions. Diana received a donation of garden tools from Crown Point Ecology Center and soil from another company. We will be planting our garden the afternoon of Saturday, May 27th. The resulting produce will be put in our blessing box.

In addition to our garden, Diana is working with the Firestone Park Library and the Firestone Park YMCA on their community gardens. The library will have 4 raised beds and will involve the children in the planting. The YMCA will have 2 raised beds and 1 flower garden. They have a food pantry which they will stock with their produce. A portion of the monies received from Let's Grow Akron will be used to offset costs for the library and YMCA. Exciting times for our church and community!

BLESSING BOX UPGRADE

Submitted by Pastor Francie

Our Blessing Box has been expanded! We've added the shelving on the right for fresh fruits and vegetables. The fruits and vegetables shown in this picture were all donated by neighbors and friends of our church. Much of our food comes from our neighbors and friends, and we are very grateful that the community is helping us to provide food for those in need.



ADAPTIVE INNOVATIVE MINISTRY (AIM) PROGRAM

Submitted by Megan Erth

Jona Rohrs, Sherry Priest, Pastor Francie and I have been involved with AIM, a program that is being hosted by Pittsburgh Seminary. Each month we have been receiving homework to complete before our next meeting. The idea behind that is to get us out into the community. Back in February, a handful of members assisted us with one of our assignments, making up a mad lib game. Out of that, the feedback was about Aster Ave. Back in April we met with Jonas Birch, the owner of Walk in the Park Cafe. He shared information about his Aster Ave business, and mentioned the different businesses that are also in that strip of Aster Ave. He also shared his concerns about the grade school closing and the many unsupervised children in the area after school hours. We will be having more conversations with our neighbors as the summer progresses. Stay tuned!

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

PORTHOUSE THEATER

Submitted by Laura Erth

Our annual outing to Porthouse Theater is planned for Sunday, July 9th at 2:00 PM to see *The Marvelous Wonderettes*. The cost for the show and pre-show picnic is \$32.00. Please call Megan (330-256-8798) or me ((330-285-5207) for reservations or if you have questions.

THIS MONTH'S WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Here's the June-July worship schedule for you to clip and save:

All services are at 10:30 AM unless otherwise indicated, and on Zoom:

June 04: Allenside, 410 Rexford Street

June 11: Firestone Park, 275 S. Firestone Boulevard

June 18: Allenside; celebration of Fiona Coughlin featuring her favorite music and a celebration of her high school graduation

June 25: Firestone Park

July 2: Allenside

July 9: Firestone Park

July 16: Allenside – Music Sunday

July 23: Firestone Park

July 30 (5th Sunday): Firestone Park

August 6: Allenside

August 13: Firestone Park

August 20: Allenside

August 27: 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*

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

PASSWORD REQUIRED: 4430144314 (then key "#")

**This is a New York City number, 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.*

ALLENSIDE COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

Submitted by Pastor Francie

Join our friends at Allenside Presbyterian Church on Saturday, July 15, noon to 3:00 PM for a community festival which will be held in the front yard of the church at 410 Rexford Street. Come enjoy food and fellowship as we celebrate summer. There will be music and fun for all ages including games and activities for the kids!

2023 ADULT MUSIC CAMP/PAUL FISCHER CONCERT

Submitted by Rev. Francie

Adult Music Camp at Allenside Presbyterian, 410 Rexford Street – July 10-13, 6-8 PM

Second Annual Paul Fischer Concert at Allenside Presbyterian – Friday, July 14, 7 PM

Olivia Roberts is leading an Adult Music Camp again this summer, July 10-13, from 6-8 PM at Allenside Presbyterian. The camp will be a collaboration with Paul Fischer, as the entire concert will feature his music sung by the Music Camp Choir, Olivia Roberts and an additional soloist. To register for the camp, click on this link: <https://forms.gle/aT6arZRbctvFthRE8> or scan the QR code on the next page.

If you have any questions, or if you need a paper copy of the registration form, please contact Rev. Francie.



MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

Submitted by North Springfield Presbyterian Church

Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to North Springfield Presbyterian Church, 671 Canton Road, Akron, the morning of May 29 for a different kind of Memorial Day observance. Join us from 8 to 10 a.m. for a free pancake and sausage breakfast in the Social Hall. At 11:00 a.m. we will gather in the Sanctuary for a special service. The special service will mark the bicentennial of our Ellet Cemetery. It will include prayers, sing-along national hymns, special readings, a meditation, and a tolling of our steeple bell. Special music includes the hymn tune *Chester* which would have been heard by the three Revolutionary War veterans in Ellet Cemetery. Between breakfast and the service, visitors will be encouraged to walk the Cemetery and find the graves of local notables including Minnie Ellet and John C. Ritzman. Special markers and a "History Hunt" list will be provided. Though the breakfast is free, voluntary donations will be accepted toward our Raise the Lift Campaign. The event will be held rain or shine.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

RUTAN PRAYER GARDEN

Submitted by Pastor Francie

Remember the outdoor bench that we bought in honor of the 100th Anniversary of our congregation in 2017? Elder Deb Rutan will be leading our effort to create a "prayer garden". The exact name is still to be determined, but it is being built using funds from the Moss Rutan Memorial Fund. The bench will be installed as part of the garden. We hope it will be a place of rest and refreshment for those who enjoy walking near our church.