

Calendar

AI Anon:
September 7, 14, 21, 29

Communion Sunday:
September 3

Back Row Boys, 9am @ Iron Kettle:
September 6

Men's Group @ Fox Run, 9am:
September 2, 16

Ms. Bridget's Sprouts, 10:30am:
September 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27

CE Meeting:
September 21, 6pm

Deacon Meeting:
September 26, 7pm

PNC Meeting:
September 7, 7pm

Presbyterian Women Meeting:
September 16th, 11am following service

Session Meeting:
September 18, 6:30pm

Worship Committee Meeting:
September 19, 7pm

Pastor Carl's Message

Apparently there's an actual esport for Excel. The Financial Modeling World Cup is holding qualifier tournaments leading to the championship in Las Vegas this fall. Yes, this is a real thing with geeks on ESPN, and they are crazy good. Never thought I'd see that. You might never have envisioned yourself lighting candles for the worship service, or serving goodies in the Assembly Room afterwards. You might never have imagined handing out bulletins and greeting people, or counting the offering and tabulating the numbers after church. Some people might see such participation and think, "Why aren't the designated people doing their job?", but the fact is that vibrant congregations have very high volunteer involvement. Thriving congregations have more participants than actual members. Sustaining congregations actively care for each other, taking it on themselves to check on those who miss a service or meeting. People in growing congregations enjoy getting together more than just Christmas and Easter, more than even on Sundays. They all directly share the work and the fun, the love and the tough things, showing up for each other rather than sending a check hoping someone else will. Whatever professionals you pay for should know the Bible or music or something technical. You shouldn't be paying for a friend or a helping hand (if they do that, consider it a value-add). You are smart, caring people who genuinely love God and your neighbor. You can figure this out. Heck, if an Excel competition can show up on ESPN, just about anything is possible.

PLEASE NOTE

The church's new email is **office@fpcea.org**. PLEASE add it to your address book in your email so you do not miss out on communications. We have been having some issues with people not receiving emails. Thanks so much!

Sunday, September 10th is Rally Day! This year we have lots to celebrate. We will welcome our new Bridge Pastor, Rev Drew Ludwig! We are blessed to have him with us this fall as the PNC continues the search for our next permanent pastor. After the service is over, we will gather together for a potluck picnic to break bread and thank God for the safe return from summer adventures! Please bring a dish to pass. We can't wait to see you!

RALLY
DAY *is* SEPT
10TH!

“Energized By Faith, Prompted By Love, Inspired By Hope”

As our Summer season transposes to Fall, our daily schedules of vacations, picnics, swimming and backyard campfires change to the re-opening of the school year, shorter daylight hours and cooler temperatures. What a great summer it has been! This is also a time when the First Presbyterian Church of East Aurora (FPCEA) begins to forecast its annual budget needs for the upcoming fiscal year. With this budget process comes the need to raise funding to support our annual budget which is accomplished through everyone's Stewardship contributions.

This year our Pastor Nominating Committee group is still expending much needed energy to search for our next pastor. Our interim pastor, Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse, will be leaving us soon as he has accepted a new faith challenge. In the meantime, we the members of FPCEA continue to enjoy our shared love of this church with the sense of worshiping together. In consideration of all these on-going elements, this year's Stewardship campaign theme is “Energized by Faith, Prompted by Love, Inspired by Hope”. We are asking you to make your much needed Stewardship pledges that cover these church expenses. Further, please consider an increased pledge this year as our operational costs have increased over last years.

As we develop the 2024 Stewardship goal, the following highlighted facts reveal the following:

Current Budget- Income is keeping up with expenses reasonably well. Facility needs have been repaired, landscape is cleaned up, while other building items need to be fixed, repaired or maintained.

How does our church support us - Let us count the ways:

- Basic Ministry services: Sunday worship, weddings, funerals, spiritual growth, pastoral care, communion (including friends at home, confirmation.....
- Christian Education (adult and children), youth ministry
- Community Engagement: FISH, Shawl Ministry, Water is Life, Childrens Christmas Gifts
- Outreach: Boy Scout Troop 513, preschool, AKTION Club
- FPCEA represents an important part of the East Aurora area community and our impact is irreplaceable

Plan for 2024

The annual operation of our Church requires approximately \$250,000. Pledge income of \$200,000 is our 2024 goal to support these expenses. Last year's 2023 pledge amount totaled only 81 pledges for \$187,401 which fell well short of our goal. By achieving our goal of \$200,000 during this 2024 pledge drive, we can maintain stable financial health that is extremely important in keeping our church fiscally responsible.

So, let's get back to where we need to be by giving thought to:

- If you have not been pledging, 2024 is a good time to start,
- If you currently pledge, please continue to do so and consider a much-needed increase.

When contemplating your pledge this year, be energized by your faith, prompted by your love with an inspiration of hope. Lastly, please consider the biblical words expressed through II Corinthians 9:6-8:

“.... He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.”

New Position, Familiar Face

To address changing needs and be fiscally responsible, both the CE Coordinator and Admin positions were eliminated, and a new Office and Communications Administrator position created. Annie Clark applied for the new position and was hired. Annie brings a combination of familiarity with our church, comfort with a more digital work environment, and an infectious positive personality. The new role carries forward some of the same tasks as the old church admin job, and adds new ones such as website and social media account management. She continues to lead Christian Education on a volunteer basis. Thank you Annie!

While our Bridge Pastor provides preaching and Session moderator coverage, let's all help with other needs and tasks that might come up. Calling the church at 716-652-0160 or emailing office@fpcea.org is your best bet for routing questions, concerns, or general information. If Annie isn't the right person to help you directly, she'll know who is and can connect you. For emergencies such as hospital visits or crisis situations, either Pastor Drew or one of our friends from neighboring Presbyterian churches will be available to respond. Again, contacting the church office is a good first step as Annie knows the support procedures. If no one is physically in the office, voicemails will be checked daily. We can work through this, and when our next full time pastor arrives they'll be amazed at how great we are at helping each other!

Session Highlights August 14

-Voted on Drew Ludwig's contract for Bridge Pastor while the search continues for our permanent pastor.

-Heard plans for 2024 Stewardship Campaign

-PNC updated on their search process and shared the church's new Ministry Discernment Profile (job posting) for congregational review.

-Approved baptism of Callen Paul Fischer on 8/20/23

Ms. Bridget's Sprouts

You have two chances each week to join Ms. Bridget and her friend Sprout this fall! Sprouts is designed to enhance your child's early growth & development and increase socialization. Get ready to learn and have fun each Tuesday & Wednesday at 10:30am! Ages 6m-5y. Please contact Bridget Pacholec to register at 716-982-2000.



September Birthdays Happy Birthday Everyone!



Robert Beyer
Lloyd DeMario
Richard Depke
Katherine Dunn
Richard Fentzke
Nichole Fischer

Ian Fisher
William Gervasi
Lois Kohler
Linda Krieger
Brad Meholick
Emily More

Ron Parkhurst
Emily Pfaff
Larry Poturalski
Deb Renzi
Darcy Sowyrda
Talia Spencer

Food for Thought

As Rally Day approaches, the church begins a new season. The congregation returns from its summer travels, Sunday School resumes its regularly scheduled programming, and we will also find ourselves in another kind of season: one of transition. We do not know what things will look like until we have a permanent pastor installed. As a community, we need to work together to ensure stability and (hopefully some) normalcy. I know we all love our scrappy little church, and the phrase "it takes a village" rings loud and true in this moment. Please consider what gifts you are able to offer our church and congregation, and don't hesitate to reach out to the appropriate person. Thank you, FPCEA!

Join us for worship Sundays at 10am, in person or on Facebook!