

Calendar

Al Anon:
April 3, 10, 17, 24, 10am

Back Row Boys:
April 2, 9am @ The Iron Kettle

Bible Study:
April 2, 9, 23, 30, 10am

Book Club:
April 28, 6:30pm

Christian Education:
April 21, 6:30pm

Deacons:
April 29, 7pm

Facilities:
April 9, 1pm

Men's Group:
April 12, 9am, Fox Run

Ms. Bridget's Sprouts:
April 1, 2, 8, 9, 22, 23, 29, 30, 10:30am
April 8, 6:15pm

Session:
April 14, 7pm

Women's Group:
April 23, 6:30pm, Location TBD

Worship Committee:
April 6, 11am



PW News



-On Monday, April 21st, a portion of sales from orders at Del Aureo's will support PW! Support their mission by ordering your favorite pizza and wings!

-The Bazaar is back! Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 17th and start saving your treasures. More details to follow!

Book Club

Join us for book club! Our book for April book will be "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood. We'll meet April 28, 6:30pm in the church lounge. Bring a snack to share.



Ms. Bridget's Sprouts

Come each week to join Ms. Bridget and her friend Sprout this spring! 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! See the calendar for details. Ages 6m-5y. Please contact Bridget Pacholec to register at 716-982-2000.



First Presbyterian Preschool News

Registration for the 2025-26 School Year is Open! Do you know anyone who is looking for a preschool home? Please call the church office to begin the registration process.



CPR Class Alert!

Join us for a CPR class! Community Engagement is providing this wonderful opportunity for us! The Erie County Health Dept is coming April 3 at 10am to teach hands only CPR and use of the AED machine. Learn to save a life! Check your email to see more details, or email sgupp44@gmail.com to sign up!



April Birthdays! Happy Birthday Everyone!

Brian Beers
Theres Bindig
Catherine Blondell
Abigail Boss
Betsey Boss

Kathy Castle
Samuel Dechert
Deb Goggins
Lola Cuppenberger
Aurora Hernandez

Betsey Hillier-Burt
Michael Krieger
Nicole Krieger
Michelle Parrish
RaeAnn Poturalski

Jean Reardon
George Sleeper
Charlie Specht
Tessa Specht
Holly Tapani
Larraine Van Slooten

Join us for worship Sundays at 10am, in person or on Facebook!
The sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of every month.

The Chimes

April 2025

Dance with our Aktion Club Friends!



We had the BEST time at our "Escape to the Tropics" dance! We invited our friends from The Aktion Club, Pastor Jesse was our deejay, and everyone danced the night away! A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the night's success! We can't wait to do it again!

PW Potluck!



Lock-In Fun!

On March 14, our youth group participated in their annual lock-in sleepover! a HUGE thank you to Natalie Hernandez, Molly Pearson and Pastor Jesse for making this night memorable for the kids!



First Presbyterian Church of East Aurora
716-652-0160

fpcea.org
office@fpcea.org

A Note from the Pastor!

These days, many are expressing just how overwhelmed they are feeling concerning the state of our nation and our world. Sitting through the nightly news raises our anxiety, and we wonder if it is even worth it to watch. Chaos is swirling all around us – our political divisions are increasing, we are turning our backs on former allies, consumer prices are rising, and the market is falling. We don’t know what the coming week will bring. We not only feel a sense of despair, but we also feel powerless – so many of these big issues are beyond our control. We have the ability to cast a vote, but most the decisions made by our leaders are totally out of our hands. We use fabric bags and take short showers to lessen our impact on the environment, and yet it seems like a drop in the bucket when factories around the world produce waste day and night. A complicated, interconnected, sometimes-dysfunctional world leaves us feeling exhausted and overwhelmed.

I wish I had easy solutions to share, but I don’t have any. I believe it’s wise to take a break from the news and our many devices. A walk in nature always does the soul good. Connecting with friends, neighbors, and strangers always reminds us of our shared humanity. Attending a protest or making your voice hear is empowering. Seeking common ground and compromise with people of goodwill benefits all of us. But, ultimately, I don’t see our larger reality changing anytime soon. The fact of the matter is that the world has always been hanging on by a thread. Every decade has brought with it huge problems to overcome. I don’t see national unity, let alone global unity, happening any time soon – as much as we long for it. We always have and always will need to try our best to muddle through.

And yet here we are. We woke up this morning. We probably enjoyed a yummy breakfast. We may take our beloved pet for a walk or see a friend for coffee. We are excited about summer vacations and birthday celebrations. Life finds a way to keep marching on, despite all of the crazy stuff we humans get into. As we near Easter, I am reminded of the hope of resurrection. We are promised the gift of new beginnings and rebirths. We’ve certainly experienced them many times in our own lives as well as in the world. Not only that, we proclaim that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior. We already have that leader who has saved the world and our very lives. Millions of faithful believers over the many generations have testified to the light of the world – that there is much good in this creation and that love wins. God keeps this planet spinning and loves us through whatever comes our way. Certainly, the way gets rough and it rarely seems like the journey is easy, and yet, still we are showered with many blessings. The overwhelming majority of human beings want peace and justice and to treat whoever they meet with kindness and fairness.

As the church of Jesus Christ, we commit to journeying together through this wild life. We’ve got one another’s backs – even strangers in our midst. We also strive to share our gifts in our own community and beyond so that the journey might be a bit sweeter. Through it all, we cling to our hope in Jesus Christ – our resurrected Savior – who lives and reigns and is reconciling all of creation unto himself. Deep breaths and much faith, friends! Happy Lent and Happy Easter! -Jesse

Community Engagement News

-**PROJECT 5000 2025** is in full swing and goes until April 13! Please place your bags on the stage in the assembly room. If you are unable to shop, all financial donations during this time, will go towards purchasing food for FISH. Please make checks out to First Presbyterian Church and write FISH in memo or use the Mission envelopes in the pews. *Reusable bags are highly recommended.

2 lists of suggested foods

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2 cans tuna fish | 2 boxes pasta |
| 1 jar peanut butter | 1 lg. can beans (any kind) |
| 4 cans soup | 1 lg. box cereal |
| 4 cans vegetables | 1 lg. plastic bottle juice (apple) |
| 2 boxes macaroni & cheese | 4 cans fruit |
| 1 lg. jar spaghetti sauce | 2 cans ravioli |
| 1 lg. box cereal | 1 Brownie mix |
| 1 package of juice boxes | 1 lb. package spaghetti |
| 2 cans beef stew/chili | 2 can beef stew/hash |

We hope to reach our goal of 100 bags!!

Stewardship News

The importance of the church’s need for Stewardship lives with us year-round. As tax season approaches, for retirement age members there exists a pledge payment option of making a pledge payment by means of a Qualified Charitable Distribution from a traditional IRA provides a potential tax advantage than a cash donation. Charitable minded individuals and couples have a tax smart strategy available to them with traditional IRAs: the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), also known as a charitable IRA rollover. The QCD allows a donor to instruct a traditional IRA administrator to send up to \$100,000 per year. For those of age 73 years and older, IRS rules require an annual minimum distribution (RMD) from their traditional IRA. The RMD is taxable, however the taxable amount can be offset by making charitable contributions (QCD) directly from the IRA. The financial institution administering the IRA makes the payment(s) directly to the charitable organization(s) at the direction of the IRA owner. Depending upon income, this strategy combined with taking the standard deduction on one’s annual tax filing can provide a significant tax advantage. By having IRA assets go directly to charity, donors don’t report the QCD as taxable income and don’t owe any taxes on the QCD depending on your tax situation. Pledge payments to our church can be made using this method of QCD. Many of our older church members are already taking advantage of this means when making their charitable donation.

Easter is Coming!

The Easter season is upon us! Join us for Palm Sunday service on April 13th, Maundy Thursday Service on April 17th (7pm), and Easter Sunday on April 20th! There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday.