

Holiday Food Drive!

Our Community Engagement team would like us to do our part to help solve the food insecurity problem facing our community. SNAP benefits have been in limbo in November, so let's step up and do what we can! Below you will find a list that FISH gives to us each Spring for Project 5000. Any of these foods will do, but they have asked for an emphasis on protein-dense foods. These include canned soups/stews, canned meat and fish, etc. Please buzz Annie during office hours or leave your donation on the bench in the vestibule. We will be running this collection until the end of the year. Let's help ensure no one in our community goes hungry this holiday season!

List 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 mac & 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

Mark your calendars! Our annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 1st! We hope to see you there!

Poinsettia orders are due by Sunday, December 7th. Please call Annie in the office with any questions!

Ms. Bridget's Sprouts

Come 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! See the calendar for details. Ages 6m-5y. Please contact Bridget Pacholec to register at 716-982-2000.



December Birthdays! Happy Birthday Everyone!

- Mark Ackley

Jenny Beyer

Catherine Burt

Catherine Cardina

Kim Danieu
- Mark Dechert

Kelly DeMario

Peyton DeMario

Carter Gipe

Janet Goodrich
- Jacob Griffis

Geoff Gunner

Judi Hamms

John Johnston

Molly Pearson
- Carl Porter

Aubrey Roden

Fred Thornley

Sharon Wesoloski

Barb Zimmerman

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

December 2025

Welcome New Members!



On Sunday, November 9, our church welcomed eleven new members! It was a wonderful moment to behold. We welcome them to our church family!

Aktion Club Advent Service!

Join us for one of our favorite evenings of the year! There will be music, singing and lots of joy! We love having our friends from The Aktion Club each advent, and the more the merrier! Please consider bringing a healthy snack or Christmas treat to share during the reception after the service. Thank you and we can't wait to see you!

Advent is Here!!

Advent is here! We have a full December, so please mark your calendars with the following dates:

-Sunday, December 7: Join the youth group after service for their annual caroling! It is so lovely to bring Christmas cheer to some of our friends at home!

-Sunday, December 14: Our annual Christmas pageant will take place during the service. Our youth always do a spectacular job!

-Sunday, December 21: Brad will lead a choir and instrumentalists for a Christmas Cantata!

Wednesday, December 24: 4:30pm family-friendly service, 9:30pm concert & 10pm service of lessons and carols.



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A Note from the Pastor!

When I was in high school, my parents decided to try something new on Christmas day. They invited a handful of folks from the community who were without family to our home for a Christmas brunch. I’m ashamed to admit that I was not happy about this idea. Not only was this a change to our usual Christmas tradition of having a leisurely brunch together as a family, but it also meant that we’d need to clean up the house and get showered and ready ourselves to receive these guests. In my defense, my response is a fairly typical response when traditions are changed. But, my parents told me to stop my complaining and be willing to try something new.

So, our guests arrived—a couple with walkers, and one who smelled strongly of alcohol. We all sat down to a yummy egg casserole prepared by my mom, and we all enjoyed the food as well as the conversation. At one point, the gentleman who had been drinking teared up a bit and said that he missed his son who lived far away. As I glanced around the table, I realized just how important it was that we had invited all of these folks over for Christmas brunch. It was a fairly simple thing to do—share a meal together—but it had an important impact. These people were not forgotten, and it was a gift to be together and for them to be remembered.

As much as we all cherish our own holiday traditions, I encourage you to think about some ways in which you might be able to share your joy and love with others, particularly people who are not your family and friends, in new ways this Advent and Christmas season. Perhaps it’s doing something special for a server in a restaurant or clerk at a grocery store, or maybe it’s inviting new people to your home for dinner. You might visit a nursing home, or ring the bell for join us for caroling on December 7. Whatever you choose to do, I’m quite sure that you’ll find the experience to be a Christmas blessing!

December Concert!

On Saturday, December 6 at 4pm, we are hosting a special concert for the entire Presbytery! In the spirit of the season, we thought it would be nice to bring friends of goodwill to gather for good music and a yummy meal. Matthew Black is a singer-songwriter (and a friend of Jesse’s) who regularly tours the country singing at various churches, coffee houses, and other venues. You can check out his music here: matthewblackmusic.com. The event is free – we hope you’ll make time to join us. Then, on Sunday, December 7, Matthew will lead music in worship and teach us a few new songs. Join us!



Stewardship Update

Our 2026 Stewardship campaign is in full swing! This year’s theme is “Serving the Lord, Rejoicing in Hope.” Our goal is \$200,000, and so far, we have received pledges totaling \$176,272. Please return your pledge card if you haven’t done so!

Christian Education Update

Let the excitement and exhaustion of the season commence!

Christian Education is in the throes of pageant preparations. A successful pageant will require the assistance from all ages. While the children and youth of the church will provide the pageantry on stage, they will need the congregation to sing the Christmas Music that accompanies the pageant. The good news is that the songs are all Christmas favorites so no congregation rehearsal will be needed. Immediately following the pageant, CE invites all for pizza. We pray that everyone takes this opportunity to celebrate the pageant and the work the CE program (children, youth, teachers, and parents) put into this event.

The arrival of December means that signs-up for teachers and assistants begins for January thru June. Please consider being a volunteer for our GROWING program (YAY!!!). The children are the key to maintaining a healthy, happy and FUN religious experience at FPCEA.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 7th Pageant Rehearsal during church.
- December 3rd and 10th Bible Study at 11 am in the Lounge
- December 14th
 - 9:00 Final Pageant Practice
 - 10:00 am Christmas Pageant
 - 11:00 am Pizza
- December 15th CE Committee Meeting

Please know that CE wishes you a wonderful Christmas season. And we thank you for all the gifts you provide the children and youth of FPCEA. Your love and support are the best gift one can give!!!

Decorating Fun!

The sanctuary and exterior of the church are decorated for Advent! Thank you to everyone who helped. It’s truly one of the most joyous times of the year at FPCEA!

