

Calendar

Al Anon:  
May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 10am

Back Row Boys:  
May 7, 9am @ The Iron Kettle

Bible Study:  
May 7, 14, 28, 10am

Book Club:  
May 29, 6:30pm

Christian Education:  
May 19, 6:30pm

Deacons:  
May 27, 7pm

Men’s Group:  
May 10, 9am, Fox Run

Ms. Bridget's Sprouts:  
May 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28, 10:30am  
May 6, 13, 20, 27, 6:15pm

Session:  
May 12, 7pm

Women’s Group:  
May 21, 6:30pm, Location TBD

Worship Committee:  
May 4, 11am

ERIE COUNTY

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

FOR ADULTS INTERACTING WITH OTHER ADULTS

The Mental Health First Aid for Adults Interacting with Other Adults training teaches people how to recognize signs of mental health or substance use challenges in adults 18 and over, how to offer and provide help, and how to guide a person toward appropriate care.



Please see Community Engagement News for more details!

Book Club

Join us for book club! Our book for May book will be “That Librarian” by Amanda Jones. We’ll meet May 29, 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.



May Birthdays! Happy Birthday Everyone!

- Lisa Adams

Tom Best

Henry Bindig

Peter Dechert

Kelli Fisher

Nathan Fisher
- Shelly Frier

Katherine Gipe

Carol Griffis

Dorothy Henry

Carlos Hernandez
- Owen Hernandez

Shannon Holfoth

John Lincoln

Sharon Norton

Peter Pfaff
- Betty Pitcher

Craif Poturalski

Annie Seifert

Olivia Strzelec

Carson Suckow

Eva Tapani

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If you wish to limit or refuse the use of your image or a minor child's image by the First Presbyterian Church of East Aurora, scan this QR code. It applies to our web site, social media and publicity photos. Thank you!



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

May 2025

Palm Sunday & Easter



Thank you to everyone who made our Lenten services full of music and joy!

Spring Aktion Club Service!

Join us on Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> for our annual Spring Aktion Club Service! If you have never attended, we HIGHLY recommend you do not miss it. These services are filled with nothing but joy and love! There will be a reception after and refreshments, healthy snacks & desserts will be needed. Keep an eye out for a sign-up sheet. Thank you!

Pastor Jesse’s Installation Service

Please help FPCEA officially welcome Pastor Jesse by attending his installation service on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. A reception will follow with light refreshments!

First Presbyterian Church of East Aurora  
716-652-0160

fpcea.org  
office@fpcea.org



**A Note from the Pastor!**

I know that I preach about change quite a bit. Truth be told, there are many other topics I'd rather delve into, and yet so much is changing so rapidly in the world and in our lives that it's unavoidable. Children and adults alike lead highly scheduled lives, so much so that finding even an hour of spare time can be a challenge. A.I. is on the verge of upending so much of the work world. Super storms are now seasonal, leaving catastrophic damage in their wake. Churches are sliding further and further towards the sidelines of society. Though it can often seem overwhelming, I still believe that God holds creation in the palm of his hands and things will be ok. But, I believe that God calls us to be proactive in discerning the will of the Holy Spirit in the here and now. Indeed, we have the privilege of being co-creators with God in the holy work of building the Kingdom of God here on Earth. As tempting as it is to keep doing things the way we've always done them, in the end, it is wishful thinking. New problems require new solutions, but our goals of loving and serving all people and being a beacon of hope for our community remain the same as always.

As members of the Reformed Tradition, Presbyterians strive to strike the balance between holding onto our important traditions, as well as continually reforming and adapting to modern life. Session is currently examining the structures and practices we use here at FPCEA – are they serving us or do they involve too much time and effort? Are our committees too big – are we able to consolidate some of our duties? Perhaps it's time to go back to the drawing board to birth new ways of being the church in a new era. There are no silver bullet solutions, and much experimentation is required, but we feel that now is the time to have such conversations.

Please know that we are also eager to hear from you as well! We will be creating a brief questionnaire and hosting a congregational meeting this fall – a time of open conversation where we might share what we love about our church, what we struggle with, and new ideas that might make sense to implement for our church family. Though it will take time, we trust that, with the help of the Spirit, we will identify faithful practices and structures that allow us to use our gifts and retain the life-giving energy of the church. And who knows what other new opportunities the Spirit is leading us to!

-Jesse



**Please Note**

There will be no hospitality on Mother's Day, May 11. Thank you!

**Community Engagement News**

- Now that we have helped fill the pantry at FISH and made sub sandwiches for a soup kitchen let's keep up the good work of helping to feed those who are in need by donating money for the ROC (Rural Outreach Center) Snack Pack program. We will be filling bags of food for 4 weekends in May for 38 children. Volunteers are needed to help with the sorting and filling. See Jake Clark to help!
- Mental Health First Aid will be offered to the community for free through the Office of Health Equity. We are hosting this course on the evenings of May 13 and 15. Participants will learn to recognize the signs of mental health or substance use challenges in adults, how to offer and provide help and to guide a person toward appropriate care. Please spread the word about this opportunity! This interactive and effective training will be 5:30- 9:30 for both nights. Register by calling Darcy Sowyrda at 716-652-7503.
- Mark your calendars for another joyous worship service with the Aktion Club on Wednesday, May 28th at 7:00. Refreshments are needed.

**Christian Education Update**

- May begins the crazy, busy lead into the end of school extracurricular activities. In addition, we celebrate Mother's Day and Memorial Day. I am highlighting a few CE scheduling items so that we can all keep our calendars organized.
- Confirmation Classes meet 5/4 and 5/18.
  - pK-2 will meet every Sunday in May.
  - The 3-6 class will NOT have class on 5/25.
  - Bible study will meet every Wednesday at 10am in the lounge except 5/21.
- Finally, a HUGE THANK YOU to the entire church for supporting the CE Mission: Restore Elikia. The AMAZING birdhouses decorated by the youth raised over \$200 alone. It has been an uplifting experience. The total raised is \$1565!



**The Bazaar is Back!**

GET READY FOR THE BAZAAR!! MAY 17th 9 am-2 pm

The bazaar will look a little different this year. We will not be serving lunch, but will have a bake sale. Presbyterian Women have also decided to NOT price items, and offer instead a "pay as you are led." We are looking for your attic treasures, so please do some spring cleaning and box up your unwanted treasures and we will put them out for display. We would appreciate it if you could put your clothing in the clothing bin in the parking lot. We will take household items, furniture, pictures, books, toys, etc. We do not want electronics. We are now taking your donations. Please leave them on the bench in the entry. (or the bench inside the wood doors) We will move them into the closet where we store items before the sale. Set up will be the week before, so if you have time we would appreciate your help. The money we make goes towards the many different missions we support.