

Calendar

Al Anon:
Nov 6, 13, 20, 10am

Back Row Boys:
Nov 5, 9am @ The Iron Kettle

Bible Study:
Nov 5, 12, 26, 10am

Christian Education:
Nov 17, 6:30pm

Deacons:
Nov 25, 7pm

Ms. Bridget's Sprouts:
Nov 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25

Session:
Nov 10, 7pm



Advent is Coming!



The first Sunday of Advent is November 30th! We have a packed December, so please mark your calendars with the following dates:

- Sunday, November 23: Sanctuary Decoration! We will gather after the service to prepare the sanctuary and surrounding area for Advent. It is always a fun time filled with music, food and laughter!
- 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!



Flowers for the Sanctuary

A lovely way to contribute to Sunday Worship is to bring flowers! Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway! Sue Thornley graciously provides flowers most Sundays of the year. Let's lighten her load! Thank you!



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.



November Birthdays! Happy Birthday Everyone!

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|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Judith Beebe | Julia Clark | Macie Majchrzak |
| Carl Beyer | Kylie Guppenberger | Barrett More |
| Matt Bindig | John Hamms | Emily Seifert |
| Marielle Burt | Andrea Hess | Jackson Suckow |
| Eleanor Byer | Luke Krieger | Sue Thornley |

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

Fall Fun!



Youth group had a blast carving pumpkins and getting in the spirit for Halloween!

Seneca Sessions are Back!

Jake Clark will be hosting three one-hour “Seneca Sessions” before service on:

- November 9th: Get to know your Indigenous neighbor better. We are still here.
- November 16th: European Wars on Turtle Island. Doctrine to Deed. 1452 – 1900.
- November 23rd: Why we wear Orange and current Manifest Destiny.

Please consider joining from 8:45 until 9:45am on those days! Thank you!

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 \$159,732. Please return your pledge card if you haven’t done so!



On World Communion Sunday, Brad taught the children some drumming and they played for the congregation. Thanks Brad!

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 – www.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!



First Presbyterian Church of East Aurora
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A Note from the Pastor!

With each passing year, it seems as though our Thanksgiving holiday is being suffocated by Halloween and Christmas. Home Depot and Walmart are full of ghouls and tombstones by August, and already these same stores have rolled out their Christmas decorations. We'll celebrate our Thanksgiving meal with loved ones, but no sooner do we finish the pumpkin pie that plans are made for Black Friday shopping adventures. We are all losing the importance of gratitude in our lives.

If you only watched the news or skimmed social media, you'd be led to believe that the skies have already fallen and all of our good days are behind us. Everyone is stressed out and feeling overwhelmed. But is life really as miserable as it's been made out to be? Sure, our politics are a mess, and inflation and racial tensions remain high. We have plenty of problems to tend to, and yet very little of our day-to-day lives change much. We choose our breakfast from about 100 different cereal options. We hop on planes and vacation in the far corners of the Earth. Various screens entertain us throughout our homes. Most of us have jobs we can tolerate, and we belong to families and communities marked by love and support. Maybe, in spite of some bumps along the way, we have a lot to be thankful for. Perhaps we are kept in a state of constant outrage so that media and advertisers can keep pushing their products.

It's time we begin pushing an alternative narrative to all of the doom and gloom. Take a break from our screens and take a walk in the woods. Call up an old friend. Invite your neighbors over for dinner. Start a "gratitude journal" – make it a nightly practice to inventory all that went right on each given day. As Christians, we believe that love wins and that there is so much to celebrate in this amazing life. We have hope for tomorrow because we believe God holds this world in the palm of God's hands and that we, God's children, are loved eternally. In November as well as the other eleven months, may we proclaim our gratitude for a wonderful life and a beautiful world – all gifts of God above. And as we do so, perhaps this life will become sweeter and we'll have a greater sense of hope for the future ahead. May it be so.

The outside of the church is all decked out for "Falloween!"



Christian Education Update

Fall is finally in full swing and so is the 2025-26 Sunday School year!

Things have been so exciting starting with the roll out of a new pK-7 grade curriculum. The new material provides more freedom for discussion allowing the child's perspective to emerge. Equally uplifting is the addition of new faces to the Sunday School classes. The pK-2 grade class has welcomed multiple new classmates making class a fun time to meet new friends!

In case you are not aware, this Sunday School year, FPCEA will be the conclusion of the current confirmation program. Seven youths are in the process of determining where they are in their spiritual journey. Their classes are fun to teach or assist. Every class the youth and adults present learn so much about each other along with the opportunities and the support of being part of a Christian community. October's class was about fellowship aka working together to support one another. With that focus, we began plans for the confirmands to start prepping for the December Christmas Pageant on December 14th. So, mark your calendars. This is a perfect day of fellowship and fun for the entire church.

A huge thank you to all that signed up to be teachers thus far. We are still in need of assistants. The CE Committee thought it might be good to remind all of the role of an assistant to encourage participation.

An assistant simply is a second set of hands and eyes to help the teacher and children during the lesson. The teacher will let you know the type of assistance they need. That covers the responsibility part of the assistant, now for the exciting part. Working with the teacher and children during class is the perfect chance to learn names, interests and the beauty of young and old participants at FPCEA. Please consider signing up for a class. I know that I am always amazed at the new connections and knowledge I gain in simply being present.

All are welcomed to the Wednesday morning Bible Study at 10 am in the lounge. The current study is Finding Resilience, Joy, and Identity in Jesus Christ.

Whew! I will end with a few calendar items.

November Confirmation class is on November 9th.

CE Committee meeting November 17th at 6:30pm.

NO Bible Study on Wednesday, November 19th.

NO 3-7 grade class on November 30th. pK-2 WILL HAVE CLASS.

Watch and listen for November Youth Group dates.

I believe that is a wrap!