

Dear FPC family and friends,

What a glorious two weeks of worship. Easter was, well, Easter but with more people in worship than we have had for Easter since the pandemic. Youth Sunday was, well, Youth Sunday, but with more people than we have had since the pandemic. Are you noticing a theme? I can only give you all kudos for not only coming to worship but also for inviting family and friends to join us as we celebrate the resurrected Jesus Christ. Let's keep the streak going of Sundays where we are deciding to follow Jesus in person in worship.

We can find one of the most powerful Scriptures that describes the early church in Acts 2:43-47. We read in vs.46 that they spent much time together in the temple and praised God continuously. The early disciples and the earliest church met in the temple and were a community that gathered together, did church together, and worship was at the center of it all. It was not the eating of food which was the most important thing that they did together, although I love that aspect of it. It wasn't the sharing of their resources which was the most important thing that they did together, although how they did it was mind blowing. It was their time together in worship and praising God together that was the most important thing for the early church.

That has not changed even as we find ourselves two thousand years removed from that time. Worship remains the focal point of who we are as disciples of Jesus Christ. I am so tempted to move from worship to then say that it has to lead us to loving neighbor, and it does, but let's just sit with worship for a moment before the inevitable inertia of loving neighbor takes over my enews, as it so often does. Worship is at the center of what we do as a church.

There is real value in gathering together for anything: fellowship, mission, celebration, mourning, remembrance. When we gather as a community it creates a bond that cannot be faked. But the gathering for worship is something different altogether. In worship the purpose and the reason we gather is simply to celebrate our creator and give thanks for the new life that we have in Jesus Christ. There are no ulterior motives and no hidden agenda for why we gather for worship, except to give thanks that we are followers of the Savior of the world.

Here is my hope as we get into a season that for some may seem like it slows down a bit. We are a little over a month away from the end of school. Mission trips are planned and ready to take place. VBS is in getting closer and closer. Summer is not upon us yet, although it feels like it, and our schedules are getting filled for what comes next. Can I encourage you not only to worship with us on Sunday mornings but also invite someone else to come along with you? Maybe it is a family that you ran across that you just barely know, they may be trying to get settled and they might be wanting to find a church in the community where they can raise their kids. Maybe it is a retired couple who has moved near you and they could be looking for a place where they can find Jesus manifested in the worship and in the work.

Identify someone in this time of year and over the summer that is your "project". Invite them to church events, and activities and programs that are a part of the life of our church. But the goal is to invite them to worship where Jesus is revealed in a way that can be life changing. That is what we are all about. We are good at the knowing and the growing, but the going part, the part where we are inviting people to come to know Christ in worship, well, let's work on that moving forward.

Thanks for showing up these past two Sundays. Now let's keep the streak alive.
Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Bob

HAPPENING IN THE LIFE OF FPC...

MULCH DAY • Join us on Saturday, May 2nd beginning at 9am, for our Annual Mulch Day. Help is greatly needed to freshen the mulch on all the flower beds, both here at the church and surrounding properties. All are welcome! Bring any supplies you may have such as a wheel barrow, rake, shovel, gloves, etc.

New Members Class – Join us starting on May 3rd at 3pm for a new members class. If you are just interested in FPC, or would like to join, this is an opportunity to learning more about the life of the church and ways in which you can be involved in our work. Childcare will be provided.

MANDATED REPORTER TRAINING • If you are a volunteer with our youth/children, one of the clearances you must complete is **Mandated Reporter Training**. We will be offering a group training session, **May 3rd at 12:15pm**. Please sign up on the bulletin board outside of Room 5. Any questions please see Beth Feiler.

TODDLER GYM • Join us weekly on Fridays from 9 – 10:30am (Sept. – May) for playtime for ages 1 – 6 with their caregivers. This program is free and open to the public and follows the Lampeter Strasburg School Calendar. For more information, check out our [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) page, or contact Alyssa Gregory at 717-495-3939 or agregory@straspres.org.

GREAT BEGINNINGS PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION for the 2026-2027 school year is open. Contact Heather Reynolds, Administrative Director at 717-617-9501 or hreynolds@straspres.org, or pick up an application at the church office.

Bible Study every Thursday evening: Join us for Bible Study every Thursday evening on Youtube. You can join us here: [Youtube](#)