

Dear FPC family and friends,

I almost said that we have had quite a normal week here at FPC..., but with 50 adults and kids in and out of the building doing mission all over Lancaster County, well, that should be normal and that should be what it feels like all the time. Wouldn't it be awesome to have a school of mission where we have late high school, college age kids where we teach them about mission and then they actually do mission? This literally popped into my mind as I sat down to write this, as a result of seeing the kids and their excitement and their joy in being together, in studying Scripture, in worshipping together in the morning, and in going out to do mission.

I have the image of Jesus in Luke 2:41-52 where he spent days with the leaders of the synagogue learning and sitting at their feet. It had to shape and form whom he became at 30. If our goal as a church is to make everyone mature in Christ, this sure is a great way to do it. But why only do it for the youth? What if we had a week where adults were also here from morning to night, we would let you sleep at home though. We would eat together, worship together, study Scripture together and understand the realities of need in our community, and then go out and try to meet some of those needs. This isn't just for kids anymore, we could do this with adults in a very similar manner. Who is in?

I wanted to introduce two new staff people who have joined First Presbyterian over these past two weeks. Ethan Goss accepted the position of interim organist/choirmaster and this Sunday is his first Sunday in that position. Ethan has been with us for three and a half years now singing in the choir. He is a trained and skilled conductor and is working on learning the organ in order to play in worship. We are so blessed to have someone able to come in from "in house" and take on that position. Welcome Ethan!

Also, session created a few months ago a new position called the communications director. I had mentioned it before. We are so pleased to let the congregation know that Jenna Creighton has agreed to take on that position. She is also "in house" as she and her family has been worshipping her for the last few years as well. She will begin next week in that position which will cover all things social media and communications. Here is a request that I have for each one of you. Take a look at our website and see what catches your eye and what you think could be improved. We currently don't have a church presence on Instagram or X, but we hope to create one. There is a lot of work to do around the area of communication.

But you do need to hear this. We are committed to ensuring that all current forms of communication that we are now using will continue. This includes my enews, but you may see it in a different format. This includes those of you who are receiving sermons and other information in the mail, we will continue that as well. What we hope to expand is our connectivity among ministries and presence that we currently don't have in social media. Thank you Jenna for being willing, and welcome!

Just a note for the construction that is taking place around the church. For Sunday you can come in now from both the north and the south. The driveway will be open and accessible. We have our big preschool blowout on Saturday, and the church will be completely accessible. That will not be the case on Monday. On Mondays I take my day off, I stay home, or go do something away from the church. On Monday, we will not have access through our driveway, so take the day

off on Monday. If you absolutely have to get to church you will have to access from Funk Street and drive across the lawn. But then on Tuesday all will be back to normal.

It is so fun to be a part of a church that is active and involved. There really is never a dull moment around here. I wanted to also take this space to thank you for the wonderful 15 year anniversary roast that you gave to me a few Sundays ago. I love being your pastor, and I am so glad that you have put up with me all this time.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Bob

HAPPENING IN THE LIFE OF FPC...

Fantasy Football – We still have a couple of openings for fantasy football this year. We currently have 34 people participating and we need 2 more to round out our Serie C. Let me know if you are interested.

FAMILY FUN DAY: Join us on Saturday, August 1st from 12-3pm to celebrate 55 Years of Preschool at FPCS! Enjoy bounce houses, balloon animals, face painting, games, food and other entertainment. It's free and open to the public so invite your friends and family! The parking lot will be closed to accommodate the party. Parking has been arranged at the Methodist/ACTS church, Bachman/Snyder Funeral Home, and St. Michael's, all just a short walk to the action!

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC - Come enjoy fun, food and fellowship on Sunday, August 16th at 12:30pm at Tinney Pavilion. There will be a corn hole tournament, bingo and kids' games! Pulled pork, hotdogs, beverages and paper products provided. Please bring a side or dessert to share!