

Dear FPC family and friends,

They say that if you are going to retire or get out of the work that you are doing you should do it while you are on top. In sports it means that you leave after having won a championship, in life and at work it means you move on after you have accomplished something extraordinary and meaningful. Kristin Kondratowski informed session that she is resigning her position as full-time youth and young adult director here at FPC with September 6 being her last Sunday. She will be taking on the position of Executive Director of the Manheim Community Life Group. It's a faith-based nonprofit organization that offers transitional housing for women and children. If you want to learn more about this organization you can find it here: <https://www.manheimcommunitylifegroup.org/> This opportunity provides her with the chance of seeing God at work in a fundamentally different way than her current role. She shared with us that she is really looking forward to this role.

Kristin began her work as the part-time youth and young adult director back in April of 2022. In July of 2022 session changed the position from part-time to full time and she has been in that position since. This past year demonstrated more fully than any we have had of her love for the youth and young adults of FPC. She was able to wrangle together 31 high school youth and leaders to go on a mission trip to Italy for 10 days. Just recently she led 48 middle school and high school students and leaders for a home-base mission trip to right here in Lancaster County, PA.

In my 15 years here, Kristin is the 7th youth worker that we have had and her impact will be felt long after she is gone. I know that many of you are wondering who in the world will we ever get to fill Kristin's shoes? The answer is no one. We will never find a person to fill Kristin's shoes, but God has been so faithful to us that whoever comes next will have their own shoes to wear to lead our youth and young adults into a closer relationship with Jesus. What Kristin is leaving behind for the kingdom is a whole army of adult volunteers who have been helping with the youth program over this past year and longer. We are well equipped here at the church with people who love Jesus, love youth, and have been trained by Kristin.

One of my lines that I say consistently as your pastor over these 15 years is that we all find ourselves as interim leaders because at some stage we will be replaced. Our goal is to use the time that we have in such a way that God is reflected powerfully in the few years that we have the privilege to serve this church. Kristin did this with gusto and purpose and passion. I can say that your pastor and session is committed to do what it takes to get a full-time youth leader who will be completely committed to this church and the youth and young adults of this church.

We will be having a send off for Kristin during coffee hour on September 6. I would love for all of you to come and be present during this time. If you know of a youth who has been served by Kristin or impacted by her presence, let them know that we will be honoring her. It is in times like these where we wonder how God can be in the midst of the changes that are swirling around us. We live in a big world and that world is providentially held in the hand of God. God already has someone in mind to take on this role, it is up to us to discover who that might be. As Michelangelo used to say, there is a sculpture clawing its way out of the block of marble, we just have to let it loose. The Holy Spirit is at work, let's join together and see where He moves next.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Bob

HAPPENING IN THE LIFE OF FPC...

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!

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS: On Sunday, August 23 at both services we will be blessing the backpacks as kids, teachers and school staff head off to school. Make sure you or your child brings your backpack with you as you come to church that Sunday.