Dear FPC family and friends,

Your pastor spent the week outside of New Haven, Connecticut this week at a retreat center called Mercy by the Sea. It was stunning. There was a group of 35 of us working toward receiving what is called the Executive Certificate for Religious Fundraising. You all know how much I hate talking about money, so it may seem a bit dissonant to see me there learning about how to raise funds for the church in a way that reflects our values and values all of our people. It was truly an eye opening experience.

We find ourselves as a church as a bit of a unicorn. We haven't done a capital campaign in over 40 years and yet our infrastructure, our campus, and our church as a whole is sound and getting better each day thanks to the work of the Trustees. Year in and year out your generosity is exemplified through your giving which helps to meet the budgeted expenses which we have. A few weeks ago I mentioned about the mission that is a hallmark of this congregation, but your giving also allows the lights to stay on in the sanctuary and the air conditioning to work during the summer.

Very few people give to keep the lights on, most of us are attracted to giving opportunities that will advance the Gospel in meaningful ways and in which it is clear to see how our giving can produce disciples of Jesus Christ. But it is all important and this congregation understands that. One of the things that I learned while I was away was to completely revamp my understanding of stewardship and the discussion of finances. I have always disliked talking about finances, but I feel that this may have been transformed over this week.

What I learned, and it shouldn't be surprising to anyone, is that many of you, maybe even most of you, want to be involved in the life of the church through your giving. Your giving is a reflection of your love for the church and a way in which you are participating in the kingdom of God. I understand tithing as a command from God and so that is very different from understanding tithing as an expression of participation in the life of the church. I would never want to take away the joy for anyone to take part in the life of the church through their giving.

I don't want to take two successive enews and just talk about giving, but let me ask you a personal question. What has your giving been like this past year? Is there any possibility that you may want to give more so that we can completely cover not only our operating expenses but also our mission budget just from our offerings and not have to dip into our endowment, which we will do if we have to?

Another aspect of giving that I learned this week was the giving of hours of our life to the life of the church. The amount of time that you put into the life of this church constitutes a major gift. If you are wanting to get involved in worship through ushering, or doing media, or sound,

or directing the cameras. If you want to get involved in the life of the church through lay reading or singing in the choir or being part of the praise team then you should really come on November 15 to learn more about the area in which you want to be involved. We need all of you to come and learn how to be involved in worship, the most important thing that we do in our lives is worship God, so help us do it together so that more and more can come to know Him.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on the 15th after the second service worship to learn more about how you can contribute to worship in your time.

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Bob

SOOOOO MUCH IS HAPPENING AT FPC…

Come celebrate our 50 year members this Sunday during our church birthday between services. Join us for a yummy brunch and recognition of the 50 year members.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE "JOB TRAINING": The worship committee is looking to offer training to the congregation on the different "jobs" within the scope of worship services, including worship technical support. Worship includes ushers, readers, greeters, acolytes, praise team, choir and communion servers, and technical support which includes media, audio, cameras/directing. Join us on November 15th at 12:15pm (right after second service). This is an open invitation for those that already volunteer, as well as one for those that may have an interest but would like to know more. Please contact Maggie Nadu or Tricia Wilson with any questions!

Training for welcome desk and food pantry and staff: On Wednesday, November 18th, at 12pm, there will be training for food pantry, welcome desk volunteers, staff and anyone else that finds themselves regularly in the building. At the training we will learn how to welcome people in a way that reflects our love for Christ while at the same time insuring that everyone knows the steps to take should a difficulty arise. Please contact Pastor Bob with any questions.

IT'S ALMOST HERE!! Saturday, November 14th is a really BIG day for our Food Pantry. It's the Annual Boy Scouts Food Drive, and all donations support our FPC ministry. We are so thankful for our local communities' generosity. We will need lots of help from 9am -12:30pm to sort, date and stock all the food that is delivered. Please consider helping us. Any amount of time will be greatly appreciated, and we thank you in advance for donating a bit of your valuable time.

CHURCH DECORATING DAY On Monday, November 23rd at 6pm, we will be decking the halls and preparing the church for Advent and Christmas. Come join in the fun, have pizza and help us to decorate!

Christmas Pageant Sign-Ups Are Open! Children from Pre-K through 8th grade are invited to participate in this year's Christmas Pageant! We have a variety of speaking and non-speaking roles available for all ages. Children can sign up for the role they'd like to play, although some roles may be adjusted based on participation. Practice will begin on Sunday, November 22nd during Sunday School time. If you are interested in helping or have questions, please see Jozlyn Grodski or Danielle Marsh. Sign up using the link or QR code below. We look forward to sharing the Christmas story together!
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4AA4A722A5FAC43-67240042-first.

50+ Year Church Members

Church Members	**Date Joined the Church**
Norma Weaver	04/21/1946
Sandy Bernstorf	04/14/1949
Bev Wiker	04/06/1950
Shirley Douts	04/10/1952
Joyce Frackman	01/11/1953
George Pontz	04/06/1955
Lillian Myers	04/17/1957
Mary Gulliver	04/02/1958
Reid Sheaffer	04/03/1958
Charlie Book	03/25/1959
Lorraine Oliver	03/25/1959
Linda Lawrence	03/29/1961
Joyce Welk	03/29/1961
Lori Herr	04/02/1961
Jean Pontz	01/17/1962
Mary Lou Butler	06/15/1962
JT Eshleman	04/12/1963
Glenna Kirchner	04/12/1963
Sally Reinhart	04/12/1963
Henry Miller	04/15/1965
Harold Welk	04/15/1965
Peter Witmer	04/15/1965
Kay Straley	10/03/1965
LeRoy Welk	03/24/1967
John Esbenshade	04/02/1969
Blaine Danner	12/08/1970

Frank & Karen McCardell	04/18/1973
Mark Francis	11/18/1973
Dale & Barbara Groff	11/18/1973
Tammy Scheurich	04/07/1974
Becky Mills	06/30/1974
Bette Davis	01/26/1975