

# Highlights

MAR 31 2024

## A Completely New Creation

PASTOR ROGER OWENS

Dear Friends,

This Sunday we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. And here's something I know: When you wake up, the world won't look any different. Yes, some homes will have excited children, digging through Easter baskets loaded with candy and hunting through the house for colorful eggs. And worship—it will be different, as we pull out all the stops: brass, organ, choir, band, lilies, the Hallelujah Chorus! And in many places the Sunday meal will be different, as scattered family members unite around tables heaped with ham and rolls and pies and, if they're lucky, coconut cake.

But if we turn on the news or look out our windows or stare into the depths of our own hearts, we might sense: nothing has changed.

I wonder if it's this impression—the inability, on the surface, to see the difference Resurrection makes—that gave rise to a popular, but erroneous, or at least incomplete, Christian belief: the good news of Easter proclaims that if we believe in Christ, our souls will escape this world when we die. That this world itself is doomed to destruction, a roller coaster on its way down, but Christ becomes our escape hatch. Off our souls will go to the real world in heaven above. As the old gospel hymn says, “Some glad morning, when this life is over / I'll fly away / to a home on God's celestial shore / I'll fly away.”



And I appreciate the sentiment: If this life is indeed a “vale of tears” (Wikipedia says that “vale of tears” is “a Christian phrase referring to the tribulations of life that Christian doctrine says are left behind only when one leaves the world and enters Heaven”), then why wouldn't we want to leave it behind when we die?

But the earliest Christians didn't celebrate the immortality of the soul. They rejoiced in the resurrection of the body. Christ's resurrection, they believed, was the beginning of a completely new creation. The restoration of what is, not the promise of escape. It became popular to refer to Easter Day as the Eighth Day of creation. If God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh, Easter becomes the eighth day—that is, the first day of God's new creation. As New Testament scholar N.T. Wright puts it, the early Christians “believed that God was going to do for the whole cosmos what he had done for Jesus at Easter.”

And that whole cosmos includes *us*.

*Continued...*

### Inside



#### SPONSORSHIP CONCERT

Join us for a concert featuring George Frideric Handel's most beloved oratorio *Messiah*...

[More on page 3](#)



#### POSITIVE PAINTING PROJECT

An event using visual art to promote mental health awareness and suicide prevention...

[More on page 3](#)

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## A Completely New Creation

*Continued from front...*

It's not an either/or. I believe those who have died are with Christ and alive in Christ. And I also believe, as the Christian faith teaches, that even they are waiting with us for the full effects of resurrection to be accomplished by God: for the cosmos to be restored and for all things to find renewal in the resurrection of Christ.

This new creation has begun. But it's not complete. That's why the news stories—and our own hearts—still bear the marks of suffering and carry the weight of grief. Creation itself is groaning for redemption. But as people of faith practice the ways of

peace, learn how to forgive, embody God's justice, and care for God's creation, we see glimpses of the world to come, and we continue to trust in the promise: God is going to do for the whole cosmos what God did for Jesus at Easter.

That's reason enough to join the chorus of hallelujahs.

Peace,



Rev. Roger Owens

...and we continue to trust in the promise: God is going to do for the whole cosmos what God did for Jesus at Easter.

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## Update on Mission Partner: Haiti H2O

### MISSION UPDATE AND PRAYERS NEEDED IN TIMES OF TURMOIL

Our mission partner, Haiti H2O, has shared the following update on the care packages we assembled during our January Care-to-Action service project.

“The hygiene kits arrived in Haiti and they were distributed during our last medical clinics – the first 3 weeks in March. They saw 94 patients in Plain Matin, 135 in Bassin Caiman, and 115 last Saturday in St. Martin.

Unfortunately, due to all the recent turmoil, we had some miscommunication about our hopes for getting video to return to you. Our main Haitian staff coordinator was not in-country (due to the uprisings and the airports being closed), and things have been very difficult for our staff and partners in Haiti since the beginning of the year.

Here is a photo of the team with Pastor Pharyl (man on the right). Please pray for him and his son – they were in a motorcycle accident last week on the way to school and his son broke his femur. Please pray for his recovery, for no infection to take root, and for the family to be able to pay for his medical bills.”



**Photo:** Please pray for Pastor Pharyl (second from right) and his son – they were in a motorcycle accident last week. Also, pray for the people of Haiti in this time of national crisis.

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# Sunday at FCPC

Rev. Roger Owens shares the sermon, “. . . and Peter.”

## 8:15am Cup and Loaf Worship Service in Sanctuary

Traditional Service with the West Virginia Brass Quintet and Timpani

## 9:30am Contemporary Worship in Fellowship Hall

Kids' Church (Lowest Level), Nursery Care (Room 109), Comfort Space (Room 107)

## 10:15am Children's Choir (Choir Room)

## 11am Traditional Worship Service in Sanctuary

Traditional Service with the West Virginia Brass Quintet and Timpani

Kids' Church (Lowest Level), Nursery Care (Room 109), Comfort Space (Room 107)

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## 39th Annual Sponsorship Concert

SUN APR 14 AT 4PM / FREE ADMISSION / RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

This year's concert will feature George Frideric Handel's most beloved oratorio *Messiah* (Parts 2 and 3). *Messiah* was chosen as perhaps the most meaningful music for this year's Sponsorship Concert, as it will be the last such event before the retirement of both David Billings and Guy Russo from FCPC's staff this summer. The concert will feature the FCPC Chancel Choir and guest singers forming the Fox Chapel Festival Chorus as well as the Academy Chamber Orchestra. The concert is free. A reception in the Atrium follows the concert.

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## Positive Painting Project

APR 13 10AM-12PM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

The Positive Painting Project believes that art can be a powerful tool for healing and connection, and we are committed to providing opportunities for people of all ages to create and share their own art.

### Join us for a special event using art to:

- + Opportunities for people to express their positive thoughts and feelings
- + Promote positive mental health and suicide prevention
- + Break the stigma surrounding mental illness and suicide
- + Let people know that “It's okay not to be okay”

**Learn More** You can learn more about the Positive Painting Project at <https://www.paintpositive.org>.





## Harvest Fair Items for Donation

SEPT 6-7 / COLLECTING DONATIONS IN LATE MAY OR EARLY JUNE

As you begin your Spring cleaning, please keep the Harvest Fair in mind and set aside any items you'd like to donate. We will start collecting donations in late May or early June. We are also in need of volunteers over the coming months to help prepare for this popular event! For donation questions or information on volunteering, please contact Fay Powell at 412-576-8898.



## New Meditation Course

TUESDAYS 5:45-7PM / CHAPEL / THRU APR 9

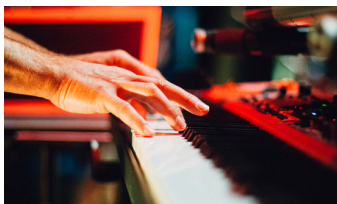
Led by Will Adams, PhD, this course is designed for beginners as well as experienced meditators drawing deeply from the wisdom of Christian contemplative traditions as well as Buddhist traditions. For more information, contact Will W. Adams by email at [adamsw@duq.edu](mailto:adamsw@duq.edu). **Just show up, no registration needed.** A donation of \$10-\$15 per session is suggested but not required to attend.



## Event Hosts Needed

PAYS \$100 PER EVENT

We need Event Hosts to provide help and hospitality during community events at FCPC. Event hosts need to be 18+ years old and have (or be able to obtain) clearances at church's expense. If you are interested or need more information, please contact Rebecca DePoe at [rebecca@fcpc.us](mailto:rebecca@fcpc.us).



## Worship Musicians Needed

VOCALISTS & INSTRUMENTALISTS FOR 9:30AM WORSHIP

We are in need of musicians and vocalists desiring to use their God-given gifts and talents for the 9:30am contemporary worship band. Must be available for rehearsals and Sunday mornings. Contact Jason Adams, [jason@fcpc.us](mailto:jason@fcpc.us), to get involved.



## FCPC Preschool Summer Camp Registration

NOW OPEN

For more information, please visit the preschool website at [www.fcpc.us/preschool](http://www.fcpc.us/preschool), or call the preschool office at 412-552-9382.

## Want to Serve Your Church?

USING YOUR GIFTS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Several ministry committees and teams are looking for people interested in sharing their gifts for the upbuilding of the church! If you have gifts in offering hospitality, organizing events, preparing food, encouraging others, communicating, tracking finances, learning tech or AV equipment, or

managing projects, your gifts are needed! Contact Pastor Ginger Thomas ([ginger@fcpc.us](mailto:ginger@fcpc.us)) to discuss how you can use your gifts for the church!

## Tech Team Needs You

The 9:30am and 11am worship services are seeking people to be trained to run sound, projection, and live stream. Contact Ryan Lancia ([ryan@fcpc.us](mailto:ryan@fcpc.us)) if you are able to join the crew!

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## Care & Concern

### **We hold these friends in prayer:**

John Hoyt  
Wilberta Pickett  
Elizabeth Kurzinski  
Kim & Rob Strohm  
Missy and Jason Fry  
Penny Young  
Jenna Rodrigues  
Laurel Schultz  
David Garzarelli  
Jan, friend of Gail Harger  
Hayley Hellstern's grandfather, John Philips  
Jane May, sister of Sue Patrick  
Philip Russo, friend of Gary and Mary Ann Celo  
Tina Shaw, friend of Gary and Malina Trozzo

### **We celebrate with:**

Rebecca and David Clements on the birth of their son Wallace William Clements, born March 4. His grandparents are Wally and Sandy Clements.

Chris Follansbee and Katie Kurzinski on the birth of their daughter Harper Elizabeth Follansbee, born March 5. Her grandparents are Bill and Susan Follansbee.

Rob and Lauren Simmonds on the birth of their son Graham Kurt Simmonds, born February 29. His grandparents are Bob and Jean Simmonds.

### **We pray for those who grieve:**

Tom Jolly with the loss of his son-in-law Dan Wilhoit who passed away on March 20.

Marcia Mayhew with the loss of dear friend and companion Gary who passed away on January 8.

Barry Leonard and family with the loss of his sister, Carley MacDonald on February 28.

Dorothy Hill and family with the loss of Dorothy's husband Bill Hill on February 25.

### **We pray for peace, aid, and consolation for all who suffer, including:**

- + The people of Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Haiti, Sudan, and every place there is conflict, violence, and hunger.
- + Refugees throughout the world.

*To keep this list current, please renew requests on a monthly basis for continued prayers.*

## Birthdays

**MAR 31** Fisher Heitzenroder, John Watters, Jon Koteski, Karen Gallo

**APR 1** Libby Ernharth

**APR 2** John Campbell, Mimi Loeffler, Bob Fletcher, Benjamin Ringeisen, Jeff McIlroy, Molly Delaney, Gene Patrick Pecci, Bennett Brown

**APR 3** Debra Schmidt, Danielle Stewart, Marilyn Noll, Conor Brown

**APR 4** Julie Power, Stephen Sliger, Lois Reuter, Andrea Friday, Quintin Wirginis

**APR 5** Julie Lawson, Ian Bell, Graham Childs, Debbie McBride, Deborah Lynn

**APR 6** Paul Rowland

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## Letters of Concern

Every week the deacons send letters of concern to members of our church family who are experiencing joys or concerns. You are invited to sign these letters each week. Cards are located at these locations:

+ **8:15am Chapel**

+ **9:30am Fellowship Hall**

+ **11am Atrium**



## Need a Caring Presence?

Stephen Ministers at FCPC provide one-on-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties. If you or someone you know needs support, contact Nikki Rosswog at 412-963-8243 ext. 07, or [nikki@fcpc.us](mailto:nikki@fcpc.us).

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## Subscribe to Weekly Highlights

Get the weekly *Highlights* newsletter delivered to your email inbox. Sign up: [tinyurl.com/FCPCEmail](http://tinyurl.com/FCPCEmail).

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# Children & Family Ministries (Infant-5th Grade)

## SUNDAY MORNING

### 8:15AM WORSHIP

No children's programming during this service.

### 9:30AM KIDS' CHURCH

For age 3 to 5th grade. Children are signed in prior to worship and begin the service on the children's rugs at the back of Fellowship Hall. After the Children's Message, children are led to the lowest level Kids' Space. Parents/guardians can pick up their children in the lowest level.

### 9:30 & 11AM NURSERY CARE

Room 109, for ages 0-3. Staffed by two experienced adults.

### 9:30 & 11AM COMFORT SPACE

Room 107. A place to comfort or feed a child and watch the worship service.

### 11AM KIDS' CHURCH

For age 3 to 5th grade. Children are signed in prior to worship and begin the service with loved ones. After the Children's Message, children are led to the lowest level Kids' Space. Parents/guardians can pick up their children in the lowest level.

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**Questions?** Contact our Director of Children & Family Ministries, Pastor Lori Bass-Riley, by email at [lori@fcpc.us](mailto:lori@fcpc.us) or call/text 412-737-1412.



## Wednesday Night Live

WEDNESDAYS 6:30-8PM / ELEMENTARY AGE (K-5TH)

Join us for Wednesday Night Live – a time for kids to connect, share, relax, play, learn, and deepen their relationship with God. All together in God's Love! Sign-up via the QR code or just show up! Please call or text Pastor Lori with questions, 412-737-1412.



## VBS 2024: Hero Hotline

JULY 8-12 1-4PM / PREK (AGE 4) - GRADE 5

Registration is now open for VBS: Hero Hotline –where everyone's a hero and every hero has a role to play in the Kingdom of God! To register, scan the QR code.



## Now Hiring Sunday Nursery Caregivers

Know someone with experience and love for young children? We have several available positions for Sunday nursery caregivers, 9am-

12:30pm. You must be 18+ years and have experience with children and infants. The schedule is flexible. To apply, contact Pastor Lori Bass-Riley at 412-737-1412 or by email, [lori@fcpc.us](mailto:lori@fcpc.us), or scan the QR code.





# Youth Ministry (Grade 6-12)

We invite all middle and high school students to join our weekly Sunday afternoon youth group. We meet in the Youth Lounge for games, snacks, discussions on how scripture impacts our life, and to grow together as a community.

## TODAY, SUN MAR 31

Youth Group will not meet today allowing everyone to celebrate Easter with family and friends.

## THIS WEEK

Join us Sunday, April 7:  
Middle School 2-3:30pm  
High School 4-5:30pm

## Questions?

Reach out to Ryan Lancia, Director of Youth Ministries at [ryan@fcpc.us](mailto:ryan@fcpc.us) or 412.963.8243 x19.

2024

# APRIL



7th: MS 2-3:30 & HS 4-5:30

14th: MS 2-3:30 & HS 4-5:30

21st: MS 2-3:30 & HS 4-5:30

26th & 27th: HS All Nighter

28th: No Youth Group

All of April, FCPC Youth will be collecting non-perishable food items to be distributed to local food banks



## Summer Trips for Youth

### SURF CITY CAMP IN MICHIGAN

Surf City is a camp in Michigan that is full of activities like tubing, zip-lining, laser tag, crazy games, and time to grow in community and with God.

**Middle School** (available for those in 6th-9th grade for '24-'25) happens August 4-9 and costs \$650.

**High School** (available for those in 9th grade through high school graduate) happens July 21-26 and costs \$650. Register at [fcpc.us/youth-ministry](http://fcpc.us/youth-ministry).



## Sunday Kids' Church Adult Team Sign-Up

### SIGN-UP THRU THE QR CODE

Be a part of our Sunday team and help share the love of Christ! Adults will need clearances and to go through our child protection process.



## College Scholarships

### DEADLINE TO APPLY IS APR 7

FCPC offers a one time college scholarship for high school seniors. All are welcome to apply! Award amounts are based on the number of awardees. Deadline to apply is April 7. The application is at [fcpc.us/youth-ministry](http://fcpc.us/youth-ministry).

## Graduating Senior Information

### HONORING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

If you know and love a high school senior in our church community, please send their name and their post-high school plans to Ryan Lancia ([ryan@fcpc.us](mailto:ryan@fcpc.us)). We want to honor and pray for them on May 19 during the service and send them a gift from the church.

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## Ways to Give

### Give Online

+ **Scan this QR code** to give online  
+ **Text** the word "Give" to 412-201-0557



**Make a Financial Pledge** You can make a financial pledge to FCPC no matter the time of the year. 2024 pledges can be made online via our website ([www.fcpc.us/giving](http://www.fcpc.us/giving)) or by contacting FCPC's Finance Administrator, Sandi Deaner ([sandi@fcpc.us](mailto:sandi@fcpc.us)) or call 412-963-8479.

**Corporate Matching Gifts** If your workplace supports nonprofits through a corporate gift matching program, double the impact of your gift to the church!

**Giving Envelopes** Second quarter giving envelopes were recently mailed out. If you no longer wish to receive envelopes, or if you would like to start receiving weekly or monthly giving envelopes, please contact Sandi Deaner, Finance Administrator at [sandi@fcpc.us](mailto:sandi@fcpc.us) or 412-963-8479.

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## We're Hiring

### Administrative Assistant, Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm

Do you know someone who feels a call to serve in the church, is organized, proactive, attentive to detail, a good communicator, and experienced with Microsoft Office? Please share our job posting at <https://www.fcpc.us/job-opportunities> and encourage them to apply to join our staff team!

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## Chancel Flowers

The chancel flowers today are given for the glory of God and in memory of Clay Hardon, Sr. by Sally Hardon and family.

Your order of flowers beautifies the sanctuary and is a way to honor or remember someone special. You can find order forms in the church office, scan the QR code, or visit [fcpc.us/forms](http://fcpc.us/forms).



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## This Week at FCPC

### MON APR 1

**Church Building Closed for Easter Monday Holiday**

### TUES APR 2

**8am** Men's Prayer Fellowship (Lounge)  
**9am-2:15pm** Preschool  
**9am** Preschool Book Fair (Atrium)  
**9:30am** Staff Devotions & Meeting (Lounge)  
**3:30-4:30pm** Stephen Ministry Meeting (Bride's Room)  
**5:45pm** Meditation Class (Chapel)  
**7pm** Guatemala Mission Trip Orientation (Lounge)

### WED APR 3

**9am-2:15pm** Preschool  
**9:30am** Community Bible Study-Lower Level (Rm310)  
**6:30-8pm** Wednesday Night Live (Fellowship Hall, LL)  
**6:30pm** A&P Meeting (Library)

### THURS APR 4

**9am-2:15pm** Preschool  
**6:30-7:30pm** Bell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)  
**7:30-9:30pm** Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### FRI APR 5

**9am-12pm** Preschool

### SUN APR 7

**8:15am** Cup and Loaf Worship (Sanctuary)  
**9:30am** Contemporary Worship (Fellowship Hall)  
**10:15-10:55am** Children's Choir (Choir Room)  
**11am** Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)  
**12-1pm** Confirmation (Youth Lounge)  
**2-3:30pm** Middle School Youth Group (Youth Lounge)  
**4-5:30pm** High School Youth Group (Youth Lounge)

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## Keep Us Informed

Have you recently moved, changed your phone number or email? Please contact Sarah in the church office with your updates ([sarah@fcpc.us](mailto:sarah@fcpc.us)).

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## FOX CHAPEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

384 Fox Chapel Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238

412-963-8243 | [www.fcpc.us](http://www.fcpc.us)

