

Highlights

MAR 10 2024

Spring Forward

PASTOR ROGER OWENS

Dear Friends,

I grew up in Indiana, where we didn't observe daylight saving time, in part because the rural portions of Indiana felt it wasn't "good for the cows." Even though I've now lived for twenty-five years in places that "spring forward" in March, it still feels jolting to wake again in the dark for the purpose of an hour of additional sunlight in the evening. It's as if we are trying to force into one day, through a sleight of hand, the work of a whole season: the lengthening of the days.

In the Christian calendar we are in the season of Lent, a penitential season, given to us for contemplating our sinfulness and meditating on our mortality. The most downer season in the church year. As with many other churches, we don't sing hymns with the word "Alleluia" during Lent.

Last week I heard an interview on the local classical music station with a church musician who was celebrating the fact that Lent allows him to pull out all the minor-key, solemn-mood music—"dolorous," I believe, was a word he used—that he typically avoids in more joyous

liturgical seasons. After all, Lent begins with the ritual smearing of ashes on the forehead, accompanied by the reminder, "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

But today, I'm feeling contrarian.

There are a couple of things that make me want to temper this Lenten mood. First, the word "Lent" come from an old English word that means "to lengthen," and it refers to spring, the season during which the days get longer. Even in Indiana, the sun shines later into the evening. It's a fact of life in the Northern Hemisphere: March means longer days and more light—thank goodness. Spring has an irrepressible hopefulness about it. If Lent is such a downer, why was it named after spring?

Second: Lent is a season of forty days, *not including Sundays*. There are actually forty-six days between Ash Wednesday and Easter (I just opened the calendar app on my phone to confirm this). Sundays don't count because every Sunday is a little Easter. Christians gather for worship on Sunday, the first day of the week, rather than Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath and the day



on which God rested according to Genesis, because Jesus was raised from the dead on the first day of the week. Every Sunday is a celebration of the Resurrection, even Sundays in Lent.

So, as the days inch longer, I trust you will continue to fast and pray, remember your mortality and practice self-examination. I trust you will give alms and confess your sins, all traditional Lenten practices. But I invite you to do it with a spring in your step. And when you see the forsythia pop and the daffodils bloom, when you hear the spring peepers chirping their mating call on a walk in the orange sunlight of late evening, remember that resurrection is a present reality; that Christ's new life is here, now; and that the light of God's glory shines whatever the season.

All facts that makes me want to whisper an illicit "Alleluia!"

Peace,

Inside



HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Worship services information for Holy Week and the Resurrection of our Lord...

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LETTER WRITING TODAY

Join us to write letters to support political prisoners and our international mission partners...

[More on page 2](#)

Holy Week Worship

PALM SUNDAY MAR 24

8:15, 9:30, and 11am All children and their loved ones are encouraged to join us during the Children's Message as we wave palm branches to celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (9:30 & 11am services only). Meet 10 minutes before the service to participate!

MAUNDY THURSDAY MAR 28

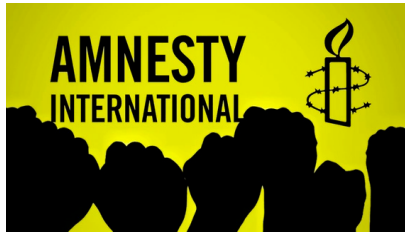
7pm with Holy Communion and designed with all ages in mind. This service will not be live-streamed. (Childcare provided)

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE MAR 29

7pm with Mendelssohn's Christus: A service of extinguishing candles, darkness, and dramatic music and drums, reflecting the drama of Christ's crucifixion. (Childcare provided)

RESURRECTION OF THE LORD MAR 31

8:15 and 11am with the West Virginia Brass Quintet and Timpani, in Sanctuary
9:30am Contemporary Service



Letter Writing Event

TODAY SUN MAR 10 12:30-2PM AT FCPC

Join us to write letters to support political prisoners and our international mission partners. The event is sponsored by the Peace and Justice Subcommittee of the Mission Committee. For more information, contact Bryan Bass-Riley by email at: (bryan.bassriley@gmail.com).

Associate Pastor News

APPROVED EXTENSION FOR THE REV. REBECCA DEPOE

Our Administration and Personnel Committee and Session have approved a recommendation from the Co-Senior Pastors that the call of Rev. Rebecca DePoe, Designated Associate Pastor, to serve at FCPC be extended

into a fourth year, from October 2024 to September 2025. As the parameters of the original call specified a maximum of four years, the Session has directed the Nominating Committee to put together an Associate Pastor

Nominating Committee that will be ready to begin a search for a permanent associate pastor in September 2024.



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) 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) if you are able to join the crew!

Sunday at FCPC

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Rev. Roger Owens shares Freedom from the Idol of Possessions and Mark 10:17-27.

8:15am Cup and Loaf Worship Service Chapel

9:05am Listening Session (Chapel)

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)

10:35am Listening Session (Fellowship Hall)

11am Traditional Worship Service Sanctuary

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

12:10pm Listening Session (Chapel)

12:30 Peace & Justice Letter Writing (Lounge)

2pm Middle School Youth Group (Youth Lounge)

4pm High School Youth Group (Youth Lounge)

6pm Listening Session on Zoom

(Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88069849218>)

7pm Lenten Small Group (Lounge)



Lenten Sermon Series

Mar 10 Mark 10:17-27, Freedom from the Idol of Possessions

Mar 17 Mark 10:35-45, Freedom from the Idol of Power

Listening Sessions: Share with Us Your Thoughts About FCPC Music Ministries

LISTENING SESSIONS / YOUR THOUGHTS MATTER

All are invited to attend a listening session to express personal reflections and hopes about the shape of music ministry at FCPC. A small group of leaders from Worship & Music Committee and Administration & Personnel Committee wants to hear your reflections

as we consider what the church needs in its next music staff positions after the retirements of David Billings and Guy Russo in August.

Join us to share your thoughts today, March 10, at:

+ 9:05am in the Chapel

+ 10:35am in the Fellowship Hall

+ 12:10pm in the Chapel

+ 6pm on Zoom (Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88069849218>)

Mission Partner Spotlight

REVERENDS ELMARIE & SCOTT PARKER MISSION CO-WORKERS IN LEBANON

Our Mission Partners of the Month for March are the Reverends Elmarie and Scott Parker. Elmarie and her husband Scott are Presbyterian mission co-workers who are based in Beirut, Lebanon.

Elmarie serves as a regional liaison to Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon. She works to strengthen the relational ties between the churches in her region and churches in the United States. Scott serves with the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) as a writer in residence. Scott has been asked by the MECC to lead their efforts in responding to children traumatized by unrest and war in Iraq and Syria who now seek refuge in Lebanon.

FCPC supports the Parkers' ministry financially through our mission budget. While it's always been challenging

to serve as missionaries abroad, in the last year, the Parkers have also been dealing with health challenges and rampant inflation in Lebanon. We hope you can join us to encourage the Parkers in their work to further God's kingdom abroad.

We'll be gathering today, from 12:30-2pm to learn about the Parkers' ministry and make cards for them.





Spring Potted Flower Orders

ORDER DEADLINE IS THURS MAR 21

These beautiful spring flowers will decorate the worship areas for the Easter services in memory of loved ones or to honor family or friends. The deadline to order is Thursday, March 21. Pick up an order form in the church office, or use the QR code to order online!



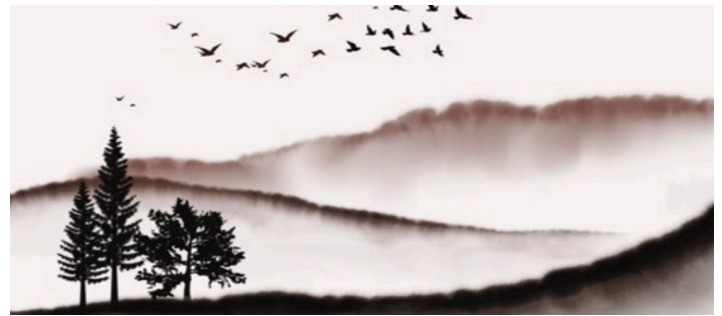
New Meditation Course

TUESDAYS 5:45-7PM / MAR 5-APR 2 / CHAPEL

Led by Will Adams, PhD, this course is designed for beginners as well as experienced meditators. This nonsectarian meditation course will draw deeply from the wisdom of Christian contemplative traditions as well as Buddhist traditions. The class will offer guidance on how to create and sustain a consistent meditation practice, and to bring contemplative sensibilities into our daily relationships, work, parenting, and creative endeavors. **Just show up, no registration needed.**

Donations A donation of \$10-\$15 per session is suggested but not required to attend.

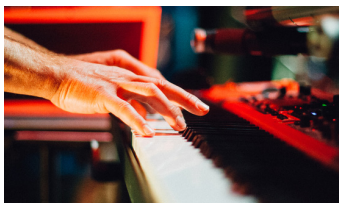
Questions? Contact Will W. Adams by email at adamsw@duq.edu.



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.



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, to get involved.



Friday Morning Book Group

LENT THRU JUNE / FRIDAYS 9:30-10:30AM VIA ZOOM

Join us Friday mornings as we focus on *The Seeds of Heaven: Sermons on the Gospel of Matthew* by Episcopal priest and author Barbara Brown Taylor. Call Kitty Skinner, 412 406-7304, for more information or for the Zoom link details.



FCPC Preschool Summer Camp Registration

COMING SOON!

Camp details and registration information coming soon! For more on FCPC Preschool, please visit the preschool website at www.fcpc.us/preschool.

Care & Concern

We hold these friends in prayer:

Elizabeth Kurzinski Kim & Rob Strohm
Penny Young Jenna Rodrigues
Laurel Schultz Tom Taylor
Tom and Pam Stickle
Jan, friend of Gail Harger
Matt Logue, friend of Bob Heister
Jane May, sister of Sue Patrick
Hayley Hellstern's grandfather, John Philips

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.

We pray for those who grieve:

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.
Matt Scott and family on the passing of his father.
Judy Due with the loss of her husband, George Due, on February 11.

Prayer for Our Congregation: Prayers for Lent small groups, gratitude for Roger's book and the leadership of Ginger and Roger leading. May the groups grow to know God more and grow in His love together.

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

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

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

Birthdays

MAR 10 Bill Dawson, Jane Flannery, Larry Niemann, Wilson Todd
MAR 11 Elle Roth, Sophia Demetri, Ron Ploucha, Norb Garbisch, Wayne Hoover, Robert Ferris
MAR 12 Brian Miller, Burt Doerfler, Graham Hawley
MAR 13 Bill Tippins, Erin Frohlich, Jessie Thiessen, Jean Simpson, Sara Horsman
MAR 14 Dorcas Evans-Miller, Josh Sutton
MAR 15 Becky Eynon, Christine Bennett, Susan Follansbee, David Garzarelli, George Grune
MAR 16 Karen Tippins, Virginia Hill
MAR 17 Brooke Barbour, Meghan Lucas, Bill Gilbert

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.

Subscribe to Weekly Highlights

Get the weekly *Highlights* newsletter delivered to your email inbox. Sign up: tinyurl.com/FCPCEmail.

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.

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



Wednesday Night Live

FOR KIDS & FAMILIES / WED MARCH 13

Join us on Wednesdays to deepen your family's relationship with God. Elementary age children can attend without adults. Children younger than kindergarten must be accompanied by an adult. Sign-up via the QR code.

6pm Dinners and snacks

6:30-7:30pm Program

7:30-8pm Games and free play



VBS 2024

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

Registration is now open for VBS! Our planning is taking shape and we are excited to share more with you soon. To register, scan the QR code. Our VBS theme will be announced soon along with more information on ways you can be a VBS volunteer.



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, 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 10

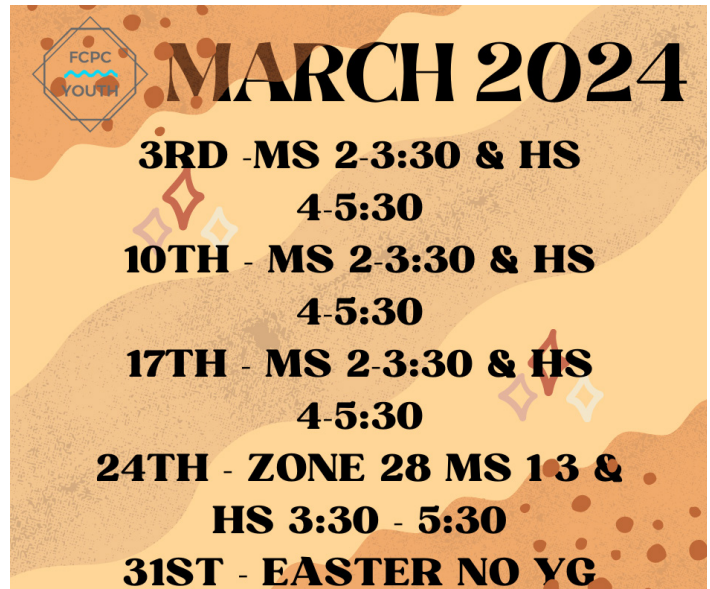
Middle School 2-3:30pm

High School 4-5:30pm

THIS WEEK This week we are playing Gaga ball! Come and see if you can be the champ. We will also be talking about how God's heart is faithful.

Questions?

Reach out to Ryan Lancia, Director of Youth Ministries at ryan@fcpc.us or 412.963.8243 x19.



MARCH 2024

3RD - MS 2-3:30 & HS 4-5:30

10TH - MS 2-3:30 & HS 4-5:30

17TH - MS 2-3:30 & HS 4-5:30

24TH - ZONE 28 MS 13 & HS 3:30 - 5:30

31ST - EASTER NO YG



Summer Trips for Youth

SURF CITY CAMP IN MICHIGAN

This year's summer trips for middle school and high school are both Surf City! 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.



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! All adult volunteers 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.

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) or by contacting FCPC's Finance Administrator, Sandi Deaner (sandi@fcpc.us) or call 412-963-8479.

Stock Donations FCPC accepts stock donations. When donating stock, please send a notification letter to Sandi Deaner. Include the name of stock, number of shares, how to apply the donation on your account, and the date you will donate your gift. For further instructions, contact Sandi Deaner (sandi@fcpc.us)

Giving Envelopes Second quarter giving envelopes are being mailed out. You can expect to receive your envelopes in the mail around March 18. 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 or 412-963-8479.

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!

Introducing Our New Communications Specialist!

We are excited to be contracting with a new communications specialist, Brian Jones, who brings many years of expertise in church communications to enhance overall communications at FCPC. Brian is based on Birmingham, AL, and the church staff is excited about collaborating with Brian to make our communications work more effectively across every medium and platform.

This Week at FCPC

MON MAR 11

- 9am-2:15pm** Preschool
- 10:30-11:45am** Lenten Small Group (Lounge)
- 2-3pm** Knitting Group (Library)
- 7-9pm** Building & Grounds Mtg. (Chapel)

TUES MAR 12

- 8-9:15am** Men's Prayer Fellowship (Lounge)
- 9am-2:15pm** Preschool
- 9:30-10:30am** Staff Mtg. (Lounge)
- 5:45-7pm** Meditation Class (Chapel)
- 7-8:15pm** Lenten Small Group (Zoom)

WED MAR 13

- 9am-2:15pm** Preschool
- 9:30-11am** Community Bible Study (Rm 310)
- 6:30-8pm** Wednesday Night Live (Fellowship Hall, LL)

THURS MAR 14

- 9am-2:15pm** Preschool
- 10-11am** Lenten Small Group (Longwood)
- 6:30-7:30pm** Bell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 7:30-9:30pm** Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

FRI MAR 15

- 9am-12pm** Preschool

SAT MAR 16

- 10-11:30am** Tunes for Tots (Lounge)
- 11-12pm** Douglas Ahlstedt Memorial Service (Sanctuary)

SUN MAR 17

- 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)
- 7-8:15pm** Lenten Small Group (Lounge)

Chancel Flowers

The chancel flowers today are given for the glory of God and in memory of Shirley Campbell by John Campbell.

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.

