

# Highlights



## What is an Interim Pastor?

Times of transitions in our lives are often exciting, filled with both anticipation and optimism. However, they are also frequently times of stress, anxiety, uncertainty and a sense of loss for what is being left behind. Churches are very much the same. Transitions in churches are often accompanied by feelings of grieving, uncertainty, confusion, loss of trust, loss of confidence, perhaps anger or any number of other emotions which are often present. These are all common and normal, but it is important that they be resolved in order for the church to be able to move forward successfully.

Interim Pastors are specifically trained to work with churches in transition, guiding them as they work to resolve these or any of the myriad other feelings that are often present. Their usual term of service is 1-2 years. They help the church to identify and resolve any underlying issues which might be present but unrecognized. When necessary, as independent agents, they can ask the difficult questions which sometimes need to be asked. They help the church to celebrate its heritage, and to move forward with renewed optimism, spiritual energy and commitment as they await the arrival of the next Installed Pastor.

The data are very clear that when churches do not do the Interim Pastor work before moving forward to call a new Installed Pastor, that Installed Pastor is much more likely to stay for 3 or 4 years and then leave, as compared to Installed Pastors in churches that have done the preparatory work, who experience a much higher rate of successful, long-term ministry in that church.

Our Interim Pastor Nominating Committee has been meeting weekly conducting a national search for more than 4 months. We are quite encouraged by the progress and are extremely optimistic about our future at FCPC. Please continue to pray that their Spirit will guide all of us as we move forward together in His service.

*Ann Boyd, Elizabeth Carter, Jay Thier, Vijay Gulati and Bill Follansbee, Chairman*

## SUNDAY JAN 25th - One Service Sunday & More

Join us for One Combined Worship Service on January 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am in the Sanctuary. All are encouraged to attend the service, followed by the Annual Congregational Meeting at 11:05 am. The congregation will elect incoming elders and deacons and receive the 2025 Annual Report. Afterward, come on down to the Fellowship Hall for the Chili Cookoff to follow!

- 10:00am - One Service in Sanctuary
- 11:00am - Annual Congregational Meeting
- 11:30am - Annual Chili Cook-Off

## FCPC Preschool Registration

Mark your calendar to register for the 2026-2027 school year!

Registration opens Monday, January 26th, for our current, legacy, and church families and for the greater community on Monday, February 9th. Contact Karin in the preschool office at [karin@fcpc.us](mailto:karin@fcpc.us) or 412-406-6617.

We're excited to have you join us for the next school year!



## FCPC First Annual Worship Spaces Cleaning Day

SATURDAY | JAN 24 | 9 AM - 12 PM

Help us refresh our worship spaces (Sanctuary, Chapel, and Fellowship Hall) with a deep clean for the new year!

Use the QR code or call the church office at 412-963-8243 to sign up.



# Children & Family Ministries (Infant-5<sup>th</sup> Grade)



## Kids' Church Volunteer Sign Up

Interested in volunteering for Kids' Church on Sunday mornings? Signups for 2026 are now available. Scan the QR code to sign up!



Questions? Contact Sam at [sam@fcpc.us](mailto:sam@fcpc.us)

## Introducing Kids Kingdom!



Our children's area has a new name! The Lowest Level, home of Kids' Church on Sundays and the future home of the FCPC nursery (see right!), is now called **Kids Kingdom**. We're excited to bring our children of all ages together in one area.

Come check us out!

## ATTENTION!

Dear All Nursery Families, the nursery is moving!

Effective February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 the nursery will be located in Kids Kingdom (Lowest Level). When you arrive at the top of the staircase leading to the Kingdom, please look to the board on the right for further instruction.

[www.fcpc.us/children-and-family-ministry](http://www.fcpc.us/children-and-family-ministry)

# Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12)

## January Schedule

11th - Youth Group & Bible Study

18th - Youth Group & Bible Study

24th - SkyZone Outing

\*25th - Youth Group & Bible Study  
\*One Service Sunday

Feb 1 - Youth Group & Bible Study

WNL - Jan 21 & 28

## Fly High with the Youth at SkyZone

January 24<sup>th</sup> 10:30 - 3ish

Spend an afternoon at SkyZone with the Youth Group. Followed by Lunch. \$40/student covers jumping and food.

Sign Up Deadline - January 19th



[www.fcpc.us/youth-ministry](http://www.fcpc.us/youth-ministry)

# Congregational Care

## Caregiver Coffee Hour

JANUARY 30 | 10 AM | LOUNGE

Caring for someone with physical, developmental, mental health, or age-related challenges can feel overwhelming and lonely. Caregiver Coffee Hour is an opportunity to give and receive support from other caregivers through conversation, the sharing of ideas, and prayer. All caregivers are welcome. You do not need to sign up, just drop in for a warm cup of coffee or tea. Hope to see you there. Questions can be directed to Nikki Rosswog at [nikki@fcpc.us](mailto:nikki@fcpc.us).



## Prayer Requests of the Congregation

### We hold these friends in prayer:

- Dave Hougy
- Judy Musgrave
- Bob Ball
- Bala Khyllep
- Carol and Family, friends of Marcia Mayhew
- Laurie Hamilton
- Bill Boag
- Lynda Jamison
- Carol and family, friends of Marcia Mayhew
- Jane May, sister of Sue Patrick
- Jonny Wallisch

### We pray for those who grieve:

- For Sarah Crittenden on the death of her brother, Lawrence Culliver, who passed away on January 1, 2026.
- For Jim and Janet Ummer and family on the death of Janet's sister, Bonnie Hanan, who passed on December 25, 2025.
- For the family of Carol McCarthy, friend of Charlie and Kitty Skinner, who passed away on December 23, 2025.
- For Charlie and Kitty Skinner and family on the death of Charlie's brother, Jim Skinner, who passed on December 12, 2025.
- For Dee Hoyt and family of John Hoyt who passed away December 5, 2025.

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

- For people affected and targeted by ICE.
- For safety to those traveling.
- For all facing economic uncertainty and food insecurity.
- For addicts in our community to heal and recover.
- The people of Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Haiti, Sudan, Venezuela, and places in conflict, violence, and hunger.
- Refugees throughout the world.
- For our republic.

### Prayers for Congregations in our Presbytery:

- Deer Creek UPC
- East Liberty PC
- East Union PC

*Submit your prayer request for the published prayer list by using a worship connect card or by emailing a staff member.*

*Prayer requests will be publicly listed for one month. Please re-submit your request if you would like to renew after a month.*

## Birthdays

**JAN 18** Jim Bischoff, Richard Sweringen II

**JAN 19** William Kassling, Christopher Sasada

**JAN 20** Barbara Carter, Tony Scanga, Jon Spector

**JAN 21** Jonathan Rodrigues, Josie Szlachetka, Andrew Wallisch

**JAN 22** Maya Freudenberg, Kelly Hofer, Sydney Inglis, Sheila Schmutz

**JAN 23** Jeffifer Braham, Gary Farrell, Gary Heitzenroder, Judy Rowse, Liz Sasada, Malina Trozzo

**JAN 24** Kim Chrisman, Josie Hahl, Tracey Mulert, Jack Tabish, Barbara Thompson



# This Week at FCPC

## SUN JAN 18

**8:15 AM** Cup & Loaf Service (Chapel)  
**9:30 AM** Contemporary Worship (Fellowship Hall),  
Kids' Church (Kids Kingdom), Nursery Care  
(Room 109), Comfort Space (Room 107)  
**9:45 AM** Small Group Bible Study (Lounge)  
**10:15 AM** Children's Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)  
**11 AM** Traditional Worship Service (Sanctuary),  
Kids' Church (Lowest Level), Nursery Care  
(Room 109), Comfort Space (Room 107)  
**2 PM** Youth Group (Youth Lounge)  
**4 PM** Youth Bible Study (Youth Lounge)

## MON JAN 19

**Church Closed - Martin Luther King Jr Holiday**

## TUE JAN 20

**9 AM** Preschool  
**9 AM** Backpack for Hunger (Chapel)  
**10 AM** Congregational Prayer Group (Library)

## WED JAN 21

**9 AM** Preschool  
**9:30 AM** Staff Devotions & Meeting (Library)  
**10 AM** Small Group Bible Study (Lounge)  
**6:15 PM** Wednesday Night Live (Fellowship Hall)  
**6:30 PM** A&P Committee Meeting (Lounge)  
**7 PM** Preschool Committee (Library)

## Staff Contacts

FCPC Office.....	412-963-8243
Jim Gilchrist, Bridge Pastor.....	jim@fcpc.us / ext. 16
Cheryl Khylllep, Covenant Associate Pastor.....	cheryl@fcpc.us / ext. 17
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Nikki Rosswog, Minister of Congregational Care.....	nikki@fcpc.us / ext. 07
Sam Harding, Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry.....	sam@fcpc.us / 412-726-0322
Karin Miller, Director of Preschool Ministries.....	karin@fcpc.us / ext. 60
Sarah Hays, Office Administrator.....	sarah@fcpc.us / ext. 10
Alex Shroyer, Business Manager.....	alex@fcpc.us / ext. 15
Katie Caracciolo, Administrative Assistant.....	katie@fcpc.us / ext. 11

## Giving

### Online Giving

Now using giving platform, PushPay.

- + Scan the QR code to give
- + Text the word GIVE  
to 833-830-6600



## THU JAN 22

**9 AM** Preschool  
**1 PM** Women's Bible Study (Chapel)  
**6 PM** Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)  
**7 PM** Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

## FRI JAN 23

**9 AM** Preschool

## SAT JAN 24

**9 AM** Worship Space Cleaning Day  
**10:30 AM** Youth Group SkyZone (Off Site)

## SUN JAN 25

**10 AM** One Service Sunday (Sanctuary),  
Kids' Church (Kids Kingdom), Nursery Care  
(Room 109), Comfort Space (Room 107)  
**11 AM** Annual Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)  
**11:30 AM** Annual Chili Cook-Off (Fellowship Hall)  
**2 PM** Youth Group (Youth Lounge)  
**4 PM** Youth Bible Study (Youth Lounge)



*As a PCUSA church, we welcome all persons who trust in God's grace in Jesus Christ and desire to become part of the fellowship and ministry of his Church. The Gospel leads our members to extend the fellowship of Christ to all persons.  
(Book of Order, G-1.0302)*



FOX CHAPEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

384 Fox Chapel Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238 | 412-963-8243 | [www.fcpc.us](http://www.fcpc.us)



# ANNUAL C H I L I C O O K - O F F

**SUNDAY JANUARY 25 | FELLOWSHIP HALL  
AFTER SERVICE & CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

For the 19<sup>th</sup> year, the entire Congregation is invited to attend and sample the product of the Church's best Chili cooks, who will be vying for bragging rights (and awards). Again this year, the Cook-Off will remember its late, great champion of champions, B.J. Ferguson. B.J. surely would want to know: Who will be able to say that he or she has the best chili in the Church and whether prior years' winners repeat in 2026!!!!

**Cooks:** Sign-ups will be held on January 4, 11 and 18 before and after each service in the Red Tile Area and Fellowship Hall.

Awards will be given to the top 3 finishers in the categories of Traditional Recipes, Non-Traditional Recipes, Youth Entries and Vegetarian/Heart Healthy Recipes.



E-MAIL CHET  
KARAS AT  
KARAS756@  
COMCAST.NET  
TO SIGN UP

**A special offering will be taken up at the door for a donation in B.J. Ferguson's memory to Animal Friends.**

# Help Our Neighbors in Need

# FILL THE TRUCK FOOD DRIVE

**DONATE  
TODAY!**



Scan for Suggested Donation List  
or to order on Amazon

Help Fill the Truck!

February 8<sup>TH</sup>

8 AM -  
12 PM



## Multiple ways to contribute!

Drop off non-perishables, toiletries and paper products at FCPC

Scan the QR code or go to <http://bit.ly/4aLcgzs> to send items from our Amazon wishlist directly to FCPC

Help us Fill the Truck on February 8th, 8 AM - 12 PM at FCPC  
Sign up at <http://bit.ly/4qmwHrz>

Donations will be distributed to local organizations after we Fill the Truck on 2/8



St. Vincent DePaul  
Sharpsburg



Council of Three Rivers  
American Indian Center  
Dorseyville



Bread of Life  
Etna