

FOX CHAPEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Highlights

A Letter from Sam Harding, Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Steve Jobs once said "The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do." Some people might be deterred by this statement. Deterred by thoughts such as "I don't want to be labeled as crazy," or "how can I change the world when it is just me trying to make a difference?" These thoughts can be scary, but that doesn't make them true. We have our own little world here at FCPC. A world that could benefit from some change and a few crazy ideas. Single moments, whether positive or negative, define our individual worlds every day. Moments such as the death of a loved one, receiving an unexpected gift, or spending a weekend at camp. For me, one of those world changing moments came in the form of a horseback riding accident while working at summer camp. There is always something, whether crazy or not, that can be done to change someone's world.

At the youth group's annual trip to Laurelville, PKF (Pittsburgh Kids Foundation) actually throw kids in the mud to teach them about Jesus. Now that's crazy! But it works! Youth leave camp with a life-changing experience knowing Jesus but are brought there by experiencing fun in the mud. It doesn't have to be mud. Start with something smaller, like giving a smile to a total stranger or telling a scared child that everything is going to be okay. These small moments can change the world of someone, without us even knowing it.

We as Christians are called to love one another. John 13: 34-35 states, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." As a lot of us know, love can be crazy, but love can change the world. FCPC, I challenge you this week to be a little crazy. Be a support for someone who needs it, sign up for a camp, show love in the world so others may see Jesus. Do whatever needs done in order to fulfill the "crazy" agenda. So, let's show love, and let's change the world!

Samantha Harding

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOLERS!!!



**Laurelville
Mud
Weekend**

\$200 November 14 - 16
Football, Fun, Fellowship....
and MUDDDDDDDD

Sign Up Deadline: October 10



**MIDDLE SCHOOL
LAURELVILLE
MUD WEEKEND**

\$200 OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 2

FOOTBALL, FELLOWSHIP, FUN.....AND MUD!

**PLUS.....SPECIAL HALLOWEEN
WEEKEND ONLY EVENTS!!**

SIGN UP DEADLINE: OCTOBER 10TH

World Communion Sunday

The underlying and all-encompassing oneness that is church flows from the underlying and all-encompassing oneness that is God. The oneness reverberates in the underlying and all-encompassing oneness that is the Christian calling, the Christian life. *Eugene Peterson*

Unity is a desire that we all have. We want to be united with our family and friends, and with our church. We long for oneness with God and with all creation. What can we, should we, do to make that unity a reality? However, maybe that is the wrong question. Is unity something we create and work for, or is it God's gift to us?

World Communion Sunday (originally called World Wide Communion Sunday) is a gift of the Presbyterian Church to the larger ecumenical church. The first celebration occurred at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1933 where Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr served as pastor. It was adopted by the Presbyterian Church in 1936 and by the Federal Council of Churches in 1940. Today close to 40 denominations around the world participate in this celebration. World Communion Sunday is a day that Christians focus on our oneness with God and with all God's people, Christians from all over the world.

The intent of World Communion Sunday is to remind the Church that through Jesus Christ we are united with God and with each other. Jesus is head of the church and he desires that his people be one (see Jesus' prayer in John 17:6-26, especially verses 11, 21-23). There are 40 denominations throughout the world that participate in World Communion Sunday, which makes me wonder how successful we are at celebrating our unity.



Get Involved at FCPC

Congregational Prayer Group

Tuesday Sept. 30 | 10 AM | Library

In this time of transition for our members, staff, elders, and other lay leaders, let our church be unified through prayer and the knowledge that the LORD will generously provide for FCPC. Do you desire to pray for the changes our church is experiencing; keep the devil out; and grow spiritually? All are welcome!

To accommodate different schedules, the prayer group will start meeting **Tuesdays at 10 AM in the Library** to express gratitude, seek guidance, and find comfort in the new thing that God is doing. If you want to access the prayer meeting by Zoom, please contact Katie in the church office by Monday morning at 412-963-8243 or katie@fcpc.us.

If you have questions, please call or text Kim Power at 412-965-8794.

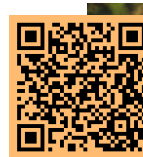
Fall 2025 Women's Bible Study

Join us Thursdays at 1:00 PM in the Chapel | September 18, 2025 – May 14, 2026

We will begin the year in the Book of Acts, a powerful story of ordinary people empowered by an extraordinary God. In this study, we'll journey through the early Church's beginnings, discovering how the lives of believers were rooted in prayer, community, and the bold proclamation of the gospel. As we explore their courage and faith, we'll be inspired to live with the same Spirit-filled purpose - right where God planted us.

This study is open to the community, so feel free to invite a friend!

To register or get more details, scan the QR code.

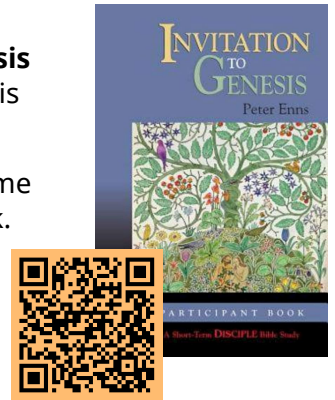


Fall Small Group Bible Study

The small groups bible study will resume again this fall. We will be studying **Genesis** which, as the story of the road to humanity's redemption through God's blessing, is the beginning and foundation of the entire bible.

We will be using the book *Invitation to Genesis* by Peter Enns, which is from the same series that we used in our study of John last fall. There are 10 chapters in the book. We will do the first 5 chapters this fall, beginning Sunday October 19 and ending the week of November 16, well before the Advent season. We will do the last five chapters in the winter, beginning early in January.

Scan the QR code to view small group dates & times and to register online.
Books are available in the church office.



Volunteer Opportunities



Haiti H2O Pumpkin Sale

OCT 9-12 / 11:00 AM-7:00 PM / FRONT LAWN

It's time for our annual Haiti H2O Pumpkin Sale! Come and buy a pumpkin to support the work of one of our mission partners. All proceeds from the sale benefit Haiti H2O. Since 2006, Haiti H2O has been investing in Haitian-led solutions for remote villages through construction, agriculture, healthcare, and micro-business projects. Pumpkins are an important part of Haitian culture, so we sell pumpkins as a tangible way to support our mission partner.

We also need many volunteers to help sell pumpkins. If you are interested in volunteering for a 2-hour time slot, sign up by scanning the QR code or visiting <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/pumpkinsale/event/volunteer/>

Support our Local Food Pantries

With your help, the Deacons of FCPC regularly donate non-perishable food to 3 local food pantries:

1) Bread of Life in Etna; 2) Singing Winds at the Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center by Dorseyville Middle School; and 3) Sharpsburg Food Pantry located in the basement of St Mary's Church.

All food pantries are struggling due to rising food costs, an increased number of recipients, and significant cuts in government funding. **You can help by contributing non-perishable healthy foods to the designated bins** located by either the Front Desk or downstairs, outside Fellowship Hall.

Healthy foods that are in demand:

- unsalted canned peanuts and nuts
- peanut butter & jelly
- canned beans & baked beans
- canned tuna fish, salmon and chicken
- unsweetened apple sauce
- granola bars
- pasta & pasta sauce
- diapers, wipes & formula
- toothpaste, shampoo
- deodorant, soap

Thank you! Don Boyd & Fay Powell



🎵 Music at FCPC 🎵

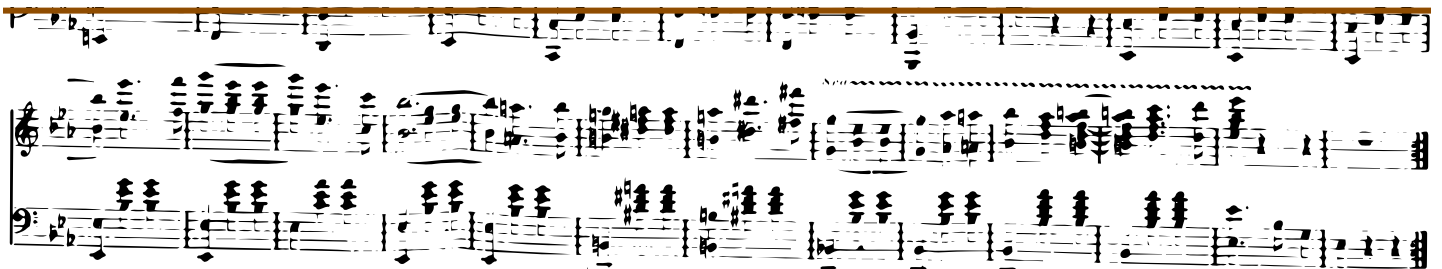
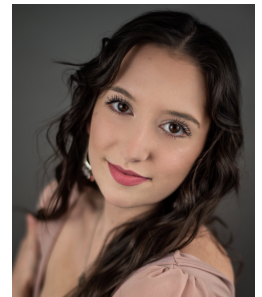
Welcome to Kitty Strakna, Our New Alto Section Leader

Kitty Strakna is a mezzo-soprano vocalist originally from Baltimore, MD. She is currently in her second year of graduate studies at Carnegie Mellon University, pursuing her Master's degree in vocal performance. She has appeared in numerous opera and concert performances, most recently in the opera Alcina with Carnegie Mellon University, and as the alto soloist in Handel's Messiah with the Carnegie Mellon Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus. She has also sung at many churches around the Pittsburgh and Baltimore areas, including three years of service as a section leader at St. Joseph Catholic Parish in Cockeysville, MD. She is excited to join the music ministry and share her talents with the congregation at Fox Chapel Presbyterian.



Welcome to Meg Jones-Gatta, Our New Soprano Section Leader

Meg Jones-Gatta is delighted to join the Fox Chapel family as the soprano section leader for the chancel choir. Meg was raised in The South Hills and grew up singing in the choirs at Westminster church. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in performance from Ithaca College as well as a Master's Degree from Bard college. Meg sings with Pittsburgh Festival Opera as well as Fine Art Miracles; a nonprofit organization that works to bring live music to local nursing homes and memory care facilities. She's also the assistant vocal director for the drama program at Central Catholic High School, where she works alongside her husband Sean, the school's chorus/theatre director. She feels blessed God has led her to this opportunity and looks forward to continuing serving him through music alongside the Fox Chapel community.



Get Involved in FCPC's Music Groups

Children's Choir Rehearsals

Sundays 10:15am-10:50am (Choir Room)

Bell Choir Rehearsals

Thursdays 6:00pm-6:45pm (Sanctuary)

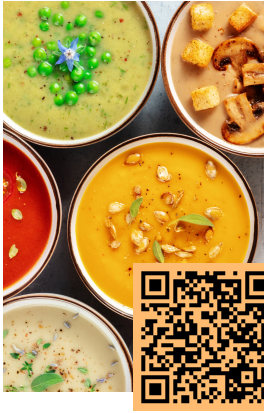
Contemporary Worship Band Rehearsals

Sundays 8:00am-9:30am (Fellowship Hall)

Chancel Choir Rehearsals

Thursdays 7:00pm-9:00pm (Choir Room)





FCPC Soup Ministry

The FCPC Soup Ministry will be starting again in October. Our first soup making event will be with the Youth Group on Sunday October 12. We need your help! Sign up to donate ingredients for taco and minestrone soups. Your donation makes this event possible and will bless many folks in need of a warm cup of soup during the fall season. Please sign up by scanning the QR code provided.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Juli Huntington at juli_huntington@msn.com or Nikki Rosswog at nikki@fcpc.us.

Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12)

OCTOBER YOUTH SCHEDULE

October 5 - Youth Group 2pm-3:30pm

October 12 - Soup Ministry/College Boxes Service Project 2pm-4pm

October 19 - Youth Group 2pm-3:30pm

October 26 - Youth Sunday **ALL SERVICES - 8:15 AM/9:30 AM/ 11 AM**

Pizza Lunch to Follow Service - No Youth Group

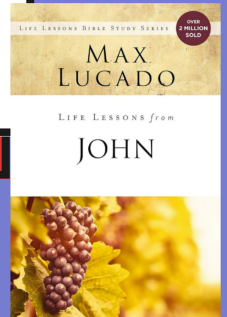
November 2 - Youth Group 2 pm-3:30pm
Youth Bible Study 4pm-5:30pm

Feel Free to Attend Youth Group or Bible Study or Both!

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

Sundays After Youth Group
4pm - 5:30pm

Beginning November 2nd



YOUTH SUNDAY

Come share your talents with the congregation!
In need of readers, singers, ushers, musicians, artists, etc.

Youth
delivered
Message

October 26th
8:15 AM
9:30 AM
&
11:00 AM

Children's Choir
Performance

Entirely youth/children led service

Youth Ministry Leader Contacts

Sam Harding | Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry | sam@fcpc.us | 412-726-0322

Jenna Tupponce | Youth Program Coordinator | jenna@fcpc.us | 623-203-8385

Children & Family Ministries (Infant-5th Grade)

SUNDAY MORNINGS

8:15 AM WORSHIP

No children's programming during this service.

9:30 AM 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 will be led to the **Lowest Level**. Parents/guardians can pick up their children there.

9:30 & 11 AM NURSERY CARE

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

9:30 & 11 AM COMFORT SPACE

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

11 AM KIDS' CHURCH

For ages 3 to 5th grade. Children are signed in before worship and begin the service with loved ones. After the Children's Message, children will be led to the **Lowest Level**. Parents/guardians can pick up their children there.

Questions? Contact Barbara Patterson at onepurplemom@gmail.com.

Children's Ministry - Looking Ahead into the Fall Season

Sam and the Christian Nurture Committee continue to be excited about our Children's Ministry! As we move into the Fall season, be on the lookout for announcements of upcoming activities. We will be hosting Trunk or Treat, and are looking forward to restarting Wednesday Night Live in October. Of course, we'll continue our weekly Kids' Church lessons each Sunday! Stay tuned for more details.

Interested in helping out? Contact Sam Harding, Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry at sam@fcpc.us or Toby Eberhart (Christian Nurture Committee Chair) at pteberhart@hotmail.com

Scan QR code to
volunteer for
Kids' Church



FCPC Children's Choir

Join the FCPC Children's Choir!

Children K-5th grade are welcome to join.

Rehearsals are held weekly on Sundays from 10:15-10:50 AM in the choir room (room 209).

Questions? Please reach out to S.C. Toe, Minister of Music at sc@fcpc.us



We are looking for candy donations for the upcoming Trunk or Treat on October 18th!



If you are willing to donate please drop off candy to Sam Harding's office (or see Sam) by October 15th.

Thank you in Advance for helping us catch the "Wanted" candy!

Prayer Requests of the Congregation

We hold these friends in prayer:

Harumi and Takao Sumiya, friends of Diane Tung
Lawrence Tulliver
Janet Rohrer
Elicia Sutton
Holly Drake, friend of Bob Heister
John Culbertson
Karl Jussen, brother of Christian Jussen
Kathy Smith
Claire Susi, FCPC Preschool teacher
Chuck, stepfather of Nellie Boehm
Jean Hopper
Erick and Lily Jussen, family of Christian Jussen
Dom Leo, friend of Judy Leininger
Lynn Rueter
Bill "Red" Craig
Charlie Haeussner
Nancy Jane Edelman
Sherry Adams, sister of Brenda Karas
John Kelly, friend of Bob Heister
Ted and Anne Foster
Jeff and Susie, friends of Gail Harger
Carol Henderson
Margaret Shields, friend of Emy and Bill Boag
Mary Hanna
Jane May, sister of Sue Patrick
Johnny Wallisch

We pray for those who grieve:

- For Dudley and Betsy Hawley on the death of Dudley's uncle, Washburn Hawley, who passed away September 19, 2025.
- For Cristie Good and family on the death of her father, Bob Kelly, who passed away September 8, 2025.

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

- For all facing economic uncertainty.
- For addicts in our community to heal and recover.
- The people of Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Haiti, Sudan, and places in conflict, violence, and hunger.
- Refugees throughout the world.
- For our republic.

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 a month, if you would like to renew requests please submit another one.

Birthdays

OCT 5 Josh Chu, Kelley Denny, Jim Liken, Jeff Schmutz, Holly Sphar
OCT 6 Gigi Mettenburg, Steve Schultz
OCT 7 Thomas Lawson, Taylor Valley
OCT 8 Jenny Bradham, JoEllen Leech, Miles Lesnik, Siena Trabant
OCT 9 Cheryl Dattilo, Ruby Heitzenroder, Peter
OCT 10 Meghan Brady-Porter
OCT 11 Karen Conner, Debbie Demmler, Josh Kutzner



Preschool Substitute Teachers Needed

Are you interested in making a difference in the lives of young children? Join our substitute team of early childhood educators at FCPC Preschool! Substitutes will support classroom teachers as they deliver lessons and activities that encourage a love of learning and healthy physical, social, and emotional development for students.

Interested or have questions? Contact Karin Miller at karin@fcpc.us



This Week at FCPC

SUN OCT 5

8:15 AM Cup & Loaf Service (Chapel)
9:30 AM Contemporary Worship (Fellowship Hall),
Kids' Church (Lowest Level), Nursery Care (Room
109), Comfort Space (Room 107)
10:15 AM Children's Choir Practice (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)

MON OCT 6

8 AM Preschool
9 AM Backpack for Hunger (Chapel)
6 PM Capital Plan Meeting (Chapel)
7 PM Mission Committee (Lounge)

TUE OCT 7

8 AM Preschool
8 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast (Lounge)
10 AM Congregational Prayer Group (Library)
5:45 PM Meditation Prayer Group (Lounge)
7 PM Christian Nurture Committee (Chapel)
7 PM Interim Pastor Nominating Committee (Library)

WED OCT 8

8 AM Preschool
9:30 AM Staff Devotion and Meeting (Lounge)
6:30 PM A&P Committee (Lounge)

THU OCT 9

8 AM Preschool
9:30 AM GriefShare (Chapel)
1 PM Women's Bible Study (Chapel)
6 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

FRI OCT 10

8 AM Preschool
9:30 AM Friday Morning Book Group (Zoom)

SAT OCT 11

11 AM Burt Doerfler Memorial Service (Sanctuary)

SUN OCT 12

8:15 AM Cup & Loaf Service (Chapel)
9:30 AM Contemporary Worship (Fellowship Hall),
Kids' Church (Lowest Level), Nursery Care (Room
109), Comfort Space (Room 107)
10:15 Children's Choir Practice (Choir Room)
11 AM Traditional Worship Service (Sanctuary),
Kids' Church (Lowest Level), Nursery Care (Room
109), Comfort Space (Room 107)
2 PM Soup Ministry & Youth Group (Kitchen)

Staff Contacts

FCPC Office.....412-963-8243
Doug Marshall, Bridge Pastor.....doug@fcpc.us / ext. 16
S.C. Toe, Minister of Music.....sc@fcpc.us / ext. 29
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 Manager.....sarah@fcpc.us / ext. 10
Alex Shroyer, Business Manager.....alex@fcpc.us / ext. 15
Katie Caracciolo, Administrative Assistant.....katie@fcpc.us / ext. 11

Ways to Give

Online Giving

Now using giving platform, PushPay.
+ Scan the QR code to give
+ Text the word GIVE
to 833-830-6600



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

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