

Church Bell



fpcro

From the Pastor's Desk...

The end of our lives is not something most of us enjoy thinking about. Yet if we are gifted with a good and — perhaps long — life, there is much meaning to be made of the season that surrounds our death. Our faith teaches that because of our relationship with Jesus Christ, we have nothing to fear. Even though we may still hesitate to think about death, we entrust ourselves to God in life and in death.

Our book study at the end of September focuses on the challenging issues that surround questions of life and death.

What makes for quality of life when a person is sick? What mark are we seeking to leave on the world? What does it mean if our lifespan, which we had expected to be longer, is cut short by illness? What does God have to do with it all? Even if you missed the discussion, I recommend to you both of the books we read (*When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi and *Everything Happens for a Reason, and Other Lies I've Loved* by Kate Bowler) to help you dig deeper into your own answers to these questions.

At the close of our *A Good Life* worship series, our church is hosting a workshop entitled, "We Belong to God" focused on end of life planning on Sunday, October 10 at 11:30 am in the Kirkman Fellowship Hall. I urge you to attend, no matter your stage of life. Invite a friend who might benefit from the discussion, too. We sometimes think such planning is only for senior citizens. But if COVID has taught us anything, it is that life is precious and it's good to be prepared whether we are 35 or 85 years old. At the workshop, Joseph Jackson and I will spend some time talking about how our church seeks to accompany families through their grief and the funeral service. We'll offer practical planning resources to share with your family and loved ones to communicate your desires for your eventual funeral, as well as other items they may need upon the event of your death. Also at the workshop, a number of community service providers will be present to share a bit about their work and to help you get more acquainted with their resources. William Sullivan Funeral Home, Michigan Cremation Society, Grace Hospice, and the Alzheimer's Association will be present, along with an attorney who specializes in wills and trusts. You can get information and then contact these providers on your own to utilize any of their services.

I am also celebrating that, this past month, our church enrolled another Sunburst Steward, who has designated a gift to the church's endowment in their estate. The Sunburst Steward program was unveiled a year and a half ago. I'm pleased that we have already enrolled five Stewards who are living lives of faithfulness and generosity and will leave that legacy behind them at their death.

As we look ahead to All Saints Sunday, which we will observe on November 7, I give thanks for all the saints in our church — those in the church visible (those here now) and in the church triumphant (those who have died and claimed God's promise of resurrection life). When we live, we live to the Lord and when we die, we die to the Lord, scripture tells us. We receive each day as a gift. So, let us live wholeheartedly to the Lord, for the Lord, and with the Lord, in this community of faith.

Pastor Emma



In-Person Worship

At 9 am & 10:30 am
Sunday, join us
for worship in the
sanctuary.
Face coverings are
required indoors.

Livestream Worship

Sundays at 10:30 am
watch the livestream
of the worship service
on Vimeo, Facebook or
YouTube. (*Or anytime
later in the day/week.*)

Sunday school
for children
pre-kindergarten
through 5th grade, will
begin at 10:30 am, in
Kirkman Fellowship Hall.
The nursery is open for
infant-toddler care.

our staff

pastor/head of staff, enickel@fpcro.org **Rev. Emma Nickel**
director of music ministries & organist, jjackson@fpcro.org **Joseph Jackson**
chancel choir director, kwattleworth@fpcro.org **Kent Wattleworth**
preschool music director, afriberg@fpcro.org **Audrey Friberg**
director of christian education, jjarrait@fpcro.org **Joelle Jarrait**
church administrator, kperuski@fpcro.org **Kari Peruski**
administrative assistant, sgilreath@fpcro.org **Sally Gilreath**
evening reception/security, tcrawford@fpcro.org **Todd Crawford**
preschool director, preschool@fpcro.org **Sarah Gibson**
preschool teacher **Beth Heitchue**
facility manager, aglasel@fpcro.org **Alan Glasel**
wedding coordinator, weddings@fpcro.org **Ginny O'Brien**
newsletter editor **Tere Ryan**

OF NOTE:

Births:

Evelyn Lois Calogero, September 19, 2021
Daughter of parents Jennifer & John Calogero

Deaths:

Katherine L. Vogtmann, September 10, 2021



Are there any actions, habits, etc. that you've decided need to fall by the wayside as you've reflected on your star word?



STEPHEN MINISTRY

FPCRO is a Stephen Ministry church. Stephen Ministers are lay caregivers trained to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.



SHINING GOD'S LIGHT INTO THE FUTURE...

Sunburst Stewards honors members who have included the church in their estate plans with a gift to the endowment. Knowledge of future gifts offers the church an opportunity to thank donors and allows church leadership to plan for the future. The ultimate benefit comes from knowing that we have recognized the importance of God in our lives and have made a powerful witness of that love through a gift to the church.

For more information about Sunburst Stewards, please contact Rev. Emma Nickel or the chairperson of the Finance and Investment Committee. All information given will remain confidential.



First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak

Columbarium and Memorial Garden

Information packets available

Questions:

Ken Bissey 248.709.4849

memorials & gifts

Memorial gifts were given in memory of Ray Crawford and Andy Wesa.



Proud parents Jennifer & John Calogero (pictured at right from their 2018 New Member photo), shared the news and a picture of their newborn baby daughter, Evelyn. Congratulations Calogero family!



IS YOUR INFO CURRENT?

Please let Sally Gilreath (sgilreath@fpcro.org) know of changes to your contact information so we can maintain current and up-to-date records of your member information.

Worship and Music

'WE BELONG TO GOD' END-OF-LIFE PLANNING WORKSHOP

On **Sunday, October 10** from **11:30 am to 12:30 pm**, join us in Kirkman Fellowship Hall for this planning workshop. We'll think together about how Presbyterians mark the end of life through funerals and memorial services. We'll offer guidance for funeral planning and preparation, and organizations will be present to help you prepare for other end-of-life issues. The Cremation Society, Sullivan Funeral Home, hospice, the Alzheimer's Association, and an attorney specializing in wills and estate planning will be available. Invite friends who could also benefit from this important information. Don't shy away from this event because it feels far off or because death is unpleasant to discuss. In life and in death we belong to God and so we have nothing to fear.



FLOWER DEDICATION MINISTRY

Flowers are a wonderful way to glorify God and beautify our worship service on the Sunday of your choosing. One arrangement will be used for both morning services in the sanctuary. Flowers may honor a living person or be offered in memory of someone, in celebration of an anniversary, milestones or in thanksgiving for friends or family.



To make a dedication, fill in your name, email and phone number on the Flower Dedication Chart in the hallway across from the reception area. Also, complete a "Flower Dedication Card," and include a \$45 check made out to FPCRO with "flowers" on the memo line. Place the card and check in the Flower Donation basket at the reception desk. Or, you can sign up using this link, <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b4aadae2aa5f85-flower>.

Questions? Contact Chris Klein (CKlein8000@live.com) or 248-990-8586. Thank you!

WILL YOU SERVE AS AN USHER?

Ushers are an important "face" of the church and often the first people seen upon arriving. Ushers pass out bulletins, help with collection of offerings, and watch over our church family as we worship.



Please consider becoming an usher this year at either the 9:00 am or 10:30 am service. To become involved, sign up on the list at the reception desk or contact Chris Klein (CKlein8000@live.com, 248-990-8586). Volunteering does not mean you are expected to usher every Sunday as the goal is to have a group of ushers who rotate through Sundays each month. Serving as an usher adds just a few minutes to your Sunday morning worship time. Sign up today!



Mission and Benevolence



COMMON GROUND MISSION OPPORTUNITY

Through the end of October, we will continue to support Common Ground by holding a church-wide collection of household items to help young people get started to live in their first apartment. If you didn't take a paper tag, sign up and donate new items, from toiletries to baking sheets to cleaning supplies, so that a young person's new apartment is well-stocked and offers a welcoming space to call home. To sign up online for remaining items, follow this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D4FAFAD2CA7FD0-common>. Items are due back by October 31.



September 12 Kick-Off Sunday was a beautiful time to spend together outside for Meal with a Mission! Thanks to all who helped tie blankets for Fleece and Thank You!



House & Grounds

As the weather continues to cool off and we transition from summer to fall, the House & Grounds committee invites you to join us for the annual **Fall Clean-Up on Saturday, November 6, from 9 am to 12 noon**. Gather together as we clean up the grounds of the church by raking leaves, cleaning and preparing the garden beds for winter, and trimming shrubs and trees as needed. Bring your ambition, gardening tools, and some lawn & leaf bags to help prepare the church grounds for that fourth season that is such a part of Michigan life: winter. If all you have is ambition, bring that and we can supply the garden tools and lawn & leaf bags! *Rain date: Saturday, November 13 from 9 am to 12 noon.*



Pictures from 2020 Fall Grounds Clean Up.

Sunflowers Christian Preschool



A fun new year of preschool has begun and we are having a great time with new friends and are enjoying the routines of our school day. There are a lot of busy activities in the classroom and the playground is always fun on a sunny day.

October is fire safety month and keeping safe becomes a topic for the month.

The beautiful autumn colors outside our classroom window come inside as we paint with 'orange' this month. Our three-year-olds are practicing their fine motor skills, learning how to play cooperatively, and doing some wonderful art projects. Our four-year-olds are jumping into the alphabet, studying one letter per week, as well as all the other things that make school fun

Our hallway and classroom are being filled with beautiful artwork. We love displaying them to keep us in the fall mood. We are blessed with two full classes of 16 students each!

Mrs. Gibson and Mrs. Heitchue

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are so excited to be back in person for Sunday school. Each week we explore what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Children ages pre-kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to join us in Kirkman Fellowship Hall on Sundays beginning at 10:30 am. Children will talk about what it means to follow Jesus and the ways Jesus calls us as disciples to live out our lives.

Families can enter through the CE Lobby to sign in and children will go to class while grown-ups go to worship in the Sanctuary. As the weather allows, we will go outside for our time together. Following worship, children will meet their grown-ups in Kirkman Fellowship Hall to sign out.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Mark your calendars for our community Trunk or Treat! **Friday, October 22 at 5:00 pm** families are invited to walk through the parking lot so children can trick or treat at decorated cars.

To help make this event a fun success we need your participation! We are looking for at least 20 families/individuals to decorate their cars and hand out candy. You can sign up through our Sign Up Genius link, <https://tinyurl.com/prcs2vuk> or call the church office. You can also help by donating candy to pass out. Please bring nut free candy to the church on Sundays or during weekly during office hours. If you have candy to donate and need someone to pick it up, please call the church office or email Joelle Jarrait at jjarrait@fpcro.org. If you prefer to make a monetary donation to purchase candy, please send it to the church marked "Trunk or Treat."



OCTOBER H.O.M.E. BAGS

H.O.M.E. stands for **Helping Out, Mission Edition**. This is an opportunity for you and your family to participate in a project for our community far and wide.



Our October H.O.M.E. bag project is to assemble Hygiene Kits for people affected by natural disasters. We will provide a gallon size Ziploc bag and a list of supplies to go into them. The H.O.M.E. bags will be available for pick up starting **Sunday, September 26**. We are asking for the completed kits to be returned to the church by **Sunday, October 24**.

Our completed kits will be distributed through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). PDA is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. You can learn more about their work at <https://pda.pcusa.org>

PUZZLE

MASTER MULTIPLICATION

Jesus tells a parable about faithful servants who multiply their master's money. How does the master respond?

Directions: Solve the math problems. Find the letters that match the answers and write them in order to complete Matthew 25:21, NIV.

5 x 3 =	6 x 6 =
7 x 4 =	9 x 3 =
4 x 6 =	3 x 8 =
2 x 10 =	10 x 4 =
9 x 5 =	11 x 8 =

KEY

A = 28	J = 50	S = 88
B = 35	K = 21	T = 45
C = 14	L = 63	U = 64
D = 25	M = 15	V = 32
E = 33	N = 24	W = 80
F = 72	O = 77	X = 56
G = 40	P = 54	Y = 20
H = 36	Q = 9	Z = 48
I = 27	R = 16	

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant!

You have been faithful with a few things;

I will put you in charge of _____.

Come and share your master's happiness!"

MATTHEW 25:21, NIV

Answer: 15, 28, 24, 20, 45, 36, 27, 24, 40, 88; many things

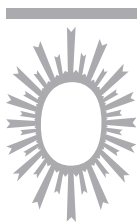
**Worship with us at 9 & 10:30 am,
or online anytime at www.fpcro.org**

www.fpcro.org • facebook.com/fpcro

248.541.0108 • fax 248.541.1859

529 Hendrie Blvd.

Royal Oak, Michigan 48067



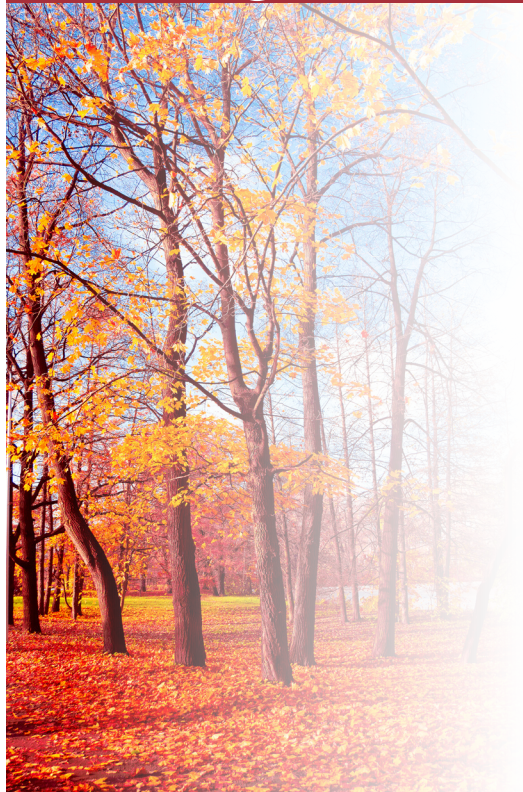
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opportunities for all ages!
serving • learning • growing

find us on:



Upcoming Events at FPCRO!



**‘We Belong to God’
End-of-Life Planning Workshop
Sunday, October 10 • 11:30 am**

**Trunk or Treat
Friday, October 22 • 5 pm**

**Fall Church Grounds Clean-Up
Saturday, November 6 • 9 am**