



APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

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Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this, we will all be living in the afterglow of Easter.

Holy Week and Easter Sunday have now passed, and it is my hope and prayer that the services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Holy Saturday 24-hour prayer vigil, and our three Easter Sunday services will have strengthened your faith.

Many thanks to everyone who helped to make these services happen. Knowing the talent of our Chancel Choir, Upper Room Musicians, and all of our music staff paired with the talent of our decorating committee, live-streaming team, with the assistance of all of our church staff, I have no doubt that the services will have been both powerful and beautiful.

My prayer is that the joy we feel on Easter morning does not vanish when Easter ends.

I have read that, "Joy is the birthright of all who belong to God, and it can coexist even with the most difficult; even painful circumstances."

On Easter morning, we will have sung of this sustaining joy and during the coming month we will sing of the difference Christ makes to our lives and deaths as we walk together through some challenging funerals.

Together, we will stand on the promises of Easter and continue to find in them our strength, our hope, and our deep-rooted joy. Jesus says, "I am the Resurrection and the Life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die." (John 11: 25-26)

Strengthened by these promises, we approach these funerals with faith as we walk hand in hand with God into the future.

Wishing you hope, peace, and deep-rooted joy in Christ this month and always,

Emily



April/ May 2024 Worship Schedule

We have two services on offer every Sunday
Our 9:30 am Sanctuary service is a traditional service
Our 11:15 am Upper Room Service is an acoustic contemporary service

Sundays in April

This month, we will begin a new sermon series on the Old Testament book of Micah.

April 7, 2024 Rev. Campbell will be preaching on *The Book of Micah chapters 1 & 2*
**Upper Room Service: Commissioning
of Doug Kee and Sue Kage (Malawi Mission Team)**

April 14, 2024 Joyful Ringers Sunday. Rev. Ashley preaching on
The Book of Micah chapters 3-4
Crossroads Sunday

April 21, 2024 Rev. Campbell is preaching on *The Book of Micah chapter 5*

April 28, 2024 Baptism Sunday. New Members Joining the Church.
Rev. Ashley is preaching on *The Book of Micah chapters 6-7*

Sundays in May

**May 5, 2024 Communion Sunday. Mission Celebration with Tom and
Jocelyn Logan (Marion Medical Mission).** Rev. Campbell
is preaching

May 12, 2024 Mother's Day. Rev. Campbell is preaching

May 19, 2024 Pentecost Celebration. Spring Choir Concert.
Rev. Ashley is sharing Pentecost message

May 26, 2024 Memorial Day Celebration. Rev. Ashley is preaching



April Children's Ministry Newsletter



Upcoming Events:

**April 21st- Tye Dye and Popsicles
12:30pm-1:30pm- Outside (Weather
Permitting).**

**Children please bring a shirt to Tye-
Dye. Popsicles will be provided.**

**May 5th- 12:30pm-1:30pm- Pastries
with parents- Dining Hall and
Fellowship Hall. Parents are invited to
join their child for pastries and a fun
activity.**

What's happening in Sunday School:

**April 21st- We will be packing
lunch bags for Hope Clinic during
Sunday school.**

**April 28th- We will be taking a trip
to our church Library to check out a
book during Sunday school.**



VBS Registration now open!

**Registration for VBS is now open! Come join us June 25th, 26th and
27th from 6pm-8:30pm! Children going into Pre-k through 5th grade
can join us for VBS.**

**Any questions please contact Laura Craig, lauracraig@fpcp.net or call
734.453.6464, ex 110**



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VBS



Are you wondering how you can help for VBS? Looking for volunteers to help prep before VBS and help during VBS. Lots of different opportunities to volunteer! If you are interested please reach out to Laura Craig. lauracraig@fpcp.net or call 734.453.6464, ex 110



Inviting all Kids!
Pre-K to 5th grade



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
2024
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH
701 CHURCH ST. PLYMOUTH
734.453.6464

JUNE 25TH-27TH
6PM-8:30PM

VBS Celebration-
JUNE 28TH AT 6PM



TO REGISTER
SCAN THE QR
CODE
OR GO TO
FPCP.NET/UP
COMING-
EVENTS/#VBS



FPCP

Youth Ministry

April

Middle school and High school will meet regularly on Sun at 12:15 pm in the Youth Room unless noted otherwise.

Listed below are our special events for April.

April

4/13 Zehnder's Splash Village

12-830 pm

Cost: \$42



Contact Patrick

patricktyrrell@fpcp.net

734-453-6464 x120

April 14th Special Time

6-8 pm

First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

FPCP is blessed to be able to offer one-time scholarships to graduating high seniors who are members of FPCP.

Applications open March 10, 2024



Applications due by April 30, 2024.

An interview will be scheduled with each applicant in May to learn about your experiences as a student at FPCP and hear about your future plans.

**Questions? Contact Patrick Tyrrell patricktyrrell@fpcp.net
734-453-6464 x120**

**We look forward to celebrating
all scholarship recipients on Baccalaureate Sunday**

Give hope this spring.

Give blood.



**American
Red Cross**



Blood Drive

First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth

701 Church Street

Thursday, April 18, 2024

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

To schedule your appointment, please log onto RedCrossBlood.org (sponsor code: fpcp) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass®

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

© The American National Red Cross | 408001-01-RW

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Deacon "Keep It Clean" Toiletry Drive



SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024 / 9AM - 12PM
and
SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024 / 9AM - 12PM

First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth 701 Church Street
Drop Off Location: Parking Lot Entrance

The following items are needed to benefit the Salvation Army: Toilet Paper - Bath Soap - Kleenex - Shaving Cream - Razors - Deodorant - Body Lotion - Shampoo/Conditioner - Laundry Detergent - Body Wash - Dish Soap - Toothpaste - Baby Wipes

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!



Chris DuPont &
Kylee Phillips
wsg Jackamo

THE PENN THEATRE
SATURDAY APRIL 20, 2021
\$25 GA | DOORS AT 6:30PM



PARTNERS IN EARTH CARE



Earth Day Sunday is April 21st

As in previous years, Partners in Earth Care will gift zinnia seeds to those attending church on April 21st. In response to feedback, two types of zinnia seeds will be offered this year, including one appropriate for container gardens in condos and apartments:



Benary Giant 'Scarlet,' the FPCP favorite of previous years, perfect for planting in the ground.



Dreamland 'Red,' appropriate for planting in pots and planters.

The instructions for planting both varieties will be printed on the envelopes.

We have exciting news!

FPCP was re-certified as an Earth Care Congregation by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Presbyterian Hunger Program through February 2025.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/earth-care-congregations/>



Sponsored by Presbyterian Women & your FPCP Partners in Earth Care Team



SERVICE OPPORTUNITY FOR FPCP GARDENERS

First Step Domestic Violence Shelter in Wayne, MI is in need of some GREEN thumbs.

In response to a plea from First Step for help maintaining their grounds, we will again continue to tend to the three raised garden beds and the "pizza" bed at First Step Domestic Violence Shelter in Wayne (photos to the right). They have large and beautiful grounds for their residents but upkeep is basically done by volunteers.

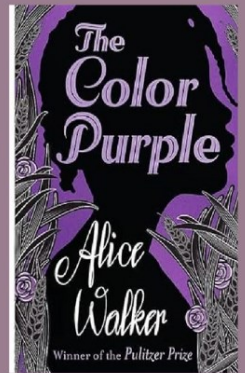
Vegetables and herbs grown in these beds are used by residents who have to prepare their own meals while in residence at First Step. We need two to three people to sign up to help weed, water and/or harvest any food ready to be picked. The timeframe would be May to September. You would only have to go two to three times throughout the summer.

You will need to register online with First Step and complete a Visitor Agreement form for confidentiality purposes before arrival. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Ailsa Blunk at lemonblunk@gmail.com or call 248-974-0607.



Monday, April 22, 2024
Presbyterian Women in Evening Book Group
Discuss Two Previously Banned Books!

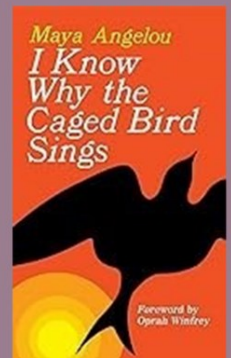
The *Color Purple* depicts the lives of African American women in early-twentieth-century rural Georgia. Separated as girls, sisters Celie and Nettie sustain their loyalty to, and hope in, each other across time, distance, and silence. Through a series of letters spanning nearly thirty years, first from Celie to God, then from the sisters to each other, the novel draws readers into a rich and memorable portrayal of Black women—their pain and struggle, companionship and growth, resilience and bravery. *The Color Purple* breaks the silence around domestic and sexual abuse and carries readers on an epic and spirit-affirming journey toward transformation, redemption, and love.



I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings captures the longing of lonely children, the brute insult of bigotry, and the wonder of words that can make the world right. Sent by their mother to live with their devout grandmother in a small Southern town, Maya and her brother, Bailey, endure the ache of abandonment and the prejudice of the local "powhitetrash." At eight years old and back at her mother's side in St. Louis, Maya is attacked by a man many times her age—and has to live with the consequences for a lifetime.

Years later, in San Francisco, Maya learns that love for herself, the kindness of others, her own strong spirit, and the ideas of great authors ("I met and fell in love with William Shakespeare") will allow her to be free instead of imprisoned.

Please join Kathleen Meldrum and Nancy White as we discuss these prize-winning novels. (This is the fourth of four evening book discussions by Presbyterian Women in 2023-2024.)



JOIN THE DISCUSSION, BEGINNING AT 7:00 P.M. ON MONDAY, APRIL 22.
PLEASE CONTACT NANCY WHITE AT NANCY.WHITE795@GMAIL.COM FOR A
ZOOM INVITATION LINK

Women of Retirement Age Breakfast Group

Calling all Women of Retirement Age! Come join us! Meet some new people and catch up with old friends.

Our Breakfast in March was great and we look forward to our next meeting on Tues. April 23rd at 8:30am. We will meet at Red Olive; 1051 Ann Arbor Rd. In Plymouth. Please RSVP to Lisa Benages or Marjorie Silvis. Lisa Lisa.benages@gmail.com or Marge mlycnch516828@gmail.com

QUESTIONS?

CONTACT MARJORIE SI MLYNCH516828@GMAIL.COM OR
 LISA BENAGES LISA.BENAGES@GMAIL.COM

Presbyterian Coffee Project

Equal Exchange coffee, tea and chocolate will be available for purchase on Sunday, April 7th, between and after services.

We will also be collecting batteries and ink cartridges for recycling in the Narthex.



Presbyterian Women

Lunch and a Book

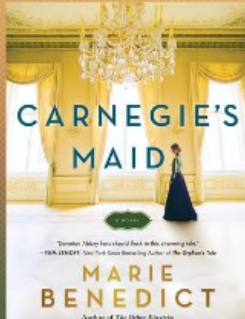
SUMMER 2024 READING LIST

First Wednesday of the month at 12 noon

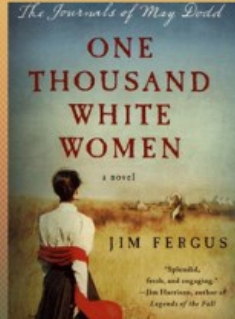
Hearth Room

Bring a lunch and your book

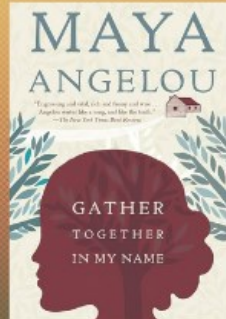
Questions? Contact Audrey Williams awilliam1@msn.com



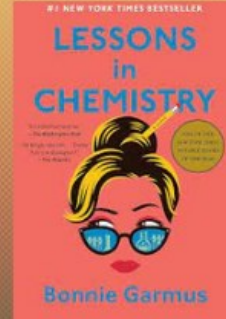
Carnegie's Maid
by Marie Benedict
May 1



One Thousand White
Women
by Jim Fergus
June 5



Gather Together in My
Name
Maya Angelou
July 3



Lessons in
Chemistry
Bonnie Garmus
August 7

Spring Membership Exploration Class

Save The Date

In Person: Sunday, April 14th from 1pm – 3pm

Online: (via Zoom): Sunday, April 21st from 1pm – 2pm

To Register

Follow the QR code to the right

OR

Call Jenn Hollebrands, Office Administrator at: 734.453.6464 ext 115.





Family FUN IN THE SUN!

All funds raised will support
two mission trips to
Colina de Luz Christian Home
for Children in Mexico.

KICK OFF THE Summer
BY JOINING IN A MORNING
OF OUTDOOR FUN
FOR ALL AGES!

- there will be something for EVERYONE!
- prayer walk, intergenerational games, outdoor yoga
- nutritional counseling with a registered dietician
- fellowship and lunch
- NO skill required!

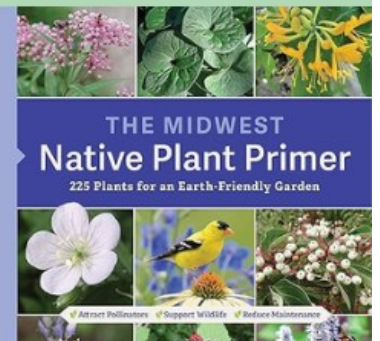
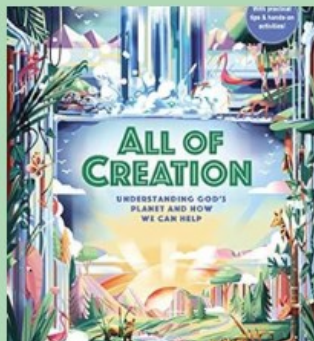
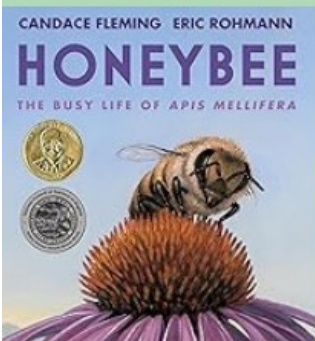
save the date
SAT. JUNE 1ST
9 am - noon

Plymouth Riverside Recreation Area
at Hines Park



LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

Earth Care



APRIL 2024

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL MISSION

THANK YOU FOR WELCOMING REV. DAVIDSON CHIFUNGO WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF FPCP HOSPITALITY!



It was a joy to welcome our long-time friend from Malawi, Africa, to Plymouth. We thank God that Davidson was able to help us celebrate FPCP's 189th anniversary as he has been a very important part of the last 15 years of our church's history. Rev. Chifungo was instrumental in the birth of our partnership with Mtenthera CCAP in 2009 and in 2013, he and his family spent the month of September with us as a Theologian in Residence.



In many ways, Davidson felt his visit was a homecoming allowing him to reunite with his Plymouth family. He brought us encouragement and an invitation to everyone at FPCP to visit Malawi ~ the warm heart of Africa! Davidson is now responsible for

training lay leaders in the Word of God in rural villages throughout sub-Saharan Africa for Veritas College International. Thank you for your generous contributions to his ministry which will enable truth to reach some of the most remote parts of Africa. As of the printing of this newsletter, we have raised \$2,270! Thank you!



APRIL MISSION TRIPS

Several members of FPCP are heading into the mission field to serve. Please lift them in prayer for safety throughout their travels and most importantly, for fruitful visits with our mission partners that bring great glory to God.

April 3 - 9: Colina de Luz, Mexico

Jim & Kathy Bernard, Tom Kage, Jerry Kmiecik, Ervin Miller, Pat & Julie Murphy, Dana & Teri Stonerook

April 9 - 23: Marion Medical Mission, Malawi Doug Kee

April 23 - 29: Mtenthera CCAP, Malawi Doug Kee, Sue Kage

APRIL 2024

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL MISSION

OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS AT MTENTHERA CCAP

The hunger season is very real in Malawi every year from November to March. Mtenthera CCAP was aware of 580 vulnerable households which were unable to access food. The National/International Mission committee sent funds in February to purchase maize flour as a bridge for the neediest families until the beginning of this year's harvest. Zikomo kwambiri / thank you very much!

Thank you!



OUR NEXT MISSIONARY VISIT TOM & JOCELYN LOGAN

Founders of Marion Medical Mission



SUNDAY, MAY 5TH



Tom and Jocelyn Logan will be joining us for worship and fellowship on May 5th. They followed God's call 35 years ago to build Marion Medical Mission which has provided the life-giving blessing of safe drinking water to over 5 million rural Africans.

FPCP has again pledged to support Field Officer, Wilfred Kamanga, for 2024. Wilfred trains and leads local installers and communities to build and maintain sustainable wells year after year. Our goal is to raise \$7,500 on May 5th to support Wilfred.

You may donate by check made out to FPCP with memo line: MMM Field Officer or use the QR code to access FPCP online giving, select "Mission - National & International" and include MMM Field Officer in the memo field.



Tom & Jocelyn Logan



Wilfred Kamanga

APRIL 2024 UPDATE

LOCAL MISSION



Crossroads of Michigan is a social service organization in central Detroit that provides a free meal to the community every Sunday, year-round.

**JOIN OUR TEAM SERVING A MEAL ON
SUNDAY APRIL 14
9:30 AM - 3:30 PM**

To sign up, contact Chuck Hodge at chodge@comcast.net or in the Narthex

ANNUAL OLD VILLAGE

GARAGE sale



SAT APRIL 27 9 AM - 3 PM

Two ways to volunteer:

1. Clean out your closets and stock the Thrift Shop.
2. Help is needed on April 27th setting up at 8am and tearing down at 3pm. Contact Linda Luke at lindaluke2018@gmail.com to volunteer.

SUPPORT A GREAT CAUSE
RAFFLE BASKETS
50/50
KARAOKE CONTEST



MUSIC • CIDER • BEER

COPPER HOP BREWERY
ST. CLAIR SHORES

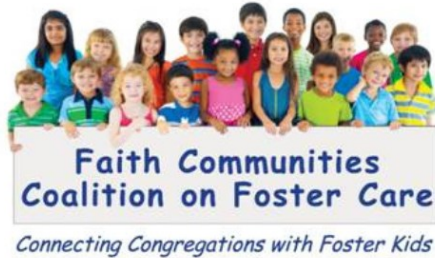
SATURDAY
MAY 4, 2024

7PM

**\$50 VIP (2 DRINKS & LOGO GLASS)
\$30 PATRON (1 DRINK)**

APRIL 2024 UPDATE

LOCAL MISSION



There will be a Panel discussion with some of the youth involved with Park West Foundation, under the direction of Saba Gebrai, who are making significant strides to change some of our Michigan policies regarding children and youth in foster care.

Thursday, May 9, 6:00 PM at First Presbyterian Church - Birmingham, 1669 West Maple Road, Birmingham.



**HOPE
CLINIC**

We are still in need of volunteers to serve at Hope Clinic on April 29th from 3:00-6:30pm.

If interested, please contact Valerie McKinley at 734-812-4653 or Valerie@jvmckinley.com

FPCP Mission Opportunities Completed in February 2024

If you are interested in participating in any of these ministries, please contact Ailsa Blunk at lemonblunk@gmail.com.

Date	Sponsor	Benefitting Organization	Event	Monetary, Material Goods, Service	Frequency	Results
February	B&G	FPCP Members in Need	Handyman Initiative	Service	as needed	4 requests were provided with assistance
February	Local Mission / Thrift Shop	FPCP & Community	Store operates to receive donations and resell to community. Money raised goes to our church's mission partners.	ALL	all year	approx. 288 + volunteer hrs. provided each month
February 12, 2024	Listening to Jesus: Responding in Faith Bible Study	Hope Clinic	Prepared and served dinner to clients	Service	Monthly	Made and served 196 meals with 6 people for a total of 22 hours of service.
February 22, 2024	Listening to Jesus: Responding in Faith Bible Study	Hope Clinic	Prepared and served dinner to clients	Service	Monthly	Made and served 156 meals with 6 people for a total of 22 hours of service.
February	Threads to Heal the Heart Quilt & Prayer Shawl Ministries	Those in Need, Babies Baptized, etc.	Sew quilts and crochet// knit prayer shawls, pocket prayer squares, quilts	Service/ Goods	as needed	3 shawls & 2 quilts were distributed
February	Presbyterian Women	World Central Kitchen	Supplies emergency food for Gaza, Ukraine, Japan, Chile & USA, etc.	Monetary	as needed	\$300.00 donation
February	NIMC	Mkokota 2 Prayer House	Sent funds to purchase the roofing materials for the new roof	Monetary	one time	\$1,800.00

February	Deacons	Member Care Congregants	Delivered gift bags to Member Care congregants	Service / Goods	as needed	46 bags distributed
February	PW/Kids' Hope	Bird Elementary	Provided lunch for West Middle School staff.	Monetary	as needed	\$769.38
February 24, 2024	PW	Hope Clinic	Attended "Baby Shower" at Geneva Presbyterian. Diapers and wipes were collected and donated to Hope Clinic.	Goods	Annually	Church members donated and attended the event.
February	Listening to Jesus: Responding in Faith	St. John's Immigrant Family	Volunteers drove members of the St. John's immigrant family to school and other locations.	Service	as needed	3.5 hours
February	NIMC	Girl's Hostel in Malawi	Malawi Girl's Scholarship Program	Service / Funds	School Year	NIMC created a database for the 75 girls being sponsored. Coordinated mailing and setting-up email file for all sponsors.
February	PW/Kids Hope	Students at Bird School	Director: interviewing, training and "onboarding" new mentor and Prayer Partner, including electronic communication set up; mentor meeting facilitating; school visits, reviewing progress reports and communicating with the school Mentors: Time with their child.	Service	School Year	Mentor hours: 12, Director hours: 10
February	PW/Kids Hope/ Women's Bible Study	Students at Bird School	Snacks for children at Bird School	Goods	School Year	Volunteers purchased and delivered pretzels, value \$40.00



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH of PLYMOUTH

DID YOU KNOW...

GIVING THROUGH DONOR ADVISED FUNDS, AND NON-CASH GIFTS OR APPRECIATED SECURITIES ARE TAX EFFICIENT WAYS TO MANAGE YOUR FINANCIAL GIFTS?

Here at FPCP, our prayerful consideration of giving is a foundational piece of who we are and what we strive to accomplish. Our Family gives in so many ways utilizing Time, Talents and Treasures to support our Church and its many missions. Continuously, our Family is known to be incredibly generous. Praise God for all we strive to do!

When it comes to our financial gifts there are many ways that we can give. Part of this consideration can lead to smarter ways to give that benefit both our Mission and the givers themselves.

- 1) **Establishing a Donor Advised Fund (DAF):** An account where you can deposit and manage cash and non-cash assets that are reserved for future charitable giving and offer potential tax savings and growth.
 - a. Giving with a donor-advised fund can be a tax-efficient way to conduct your philanthropy
 - b. This can be especially helpful to reduce tax burden in a windfall year. For example, the donor can contribute appreciated assets to reduce or eliminate capital gains
 - c. Once established, the donor can make an irrevocable, tax-deductible contribution into the DAF that can be invested within the fund for further tax free growth
 - d. DAF's typically allow you to establish automated periodic payments to approved charitable institutions that can pay out over several years
 - e. DAF giving doesn't cost the church fees like credit card and Venmo transactions
 - f. Where can you start a DAF?: Community foundations and financial service companies such as Fidelity, Schwab, and Vanguard
- 2) **Giving of Non-Cash Gifts or Appreciated Securities:** You may be able to give securities (e.g. stocks, bonds) directly to FPCP thereby avoiding taxes on the gains of those securities.
 - a. There can be significant tax benefits associated with this type of giving over a direct cash, credit card or Venmo donation
 - b. You can donate Publicly-traded stocks, Shares of mutual funds and ETFs, and Bonds
 - c. To donate stock or other securities, you will follow a transfer process from your brokerage account custodian.
 - d. You will need information from our church business manager...please contact the Church Business Manager at 734-453-6464 ext. 116

For more information, and to begin giving in an ***Advantaged Way*** - Please consult your financial advisor or a qualified tax specialist for the details as they relate to your financial situation. In addition you may find info under the "GIVE" tab on our website, FPCP.NET or call our Business Office at (734) 453-6464 ext. 116 for additional questions.

Session Highlights

Session Highlights, March 18, 2024 Meeting

Board of Deacons report: The Deacons have voted to fund the \$255 fee for the Pictorial Directory. The Lenten soup suppers were very well attended and appreciated. The Deacons have filled plastic eggs with candy and will give them out after each Easter service.

Minister's Comments:

Feedback for the Wednesday evening Lenten services and simple soup meals has been very positive. People enjoyed the opportunity for fellowship including men and women, since many of our church activities have not been mixed. People have requested us to do more of this type of activity.

Rev. Campbell and Rev Ashley have completed the class to be Stephen Minister trainers. They will train 2 or 3 of our congregation to also be trainers. The Session will then vote to commission the individuals. After this, our trainers will train other congregation members to be Stephen Ministers. New members will be installed on the last Sunday in April.

Christian Education: There is an appreciation of Session's approval to move our Children's Ministry Director from part time to full time. The Director has made major improvements, including VBS which was moved from morning to evening. This allows parents who both work to get their children involved and to volunteer to help with activities.

Human Resources: The schedule for getting Session and Deacon feedback on the Ministers has been made. They are updating the HR Manual and Employee Handbook and creating a backup list for Watchmen.

Local Mission: Volunteers are needed to prep and serve food at Crossroads on April 14.

Member Connect: They are actively working on our display for the Spring Kellogg Park event. Cooperative efforts are under way with Christian Education, B&G and Earth Care. A creative display is being designed and built including a banner, flowers, printed signs and a sign post.

National/International Mission: Malawi has recently had major floods and farm crops have been damaged or destroyed. A 24 hour prayer event with our Mtenthera sister church in Malawi is Saturday before Easter. Letters from sponsors of Malawi girls education are being collected either by email or letter.

Worship: The recent Lenten Services, soup and bread and the visit from Davidson Chifungo went very well. Maundy Thursday will also have a service with soup and bread beforehand. A Blessing of the Animals service is being planned as an outdoor event.



Our Easter celebration this year was a beautiful witness to the grace, love, mercy, and joy that is given to us in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Thank you to everyone who helped make Holy Week and the season of Lent a meaningful time of gathering, reflection, and worship.

Although our celebration of Easter Sunday has now ended, the season of Eastertide remains. Eastertide refers to the period of fifty days from Easter Sunday until Pentecost Sunday. In this time, we continue to reflect on the difference that the risen Christ makes to our lives, to the lives of the church, and to the world.

Here is a blessing for Eastertide:

You had not imagined
that something so empty
could fill you
to overflowing,
and now you carry
the knowledge
like an awful treasure
or like a child
that curls itself
within your heart:
how the emptiness
will bear forth
a new world
you cannot fathom
but on whose edge
you stand.

So why do you linger?
You have seen,
and so you are
already blessed.
You have been seen,
and so you are
the blessing.
There is no other word
you need.
There is simply
to go
and tell.
There is simply
to begin.

- Jan Richardson (author & artist)