

The Chimes

February 2025

Calendar

Al Anon:
Feb 6, 13, 20, 27 10am in the Lounge

Back Row Boys:
Feb 5, 9am @ The Iron Kettle

Bible Study:
Feb 5, 12, 19, 26, 10am

Book Club (NEW!):
Feb 24, 6:30pm

Christian Education Meeting:
Feb 24, 6:30pm

Community Engagement Mtg:
Feb 9, 8:45am

Deacons Meeting:
Feb 25, 7pm

Fiscal Meeting:
Feb 12, 9:30am

Men's Group:
Feb 15, 9am, Fox Run

Ms. Bridget's Sprouts
Feb 4, 5, 11, 12, 25, 26, 10:30am

Presbyterian Women Meeting:
Feb 2, 11am

Session Meeting:
Feb 10, 7pm

Women's Group:
Feb 12, 6:30pm, Wallenwein's

Worship Committee Meeting:
Feb 2, 11am

Welcome Pastor Jesse!



On Sunday, January 5th, FPCEA welcomed Rev Jesse Larson, our new installed pastor! It was a joyous occasion with a concert piece written by our very own Brad Meholick! After service we shared in food and fellowship. Thank you to everyone who participated in the day, and welcome Pastor Jesse! We are so glad you're here!

Presbyterian Woman of the Year!



A huge congratulations to Deb Goggins, our 2024 Presbyterian Woman of the Year! Deb serves faithfully as an elder and as the head of our fiscal team. Her enthusiasm is contagious and her love for our church shines through in everything she does. Thank you for your service to FPCEA, Deb. We are so grateful for you!

FPCEA.ORG

Have you checked out our new web site? If you see something we are missing, or have suggestions for improvement, please contact Annie in the office. Thank you!

First Presbyterian Church of East Aurora
716-652-0160

fpcea.org
office@fpcea.org

First Presbyterian Preschool News

-Feb 6, 2025 we will host our annual Winter Games, modeled after the Winter Olympics, at the EA Boys & Girls Club on Paine St from 11-noon. Volunteers are needed. If you would like to join in our fun day, please come to the club at 11am

-Preschool is looking to expand their substitute list. We meet Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday mornings from 9-noon. If you like small children and are interested in being on our list, please call the church and leave your information with Annie.

-Preschool Open House for New Families:

Do you know anyone who is looking for a preschool home? Wednesday, February 12, the preschool will offer an Open House from 5-7pm. Even though this seems early, registration for 2025-26 has begun. This is a great way to meet teachers, see our preschool and learn about the programs we offer here. Thank you!



Welcome to our new officers!

On Sunday, January 26, FPCEA held its annual meeting. It was there that our new slate of officers was announced and voted on. We would like to welcome our new and returning Elders: Mark Ackley, Jake Clark, Mary Ann Colopy and Kelli Fisher. Our new and returning Deacons are Theresa Bindig, Sarah Byer, Barb Wheeler and Janice Wolfman. The new members of the Nominating Committee are Matt Bindig and Jen Suckow. Thank you to all of you for your service to our church!

Aktion Club Dance!

We are mixing it up this spring! Instead of our traditional service, we are having a dance! Join us in Assembly Hall on Wednesday, March 12 from 7-9pm while we dance the night away with our friends in the Aktion Club! We will have a deejay and hope you can join us for what is sure to be a most joyous evening! If you wish to help, please contact Darcy Sowya. Thank you!



Ms. Bridget's Sprouts

Come each week to join Ms. Bridget and her friend Sprout this winter! Sprouts is designed to enhance your child's early growth & development and increase socialization. Get ready to learn and have fun each Tuesday & Wednesday at 10:30am! Ages 6m-5y. Please contact Bridget Pacholec to register at 716-982-2000.



Join us for worship Sundays at 10am, in person or on Facebook!
The sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of every month.

A Note from the Pastor!

Meetings, meetings, and more meetings! This is how my time has been filled during my first two weeks as your pastor. I've met with session twice, the Community Engagement committee, the Personnel committee, the Nominating committee, the Technology committee, etc. I've also been having lunch meetings with Presbyterian clergy in our area, as well as local pastors here in East Aurora. I'm amazed by just how "institutional" the church is – over the many centuries, we have become an institution that has shares many of the same structures and practices that businesses and organizations use. These structures and practices, and our various committees help divide up all of the work related to our church as there is a lot to do in such a community with many goals and activities.

But, I'm also reminded of the nature of the early church; Acts 2:46-47 states, "Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread together at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day, the Lord added to their number those who were being saved." It sounds like the early church thrived (and grew) when the people focused on worship, gratitude, and meals together! There is no mention of meetings or reports or guidelines! In these days of so much change swirling all around us, I like to continually ask the question, "who are we?" And, "why do we do what we do?" Indeed, one of our most important tasks is to regularly discern what the Holy Spirit is doing in our midst and where it is leading us.

Sometimes, we get stuck in the hamster wheel of traditions and practices that may have lost their significance over the years. Meanwhile, we are busier than ever and free time seems to be in short supply. As we, together, sort out new practices and consider new ways of being in this new era here at FPCEA, I encourage us to remember and proclaim what is truly important about our beloved community. What are those things that we love about this community? What are those things that drain our energy or have become a burden? Over the coming months and years, let us reclaim the joy of the church with glad and generous hearts. And perhaps the Lord will add to our number – and we might help bring others to the good news of Jesus Christ!

Book Club! New!!

Join us for our new book club! We had a blast at our inaugural meeting! Our book for February will be "The Help" by Kathryn Stockett . We will meet February 24, 6:30pm in the church lounge. Bring a snack to share. Youth and adults are invited!

Christian Education Update

-Thank goodness for the busy January FPCEA+ had to get us going for 2025. Whether it is the special musical moments, the welcoming of Pastor Jesse, the fun of sharing with our friends in Sunday School or the amazing depth of conversations taking place in the confirmation class, the possibilities for love and fellowship in 2025 will be unending. The CE department is continuing with weekly Sunday School classes, Confirmands have classes February 2nd and 9th, and Bible Study takes place on Wednesday at 10 am in the lounge.

-As we continue to embrace the CE theme of "Making Connections", feel free to reach out with ideas that will help us live our goal. A prime example is the FPC Book Club which is being spearheaded by the one and only Mary Ann Colopy. It will provide an opportunity to share ideas on the selection chosen, offer suggestions for future selections, and bridge views from multiple perspectives as preteens to very seasoned adults are encouraged to participate. Submitted by Amy DeMario

February Birthdays! Happy Birthday Everyone!

Marshall Adams	Jacob Crewson	Elliott Krieger	John Pagliaccio	Jan Telban
Ronald Beebe	Michael Enser II	Matthew Krieger	Thomas Patterson	Jane Tomaschke
Harper Bindig	Saffrin Griffis	John Larson	Sage Pfaff	Jason Weiss
Dana Carlson	Alexa Hausauer	William Larson	Dennis Seeley	Laura Weiss
Curtis Colopy	Emma Johnston	Josephine MacBain	Stone Sullivan	Barb Wheeler
Mary Ann Colopy	Jeremy Krawczyk	Tina Nowicki	Arno Tapani	

Community Engagement News

-Once again we are looking for help in knot tying fleece blankets for Family Promise of WNY. These are being prepared by Cathy Dechert. So give a hand during coffee hour on a couple of Sundays in February and March.

-FISH, our local food pantry, has requested specific food items to be donated each month of the year. This February SOUP is the requested item. Please place donations in the barrel or shelf marked FISH. **We will still be having our Project 5000 food drive during Lent.

-Mark your calendar for Wednesday, March 12 7:00-9:00 and come help us have a swinging time with our Aktion Club friends!! We will be having a dance in the assembly hall with a DJ! Hope you will join us in hosting this event for our friends in the community with developmental differences.

***We will need help organizing, decorating, serving refreshments and dancing. All ages welcome. Contact Darcy Sowyrda 716-602-9030.

-Community Engagement is always looking for individuals interested in outreach. Join us for our next monthly meeting which will be on Sunday morning, February 9 at 8:45 in the lounge. -Submitted by Darcy Sowyrda

