



SOUNDINGS

November 2022

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

November 5 & 6

Bacon Fest, downtown Easton

November 6

All Saints Sunday

Pasta Sunday

Fall Bible Study, session 3

November 12

Marquis Consort concert, 7pm

November 13

Simple Church

Brunch Bunch after worship

November 15

Session, 7pm

November 17

Deacons, 7pm

November 20

Christ the King Sunday

Fall Bible Study, session 4

November 24

Happy Thanksgiving!

November 26

Easton High School Choir concert,

5pm

November 27

First Sunday in Advent



Advent begins on November 27!



On page 10, you'll find a list of the services and activities coming in Advent and the Christmas season! Invite friends and family!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EASTON

333 Spring Garden St.

Easton, PA 18042

610-253-3579

www.eastonfpc.org

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

No one likes talking about money. No one likes thinking that their church is “only” interested in them for their money. I once had an elder whose husband never came to church. He had been very active in his home church, his wife explained, just like his parents. Then his father became very ill. As his father lay dying, representatives of the church came to persuade this dying man to make a sizable donation to the church. My parishioner’s husband was appalled. He vowed never to trust church people again. These are the stories that sour us to talking about money in the church. But we must.

It is said that more than any other subject, Jesus taught about money. Jesus had no love for money. Jesus taught about money because it was a way to address what people valued. After all, we give our money (and our time, skills, talents) to what we truly care about. My guess is that if Jesus walked amongst us, he would have much to say on what an idol we make of money today.

As I write this article, we are approaching both Stewardship Sunday and Reformation Sunday. On Reformation Sunday Protestant churches like ours remember our history. Our branch of the Christian family sprouted during the 16th Century. Money played a role in the debates at that time. Our founders believed the church was skipping over all Jesus’s lessons on money and idol making. Asking people to pay indulgences, a fee to be forgiven for their sins, was NOT in line with the teachings of Jesus. Hoarding money for golden sanctuaries was not why the church existed. The church needed to be reformed. And so, we celebrate Reformation Sunday and remind ourselves of the Church's true calling and that we should invest all that we in Jesus' cause of justice and compassion - of God's kingdom come near.

No one likes to talk about money. The truth is our financial situation at the First Presbyterian Church of Easton is not as strong as it could be. Our income is down. Our spending is efficient. But we have expenses - a tree in front of the church which needs to be removed, for example. Our property and finance teams are being good stewards of the resources we have. We are using our building for more income - this month the non-profit Recovery Specialists will rent our fellowship hall several days a week from 9am to 4pm. Still, we are stretched. We have a huge mortgage and are using our cash reserves. Money is something we will need to talk about honestly.

And yet even as we face challenges, this small congregation does more than some churches twice our size do. The refrain I hear from our current active membership: Small but Mighty. I see it as you fill the Blessing Box week after week and feed hungry neighbors. Small but Mighty. As worship began this past Sunday, Jacob Van Norman played the drum, the choir rose from their pews and walked with purpose and joy forward to lead us in song. The sanctuary was alive with God’s presence! Small but Mighty. God continues to call us and use this church for good.

As our church approaches Stewardship Sunday, we know what we value. We have committed to learning from the past, but not dwelling in it. We embrace God’s reforming Spirit. God calls us to forgiveness and to move forward. We wish to be a community connected by our trust in Christ. We know Christ has abided with us through so much. We trust God is with us now. We are committed to be a community who cares for each other and seeks to care for our neighbors in need. We wish to sing songs of thanksgiving to God. We wish to joyfully worship and share experiences which fill us with hope. And we wish to grow here in downtown Easton, so we can share what we know about God’s goodness and love.

We cannot embrace our call and move forward without your financial support. So, I ask you about money... Do you pledge? Like every public radio station, we are asking you to be a sustaining member who gives regularly to support the mission of this church. Even in these hard times, could you give at a level which reflects your commitment to this church’s mission and future?

Thank you for all you have invested in this community of faith in the past, and all you are doing and will do to ensure we are following Jesus Christ today.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Stefanie

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

Trusting in God, Growing in Faith
“Faith, Hope and Love abide.” - 1 Corinthians 13:13

Thanks to everyone who made their pledge on Stewardship Sunday, October 30. If you have not yet made a pledge, please consider doing so this month, as we begin to create our budget for 2023.



WORSHIP AND MUSIC

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING WITH
***THE MARQUIS
CONSORT***
MUSIC OF THE 16TH, 17TH, AND 18TH CENTURIES
**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12,
7:00PM**
-ADMISSION IS FREE-

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
EASTON
333 SPRING GARDEN STREET IN EASTON
OFFICE@EASTONFPC.ORG 610-253-3579

CONCERT SERIES

Our sanctuary was built in 1872. Consider all the prayers, both said and sung, lifted in our sacred place of worship. To celebrate our sanctuary and our congregation’s love of community and music, we are hosting a concert series. This Fall, guest performers will offer their gifts of music. All concerts are free and open to the public.

Easton High School Choir
Saturday, November 26, 5:00pm

Easton Municipal Band
Saturday, December 10, 7:00pm
A concert of holiday music.

SIMPLE CHURCH - November 13

The second Sunday of each month our 10:30am service will have a familiar but simplified order. The intention is to be welcoming to all ages, a bit less formal, and more interactive. This is a perfect Sunday to bring the kids and/or friends from the neighborhood.



HANGING OF THE GREENS

Everyone is invited to help with the Hanging of the Greens **on Saturday, December 3, from 9:30 am to 12 noon**. Come help beautify our church for the Advent and Christmas season!

CHOIR REHEARSALS

Chancel Choir rehearses on Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30pm.

The **Handbell Choir** rehearses on Wednesdays, 6:30-7:15pm.

ONLINE WORSHIP CONTINUES

Our services are streamed live on our Facebook page - [EastonFPC](#) - at 10:30am Sunday. The recording of the live worship is posted each Sunday by 12:30pm- on our website: <https://eastonfpc.org/online-worship> and YouTube channel is [Easton First Presbyterian Church](#).

MISSION

GIVING TREE

The Deacons and Shawl Ministry are joining forces to help the County of Northampton Children, Youth and Families Division make wishes come true. We were asked and said yes, of course! Why, our Mission Call for 2022-2023 "Join Hands to Support Children" is one reason and as Christians we are called to help others.

We have agreed to support ten (10) families and will put tags on the "Giving Tree" by the first week in November (the tree will be outside of church office).

1. Please have any gifts you agreed to purchase for the families at church by **Sunday, December 4**.
2. DO NOT WRAP GIFTS, JUST TAG!

Questions? Call or email Susan Charlton, 610-253-5658, char4susan@rcn.com, Nancy Udut, 610-253-5455, naomiudut@yahoo.com

PASTA FOR PROJECT

Sunday, November 6 is Pasta Sunday!

On the first Sunday of each month, we collect pasta for the ProJeCt of Easton Food Pantry, and we welcome your donations of boxed, canned, and microwaveable pasta. Peanut Butter is also greatly appreciated. If you cannot make it to church on Sunday, you may drop off your donations up until 12 Noon on Tuesday, November 8. "For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat." (Matt. 25:35)



JOIN HANDS TO
SUPPORT CHILDREN
2022-23 FPCE MISSION FOCUS

A.M.E.N. UPDATE ACTION – MEDITATION – EDUCATION – NEW HABITS
MISSION 22-23, JOINING HANDS TO SUPPORT CHILDREN

Did you know?

Guns became the leading cause of death among children and teens in 2020, killing more people ages 1 to 19 in the U.S. than vehicle crashes, drugs overdoses or cancer. More than 4,300 died of firearm-related injuries that year — a 29 percent increase from 2019. (NBC News)

Until recently, motor vehicle accidents were the number one cause of accidental death in these children and youth. But in recent years, gun-related injuries surpassed motor vehicle accidents as the most common cause of death in youths and children, and this number continues to increase each year. (Forbes)

WHY IS THIS A MATTER OF FAITH?

Jesus loved children. Jesus said, “And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.” The lives of children are precious to God.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

More Americans than ever before now own guns. This means more children are exposed to guns in their homes, in the homes of relatives and friends, and out in the world.

Consider **Gun Buyback** campaigns and let others know about them. Northampton’s District Attorney’s office held a gun buyback program in early October 2022. Residents received grocery gift cards ranging from \$50-\$200 for guns they no longer wanted. Over 300 firearms were successfully collected. While buyback programs don’t usually lower gun violence connected with criminal activity, they can help get guns out of homes where children may have access. Accidental shootings and access to guns to aid in suicide attempts can be prevented.

Consider gun safety. Campaigns like **97percent (www.97percent.us)** and **Be Smart for Kids (besmartforkids.org)** are trying to move beyond the hot button rhetoric around guns. They advocate for responsible gun ownership, safe storage, and being pro-active in conversations with relatives and friends about guns in the home. Northwell Health recently aired the 30 second gun safety spot called **Ferocious Tiger (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjeY6-Ls0qM)**. “Much like you ask the parent of your child’s friend about food allergies, or if there is a pool, you should also ask if there is a gun in the home,” said president and CEO of Northwell Health.

MISSION SUNDAY

Hallelujah and Amen! Sunday, September 25th we celebrated and lifted the missions that our congregation support locally and globally. We, the congregation, “Join Hands to Support Children” by gaining knowledge of areas to nurture in 2022-2023.

BLESSING BOX

The congregation has embraced this outreach mission 100%. We are so blessed to have the ability to share our blessings with others in Easton and neighboring areas. Every week has been covered by someone in the congregation or friend of the congregation over the past months. There are weeks available through the end of the year and if that isn't possible, donations may be put in the Blessing Baskets in the Narthex and by back entrance door. You might ask, “Is it being used?” and the answer is “YES!” Easton is considered a “food desert” as there are no chain grocery stores within a mile or two. The Mission Team thanks everyone and please continue to prayer for the givers and the receivers.

NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIAL

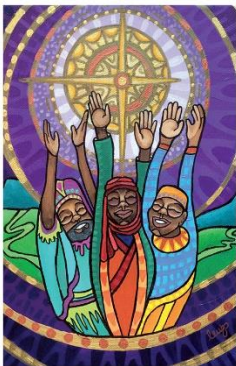
Where were you Saturday, October 15th from 11am to 2pm? Well, if you couldn't make our latest event (annually we hope) you missed out on a beautiful fall day with Genesis and our congregation...hot dogs, popcorn, apples, snacks, drinks, food demonstrations and some great music!



The Mission Team wants to thank everyone that came out to help celebrate and work the event, but most of all the support from neighbors, businesses and friends. Thanks! Looking forward to future gatherings and new friends!



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING



When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we share our love with the leaders of the Church – past, present and future.

50% of your gift provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need.

50% of your gift develops future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

The Christmas Joy Offering will be taken from November 27 through December 18. Envelopes will be by the offering box at the front of the sanctuary, or you can just write “Christmas Joy” in the memo line of your check. Thank you!

CALLING ALL CROCHETERS AND KNITTERS!

We are up and running once again! Although we will not be meeting formally, we will continue to create items for those in need at our own convenience and disperse via the church. Children's hats, mittens and scarves, men's hats and scarves, lap robes for Hospice, baby blankets for newborns, etc. We hope to have enough children's items for the holidays and adult hats and scarves for the cold weather. Needles, patterns and yarn are available at church, contact Lois Shoemaker (loisshoe@gmail.com) or Nancy Udut (naomiudut@yahoo.com) for pickup or any questions. Get those needles and hooks clicking! Oh wait, I already hear them...yes once again Mission Working at First Presbyterian!

UPDATE ON UKRAINE

Hello Friends,

I hope all of you are well and able to appreciate this beautiful autumn season. We are so blessed to live in this area of the country and the world. When we see or hear about the tragic events and devastation of the homelands of our brothers and sisters in other regions of the world, it is a humbling reminder of the countless blessings we have been graced with.

We have made our final purchases of medical supplies that will reach Ukraine early in November. The medical teams are in desperate need for these paramedic kits to care for civilians and soldiers on the front lines. These supplies have been purchased through a disabled veteran owned-small business that gave us a terrific price which we could not match anywhere else. Again, we have been able to ship the supplies to Ukraine at no cost to us. 100% of the donations collected went to products and supplies that were specifically requested and needed for the Ukrainian soldiers and civilians.

This ministry has been a true gift to all of us who were able to participate; I truly hope you all feel that way, as well. It helped us to not only share God's blessing with others, but it also reminds us that our Christian family is vast indeed, both near and far. At a time when we may feel helpless, we have been able to come together as a community to send medical supplies, love, hope and continued prayers to those in need. Thank you for joining hands with us and with each other.

Shalom,

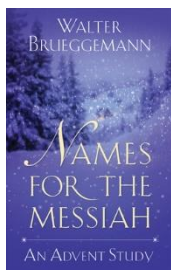
BrendaLee Howell, RN

Parish Nurse

On behalf of the Parish Health Council and Social Concerns of St. John's UCC, Nazareth

FAITH FORMATION AND FELLOWSHIP

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY



Our Advent Bible Study will use *Names for the Messiah* by Walter Brueggemann as our guide. In Isaiah 9:6, a divine utterance is given to us using four royal titles - Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. *Names for the Messiah* ponders each title and how the people understood it then, how Jesus did or did not fulfill the title, and how Christians interpret Jesus as representative of that title. Our first session will be after worship on November 27; we will schedule subsequent meetings then. All are welcome!

BRUNCH BUNCH

The Brunch Bunch will be heading to Daddy's Place (650 Northampton St, Easton) after worship on November 13. Daddy's Place features Mediterranean food, including pizza. The parking lot is small, so consider carpooling from the church. Please let Ruthann Arras know if you'll be attending by Friday, November 11 at 5:00pm. All are welcome!

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Might you be willing to host fellowship hour—bring a dozen cookies and some pretzels? Or would you be willing to learn how to make coffee so you can be a fellowship hour helper? Please contact the church office or sign-up in person on the sheets by the church office.

VISITS

Would you like a visit from a Deacon or our Pastor to speak and pray with you? Please reach out to the church office via email or phone and request a visit. Pastor Stefanie will schedule a meeting at a convenient time and place. Our Deacons will be scheduling at-home communion for anyone who cannot physically come to the building.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2	Kate Farrell
9	Sofia DeMotte
10	Carol Freebairn
10	Luke McGloughlin
10	Dorothy Wheelen
14	Briahni Bridges
15	Kylie Lalonde
22	Peter Becker
25	Kelsey Dicker
30	Jordan Barrow



PARKING LOT REMINDER

A reminder that our parking lot is rented to capacity. Spaces 1-6, the 2 spaces directly in front of the rear entrance to the church, and the handicapped spaces are reserved for church business; please use those spaces when coming to the church on weekdays. Thank you!

BACON FEST PARKING

Once again this year, we will offer parking in our lot for visitors to Bacon Fest, Saturday and Sunday, November 5 and 6. Volunteers are needed to help monitor the lot and collect fees; if you can help out one or both days, please contact Shirley Keller.

MEETINGS

Session will meet at the church and by zoom on **Tuesday, November 15 at 7:00pm.**

The **Deacons** will meet at the church on **Thursday, November 17 at 7:00pm**

If you are unable to attend a meeting, please contact the church office to let us know. Thank you!

SOME HOUSEKEEPING

- The church office will be closed on **Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25** in observance of Thanksgiving.
- You can find a copy of our directory and Soundings on the bulletin board by the water cooler on the first floor of the church house.
- If you are the chair of a team or group, please let Jonathan, our office administrator, know when you are holding a meeting.

PRAYERS

We pray for...

Members addressing ongoing medical concerns: especially for Lori Young; Barry Fugere; Ella Campbell-Becker; Shirley Keller; Victoria Opthof-Cordaro; Peg and Larry Opthof; Susan Mackay and Michelle Dicker.

The Bartlett Family, as Bill's mother, Marilyn Bartlett, passed away on October 14th.

Fran and Joel Dean, as Fran has moved to a memory care facility.

Tom Finnimore Jr., friend of Larry and Peg Opthof, who is in need of a liver transplant.

All those who live with dementia that they and their loved ones might have patience and courage.

For neighbors near and far recovering from natural disasters and extreme weather.

Peace in our world, especially places of war and conflict.

An end to violence in all our communities, in particular we pray for an end to gun violence.

Those who suffer from mental illness, and that we might make care for those who are struggling a priority.

For injustice in our nation and world, that people of goodwill might work together for the greater good.

All who grieve for the loss of loved ones. Continued peace for Joan Francis and the family of Charles Bradbury.

Prayers can be sent to office@eastonfpc.org, please include "prayer list" in the subject line.

LOOK AHEAD TO ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2022

ADVENT 2022: MEET THE CHRIST CHILD, AGAIN!

Won't you come to the manger and open your heart once again to the Christ child?

Who Jesus was and is has been misrepresented by many voices in our society. Advent is the perfect season to reacquaint ourselves with the Jesus we meet in scripture - a healer and teacher of compassion, a bold truth teller denouncing injustice, and the love of God born to bring light to the world. Experience the holy mystery and beauty of this season in worship, fellowship and service.

Sunday, November 27 – First Sunday in Advent

Advent Bible Study: "The Messiah's Names" by Walter Brueggemann

Our first meeting will be after church.

Saturday, December 3 – Hanging of the Greens

Helpers are needed to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. We'll meet at 9:30 and work until 12:00pm; come for an hour or for the morning!

Sunday, December 4 – Second Sunday in Advent, Communion Sunday

Coffee hour and Advent Workshop: Christmas card making!

Deadline for donating gifts for our Giving Tree Gift Project!

Saturday, December 10 – Christmas Concert

Invite your friends, family, and neighbors for this FREE concert in our sanctuary.

The Easton Municipal Band will play seasonal favorites starting at 2:00pm!

Sunday, December 11 – Third Sunday in Advent

Spontaneous and interactive pageant in worship. All are invited to participate!

Sunday, December 18 – Fourth Sunday in Advent

Joyful service with bells and special music!

We will receive the Christmas Joy Offering.

Cookie Exchange Coffee Hour- bring your best Christmas cookies, favorite recipes and a few boxes of store bought cookies which we will wrap and leave in the Blessing Box.

Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

A Service of Lessons and Carols at 7:00pm. Special music begins at 6:45pm.

We will be blessed with a quartet of flutes for this holy service of carols and candlelight.

Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Day

A Cozy Christmas service at 10:30am, with many Christmas carols.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Each year, our sanctuary is beautifully decorated for Advent and Christmas. If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia, please fill out the form below and turn it into the church office by Friday, December 16. The suggested donation is \$10.00; if you would like to take the poinsettia home after Christmas Eve, please indicate that below.

Name: _____

Phone/Email: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Yes, I'd like to take the poinsettia home: _____



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