



SOUNDINGS

OCTOBER 2023

Sunday, Oct. 1

Communion Sunday;
Pasta Sunday;
Peace & Global Witness offering taken;
Session 1 of Church History discussion
w/Rick Taylor after worship

Wednesday, Oct. 4

Session 2 of Church History discussion
w/Rick Taylor at the church, 10:30am

Sat., Oct. 7 - Sun., Oct. 8

Garlic Fest in Downtown Easton
-volunteers needed in parking lot!-

Sunday, Oct. 8

Brunch Bunch to Frank's Pizza after worship

Wednesday, Oct. 11

Mission Team meeting, 1pm

Sunday, Oct. 15

Neighborhood Social, 11:30-1:30pm

Thursday, Oct. 19

Session, 5:30pm

Sunday, Oct. 22

Deacons meet after worship

Sunday, Oct. 29

Session 3 of Church History discussion w/
Rick Taylor after worship

Tuesday, Oct. 31

Happy Halloween!



On Sunday, October 15, let's do lunch! Instead of our regular coffee hour, we'll join the Neighborhood Social for hotdogs and ice cream!.

Contact Pat Koefoed with questions:

pkoefoed@yahoo.com.

We hope your calendars are marked for our next Neighborhood Social: Sunday, October 15

This is when we will be celebrating another year in Easton and "The Neighborhood"! Directly following church, Genesis and First Presbyterian will move outside on Spring Garden for a party.

Oh what fun: a cornhole contest, pumpkin decorating for the kids (no age requirement), hot dogs, ice cream, popcorn, etc. Even a cooking demonstration with free give aways! Just remembered: music...do you play an instrument and would like to entertain us? Well this is your chance (maybe Broadway next)!

Help is needed (see Mission Team page), but even if you are unable to help with anything, PLEASE come and enjoy a time of socialization!

WON'T YOU PLEASE, WON'T YOU PLEASE, PLEASE WON'T YOU...

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS!

'23 NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIAL



POPCORN

OCTOBER 15TH

ICE CREAM



SUNDAY 11:30_{am}-1:30_{pm}

Following our worship service

CHILDREN'S
ACTIVITIES

MUSIC

HOT DOGS

FREE!



COOKING
DEMONSTRATION
"MAKE IT, TAKE IT"



First Presbyterian Church of Easton is hosting this event. We want to foster more compassion and caring right here in our neighborhood. We seek support for our 24/7 mini pantry, The Blessing Box.

Neighbors who use the Blessing Box are welcome.

Neighbors who fill or want to fill the Blessing Box are welcome.

RAIN OR SHINE

First Presbyterian Church of Easton
333 Spring Garden Street
between 3rd & 4th Streets

DOWNTOWN EASTON, PA

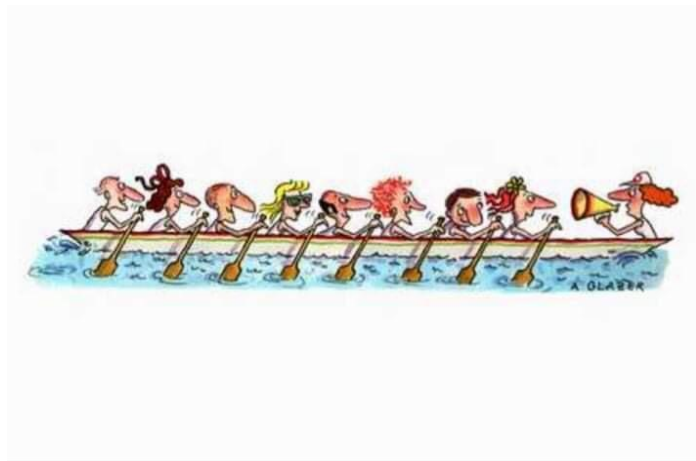


"All of us, at some time or other, need help. Whether we're giving or receiving help, each one of us has something valuable to bring to this world. That's one of the things that connects us as neighbors — in our own way, each one of us is a giver and a receiver." -Mr. Rogers



333 SPRING GARDEN STREET, EASTON, PA
610-253-3579
eastonfpc.org

PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Hello Friends,
Sitting in the Pastor's Office here at the church, I frequently glance over and ponder upon the Pastor's Chair, the unique antique chair of Rev. John Gray, who was pastor here at First Presbyterian Church of Easton for nearly one half of a century of leading and nurturing this church. I look out the window and imagine a shed with a horse and buggy sheltered inside and consider that Bank Street was nothing more than a dirt pathway while Spring Garden Street was not much more.

I reflect over the challenges that Rev. Gray and his congregation faced over those 45 years and how he would marvel, if he were here, at the plethora of resources that we have at our fingertips to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

It is with this in mind that we approach the Stewardship season of our church where we consider our resources – both personal and institutional - that are available to us to continue the long and successful ministry of this congregation. As we are all well aware, we find ourselves at a critical season in the life of our church. Are we approaching the autumn of our history or the spring? It's up to all of us as to whether we will need an overcoat going forward or a light sweater. Our resources for the future are mixed. We are blessed with a wonderful church structure and adjacent facilities that provide all sorts of opportunities. We have some financial resources, but they are not abundant. Our most limited resource is our people, and it is this resource that I feel we must give significant attention.

The theme for our Stewardship Campaign this year is "Pulling Together" as in a boat with multiple rowers. We are all in this boat, so to speak, so each of us must grab an oar and all pull together both from a financial perspective as well as supporting the activities and ministries of the church. We have a lot to gain or lose in the coming months and the outcome depends on how strongly and true we pull together on our oars to get our boat across the finish line. Pray on it and God bless.

Pastor Larry Van Hise

A MESSAGE FROM SESSION

Members have been busy in many areas of church life. Most notably the recent successful Progressive Dinner, the upcoming Colors of Hope Conference, and Mission Team's Neighborhood Social. There are also plans to partner with Trinity Church to once again provide dinners to Safe Harbor, this time on a quarterly basis.

There are new plans for greeters and ushers and name tags to help welcome all to worship God in our beautiful Sanctuary. The Passing of the Peace has been reinstated during worship to greet our brothers and sisters in Christ.

In less glamorous but necessary areas, the Property Team is busy highlighting maintenance tasks that need to be addressed. They are searching for the most cost-effective ways to repair gutters and leaders and do exterior painting.

On a positive note, careful stewardship of our financial resources has resulted in a better financial picture. Comparing the first six months of this year to the last six months, we can extrapolate our net performance will go from a negative \$16,930 as of the end of June to approximately a negative \$331 at the end of the year. Barring any unforeseen financial catastrophes, of course. This improvement does NOT include the receipt of the \$25,000 Presbytery grant we received. A big part of the change in the outlook for the rest of 2023 is due to reduced expenses for the Pastorate and the generosity of our members.

The Session is meeting on Friday, September 29 for a three-hour retreat to discuss plans for our church and a path to our future. More on this in the next Soundings.

The Session

DEACONS

The Deacons had their September kick-off meeting and are ready to fall into Fall! We're continuing phone calls to our Special Care friends and church members. If you have a concern/compliment/question, your Deacon is ready to help.

Coffee hour will be held weekly with the exception of October 8, which is Garlic Fest. The parking lot is a wonderful fundraiser for that popular event.

Don't forget to get your Boscov's Friends Helping Friends pass! For a \$5.00 donation, you may obtain a coupon for 25% off most items in the store on Wednesday October 18. See Ruthann or any Deacon for passes.

The Deacon honey project is alive and well. You can get Spring, Summer and/or Fall honey for an \$8 donation at Coffee Hour. So far we've raised \$158. Thank you for your valued support!

COFFEE HOUR

Deacons will be hosting the weekly coffee hour after worship, so that we can all enjoy some goodies and fellowship together. If you'd like to be a helper with a Deacon in a future coffee hour, please let Ruthann Arras know.

HELLO, HOW ARE YOU?

Every church family has a Deacon! Deacons will be calling members to chat, and share joys and concerns. You can expect a monthly or bi-monthly phone call from your Deacon.

DEACON HONEY

Your sweet tooth will be happy that the Deacons are providing local Heinsohn honey at coffee hour for a donation of \$8.00 per 1-pound jar. Check your cupboard to see if you're running low!

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

HANDBELL CHOIR

The Handbell Choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 5:30pm. If you would like more information or to join the Handbell Choir, please see Gloria Snyder.

CHANCEL CHOIR

The Chancel Choir will meet every other Sunday morning at 9:30am to rehearse for that Sunday's service. Dates for October will be Sunday, October 8 and Sunday, October 22.

MISSION

PASTA SUNDAY

Sunday, October 1 is Pasta Sunday! We'll accept your donations of canned, dry or microwavable pasta as well as peanut butter until Tuesday, October 3 at 12:00pm when they will be delivered to ProJeCt 's Food Pantry. Thanks to all who donated in September - we delivered 56 pounds! "...for I was hungry and you gave me something to eat..." - Matthew 25:35

NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIAL VOLUNTEERS

Can you help out at the Neighborhood Social on Sunday, October 15 after worship? We will need a Set-Up Team, a Break-Down Team (both involve moving tables and chairs), Ambassadors (people to greet visitors, direct guests to restrooms, etc.), Activity Helpers for the cornhole game and pumpkin decorating, and more! If you can help out that day, sign up outside the church office, or contact Nancy Udut.

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

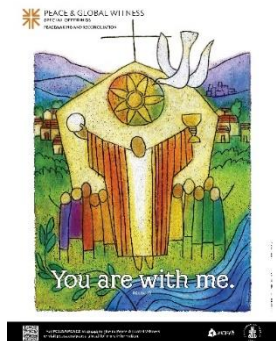
The Peace and Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and across the world.

The offering will be taken **October 1**.

25% of this Offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community;

25% of this Offering goes to our mid-council to join with other congregations to support peacemaking work in our region;

50% of the Offering supports the work being done by Presbyterians across the globe.



CALLING ALL CROCHETERS AND KNITTERS!

Once again a big thank you to our stitchers goes out as twelve new lap robes were delivered for Hospice. Keep those needles and hooks clicking and if you need yarn see Nancy Udut or check out the Blessing Box Storage where it is kept. Thank you from the recipients of these beautiful lap robes.



SAFE HARBOR OPPORTUNITY

Trinity Episcopal Church has asked First Presbyterian if we would consider partnering with them to do dinners at Safe Harbor. The Mission Team agreed to ask our Congregation if they would be willing to help with this mission. The following are the two trial months and if you would like to volunteer for part of the required items please contact Nancy Udut, naomiudut@yahoo.com or 610-253-5455 for more information. The dates are **Saturday, November 4** and **Saturday, December 2**. Trinity will provide salad/fruit, dessert, rolls and ½ of the main course. They will also provide servers.

We are being asked to make:

- two 9x13 pans of Shepherds Pie/recipe provided (Nov.4) (total serving 25)
- two 9x13 pans of Chicken Chili/recipe provided (Dec. 2) (total serving 25)

Our church has not been doing dinners once a month since prior to COVID and we have not had enough volunteers to pick up this mission as of now, but by partnering with Trinity we will be able to continue serving Safe Harbor.



BLESSING BOX

The Blessing Box one of our many Local Missions! The Box is filled because of you 🙌, whether one can of tuna, silverware, money or a week's supply of food, the Blessing Box is there because you care! The sign-up is outside of the church office, for a week or day; or drop food directly into the Blessing Box if you are coming to town. Let's keep this beautiful, very needed community mission going and to do that we need your continued help!

-Mission Team

BLESSING BOX CELEBRATION!

Thanks to all who signed up to help fill the "Box" in September...we had it filled 100%. How amazing this congregation is....caring, sharing and giving of whatever is needed. We are so grateful to have all of you support the Mission of First Presbyterian 100%. Oh there are some openings in October/November and if you are downtown another day feel free to fill the "Box" from the supply closet. See a Mission Team Member for more information!

THIRD STREET ALLIANCE

Thank you to all who stepped up to the "No Child Left Behind" request for school supplies. The Mission Team delivered backpacks, notebooks, lunch boxes, and misc. school supplies. Third Street was very appreciative and said the items would be put to good use. Thanks again for responding to this mission request.

HELP NEEDED!

DO you see an event you would like to help with, but not be committed for long-term? Or do you have an idea, but can't do it on your own? Watch for announcements and contact Nancy Udut (naomiudut@yahoo.com) or Jonathan in the church office for more information.

THANK YOU!

We received a letter from the office of Presbyterian Ministry Engagement & Support thanking us for our donations to One Great Hour of Sharing in the amount of \$1,049.75 and a \$300.00 donation for Garden Well; a thank you letter was also received from the Lehigh Valley Health Network, Office of Philanthropy, thanking the church for our gift of handmade baby blankets, hats and other items; ProJeCt of Easton sent a thank you for our September donation of pasta and peanut butter; and Third Street Alliance sent a thank you letter for the back-to-school donations received.

FAITH FORMATION AND FELLOWSHIP

BRUNCH BUNCH

Brunch Bunch will be going to Frank's Pizza at 4422 Birkland Place, Easton on October 8. There will be no coffee hour that day due to Garlic Fest, so we'll leave directly after service. Please plan to arrive at 12 noon. Please let Ruthann Arras know if you'll be attending by Friday, October 6. If you have a change of plans at the last minute, we'll be glad to accommodate you!

DISCUSSION ON CHURCH HISTORY

A discussion on the early history of Congregational and Presbyterian churches in the Middle Atlantic states, to be led by Rick Taylor, is scheduled for **Sunday, October 1**, after Church, **Wednesday, October 4** at 10:30am, and **Sunday, October 29**, after church. All are welcome. Free copies of the study book are available in the church office. Reading suggestions are pages 11 to 35 for the first session, and pages 35 to 62 for the second session.



BOSCOV'S FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS

FPC Easton will be participating in Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends" fundraiser on Wednesday, October 18. For a \$5 donation, you get a Shopping Pass for 25% off most widely purchased items. Please see Ruthann or Shirley Heinsohn for passes at coffee hour. Please tell your friends as well - this is a money-maker for the church.

MEETING REMINDERS

The Mission Team will meet on Wednesday, October 11 at 1pm.
Session will meet on Thursday, October 19 at 5:30pm.
The Deacons will meet after worship on Sunday, October 22.

ONLINE WORSHIP

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](#).

PROPERTY TEAM

BUILDING USE – RECOVERY PARTNERSHIP

We are pleased to have Recovery Partnership, a community drop-in center, renting Legacy Hall on a temporary basis, which will continue through September. They will be in our building 10am to 4pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

BUILDING USE - VIRELLA’S SWEETS AND TREATS

We are assisting Virella's Sweets and Treats by hosting them in our kitchen, as their storefront was damaged by heavy rain. They will be using the kitchen periodically for the next several weeks.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We will be offering paid parking for Garlic Fest, **Saturday, October 7** and after worship on **Sunday, October 8**. Volunteers are needed to help monitor the parking lot and take payments. If you can help, please contact the church office or speak to Rich Linnell.

If you can't help out in October, we'll do it again on **Saturday, November 4** and **Sunday, November 5** for Bacon Fest!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



October 2	Sue Pappas
October 3	Rich Linnell Gail Owens
October 4	Susan Mackay
October 5	Ginny Ogden
October 7	Gary Lehman Carol Schroeher
October 18	Pat Stanek
October 19	Sarah Moki
October 27	John Heinsohn
October 29	BJ Evans
October 30	Dahlia Opthof-Cordaro

PRAYERS

We pray for...

Our church, its leaders, staff, members and friends as we navigate a significant financial crisis.

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

The family of Carter Alexander Mayer, age 5 weeks, who died on Sunday, August 20. Carter is a member of Susan Mackay's extended family.

Elizabeth Campbell and the Becker-Campbell family as Elizabeth undergoes chemotherapy.

Peg Opthof, as she recovers from surgery on her wrist.

Members addressing ongoing medical concerns, including Victoria Opthof-Cordaro and Bill Schroeher.

All those who live with dementia and their care givers.

Peace and goodwill for all God's children, especially in places of war and conflict.

Victims of gun violence and acts of hate.

Those who suffer from mental illness.

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

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