

June 2024 (Summer Edition)



# Compass

## Newsletter

A PUBLICATION OF FPC BEAVER

### Stay connected...

- The weekly Pastor's Email. Contact Lucinda at [lpelka@fpcbeaver.com](mailto:lpelka@fpcbeaver.com) to be added.
- FPC's Facebook Page, search for "First Presbyterian Church of Beaver" and "Like" us.
- Also on Instagram, search for "fpcbeaver" and follow us.

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First Presbyterian Church



### **SUMMER SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

- 9 A.M. IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
- 10:15 A.M. ALL CHURCH FELLOWSHIP ON FRONT LAWN
- 11 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY  
(OR JOIN US ONLINE)

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## From the Senior Pastor

### Dear FPC Family

We have many things to share as we enter our summer season. We see God's hand at work in a number of good ways!

*Pastor Ron and family are embarking on a 3 month sabbatical, for which prayers for travel mercies and spiritual blessing are appreciated.*

*Meanwhile, we will feature, alongside me, some of our truly gifted lay preachers. We'll be preaching our way through the "Essentials of our Faith" statement of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.*

*We have been blessed, by some gifted interns who will be helping alongside our staff and volunteers, to offer ministry to our children, young people and adults.*

*On the mission side, we have a mid-summer mission trip (Kingdom Week) and will again be participating in Serve Our Schools with other churches, in August.*

*Our Women's Ministry will again have their mid-week study, this year with intentional programming for our children.*

*Andrew Dinardo has been settling into his role in young adult ministries. This summer he is leading a college/young adult fellowship/study group, and this fall we are building on existing ministries to enhance our reach to young adults and college students.*

*Our worship schedule will be 9 a.m. Fellowship Hall, 11 a.m. Sanctuary, and 10:10 a.m. Fellowship Hour. We look forward to your joining us!*

Meanwhile, we are excited to report that our Youth Search Committee, after much prayer, has offered the job (and he has accepted) to Cory Longenecker. Cory has most recently been on staff with Ligonier Camp and Conference Center, where he

**Jeff Arnold**



will serve his remaining term before joining us in September. We will introduce Cory more fully in our September Compass issue.

And finally, starting this fall we will be launching a preaching/teaching/group initiative focused on "The Story." You will be hearing more about this fall/winter/spring series in the coming months, as we prepare to engage the entire story of the Bible together.

These are some of the ways to engage this coming summer. We encourage you to participate as you are led.

Blessings,  
Jeff Arnold

## From the Assoc. Pastor



**Ron Cepek**

### Greetings FPC Family!

As was already announced, our search for a Director of Student Ministry recently concluded, as we now look forward to welcoming Cory Longenecker in the Fall! Before I share a bit about his process in particular, I'd like to say a few words about the broader picture as it relates to filling church staff positions.

You may know that throughout not only the EPC, but nearly any and all denominations, search processes have become increasingly difficult in recent years. We know MANY churches in our region (and beyond) who have endured prolonged staff vacancies. And so, I do want to underscore how grateful I am for the work that our search committee has done. You also might know that our youth

search committee is one of two search committees that we have had actively assembled over this past year. Similarly, our other search, for a part-time contemporary worship leader has required a lot of time, effort, thought and prayer. The work is often NOT “easy”, and so I commend both committees for their level of investment and their deep dedication to the job at hand. Both committees have been intentional about doing this work with great thought and care. Again, we are most thankful. With that, I want to share just a few thoughts about our youth search.

Upon Cory’s arrival, he will be formally introduced to our church, his bio will be made available, and many will have the opportunity to connect with him personally. Until that time, just know that both Jeff and I, along with the search committee who brought him to us, truly enjoyed our time with him. The youth leaders and students who met him while he was here leading our Sunday evening ministry, also had a really good experience. We believe you will discover Cory to be approachable and “easy to know”.

His interview process revealed that many people already in his life had begun to affirm his sensed call to ministry. His love for the Lord and for people is evident. His love of God’s Word is apparent. He possesses a shepherd’s heart, he is a good listener (a vital quality), and has gifts of administration – that are needed in a church our size. I would also like to point out that the questions he posed to us were really practical and insightful, and led to meaningful dialogue. So yes, we will be blessed to bring him aboard our staff this September and are eager for you all to meet him.

It is important to also recognize Joye Hagen, Dave Mateer, the many dedicated youth volunteers and leaders, and the guest speakers - the majority of whom have been from within our church. These men and women played a vital role in caring for our students for the entirety of a school year and beyond! Again...we are blessed.

As per our music search, at the time of my writing, there seems to be some movement, but I must acknowledge that we have been more than blessed by the efforts of our praise team, our volunteers, individuals like Hope Prinkey who is doing an amazing job as our interim praise team leader, along with Susan Grimm who had previously held that role and Emily Gedman who has been a rock in her consistency.

One body, many parts. I know for sure that this past year has presented challenges, has demanded both staff and volunteer alike to fill gaps in many places. But in my heart of hearts, this is a community that I am proud to be a part of as we engage in this work – all for the sake of making the love of Jesus known in our neighborhood and beyond! In the words of the oldie...(look it up)... I will “See You in September”. The Lord’s peace and grace and love to you!

Ron Cepek

## Worship and Music

### Cello Recital



## Our Vision: Declare His Praise!

I Peter 2:9

*The summer months are a great time to get involved in music ministry here at FPC. Try out some of our ensembles and meet new friends without a big time commitment. If interested in any of our summer music opportunities, contact Emily Gedman at [egedman@fpcbeaver.com](mailto:egedman@fpcbeaver.com) or 724-469-1248. We would love to have you join us!*

## Summer Music opportunities...

**Summer Choir** – The summer choir meets at 10:30 Sunday morning to learn a simple anthem for the 11:00 worship service. This is a more casual choir that sits in the congregation and does not wear robes. **Our summer choir dates are: June 9 and 23, July 7 and 21, and August 4 and 18.**

**Summer Handbells** – This ringing group is open to any high school students or adults. We'll meet for rehearsals on Thursdays, July 11, 18, and 25 at 6:30 p.m. **We will ring in worship on Sunday, July 28.**

**Men’s Choir** – Calling all tenors and basses! This is a great opportunity to declare God’s praise in song. We will meet for rehearsal on Thursdays, August 15 and 22 at 6:30 p.m. **We will sing in worship on Sunday, August 25.**

# Discipleship

## Adult Ministry



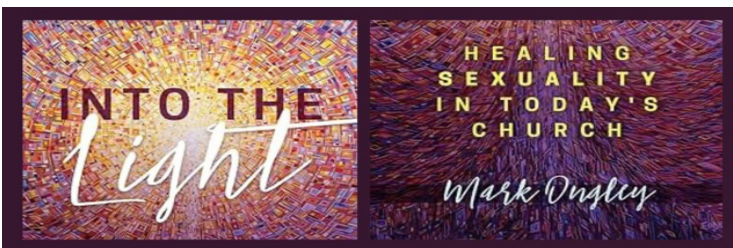
women's summer study

TUESDAYS | JUNE 18 – JULY 30

9AM & 7PM

This summer, we will be studying the book of James and will discover together what it means to live out our faith in practical Christian living.

The weekly study begins June 18, and runs 7 weeks through the summer with both a morning and evening time offered. (Morning childcare for babies-5th grade.) Women of all ages are invited to join. Even if you are traveling or busy for part of the summer, we encourage you to attend the weeks you are in town! Details and registration at [fpcbeaver.com/events](http://fpcbeaver.com/events).



Are you wondering how God wants you to respond to a loved one who is navigating a different belief than yours about their sexuality? What is the line between enabling and tough love? How can we, as the Body of Christ, reflect God's grace with compassion while not compromising our beliefs?

As we focus our prayers on these questions, we will also read a book, "Into the Light," by pastor Mark Ongley on this topic to help us navigate these tough issues with thoughtful discussion.

Join us for this book study and prayer group for those who are navigating the complexities of today's sexual culture in their families. Let us search together to find God's hope, peace and even joy in the midst of the chaos.

This group is open to both men and women and held in the home of Terry and Nita Dempsey, July 31 - September 4, 7-8:30 p.m. Info and sign up at [fpcbeaver.com/events](http://fpcbeaver.com/events).

PROVERBS 27:17  
**IRON SHARPENS IRON**

The men's ministry is having a **Men's Breakfast and Service Project** on Saturday, June 15, 7:30-10:30 a.m. All men are welcome for a time of community, faith, and service. Register at [fpcbeaver.com.events](http://fpcbeaver.com.events) so we can prepare.

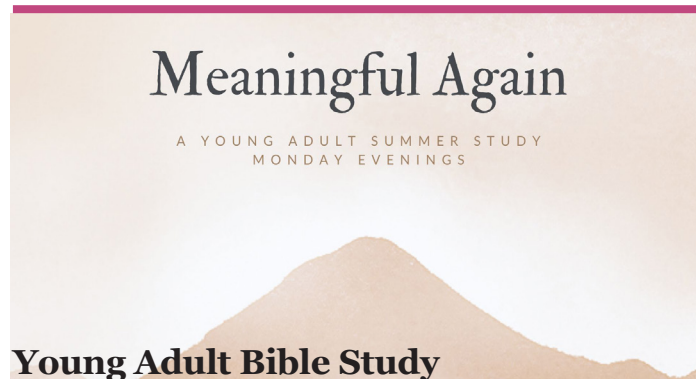


Christians have lost their way when it comes to the intersection of faith & politics. It's time to reframe our political identity as we take the lead in healing what's broken. Jesus' call is clear: We are to be salt and light in this world. Come be equipped and encouraged as we prepare for the true party to come.

The After Party is a free six-part course designed to provide churches with an on-the-ground, biblically based approach to navigating today's challenging political environment. Through interactive videos and group discussion that encourages us to inventory our political identities, consider the "how vs. the "what" of politics, and explore what the Bible has to say about it all, we'll be equipped to navigate these challenging topics in our own lives and within our communities.

Join in with us Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m., in the Commons, May 29-July 3. Register from [focbeaver.com/events](http://focbeaver.com/events).

## Young Adult Ministry



### Young Adult Bible Study

All of our young adults (singles, couples, young professionals, college-aged) are welcome to join us in the Round Room, each Monday evening beginning June 10, from 7-8:30 p.m. This will run until August 12.

### June Social

Come out for a night of mini-golf together with other young adults in the church. For those who are able to stick around, we'll head to Hanks Frozen Custard afterwards for some Mexican food and frozen custard! Meet us at Frontier Falls at 4 p.m. and we'll go from there!

### Beaver County Boom with Prism

Make plans to join us at the DiNardo's house Saturday, June 29, for food and games before we head to the riverfront for live music and to watch the fireworks.

# Senior Adult Ministry

**Prime Timers**, a fun fellowship group (geared to adults 60+), continues to enjoy spending time together! In February we had a Valentines Party and enjoyed some famous couples in history trivia, crafts, yummy desserts and line dancing. In March was our 2nd Annual Birthday Bash where we celebrated the cumulative age of 1,782! We had dinner & cake together, more trivia and fun Minute To Win It games. (THANK YOU to the Children and Student Ministries for coming alongside us to help and to celebrate!)

**Reminder that our trip to Phipps Conservatory** is this Sunday, June 2. Lunch in commons right after 11 a.m. service, then departure. Details and sign up at [fpcbeaver.com/events](http://fpcbeaver.com/events).



**Also, Prime Timers will host the Root Beer Float stand** at the FPC Block Party, Saturday afternoon, June 15, 11-3. Contact Lucinda to sign up to work the booth for an hour.

For questions or to get involved in this special group, contact Lucinda at [lpelka@fpcbeaver.com](mailto:lpelka@fpcbeaver.com). We plan and advertise events, and you attend what interests you.

## Naomi's Sisters

CONNECTING WIDOWS TO ONE ANOTHER & CHRIST

### An article from Pat Grim...

Naomi's Sisters has been in existence, here at FPC for over 20 years, according to the founder, Norma McBride. Norma came up with the idea of a widows group at FPC, in October 2021. She prayed about it and went to Pastor Jeff Arnold and presented the idea. Jeff said since she had prayed about it, that she could start the group.

The Naomi's Sisters Group is for widowed ladies of the church who would like to fellowship with other widows. They first held their meetings here at FPC and decisions are made by the entire group. There are no by-laws, no elected officers, no fundraising and no dues. Everyone pitches in where needed. They decided to meet for lunch the on the 1st Friday of each month, because that was the only day open on the church calendar. Then they decided "We don't want to cook." And this started the luncheon meetings at the Wooden Angel Restaurant. Next, they needed a name, and at one of the first meetings, everyone threw out their ideas. It was Helen Anderson who said "Naomi's Sisters," which all the women liked.

The Naomi's Sisters had been meeting 5 times a year, but decided to stop the February luncheons, because of the weather. Meetings are currently held on the 1st Fridays in April, June, October and December. At each monthly luncheon, at the Wooden Angel, lunch is served at 1 p.m., and after lunch there's a short program. The lunch concludes by 2:30 p.m. The December luncheon is catered and paid for by the Deacons and the church staff members are invited to attend. FPC Worship & Music Director, Emily Gedman leads everyone in singing holiday carols in the Sanctuary, along with some other musical talents.

Ruth Ann Radish was the most recent leaders of Naomi's Sisters, but passed away on June 16, 2023. After her passing, the attendance at the luncheons began to dwindle. At the April 2024 luncheon the vote was unanimous to keep the Naomi's Sisters Group going. Since Ruth Ann's passing, the Naomi's Sisters Group is looking for a leader (only 4 meetings a year). There are a lot of women willing to help, but don't want to be in charge. For anyone who may be interested in leading the group, please think about it, pray about it, and let's all work together to help keep Naomi's Sisters alive for years to come. May God bless this much needed fellowship of widows.

**Our next lunch is Friday, June 7, 12:30 p.m., at the Wooden Angel. RSVP and \$18 cost is due to Lynn in the church office.**

# Children's Ministry

## Preschool

The past two months were very busy with local field trips and special guests. At the end of April the 4's class went to visit Old Economy Village to learn how children lived over a 100 years ago. We also took a trip to the Beaver Library and Log Cabin located in town. Mary Collings gave us a tour of her farm and introduced us to her piglets, goats and chickens. Overall, it has been a wonderful year with our students and we wish the 4's class all the best as they head off to Kindergarten in the fall.



## Children's Ministry (cont.)

It was a thriving and growing year within Children's Ministry, and Spring proved to be no different - from Nursery to Sunday school, from SPARKS to QUEST, we have been blessed with Children eager to come, and about 70 loving and caring volunteers, committed to live out their faith and point our children to our triune God.

As our school year ministry has come to an end, we are looking forward to our summer together:

**We are launching summer ministry with our VBS** June 10-13 for preK through incoming 5th grade. Where we will be heading to "Breaker Rock Beach" and discover that God's truth is rock solid in a world of shifting sand.

Following VBS our elementary ministry will start a weekly rhythm:

- **Summer SPARKS** "Mornings in God's Creation", Mondays 10-11:30 a.m., June 17-August 5, at FPC.
- **Summer QUEST** "Park Explorers", Thursdays 11 a.m.-1 p.m., June 20-August 8 at Brady's Run Park.
- **4th&5th grade Front Lawn Bible study**, Tuesdays 9:15-10:30 a.m., June 18-August 6 at FPC.

*Detailed info and sign ups at [fpcbeaver.com/events](http://fpcbeaver.com/events).*

## Student Ministry

### Middle School

#### Middle School Summer Schedule (incoming 6th through 8th graders)

We'll meet on Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m., June 12-August 7.

Come each week for Bible study, fellowship and fun in Fellowship Hall.

### High School

High School Youth Group closed 2023 with a festive Christmas party. YG alumni joined us for a legendary gift exchange while enjoying hot cocoa and fellowship.

We started 2024 with a leadership change that made us unsure of what the year might bring, but in those moments God's faithfulness was evident. He provided for us every step of the way from special speakers to an EPIC retreat to an intimate evening of prayer. Having experienced God in so many ways this school year we are looking forward to where He takes us this summer. With backyard gatherings, a mission trip and service opportunities, there will be so many ways to plug into YG and God's word while enjoying fellowship. So join us by registering online at [fpcbeaver.com/events](http://fpcbeaver.com/events).



#### Here's our Summer Sr. High Youth Group Schedule! (incoming 9th graders through graduating seniors)

We'll be meeting every Tuesday evening from 6-8 p.m. for dinner, Bible study and to just enjoy hanging out together. Each week we'll be hosted by different families in our congregation...

- June 11 - Jeff & Karen Arnold (353 E. 2nd Street, Beaver)
- June 18 - Jason & Heidi Burt's (103 Aspen Dr., Beaver)
- June 25 - Chris & Ellen Crefeld (185 Wilson Ave., Beaver)
- July 2 - Luke & Trisha Good (512 College Ave., Beaver)
- July 9 - Mike & Kassi Kienzle (2505 Dutch Ridge Rd., Brighton Twp)
- July 16 - Dale & Martha Schartner (440 Wilson Ave., Beaver)
- July 23 - Andy & Emily Gedman (1515 2nd St., Beaver)
- July 30 - PJ & Shannon Perez (501 Western Ave., Beaver)
- August 6 - Todd & Debbie Hindman (390 5th St., Beaver)

# Connections at FPC

## Serving to bring people together one day at a time...

Connections of FPC has the passion and joy of working with all the other ministries to connect us as a congregation through gatherings and service opportunities. We have had a wonderful winter and spring with Serve Days, Souper Saturday of Serve, and Winter Fun Day... We have seen all ministries of FPC doing amazing activities and gatherings that have connected people. The Elders have held prayer services, Worship and Music held a Hymn Sing, we broke bread together at the Easter Bread Gathering, and the Men's Ministry held wonderful breakfast gatherings to name a few of the ways we are connecting as a church and reaching out to our communities.

As summer approaches, we have great things lined up to help us stay connected and welcome more community to FPC.



Community. Coffee. Snacks.

**Summer FELLOWSHIP HOUR**

10:15 - 10:50 a.m. Sundays in June, July, August  
The front lawn at FPC (rainy days in the Commons)



**Kingdom week**

July 14-19, 2024

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news.  
Isaiah 52:7

"KINGDOM WEEK" IS AN IN-TOWN SUMMER MISSION TRIP, WITH AN OUT-OF-TOWN TRIP FEEL.



**block party**

JUNE 15

11-3 P.M.

ALL ARE WELCOME!!!!

Games, Music, Root Beer Floats, Popcorn,  
Location: 252 College Ave Beaver, PA

11 to 3 p.m.

Food Trucks



AUGUST 10

**SOS**

SERVE OUR SCHOOLS

Put these on your calendar! We hope this brings helps us stay connected and gives opportunities to bring new friends. Learn more at [fpcbeaver.com/events](http://fpcbeaver.com/events).

# Local Missions



## Community Home Rehabilitation Crew

We organize volunteer workers that will provide home repair or minor construction projects to members of our community that are in need.

Check out our website to volunteer/donate - [CHRCrew.org](http://CHRCrew.org)

For a simple home repair, contact the church office - [office@fpcbeaver.com](mailto:office@fpcbeaver.com)



# Welcome Home

### WHO ARE WE?

We are members of First Presbyterian Church in Beaver. And we have felt called to serve individuals and families who might be going through times of transition and stress.

### WHY DO WE DO THIS?

God's love is free, no strings attached. Our lives have been touched by Jesus and by our community of faith, and we want to share!

### HOW DO WE HELP?

We collect furniture and housing items, and then we come and meet new friends, bringing items to help ease your lives.

Would you prayerfully consider being a part of this ministry? Visit [fpcbeaver.com/welcomehome](http://fpcbeaver.com/welcomehome).

# International Missions

## Peru Mission update from Stephanie Boyd

In March our church had the joy and blessing to send a team of 12 to Peru! What a wonderful opportunity to partner again with Peru Hope. Our team served 7 days alongside the Peru Hope team. We held 4 women's ministry outreach gatherings at the Peru Hope Center, held Bible studies with the local men in the community, helped a family put on a new roof on their home, continued to help with the next stages of construction at the Peru Hope Center, held 4 outreach days for the children in the area, held 2 eyeglass clinics where we were able to give out over 180 pairs of glasses, and we also helped with some gardening projects for the community. This long-term mission ministry partnership we have in Peru is all about sharing the love of Jesus, encouraging our Peru mission partners, building strong friendships, learning from each other, and continuing to help Peru Hope meet the needs of this under-resourced community.



The team would like to thank all who prayed, collected items, and donated. Without the support of the FPC congregation, this ministry outreach would not be possible.

We are starting the plans to return in March 2025, so be on the lookout for the opportunity to go and serve in Peru. Also, join us July 28 at 6 p.m. in the Commons for a Mission Update dinner on all our mission trips in 2023/2024.

## Our Confirmation Class

**CALI COUPS** is a sophomore at Beaver Area High School. She enjoys playing Softball and Soccer. Cali plans to nurture her faith by attending Sunday School, Youth Group, retreats, and working at Bible Camp. She plans to serve in the church by helping with VBS and being a part of the Youth Praise Team.

**JACOB ELLENBERGER** is a freshman at Ambridge Area High School. He enjoys playing on the High School Golf team. Jake is a member of Boy Scouts Troop 405 and is on the Youth Rifle League at the Ambridge Sportsman's Club. He plans to nurture his faith by attending Sunday Worship Services and Youth Group. Jake plans to serve in the church by helping in the nursery on Sundays and continuing to volunteer to mow the church lawn.

**VIVIAN GEDMAN** is a freshman at Beaver Area High School. Her interests include Math, Science, Art, Dance, and making things (bracelets). Vivian is a member of the High School Track & Field team and is a pole vaulter. She plans to nurture her faith by attending many church related events and to go on retreats. Vivian would like to connect more activities in her life to the glory of God and surround herself with religious, loving people. She plans to serve in the church by helping with VBS, the Tech Team, mowing the church lawn/landscaping, and going on future Mission Trips.

**ANNA MATEER** is a freshman at Beaver Area High School. She enjoys music, art, reading and being outside. Anna is a member of the High School Archery team and is in the Marching Band. She plans to nurture her faith by attending Sunday School, Youth Group, Girls Community Group, helping with SPARKS, and going on retreats. Anna plans to serve in the church by helping with VBS, being a SPARKS Leader, going on Mission Trips, being a member of the church Handbell Choir and helping at church events.



**AUDRA PARSHALL** is a freshman at Moon Area High School. Her interests include theater and playing on the High School Volleyball and Track & Field teams. Audra plans to nurture her faith by attending Youth Group, going on retreats and participating in a Bible Study. Audra plans to serve in the church by helping with VBS and in the Nursery on Sundays.

**SEAN PEREZ** is a freshman at Beaver Area High School. His interests are soccer, tennis and going to the gym. Sean plans to nurture his faith by attending Sunday School, Youth Group, and participating in a Bible Study. He plans to serve in the church by helping with VBS, Tech Team, going on a Mission Trip and mowing the church lawn.

**ADDYSON SULLIVAN** is a sophomore at Central Valley High School. Her interests include photography and playing on the High School Volleyball team. Addy plans to nurture her faith by attending Sunday School every Sunday morning. She plans to serve in the church by continuing to volunteer in the nursery on Sundays.

**JOSEF WOODSKE** is a freshman at Beaver Area High School. He enjoys soccer, golf and weightlifting. Joey plans to nurture his faith by attending Sunday School and participating in a Bible Study. He plans to serve in the church by helping with VBS, Tech Team and mowing the church lawn.



# Welcome New Members

Joined April 7, 2024



**Gloria Bedford**

**Gloria** was born in New Jersey and moved to the Pittsburgh area 9 years ago. She is married and the mom of 2 fur babies, Pebbles and Daphne. Gloria is a Financial Controller for B&K Equipment Company (near Scranton, PA). She loves attending concerts, traveling and spending as much time at the beach as possible. She's looking forward to serving and growing in her faith at FPC.



**Sarah Emge**

**Sarah's** husband is Matt Emge. They have a daughter who is almost 2 years old, named Eve. Sarah works as a filmmaker at Portage Learning. She would be happy to use what she knows in film and photography to serve here at FPC.



**Adazia Mellot  
Kevin Caldwell**

**Kevin & Adazia** (joining next Sunday, April 14) have enjoyed being a part of FPC, since first attending in May of 2023. They met at Geneva College and are engaged to be married in April 2024. Both have participated in summer Bible Studies, as well as Small Groups throughout the Fall/Winter. Additionally, both served at the Souper Saturday, soup making event this Winter and attended Men's/Women's breakfasts. Their hobbies include learning sign language, playing games with friends, exploring new places and cooking.



**Debra Hutman**

**Debra** has been a Presbyterian all of her life. She has been looking for a new church to join and found FPC and has been happy here from day one. Much of Debra's time is taking care of her grandchildren and she enjoys spending time with family and friends.



**Daniel & Leslie  
Champ**

**Daniel and Leslie** are long-term New Brighton Township residents and small business owners in the community. Previously they were active in another Evangelical Church and are happy to finally make FPC their home. They have one adult daughter and recently added a son-in-law to their family. Daniel & Leslie enjoy all things outdoors and especially enjoy their Morkie dog, Roscoe and their chickens.



**Ervin & Judy  
Martindale**

**Ervin** moved to western PA from the mountains of Northern California and **Judy** has lived in PA all of her life. They have been married since 2017 and currently live in Rochester. Judy worked for American Eagle Outfitters for 35 years and is now retired. Ervin likes to travel, explore new places, camp and hunt. They have been attending FPC for 3 years.



**Debbie Doyle**

**Debbie** and her husband, George are both retired. They live with their oldest daughter, Michelle and her son, Nicholas (age 21). Debbie enjoys sewing, volunteering and service work helping others. They both stay very busy. Debbie's looking forward to being an member of FPC.



**Tammie Nicoletti**

**Tammie** currently lives in Beaver. She has been a member of the Hodge Band since September of 2023. She is a recently retired professional who worked for a utility company for 42 years. She has one adult son. Tammie is currently the lead of the Military Mission of Beaver County. They collect items and monetary donations to send care packages to the deployed military men and women overseas. Tammie loves to stay busy with activities such as Zumba, Bowling, Golf, Pickleball and volunteering.

*Stay tuned to [fpcbeaver.com/events](http://fpcbeaver.com/events) for our next Confirmation Class in January 2025 and New Members class in September 2024.*

# We Celebrate our Graduates

## High School

**KENDRA BEDNAR** is the daughter of Scott and Leann Bednar. She is a graduate of Beaver Area High School. She enjoys spending quality time with family and friends. Kendra will be attending Kent State University in the fall.

**MACKENNA RYLEE BRUCKER** is the daughter of Bill Brucker and Jennifer Stephenson. Mackenna is a graduate of Central Valley High School. She will be attending Robert Morris University to pursue a career in Radiation Therapy. Mackenna enjoys playing games with family and friends, walking, and hiking. She also works at Mario's Woodfired Pizzeria in Beaver. And she is a member of FPC and enjoys volunteering in the church nursery.

## High School (cont.)

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JAMESON LIAM BUTLER is the son of William and Marion Butler. Liam is a graduate of Central Valley High School. After receiving the rank of Eagle Scout in November 2022, Liam continues in scouting as an adult leader for Troop 423. Graduating with a certification through the Beaver County Career and Technology Center, Liam will further his career in the carpentry trade.

LYDIA CREFELD is the daughter of Chris and Ellen Crefeld. She is a graduate of Beaver County Christian School. Lydia enjoys music, singing, baking and spending time with family and friends. She will be attending the Pharmacy program at Duquesne University in the fall.

JESSICA RENEE DAVIS is the daughter of Timothy and Susan Davis. Jessica is a graduate of Central Valley High School. She is a member of the National Honor Society, the Archery team and Tennis team. She also was a member of the SAVE Club and Bots IQ Club. Jessica plans to attend college in the fall for an undecided major.

BRECKEN RUSSELL FINKBEINER is the son of John and Kathleen Finkbeiner. Brecken is a graduate of Blackhawk High School. He enjoys art, ceramics, traveling and spending time with family and friends. Brecken will be attending Kent State University in the fall, majoring in the Professional Pilot Program and hopes to become a commercial pilot.

ELISE HARTMAN is the daughter of Brad and Danielle Hartman. She is a graduate of Blackhawk High School. Elise enjoys the Cross Country team, pottery and photography. She plans on attending Community College in the fall.

AVA ROSE LEMASTERS daughter of Aimee and William LeMasters. She is a graduate of Beaver Area High School. Through the Gap Year Program, she will be participating in Semester at Sea this fall. Ava has not yet decided on a major, but will be studying Global Studies, International Business and possibly Communications. Her interests include traveling, music, spending time with her sisters and friends, trying new foods and hiking.

AEDAN MALONEY is the son of Adam & Natalie DuFresne and Shawn Maloney. He is a graduate of Lincoln Park Performing Arts School (Music Performance). Aedan enjoys music, card games, video games and history. He will be attending West Virginia University in the fall, majoring in Music Performance (cello).

NORAH GRACE MATSKO is the daughter of Joe and Anne Matsko. Norah is a graduate of Beaver County Christian School. She enjoys reading, writing, and spending time outdoors. Norah will be attending Geneva College in the fall, majoring in History.

PORTER OBERG is the son of Eric and Kristin Oberg. He is a graduate of Beaver Area High School. Porter will be attending Penn State University in the fall, majoring in Information Science & Technology.

ALLIE RENFROE is the daughter of Cynthia and Robert Renfroe. Allie is a graduate of 21st Century Cyber Charter School. Her interests include music, books, writing and podcasts. In the fall, Allie will be attending Geneva College, double majoring in Psychology and Philosophy. She would like to work towards achieving a doctorate in Psychology.

JAMES SAMPLE is the son of Paul and Debbie Sample. He is a graduate of Beaver Area High School. James enjoys hanging out with friends, playing basketball, golf, disc golf, tennis and working out. He plans on attending Indiana University of Pennsylvania in the fall, majoring in Finance.

CADEN SULLIVAN is the son of Mike and Amy Sullivan. Caden is a graduate of Central Valley High School. He enjoyed being a part of the Football and Wrestling teams in High School, as well as the Debate Club. Caden will be attending Penn State University in the fall, majoring in Computer Science.

MIA ISABELLE WOODSKE is the daughter of Matt and Heather Woodske. She is a graduate of Beaver Area High School. Mia enjoys playing Tennis, volunteering at The Center and spending time with friends and family. She will be attending the University of Pittsburgh, School of Public Health in the fall.

## College

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QUENTIN MAKSAT COLE is the son of Jeff and Christine Cole. He graduated from Gordon College in December 2023 with a B.A. in Communications. Quentin is currently the Director of Communications with Virginia Association of Independent Schools in Richmond, Virginia.

NOAH NIEDRA GRAY is the son of Matthew and Laura Gray. Noah is a graduate from Westminster College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. In the Fall, he will be attending Northeast Ohio Medical University to pursue a degree in Pharmacy.

SARAH RENEE MATEER is the daughter of Dave and Diane Mateer. She graduated in December from Messiah University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry, earning both departmental and University honors for her research. Sarah also completed a minor in Spanish language after studying abroad in Ecuador. While at Messiah, she served as President of the Democrats Club and VP of the Chemistry Club. She also sang on the worship team at Harrisburg Brethren in Christ Church. In what little free time she has, Sarah enjoys reading, writing, and playing the ukulele. In the fall, she will be attending the University of California Davis to pursue her PhD in Bioinorganic Chemistry.

MAXWELL ROBERT REDA is the husband of Danielle Reda. He is a graduate from Geneva College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science and Policy. Maxwell is currently employed with Breathe Project.

JOCELYN SCHMERSAL is the daughter of Craig and Amy Schmersal. Jocelyn graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Pittsburgh, School of Pharmacy with her Doctorate of Pharmacy. She will start a residency at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center in July.

# Church Announcements

Thank you

## Hope for the Journey Conference

Come Saturday, June 1, 9-6 in the Commons. Conference to equip & encourage parents and caregivers meeting the needs of children from hard places, such as children impacted by trauma as well as adoption and/or foster care. Visit [fpcbeaver.com/events](http://fpcbeaver.com/events).

## Deacons are offering Scholarships

For children attending Christian summer camps, regardless of financial status. Apply at [fpcbeaver.com/events](http://fpcbeaver.com/events) **by June 1!**

## Faith in Action (Beaver County)

Still in need of more volunteer drivers! NO requirement of how many rides you would need to provide - this volunteer program is flexible. Contact Carla McKrell at (814) 450-3985. (Faith in Action is a ministry that provides rides, to doctor appointments, to people 60 and over who are shut in.)

## Need pastoral care?

If you or a loved one want the Pastoral Staff to know that you need care or a visit, email us at [hospital@fpcbeaver.com](mailto:hospital@fpcbeaver.com). This is a simple system that enables the pastor on call to get information quickly and efficiently. If you don't have email, call the church office at 724-774-6398.

God is ALWAYS good!

A January 4th medical diagnosis turned me on a dime. Surgery May 13 was a great success and on May 24th I received the medical news that I am cancer free! I want to thank you all for keeping me lifted in prayer. I have a bit of a road ahead of me yet, but I am confident God is using me and my journey to pour out His love out on the beautiful web of people involved along the way! The joy of the Lord continues to be my strength and on the rare times I wrestle with God, he gently gets me back in the right mindset! I have been at FPC since I was baptized at age 9 there. So many have loved on and prayed for me there! Thank you, especially for your love and prayers most recently. The body of Christ is beautiful!

Love to you all, *Kim Gross*

Hello First Presbyterian Church!

I wanted to thank the entire congregation and blessed fellowship for all of the prayers for me.

I am Lydia Balogh, sister of Felicia (Tom)Helsing. I had a very life threatening event—aortic dissection in September 2023. I'm now fully recovered and living my life after 2 months hospitalized and 4 months recovery at my sisters' homes. Your church's support was amazing and I'm eternally grateful to you for the prayers to God.

Sincerely, *Lydia*

## This past 5 months

### We have prayed for...

#### Families that have suffered loss:

- Family of Bob Hales, after he passed away in early January.
- Dan Champ and family, as Dan's mother (Danielle's grandmother) passed away on January 11, 2024.
- Mark & Kate Czartoryski and family, as Mark's mom, Janice Scassa passed away on January 14.
- Alex & Todd Cruz and family, as Alex's father, Alan Martin, passed away mid-January.
- Ed Metzger and family, as wife Jeanne Metzger passed away on February 24, 2024.
- Joan Tracy and family, as husband Bob Tracy passed away on March 3, 2024.
- Laura Burval and family, as Laura's father passed away on March 19, 2024.
- Ted & Lisa Kilyk, as Lisa's father Charles V. Palmer passed away on March 12, 2024.
- JR & Susan Grimm and family, as JR's mother Jan Grimm passed away on March 22, 2024.
- Dave & Misty Lytle and family, after Dave's father, Dave Lytle Sr. passed away on March 30, 2024.
- Donna Dobbs and family, as her stepfather passed away in early April.
- Eric Hagen (Joye, Spencer & Carter) as Eric's father, Dave Hagen passed away on April 16, 2024.
- Sue Hoback and family after husband, Paul Hoback, passed away on May 7, 2024.
- Family of Pat Stewart, after her passing on May 12.

*Our deepest sympathies go to these families.*

### And we have celebrated...

#### Births:

- Andrew and Sarah Frey, welcomed a baby boy, **Alden Everett**, on December 29, 2024.
- A grandson to Bruce & Adel Aiken, **Matthew Aiken**, born to their son, Curtis and wife Laurie, on January 5, 2024.
- David Diaz's niece Cattery and husband Lubny Lugo welcomed a son, **Mark Nathanel**, on February 1, 2024.
- The birth of daughter, **Charlotte Grace**, to Courtney Lesczynski, on February 23, 2024. Proud grandparents are Darrell & Kim Jones.
- A grandson to Jeff and Karen Arnold, **Owen Wales**, born to son Brett Arnold and wife Pam Wales on March 21, 2024.
- A granddaughter to Curt & Heather Neish, **Riddle Ivy-Clara**, born to parents Dalton & Hadley Bolles on May 3, 2024.
- A grandson to Kraig & Donna Dobbs, **Theodore Alan**, born to parents Gage & Leah Dobbs on May 7, 2024.
- The birth of a baby boy to Jeff & Lori Yakish, **Harris James**, on May 1, 2024. Proud grandparents are Dale & Carol Yakish.
- The birth of baby boy, **Harrison Jude**, to Brian & Michelle O'Leary, on May 14, 2024. Proud grandparents are Dave & Bobbie O'Leary.
- A grandson to Alan and Jill Fischer, **Garrett Anthony**, born to parents Christopher & Stephanie Fischer on May 8, 2024.

#### Baptisms:

- Theodore James Gelpi & Jackson Steele Gelpi, sons of Jeremy and Grace Gelpi, on April 21, 2024.
- Naomi Kay Migliore, daughter of Frank & Jennifer Migliore, on April 21, 2024.
- Eleanor Barbara Mary Harries, daughter of Richard & Megan Harries, on April 14, 2024.
- Faye Mrytle DiPietrantonio, daughter of Andrew & Shelby DiPietrantonio, on May 26, 2024.

# First Presbyterian Church

252 College Avenue  
Beaver, PA 15009



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Articles to be published in future Newsletters may be left in the main office or emailed directly to our Connections Coordinator, Lucinda Pelka at [lpelka@fpcbeaver.com](mailto:lpelka@fpcbeaver.com).

The Compass Newsletter is a publication of First Presbyterian Church, Beaver, PA. Send any comments or suggestions to Scott Miser at [smiser@fpcbeaver.com](mailto:smiser@fpcbeaver.com).

## DIRECTORY

### First Presbyterian Church (724) 774-6398

MINISTRY STAFF ([fpcbeaver.com/staff](http://fpcbeaver.com/staff))

Jeff Arnold – Senior Pastor  
Ron Cepek - Associate Pastor  
Emily Gedman – Worship & Music Director  
Hope Prinkey - Contemporary Worship Director  
Martha Schartner – Director of Discipleship  
Jeff Arnold (temporarily) - Student Ministry Discipleship  
Marion Butler - Children’s Ministries Director  
Andrew DiNardo - Young Adult Ministries Director  
Stephanie Boyd - Director of Connections

SUPPORT STAFF ([fpcbeaver.com/staff](http://fpcbeaver.com/staff))

W. Scott Miser – Administrative Manager  
Heather Neish – Building Coordinator  
Lucinda Pelka – Connections Coordinator  
Kristie Lang - Communications Coordinator  
Lynn Ellenberger – Office Administrative Assistant  
Library Team - Rebecca Clark, Mary Jane Puz, Sue Parry,  
Kristy Phillips, Phyllis Felts, Brenda Lichius

There are also a number of volunteers who make the church run so efficiently. We thank them for their continued dedication.

### SESSION & DEACONS

Clerk of Session Jeff Cole 561-5496  
Moderator of Deacons Trisha Good 412-496-3088  
Deacon Member Care Ann Marie Matthews 417-3135

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Budgeting, Stewardship & Accounting Mark Murtha 622-1835

Adult Christian Education Christine Cole 581-6453

Student & Family Ministries Chris Crefeld 878-313-4228

Children’s Ministries Joye Hagen 412-735-2962

International Missions Brian Wallace 309-613-0464

Domestic Missions Dana Wallace 309-613-0463

Personnel Terry Biss 412-298-3109

Property Mark O'Leary 622-9427

Worship & Music Adel Aiken 622-9243

Music/Choir Director Emily Gedman 469-1248

Nursery Shannon Perez 630-5805

Boy Scout Leader John Saunders 412-780-4340

Cub Scout Leader Nathan Bradley 622-1777

### PRESCHOOL

4-year-old Teacher Shannon Perez 630-5805

3-year-old Teacher Michelle O'Leary 544-3108

HODGE BAND Madge Nichols 709-3108

STEPHEN MINISTRY Kathy Davis 412-974-3168

WEDDING COORDINATOR Jamie Emge 462-1796

WORSHIP TECH COORD Doug Martin 462-0760

AUDIO VISUAL ASST. Andrew Jones 724-3052

(Please let the Church Office know of any changes to this list)