

THE FANFARE

VOL. 68, No. 1
JAN-FEB 2023

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FANWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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THE FANFARE

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Next FANFARE deadline is

Feb 15, 2023

For the Mar-Apr issue

FPC on the web

<https://fanwoodpc.org>

The Coming of the Messiah to Bring Rest

Snow was softly falling as we landed in Minneapolis. My sister Laura greeted me with a smile and that night, my brother-in-law Dan took me snowshoeing in the woods with headlamps. The beauty of the snow-laden pines and the mystery of light shining on the path before us as ...

Fanwood Presbyterian Church

**Growing in God's Love, Serving All God's People
through Rejoicing, Renewing and Reaching Out**

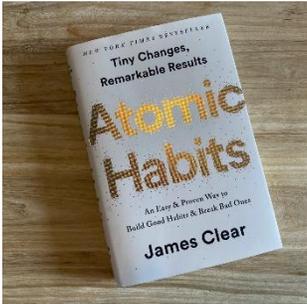
(cont. from left column)...the snow continued to drop from above was awe-inspiring. The next day was a perfect 25-30 degrees for skiing with my daring nephews. But the highlight of the trip was seeing the delight in my declining mother while I decorated the house with my dad, and later being led by her in the Lord's Prayer and Psalm 23.

This holy sabbath time brought rest to my mind and soul. I felt whole again. This is what Jesus does. He comes into our world and says, "Take in beauty every day. Know I am with you and delight in you as your loving and graceful Good Shepherd. Sing 'Gloria' every day with the angels and find the rest your soul longs for." May it be so for all of you this Christmas season.

Sincerely yours in the peace of Christ, Pastor David

p.s. Thanks to all of you for a blessed time of renewal. I want to especially thank Dr. Ken and Linda Macari, Lauren Comerford, Luyang Liu, Jason Rivera and Hailey Kim for all of their support and excellent work, along with our amazing guest musicians. Pastor David

Session and Committee News



I recently stumbled on a YouTube video about the book Atomic Habits by James Clear. I found it interesting and found a way to borrow the book for free using the SP

library and the Libby App. I wanted to share some of the insights learned as we head into a new year.

We often set New Year's resolutions that fail or don't even bother knowing they don't turn out. The book talks about rephrasing those goals into how we want to identify ourselves. For example, rather than say I have a goal to run 100 miles next year, I would instead say I want to be a runner or I want to be someone who exercising regularly.

He also states for us to use the word Intention. So rather than set a goal it needs to be stated with better intention. So, instead of saying I will run 100 miles....it would be better to state that it is my intention to run an hour after I eat breakfast every three days and then take a day off. Since I have made a more concrete statement, I have set a schedule. I will read my Bible right after breakfast and before my run.

I've noticed that with my mom no longer in the house, my prayers before meals are not great. I often start eating and then say something quickly. I now actually say out loud just before eating, my intention is to thank God before I start eating. I then say my prayer and commence eating when finished. This hopefully will form a good habit. Let's face it, if we don't set some sort of intention or schedule It won't happen.

So, how do you want to identify yourself in 2023? As a recurring church goer? As a person

who feeds those in need? As a student of the Word of the Lord? I have read through the Entire Bible each year for the last few years. I am only reading 5-10 pages a day. I set an intention (this occurred before I read this book, so looking back this is interesting) to do it immediately after breakfast and before my run. I have stuck to my intention but am flexible when I need to be.

I invite you to think about your intentions for the coming year. When you think about it, the annual offering cards, which many do not fill out, are setting an intention for the year. A reminder of how you want to help the church and it's missions thrive. The church uses those intentions to develop their own intentions but that can be hard when indefinite.

I haven't finished the book yet but look forward to more ways to reflect on my life and how this may help with my church roles.

Karen Edwards

SOUPS FOR SALVATION



Update on Soups for Salvation Ministry - Many thanks to all who contributed money and turkeys to the Soups for Salvation mission. And special thanks for all the volunteers who have helped each month. Monday, December 12, we made 170 meals which we will distribute to our church family members, Family Promise and Cranford First Presbyterian Church Food Mission. We cook on the 2nd Monday night of each month at 7pm. Join us and be in touch with Joe Turso at jturso18@gmail.com any time you can help with time, turkeys and funds.

Church News



FPC FOOD BANK

It's a new year with new opportunities to help those in need and walk the path Jesus set before us.

FEED THE HUNGRY

FPC has provided groceries to the hungry since 1971, when the program began as a cupboard through which food was delivered to the needy. Today, more than 40 families, mostly from the Plainfield area, pick up food on the third Saturday of each month at 9:30 - 11. The Food Bank is stocked by FPC congregants; the November Scouting for Food Drive in Fanwood and Scotch Plains; and the May food drive conducted by Fanwood postal workers and many local residents. We receive food donations every Sunday in worship and during office hours. Please contact fanwoodpres@gmail.com for more information. You can Send a Check to Fanwood Presbyterian with a Memo 'Food Bank' and 100% will go to the hungry.

A New Relationship with Newmark High School

The SPF Newmark High School serves special needs students who, in turn, are serving their community. Their Community Service Club, in particular, has blessed our FPC Food Bank. Beginning with a conversation Pastor David had with one of their students on Fanny Wood Day, that student, Kayden, has been helping at the Food Bank and let her club, the above one, know about FPC. They came to our dining room to make holiday bags and cards for our Food Bank Patrons and on another occasion, baked cookies for them. Thanks to Andrew Stewart for developing this relationship. See pictures below.

Church News



A Word From Westminster Preschool

The winter months are upon us and we are gearing up for some indoor activities to do with the children. This time of year our teachers really show off their creativity and work on some amazing art projects, along with science experiments and cooking in order to keep the children engaged in their learning.

Some of the things we will be teaching the children are the winter season, changes we see outside and animals that hibernate.

We hosted 2 successful celebrations of The Christmas Story, with the children and their families. We were even able to have some refreshments and enjoy each other's company after! It is always such a joy to see the children in the sanctuary performing The Christmas Story and this year was no exception.

We will begin registration for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year in January! We are looking forward to having another successful registration time so that our Preschool continues to thrive. This all is possible because of the support of the church and we are grateful to do what we do every day.

Westminster would not be the wonderful preschool it is without our amazing teachers. Our teachers truly are THE BEST and inspire me every day with their dedication and positivity that exudes throughout the building! Wishing everyone a very Happy, Healthy New Year.

Kim Russo

Church News



Week of Hope Mission Trip

PITTSBURGH, PA

2023
\$286PP

Rising 9th graders to adults are encouraged to join us on our summer mission trip to Pittsburgh, PA! Youth will have the opportunity to experience new things and serve a community in a truly impactful way! Scholarships are available. Contact Lauren at lcomerfordfpcyouth@gmail.com for more information.



FAMILY, YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES *In the New Year!*

MONDAY JANUARY 16TH: MLK DAY OF SERVICE

All ages are welcome to join us at FPC for a day of service from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at FPC. We will be working on various service projects around the church!

MONDAY JANUARY 23RD: FAMILY FEUD GAME NIGHT

From 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in the dining room. All ages and families welcome to join and play for some prizes! Dinner & drinks will also be provided.

WOMEN'S & UNDER 55 BIBLE STUDIES

Our Women's study will meet on 01/30 from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the Colville Room and our Under 55s study will meet on 01/18 from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. via zoom! All are welcome!

YOUTH GROUPS

Youth groups will start up on 01/30! Kingdom Kids (2nd-5th) 4:30-5:30, Joyful Noise (prek-5th) 5:30-6:00, Ignite Middlers (6th-8th) 5:30 - 6:30 & Ignite High (9th-12th) 6:30-7:30! CONTACT LAUREN @ [LCOMERFORDFPCYOUTH@GMAIL.COM](mailto:lcomerfordfpcyouth@gmail.com) IF YOU WANT MORE INFORMATION.

Church News

January Birthdays

Date		Date		Date		Date	
1	John Stueck	9	Rhaena Linderman	17		25	
2		10		18		26	
3	Diane Knechtel Alexander Poulios	11	Samantha Howell Margaret Weber	19		27	
4		12	Elizabeth Schwartz	20	Kimberly Shoback Katherine Dreyer	28	
5		13	Matthew Dreyer Lorene Knierim Karen Thomson	21		29	
6		14		22	Hannah Charnock	30	Karyn Alvarez
7		15	Braelyn Brandl	23		31	
8		16		24	Carol McClure		

February Birthdays

Date		Date		Date		Date	
1		9		17		25	
2	Michael Howell	10		18	Liz Henderson	26	
3		11		19		27	
4	JH Stephan Fallon	12		20		28	
5		13		21			
6		14		22	Michael Donofrio		
7		15	Susan Kelly	23			
8		16		24	Genine Schwartz		

Sorry if we missed your birthday or have it mistaken. Please let us know, if so.

Fanwood Presbyterian Church

Box 69, FANWOOD, N.J. 07023

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



JAN - FEB

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