

# THE FANFARE

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THE BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FANWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAY-JUNE 2023



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Youth and Family Ministries Director and  
Church Administrator  
**Lauren Comerford**

Media Publicist  
**Hailey Kim**

Musicians  
**Luyang Liu, Alexa Teebo and  
Jason Rivera** (*who also directs a.v. ministries*)

Director of Westminster Preschool  
**Kim Russo**

  
**THE FANFARE**

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<https://fanwoodpc.org>

## Fanwood Presbyterian Church

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

We have a Search Committee in place to look for our new 30 hour/ week Director of Youth, Children's and Family Ministries. We give thanks to Elder Darcie Lubalin, Sarah Cleffi-Muhlstock, and youth reps. Charlotte Middleton and Dietrich Jahnke for serving in this very important role. We will also be seeking a 10 hour/ week administrator. (Hailey is continuing as our Media Publicist, including bulletins and power points, and Kathy Church as our Financial Administrator.) Be sure and give thanks to Lauren for her excellent leadership over the last five years, maintaining our youth and children's programs, driving new programs for family, and taking youth and most recently, women on retreats.



Men, expect an email about a **Men's Night Out** at the Stage House on May 5th. Those of you who work in town, I would be glad to have a Men's breakfast or lunch as well. Let me know if you are interested. Pastor David

## Session and Committee News

### Please Pay Your Per Capita

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Each year every Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) pays a per capita assessment, based on the number of active members, to support the higher governing bodies of the church. Without this assessment, the General Assembly, the regional Synods, and the local Presbyteries could not operate. The per capita helps cover the costs of presbytery, synod and general assembly staff, office space, ministries and missions. Fanwood Presbyterian Church pays this assessment annually on behalf of each of our confirmed members. Because this is a substantial cost to our congregation, (around \$9,000 for 2023), we are requesting that **each confirmed member of the church** pay their individual per capita portion of \$40.00.

Parents, please pay for your conformed children too.

As more individuals pay their portion, more budgeted resources can go to the missions and programs of our congregation and outreach into the community and beyond. If you did not pay your 2022 per capita portion, the amount was the same and you can simply double your check. A check to the church with a memo for Per Capita or an electronic gift through our website, dropping down to Per Capita from the funds menu, are ways to give.

Thank you for supporting our connectional church and for the many ways that you continue to "Serve All God's People." Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor David and Elder David McDede,  
Treasurer and Stewardship and Finance Chair



### FPC FOOD BANK

The food bank is always looking for donations to help the needy. Canned goods, packaged dry goods (oatmeal, cereal, pasta, rice, for example). Please check for expiration dates. Food can be dropped off and placed in **the blue carts in the parking lot on Tuesdays 3-5PM**. There is also *plastic bins* labeled food bank on Martine Ave. and the back door of the church closest to the parking lot (follow the playground fence) where you can drop off items anytime (if Tuesdays does not work for you). Also **the YMCA on Martine Ave** has a box outside for donations labeled FPC. We look forward to a new Eagle Scout Project – a beautiful drop-off bin at the corner of the parking lot and memorial garden.

## Session and Committee News

FPC Financial Activities Report - 2023 YTD Thru March				
<u>Income</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	
Contributions	\$ 54,360	\$ 55,300	\$ (940)	
Other Income (incl. rents)	\$ 21,372	\$ 22,750	\$ (1,378)	
Transfers In (incl. Foundation)	\$ 11,217	\$ 21,074	\$ (9,857)	
Total Income	\$ 86,949	\$ 99,124	\$ (12,175)	
<u>Expense</u>				
Personnel costs	\$ 54,312	\$ 54,076	\$ (236)	
Buildings & Grounds	\$ 42,336	\$ 34,475	\$ (7,861)	
Committee & local mission expenses	\$ 4,327	\$ 4,638	\$ 311	
Per Capita	\$ -	\$ 3,360	\$ 3,360	
Total Expense	\$ 100,975	\$ 96,549	\$ (4,426)	
<u>Income minus Expense</u>	\$ (14,026)	\$ 2,575	\$ (16,601)	



Save the dates – July 17 -21, 2023!! Another awesome time for children to experience God’s love at Vacation Bible School with music, crafts, games, Bible stories, and service projects as we embark on a **Stellar** Adventure exploring the universe and the life of Jesus. Middle and High School students can serve as helpers. Adults needed in any capacity. Please contact Lauren, Jessica Miller, Michelle Howell or Linda Macari if you are able to volunteer for a few days or the entire week.

Please check out the amazing possibilities for growing in faith, fellowship and understanding listed in other parts of the Fanfare. The Season of Lent leading up to Easter is a wonderful time to nurture ourselves, our church community, and the community around us. Our spiritual lives need nurturing and growth just as much as our physical bodies need nourishment. The Christian Education Committee: Linda Macari, Jessica Miller, Michelle Howell, Ashley Donofrio and Lauren Comerford.

# Church News

## A Word From Westminster Preschool



Spring has Sprung and we are keeping the students very busy learning about plant life cycles and now butterfly lifecycle. We have our caterpillars at the preschool and we will watch as they grow and form chrysalis before becoming butterflies! We are looking forward to celebrating our amazing teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week. Then we will host our Mother's Day Picnics to honor the wonderful Westminster Mothers and Grandmothers. The students have also been working hard on special art projects that will be displayed for our Art Show the second week of May. Finally, our friends from Eyes of the Wild will be back this year at the end of May, to teach the children about some incredible animals.

We were able to make some improvements to the preschool because of a fundraiser. We purchased some more rubber mulch for our playground and the Boy Scouts from Troop 33 were kind enough to spread the mulch during our Spring Break. We also purchased some sensory boards for the gym so the children have more options during free play. We feel blessed to have such a supportive community to help us make these small improvements.

Looking ahead to June, we will recognize the Westminster Dads and Grandpas during our Donuts for Dads breakfast. We will also hold our Graduation ceremonies for our 4 year old classes. It brings such joy to think of how much the students have grown this year and we are so proud of them! Registration is still ongoing with a few spots left in our preschool for next school year.

Sincerely, Kim Russo

## Seeking Kingdom Leaders

Please be praying for those our Nominating Committee will be reaching out to for the offices of elder and deacon. We are seeking deacons who want to lift up the less mobile and often lonely, elders who want to encourage Christian discipleship and service by their example and envision God's future and officers, in general, who are committed to worship, fellowship and the ministry of encouragement. **The most important work of leadership that all of us do and what will most benefit the Kingdom of God both short and long-term is attending worship.** Worship is the primary place God's Word is proclaimed, God's Spirit is embodied and where visitors and seekers are uplifted by communal fellowship, forgiveness, joy and shared life. See related article below.

## Shepherds' Outreach

Some of you will be receiving a call or message from a Shepherd, checking in on you, asking for prayer requests and just letting you know that your church cares about you and yours. Please let us know if you have not received a call and would like a church shepherd..



## Church News



### Letter from Joe's 'Soups for Salvation'

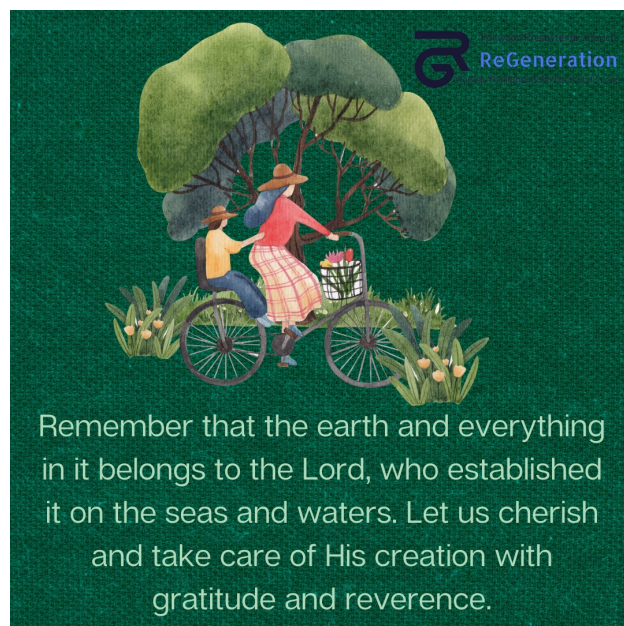
Wow. There were a lot of new faces at our cooking event last night. But the cutest was Sarai who helped us with labels. See her picture above. It was great to have so many new people join us for cooking last night including Mario, Tracey, Kristen, Shu and Gaberilla. Hope to see you all next month. With all this help we were able to make 170 meals!! Our soups will be distributed to agencies who shelter families; to local soup kitchens with the distribution help of Cranford Presbyterian Church; and to the elderly in Fanwood and Scotch Plains.

This would not be possible without all your help. I thank you and those we feed I can tell you are greatly appreciative. Please mark your calendars for our next cooking date - May 22nd.

Hope to see everyone again. **Soups for Salvation** has their next cooking session on **Monday, May 22 at 7 PM.** Please email Joe at [jturso18@gmail.com](mailto:jturso18@gmail.com) with your interest.

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### Happy Earth Day Everyone!



Remember that the earth and everything in it belongs to the Lord, who established it on the seas and waters. Let us cherish and take care of His creation with gratitude and reverence.

### Reading Scripture with Dr. NT Wright as People of Promise

How does this video speak to you? [When Love is Too Hard | John 21:15-19 | N.T. Wright Online - YouTube](#) (Do a google search if reading this on paper.) Dr. Wright once again taught me a new connection -- the charcoal fire present both at Peter's denying Jesus and here where affirms his love for him three times. I also like how Dr. Wright distinguishes the words for love here but I think Peter's response to Jesus' "Do you agape me (i.e. love me unconditionally as I love you)?" ought to be translated,

## Church News

"Yes. I philios you/ love you as a friend." I recollect Jesus telling the disciples that he no longer called them servants but now friends in John's gospel so Peter thinks this will be sufficient, maybe looking forward to Jesus returning the favors of friendship. Jesus' third question using 'philios' – "Do you love me as a friend, Peter?" affirms that philios love (which is a mutual love that gives and receives) is a good start for Peter but that since Peter will have to feed his lambs and sheep and eventually pick up his own cross, he will need agape love for Jesus' little ones who cannot return the favors and an agape love for Jesus as he approaches martyrdom. Join our church-based Facebook Group which now has over 1,000 members.

[\(1\) Reading Scripture Together as People of Promise with N.T. Wright | Facebook](#) (Do a Facebook Search if reading this on paper.)

**Join Our Brand New Facebook Group here as well:** ['Following Jesus' via NT Wright's 'Biblical Reflections on Discipleship' | Facebook](#) You may buy the e-book for .99 cents here: [Following Jesus: Biblical Reflections on Discipleship - Kindle edition by Wright, N. T.. Religion & Spirituality Kindle eBooks @ Amazon.com](#) The session will be covering chapter 1 on Tuesday, May 2nd from 7-7:30 p.m. with expected participation from around the world. All are welcome to join via zoom or in person in the dining room.

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## Upcoming Worship Schedule

April 30 - Contemporary Worship, including the Joyful Noise Choir singing 'This Little Light of Mine' and a new song, 'What I See' which you can learn here: [What I See \(feat. Chris Brown\) | Elevation Worship - YouTube](#)

May 7 - Traditional Worship with Communion

May 14 - Contemporary Worship

May 21 - Traditional Worship followed by congregational meeting.

May 28 - Blended Memorial Day Weekend Worship, concluding with 'O Beautiful for Spacious Skies' June 4 - Traditional worship with communion. Joyful Noise Choir again?

June 11 - Traditional worship including ordination and installation

June 18 - Youth Sunday contemporary worship and honoring our graduates

June 25 - Contemporary worship and, if most new members are available, welcoming new members.

# Church News

## May Birthdays

Date		Date		Date		Date	
1		9		17		25	Brian McGuinness
2	Kenneth Geissel	10		18	Foster Bartko	26	
3	Christopher Swenson	11		19	Janet Dunn	27	
4		12	Jill Stueck	20		28	
5		13		21		29	Linda Francavilla
6		14		22	Judith Wussler	30	
7	Theodosia Ashie	15	Doris Davis	23	Christine Charnock	31	
8		16	Debra Khalifeh	24	Ryan Miller		

## June Birthdays

Date		Date		Date		Date	
1	Mike Camfield	9		17		25	
2	Dorothy Ditzel	10		18		26	
3		11		19	Betty Zwicky	27	
4		12		20		28	
5	Tyler Geissel	13		21		29	
6	Elizabeth Sharrett	14		22		30	
7		15	Kevin Miller	23			
8		16		24			

*I don't think we have nearly enough June birthdays on here.  
 Sorry if we missed yours or have it mistaken. Please let us know, if so,  
 especially members who have joined in the last few years.*

# Fanwood Presbyterian Church

Box 69, FANWOOD, N.J. 07023

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



*MAY-JUNE*

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