The Fanfare

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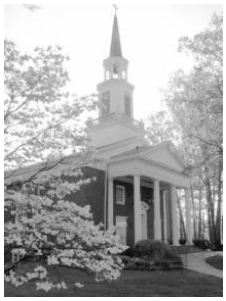
The Monthly Newsletter of Fanwood Presbyterian Church



Fanwood Presbyterian Church
p.o. box 69
Fanwood, NJ 07023
908-889-8891

Senior Pastor
Rev. David Jahnke
pastordpjahnke@gmail.com

Youth Ministries Director and Church Administrator
Lauren Comerford
llcomerfordfpcyouth@gmail.com
fanwoodpres@gmail.com

Sanctuary and Joyful Noise Choirs Conductor
Sarah Zimmerman

A.V. Director- **Christian Bonilla**

Director of Westminster Preschool
Kim Russo

The Fanfare

Fanfare Editor
Chris Gray
cgray1941@aol.com

Production/ Fulfillment
Coordinated by
Hailey Kim

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FPC on the web
fanwoodpc.org

Fanwood Presbyterian Church

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

Dear friends,

Humans are creatures of custom and habit. The ones we practice in adulthood are those our parents and communities formed us in when we were young. The last 50-60 years in America have seen a dramatic shift in weekend practices of many Americans and Covid has dramatically exacerbated the shifts that were already taking place in terms of worship attendance. (This brings up an important point about understanding your concerns about safety, especially those of you with co-morbidities or who have very young children who cannot be vaccinated. We write in the hope that as they and you return to other social activities and obligations that you will also return to the very heart of life in God - worship.)

It is true and essential that we worship in ways other than on Sunday mornings. Our work, volunteering, meals, rest and play-times are all meant to be worshipful. And we are so grateful for the ways you serve God's purposes in your homes, workplaces and our church and community. But these daily practices become more and more worshipful and therefore meaningful and fulfilling through learning about and practicing our turn to God. Joyful praise, prayer, attention to the Word and Spirit, the glad offering of time and service, sharing life as we break bread -- these all seep into our daily lives when they are a regular part of our weekend lives on Sunday mornings.

(Continued on the next page)

Session and Committee News

Our hope is that the last two years have taught you the importance of worship in your homes. And that you will continue that, both in your daily practices and also on Sundays when you cannot come to worship in person.

But I believe it is important to be clear about the ramifications of gradually falling away from the regular practice of worship. Over time, we and our children and grandchildren gradually learn that it is not necessary or a priority. And just as worship seeps into our daily practice, so too does the absence of worship. Prayer, joyful praise, the Word and Spirit of God and spiritual fellowship over meals together decline over the course of our lives and over the course of generations. This is what we have seen taking place over the last few decades and only a change of heart, mind, priorities and practice will reverse a multi-generational trend brought to a pinnacle by a pandemic that has mostly prevented us from communion and community.

It was such a blessing to see so many of you on Palm Sunday and Easter. May it be the beginning of new life at our church and in our families after two years of relative isolation. Just like Christmas, this season brings home what Life is all about. So may we, for the sake of our children and their children and their children … and for the sake of witnessing to God's children everywhere, return to honoring God every Sunday morning (or afternoon in your homes via the recording.)

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus, Pastor David and the Session of the Fanwood Presbyterian Church

Worship Schedule for May and June

May 1 - Traditional Communion Sunday with professional organist, Charlie Currin. We will start holding communion elements until everyone has been served and then partake together.

May 8 - Contemporary service with our excellent musician who played April 24th, Carlos Eduardo de Costa

May 15 – Mostly Traditional Confirmation Service. Come celebrate our 11 confirmands and pray, in the meantime, that they all choose to profess their faith in Jesus as Messiah and Lord.

May 22 – Mostly Contemporary Worship

May 29 – Blended Memorial Day Weekend Worship with singing of '**O Beautiful for Spacious Skies'**

June 5 – Traditional Communion Worship with organ.

June 12 – Contemporary 'Youth Sunday'

June 19 – Mostly Traditional Ordination and Installation of elders and deacons

June 26 – Mostly Contemporary 'Honoring our Graduates Sunday'

Session and Committee News

Welcome to our Newest Members!

The Hewitt-Banfield Family moved to Fanwood 8 months ago from NYC. Jamila Hewitt-Banfield, Mario Banfield, and their 6 year old daughter Sarai Banfield. Currently, Jamila's field is Business Transformation Strategy & Operations, and Mario's experience is in Financial Budgeting. They love doing fun family activities together. Jamila and Sarai have a passion for music and singing, while Mario is an avid handy-man, he enjoys fixing things.

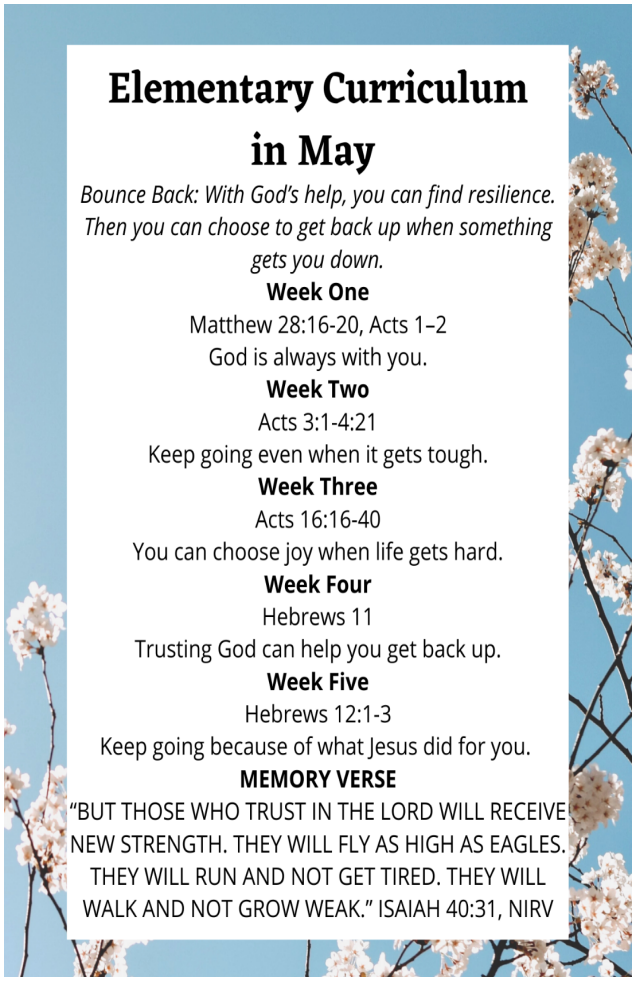
Zach, Emily, & Llewellyn (Lu) Smith
Lu is 13 months old. Zach is a Global Communications Strategist at MediaCom. Emily is a Digital Advertising Director at Us Weekly.

Kristen Parsons, Scott Parsons and their 10 months old daughter, Zoey Parsons.
Kristen works as a project manager at Bank of America in NYC and Scott is a cloud engineering consultant at Avanade and works from home. They lived in Jersey City before moving to Fanwood 2.5 years ago.

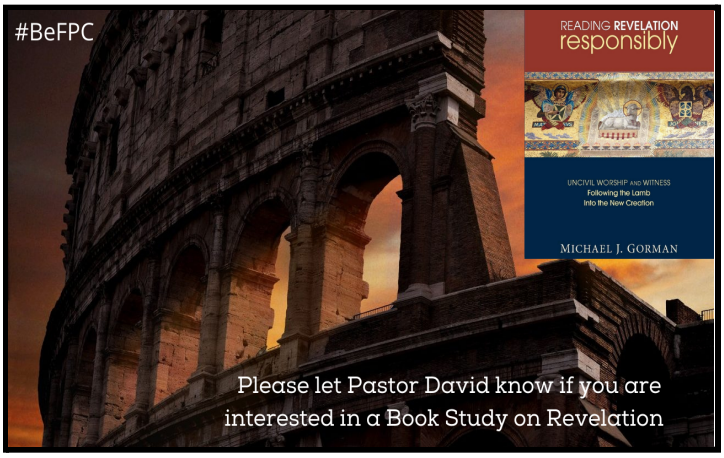
Judy Walsh lives in Fanwood now. I moved back here this past September. My three grown children (Jennifer, Michael and Emily) attended Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School when I lived here previously. Jennifer still lives in Fanwood and her three children also went through the school system here. I have eight grandchildren. I am a retired educator. I taught high school mathematics for many years, became an administrator and finally taught in a college part time. Now I am fully retired and enjoying it; looking forward to getting involved with the church.

A short announcement about Vacation Bible School.
Summer is a few months away, but plans are already underway preparing for a MONUMENTAL adventure celebrating God's greatness and love. Save the dates of **July 18 to July 22 from 9:00am to 12:00 noon**. We'll have music, Bible stories, activities and crafts. We'll be exploring the American Southwest, and the life of Joseph. More details in the weeks ahead. But mark your calendars NOW. We'll also need lots of help from young and old alike. Contact our VBS team, Jessica Miller, Michelle Howell, Lauren Comerford and Linda Macari for more information via vbsfanwood@gmail.com

We had a wonderful **Palm Sunday pageant**, and our families had a great time at our big family **eggstravaganza** during holy week. The kids had a visit from the Easter bunny, dyed eggs, made a craft about the resurrection and watched a video all about the Easter story. The evening was finished off by a big Easter egg hunt around church!



Revelation is both one of the most
interesting, loved and also derided books
of the Bible. But with a proper historical
framework in which Christians had
been kicked out of synagogues and
persecuted by the Roman empire, and
with a correct understanding of
apocalyptic, there is so much gold to be
gleaned. The book is available on Amazon
and please let me know of your interest.



Our Journeying through the Bible
Project series continues on Tuesdays
at 1 p.m. and Thursdays at 7 p.m.
Families, please let us know if you would
like to go through the Bible by way of
these wonderful videos with your
children or youth next fall.

A Word From Westminster Preschool

Spring has sprung and we have turned our attention to the wonderful things that Spring brings. Our students learned about weather changes and have observed how March comes "in like a Lion and out like a Lamb!" We have hatched chicks again this year and we were able to welcome families for our Easter celebrations. We welcomed the families 2 classes at a time in the sanctuary to enjoy a special Easter worship with songs sung by the children. Mrs. Hamel, our music teacher, once again helped the children learn beautiful songs that help us celebrate Easter.

Looking ahead, he will once again have our Mother's Day Tea Picnics and celebrate the children's hard work with our Art Show after spring break. I am always in awe of our teachers and their hard work, especially these past 2 years. We adapt and create wonderful experiences for the children and their families.

Church News

Registration is ongoing and we are looking forward to a new school year, welcoming new families to our school. Please spread the word that there is still availability in our afternoon sessions at the preschool. Kim Russo, Director

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	Suzanne Hernandez
4		12	Jill Stueck	20		28	
5		13		21		29	Linda Francavilla
6		14		22	John Baliko Judith Wussler	30	
7	Theodosia Ashie	15	Doris Davis Debra Khalifeh	23	Christie Charnock	31	
8		16		24	Ryan Miller		

June Birthdays

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

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

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May - June

www.fanwoodpc.org

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