



**FIRST**  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF  
YORKTOWN

# *The* DISCIPLE

July and August 2021

## DATES TO NOTE:

July 8  
Labyrinth Walk  
7:30pm

July 10  
Hike & Gorge  
2:00pm

July 11  
Ice Cream  
Sunday  
11:30am

July 15  
Open Mic  
Night  
7:30pm

July 25  
School Supplies  
Drive Begins


Aug 5  
Labyrinth Walk  
7:30pm

Aug 7  
Midsummer  
Sound Healing

Aug 20  
Open Mic  
Night

Aug 21  
Blood Drive  
10-3



I've been thinking about the pause button (  ) over the last couple of months as my vacation and sabbatical time approach. It's the button that neither completely stops the movie, song, or podcast, nor plays them. It only stops the operation of our devices but keeps the equipment in operating mode. It's the button we touch to interrupt the song, the movie, the podcast and hold our place in the media until we are ready to pick up where we left off.

That's how I would describe the vacation and sabbatical I'll be taking in July and August this summer. I'm pausing my work as your pastor to rest and experience some renewal. I'm stopping my engagement with the ministry of the church, but only for a time, so that I can use part of the Lilly Foundation sabbatical grant we received to spend time with my family. Part of my renewal plan is time with family without all the other competing parts of my life and work that want my attention. In the grant application, I call them one of my traveling partners. Pausing my ministry allows me to focus on them and the experiences we'll have together.

My sabbatical is also our church's sabbatical as well. The entire church is invited to take some time for rest and renewal with me. A sabbatical planning team has planned worship leadership, pastoral care, gatherings at the church, pilgrimage hikes to happen in parallel with my sabbatical so that all of you can benefit from the gift of sabbath time. Joining in these activities is joining me on a sabbatical. That's what the grant was meant to do, to pause the normal operation of our ministry so that all of us could rest, or at least try some new and different ways of being together. We are a busy church. So much has changed and evolved in our ministry over 11 years together. A little bit of rest would do us all some good so that we can experience God in new ways and ground ourselves again in God's intentions of work and rest for us all.

It's important to name that my absence for a time does not mean that the ministry stops. Like the pause button, the operations of the church continue to move forward to prepare for a full return to in-person ministry in September. We want to be ready on September 12 for our worship service and picnic and also on September 19 for the beginning of two worship services and Sunday school. We have

*(Continued on page 2)*

two main goals to get to those dates:

- 1) prepare the building for our return in September; and
- 2) prepare the people to return in September.

Fifteen months is a long time to go without the normal upkeep of our space. It's also a long time to be apart from one another and the regular rhythms of worship, faith formation, fellowship and service. I'm grateful to all the people working on these two goals over the summer, so that we can send the message to everyone who comes our church that we have been expecting them. That message goes to the heart of our core values as a church – Radical Hospitality. People who are hospitable expect that people will be coming and prepare for their arrival with a welcoming space for all.

I hope you will commit yourself to some rest as I take some time to rest this summer. I pause my ministry among you in an anticipation of how good the time away will be for my body, mind, and spirit, but also with some grief as I will miss you as well. I am grateful for all that we share in life and faith together, and I look forward to how a time of pause to rest and renew our connection with God, one another, and the world will energize us to discover what is next in our ministry together.

Chip

## We're Going on a Sabbatical! What? Why? Where? – Part 3



In our sabbatical series, we've shared many parts of the sabbatical application that was submitted to the Lilly Foundation in spring of 2020. So far, we've looked at what a sabbatical is and what this sabbatical time will look like for Chip. Now we turn to the congregation's experience of the sabbatical time and how we also can grow during this time of rest and renewal:

**Question 4. Provide a statement written by the pastor that describes the intended benefits, both for the pastor and for the congregation, of the program as planned.**

In *Stories of Practicing Congregations*, the authors write, "A pilgrim's goal is not to escape life, but to embrace it more deeply, to be transformed wholly as a person, with new ways of being in community and new hopes for the world." This summarizes the intended benefits of this renewal program for me and my congregation.



Rather than escape, I seek to slow down and embrace my life and faith, my wife and children, my friends and call more deeply. By committing to this journey with me, the church will have the opportunity to embrace its life more deeply and to discover new ways of being in community. Transformed, we can share our new hopes for our life and ministry together with our larger community and world.

First and foremost, this renewal program will allow me to take stock of my life and ministry. In September 2020, I turned 50 years old. In December, I will celebrated 20 years of ordained ministry. Both are milestones that invite further reflection on who I am, what I have done, and where I am going next. Because I am often prone to future-oriented thinking and quickly move on to the next task or challenge, this program will allow me to stop and celebrate who I have become and what I have done on my journey thus far.

In his poem, "What to Remember When Waking," author David Whyte asks, "What shape waits in the seed of you to grow and spread its branches against a future sky?" My future sky is the second half of my life and ministry, and I want to discover the shape of the seed that is waiting to emerge but is often obscured by my current pace and intensity. This program will encourage me to think deeply about Whyte's question as I seek renewed authenticity and passion in my relationship with God, my wife and children, my friends and church family and to enter the second half of my life with fresh eyes open to new possibilities.

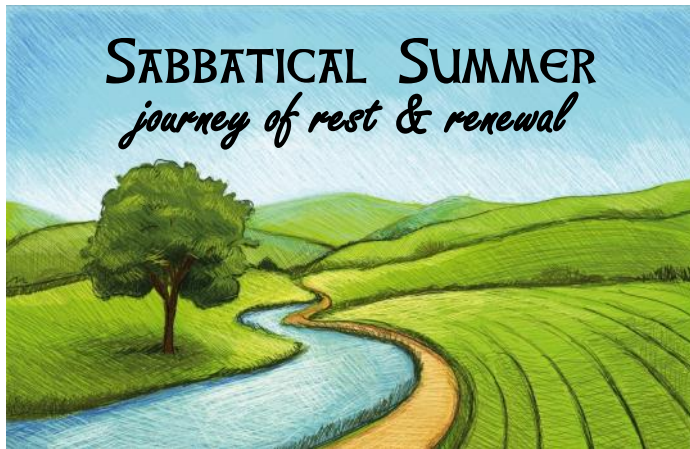
At the same time, my congregation will benefit from this slower pace as well. Like me, they are very active, goal-oriented, and task-centered, and find it hard to slow down at times. This renewal program will give them the opportunity to reflect on where they have been and who they are now, to celebrate all they have done in our journey together so far and to renew their own ownership of the church's ministry. As a result of this time of renewal, we will be better able to listen for how we can build on God's work, explore new practices of regular rest and reflection, and discern the next directions on our pilgrimage path of faith and ministry together.

**Question 5. Provide a similar statement written by a representative of the congregation that describes the intended benefits both for the congregation and the pastor.**

The congregation fully supports Chip's application for a sabbatical and his intent to use this time for well-earned rest and renewal, spiritually, personally, and as a devoted husband and father. We fully appreciate the need for periodic rest, reflection, and renewal of our ministers if they are to sustain their personal and spiritual energy long into the future. We believe that upon returning Chip will be invigorated, spiritually enriched and eager to return to his rightful place as much in the pulpit as he is in our hearts.

We are also aware that his sabbatical will not just require us to fill in the gap, but will also offer us a blessing in the form of our own spiritual journey to become more than we are, to serve God in new ways and to help us develop additional congregational resources. The sabbatical will afford an opportunity for us to enter into a period of prayerful solitude along with weekly communal worship and contemplative programs for continuing spiritual growth and fellowship. The focus will be on spiritual renewal, designed to instill similar benefits as those sought by Chip. Further, congregants will have new opportunities to contribute their time and faith to assume some of the roles normally covered by Chip and by his co-pastor/wife Tami during the time when she also will be with him. We are energized and passionate about the congregation's future journey to effectively plan and execute the changes that will need to happen to make this pilgrimage successful.





Summer and this sabbatical time are meant to be a time of rest and renewal. While Chip is on a pilgrimage of rest and reflection, we as a congregation have the opportunity to take a break from our regularly scheduled program and come back together in fellowship. It's been a long time since we've had the chance to have fun and enjoy one another's company in-person. We've put together some outdoor events that are just for fun.

**All ages are welcome and invited. Activities/games for kids will be planned for events taking place at the church. Please join us for any or all!**

### **June 24th, 7:30 PM**

### **Hymn Sing-a-long By The Campfire**

Let's lift some music and sparks up into the night. Meet at the labyrinth for a couple hours of old-fashioned hymn singing. Garrett will be on hand to play for us. We'll provide hymnals and s'mores fixings - you bring your voices and a lawn chair or blanket. All ages are welcome.

### **July 1st, 7:30 PM**

### **Campfire Sing-A-Long**

Sabbatical time is meant to be a time of rest. This night is all about fun! Bring your requests to the campfire behind church and sing -a-long to your popular favorites from the 40's through the 2000's. We've got a great guitarist lined up and s'mores sticks at the ready. Bring your lawn chair and your friends - everyone is welcome!

### **July 8th, 7:30 PM**

### **Intergenerational Labyrinth Walk**

Come walk our beautiful outdoor labyrinth, guided by Lynn Brown, a labyrinth facilitator. Whether you've never walked the labyrinth before, or you've walked it many times, come and explore labyrinth walking together. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for the times you aren't walking.

### **July 10, 2021, 2:00 PM**

### **Hike and Gorge**

Hidden in the midst of busy Peekskill are 1500 acres of unspoiled natural beauty. Walk a hand selected section of the 24 miles worth of trails and then journey on to the Wallace's House for a bbq (this is the gorge!) Feel free to bring a dish to share - we'll keep it cool while we're hiking. For the Hike: Meet at the Depew Park Pool parking lot. For the BBQ: 17 Maple Row, Crompond, NY 10517. Duration—4 hours

### **July 15th, 7:30 PM**

### **Open Mic Night at the Campfire**

Share your songs, poems and tales with your friends. If you've been holding a performance in for the last year or so, it's time to let it loose. Our Musical Director Garrett will be on hand to sight read anything that requires a pianist - better yet, bring your guitar, your drum, your harmonica or your washboard and share your gifts. If you're not performing, come and be an audience. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets, for some s'mores and culture. If you're planning on performing please text or call Amy Wallace at 845-642-9201 so we can put together a set list.

**August 5th, 7:30 PM****Labyrinth Walk**

Come walk our beautiful outdoor labyrinth, guided by Lynn Brown, a labyrinth facilitator. Whether you've never walked the labyrinth before, or you've walked it many times, come and explore labyrinth walking together. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for the times you aren't walking.

**August 7, 2021, 5:30 PM****Midsummer Sound Healing**

Sal J. Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park, North Salem

Mountain Lakes Park is a charming, quiet spot. We'll provide you with a map that will take you through some magical places in the park with sound healing experiences that will soothe and delight. Directions: Take US-202 E. Take NY-116 E to Hawley Rd in North Salem. Continue on to Hawley Road. Park in the parking lot on the right after Camp Morty where the white trail begins. Duration—2 hours

**August 20th, 7:30 PM****Open Mic**

Share your songs, poems and tales with your friends. If you've been holding a performance in for the last year or so, it's time to let it loose. Our Musical Director Garrett will be on hand to sight read anything that requires a pianist - better yet, bring your guitar, your drum, your harmonica or your washboard and share your gifts. If you're not performing, come and be an audience. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets, for some s'mores and culture. If you're planning on performing please text or call Amy Wallace at 845-642-9201 so we can put together a set list.

**September 4, 2021, 12:00 PM****Quarry Walk**

Mohegan Quarry, Sylvan Glen Preserve, Yorktown. The quarry works in Sylvan Glen were abandoned rather abruptly, leaving behind a fascinating and unusually vivid reminder of our community's history. Walk amongst the remnants, strewn with old machinery and half-dressed stones—some of them destined for famous landmarks. Meet at the Sylvan Glen/Morris Lane entrance. Duration—2 hours

**Rain Dates:**

If we need to reschedule due to inclement weather we'll post changes on the FPCY Facebook page. @FPCYORKTOWN



## *Coming Back in September: In-Person Sundays*

### NEW TIMES

Worship  
8:00 am & 10:30 am

Sunday School for All Ages  
9:15am

Coffee Hours  
9 am, 10:15 am and 11:30 am

*More Info To Come...*



## Ushers Needed for 2021-2022



- ⇒ Usher teams consist of 4 people, serving on a rotational basis (serving about 5-7 times per year).
- ⇒ Ushering is a terrific opportunity to serve and make new friends.
- ⇒ In-person worship services will be held on Sundays at 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM. Ushers should arrive 30 minutes before service begins.
- ⇒ For questions or to sign up to usher contact Karen Gerth at [karensgerth@gmail.com](mailto:karensgerth@gmail.com).

**Practice some radical hospitality and sign up to serve!**

<h1>July / August</h1>				JULY 1 6pm Men's Chorus Rehearsal  6pm Sunday School Task Force  7:30pm Campfire	2	3
4 10:00am Worship with Communion 11:00am Virtual Coffee Hour	5	6	7	8 6pm Men's Chorus Rehearsal  7:30pm Intergenerational Labyrinth Walk	9 3:00pm FPCY Pantry Set-Up	10 8am FPCY Pantry  2pm Hike & Gorge
11 10:00am Worship 11:30am Ice Cream Social in the East Parking Lot	12	13 7:30pm Worship Design	14	15 6pm Men's Chorus Rehearsal 7:30pm Open Mic Night	16	17
18 10:00am Worship 11:00am Virtual Coffee Hour 5:00pm CPMT	19	20	21 12:00pm Zoom Lunch Bunch	22 6pm Men's Chorus Rehearsal	23 3:00pm FPCY Pantry Set-Up	24 8am FPCY Pantry 6pm Jan Peek Meal
25 10:00am Worship 11:00am Virtual Coffee Hour  <i>School Supplies Drive Begins</i>	26	27 7:30pm Communications & Faith Formation	28	29 6pm Men's Chorus Rehearsal	30	31 3:30pm Budget & Finance
1 10:00am Worship with Communion 11:00am Virtual Coffee Hour	2	3	4	5 6pm Men's Chorus Rehearsal  7:30pm Labyrinth Walk	6	7 5:30pm Midsummer Sound Healing
8 10:00am Worship 11:00am Virtual Coffee Hour	9	10	11	12 6pm Men's Chorus Rehearsal	13 3:00pm FPCY Pantry Set-Up  <i>School Supplies Drive Ends</i>	14 8am FPCY Pantry
15 10:00am Worship 11:00am Deacons Virtual Coffee Hour  <i>September Disciple Articles DUE</i>	16 7:30pm Worship Design	17 7:00pm Session	18 12:00pm Lunch Bunch Zoom	19 6pm Men's Chorus Rehearsal	20 7:30pm Open Mic Night	21 10:00am Blood Drive
22 10:00am Worship 11:00am Virtual Coffee Hour	23	24 7:30pm Communications & Faith Formation	25	26 6pm Men's Chorus Rehearsal	27 3:00pm FPCY Pantry Set-Up	28 8am FPCY Pantry  6pm Jan Peek Meal



## Join Chip on his Sabbatical Journey of Reflection and Renewal! Congregational Book Study

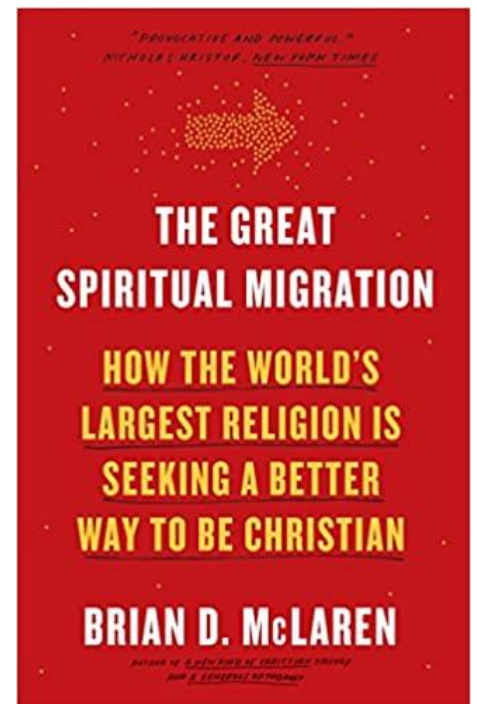
While Chip goes on a sabbatical journey and our congregation enjoys a sabbatical journey here at home, you are invited to join Chip and the Session in reading Brian McLaren's book *The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World's Largest Religion Is Seeking a Better Way to Be Christian*.

As we have learned over the past year, we are all on a spiritual journey, a pilgrimage through life and faith. As a "transformational magi congregation," our church has also been on a journey of reflection and discernment about who God is calling us to be in our community and world.

With the insights from the CAT survey, navigating our way through several staff and structural transitions as well as the pandemic, and the culmination of our capital campaign, now is the perfect time to reflect on where we have been and where we are headed next.

As we re-open and re-engage, what kind of church is God calling us to be? *The Great Spiritual Migration* offers a thought-provoking and exciting vision for how the church can move into the future with a message of new life and hope. "With his trademark brilliance and compassion, McLaren invites readers to seize the moment and set out on the most significant spiritual pilgrimage of our time: to help Christianity become more Christian."

Copies of the book are available in the office for \$13 or you can order it online. Read over the summer so you can join the conversation in the fall!



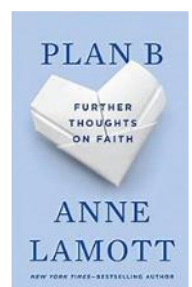
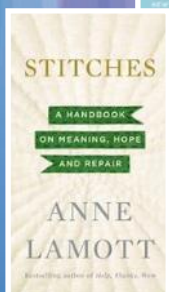
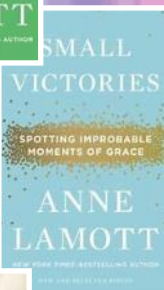
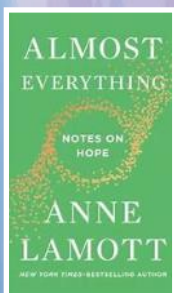
## From the Church Library

While our Faith Formation Classes are on summer hiatus, now's the chance to explore the church library! If you haven't read books by popular writer Anne Lamott, this summer could be the perfect time to try one! A prolific writer, her books are concerned with real lives, spiritual transformation, and wonder, leavened with self-effacing humor and ruthless honesty. She writes about God, politics, and other unmentionables, and gently exhorts her readers, as she does herself, to find joy in a bleak and chaotic world. She didn't plan on a career as an inspirational speaker and author, however. "I have the theological understanding of a third grader," she has said. "But it turns out there is room for a person like me who knows nothing. It turns out there is this hunger for people talking about spirituality from a really ecumenical position. I have a lot of hope and a lot of faith and I struggle to communicate that."

These titles by Lamott are currently in the Church Library, all with call no. 248 L:

- Almost Everything; Notes on Hope
- Small Victories; Spotting Improbable Moments of Grace
- Stitches; A Handbook on Meaning, Hope, and Repair
- Traveling Mercies; Some Thoughts on Faith
- Plan B; Further Thoughts on Faith

Carol Jensen  
Church Librarian





## We need YOU for our Faith Formation Team this Fall

Want to be involved in the faith formation of our children, youth, and beyond?

We need you for Fall 2021!

Whether your jam is singing songs, telling stories, finger painting

OR

discussing big theological questions and relating them to day to day life

**we have got a place for you!**

### SUNDAY MORNING TEAMS

We're looking for team members in our classrooms at all levels on Sunday mornings: young children, elementary age, and young teens. Helpers are also needed for snack and Gathering Time.



### YOUTH GROUP AND INTERGENERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Our youth groups and intergenerational activities are looking for volunteers a few evenings a month: on Sundays – for High School Youth Group - and Wednesday evenings - for our Middle School Youth Group and CrossGen Wednesdays.

All of our Faith Formation leaders work in teams of at least three, so no one teaches alone, and teams can accommodate leaders' schedules. Your involvement can have a life long impact on the faith lives of our young people, so join us!

Speak to Tami or Steph for more information and with any questions.



## Thanks to our SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF 2020-2021

### Co-Superintendents

Bridget Bentley and Kristy Berlin

### Shine

Joanne Campoli, Abby and Andy Cross, Debbie Flynn, Joanna Marcos, Jackie Sheridan.

### Connect

Alice Chin, Debbie Hager, Bill Herman

### FaithX

Gordon Braudaway, Pam Darreff, Nicole DeCintio, Suzy Rishel, Stephanie Hare.

### FPCY Sunday School 2020-2021



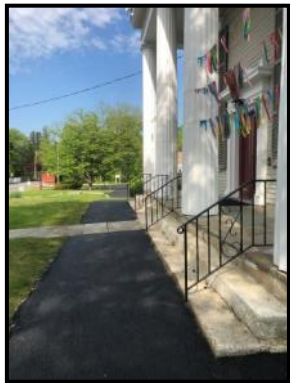
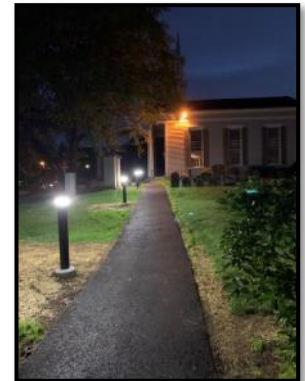
Growing in Faith Together

## Campaign Project Management Team and Operations Commission Update

Since the beginning of January, the Operations Commission has been busy helping to implement various projects as set forth by the CPMT. These were a total revamping of our heating and cooling systems, repaving and resurfacing the bulk of our parking lots and driveways, and providing new lighting for our lots as well as the walkways to our buildings. Projects within the parking lot portion were widening the walkway from the lot to the Sanctuary and creating new paved Handicapped parking spaces. Additionally, the doors to Gathering Space are now fully automated allowing for easy wheelchair access.

Our tasks involved assessing the projects, analyzing competing bids and making recommendations to the CPMT. Once offers were accepted, it became the responsibility of Operations to see the projects through. The bulk of this work and oversight was taken on by Dick Seymour to whom we owe a deep debt of gratitude. Certainly we must also thank all those who he recruited to work on various related projects.

**Volunteers Needed:** We would take this opportunity to welcome all who might be interested to consider joining the Operations Commission. No special talents are required, just a keen interest in maintaining the integrity and beauty of our structures and premises. We meet on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:30 PM with the exception of July and August. We hope to see you at our next meeting, Sept. 21st.



Next up for the campaign -- continuing work towards kitchen renovation and preparing the building for reopening in the fall.

As ever, we are so grateful for the support of the congregation and the faithful fulfillment of pledges, to enable us to do this work. If you haven't yet made a commitment, please prayerfully consider participating in this campaign for the present (and future) of our Ministries of Faith. Pledges can be made via [myFPCY.org](http://myFPCY.org). If you have made a pledge, but haven't yet made a gift, or if wish to make a one-time gift, you can do so at your convenience here: <http://tinyurl.com/FPCYCapital>

~Ian Spence and Katharine Frase





## Green Team News

Now that we are out and about a bit more, remember to **shop at local farmer's markets** if you feel comfortable doing so. A typical carrot travels 1,838 miles to reach your dinner table (*Sustainable Table*). Think about what that means in terms of fuel to get it to you, not to mention time. There's nothing like the

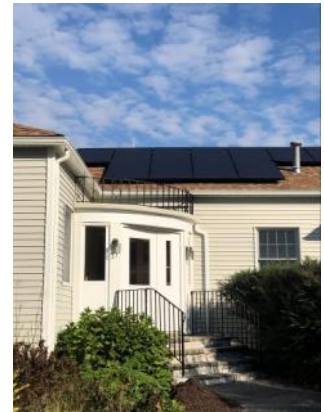
freshness of produce that's been picked just before it comes to your dinner table. We are fortunate to have nearby many farmers' markets that provide a wide variety of produce grown in the Hudson Valley, as well as sustainably farmed meats and eggs, artisanal breads and cheeses, and condiments such as jams and honey, even local wine! Find some of our favorite spots on our blog: <https://fpcyorktown.org/your-local-farmers-markets/>



**The Power of Solar** — As we enjoy these sunny days remember that the solar panels are indeed working!

Our solar panels continue to provide the vast majority of the electricity that we need. In 2021, (up through our most recent bill of May 7) we have only paid the base delivery charge, as our "banked" credits from 2020 covered our usage through the winter, and our current production, along with the remaining credits, continue to cover our usage. In fact, we have not seen a bill above "base rate" since March of last year!

Of course as summer warms, our air conditioning may put us into "negative" territory. But we can feel good about the significant reduction in our electricity usage from NYSEG as we make our own from the sun!



## Be a Hero This Summer



First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown

**Saturday, August 21,  
10am-3pm**

*Open to the public*

**GIVE BLOOD**



Blood Donations made at  
FPCY blood drives this year:

28

Number of upcoming  
blood drives scheduled:

1

Number of donations  
projected at this drive:

33

Blood donations needed  
each year to sustain vital

4,745,000

People it takes to make a  
difference that means life or  
death, surviving or thriving:

1—YOU

Loving memories made by  
survivors of illness, trauma,  
or disaster thanks to blood

Infinite

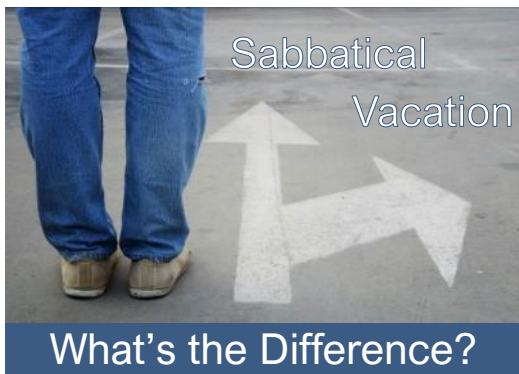
To sign up, visit: [redcrossblood.org/give](https://redcrossblood.org/give) or call 1-800-733-2767  
search for zip code 10598



## Dear Fellow Pilgrims,

You may have heard, this year we are embarking on a new adventure both for our church and our co-pastors, the adventure of a pastoral sabbatical! Chip will be taking the first month of his Sabbatical this July followed by the month of August, where he and Tami will be taking their vacation and some continuing education. Then, we will push the pause button until next summer when Chip will be able to resume the remaining three months of his sabbatical in July, August and September of 2022.

So, just for clarification, here are some thoughts about the difference between a sabbatical and a vacation.



A **vacation** is typically a week or a few weeks of leisure and recreation, and a respite from our work. Despite contingency planning, a vacationing pastor may be contacted on occasion for an unforeseen crisis.

A pastoral **sabbatical** is an extended period of leave, usually lasting several months to engage deeply in a process of discernment and renewal. It is a time for discovering, imagining, visioning, and restoring his sense of call to ministry and our ministry at FPCY. This means that Chip will not be responding to emails or texts or other communications during his sabbatical leave. It means that we, the congregation, will work together to make sure that our needs are known and that they are met. A Sabbatical Planning Team has been actively working and planning for pulpit coverage, for management of meetings, for fellowship opportunities, and for pastoral care (see following

article). Together, all of us have a wonderful opportunity for learning and growing together into God's love and abundance. (see page 4-5 for special "Sabbatical Summer" events that have been planned for us)!

Speaking of vacations, Summer is here and we want to remind everyone that we are in prime **vacation time for all staff**. They are all in much need of time to unplug. They've been busy on computers and technology practically non-stop since the pandemic began in March 2020. But have no fear, we will have coverage for both custodial and pastoral care throughout the summer. In the event of hospitalization or some other need for pastoral care including visitation, please call the church office and speak to Lisa Flanagan who can tell you which Elder is on call for pastoral support. There is also always another pastor in the community who is on call to help when needed.



Alice Chin and Beth Gruber  
Co-chairs, Personnel Committee



Learn more about our staff on our new website: <https://fpcyorktown.org/meet-our-staff/>

## From the Deacons—New Opportunity—Be a Part of the Pastoral Response Team (PRT)

The Deacons are launching a team to respond to and help with Pastoral Care needs, beginning this summer and continuing into the future. Our goal is to maintain a ready listing of congregational volunteers to allow timely responses for short-term relief to congregation members in times of crisis, while easing the burden on our Pastors. We envision this team helping out when members need help with basics. Assistance with any of the following are possible:

- Short-term grocery shopping
- Organizing a delivery service
- Providing references for professionals to perform tasks such as snow shoveling or other home maintenance needs
- Providing comfort by phoning or being with family members while they work through their ordeal

This is a great way for those congregational members who indicated on the CAT Scan survey that they would like to be more involved in church life or anyone who is unable to be involved long-term to try a short-term commitment while “spreading a little kindness.” Ideally, we’ll have enough team members so that volunteers only have one task at a time.

We will be contacting various members to create a roster of volunteers. You will have a choice of the areas you are willing to help. Please consider saying yes if you are contacted. If you feel moved to be ready to help once--if ever the need arises, please contact Heidi Haring: [hkharing@optonline.net](mailto:hkharing@optonline.net) or Christine Lazarus: [xtinequilts@gmail.com](mailto:xtinequilts@gmail.com)

## Summer Performers needed for Worship!

If you are interested in showcasing some of that hidden, virtual talent, let me know and we can work you into the service. Send an email to [Garrett@fpcyorktown.org](mailto:Garrett@fpcyorktown.org).

There are a few ways to go about doing this, as the church building is currently closed for most in person gatherings.

- ♪ You can record it yourself and send it to me via email, dropbox, or google drive. Your phone or other device is perfectly suitable for this recording.
- ♪ You may have a recording of a piece of music already; if so, kindly share it with me and we can program it in as long as there are no copyright issues.

- ♪ You can schedule an hour recording session with me. We would open the sanctuary and then record you performing the pieces. We simply ask that you email us both and then we can set up a time to record before the service on Sunday.
- ♪ Lastly, if you would like to come and perform in house, please email me and we can discuss the guidelines in order to make it happen. Just a heads up, the sanctuary will be emptier than usual, but you already knew that.

I know there are many out there who missed a recital opportunity and this is the perfect time to get that performance back. Thank you all!



## Staying Connected — While We're Apart

- ⇒ **ONLINE WORSHIP** — Join us online for the worship service at 10:00am. Find the livestream (and services you missed) on our Facebook page ([https://www.facebook.com/fpcyorktown/live\\_videos/](https://www.facebook.com/fpcyorktown/live_videos/)).
- ⇒ **EMAIL** — Make sure you're getting our weekly emails. Sign-up if you're not on the list: <http://tinyurl.com/FPCYemail>



- ⇒ **YOUTH GROUP** — Hey everyone! Online Youth Gatherings are taking a summer break, but be sure to check out the fun in-person Sabbatical Summer events being planned for us on pages 4-5.

- ⇒ **CONTINUE YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT** — During these trying times filled with so much uncertainty, OUR church is taking creative measures to stay connected

and care for its congregants, friends, and neighbors. While we cannot physically pass the plate on Sundays, we can continue our financial support by giving on-line (<https://tinyurl.com/FPCYgive>) or by mailing pledge commitments or offerings directly to the church office. If you need any technology assistance, please contact Chip, Tami or Lisa.



## New from the Congregational Life Commission



Virtual games are on summer hiatus but virtual coffee hours will continue throughout the summer except for July 11 when the Stewardship Commission will be sponsoring a Ice Cream Sunday (see announcement below).

Check out pages 4-5 for the fun Sabbatical Summer events that will allow for some much needed in-person fellowship!

Our annual September picnic will return this September. Details will be mailed closer to the date!

## Prayer Shawl

It was so wonderful to have our Prayer Shawl meeting in person after so long apart. For those that weren't able to join us, we missed you and hope you are well. We are so grateful to MaryLou from Project Linus who attended our meeting and accepted 24 of our blankets. We look forward to meeting with her again in October. If you need yarn or project guidance contact Marianna Sherman at 914-737-8294 or Fran Schiel at 914-245-5396.



## Knit Together

Thanks to all of you who continue to knit baby and lap blankets. We met in-person on June 14 and 28th in the church library. No meetings are scheduled in July and August. The September meetings are scheduled for September 13 and 27 also in the Library. Please keep knitting!

For information: Noreen Radke 914-962-4370 (or email [radke30@msn.com](mailto:radke30@msn.com)) or call Lois Ostling 914-962-2809.



Please remember to bring your returnable bottles & cans to the church. They can be left by the back door near the food donations.

All proceeds support our Mission Projects & Trips.



## Attention BJ's members:

Another way to help our Pantry — when you're done with your coupon books, please leave them in the mailbox by the outside office door so that we can clip

and utilize BJ's diaper coupons & anything else the church needs

Thank you!

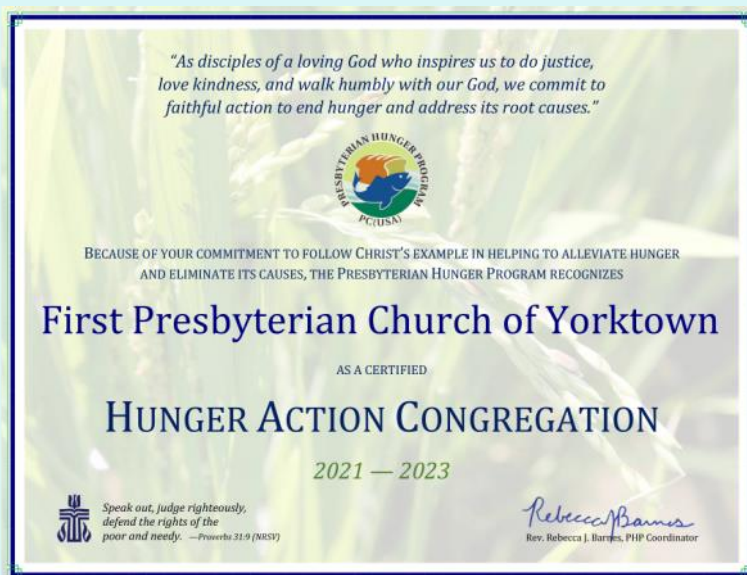


## Congratulations FPCY!

We are very pleased to announce that we have been certified as a Hunger Action Congregation by the Presbyterian Hunger Program!

This is a recognition of our congregation's long commitment to hunger alleviation and food justice. During an upcoming service, we will be celebrating this achievement, lifting up our hunger related ministries, and sharing ways in which you can continue support our efforts.

Ellen Miles,  
Hunger Action Congregation Team Lead



## Pantry News

***We are so grateful for the congregation's continued support through donations of goods and monies.***

***Throughout the summer, our item of the month will be CANNED FRUIT***

## Summer Initiative — School Supplies

**A new way:** over the past year we've spent a lot of time talking about the neighborhood and, thanks to that sense of community, we've made a real impact on the lives of our neighbors. So, now seems like the perfect time to double down. Many of you likely have memories growing up of friends or neighbors that almost felt like they were part of the family. We'd like to foster that sense of camaraderie this fall. Since the new millennium, we've asked for, and distributed, donated school supplies, but we've always done so piecemeal, with volunteers combining various donations together to make one "kit." This year we'd like to take a more holistic approach to how we sponsor our neighbors. A neighborhood is almost like an extended family and so this August we'd ask you to join us and help send OUR kids to school. Please consider donating bags of supplies between July 25th and August 13th. Our academic experts tell us an ideal bag would contain the following: a spiral notebook, a marble notebook, 6 pens, 6 pencils, colored pencils, 2 folders, and loose leaf paper. Our initial goal is to sponsor 200 of our school aged children, but we could see as many as 300 this August, so please be generous. If you'd rather make a financial donation to the pantry, everything we receive will go towards the myriad of distributables that go out our doors, from school supplies, to diapers, to food. We hope you'll join us in this endeavor, and together we can work towards a neighborhood that lets everyone have a bright future ahead of them.



## Item-of-the-Month: CANNED FRUIT

The majority of the food we offer at our Pantry comes to us from Feeding Westchester. Some items we like to distribute are in short supply. Your contribution of the item-of-the-month can help fill the gap!  
A donation bin is by the back doors.

**Next Pantry Dates:**  
**June 26, July 10 & 24, August 14 & 28**  
**8 to 11am**

## From the Mission Commission



**Salvation Army Noontime Meal** — We continue to be thankful to partner with Nino's Pizza who is still making and delivering the lunch to the Salvation Army for us once a month.



**Jan Peek House** — We are very grateful for all who are helping with the Jan Peek Meals once a month. The month of April was prepared and delivered by the Chin and Wannamaker Families along with their friends the Valds Family. May was prepared and delivered by the Mayes and Placido Families. June will be taken care of by Nance Thomson, Sue Caruso and Carolyn Braeman. Now that summer is here and we are busy thinking of all the things we can do this year that we could not do last year. We are in desperate need of volunteers for July 24th, August 28th and September 25th, if you can help out on any of these dates please email me at [patprauda@gmail.com](mailto:patprauda@gmail.com), or call 914-

737-4674.

Our **Knit Togethers** and **Prayer Shawl Teams** are beginning to meet in person again! See page 14 for more information.

The **Mental Health Initiative (MHI) Team** see next page for the results of the Mental Health Survey that was conducted earlier this year.

### Garden of Hope — More Help Needed!

The new Garden of Hope at Willow Park is now open after a successful work day on May 22. There were more than 50 people there, including a good sized group from Westchester Youth Coalition.

Our own church had a team of 18, including children and youth. We spent a hot humid afternoon lugging wheelbarrows full of wood chips to add to marshy soil, which then had to be mixed in.

This was hard work, but it was done remarkably quickly by our efficient team.



In order to have more success this year growing food in a marshy area, we had to lay a mulch and manure mix in “volcano” shapes so plants had better soil to grow in. By the end of the afternoon we had our assignments of peppers and cherry tomatoes planted along with corn seeds. We also used a section of the garden to plant a cover crop, as an experiment, to improve the soil for next year and to save ourselves more hard work!

Despite the intensive labor, we had a good time talking with each other. I enjoyed getting to know some of our younger families and their hard working children... oh, and eating free ice cream provided by the Westchester Youth coalition. Thanks again to our hard working garden team; The Eagleton Family, Dawna Dennis and Kurt Edelman and family, Elliot Bentley, the Perry family, Jeff Kephart, Nate and Carl Thompson, Steph Hare, Julia Whalen and Heidi Haring.

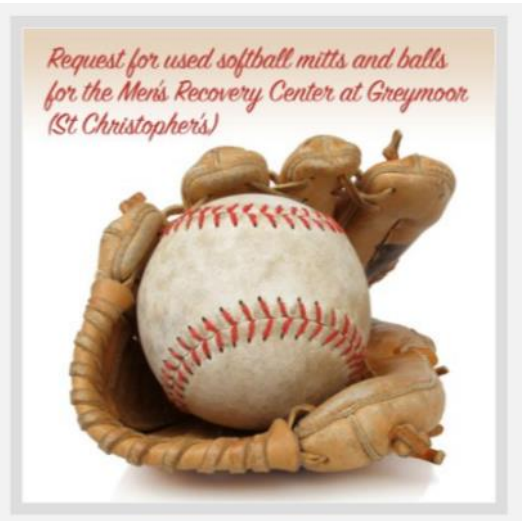
We are having some trouble recruiting enough help to maintain the garden. The good news is that we have 2 young families who are eager to help, when they are home this summer. Please pray with us for enough regular help to get through this growing season.

Questions? Contact: Heidi Haring: [hkharing@optonline.net](mailto:hkharing@optonline.net), 914 737-9047

If you're ready to sign up, find a time slot here: <https://tinyurl.com/FPCY-GOH2021>

### Do You Have Softball Equipment to Donate?

Eric Kreuter, who has an ongoing relationship with the St. Christopher's men's recovery program at Graymoor in Garrison, reports that there is a need for used softball mitts (both left- and right-handed) and softballs in good shape. The men have the opportunity to play softball on good weather days. Their gloves are a mix of poor to good. They have plenty of bats. Thank you to the congregation for past generosity donating clothes and shoes. The men are very appreciative. Items can be left in the labeled bin at the back doors of the church building (under the Donation Drop-off banner). Eric Kreuter will collect them and deliver to Graymoor.



## Mental Health Survey Results are In!!

The Mental Health team would like to thank you for your continued support of our congregation's pursuit to explore ways of responding to those families struggling with mental health and challenges due to life circumstances. The team's goal continues to be increasing awareness of mental health concerns and developing ways we can increase our comfort level of being a compassionate companion to those suffering.

A brief summary of the team's efforts since June 2020:

- Applied for and received an \$8,000 grant from PC USA Presbytery to explore ways of establishing a Mental Health ministry in our congregation and community
- Partnered with Pathways to Promise (P2P) (Not-For-Profit organization whose purpose is to provide assistance for congregations interested in pursuing a mental health ministry)
- Worked with P2P to develop a Mental Health Survey to assess MH issues that are present in our congregation and community
- Multiple MH awareness presentations to community groups and hosting of two church services centering on mental health awareness

The following is a summary of the results of the survey. (A copy of the full analysis is available in the following link, hard copy available in the church office). Excerpts follow from P2P analysis of our congregation's MH survey:

1. Anxiety (65%) and Depression (51%) are issues present in those lives/family responding, similarly those responding are aware of Anxiety (62%) and Depression (56%) as being present in a member of the congregation or their family.
2. 38% of those responding felt unsure how to support families struggling and 30% were unsure of where to refer someone for treatment.
3. Areas with a high degree of concern as it affects society at large include Depression (63%), Drug and Substance abuse (54%) and Anxiety (45%)
4. Stressors/life circumstances that are present in the lives of those congregants that responded to the survey included Chronic or Severe Physical Health problems (46%), Chronic or Severe Mental Health problems (30%), Friends/Family with Dementia or Alzheimer's (28%) and Financial Distress (28%)
5. Questions relating to comfort level of responding to various situations of approaching individual who appear to be homeless, intoxicated, high on drugs, asking for money all showed a high degree of discomfort (ranging from 86% to 52%)
6. 87% responding felt Mental Health 101 would be helpful in the congregation and 55% said they would be interested in taking this training.

As part of living the commitment to FPCY's Mental Health ministry our next steps include providing Mental Health 101 training for the MH Team during the month of June. An opportunity will also be extended in July and August for this same training to our congregation members.

As we strive for ways to bear one another's burdens, please join us in praying for wisdom at each step in this process. We are grateful to have teamed up with experts in the field of mental health ministry, and look forward to the knowledge we will gain through that vital resource; for it can only serve to advance our goal of extending this ministry from our congregation to our community, embracing all with compassion and love.

Sue Caruso,  
Mental Health Initiative Co-Chair





## From the Communications Commission...

Have you been to our website lately?

We've given it a fresh look (including some awesome drone aerial footage of our historic building and campus) and reorganized where to find information.

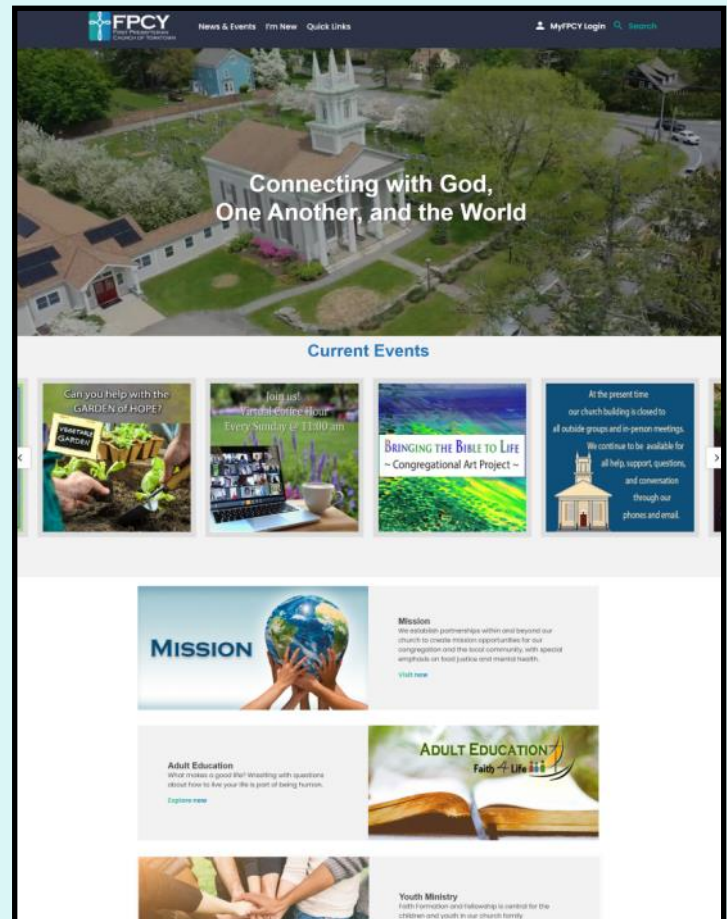
At the top of the page click on "News & Events" to find

- the "Latest News" (our blog posts)
- the calendar
- the Disciple

Beneath the welcome video you will find "sliding squares" which highlight current activities and "stuff to know". You can click on the arrows to the left or right to see what's happening.

Church members can login to Realm (MyFPCY) quickly via the link in the upper right of the navigation bar.

Stop by and check it out:  
[www.fpcyorktown.org](http://www.fpcyorktown.org)



## A Letter Regarding a Change with Boy Scout Troop 165



Dear Boy Scouts,

Over the last seven months, the First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown, through its governing board and a team of church members, has intentionally and thoughtfully reviewed its relationship with and responsibility to Boy Scout Troop 165 and Cub Scout Pack 165, as stated in The Annual Unit Charter Agreement. We did this to make a thoughtful and informed decision about the future of FPCY's relationship with BSA.

We entered into this review process for a variety of reasons:

1. The approximately 90,000 lawsuits against Boy Scouts of America, and the BSA's past history of abuse with children.
2. The changes in New York State law which extended the statute of limitations for making a claim against a local troop and its chartering organization.
3. The recommendation from our Presbytery leadership that all churches to review their charters and responsibilities.
4. Our growing awareness of the church's lack of relationship with the troops in recent years.

Based on these reasons, we became aware that we have not fully understood the role of a Chartering Organization or its responsibilities for quite some time. The Charter says, "The Chartered Organization, as a duly constituted organization that serves youth, desires to use the program(s) of the BSA to further its mission respecting the youth it supports." We now understand that as an organization serving youth, FPCY would charter a BSA troop to further its youth ministry. And, as a church, we would see in the work of BSA a way to form the faith of youth and help them understand what we believe to be God's values and work in the world. In its fullness, there would be an engaged and intentional partnership between FPCY and BSA.

We focused on four significant areas that we felt needed to be addressed. We had conversations with BSA leadership and church members to help us make an informed decision.

1. The first area was programmatic: Does BSA "further [the church's] mission respecting the youth it supports"? We determined that this means more than supporting a community group that works with youth. This involves the intentional use of BSA and its program as part of the church's ministry. While church members have participated in BSA over the years, the church has not used BSA to further its work with youth or lead a troop to do so.
2. The second area related to the Chartering Organization's legal liability and insurance. We reviewed the church's liability in the event of any BSA troop missteps, and the limits of the BSA policy to cover FPCY as the chartering organization. Though requested many times, our team was only given the web address for the BSA national statement on coverage, never the actual BSA insurance policy itself.
3. The third area was organizational cooperation and communication. What are the responsibilities of the chartering organization? Two church members learned what a BSA liaison does and educated the team on the responsibilities and organization of troops and how troops are accountable to FPCY's ministry, values, and safety policies for adults and children.
4. The fourth area was to assess FPCY's capacity for being an engaged chartering organization within the leadership structure of our church. The work of our liaisons helped FPCY's leadership see what the charter requires of us, even at a basic level without any participation in the troops' operations, and how much reporting would be required to the Faith Formation Commission and ultimately to Session, going forward.

After meeting with local and council BSA leadership, FPCY's review team determined two major obstacles: 1) the way the BSA charter agreement binds troops to a chartering organization for a troop's existence, and 2) the responsibilities the BSA charter places on chartering organizations without giving the chartering organization any ability to have input into revising or amending the agreement. The current charter agreement offers only two options: either a chartering organization supports a troop with little to no engagement or awareness of what the troop is doing, or it actively engages the troop(s) only in the way that BSA dictates in its agreements and policies. The latter requires the capacity and interest of the chartering organization to do so, as well as the troop's willingness to invest in the church's youth ministry and healthy communication. The review team came to the conclusion that for several years, FPCY has been chartering two troops that do their work independently of the church's ministry to youth, and that this relationship has continued principally because the troops require a chartering organization. While some overlap may exist between the values of the church and the troops, the troops are not engaged in FPCY's ministry to youth, and the church is not using BSA to further its ministry to youth. Both groups are working with youth, but not in coordination or partnership. If the requirement to charter a troop were not a part of the charter agreement, BSA would be a community group like any other that uses FPCY's space for its meetings.

To that end, the Session of First Presbyterian Church met at its regular Session Meeting on June 1, 2021. After much discussion and discernment, the Session did not feel that the church had the desire or capacity to be an intentional partner in the relationship with Troop 165 and Cub Scout Pack 165 as stated in the BSA Annual Unit Charter Agreement. It voted not to renew the charters of the troop and pack for 2022. The Review Team, Session, and Church are open to providing space for BSA troops as we do many other community groups, should they want to talk about using our space for meetings, but FPCY cannot be responsible any longer for holding the charter for the troops, when it has no role in establishing the agreement, little capacity to use the troops for its particular ministry, and no clear understanding of the legal liabilities involved as the chartering organization.

The Review Team and the Session realize that the local Yorktown parents involved in BSA are not responsible for the way the national organization has written charter agreements or the way BSA has handled allegations of misconduct. Yorktown parents are working within a system not of their making to provide something valuable for their children. To that end, FPCY is happy to explore a new relationship with the troops in which we provide space for a troop that is chartered by some other organization, should they wish to have that conversation, so that we may continue our long-standing goal of supporting community groups. In the meantime, we are grateful for the work of so many local people in a very complex and difficult time for BSA.

Sincerely,

Rev. Chip Low  
Co-Pastor

Christie Herman  
Clerk of Session



**July/August 2021**

www.FPCYorktown.org  
914-245-2186  
office@fpcyorktown.org

Pandemic Office Hours:

Tues. & Fri. 9:00-4:00 or by appointment

Co-Pastors: Rev. Chip Low and Rev. Tami Seidel

# *The* DISCIPLE



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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF YORKTOWN  
2880 CROMPOND RD | YORKTOWN HEIGHTS NY, 10598

## See Inside for Summer Happenings and Re-Opening Plans

### *Ice Cream Sunday*

Save the Date for our  
Annual Ice Cream Sunday

July 11th from 11:30-12:30



### **SABBATICAL SUMMER** *journey of rest & renewal*



*Coming Back in September:  
In-Person Sundays*

Dates and New Times Inside