



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF
YORKTOWN

The DISCIPLE

September 2021

DATES TO NOTE:

Sep 12
In-Person
Worship
& Picnic

Sep 19
8:00 and 10:30
Worship
Blessing of the
Backpacks

Sep 26
Faith
Formation
Kickoff
Sunday School
& Adult Ed
Classes at 9:15



But as for you, return to your God, hold fast to love and justice,
and wait continually for your God.

~ Hosea 12:6

Welcome back! Welcome back from our sabbatical summer! Welcome back from wherever your travels have taken you! Welcome back from over 18 months of wandering through a pandemic! Welcome back to church!

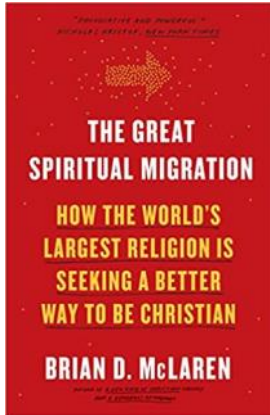
Whether we've traveled anywhere physically or not, we are all pilgrims on a journey, a journey of life and faith and being Christ's church together. And we are so excited to gather together again, both online and in person, to reconnect with each other, to share our stories with one another and to recommit ourselves to the journey ahead.

This fall, we are on a journey of **reconnecting**, **remembering**, and **recommitting** ourselves to our life together as a faith family. The first step will be gathering together and getting to know each other again.

- ⇒ Where have you been this summer? How about over the past 18 months?
- ⇒ What have you learned? How are you different today from whom you were before?
- ⇒ Where did you see God at work along your journey?

(Continued on page 2)

As we reconnect, we will also spend some time remembering who we are as Christ's church here at the FPCY. We will revisit the six ministry priorities we committed ourselves to three years ago and around which we continue to organize our life together – RADICAL HOSPITALITY, COMPELLING WORSHIP, LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION, INTENTIONAL FELLOWSHIP, INSPIRATIONAL STEWARDSHIP, and TRANSFORMATIONAL MISSION.



Finally, as we reconnect and remember, we will recommit ourselves to this journey of faith we are on together. This fall marks the third and final year of our capital campaign *Grounded in Gratitude, Forward in Faith*. Although we have made some wonderful progress over the past three years (even in spite of the pandemic!), we would like to finish the campaign strong and ready to embark on the next stage of FPCY's journey into the future.

As Brian McLaren explains so well in our summer reading book, *The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World's Largest Religion Is Seeking a Better Way to be Christian*, Christianity is at a crossroads, some would say even an existential crisis, facing both internal and external challenges, trying to find its way in a rapidly changing world. And yet, Christianity has always been a religion on the move, a story of faith in the God who brings God's people out of slavery into freedom and new life in Christ. [If you haven't read McLaren's book yet, there are still copies available in the office, and we will be starting discussion groups about the book later in September.]

As pilgrims on this fantastic journey of faith and life together, we hope you will join us in discerning and forging a path forward – a way of life that offers God's love and justice and abundant life to a world yearning for healing, wholeness, and the peace that Christ brings.

Inside this newsletter, you will find lots of information on programming and opportunities to join this conversation and get involved in the life of FPCY. As we continue to navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic, your health (both physical and spiritual) is our priority. We plan to offer both in-person and online opportunities whenever possible, and we ask your continued patience and flexibility as we adapt and move into the fall together.

We can't wait to see you all in church!
Tami & Chip



Chip



Tami

September 12 Worship in the Sanctuary Followed by a Picnic!

Following an in-person worship service in the Sanctuary at 10:30am, we will gather for some food, fellowship and fun. To ensure safety, this is a "bring your own" event. Bring your lawn chair, bring your lunch, bring your drink and bring yourself. We will gather outside after the service. Please note that due to the kitchen renovation, the kitchen and refrigerators will not be available so toss an ice pack into your cooler if necessary.

The Ice Cream truck will also make a reappearance!





FPCY Covid Protocols

After much prayerful consideration and evaluation of where we are in our community with regards to the constantly evolving COVID-19 situation, the Session has decided that we will continue with our plans to open our church to in-person Worship and Faith Formation classes beginning in September. Over these last 18 months, we have learned that being flexible and ready to shift with little notice to adhere to the many protocol changes will be key as your health, both physical and spiritual, is our utmost concern. The pandemic is not over and likely won't be for some time, but we will continue to trust the advice of our scientists and doctors and to make common sense decisions to offer in-person, hybrid and remote opportunities for spiritual growth as we are able. Below are our current Covid protocols with the caveat that they may need to change. We thank you for the many ways you have stayed connected with your FPCY family in this most challenging season. We look forward to seeing you in-person as soon as you are comfortable

1) Prescreening—Please DO NOT come to the church if:

- you have been in close contact with someone confirmed or suspected of having Covid-19.
- you have any of the following symptoms: cold or cough, fever, sore throat, nausea or diarrhea, tiredness, difficulty breathing, etc. Please join us via livestream or hybrid options until it is safe to return.

2) Mask Policy—Until further notice, masks are required for everyone over age 2 inside the building at all times regardless of vaccination status. Masks should cover both your nose and mouth. While we hope all attendees are vaccinated, some of our youngest members are not yet eligible, and we want to provide as safe an environment as possible for all folks in our faith family.

3) Worship

- Everyone must sign in with name and contact information upon entering the Sanctuary.
- Masks must be worn during worship services.
- The balcony will be available for unvaccinated members & visitors.

4) Choir and Music Policies—Musicians will practice the same mask and social distancing practices as the congregation.

5) Faith Formation Classes

- Masks are required at all in-person faith formation activities.
- Children (4th grade & younger) will meet outside as weather permits.
- Hybrid options will be available for indoor classes/groups.
- For all activities involving children and youth, we will follow NYS Department of Education guidelines.

Fall Kickoff Schedule

September 12 Worship & Picnic

10:30am Worship Service in the Sanctuary (in-person and online)
Bring Your Own Picnic to eat together outside following the service

September 19

Blessing of the Backpacks **Return to a 2-service schedule** **Sunday Worship—new times—** **8:00am and 10:30am**

After the last 18 months apart, we are so happy to welcome you back to our Sanctuary to worship together! For those wishing to continue worshipping remotely, our 10:30 service will be streamed on our Facebook page.



Coffee Hour—after each worship service

As we continue to adapt to Covid precautions and our kitchen is being remodeled, our Congregational Life team will be offering refreshments either outside or in the Gathering Space.

September 26 Faith Formation Kick-off

Faith Formation for all ages, Sundays at 9:15am

We can still use a few more adults and older youth (11th grade and up) to join our Faith Formation Team this Fall



SUNDAY MORNING LEADERS - We're looking for team members in our classrooms at all levels on Sunday mornings: young children, elementary age, and youth.

YOUTH GROUP AND INTERGENERATIONAL ACTIVITIES—Our youth groups and intergenerational activities are looking for adult volunteers a few evenings a month: on Sundays – for HS Youth Group - and Wednesday evenings - for MS 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 Steph Hare for more information and with any questions.

Staying Connected

- ⇒ **ONLINE WORSHIP** — For those not yet ready to join us in-person, we will continue our online worship service, but at 10:30am. Find the livestream (and services you missed) on our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/fpcyorktown/live_videos/).
- ⇒ **VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR** — we will continue to offer an opportunity of online fellowship for our members viewing from home. Look for an email on Sunday morning with log-in information.
- ⇒ **EMAIL** — Make sure you're getting our weekly emails. Sign-up if you're not on the list: <http://tinyurl.com/FPCYemail>
- ⇒ **CONTINUE YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT** — During these trying times filled with so much uncertainty, FPCY is taking creative measures to stay connected and care for its congregants, friends, and neighbors. It is through our collective generosity that we can sustain and further the work of Christ in our community and beyond. The chart below shows 4 methods of giving to make it convenient for you to participate in this important part of worship. If you need any technology assistance, please contact Chip, Tami or Lisa.

4 WAYS TO GIVE TO **FPCY** FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF YORKTOWN



IN-PERSON

via the offering plate on Sundays, or drop it in the locked mailbox near the office entrance



TEXT

text **MYFPCY** to **73256**, followed by your gift amount



ONLINE

set-up one time or recurring gifts
visit: www.tinyurl.com/FPCYgive
or scan the QR code
or set it up through your online banking



QR CODE



MAIL

send checks to:
FPCY
2880 Crompond Rd
Yorktown Heights NY,
10589



Music Rehearsals have begun!

We are thrilled to be making music together again! Won't you consider joining the music making fun? Speak to Garrett.

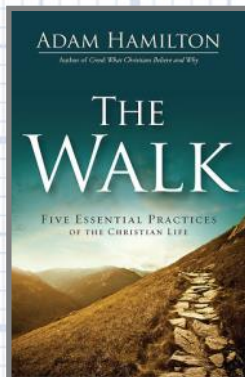
Bell choir: Thursdays 6:45-8pm

Choir: Thursdays 8-9:30pm

Good Samaritones (Youth Bells) : Sundays 12pm-1pm

Choir and Music Policies—Musicians will practice the same mask and social distancing practices as the congregation.

Welcome back to Faith4Life!!

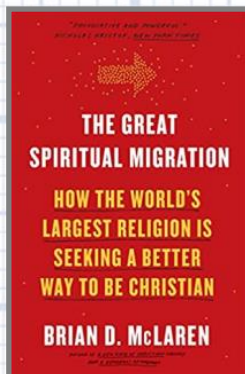


We will begin our Sunday morning sessions on Sunday, September 26, 2021 at 9:15 AM for an hour between services in the library. Masks will be required. We'll be reading Adam Hamilton's ***The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life*** and viewing videos each week. You can read Adam Hamilton's blog post about the book here: <https://www.adamhamilton.com/blog/introducing-the-walk#.YSzr4YH3bi0>

Books are available in the office for \$12.00, or you can purchase them on Smile.Amazon.com <https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage?orig=%2F> and indicate "First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown" as your charity of choice.

The sessions will run from September 26 through October 31.

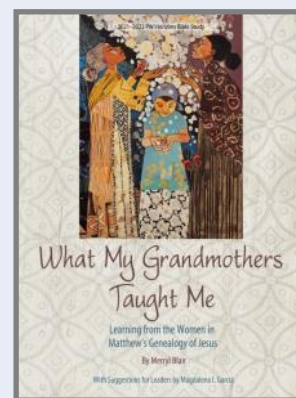
Have you finished Brian McLaren's book, *The Great Spiritual Migration*? Start reading and join Chip, who will be leading a Sunday evening discussion series starting at 7 PM on Sunday, September 26th.



The Women's Circle will begin on Wednesday, October 6 at 10:30 AM in the library until noon. Masks will be required. We'll be following the curriculum of Presbyterian Women: ***What my Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women of Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus*** <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/product/what-my-grandmothers-taught-me-english-edition/> Books are available in the office for \$10.

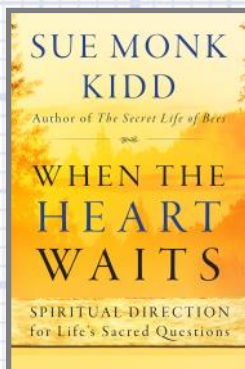
The Tuesday morning and Thursday morning groups will meet the week of September 27 from 10:00 AM until 11:30 AM. We haven't yet decided what we'll be reading or how we'll be meeting. Stay tuned!

The Men's Breakfast will resume in person at the church on Saturday, September 18th at 8:00 AM.



From the Church Library

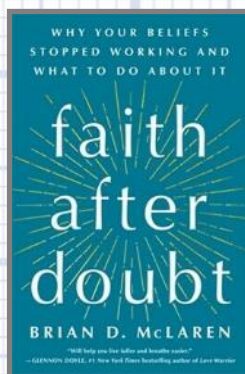
New in the Church Library



If you loved *The Secret Life of Bees* or *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd, note that the book about her spiritual journey, ***When the Heart Waits*** (248 K), is now in the library. Originally published in 1990, it relates the moving tale of her spiritual crisis, when life seemed to have lost meaning and her longing for a hasty escape from the pain yielded to a discipline of "active waiting." She weaves in the imagery of the caterpillar, "who waits cocooned in the darkness of the chrysalis, until it emerges a beautiful butterfly: the glorious embodiment of the true self."

The title of this book says it all: ***Faith After Doubt; Why your Beliefs Stopped Working and What to do About it*** by Brian D. McLaren (248 M). In addition to profiles of various people and their journeys through doubt, he details his own experiences and proposes a model of faith development that welcomes questions and doubt as a portal to a more mature faith. I was surprised to learn that the library has only one other book about doubt. McLaren also wrote the book we are reading with Chip: *The Great Spiritual Migration*... This title provides a different perspective on McLaren's writings.

Carol Jensen
Church Librarian



Sunday School Starts on September 26 — 9:15am

Children pre-K and up - Shine, Connect, FaithX, Confirmation



Register your child(ren) using this link:

tinyurl.com/FPCY-SundaySchool-2021-22

For the beginning of the new year, will be following these protocols:

- Younger children – 4th grade and younger – will have classes outdoors as the weather permits.
- Older students will meet indoors, observing distancing and proper safety protocols.
- Masks are required at all in person faith formation activities for teachers and students (3 years & older), regardless of vaccination status.
- Hybrid (at home) options will be available for the classes that meet indoors.
- We will not be serving snacks in our Sunday School classes for the time being.
- We will be paying attention to the New York State Department of Education health and safety guidelines throughout the year for all activities involving children and youth.



Youth Group—This year, barring any new restrictions, we look forward to more in-person opportunities to gather, study, play, and grow in our Faith together.

HS Youth Group—2nd & 4th Sunday, starts Sep 26

MS Youth Group—2nd & 4th Wednesday, starts Oct 13

CrossGen Wednesdays—the First Wednesday of each month, 5-7pm (starting in November)

Join with faithful folk of all ages for food, fellowship and faith formation. This is a wonderful opportunity for children, youth and adults to grow in faith together.



Campaign Project Management Team (CPMT) 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.

Volunteers Needed: We would like to 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.

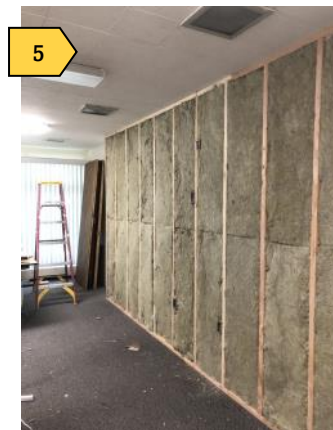
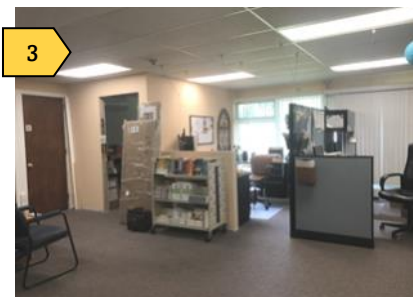
Our latest projects:

- Reworking the closet/coatroom to create storage space for the nursery & worship (1)
- Reworking of the main office space to create an office for the Youth Director (2), allow for a better reception area (3), and create two volunteer/bookkeeping workstations (4)
- Adding insulation to the wall shared by room 16/17 to aid in sound dampening (5)

Next up for the campaign

- Continue working towards kitchen renovation
- Preparing the building for reopening in the fall
- Installing wider ADA compliant doors in the office

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. If you have made a pledge, but haven't yet made a gift, or if you wish to make a one-time gift, you can do so at your convenience here: <http://tinyurl.com/FPCYCapital>





**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE



Photo Credit: National Guard

***God is our refuge and strength
therefore, we will not fear,
though the waters roar
and foam.***

— Psalm 46

PDA is mobilized and already delivering immediate aid to those impacted by Hurricane Ida. The initial assessment of the damage is staggering. The needs of those impacted is changing daily because of lack of access to power, refrigeration, water and housing. This will be a long-term commitment to the people impacted by this catastrophic destruction.

PDA will continue to work with Presbyterian leadership to respond to Hurricane Ida and remain engaged in the recovery efforts during the hurricane season of 2021, during which several named storms are expected to impact the region. After initial needs are addressed, PDA will remain — providing emotional and spiritual care and Long-Term Recovery to address unmet needs.

**The needs for the response will be great. God's people are called on to stand in the "GAP" —
Give. Act. Pray.**

Learn more: <https://tinyurl.com/PDA-IDA-21>

GIVE BLOOD



American Red Cross

You can make a difference.

THANK YOU!

The need for blood is constant. With thousands of blood drives cancelled during the COVID-19 pandemic, we opened our Fellowship Hall to the Red Cross again in August

Here's a note from their coordinator Susan:

29 donors registered to donate
0 donors were deferred
33 units (including several POWER RED donations) were collected
99 lives potentially impacted

With Henri and Ida hitting our area in back to back weeks and continuing to cause problems in the Northeast, these units were especially precious! Thank you and the Church Community for all you do to support this mission!

**Save the Date: October 3.
Details Coming Soon.**

BRING YOUR CREATURES,
GREAT AND SMALL, TO THE

BLESSING - OF THE - ANIMALS

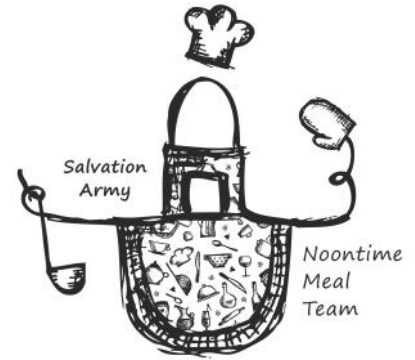


From the Mission Commission

Noon Time Meal Clients at the Salvation Army in Peekskill are still enjoying their lunch once a month thanks to the Pizza store delivery. The need is still strong as their numbers went up to 40 this month.



I would like to thank you all who prepared the Jan Peek meal and delivered it clients at the homeless Shelter in Peekskill — Wanda Diaz and Debbie Bernadini (July), Donna Giglio and Robin Corpolongo (August) and Christine Lazarus and Pam Darreff (September). We're happy to report the number of clients dropped over the summer. If you would like to help out one month making a meal for the homeless please give me a call 737-4674 or email patprauda@gmail.com and we can talk.



Garden of Hope — More Help Needed!

The new Garden of Hope at Willow Park has been productive all summer. Help is still needed for watering and harvesting.

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

Questions? Contact: Heidi Haring; hkharing@optonline.net, 914 737-9047



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.

Our next in-person meetings will be September 22, October 6 and Oct 20. If you need yarn or project guidance contact Marianna Sherman at 914-737-8294



Knit Togethers

Thanks to all of you who continue to knit baby and lap blankets. We will meet in person on Mondays September 13 & 27 and October 25 in the church library. Please keep knitting.

For information: Noreen Radke 914-962-4370 (or email radke30@msn.com).



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!

Pantry News

Many thanks to the congregation and to *Yorktown for Justice* for the large volume of donated School Supplies. We already helped over 100 students start their school year off with the correct tools for success and expect to help an equal number at the next distribution.

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:
September 11, 25 and October 9 & 23
8 to 11am

Community Partnerships & Support

We are grateful to our community partners. Ever wonder how much money is raised by the special monthly initiatives of our local grocery stores? Well, over the summer, the Stop&Shop Community Bag program raised \$105 while their August Bloomin' 4 Good program raised \$100. They even decided to continue the program through September. So our pantry benefits with every Bouquet purchased! Look for info on another Bag program from Hannaford in October.



BLOOMIN' 4 GOOD

Help Stop Hunger
One bouquet at a time

Throughout September 2021



Front Porch Concert to Benefit Our Pantry—October 3, 2021, 2pm



Free outdoor concert! Bring your blankets and chairs and nonperishable food items for a food bank collection. The Independence Band is the Hudson Valley's unique, multi-generational music ensemble playing a fun mix of America's greatest Pop, R&B, Jazz, and Rock 'n Roll favorites. They will be collecting food donations for the pantry at First Presbyterian Church in Yorktown and honoring front-line and essential workers.

September 2021

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

The DISCIPLE

Office Hours: Mon-Wed, Fri 9-4, Thu 9-2
Co-Pastors: Rev. Chip Low and Rev. Tami Seidel



Facebook.com/fpcyorktown



@fpcyorktown



@fpcyorktown



office@fpcyorktown.org



FPCY

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

Current Resident or:

September				9	10	11
				6:45pm Adult Bells 8:00pm Choir	3:00pm Pantry+ Set-Up	8am Pantry Distribution 6pm Jan Peek Meal Served
12 10:00am Worship 11:00am Church Picnic (BYO) w/ Ice Cream Truck 12:00pm Youth Bells	13 10:00am Knit Togethers 7:30pm Worship Design	14 7:30pm Session	15	16 6:45pm Adult Bells 8:00pm Choir	17	18 8am Men's Breakfast 11am Memorial Service for John Chessa
19 <i>Blessing of the Backpacks</i> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Faith Formation Hour 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Deacons Youth Bells	20	21 7:30pm Mission & Operations	22 12pm Lunch Bunch	23 6:45pm Adult Bells 8:00pm Choir	24 3:00pm Pantry+ Set-Up	25 8am Pantry Distribution 10am Personnel 6pm Jan Peek Meal Served
26 <i>Sunday School Begins</i> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Faith Formation Hour 10:30am Worship 11:45am Nominating 12:00pm Youth Bells 12:15pm Congregation Life 7:00pm HS Youth Group	27 10:00am Knit Togethers	28 10:00am F4L Study 7:30pm Faith Formation & Communications	29 7pm F4L-Disciple MS Youth	30 10:00am F4L Study 6:45pm Adult Bells 8:00pm Choir	OCTOBER 1	2 12:00pm Memorial Service for Carol Myers
3 <i>World Communion Sunday</i> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Faith Formation Hour 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Youth Bells 2:00pm <i>Blessing of the Animals</i>	4	5 10:00am F4L Study 7:30pm Session	6 10:30am Women's Circle 7pm F4L-Disciple	7 10:00am F4L Study 6:45pm Adult Bells 7:30pm Stewardship 8:00pm Choir	8 3:00pm Pantry+ Set-Up	9 8am Pantry Distribution