



# The DISCIPLE

March—April 2024

FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF  
YORKTOWN

### Save the Dates:

March 13  
CrossGen

March 20  
St. Patrick's Day  
Lunch Bunch

### HOLY WEEK

March 24  
Palm Sunday

March 28  
Maundy Thursday

March 29  
Good Friday

March 31  
Easter Sunday



### Perfect love casts out fear. ~1 John 4:18

I wonder who John, the author of the verse above, our Lenten theme verse, had in mind when he wrote these words. The full verse reads, “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.” It sounds like the reader John has in mind was afraid of punishment, or perhaps, couldn’t get past seeing God in terms of punishment. That’s a very common view of God, even after someone has experienced God’s love. Almost like, they don’t really believe the good news, but instead have to live into the good news over the course of their lives. This is the same chapter where we read, “Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love” (1 John 4:7-8). The reader must not have been able to look at himself with God’s love in mind or look at the world through the lens of love. Again, it must have been a major shift for the reader to think and live this way of love.

I will be the first to admit that looking at oneself or the world through love is hard to do. Fear is easier to live by. Fear is easier to fuel within oneself or stoke in those around you. Fear is easier to promote in the world. It’s certainly easier to base a campaign on it. Compounding all of this is the reality that we aren’t always conscious of how much fear drives our choices and the way we live our lives. Too often, fear is present, but unexamined. No wonder it is easy, then, to assemble a mob, when fears are stoked and go unexamined.

Unfortunately, the consequences of living by fear cannot be overstated. We look at one another with suspicion. We judge people different from us as un-American or unpatriotic. We nurse grudges and condone violence. We devalue the lives of those in need at borders or in food pantry lines or homeless shelters. We harm our relationships with one another when we are afraid to be honest or vulnerable, to love or be loved, to forgive and admit our need for forgiveness.

(Continued on page 2)

The practice our theme verse invites us to do is “to cast out” fear. The word “cast out” in Greek means “to throw or let go of a thing without caring where it falls.” You just throw it. It reminds me of those times as a kid when I stood on the beach in Galveston and threw shells or stones as far as I could out into the Gulf of Mexico. I didn’t care where the shell landed. I was just throwing it. This is what our theme verse encourages us to do with fear – to just throw it as far away as we can. Don’t overthink it. Easier said than done, right? But, don’t let that convince you to keep living by fear. We cast out fear, so that you and I can choose a different path, the way of love as our practice and way of life.

Such a practice makes our year of Intentional Fellowship all the more rich with possibilities. What if, instead of worrying about who we know or don’t know at coffee hour, we cast out the fear and meet someone new? What if, instead of sitting with the same people at the worship service or at a church meal, we share food and fellowship with someone new? What if, instead of only delivering food to JanPeek, we get to know the people who eat the food? I ask these questions, not simply to get you to consider what you can do at church, but also to imagine who you and I would become if we let love guide our way, instead of fear. Not only might we learn how to love in real time, but we would be sharing that love instead of fear with others as well.

I’m grateful for the opportunity we had to practice this kind of Intentional Fellowship at our Annual Meeting on March 3. Standing up front, I could feel the energy in the room as people gathered around tables over a meal and got to know one another. I’m grateful for the many people who created the space for us together, as well as those who helped Tami and I design the meeting around Intentional Fellowship, our focus for 2024. The experience continues to impact how I look at our ministry through the lens of love, rather than fear, even as we grapple with some important issues in our life and ministry together.

Our Lenten theme, Perfect love casts out fear, is shaping the way we prepare for and receive the good news of Easter. The Love of God made known to us at Christmas in the Incarnation will reveal the depths of God’s love, even in death and the unexpected news of life of Easter morning. But, if we are truly to receive that good news, Easter morning will become more than a moment of celebration. It will become the confirmation of life that is at work in us as we cast out our fears and embody God’s love as God’s good news for the world. And, our embodiment of that love will make our year of Intentional Fellowship a gift of good news and new life for all who experience it.



Chip



Tami

Grateful for our life and ministry together,  
Chip

## We are a connectional denomination—read PresbyNews and see what that means!



We are part of the Hudson River Presbytery, a Presbytery made up of 76 congregations across eight counties in the Hudson Valley: Sullivan, Ulster, Orange, Westchester, Dutchess, Rockland, and Columbia.

Ever wonder what goes on at Presbytery meetings?

Wonder what other churches in our Presbytery are doing?

Are you aware of the resources that our Presbytery provides?

What do you know about Presbytery Partnerships?

Our congregation is part of two partnerships: HRP Green and HRP Queer. You can find out more about these ministries by visiting the Presbytery website at [hudrivepres.org](https://hudrivepres.org)

An even easier way is to subscribe to PresbyNews, the Presbytery’s weekly newsletter, at this link <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/OgKNvAe>

# 2024 LEADERSHIP

## THE SESSION

**Clerk of Session:** Christie Herman

**Moderators:** Chip Low, Tami Seidel

	Class of 2024		Class of 2025		Class of 2026
P	Alice Chin	CC	Jane Amato	WM	Sheri Gausepohl
OP	Katharine Frase	FF	Andy Cross	BFS, P	Beth Gruber
CC, M, BFS	Connie Knapp	CC	Margaret Harrison	M	Jeff Kephart
CC, CO	Jennifer Rowe-Behun	WM	Bill Herman	CO, P	Dana Mordue
BFS	Jack Shaughnessy	FF, N, P	Jean Post-Winget		
M	Marisa Swift	N, OP	Vinnie Wallace		

**Jan 2024-Aug 2024**

**Youth Elder:** Kithara Buccarelli

## COMMISSIONS & TEAMS

BFS = Budget & Finance/Stewardship    N = Nominating  
 CC = Congregational Connections        OP = Operations  
 CO = Communications                      P = Personnel  
 FF = Faith Formation                      WM = Worship & Music  
 M = Mission

## THE BOARD OF DEACONS

**Moderators:** TBD

**Secretary:** Nancy Paskin

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Judy Chessa	Tim Chin	Allen Arnwine
Sue Nelson	Nancy Paskin	Debra Farrell
John Winget	Marilyn Rivera-Alvarado	Diane Yarris
Mary Vezzuto	Ann Timmons	

LOVE > FEAR

HOLY WEEK 2024

Palm Sunday	March 24	In-person worship @ 8 am & 10:30 am Livestream @ 10:30 am
Maunder Thursday	March 28	In-person & Online Worship service @ 7:30 pm
Good Friday	March 29	Sanctuary open for In-person meditation 12 - 3 pm In-person & Online Worship service @ 7:30 pm
Holy Saturday	March 30	Walk the Labyrinth at FPCY - Self Guided @ any time
Easter Sunday	March 31	Sunrise Service - In-person, outside @ 6:30 am In-person Worship at 8am & 10:30am Livestream @ 10:30am

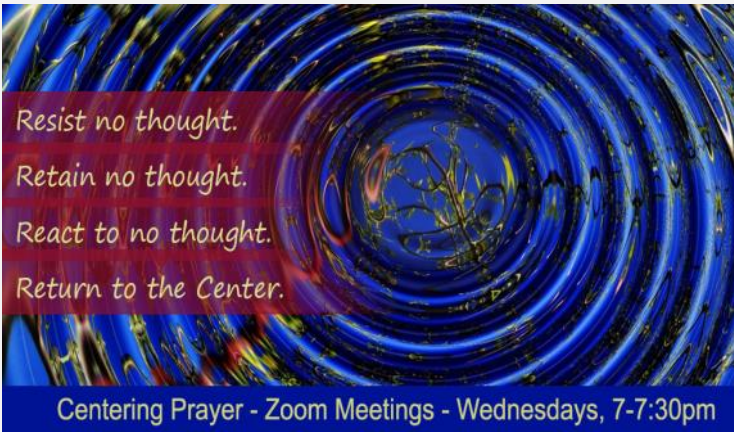
EASTER FLOWERS

Many of our members and friends remember their loved ones at Easter by helping to decorate the sanctuary with flowers (lilies, daffodils, hyacinths, tulips). Please complete form below, fill out the online form at <https://tinyurl.com/FPCYEasterFlowers24> (or scan the code at right). Names will be published in the Easter Sunday bulletin. You may purchase as many flowers as you wish. Each can be in honor or in memory of as many people as you wish. The cost of each flower is \$15. **The deadline is March 24.**



Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Inscription for Bulletin: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Centering Prayer

Practice making space, with every breath, in which to be aware of God's presence in and around us.

Join us in person or on zoom for half an hour at 7 PM on Wednesday evenings.

Look for a Zoom invitation in your email each Wednesday.

# COMPELLING WORSHIP



A Vision for the Future: As we embark on a new year, I am excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. Our Music Ministry will continue to evolve, embracing new musical expressions while remaining rooted in the traditions that make our worship unique. I invite each of you to join us on this musical journey, as we seek to deepen our connection with the divine through the universal language of music.



Dr. Alexandra Beliakovich on piano

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming concerts featuring Dr. Alexandra Beliakovich on piano! Time TBD

Saturday, April 27, 2024: Solo Piano Recital  
Music by D. Scarlatti, L. van Beethoven, J. Field, S. Barber and F. Chopin

Saturday, June 1, 2024: Chamber Music Concert With Carl Gutowski and Zachary Pulse, oboe,  
Music by J.S. Bach, M. Dring and others

Garrett Artman, *Director of Music Ministry*

**Wooster Chorus**  
2024 SPRING TOUR

Lakeland High School  
1349 E. Main Street  
Shrub Oak, NY 10588

Tuesday,  
March 12, 2024  
7:30pm

FREE ADMISSION

**W** THE COLLEGE OF  
**WOOSTER**

*Walk*  
**Together**

**Ben Low  
is touring  
with his  
college choir!**

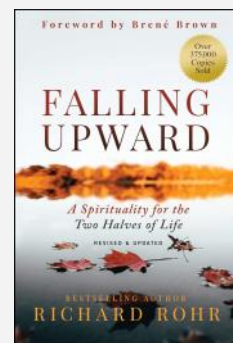
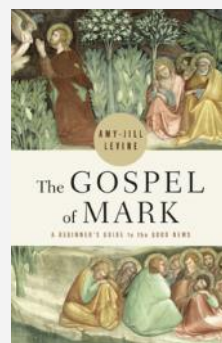




## Lenten Studies & Events

### Sunday or Thursday Mornings, or Wednesday Evenings

- ⇒ 3 groups have started a discussion of *The Gospel of Mark: A Beginner's Guide to the Good News*, by Amy-Jill Levine. A group meets on **Thursday mornings from 10:30 until noon**, a second group meets on **Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:15**, and a third will meet on **Wednesday evenings 7:30-9:00**.

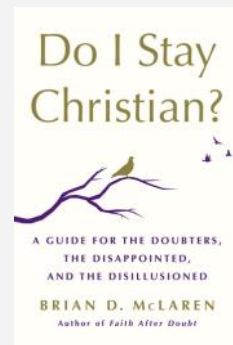


### Tuesday Mornings

- ⇒ Join us as we continue our study, *Do I Stay Christian?* by Brian D. McLaren.

### Wednesdays

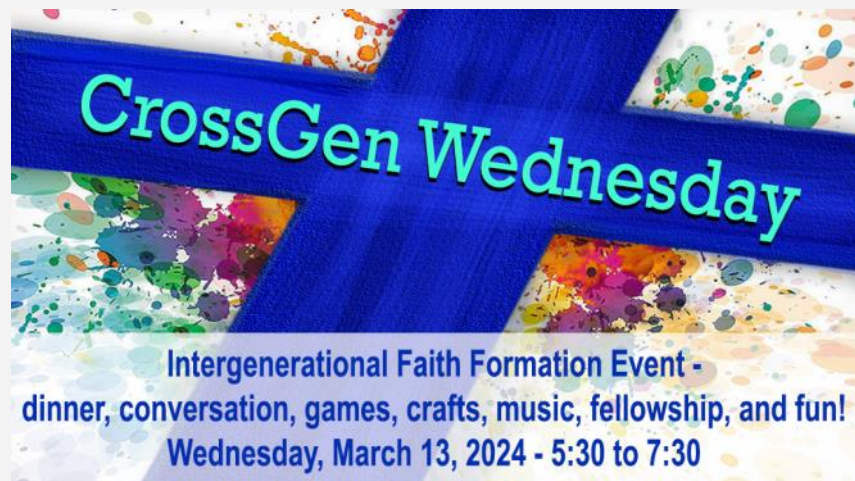
- ⇒ The Women's Circle meets at 10:30 AM on the first Wednesday of each month.
- ⇒ We will enjoy our next CrossGen Wednesday on March 13 from 5:30-7:30pm (see below for details)
- ⇒ Mark study at 7:30pm (see above)



### Sunday Evenings

- ⇒ Beginning **Sunday, February 18th at 7:30 pm**, both in person and on Zoom, Chip and Tami will be leading a discussion of *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life* by Richard Rohr.

Important: Please note that you do not have to be a member of our congregation to join us for any of these offerings. If you know someone who is might be interested in any of these topics, feel free to invite them to attend.



### All ages welcome for the next Cross-Gen Wednesday dinner! Wednesday, March 13, 5:30 - 7:30

Join us for intergenerational fellowship and fun! There will be dinner, conversation, games, crafts, and music! The theme for this event is "Love God, Neighbor, Enemy". Some people just aren't easy to love! How do we do it anyway? With some help from the parable of the Good Samaritan and a ball of yarn (!), we'll explore how to lean into the truth that God is Love.

RSVP: <http://tinyurl.com/CrossGenMar13>



# LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION—FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Pre-K—4th Grade



5th & 6th Grade



7th & 8th Grade



9—12th Grade

## Greetings from Sunday School!

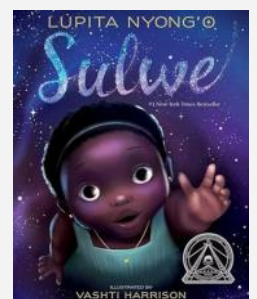
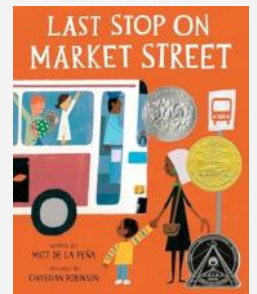
We are so grateful to have such a wonderful community of students and teachers. We have been having a great winter and are looking forward to a fantastic spring. Sunday School meets at 9:15 am every week and all are welcome, from Kindergarten through high school! If you are interested in subbing for this year, or even thinking ahead to next year, please let us know!

Love & blessings,  
Miranda & Pam

## NEW IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY

The library has several new children's books which are exceptionally beautiful in layout and relevant in message. They are some of the most beautifully illustrated children's books I've ever seen! They are now on the New Book Shelf.

- ◆ *Winter's Gifts; an indigenous celebration of nature*, by Kaitlin B. Curtice. It tells the story of Dani, a child who represents not only our love of human nature but also our special status as God's beloved children.
- ◆ *Sulwe* by Lupita Nyong'o is about a girl who wants to be beautiful and bright. A magical journey in the night sky opens her to see her unique beauty.
- ◆ *God's Holy Darkness*, by Sharei Green and Beckah Selnick, illustrates that God's love can come from darkness as well as light. For example, creation began in the dark, the Christmas angels visited the shepherds in the dark. The book beautifully illustrates other examples of God working through darkness.
- ◆ *Psalms of Wonder; Poems from the Book of Songs*. Author Carey Wallace has rewritten twenty-nine Psalms as poems, to illustrate that they were originally sung and in Hebrew. As with the other books in this collection, it is beautifully illustrated.
- ◆ If you came to one of the family dinners last fall you experienced *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Pena. As with the others listed above, it celebrates family relationships – in this case a boy and his grandmother experiencing their bustling city, the music of everyday life, and the magic of their neighbors.



Carol Jensen, Church Librarian



**Mark your calendars for our upcoming Lock-in:**

**Saturday, March 23 - Sunday, March 24**

(6 pm Saturday - 1 pm Sunday)

Lock-In and Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast

Any questions, please reach out to Tami or Kaycee.

We can't wait to see you!

**Summer Youth Conference** — Montreat Youth Conference (MYC) is an amazing experience for youth and adults to gather with hundreds of other youth from around the country to connect and share life and faith together in an inclusive, inspirational environment.

**This summer we would LOVE to take a group to the Montreat Youth Conference in beautiful Montreat, North Carolina!**

**PLANTING PEACE**

Montreat Youth Conference 2024

Youth leave Montreat knowing that:

- Their faith matters.
- They are loved as they are.
- They are part of a community of faith.

For more information, go to: <https://montreat.org/events/myc-24>

Possible dates are:

July 20-27 (incoming 9th grade -- graduating seniors)

July 27-August 3 (incoming 7th grade -- graduating seniors)

Approximate cost per person: \$300 (scholarships always available)

We need to know ASAP which week and how many kids so that we can book housing and get the early registration rate (before April 15). Please fill out the form at <https://tinyurl.com/FPCY-MYC24> or by scanning the code to let us know your interest. Fill out a separate form for each youth. If you have any questions, please contact Kaycee Perry or Tami Seidel.







## ANNUAL MEETING POT LUCK

We hope that you have heard by now that this will be the year of “intentional fellowship,” at FPCY. Intentional fellowship is one of our five ministry priorities. During the “R & R” calls (Reach out and Reconnect) that we made last year, we learned how easy it is for someone to become, well, disconnected. Your Session tasked a “Shake Up” team to recommend ways to ensure that people stay connected.

A reorganization has led to the disbanding of the Congregational Life Commission, and the constitution of the Congregational Connection Commission. We hope that you saw the presentation at our annual meeting last week illustrating the work of this new Commission. We see ourselves as, well, coordinators. We need your help! Many of you have already accepted our invitations to help with the annual meeting, to send gratitude notes, and to keep our college students connected. We are grateful for your positive responses!

You will be hearing more from us as we continue to discern the best structure for this “team.” Please reach out to Connie Knapp, Jane Amato, Kithara Buccarelli, Margaret Harrison, Christie Herman, or Jennifer Rowe-Behun with your thoughts, ideas, and offers to help.

## Rescheduled... Pancake Breakfast on Palm Sunday

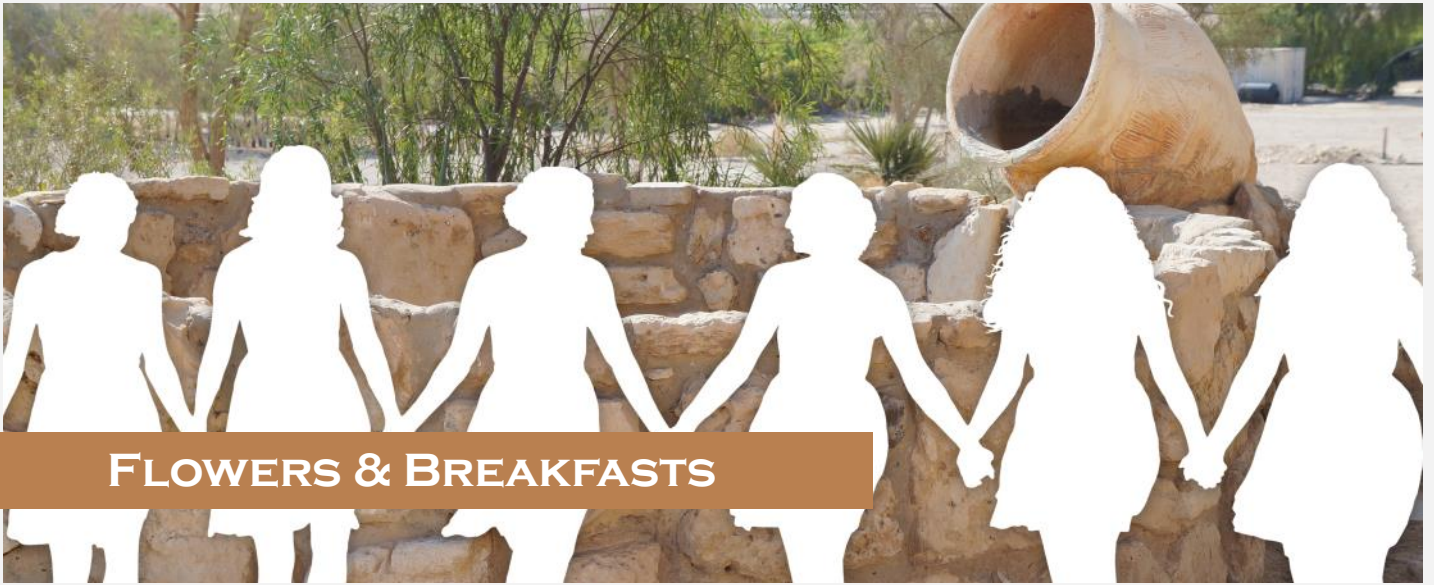
March 24th  
after both worship services  
(8:45 & 11:30 am)



### Support Our Youth With Pancakes

Suggested Donation: \$10  
per person  
\$25 max per family

Proceeds will  
offset the cost of the  
Summer Montreat  
Youth Conference.



**FLOWERS & BREAKFASTS**

Join us for our next Women @ the Well Gathering

**Easter Centerpiece Workshop**

Sunday March 24, 4-6pm in Fellowship hall, Cost \$40

**RSVP by March 15—<https://tinyurl.com/FPCY-ECW>**



W@W - WOMEN AT THE WELL

In this workshop led by local floral artist Sarah Gambetta, we will create centerpieces with fresh flowers to decorate your Easter table. Each arrangement will be in a 10"x5" wooden box vase. Due to the nature of procuring fresh flowers - we MUST get a final head count no later than Friday March 15, so please get your RSVP in, ASAP! If cost is preventing you from participating - please let a member of the W@W team know (Abby, Dawna, Elaine, or Alice) and we'll make arrangements!

*Women's Birthday  
Breakfast Club*



Let's get to know each other better and share in the joy of birthday blessings!

Attention All Women

Join us on the 1st Saturday of each month at 8:00am for a pot luck lunch where we will celebrate the women celebrating birthdays in that month.

**Men's Monthly Breakfast**

**March 16 at 8:00am**



Join Chip for food, fellowship & faith in the Fellowship Hall

Attention All Men

Join us on the 3rd Saturday of each month as we cook breakfast in our wonderful new church kitchen and enjoy a time of fellowship with one another.



**ST. PATRICK'S LUNCH BUNCH**



**St. Patrick's Day Lunch Bunch  
March 20 at Noon—\$20 per person**

Join us for an in-person, catered St. Patrick's Day Lunch Bunch in our Fellowship Hall.

Corned Beef and Cabbage  
(Shepherd's Pie, too)

RSVP and payment should be into the church office by March 17th. Join us, bring a friend, meet a new friend.



<https://tinyurl.com/FPCY-StPat24>



If you'd like to bring a dessert to share, we could use a few!

**News/Article Submissions**

Does your commission/committee have news/announcements for our church community? We have a variety of outlets that we use to communicate with our community—the Disciple Newsletter, the weekly bulletin, the website, our blog, and Facebook. If you have news you want to share (events, meetings, etc.), please send a detailed email to [news@fpyorktown.org](mailto:news@fpyorktown.org) for consideration for the appropriate publicity. While the Disciple deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication, some of these outlets can get your news out quite quickly!





## Creative Fellowship Groups

Our Creative Fellowship Groups are always busy. Learn more about what they do and consider joining in their generous efforts!



The **Knit Together**s group, now led by Norean Radke, was started in 2002. Norean joined in 2004, at which time she wrote the mission statement of the group: to knit items and give them to local community groups. Since then, hundreds of items have been donated to hospitals and nursing homes. In addition, for the past several years, the Knit Togethers have been giving knitted items to Birthright in Peekskill, Paramount Care in Somers and the Food Pantry Plus at our church. The Knit Togethers started the Mitten-Hat Tree at the Food Pantry. It continues today as a gift table for Pantry clients which the group supports with hand-made hats and scarves. Currently there are eight attending members and one home knitter. “We enjoy sharing patterns and conversation and making lap blankets, baby blankets, hats, and scarves to give to others in our community,” Norean shared. The group meets on the second and fourth Mondays each month in the church library. All who knit/crochet are welcome.

Our **Prayer Shawl Ministry** is led by Marianna Sherman. Prayer Shawls are given to church members and friends from suggestions by our pastors and others. The Prayer Shawl Ministry began in 1998 in North Carolina by two women who began knitting/crocheting shawls to give to breast cancer patients and new mothers. From that simple beginning, this ministry has expanded across the country and the globe. In 2006, Marianna Sherman began this ministry in our church. Presently there are six knitters in the group. Prayer shawls are given for a variety of reasons. For example, recipients of the prayer shawls can include those who are ill, in the hospital, experienced a death in the family, baptisms, or a joy or accomplishment. The group also knits hats and scarves for our Food Pantry clients for Christmas. “I have been involved and began this ministry in 2006. Seeing the grateful faces of those who receive blankets is a great gift to our knitters,” Marianna said. The shawls are a reminder of the support and comfort which is wished for all. The group meets on the second and fourth Mondays each month in the church library. All who knit/crochet are welcome.



The newest addition to our Creative Fellowship Groups is **Sweet Dreams**.

Sweet Dreams is a ministry of our church that makes baby quilts for infant baptisms. If you have questions or want to join us in that effort please contact Margaret Harrison at [Harrison3505@gmail.com](mailto:Harrison3505@gmail.com).



Bereavement Support

FPCY Bereavement Group

A bereavement group is meeting at the church twice a month on Mondays at 10 am.

March 18	May 20
April 8	June 3
April 22	June 17
May 6	

As we experience grief, at all stages, it is important to talk to people about our loss and pain. In this group, it is not necessary to hide or deny our feelings. We can learn to be grateful for those with the compassion and openness to hear our pain and stay with us--as we all travel this journey together.

Facilitating the group will be Judy Chessa and Dolores Vidal-Roy. Please contact Judy (914-552-2509) or Dolores (914-980-6877) to register or if you have any questions.

God heals the broken-hearted,  
and binds up their wounds. ~Psalm 147:3



FPCY  
Bereavement  
Group



Did you know that we have a very active PRAYER MINISTRY? We get many requests from the church prayer request e-mail address ([prayer@fpcyorktown.org](mailto:prayer@fpcyorktown.org)), through our pastors, through our various church groups and sometimes from non-members! A prayer ribbon is hung for each request. Ribbons are left in the breeze behind the church until the requests are "gone" with the wind, etc. This past year 100+ ribbons were hung.



## THIS ELECTION YEAR, BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

By Rev. Thomas Taylor, LCSW-R, Ph.D., Lutheran Counseling Center Pastoral Counselor

For years, I never knew my neighbor's politics. Then political flags popped up all around us. We've always had plenty of US flags but these flags were different and felt different – they were political, for one politician or another.

One of our neighbor's politics was hard to miss. In addition to flying his flag in support of his favorite candidate, talk radio blared throughout the day so neighbors couldn't avoid hearing about his political views. Despite our different views, we still greeted him cordially whenever we saw him out with his dog. Then one day he stopped my wife and struck up a conversation. He asked about her mom. He said he hadn't seen them out walking for a while and wondered if she was alright. Touched, my wife told him her mom had died. He said he was sorry to hear that and that he'd always enjoyed seeing them out walking. Although my wife's feelings about his politics had not changed, she felt more connected to him. Their brief talk humanized them both.

We are now in an election year and tensions are going to mount among those we consider our neighbors and those we do not. According to the American Psychological Association, 68% of Americans reported feeling stressed leading up to the last presidential election. This increase in stress requires that we deliberately find ways to ground ourselves. Looking for our common humanity is one way to ground ourselves, especially when faced with difficult conversations around politics. Rachael Dunkel-Dodier, Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor and Founder of Bridger Peaks Counseling in Bozeman Montana\*, observes "The more that we create disconnection, even in our differing values, the more we create pain and hurt in our country." To counter this tendency to disconnect, Dunkel-Dodier recommends we pivot and ground ourselves by leaning "into saying, yes, you are different than me, and I still honor who you are as a human, and honor where you're coming from, without creating more of a divide."

The Gospel message is we are all children of God who share a common humanity and the same neighborhood – God's neighborhood. Find an excuse to talk with your neighbors so we can appreciate and enjoy our shared humanity. What a gift!

Here's praying for a more connected and less stressful election year.

Tom Taylor  
Interim Co-Executive Director, LCC

\* Carroll, Bryanna "Mental health counselors offer tips to cope with Election Day stress,"  
NBCMONTANATV, November 7th 2023.

The Rev. Thomas S. Taylor, PhD, LCSW-R, STM, is currently Interim Co-Executive Director of the LCC. He is a Certified Psychoanalyst and Licensed Clinical Social Worker. He is currently President of the National Psychological Association for Psychoanalysis (NPAP) and a Clinical Supervisor for LCC. He is counselor-in-residence at Advent Lutheran Church in New York City. An ordained pastor of the ELCA, he has extensive experience working with individuals and couples and as a seminar presenter.

Lutheran  
Counseling  
hope and healing  
Center



## Budget, Finance & Stewardship



**Giving Covenants 2024** — Still need to make your Giving Covenant to FPCY for 2024? You can find the 2024 Giving Covenant Form by scanning the link or by visiting: <https://tinyurl.com/FPCYcovenant2024>



Online Givers: As a reminder, if you set-up recurring payments to your pledge via [www.MyFPCY.org](http://www.MyFPCY.org), you should log-on to make sure your payments match what you pledged for 2024. If you didn't give your scheduled payments an end date, they will continue to be made at the 2023 rate. Also, gifts for your 2024 Pledge need to be directed to General 2024" fund code. Contact Lisa in the office with questions.

## REPAIRING THE BREACH

— ISAIAH 58

PROVIDING RELIEF  
FROM NATURAL DISASTERS,  
FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY,  
AND SUPPORT FOR  
THE POOR AND OPPRESSED.

In addition to your regular giving, we ask that you consider making a gift to our denomination's special Lenten Offering,

### One Great Hour of Sharing:

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together to work for a better world by advancing the causes of justice, resilience, and sustainability.

Through One Great Hour of Sharing...we stabilize, we strengthen those who are weak, we connect. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing helps improve the lives of the suffering and the vulnerable through three life-saving programs:

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE, PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM, SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE .



All of this year's Easter Offering will be used to support our NoonTime Meal mission. Each day, the Salvation Army serves lunch to people in the community who have a hard time making ends meet. Once each month, a member of our congregation purchases food at the Cortlandt ShopRite and delivers it to the Salvation Army headquarters in Peekskill. Their employees use this food to prepare lunches for a long line of clients who show up at their door. In 2022, the average number of NoonTime Meal clients was about 40. By 2023, this number had nearly doubled to 70. This year, the average number of people in need of lunch has skyrocketed to about 120 (and it has been as high as 150 on some days). This trend and its implication for the health and well-being of our local community is of course

very worrisome. It is also placing an enormous strain on the Mission budget. Please consider making a generous contribution to the Easter Offering. We are hoping for a collective contribution of at least \$1000 to help us continue our NoonTime Meal mission at a sufficient level.

## INSPIRATIONAL STEWARDSHIP



### Winter Happenings around the Church

- Upgraded our Fuel Monitoring System which failed earlier in the year
- Repaired the flashing/siding on south side of Fellowship Hall
- Annual maintenance check on our heat pumps & AC units by our vendor Carry & Walsh
- Began process of replacing old air conditioning window units with new Anderson windows in Room 7 and Library
- Repaired 3 light fixtures in the kitchen

Special thanks to Dick, Jerry, Bud and Vinny for being the point people on these projects.

### Spring—Save the Dates

April 20—Battle of Yorktown (joint between Operations and Green Team) — see page 19 for details.

May 4—Spring Cleanup (inside and out) - It's almost time for our Spring spruce up and clean up of our church campus. This effort is a time for companionship, doing meaningful work together and enjoying outdoor life as new life begins to emerge all around us. Please consider joining us for the Spring Work Party on May 4th. We are hoping for good weather, but we will do whatever we can regardless of the weather so bring appropriate attire, gloves and yard work tools.

## PERSONNEL

### Staff Spotlight!



Lisa Flanagan, FPCY Office Manager, celebrated her 9th anniversary with FPCY in February! Oh, and it was also her birthday month!

#### 5 things about Lisa you may or may not know...

1. She has been keeping bees for 3 years, but feels like a beginner. Bees are fascinating!
2. She is from a steel town near Pittsburgh and therefore a huge Steelers, Penguins & Pirates fan
3. She sings with Charis Chamber Voices (along with Garrett), cantors at St. Francis Mount Kisco and is the soprano section leader at the First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan, CT
4. She and her husband Terry got married in the room where they met - the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church sanctuary. They have a 15-year old son.
5. She is afraid of tornados— an F5 hit her home county in Western PA when she was 10.

We are so very grateful to Lisa for her continued dedication and service to our church. Please congratulate her when you see her!





HUNGER ACTION—HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS



Seeking Help with Jan Peek and Noontime Meal

We are looking for people to volunteer to cook and serve meals at Jan Peek Shelter on the fourth Saturday of the month during the latter half of 2024.

Sign up for Jan Peek—<https://tinyurl.com/FPCY-janpeek24>



We also have some slots open for Noontime Meal during the summer and fall of this year. This entails purchasing roast chicken, apples, and prepared salads at Shoprite in Cortlandt and delivering it to the Salvation Army on the Tuesday before the second Wednesday of each month. This takes about one hour, and does a whole lot of good for the community. Sign up for Noontime Meal: <https://tinyurl.com/FPCY-noontime24>



Jeff Kephart, Chair, Hunger Action Team



Spring is Coming!

Garden of Hope Work Day

Saturday March 16 from 9:30-2

Garden Leader Janet will be in the garden with snow pea seeds and piles of new compost to get the gardening season off to an early start! Please join if you are able, and get to know the people in our congregation, as well as the broader community, involved in the Garden of Hope!

The Garden of Hope grows hundreds of pounds of fresh produce each season for our Pantry and other pantries supporting the local community. At Willow Park: Curry St. & Tulip St. in Yorktown

Calling all Gardeners!  
Saturday, March 16 9:30am -2pm

## 40 cans

(or pasta, or cereal,  
or shelf-stable milk)

## for Lent

A daily devotion  
of caring  
for our neighbors



### Please join us in “40 Cans(+) for Lent”

We welcome cans of fruit or vegetables, soup or stews, and beans, along with pasta, breakfast cereal, or shelf-stable milk. You can drop off items any time in the labeled bins near the red double doors at the back of the church building, or after church services.

If you would like to make a food donation, Please Note:

- ◆ *Non-Perishable FOOD Only*
- ◆ *NO Food with expired dates on the packages.*
- ◆ *Donate the quality of food you would serve to your own family.*

Online contributions to the Food Pantry are also most welcome. You can find more information, including our distribution schedule on our Food Pantry Page.



Would you like  
to help at the  
food pantry?



We are so very thankful to everyone who has volunteered to help at the pantry! We've migrated to on-line sign ups through Realm Connect, and are delighted that it is enabling us to reach new volunteers.

If you are interested in volunteering, please do so through Realm or by following these links:

March 23—<https://tinyurl.com/Mar23-Pantry>

April 13—<https://tinyurl.com/Apr13-Pantry>

**Next Pantry Dates:**

**March 11 & 25 and April 8 & 22**

**8 to 11am**



## GREEN FAITH – EARTH CARE

### Did you know that we are a PC(USA) Earth Care Congregation?

Our congregation formed a Green Team in 2014, intending to become a Green Faith Congregation in 2015. GreenFaith, founded in 1992, is an interfaith organization working “to avert the climate crisis.” In the early 2000s, GreenFaith had a program to certify congregations. By participating in that program, we also became certified as an Earth Care congregation of PC(USA). GreenFaith no longer certifies congregations, but we have continued to be part of the 331 PC(USA) Earth Care congregations. We must be recertified every year, and we received notice that we have been successfully recertified for 2024, as we have been every year since 2015. We join two other Hudson River Presbytery Congregations, Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church and Larchmont Avenue Church which became Earth Care congregations in 2020 and 2022, respectively.



Want to know more?

Visit <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/earth-care-congregations/> or contact Connie Knapp ([connie@fpcyorktown.org](mailto:connie@fpcyorktown.org)).



### SAVE THE DATE

Battle of Yorktown — *Wage a War on Roadside Litter*

April 20, 2024

In recognition of Earth Day, this annual town event calls on volunteers to help Yorktown stay clean & green by picking up unsightly roadside litter.

We need FPCY volunteers for our team to help for an hour or two on Saturday, April 20, 2024! The town supplies us with orange litter bags, safety vests and litter grabbers; we supply about 2.5 hours to clean up the stretch of road from the church to the Taconic Parkway and part of Route 132. We gather at 7:30am.

Look for a Sign-up in April

March/April 2024

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

# The DISCIPLE

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

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 office@fpcyorktown.org



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

## Current Resident or:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>MARCH/ APRIL</b>		12 10:00am F4L Study  7:30pm Wooster Chorus Concert at Lakeland HS	13 10:30am Prayer Shawl  5:30pm CrossGen 7:30pm F4L Study	14 10:00am F4L Study  7:00pm Adult Bells 8:00pm Choir	15	16  8:00am Men's Breakfast  9:30am Garden of Hope Work Day
		17 8:00am & 10:30 Worship 9:15am F4L/Sunday School 11:30am Coffee Hour 11:45am Deacons/FPCY Drums Budget, Finance, Stewardship 7:00pm F4L— <i>Falling Upward</i>	18 10:00am FPCY Bereavement	19 10:00am F4L Study  7:30pm Mission, Operations	20 12:00pm St. Paddy's Day Lunch Bunch  7:00pm Centering Prayer	21 10:00am F4L Study 7:00pm Adult Bells 7:30pm Faith Formation 8:00pm Choir
24 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 8:00am & 10:30 Worship <i>Pancake Breakfast following</i> 9:15am F4L/Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:45am FPCY Drums 7:00pm F4L— <i>Falling Upward</i>	25 10:00am Knit Togethers	26 10:00am F4L Study  7:30pm Session	27 9:30am Prayer Shawl 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:30pm F4L Study	28 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 10:00am F4L Study  7:30pm Service	29 <i>Good Friday</i>  7:30pm Service	30
31 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 6:30am Sunrise Service 7:00am Breakfast 8:00am Worship 10:30am Worship 11:30am Coffee Hour	APRIL 1 <i>Easter Monday</i>  <i>Office Closed</i>	2 10:00am F4L Study	3 10:30am Women's Circle 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:30pm F4L Study	4 10:00am F4L Study  7:00pm Adult Bells 8:00pm Choir	5	6  8am Women's Breakfast
7 8:00am & 10:30 Worship 9:15am F4L/Sunday School 11:30am Coffee Hour  7:00pm F4L— <i>Falling Upward</i>	8 10:00am FPCY Bereavement & Knit Togethers	9 10:00am F4L Study  7:30pm Worship Design	10 10:00am Prayer Shawl 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:30pm F4L Study	11 10:00am F4L Study  7:00pm Adult Bells 8:00pm Choir	12 2:00pm Food Pantry Set-Up	13  8am Pantry Distribution Men's Breakfast