



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF
YORKTOWN

The DISCIPLE

September 2026

DATES TO NOTE:

Sep 13

Annual Church
Worship & Picnic

Sep 20

8:00 and 10:30am
Worship
*Blessing of the
Backpacks*

Faith

Formation Kickoff
Sunday School &
Adult Ed Classes
at 9:15am

Youth Group
Campfire 5pm

Oct 4

World
Communion
Sunday

Blessing of the
Animals
2pm



Just as happens every year at this time, several of our church families are taking their kids to college, some for the first time. I remember doing the same thing two years ago with our youngest child. For the third, time, we drove onto a new campus through throngs of college students lining the roadside, waving signs, and shouting “Welcome to _____! Welcome to the next four years of your life!”

After checking in and unloading the car, we toured the campus and listened to presentations designed to allay parental anxieties and assure us that our precious hatchling would be in good hands. Maybe because it was the third time for us launching a young adult, I was less anxious and more able to enjoy, reflect, and dream about what might lie ahead for our son. All around campus were banners festooned with the school’s motto, “Know Thyself.”



Temple of Apollo at Delphi, Greece

“Know Thyself” is an ancient Greek proverb that is inscribed on the Temple of Apollo in Delphi. Legend has it that seven sages of ancient Greece – philosophers, statesmen, and law-givers who laid the foundation for Western culture – gathered together in Delphi and encapsulated their wisdom into this one command. It was later popularized by many other thinkers and leaders, especially Socrates and Plato, and has become the foundation of most Western thought and culture.

At its most fundamental, life is a constant process of learning about the world and our place in it and then living accordingly. Far more than just self-indulgent navel-gazing, self-knowledge is the key to all other knowledge and understanding. It informs every choice we make, as well as our thoughts, words, and actions, not only as individuals, but as communities and nations.

(Continued on page 2)

A NOTE FROM THE PASTORS...

As people of faith, we begin our journey of self-discovery in the very beginning of our faith story, in chapter one of the book of Genesis, where we learn that we were created **imago dei**, in the image of God. But what does that really mean? What is God's image and how does it affect how we understand ourselves and our purpose in the world?

This fall, we are inviting everyone on a journey of self-discovery – not only as individuals, but as a church. Through our worship and faith formation, mission and service, how do we continue to grow in our knowledge and understanding of who we have been created and called to be as God's beloved children, disciples of Jesus Christ, and a dwelling place for the Holy Spirit?

Some of the ways you are invited to join us:

- 1) Worship with us as we lift up our prayers and praise to our Source and Strength, and we are nurtured and inspired to reflect God's love and faithfulness in the world around us.
- 2) Participate in the CAT Survey. This Congregational Assessment Tool will give us a more accurate snapshot of who we are as a faith community so that we can live into God's vision for FPCY with intention and courage. (see next page for more details)
- 3) Join a Faith Formation class or discussion group. (see page 8-9) Our Wednesday Bible studies will be delving into the Book of Genesis using Dr. Amy-Jill Levine's new book *Genesis: A Beginner's Guide to the Beginning*. On Sunday evenings, we will be traveling *The Road Back to You: An Enneagram Journey of Self-Discovery* by Ian Morgan Cron and Suzanne Stabile.

Let's ground ourselves in the good news of who God has created and calls us to be, so that we can live faithful lives and share this same good news with our community and world.



Chip



Jami

INSPIRATIONAL STEWARDSHIP

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



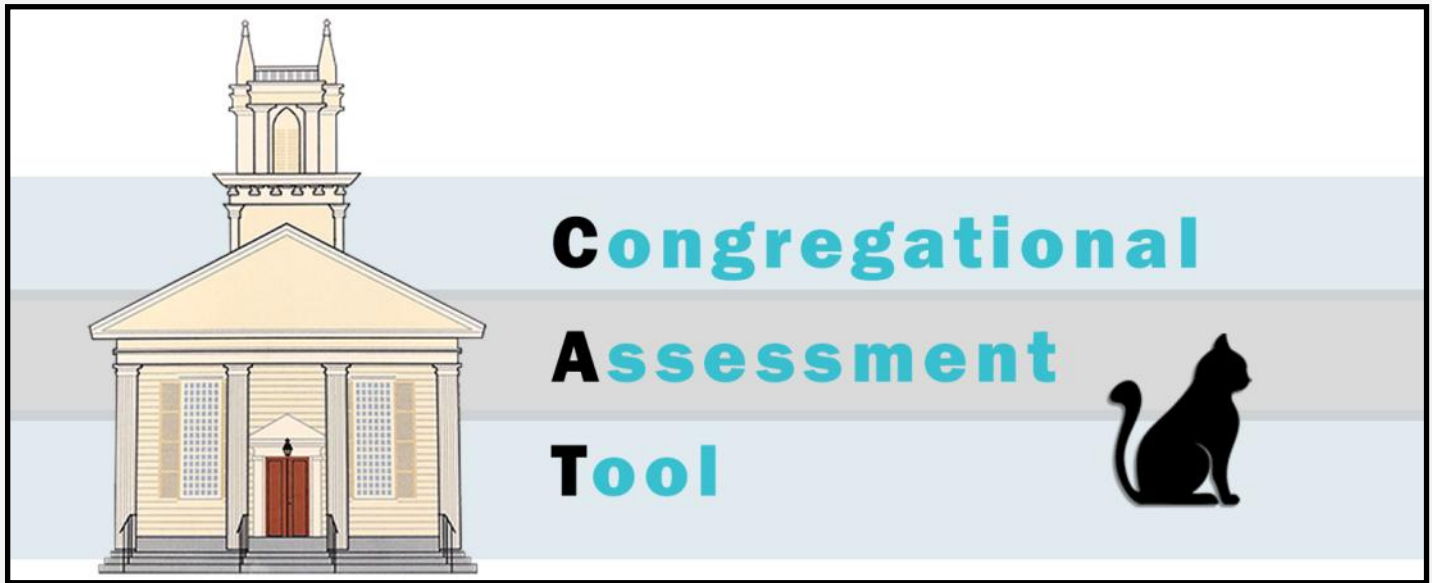
QR CODE



MAIL

send checks to:

FPCY
2880 Crompond Rd
Yorktown Heights NY,
10589



FPCY is getting another CAT-SCAN! Some of you may remember back in the fall of 2020, our congregation participated in a Congregation Assessment Tool (a.k.a. the CAT) to help our church leaders better understand the experiences, perspectives, and priorities of our members. Well, it's time for another check-up.

What is the CAT? The Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT) is a customizable, 86-question online assessment of a congregation that is completed by members of a church community. The CAT takes 25-30 minutes to complete and is completely confidential. It generates a report called Vital Signs©.

What is the purpose of the CAT? Using the Congregation Assessment Tool is like taking your church to a doctor, a travel agent and a tailor. It gives leaders 1) a read-out on the health of the church, 2) a sense of where members think the church should head in the future, and 3) a description of the church as a unique body of people. This is why we call it a CAT-SCAN. The CAT was developed by Holy Cow! Consulting (www.holycowconsulting.com) and is a benchmarked assessment tool that has been used by over 6,000 congregations of all sizes and denominations. Using both qualitative and quantitative metrics, the CAT provides data-based insights into congregational climate and culture, community demographics, and areas of strength and growth. All of this information and interpretation enables church leadership to "make better decisions in less time with more confidence."

Why now? Nearly six years have passed since we last took the CAT and much has changed in our church and in our community since then. The CAT is also an application requirement for the \$150,000 grant we have applied for from the Hudson River Presbytery in support of the Agape Music Center capital campaign. Your voice is an important part of helping us understand where we are today as we approach our 300th anniversary and prepare to enter our 4th century of ministry. The insights gathered through this assessment will provide valuable guidance as we prayerfully discern the future of our church together.

Stay tuned for more information coming later in September!
Your CAT-SCAN Team: Alice Chin, Lynn Edling & Tami Seidel

Love Unbound,
How Sweet the Sound!



A NEW SONG FOR THE NEXT CENTURY

Learn More:



<https://fpcyorktown.org/love-unbound-capital-campaign/>

Pledge:



<https://onrealm.org/myFPCY/AddPledge/loveunbound26-28>

Give:



<https://onrealm.org/myFPCY/give/2026CC>



Rehearsals Begin Sep 10

“Let us practice the fine art of making every work a priestly ministration. Let us believe that God is in all our simple deeds and learn to find Him there.”

A. W. Tozer,
The Pursuit of God

Every so often, life gives us an opportunity to look around and realize just how much has changed. Sometimes those changes are obvious: new places, new responsibilities, new seasons of life. Other times, they happen so gradually that we don't notice them until we pause and look back.

A few years ago, during one such transition, I found myself going through boxes of books that had followed me from place to place. Among them were two books that had been given to me by former churches: A. W. Tozer's *The Pursuit of God* and Calvin M. Johansson's *Discipling Music Ministry: Twenty-first Century Directions*. Both had been sitting on my shelves for years, still bookmarked, waiting patiently for me to return to them.

I've thought often about Johansson's book since then. He addresses many of the questions at the heart of music and worship and, more importantly, asks us to examine some of the assumptions we make about why we make music in the first place. His central premise is simple but profound: one of the primary functions of music in worship should be to form us into ever more mature and faithful disciples.

I find that idea compelling because music has the capacity to do so much more than teach us how to sing, play, or perform. Music can shape our attention. It can *teach* us to listen. It can make us vulnerable. It can connect us to people we might otherwise never know. It can give us language for things we cannot say ourselves. And, perhaps most importantly, it can open us to an encounter with something larger than ourselves.

And yet, I continue to encounter an unfortunate amount of gatekeeping in the musical world. We can become so concerned with who is good enough to participate that we forget why we invited people to make music in the first place. What would it look like if our discipling of others were less about technique and more about invitation? What if it were less about mastering music and more about allowing ourselves to be mastered by it? What if our goal were not simply to produce better musicians, but to cultivate people who are more attentive, compassionate, curious, courageous, connected, and alive? Perhaps music ministry is at its best when it captivates us with the beauty of God's love and gives us a place to practice receiving it.

And no, I'm not saying excellence doesn't matter. It does. Learning to sing well, play well, listen carefully, rehearse faithfully, and work together is part of the discipline of making music. **But excellence and welcome do not have to be opposites.** In fact, I believe that some of our greatest musical experiences happen when people are invited into the process before they are certain they belong there. Music can teach us how to fail without giving up. It can teach us to listen to someone else's part instead of insisting on our own. It can teach us that our individual contribution matters, while also reminding us that the whole is greater than any one person. It can stretch us beyond what we thought we were capable of and introduce us to possibilities we never knew existed.

This is why I believe so strongly in music as ministry. I don't want a music ministry that simply produces music for the church. I want a music ministry that helps form the church—a place where people of different ages, experiences, abilities, and backgrounds can discover that they have something to contribute. A place where a seasoned musician can continue to grow alongside someone picking up an instrument or joining a choir for the very first time. A place where we can work hard toward excellence without confusing excellence with perfection.

(Continued on page 5)

COMPELLING WORSHIP

Ultimately, I think this is what Tozer's invitation means: to recognize that God is present in the ordinary things we do. Rehearsing. Listening. Singing. Teaching. Learning. Making mistakes. Trying again. Making something beautiful together. These are not merely activities surrounding ministry. They can be ministry themselves.

So let us make music, not because we have already mastered it, but because we are willing to be changed by it. Let us sing because we have something to say, and because sometimes singing gives us words we didn't know we had. Let us make room for those who are curious, those who are experienced, those who are nervous, those who are returning, and those who have never thought of themselves as musicians at all.



Rehearsals for Bells and Choir start Thursday September 10th
Hear the call, feel the nudge, make some music.



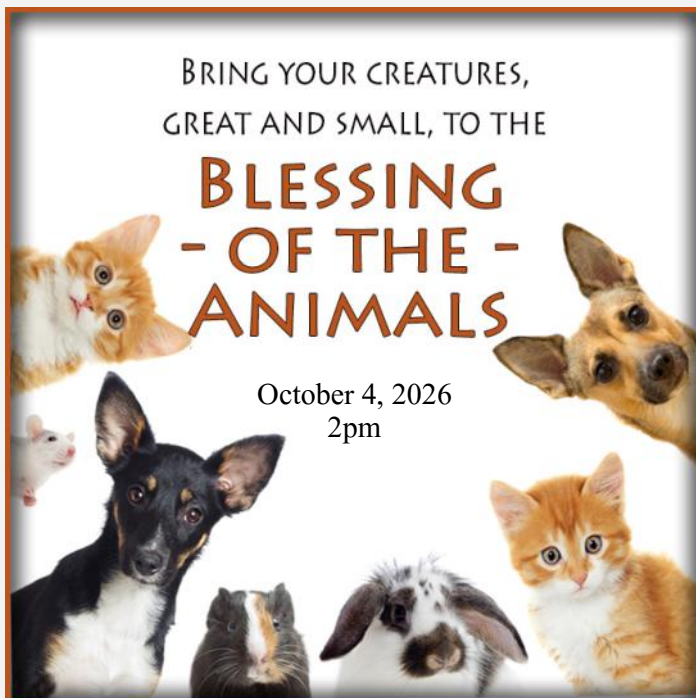
Garrett Artman, Director of Music Ministry



Please consider joining our Usher Ministry!

Be among the first smiling faces that our attendees see when they arrive for worship service. Meet new friends. Most usher teams serve just once a month. New ushers are needed at both worship services. Instruction is available.

Please contact [Karen Gerth](#) or [Carol Cornish](#) for more information.



This Special Offering will be received Sep 6-Oct 4

LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION—FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Calling All Children and Youth!

Sunday morning groups are available for children and youth from preschool age through the 12th grade! We meet on Sunday mornings during the school year from 9:15 to 10:15. Our Sunday School kick off day is Sunday September 20th. We are very excited to be getting started! Hope you will be joining the fun! The time is now, to register for fun, fellowship and faith formation.

Sunday Morning Faith Formation for grades PreK-12

There's something for everyone!

So that we can make sure to have the resources on hand to start the year well,

Register Today—<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/V0ESLZ7RCc>



Sparkle
(Age 3-K)



Shine
(grades 1-3)



Connect
(grades 4-5)



FaithX
(grades 6-8)



Fathom
(grades 9-12)



Sunday, September 20
(8:00 & 10:30am)

Put these upcoming dates on your family's calendar!

September 20 — Blessing of the Backpacks & Faith Formation Kick-Off

We return to our two service schedule with worship at 8 am (in-person) and 10:30 (in-person and online) with Sunday School and Faith Formation for all ages at 9:15 am. Students of all ages are invited to bring their schoolbags to either service as we bless our students and their new year of learning and growing.

September 20—Youth Group Kickoff Campfire (details next page)

October 4 — Blessing of the Animals, 2pm

LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION—YOUTH GROUP



Gearing UP for Fall

Youth Group starts up again on September 20th with our Annual Kickoff Campfire!

Hope everyone had a wonderful summer and is ready to get back into the swing of things! We will be kicking off the new school year with a campfire, food, games and fellowship! Let's have some Hot Dogs, roasted Marshmallows, S'mores, and other campfire foods/snacks. Let's talk about our Summer and the coming school year! Can't wait to see everyone's smiling faces again. Meet out back of the church by the labyrinth. Oh and bring chairs if you have them. We have lots of ideas for this coming Youth Group year that we can't wait to share. Our plans for the year will include, Apple Picking, Movie nights, Bowling, Christmas Caroling, Game nights, Lock-in, and more!

Over the Summer the Youth helped out at the Garden of Hope (see pictures below), and had an amazing trip Wondering and Wandering in Montreat!! (see next page for our recap)



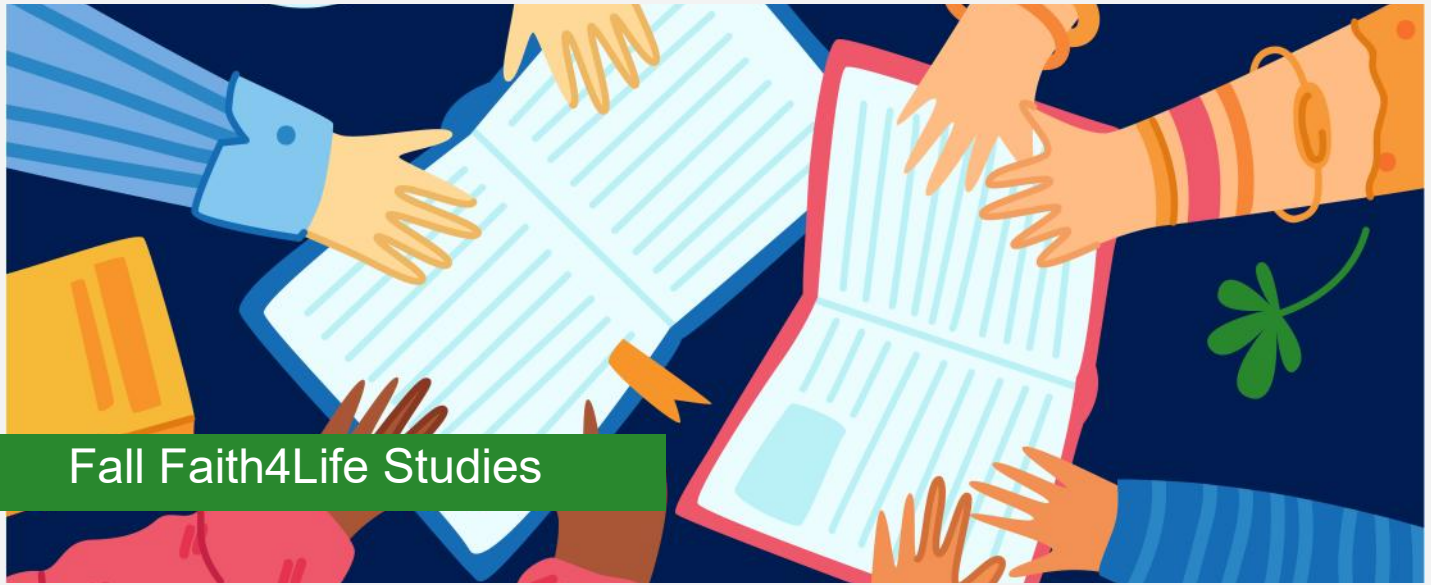
Upcoming youth group dates as well as other events involving the youth.

All dates are subject to change.

Aug 30	6pm	End of Summer pool party
Sept 20	5-7pm	Annual Kickoff Campfire
Oct 4	1:30pm	Help with Blessing of the Animals (event starts at 2pm)
Oct 18	2-5pm	Apple Picking & Corn Maze at Wilken's Fruit Farm
Oct 25	5:30pm	Tater Tot Cinema
Nov 1	5-7pm	TBD
Nov 15	5-7pm	TBD- Being Thankful
Nov 29	5:30-7:30pm	Advent CrossGen/Greening of the Church
Dec 6	5:30pm	Tater Tot Cinema
Dec 12	Time Slots TBD	Craft Fair- volunteers needed to sell soup and other snacks. <i>Part of Fundraising for our next youth trip.</i>
Dec 13 or 20		Christmas Caroling

If you have any questions, ideas, or random thoughts please don't hesitate to contact Kaycee (Kaycee@fpcyorktown.org) or Tami (tami@fpcyorktown.org)





Fall Faith4Life Studies

Opportunities to Learn and Grow in Faith at FPCY— We look forward to seeing you!

The **Women's Circle** Bible study will begin on Wednesday, September 9 at 10:30am. We will be following the Presbyterian Women's curriculum for 2026-2027, *United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other: Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians*. After September, we'll meet the first Wednesday of every month. Connie will lead in September, with Tami leading after September. All are welcome, and you don't have to attend every session—come as you can! And bring a friend. Books will be available for a suggested donation of \$15.

Genesis: A Beginner's Guide to the Beginning

Sunday Mornings @ 9:15 am (starting 9/20) in the library or on Zoom
or Wednesday @ 2:00 pm or 7:30 (starting 9/30) in the Board Room or on Zoom

Join us as we read together and watch Amy-Jill (A-J) talk about each chapter. We'll look at the stories of Cain and Abel, Noah, the binding of Isaac (the Akedah), Jacob's dream and Joseph and Potiphar. If you've joined us for other Amy-Jill Levine's sessions, or A-J as she prefers to be called, you know that she's funny, accessible and brilliant. If you've never had the opportunity, you are in for a treat. Some of us think of A-J as the orthodox Jewish professor of the New Testament, which she is. We're looking forward to her discussion of the first book of the Hebrew Bible. All are welcome. You don't have to attend every session. Come, bring your Bible, bring a friend. Books will be available for a \$20 Donation. You can watch a preview of A-J talking about the book here: <https://tinyurl.com/AJgen26>

The Powers That Be: Theology for a New Millennium.

Tuesday Mornings @ 10:00 am (starting September 29) in the library or on Zoom

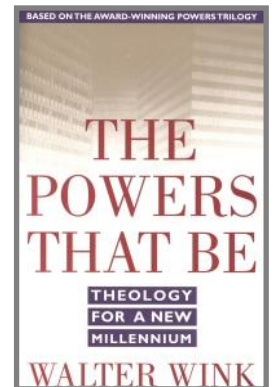
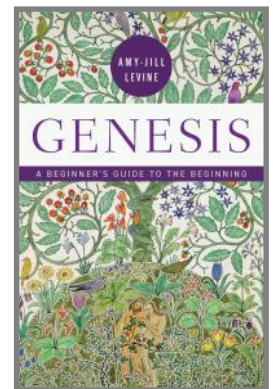
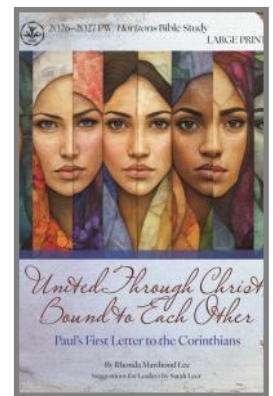
Join Tami in a discussion of Walter Wink's book, *The Powers That Be: Theology for a New Millennium*. The book's description includes this:

Based on his reading of the Bible and analysis of the world around him, Wink creates a whole new language for talking about and to God. Equipped with this fresh world view, we can embark on a new relationship with God and our world.

This was also the book discussion led this summer by Tami; come for the first time, or come join us again. These books are available in the office now for a suggested donation of \$10.

The **Men's Breakfast**, hosted by Chip, will begin again on Sep 19 and meets on the third Saturday of each month.

Connie Knapp for the Faith4Life Planning Team



LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION—YOUTH GROUP

Special Faith4Life Opportunity Coming this Fall!

How well do you really know yourself? What might God be inviting you to see about yourself that has been hidden in plain sight? This fall, we'll journey together with the book *The Road Back to You: An Enneagram Journey to Self-Discovery* by Ian Morgan Cron and Suzanne Stabile.

What is the Enneagram? The Enneagram is a powerful tool and illuminating framework for understanding the nine basic types of thinking, feeling, and acting that shape how we experience ourselves, our relationships, and the world. The Enneagram helps us identify the motivations, core beliefs, fears and unconscious patterns that drive our behavior and shape how we relate to God and one another. More than just a personality system, it offers a path toward rediscovering our truest selves, what Father Richard Rohr calls “the immortal diamond,” as well as letting go of the unhealthy ways we strive to earn love and growing more fully into the people God created us to be, both as individuals and communities.

The Enneagram is not about labeling ourselves or others. Rather, it is about discovering the unique ways we reflect God's image, and the patterns that sometimes get in the way of living freely and faithfully.

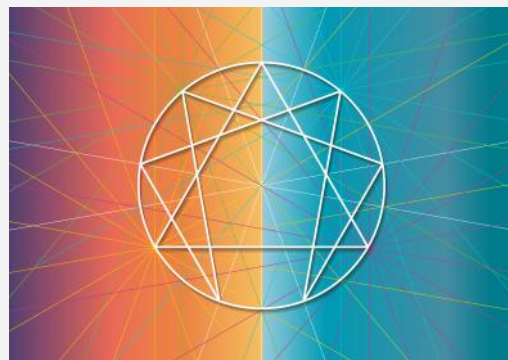
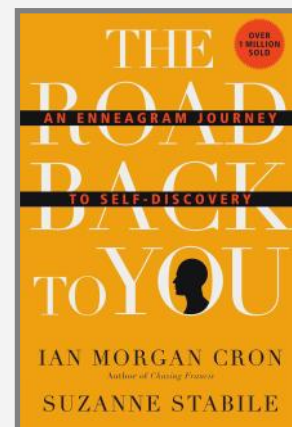
Join Tami and Chip (a certified Enneagram coach) on a journey of discovery and spiritual growth. Sunday evenings at 7:00 pm (starting September 20 for informational meeting) If you would prefer a daytime class, please let us know your availability, and we'll see what we can do.

Books are available in the office (for a suggested donation):

The Road Back to You: An Enneagram Journey of Self-Discovery (\$10)

The Road Back to You Study Guide (\$7), Both books together (\$15)

Questions? Contact Tami (tami@fpcyorktown.org) or Chip (chip@fpcyorktown.org).



LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION—CROSSGEN



On July 29th over 50 people joined in a multigenerational event hosted by the Cross Gen leadership team. This was an extraordinary evening: school-age children, teenagers, and adults up to the age of 92 shared a meal and fellowship while learning, playing, singing (and playing Boomwhackers!), and worshiping God together. Our theme for this event was Walking humbly with God. Did you know that humility is all about getting in touch with our earthly selves?



We heard the roots of humility in Genesis 2, where God speaks to us about earth which is really “humus”; the root word for humility. Earthlings are created from “humus”/earth, and so are related to everything else in creation. This image helped us reflect on being humble and walking humbly with our Lord.

For a special treat, we all played with dirt, and then we made “dirt” pudding!

**The next Cross Gen evening will be October 21, 2026.
Save the date!**



LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION—MONTREAT TRIP RECAP



August 1—Travel Day 3 Adults, and 9 youth From FPC Yorktown joined with 1 adult and 1 youth from FPC Montgomery to travel down to Montreat NC for the most amazing Youth Conference. We all climbed into 2 mini vans at 6am in Yorktown and arrived in Montreat at 8:30pm. (Minus Alice since she flew down a week earlier).

August 2—Mission Work—After a good nights sleep we joined with Asheville Youth Mission Group and had a day of mission work. Since Hurricane Helene did a considerable amount of damage around Montreat back in Oct 2024 there were many projects needing to be done. We were assigned to working on a new walking trail around the William Black Lodge. This trail helps connect upper portions of the Montreat Campus to Assembly Inn which is a focal point of Montreat. We actually worked so fast that they ended up needing to find other work for us. A group got to go on the roof of the lodge and pushed off rainwater that had been collecting. They did an overall cleaning of the roof as well. Then we all got to sit down and do an art project. We made small works of art that will be given to low income families as they move into their new luxury homes thru an affordable housing group. After a successful day, we all needed showers and naps before dinner!! That evening the Montreat Youth Conference officially started with its evening welcoming service.



August 3-7—The Youth Conference—Our typical day started out with Breakfast at 7:30, Morning service with Keynote speaker at 9am till about 10:15. Then we were off to our Small Groups where we met from 10:30-noon daily. Lunch was from noon-2pm but those involved in the choir had choir practice from 1pm-1:45pm. After lunch we had our afternoon session with our small group from 2-3:30pm which would then lead straight into our afternoon rec 3:30-5pm. The afternoon rec was different each day but was usually something fun like a scavenger hunt, Olympics, self guided tours, and even a carnival with fairy hair, cotton candy and mask making. Dinner break was at 5:30 which gave us plenty of time for food, nap or shower before our evening worship which began at 7:30. If you think that's a full day already well there was still more!! After worship we would head right into our evening rec at 9pm which again was usually something super fun. We had a foam party, DJ dance Party, as well as a choose your adventure night with mazes, tie dye, and inflatable obstacle course. Then everyone's favorite night the variety show! We had our very own Amy Cross perform with her amazing guitar in the variety show. Phew what a lot!!! Every night we ended it in our Back home group meeting space at 10pm. Here we reflected on the day, talked about our highs and lows as well as discussed what we learned in Keynote, small group, and worship that day.



LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION—MONTREAT TRIP RECAP

August 8—Travel Day—We packed the vans at 7, had breakfast at 7:30 and were on the road by 8:15am. We were determined to get home much quicker so we had only a few stops on the way home. Our most memorable stop was Bu-cee's!! You would think that it was the Buc-ee's itself that was memorable, and it was! However the most memorable part was during our walk back to the vans, which didn't seem to be that far away...until the sky opened up and dropped buckets of water on us. That was the longest run of our lives, dropping down between cars trying to get what little relief we could from the rain coming sideways at us. Several of us fell flat out on the ground before making it to the vans. Once in the van we sat there soaking and dripping in disbelief of what just happened. We went thru many emotions in the 5 minutes sitting there. Laughter and disbelief were the bulk of it and then hunger because those in my van realized that Tami had all our food and she was in the other van. Eventually the rain slowed down enough for Tami to come out with her umbrella to give us our food. Once the rain was at a level that our wipers could keep up with, we were back on our way. Thankfully no more incidents on our way home. We pulled into FPC Yorktown at 9:45pm phew what a drive!!! (Alice has her own exciting adventure to tell about her flight home)

We had an amazing week and you will all probably hear lots of stories about mice and bears among other things when asking the youth how their week went. Thank you to all who donated to help make this trip possible. We all can't wait to share what we learned with you in church!

Kaycee



LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION—FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Have you seen our new mural—*Growing in Faith Together*?
Lily Wallace has been hard at work this summer sharing her artistic talents with us
by painting this beautiful mural in our Sunday School wing.
Be sure to check it out for yourself and see how many woodland creatures you can find!



CONGREGATIONAL CARE



Transportation Ministry: Serving with Compassion

Our Church, through the faithful work of the Board of Deacons, offers a referral-based transportation ministry to support members of our congregation in times of need.

Transportation requests may come from:

- Individuals in need
- Referrals from our pastors
- Ministries under the Board of Deacons

Coordinating Rides — Once a request is received, the Deacon overseeing transportation will:

- Identify a willing volunteer to provide the ride
- Coordinate transportation to medical appointments, worship services, and church events

To ensure the safety and comfort of all involved:

- Each request is thoughtfully screened
- Any physical disabilities or special needs are noted
- Relevant information is shared with the assigned volunteer to ensure proper care and preparedness

We are deeply grateful to our dedicated volunteers who make this ministry possible. If you feel called to serve in this way, we warmly welcome your participation. Your willingness to drive someone to a moment of healing or worship is a true act of grace.

John M Winget, Co-Moderator of the Board of Deacons. *Coordinator of the Transportation Ministry*
jwingetpt@yahoo.com (914) 329-9978 Text/Phone



CONGREGATIONAL CARE



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

Our **Prayer Shawl Ministry** was started in 2006 by Marianna Sherman. Our **Knit Togethers** was led by Norean Radke for many years. This fall we will be combining our efforts to continue the good work these women started! Presently, there are a few remaining members in each group along with a few offsite contributors. Our group gives handmade items to several groups in our church as well as friends of our church members. They are given to those who are ill or going through a rough time. Baptism blankets are presented to a child when they are baptized. New communicants receive a red scarf when they become church members. Support is also given to Project Linus with blankets picked up and distributed by their representative to children 0-18 who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need. In December, hats and scarfs are distributed to our Pantry clients. Look for upcoming dates and consider joining us this fall. We supply the yarn (and also take donations). We need more knitters/crocheters to join our group in person or to be an offsite contributor so we are able to continue to do all the wonderful things we do. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Nelson at suejnelson56@gmail.com.

Sweet Dreams.

Sweet Dreams is a ministry of our church that makes baby quilts for infant baptisms. Sweet Dreams quilters meet on the third Sunday of the month at noon. Our next meetings will be on September 20 and October 18. If you have questions or want to join us in that effort, please contact Margaret Harrison (mharrison3505@gmail.com).



MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY

Normalizing Care...

At last year's Longest Night service, two of us were stationed in the back of the sanctuary for anyone who needed prayer. And what that experience clarified for me is that if you offer to pray, people will come! As the Mental Health & Wellness team strives to focus on areas of ministry where people need support, care, companionship, or just space for their emotions, we don't want to forget the basics of church ministry: being active listeners and willing pray-ers. FPCY offers many opportunities to request prayer – Sunday morning prayers of the people, emailing the prayer chain, and prayer ribbons regularly added out by the labyrinth. Still, sometimes we just need 1:1 prayer, and members of our Mental Health Ministry are available when the need is more personal than what you'd lift during church on Sunday. You will begin to hear an invitation in the bulletin and during announcements about a prayer service scheduled for Sunday, September 27th after church where you can come receive more individualized prayer, and once a month thereafter. *Because we want to normalize ministry, normalize caring for one another, and normalize prayer.* Jesus prayed, and we want to live out his example in our church and community.

Tamsin Levine, *Mental Health Ministry*





Fellowship Events

Come to Our Annual Church Picnic—Sign Up Help

Join us **Sunday September 6th** after the 10:30 AM service. Weather permitting we will eat under the tent (rain location = Fellowship Hall). Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. We will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, and drinks.

Can you help with setting up, grilling, or cleaning up? Please let us know by clicking scanning the code, visiting this link <https://tinyurl.com/FPCY-picnic2026> or by signing up in Fellowship Hall.

Email karensgerth@gmail.com with questions




CHURCH Picnic

Bring a delicious side dish or dessert and join us at the FPCY Church Picnic Sunday, September 13 on the church grounds Following the single service @ 10:30 am **ALL ARE WELCOME**



Women's Birthday Breakfast Club

Sep 5

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 9:00am for a pot luck breakfast where we will celebrate the women celebrating birthdays in that month.



Men's Monthly Breakfast

September 19 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 church kitchen and enjoy a time of fellowship with one another.



You are cordially invited to attend FPCY New Member Classes!

Sundays October 18, 25, November 1, 8 and 15 @ 9:15 AM

in the conference room next to the office

Everyone is invited and welcome to attend...

Whether you are already a member or a prospective member, we invite you to come; learn about the government and history of our church; discuss our beliefs, our values; share stories of our backgrounds, and best of all, create friendships with others who attend our church and are considering joining in our mission. As an "older" member attending the classes, I am challenged every year to revisit myself through new relationships. The classes revitalize my connection to the church. And I always learn something new, not only about the church, but about myself. Why do I come to church? What keeps me coming? What do I get out of church? What do I put in? The classes are exploratory experiences. They are a fun, informative, fellowship opportunity! So, please consider joining us! Any Questions, please ask Chip, Tami, Jane, Gloria or call Lisa in the church office @ 914-245-2186.



Lunch Bunch Needs a Coordinator!

The group meets the third Wednesday of each month. We need people to: set up the tables, clean up after the meal and we need **SOMEONE** to make sure that we have people to set up and clean up. We would like to start Lunch Bunch up again on Wednesday, November 18th. Are you interested in being part of a team to keep the Lunch Bunch going? Contact Connie (Connie@fpcyorktown.org) if you can be our coordinator or a regular helper!

Save the dates: November 18, December 16



Coffee Hour Hosts and Clean Up Crews are needed after each Worship Service. Sign up to host a coffee hour in the Gathering Space or go online to the Realm Sign Up page (www.MyFPCY.org).

Set Up Volunteers: Prepare the coffee pots and buffet table, usually on Saturday;
Host Volunteers: Provide treats for the buffet table, milk for the coffee and offer hospitality in Fellowship Hall.

Clean Up Volunteers: Wash the dishes and coffee pots and tidy Fellowship Hall.

Contact karensgerth@gmail.com with any questions.

Instruction sheets are posted in the Gathering Space.

TRANSFORMATIONAL MISSION



Mission Opportunities

From the Mission Commission

Are you looking for opportunities to help our neighbors? Rooted in a commitment to active partnership and advocacy, the FPCY Mission Commission provides several ways to address hunger in our community and beyond, and to broaden our understanding of our neighbors who suffer from food insecurity. Through the FPCY Pantry, the monthly Jan Peek Meal, Noontime Meal, Garden of Hope, Advocacy Letter writing and Mission Trips, you can select an option that works with your schedule. Some of these are outlined below, but you can always check out the Mission Commission's new bulletin board on the corner of the hall that separates Fellowship Hall from the Gathering Space. If you are interested in guiding our Mission activities, please talk to our co-chairs Lynn Edling (ledlingloved@gmail.com) or Jeff Kephart (jeffkephart@gmail.com) to learn more about what we do. Whether or not you join us formally, you are welcome to attend our monthly meetings, which take place at 7:30pm on the third Tuesday of each month in the church library.

Please join us in making a difference!

Jeff Kephart and Lynn Edling, Co-chairs, FPCY Mission Commission

The **Noontime Meal** program is run by the Salvation Army in Peekskill to provide a warm meal every workday afternoon for people in need (~120 people). FPCY is responsible for the second Wednesday of each month. Each month one person orders food from the ShopRite in Cortlandt, picks it up, and delivers it to Salvation Army headquarters in Peekskill. The whole process takes ~1 hour but makes a big impact! Scan the code or contact Jeff Kephart at jeffkephart@gmail.com.



Jan Peek House is a shelter in Peekskill, NY, that provides food, shelter, and support for a few dozen men and women experiencing homelessness. Every 4th Saturday of the month, 3 or more families prepare dinner for 35-40 residents. If you are interested and available, please either sign up on Signup Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050e45aea62fa1fb6-janpeek1#/> or contact Jeff Kephart at jeffkephart@gmail.com.



Garden of Hope

Harvest season is here again! It has been a great year! Green beans, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, squash, parsley, basil, radish, chard have all been distributed to the local food pantries, including St. Mary's in Mohegan Lake, Fred's in Peekskill and our own FPCY pantry. We can always use volunteers. The main need is with harvesting on Thursday after 3pm or working on other projects on Saturday 10-2, when Janet, the master-gardener can direct. The Garden of Hope is located at Willow Park off of Curry St in Yorktown. Especially on the 2nd and 4th weeks when the harvest is going to our pantry it is nice to have an FPCY presence. We can also use help with packaging and preparing the harvest for the food pantry distribution on Friday. Any volunteer is welcome to contact Dawna Dennis on Realm or via text (206-947-7173) if you need direction or want to arrange a time to work.





Downsizing? Need places to donate? Your Green Team can help you find them!

Retake/Remake—Arts & Craft Materials & More

We hope you've noticed the Retake/Remake donation box in the Gathering Space. Retake/Remake is a non-profit organization based at the Hat Factory in Peekskill at 1000 N. Division Street. Their mission is to "promote creative reuse, environmental awareness and community by providing affordable, reclaimed art materials." You can learn more about them here: <https://www.retake-remake.org/> Thanks to Lynda Spring's efforts, we have donated over 40 pounds of art supplies. You can visit them Thursday through Sunday from 10 AM to 3 PM and donate your own materials if they fit in two shopping bags or less.

Yorktown Love in Action—Household Goods & More

Do you have clothes, tablecloths, suitcases, towels/blankets/sheets, or stuffed animals that you are looking to donate? Or maybe books, dishes, DVDs, or eyeglasses? Yorktown Love in Action will accept them, store them in its 10,000-square-foot warehouse, and put them to good use for families in need. You can learn more here: <https://www.yorktownloveinaction.com/>

Furniture Sharehouse—Gently Used Furniture

Maybe you have furniture- yes, furniture! Furniture Sharehouse will collect your gently used furniture for a small fee and distribute it for FREE to families who are economically disadvantaged in Westchester County. Learn more here: <https://furnituresharehouse.org/>

Household Waste & Electronics Recycling

Residents of Westchester County can recycle electronic waste, paint, pesticides, and fire extinguishers at the county's Household Material Recovery Facility in Valhalla. The facility is open from 10 AM to 3 PM Tuesday through Saturday. On the first Tuesday of the month, you can also leave your expired or unused medicines. You need to make an appointment, which you can do here: <https://hmr-reservations.westchestergov.com/hmrf-reservations/public/reservation>. You can learn more about the facility here: <https://environment.westchestercountyny.gov/facilities/h-mrf>

Green Drop—Clothing & Household Items

Green Drop will pick up your unwanted items and distribute them to nonprofits. If you prefer, you can drop them off at the Green Drop location at 660 North Broadway in White Plains. Donations there benefit the American Red Cross. They accept donations every day between 10 AM and 5 PM. You can arrange for a pickup, learn what they accept, and learn who they help here: www.gogreendrop.com/

Other—clothes, automobiles & more

Have other things to donate? Here's a link to Westchester County's recycling page: <https://environment.westchestercountyny.gov/donations> You'll find places to donate clothes, automobiles, and other items.

Remember, "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!"



Pantry News

Would you like
to help at the
food pantry?



**Next Pantry
Dates:**

**Sep 12, 26
Oct 10 & 24**

8 to 11am

FPCY PANTRY

**They can only take out
what we bring in.**

We thank you for bringing in

Healthy Breakfast Cereal



We are very grateful to everyone who donated supplies and financial support for our school supply distribution. Thank you to everyone who helped pack and distribute supplies and to everyone who volunteered to help with the pantry during the months of July and August as vacations made scheduling difficult. We can't do it without you. If you are interested in helping this Fall, please do so through Realm or by following these links:

Sep 12: <https://tinyurl.com/Sep12-Pantry>

Sep 26: <https://tinyurl.com/Sep26-Pantry>

Delivery Person Needed for Beaveridge Clients

Each time our pantry is open, we make a special delivery to senior citizens at Beaveridge. We are looking for a substitute delivery person to fill in, if necessary, on occasional Saturdays. We pick up groceries at the church between 9 am - 9:20 am and then go directly to Beaveridge on Allen Street to drop off the groceries. Many of the seniors who receive groceries have disabilities or are over 75 -95 years old and do not drive. At Beaveridge, some residents help collect grocery bags from the Cars/ SUV and bring them to the Beaveridge community room. Normally everything is done between 9-9:30am. The Seniors appreciate this service. Currently we deliver 22 bags. Can you help out? Please call or text Louise (914) 582-6504



INSPIRATIONAL STEWARDSHIP



Operations

Summer Project Recap

The Operations Commission has had a busy summer keeping up with the demands of our campus with the work falling into two broad categories, tasks which we tackled and accomplished ourselves and tasks completed by external contractors.

- ⇒ Removal of dead trees in Agape garden
- ⇒ Addition of 3 large planters in Agape garden
- ⇒ Weeded, watered, & otherwise tended to the many garden areas around our campus
- ⇒ Crack filling and re-striping of our asphalt parking lot & driveway
- ⇒ Repaired sidewalk cracks near the office entrance.



Many thanks to our dedicated team of Dick, Jerry, and Bud who did much of the inhouse work this summer. And to those who helped water and weed (Lynda Spring, Gloria Coccodrilli and Karen Gerth...)

Soon we will be scheduling a tent takedown afternoon and a fall cleanup morning both of which will call for any willing volunteers. Please consider joining us for these as well as our regularly scheduled and unscheduled activities.



COMMUNICATIONS

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 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!



September 2026

www.FPCYorktown.org

914-245-2186

office@fpcyorktown.org

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9-4

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

The DISCIPLE



@fpcyorktown



@fpcyorktown



@fpcyorktown



@fpcyorktown.bsky.social



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

Current Resident or:

September		1 3pm Worship Planning 7:30pm Session	2 7pm Centering Prayer	3	4	5 9am Women's Birthday Breakfast Club
6 10:00am Summer Worship 11:15am Coffee Hour	7 <i>Labor Day Office Closed</i>	8	9 10:30am Women's Circle Bible Study 7pm Centering Prayer	10 6:45pm Adult Bells 8:00pm Choir	11 2:00pm Pantry+ Set-Up	12 8am Pantry Distribution
13 9am SS Teacher Orientation 10:30am Worship 12pm Annual Picnic	14	15 7:30pm Mission, Operations	16 7pm Centering Prayer	17 6:45pm Adult Bells 8:00pm Choir	18	19 8am Men's Breakfast
20 <i>Blessing of the Backpacks</i> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Faith Formation Hour 10:30am Worship 12:00pm BFS Mtg, Deacons, FPCY Music, SD Quilting 5:00pm Youth Group Campfire Kickoff 7:00pm F4L—Road Back to You	21	22	23 7pm Centering Prayer	24 6:45pm Adult Bells 8:00pm Choir	25 2:00pm Pantry+ Set-Up	26 8am Pantry Distribution 6pm Jan Peek Meal FPCY Campfire Sing- Along with Maia Dobbs
27 8:00am Worship 9:15am Faith Formation Hour 10:30am Worship 12:00pm FPCY Music Congregational Connections 7:00pm F4L—Road Back to You	28	29 10:00am F4L Study 3pm Worship & Music 7:30pm Faith Formation & Communications	30 2pm F4L-Genesis 7pm Centering Prayer 7:30pm F4L-Genesis	October 1 6:45pm Adult Bells 8:00pm Choir	2	3 9am Women's Birthday Breakfast Club