



# SOUNDINGS

JUNE 2023

## Summer Sunday Services

### June 4

Trinity Sunday

The Rev. Dr. Alexandra Hendrickson,  
guest preacher

Communion Sunday

Pasta Sunday

Deacons meet after worship

### June 11

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. John Heinsohn, guest preacher

Brunch Bunch after worship

### June 18

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. John Heinsohn, guest preacher

Installation of new Elders and Deacons

Father's Day

### June 25

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Sue Bennetch, guest preacher

### July 2

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Sue Bennetch, guest preacher

Communion Sunday

Pasta Sunday



## A few Memorable days in June:

### Flag Day, June 14

We commemorate the adoption of the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of the United States.

**Father's Day** is celebrated on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, June 18.

The first celebration honoring fathers was on June 19, 1910.

**Juneteenth** is celebrated on Monday, June 19.

This is a Federal Holiday in the United States commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans.

June is **PRIDE Month**, commemorating the Stonewall uprising, which began on June 28, 1969.

PRIDE stands for:

**P**rofessionalism, **R**espect, **I**ntegrity, **D**iversity and **E**xcellence and was originally adopted by USCF Medical Center 16 years ago.



## A MESSAGE FROM SESSION

To increase communication with church members, *Soundings* will feature highlights from Session meetings each month. Here are items from the April and May Session meetings.

In April, Session bid goodbye to Pastor Stefanie Muntzel at this, her last Session meeting. She noted, "I am truly blessed to have worked with each of you."

In the interim of finding a new pastor, Rev. Matt Martis LaCroix of College Hill Presbyterian Church has agreed to cover pastoral care emergencies.

Due to the loss of our full-time pastor, the Session approved changes to the employment of Office Administrator Jonathan Acheson. Mr. Acheson's duties are expanded, his hours are increased from 20 hours/week to 28 hours/week, and his rate of pay increased to \$18/hour. Money for these changes is available by rearranging a few budget line items.

Rev. Rhonda Kruse, Transitional Leader of Lehigh and Lackawanna Presbyteries, shared information to help in our search for a temporary pastor. It was agreed that the church will look to fill a half-time (20 hours a week) position. Session agreed to schedule interviews with two candidates who are looking for such a position.

Rev. Kruse announced that the Presbytery proposes issuing a grant of \$25,000 to the church to offset the cost of hiring a half-time pastor, in lieu of renting rooms in the church since rentals are not a sure thing, there are limits in our ability to "encumber" the building, and there would be associated costs of such items as leasehold improvements, security upgrades, janitorial services, and legal fees.

Member Pat Koefoed, our Commissioner to Lehigh Presbytery, presented ideas for expanding our reach in the community by considering a free once a month "lunch or dinner church" open to all. Ms. Koefoed also encouraged members to join her in reading Forty Days of Prayer as we discern the future of our congregation.

Sunday, June 18 is the date for ordination and installation of the new class of Elders and Deacons.

Session discussed two candidates for part-time temporary pastor who were recently interviewed. The Session agreed to follow up one candidate by contacting references and meeting the candidate to discuss terms.

The Session

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC

### **2023 SPRING CONCERT**

#### **The Easton Municipal Band**

On Saturday, May 13 the music resounded through the sanctuary to everyone's delight! More than 75 people enjoyed a respite from shopping or yardwork for an hour of great music. Starting with Francis Scot Key, Star Spangled Banner, marches, spiritual, of course John Philip Sousa and ending with Armed Forces – The Pride of America it was just amazing and we hope you were there to see & hear our sanctuary Glow!



Missed it? Well, have no fear, they will be back for a Holiday Concert in December (details later in the year).

If you have any ideas on how or who we can invite to open our doors to Easton with the "Sound of Music", please email Gloria Snyder at [gloriasnyder22@gmail.com](mailto:gloriasnyder22@gmail.com).

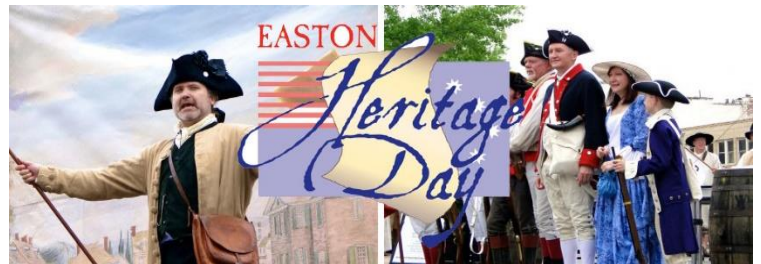
Footnote: our own Art Charlton was with the band on Saturday – Kudos Art!

### **JERUSALEM SINGERS CONCERT**

Save the date! The Jerusalem Singers will perform a concert at FPCE on **Sunday, July 30 at 7:30pm**. Their repertoire includes favorites such as "Ride the Chariot", "Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel", "Lord, for Thy Tender Mercy's Sake", and many more. This concert is free and open to the public; invite your friends, family and neighbors!

### **HERITAGE DAY**

Mark your calendar for Heritage Day, **Sunday, July 9**. On that Sunday, we will not have a service at FPCE, but instead we will join other congregations for a community service. Watch the weekly emails and website for more information!



### **ONLINE WORSHIP**

Our services are streamed live on our Facebook page - [EastonFPC](#) - at 10:30am Sunday. The recording of the live worship is posted each Sunday by 12:30pm- on our website: <https://eastonfpc.org/online-worship> and YouTube channel is [Easton First Presbyterian Church](#).

## MISSION



### **BLESSING BOX...before and after!**

Check it out! And it is being checked out, or the at least the items placed in the Blessing Box are!

This started as Mission Team's idea for an outreach project to our community. By placing the Blessing Box outside our front garden we could assist those with food insecurity in Easton.



We could fill the Blessing Box two times a day and it would be emptied, not by the same people, but a

variety of those in need. We are blessed to be able to sit at table and eat, plus we are blessed to be able to help others do the same, even if their table might not look like ours.

Did you know there are three ways you can help to keep it filled for those in need? You can **sponsor an entire week**; you can also **sponsor a mid-week fill up** on a day of your choosing. There is a sign-up sheet outside the church office for both those options. You may also give a donation of non-perishable food anytime by **putting donations in the Blessing Baskets**, located in the narthex and by the parking lot door. Those donations will be used to fill the Box in between sponsors.

Thank you for all your prayers and help with this very necessary mission project.

Mission Team

### **PASTA SUNDAY**

Sunday, June 4, is Pasta Sunday! We'll accept your donations of canned, microwavable, or dry pasta until Tuesday, June 6 at 12pm, when they will be delivered to ProJeCt's food pantry. Thank you!

### **HIGHMARK WALK**

For many years our church has supported the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community to raise funds for ProJeCt of Easton. The Highmark Walk is a fun one mile walk which will be held on the campus of DeSales University in Center Valley on Saturday, June 3. Registration begins at 7:45am and the walk starts at 9am. If you would like to participate as either a walker or donor please sign up on the form outside the church office or visit [www.walkforahealthycommunity.org](http://www.walkforahealthycommunity.org). The suggested donation is \$15 per walker/donor.

### **STITCHING**

Thank you for those busy needles! We dropped off another five lap robes to Hospice, plus baby blankets, hats, mittens, and sweaters to the hospital for their newborns. If you need yarn, patterns or help making any of these items call or email Nancy Udut, 610-253-5455, [naomiudut@yahoo.com](mailto:naomiudut@yahoo.com).

### **THANK YOU!**

We received a thank you letter from Lynn Schiavone from the Lehigh Valley Hospice for the lap blankets provided by the stitchers; a letter from the Presbyterian Mission thanked the congregation for gifts of \$280.00 to shared mission, \$485.00 to the Christmas Joy offering, and \$185.59 to the Peace & Global Witness offering.

# FARM FEST 2023

a community event presented by



Live Music  
Picnic Food  
Artisnal Pizza  
Wine Slushies ~ Beer  
Spirits Samples  
Pudding Treats  
Kids Crafts & Games  
Farm Tours  
Bee Demo  
Vendors: Plants + Pottery

BRING YOUR PICNIC  
BLANKETS & LAWN CHAIRS

**JUNE 4, 2023 | 12PM TO 4PM**

**902 PHILADELPHIA ROAD - EASTON**



## FAITH FORMATION AND FELLOWSHIP



### **BRUNCH BUNCH**

Brunch Bunch will be going to Tacos and Tequila (20 Kunkle Drive in Easton) after worship on Sunday, June 11. Please let Ruthann Arras know if you plan to attend by Friday, June 9. All are welcome!

### **MEETINGS FOR JUNE:**

The **Deacons** will meet **after worship on Sunday, June 4.**

**Session** will meet at the church on **Tuesday, June 20 at 7:00pm.**

If you are unable to attend a meeting, please contact the church office to let us know. Thank you!

### **BUILDING USE – RECOVERY PARTNERSHIP**

We are pleased to have Recovery Partnership, a community drop-in center, renting Legacy Hall on a temporary basis, which will continue through June. They will be in our building 10am to 4pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.



### **SAVE THE DATE!**

For a Church Luncheon on June 25:  
more information to come!

Watch the weekly emails and announcements!

### **DISCUSSION ON CHURCH HISTORY**

Rick Taylor is willing to lead a three session discussion on Presbyterian and Congregational church early history in the Middle Atlantic States. Each session would run between an hour and an hour and a half. A free study book would be provided, though the sessions would involve stories to stimulate discussions. If 3 or more people are interested and we can find a common time to meet, let's plan it for the summer or the fall. Contact Rick at [pilgrimrht@rcn.com](mailto:pilgrimrht@rcn.com) or 610-438-3771.

## ***JUNE BIRTHDAYS***

June 2	Bill Bartlett
June 2	Margaret Fackenthal
June 3	Peg Opthof
June 4	Elizabeth-Carol Akpor-Mensah
June 5	Bill Schroeder
June 6	Lawrence Opthof-Cordaro
June 7	Madison Koch
June 18	Jim Middendorf
June 25	Phyllis Finger
June 25	Dolores Wahlgren
June 30	LeRoy Sample



## **PRAYERS**

We pray for...

Our church, its leaders, staff, members and friends as we navigate a significant financial crisis.

All who grieve for the loss of loved ones.

Peg Opthof, as she recovers from surgery on her wrist.

Members addressing ongoing medical concerns, including Victoria Opthof-Cordaro, Dave Foster and Ella Campbell-Becker.

All those who live with dementia and their care givers.

For neighbors near and far recovering from natural disasters and extreme weather.

Peace and goodwill for all God's children, especially in places of war and conflict.

Victims of gun violence and acts of hate.

Those who suffer from mental illness.

For injustice in our nation and world, that people of goodwill might work together for the greater good.

Prayers can be sent to [office@eastonfpc.org](mailto:office@eastonfpc.org), please include "prayer list" in the subject line.