



SOUNDINGS

SEPTEMBER 2023

Sunday, Sept. 3

Communion Sunday
Pasta Sunday

Monday, Sept. 4

Labor Day – office closed

Wednesday, Sept. 13

Mission Team, 1pm

Saturday, Sept. 16

Work Day, 9am-3pm

Sunday, Sept. 17

Deacon meeting after worship

Wednesday, Sept. 20

Bell Choir resumes, 6:30pm

Thursday, Sept. 21

Session, 5:30pm

Saturday, Sept. 23

“Non-Progressive” Dinner, 5pm
beginning at the Udut’s

Sunday, Sept. 24

Church Lunch after worship

Friday, Sept. 29

Session Retreat at the church
1pm – 4pm

Saturday, Sept. 30

FPCE at the Easton Farmers Market until 1pm
Colors of Hope Conference, 9am – 5pm

Sunday, Oct. 1

Communion Sunday
Pasta Sunday
Session 1 of Richard Taylor’s church history
discussion after worship



On Sunday, September 24, let’s do lunch! Instead of our regular coffee hour, we’ll have sandwiches, salad and dessert. If able, you can bring something simple to share. Sign up outside the church office. Contact Pat Koefoed with questions: pkoeffoed@yahoo.com.



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Hello Friends,

Yikes!! This weekend marks the end of the summer season with Labor Day Weekend and I'm sure that I am not alone in pondering the rapid passage of time. With the beginning of autumn only three weeks away, that passage of time will take on warp speed as we move at an accelerated pace toward Thanksgiving and the Christmas season. As you look through this issue of Soundings you will find that a lot of activity is planned for the next couple of months and I'm hoping that you will find the time to participate in much of it as it manifests some of the purposes of "church" – fellowship and mission.

I would like to highlight two activities planned for September: A Church Workday on Saturday, September 16 from 9 to 3 and a Session Retreat planned for the afternoon of Friday, September 29. The "workday" provides us with the opportunity to "spiff up" the exterior of our church. It need not be said (guess I'm saying it anyway) that we want to attract new participants in our ministry and one simple way of doing that is to make our church and its grounds look inviting. We want people who pass by to think to themselves: "nice looking church – wonder what they are doing in there?" And hopefully, that curiosity will at some point lead them to our front doors. One of the basic elements of hospitality is "welcoming" and a smiling face fulfills that element. Let's put a warm grin on the face of our church.

Secondly, the Session has planned a retreat later this month with the sole purpose to meet and think somewhat out of the box. By that we need to explore new ways of doing "church" that both announce our presence and attract those looking for spiritual nourishment in a Christian fellowship. So, keep the Session in your prayers as they chart a new future for the First Presbyterian Church of Easton. God bless!

Larry Van Hise, Interim Pastor

A MESSAGE FROM SESSION

The following are some highlights from the Session meeting on August 3, 2023.

Approved a request from Genesis to use Legacy Hall for a wedding reception on Saturday, September 23.

Approved to spend \$475 to have a clean-up agency remove 14 rusted tables and an old chest freezer from the basement.

Due to the recently opened nearby parking facility, St. Luke's has reduced its rental of our parking lot from 15 spaces to 5 spaces which reduces our monthly income by \$600. Two of those spaces have been rented as 24 hours spots at \$70/month leaving 8 spaces to be rented.

The Treasurer reported that as of July 31, we have received \$54,427 in pledges which is 55% of our budget. Other income of \$72,065 (includes rent from parking spaces and Genesis) was augmented by a \$25,000 grant from Presbytery to support pastor expense. Thus, total operating income of \$126,492 less operating expenses of \$115,246 resulted in a positive balance of \$11,246. Our 2023 budget anticipated a negative balance of \$38,610 which assumed full-time pastor compensation but since we now have a part time pastor, the negative balance at year end is now expected to be reduced to \$4,993. As of July 3, the bank account balance was \$60,049 and the reserve fund balance was \$41,871.

The Mission Team reported a full slate of activities which includes: Farmers Market table on Sept. 30, Neighborhood Social/Street Fair on Oct. 15, Progressive Dinner on Sept. 23 and outreach postcards to new residents. The Mission Team is always happy to have additional volunteers to support the mission ministry of our church.

Susan Mackay reported that the plans continue for the LGBTQ Awareness Day (Colors of Hope Conference) on Saturday Sept. 30 from 9-4pm.

The Property Team reported that they are compiling a lists of maintenance items for Session consideration.

The Session agreed to participate in a retreat in the afternoon of September 29 to explore new ways to attract and expand participation in our church.

Next Session meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 21 at 5:30pm.

The Session

DEACONS

Your Board of Deacons continues to serve our church family, providing coffee hour fellowship following worship services and keeping in touch with our church family through visits, cards, and phone calls. Don't forget to check out the jars of Deacon Honey available during coffee hour!

PROGRESSIVE DINNER... WITHOUT THE DINNER!

Please join us for the Progressive Dinner (without the dinner) on **Saturday, September 23**. Appetizers will be served at Nancy Udut's house at 51 Edinburgh Drive, Easton starting at 5pm. After an hour or so, we'll move onto desserts at Ruthann's house at 3345 Bridlepath Drive, Easton. Bring your appetite and conversation! Sign-up sheets are available outside the church office, or at coffee hour starting September 3. We hope to see you there! There is no donation required.

Bon Appetit!

Ruthann

COFFEE HOUR

Deacons will be hosting the weekly coffee hour after worship, so that we can all enjoy some goodies and fellowship together. If you'd like to be a helper with a Deacon in a future coffee hour, please let Ruthann Arras know.

HELLO, HOW ARE YOU?

Every church family has a Deacon! Deacons will be calling members to chat, and share joys and concerns. You can expect a monthly or bi-monthly phone call from your Deacon.

DEACON HONEY

Your sweet tooth will be happy that the Deacons are providing local Heinsohn honey at coffee hour for a donation of \$8.00 per 1-pound jar. Check your cupboard to see if you're running low!



Trinity Episcopal Church of Easton,
First Presbyterian Church of Easton,
and St. Brigid's Episcopal Church of
Nazareth
Present:

THE COLORS OF HOPE CONFERENCE

Join us for a one day event as we explore and learn about leadership, faith, and allyship in the LGBTQIA+ community! This is perfect for those who want to learn more about the community or who want to strengthen their allyship skills. This event is free to the public and will include lunch, coffee, and beverages. Resource tables will be on hand to supply further information about each of the organizations present. **Seating is limited, so please RSVP!**



September 30, 2023



9:00am - 5:00pm (Doors
open at 8:30am)



First Presbyterian
Church, 333 Spring
Garden St, Easton, PA
18042



Corinne Goodwin
Founder and Executive
Director of Eastern PA
Trans Equity Project



Dr. Joel Davis Brown,
ESQ., PCC
Keynote
Author, The Souls of
Queer Folks



Robin Gow
Author and Director of
Education Institute at
the Bradbury-Sullivan
Center

Please go to <https://www.facebook.com/EastonFPC> or
<https://www.facebook.com/TrinityChurchEaston> to read more
about our Keynote Speaker and Workshop Presenters.

**RSVP NO
LATER THAN
SEPT 20TH!**

**Call Alison at 610-253-0792 or
Jonathan at 610-253-3579**



Corinne Goodwin (She/They) is the founder and Executive Director of Eastern PA Trans Equity Project a non-profit organization which has a mission of empowering transgender individuals throughout a 26-County area of Eastern Pennsylvania. An award-winning community leader and in-demand speaker, Corinne actively works on issues impacting the lives of LGBTQ Pennsylvanians ranging from legislative action to advocating for safe housing and food access. In addition to her role at Eastern PA Trans Equity Project, she also serves on the Board of Keystone Equality and volunteers with other organizations promoting Diversity, Equity and Inclusion including the ACLU, the Pennsylvania Youth Congress, the United Way, Chamber of Commerce, and more.

After a career as a senior executive in the retail and telecommunications sectors, Corinne now works as a self-employed business consultant. A parent to one son who works in New York's theater industry, she lives in Orefield PA with her wife Debbie, a grumpy cat named April, and a model railroad that takes up way too much space in her basement.



Robin Gow (fae/it/he) is an autistic trans poet and educator. Robin has given training on creating more inclusive spaces for LGBTQ+ communities to colleges, healthcare networks, and K-12 schools across the country. At Ursinus College, Robin served as the president of the Gender and Sexuality Alliance and the Coordinator of the Rainbow Resource Center, developing events and support services for LGBTQIA+ students and advocating for more inclusive policies. Currently they are the Director of the Education Institute at Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center and they serve on the Board of Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living and Eastern PA Trans Equity Project. Robin is an award-winning author of three poetry collections, an essay collection, Young Adult novel and Middle Grade novels in verse.



Dr. Joel Davis Brown, Esq., is an entrepreneur, author, and member of the Forbes Coaches Council. His debut book, *The Souls of Queer Folk: How Understanding LGBTQ+ Culture Can Transform Your Leadership Practice*, was published in 2023. An attorney with a doctorate in educational leadership, Joel founded Pneumos, a global management & consulting firm, with hubs spanning across 3 continents.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

THANK YOU!

When life gives one a challenging rough patch, it is a special blessing to have an encouraging, supportive and caring church family to offer sustaining and comforting care. I am especially grateful for Bud Martin's excellent assistance both musically and technically. I deeply appreciate all your prayers, cards, calls and messages of concern and friendship. I've missed being in worship with you more than I can say. I hope to return to worship on Sunday morning very soon. Please accept my grateful appreciation.

Gloria Snyder

HANDBELL CHOIR

Handbell Choir rehearsals will resume on **Wednesday, September 20** at 6:30pm. If you would like more information or to join the Handbell Choir, please see Gloria Snyder.

MISSION

PASTA SUNDAY

Sunday, September 3, is Pasta Sunday! We'll accept your donations of canned, microwavable, or dry pasta until Tuesday, September 5 at 12pm, when they will be delivered to ProJeCt's food pantry. Thank you!

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

The Peace and Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and across the world.

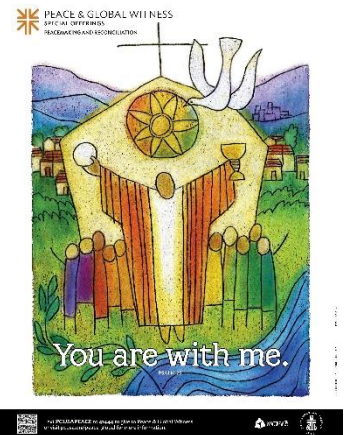
The offering will be taken between **September 3** and **October 1**.

25% of this Offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community;

25% of this Offering goes to our mid-council to join with other congregations to support peacemaking work in our region;

50% of the Offering supports the work being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

Our neighbors need us; please give what you can to the Peace and Global Witness Offering. Thank you!



CALLING ALL CROCHETERS AND KNITTERS!

We did it again! Baby blankets, lap robes, hats, mittens, scarves, etc. were all dropped off at LVHN Philanthropy Office, and they will distribute where needed. Also handmade hats and scarves were dropped off at the Cancer Support Community of Greater Lehigh Valley, which is a totally free service – an amazing organization!



If you'd like to help, needles, patterns and yard are available at the church – just contact Nancy Udut (naomiudut@yahoo.com) for pickup or any questions. Get those needles and hooks clicking! Oh wait, I already hear them! Yes, once again, Mission working at First Presbyterian!
-Nancy Udut

EASTON FARMERS MARKET

The Mission Team will be hosting a tent at the Easton Farmers Market on Saturday, September 30 from 9:00am to 1:00pm. We will be providing brochures and information regarding our worship schedule, programs and special events at our church. We will highlight our Blessing Box for the hungry. We will have coloring pages for children. Please let Carol Schroeher (cbschroeher@gmail.com) or the church office know if you would be willing to help set up, host, or take down by Sunday, September 23.



BLESSING BOX

The Blessing Box one of our many Local Missions! The Box is filled because of you 🙌, whether one can of tuna, silverware, money or a week's supply of food, the Blessing Box is there because you care!

The sign-up is outside of the church office, for a week or day; or drop food directly into the Blessing Box if you are coming to town. Let's keep this beautiful, very needed community mission going and to do that we need your continued help!

-Mission Team

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

We will be celebrating another year in Easton and "The Neighborhood"! Following church, Genesis and First Presbyterian will move outside on Spring Garden Street for a party! So mark your calendar and prepare to enjoy the day with our friends. More information to follow, but mark that calendar so you don't plan something else!

HELP NEEDED!

DO you see an event you would like to help with, but not be committed for long-term? Or do you have an idea, but can't do it on your own? Watch for announcements and contact Nancy Udut (naomiudut@yahoo.com) or Jonathan in the church office for more information.

THANK YOU!

We received a thank you letter from the Presbyterian Gifts Director for our recent gift of \$300.00.

LEHR FUND

The Barbara and John Lehr Fund is a designated fund is only distributed to members. Are you a member going through a financial crisis? Please speak with our pastor Larry Van Hise to see if the Lehr Fund could be a support to you.

FAITH FORMATION AND FELLOWSHIP

BRUNCH BUNCH

There will be no Brunch Bunch for September due to scheduling conflicts. We'll see you all on **October 8** at Frank's Pizza, 4422 Birkland Place, Easton.

DISCUSSION ON CHURCH HISTORY

A discussion on the early history of Congregational and Presbyterian churches in the Middle Atlantic states, to be led by Rick Taylor, is now scheduled for **Sunday, October 1**, after Church, **Wednesday, October 4** at 10:30am, and **Sunday, October 29**, after church. All are welcome. Free copies of the study book are available in the church office. Reading suggestions are pages 11 to 35 for the first session, and pages 35 to 62 for the second session.

MEETING REMINDERS

The Mission Team will meet on Wednesday, September 13 at 1:00pm.

The Deacons will meet after worship on Sunday, September 17.

Session will meet on Thursday, September 21 at 5:30pm.

Session will have a retreat at the church from 1pm to 4pm on Friday, September 29.

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](#).

PROPERTY TEAM

CHURCH WORK DAY

Please join us for a church work day on **Saturday, September 16** from 9:00am to 3:00pm. We'll focus on clean-up outdoors (weather permitting). Bring work gloves, and extra rakes and brooms appreciated! Come for the day or as long as you are able. RSVP to the church office.

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 September. They will be in our building 10am to 4pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

BUILDING USE - VIRELLA'S SWEETS AND TREATS

We are assisting Virella's Sweets and Treats by hosting them in our kitchen, as their storefront was damaged by heavy rain. They will be using the kitchen periodically for the next several weeks.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We will be offering paid parking for Garlic Fest, **Saturday, October 7** and after worship on **Sunday, October 8**. Volunteers are needed to help monitor the parking lot and take payments. If you can help, please contact the church office or speak to Rich Linnell.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



September 10

Gerald Cirka

September 14

Travis Barrow

September 18

Kevin Joshua

September 20

Buffy Hughes

PRAYERS

We pray for...

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

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

The family of Carter Alexander Mayer, age 5 weeks, who died on Sunday, August 20. Carter is a member of Susan Mackay's extended family.

Elizabeth Campbell and the Becker-Campbell family as Elizabeth recovers from surgery.

Peg Opthof, as she recovers from surgery on her wrist, and her recovery from a fall in her home.

Natalie Hoff, who was hospitalized.

Members addressing ongoing medical concerns, including Victoria Opthof-Cordaro and Bill Schroeder.

All those who live with dementia and their care givers.

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.

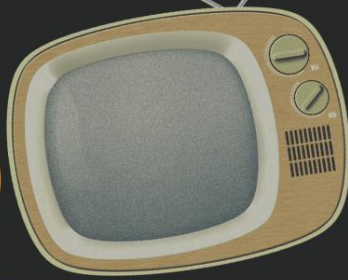
For injustice in our nation and world, that people of goodwill might work together for the greater good.

Prayers can be sent to office@eastonfpc.org, please include "prayer list" in the subject line.

A FUNDRAISER FOR



**THE 80'S
TO DEATH**



**Murder Mystery Dinner
& TRICKY TRAY**



**SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 23**

**NORTHAMPTON COUNTRY CLUB
5 PM - 9 PM
DOORS OPEN AT: 4 PM
TICKET: \$65 PP
\$55 BEFORE 8/23/23**



**MORE INFORMATION:
610.905.7869**

www.eastonareaneighborhoodcenter.org

JOIN THE 2023-2024

YOUTH VOLUNTEER COUNCIL!



WANT TO GIVE BACK?

WANT TO MEET NEW PEOPLE?

NEED SERVICE HOURS?

JOIN THE
YOUTH VOLUNTEER COUNCIL
TODAY!

Attend our orientation meeting on
Wednesday, September 20th at 5:30 PM
at the Banana Factory

For more information,
email youthcouncil@volunteerlv.org

