



# SOUNDINGS

*Summer 2022- August and September*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

September 11

**Brunch Bunch**

Location to be announced

-and-

**God, Guns and Grace**

at College Hill PC.

September 13:

**Deacons, 7:00pm**

September 17:

**FPC at Easton Farmers Market**

September 18:

**Kick-Off Sunday**

September 20:

**Session, 7:00pm**

September 24:

**Easton Municipal Band Concert**

September 25:

**Mission Sunday**

STEWARDSHIP 2022

## Trusting in God, Growing in Faith

“And now these three remain:  
faith, hope and love.”

During difficult change,  
we trust that God is faithful.

During times of challenge,  
we put our hope in Christ.

The Spirit of love remains with us,  
calling us to a new day- together!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF EASTON

333 Spring Garden St.  
Easton, PA 18042

610-253-3579  
www.eastonfpc.org

## Mission Sunday, September 25, 2022



The 2022-2023 MISSION THEME  
will be revealed!

*Hint: Luke 18:16*

### Trusting in God, Growing in Faith “Faith, Hope and Love abide.” - 1 Corinthians 13:13

As the end of summer approaches – and hopefully the end of 90+ degree heat – the Stewardship Team begins to think about our Stewardship Campaign for 2023. Stewardship Sunday will be **October 30** this year. Some things will remain the same, but some will be changing. Here is a preview of what to expect when you receive the first of two letters in mid-September:

1.) The most recent three-year Capital Campaign is concluding at the end of 2022. This will be the last multi-year campaign. If you need to complete your pledge, we strongly encourage you to do so before December. The pledge amount still to be collected is necessary to pay our mortgage through the end of the year. We are deeply thankful for the generous support of many.

2.) Just like most folks, the church has a mortgage. The current annual amount is \$37,188 (\$3099 per month). We have been paying the mortgage through multi-year Capital Campaigns. Starting in 2023, the Session (at the recommendation of the Finance Team) will ask for one-year “Mortgage Fund” pledges. Our goal is to raise money to pay this annual \$37,188 without using operating fund money. We can’t fulfill our operations and missions without paying the mortgage. Support the operating fund with your pledge - and for those who can, please help to pay down our mortgage.

3.) Some things to know about our mortgage:

a.) Our interest rate is currently a low 2.897%. This rate will be held until November 2024.

b.) We are on track to reduce the principal amount of the mortgage to under \$500,000 by October of this year!!!

c.) Currently, over 60% of each mortgage payment is going to pay down principal.

d.) We are still receiving an annual rebate of approximately \$2000 that is possible because church members and others have purchased CDs from the Presbyterian and Loan Program in support of our mortgage. We are receiving the highest percentage rebate offered – 1%. This rebate will decrease as we pay down the principal or if supporting CDs are cashed in.



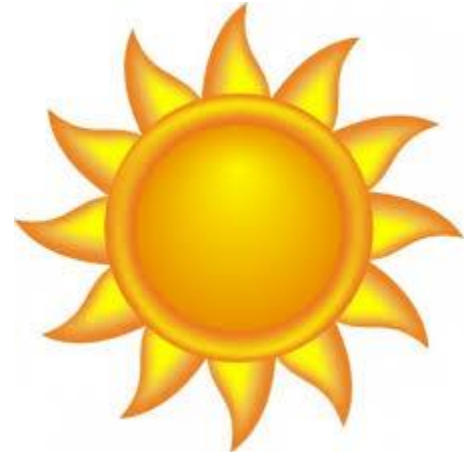
The Operating Fund pledges, as always, are used to pay for the work of our church, including for programs, salaries, missions, utilities, etc. As a church we are committed to continue these good works in the face of increased costs due to inflation and other variables. We will ask those who regularly give to do their best to increase their pledges. And for those who have not pledged in the past, we will ask you to make a modest pledge. Even the very smallest amounts will make a difference when gathered together.

Yours in Christ,  
The Stewardship Team

## NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

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August is always a month filled with potential. Adults and families enjoy the final days of vacation or travel. Kids enjoy their last days of sleeping in before school begins. These days are a time of transition for many. In my family we are preparing to drop my son, Crosby, off at Dickinson College. Our Rebecca is a rising senior at Muhlenberg College. Rich and I will become empty nesters – until Thanksgiving. (Anna now works at a school!) Rich has ended his 3-month Sabbatical and is back to mission and ministry. As we are savoring the waning days of Summer, there is a sense that this is going to be a good year.



Here too at First Presbyterian Church of Easton we are getting ready for what God will do in our next season of life. Our Deacons recently met for an orientation and planning meeting, and will hold their first board meeting on September 13. Our Session just had a short Zoom meeting to discuss and ultimately approve the use of our kitchen for a non-church event on September 10. (Have you ever enjoyed breakfast at the State Café and Grill on 5th Street? If so, you might want to watch for more details!) Our music staff has plans for a Concert Series to open our beautiful 150-year-old sanctuary to our neighbors starting on September 24. Our Mission Team is hard at work planning Mission Sunday on September 25 and a Neighborhood Social to gather our neighborhood together on October 15. The program year is indeed getting off to an incredible start and the year ahead has much potential.

There are days I look at the negative news headlines, all the extreme weather events in the world, and count the challenges so many face - and I wonder what the One who created this beautiful world must think of us. Psalm 8's question goes through my brain: When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and stars, which you have set in place, what is humankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?

God sees in us potential. God is concerned for the well-being of each and every one of us, and for the entire world. And so, we are called to care as well. We are called to build upon the good the God gives us. We come together as a church to care with joy and love for each other and our neighbors. We come together to respond to God's love. I hope that your summer has been blessed, and that you have known God's giving presence with you through it all.

-Pastor Stefanie

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC

### SIMPLE CHURCH

Sundays this Fall - September 11, October 9, November 13

The second Sunday of each month our 10:30am service will have a familiar but simplified order. The intention is to be welcoming to all ages, a bit less formal, and more interactive. This is a perfect Sunday to bring the kids and/or friends from the neighborhood.

### KICK OFF SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 18

“THE STEADFAST LOVE OF THE LORD NEVER CEASES; GOD’S MERCIES NEVER COME TO AN END; THEY ARE NEW EVERY MORNING” LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23.

The seasons will soon change again— vacations end, kids go back to school and colleges start, the sun starts setting a bit earlier, and the trees hint they might change color. Perhaps this is a good time to consider other patterns and changes? We would love to welcome anyone who has not been worshipping as often (or at all) to come to in-person service on September 18, 2022.

### CHOIR REHEARSALS

**Chancel Choir** will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 7, 5:30-6:30pm.

The **Handbell Choir** will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 14 at 6:30-7:15pm.

### MISSION SUNDAY

On Sunday, September 25 we will be celebrating the Mission of our church. Mark your calendars, plan on attending, and hear all about the excitement going on at First Presbyterian! Our 2022-23 Mission will revealed and introduced to our congregation this Sunday!

### ONLINE WORSHIP CONTINUES

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](#).

### CONCERT SERIES

Our sanctuary was built in 1872. Consider all the prayers, both said and sung, lifted in our sacred place of worship. To celebrate our sanctuary and our congregation’s love of community and music, we are hosting a concert series. One Saturday each month this Fall, guest performers will offer their gifts of music. All concerts are free and open to the public.

**Easton Municipal Band**

Saturday, September 24, 7:00pm

**Jordan Lewis, “Winterreise”**

Saturday, October 22, 7:00pm

**Marquis Consort**

Saturday, November 12, 7:00pm

## MISSION

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### **PASTA FOR PROJECT**

#### **Sunday, September 4 is Pasta Sunday!**

On the first Sunday of each month, we collect pasta for the ProjeCt of Easton Food Pantry, and we welcome your donations of boxed, canned, and microwaveable pasta. Peanut Butter is also greatly appreciated. If you cannot make it to church on Sunday, you may drop off your donations up until 12 Noon on Tuesday, September 6. "For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat." (Matt. 25:35)

### **EASTON FARMER'S MARKET**

The Mission Team will be hosting a tent at the Easton Farmers Market on Saturday, September 17 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 the church office know if you would be willing to help set up, take down, or help hosting.

### **MEALS ON WHEELS OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY (MOWNC)**

Our congregation has participated in the MOWNC program by delivering meals the first Friday of the month. MOW needs drivers and anyone interested in helping on a regular or substitute basis should contact MOW at 610-691-1030.

### **THANK YOU!**

We received a letter of thanks from Presbyterian Senior Living for our donation of \$250.00 in June; we have received \$524.00 for our Pentecost offering – thank you for your support!

**Save the Date!**

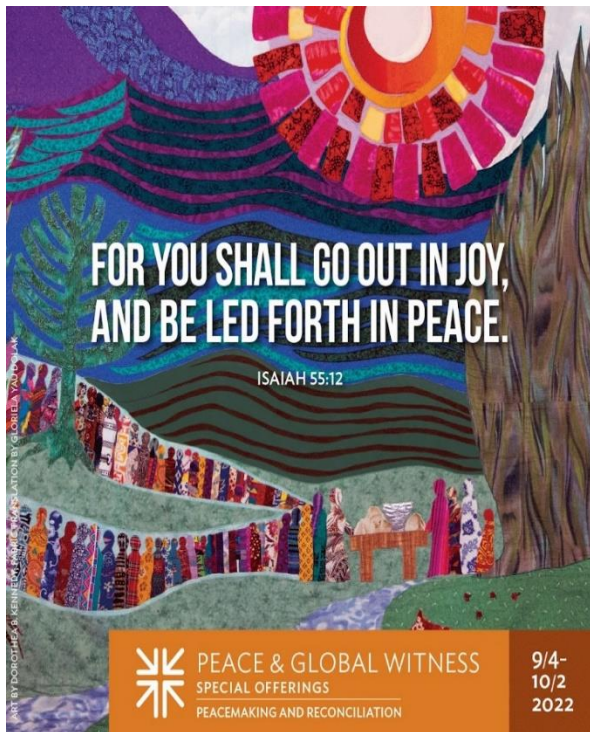
**Saturday, October 15, 11-3pm in the Church Parking Lot  
for a "Neighborhood Social". A time to meet our neighbors.**

**More details to come!**

### **BLESSING BOX**

The Blessing Box has been overwhelmingly received by the community!

There are 2 "blessing baskets" where you can drop off food items; one in the narthex, and one by the door by the parking lot. Volunteers can sign up outside the church office to sponsor a week, and fill the Box Sunday and again on Wednesday.



## PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

*September 4 – October 2, 2022*

Through the Peace and Global Witness Offering, we connect with each other to confront systems of injustice and promote reconciliation in places around the world, and right here at home.

**25%** of this offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community.

**25%** of the offering goes to our mid council and joins with other congregation gifts to support peacemaking work in our region.

**50%** of the offering supports the work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

You may support this offering by using one of the envelopes provided in the back of the sanctuary, or simply write “Peace & Global Witness” in the memo line of your check and put it in the offering box. Thank you!

## UKRAINIAN REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

Lehigh Presbytery, through Worldwide Ministries, has a long-standing covenantal relationship with the Hungarian Reformed Church in Romania. Our partners there have reached out to ask for help in addressing the need for food, shelter, and clothing for a quickly growing number of refugees; those staying for a while, and those passing through on their way to other countries.



**To participate, you can send a check, with Ukraine Support on the memo line, to the Presbytery Office, 710 N Cedar Crest Blvd, Allentown, 18104.**

### *Some housekeeping...*

*You can find a copy of our directory and Soundings on the bulletin board by the water cooler on the first floor of the church house.*

*If you are the chair of a team or group, please let Jonathan, our office administrator, know when you are holding a meeting.*

## **BRUNCH BUNCH**

The Brunch Bunch will meet after worship on Sunday, September 11, at 12:00 noon. This month's destination will be announced via the weekly emails. Please let Ruthann Arras know (Ruthann.arras@gmail.com) by Saturday, September 10 at noon if you will be attending. All are welcome!

### ***FAITH IN DIALOGUE: A new partnership with College Hill PC***

**GOD, GUNS AND GRACE** is a three-part symposium exploring gun violence. How should people of faith and good will respond to our nation's ongoing epidemic of gun violence? How do we even engage the conversation when the public square seems to be dominated by only the most strident religious perspectives? Join us this Fall for a series of gracious conversations about guns and the urgent work we can do together for the sake of safety and justice. Each session is a stand-alone presentation.

#### **Session 1: A Question of Right(s): Constitutional and Religious Freedom in the Gun Debate**

The Reverend Dr. Brett Hendrickson of Lafayette College will explore the religious roots of gun violence and the intersection of constitutional and religious freedoms.

Sunday, **September 11**, 12:00pm at College Hill Presbyterian Church.

#### **Session 2: Unmasking the Powers Behind Gun Violence, A Christian Perspective**

Join us for a conversation with the Reverend Deanna Hollas, the Minister of Gun Violence Prevention for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Her presentation will be livestreamed on Zoom. Log-in information can be requested by contacting our church office. All are also welcome to join a Watch and Discussion Party on the Lafayette College campus.

Monday, **September 19**, 7:00pm at Lafayette College.

#### **Session 3: Where Do We Start? Steps to Greater Gun Safety**

In this final interactive session, we will explore practical strategies for addressing and reducing the threat of gun violence in our families, homes, and houses of worship.

Saturday, **October 8**, 1:00pm at First Presbyterian Church of Easton

### ***Civil Discourse***

On Wednesday, July 27 a small group of church members gathered with Pastor Stefanie to discuss the topic of abortion. It was a civil, thoughtful conversation about a very difficult topic- but one very relevant to our faith. The group lamented that more people from our church did not join us.

Our heritage as Presbyterians invites us to be critical thinkers as we navigate complex social issues. God has blessed us with minds after all. And our Reformed theological heritage teaches us to approach such conversations with humility and grace. Please be on the lookout for more opportunities to come together for such weighty conversations. We believe that civil dialogue is possible... in fact even deeply needed in the world. Please consider joining the upcoming conversations about faith and society.

– Pastor Stefanie

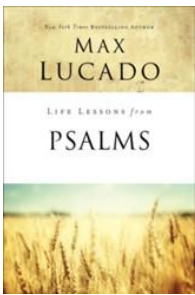
## FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Might you be willing to host fellowship hour—bring a dozen cookies and some pretzels? Or would you be willing to learn how to make coffee so you can be a fellowship hour helper? Please contact the church office or sign-up in person on the sheets by the church office.

## VISITS

Would you like a visit from a Deacon or our Pastor to speak and pray with you? Please reach out to the church office via email or phone and request a visit. Pastor Stefanie will schedule a meeting at a convenient time and place. Our Deacons will be scheduling at-home communion for anyone who cannot physically come to the building.

## 2022 FALL BIBLE STUDY



When: First and Third Sundays of October (2 and 16) and November (6 and 20)  
After worship (or after fellowship hour).

What: A Study of the Psalms, guided by Max Lucado  
*Life Lessons from Psalms: A Praise Book for God's People*

## AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3	John Charlton	4	Becky Bartlett
10	Mercy Barrow	8	Harriet Spilman
15	Joshua Charlton	10	Gerald Cirka
	Lois Shoemaker	14	Travis Barrow
16	Pat Koefoed	18	Kevin Joshua
	Joe Manzek	20	Buffy Hughes
19	Diane Meyers	30	Lori Young
22	Carl McGloughlin		
25	Ronald Udut		
27	Rodney Bridges		
28	Claire Cole		
31	Naomi Smith		



## CARD SHOWER

All are invited to send birthday greetings in a card shower in honor of Naomi Smith's 107th birthday on August 31! Cards may be sent to:

**Naomi Smith c/o Country Meadows**  
**175 W. Newlins Road**  
**Room 107**  
**Easton, PA 18040**



## **PARKING LOT REMINDER**

A reminder that our parking lot is rented to capacity. Spaces 1-6, the 2 spaces directly in front of the rear entrance to the church, and the handicapped spaces are reserved for church business; please use those spaces when coming to the church on weekdays. Thank you!

## **GARLIC FEST PARKING**

Once again this year, we will offer parking in our lot for visitors to Garlic Fest, Saturday and Sunday, October 1 and 2. Volunteers are needed to help monitor the lot and collect fees; if you can help out one or both days, please contact Shirley Keller.

## **PRAYERS**

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We pray for...

Linval Francis, who has been battling cancer and recently received a terminal diagnosis. Val hopes to make it to services one more time. He and Joan and their family appreciate prayers.

All those who live with dementia that they and their loved ones might have patience and courage.

Members addressing ongoing medical concerns and recuperating from medical procedures.

Special birthdays and anniversaries - including Naomi Smith's 107th Birthday on August 30.

Peace in our world in places of war, in particular in Ukraine.

An end to violence in all our communities, in particular we pray for an end to gun violence.

Those who suffer from mental illness and that we might make care for those who are struggling a priority.

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

Those who returning from traveling or on vacation and those who prepare for school and college to resume.

All who grieve for the loss of loved ones.

Lord, hear our prayers!

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

Cards wishing Linval Francis peace and comfort can be sent to his home address:

**Linval and Joan Francis  
107 Lower Way Road  
Easton, PA 18045**

## MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR NANCY PENMAN

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, August 27 at 11:00 am at the First Presbyterian Church of Washington, located at 40 East Church Street, Washington, NJ 07882.

Cards of condolence can be sent to:

**Stuart Penman**  
**32 Edgemere Terrace**  
**Washington, NJ 07882**

### **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 Stefanie Muntzel or contact her at [stefzel@gmail.com](mailto:stefzel@gmail.com) to see if the Lehr Fund could be a support to you.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

*The First Presbyterian Church of Easton strives to be a vital and engaged congregation by increasing our devotion to God, our fellowship with one another and our outreach to all so that we may be a witness to Jesus Christ in our community and world.*



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