



# FUPC Presby Press

## [ July 2022 Church Newsletter ]

***Vacation Bible School is almost here, July 11-15***

## Take part in VBS, as a student or as a volunteer

Our Edinboro Community Vacation Bible School happens this month! We at Edinboro Presbyterian are happy to be among the multiple congregations who will combine again to bring back a new VBS after the event was sidelined the past two years.

Dozens of children are already pre-registered for our combined VBS. This year it will be held at the social hall at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Edinboro. The dates have moved later in the summer, to avoid overlapping with similar events which a few other congregations will hold in June. Ours will be weekday mornings, July 11-15.

With our relaunch for 2022, we are needing some additional volunteers. Your help will be greatly appreciated. Several roles are available, one of which could match your preferences and availabilities. If you are not available all five mornings, we can work with your schedule to find 1 or 2 or 3 days you could assist with something important. (Speak with Marilee Wnek, Marcia Cooke, Greg Gillispie or Sue Johnson if you can assist in whatever way.)

Also, even if you are not in an “official” capacity for a volunteer, it would be great to have several folks from FUPC on hand to greet people between 8:20 and 9:00 on the first day, creating a positive first impression on Monday 7/11 .... and/or .... attending the wrap-up program on Friday 7/15, starting about 11:30.

The theme for this multi-church VBS is “Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God.” It invites children to pray as Jesus teaches us in Matthew 6:11 – “Give us this day our daily bread.” These words serve as a reminder that everything we have comes from God — and that it's by turning to God in prayer that all of our daily needs are met.

Each day will focus on either an Old Testament or New Testament story where the Bible talks about food:

- Manna and Quail: Exodus 16
- The Widow's Endless Oil: 1 Kings 17
- Eating the Good Stuff: Daniel 1
- Jesus Feeds 5000: John 6
- Breakfast on the Beach: John 21

A preview video is available on the Edinboro Presbyterian [website](#).



### **Edinboro Area Vacation Bible School**

July 11 – 15, 2022, at Our Lady of the Lake Church.

If you are interested in Volunteering, please email:

[edinborovbs@gmail.com](mailto:edinborovbs@gmail.com)

Our VBS website:

[\*\*food-truck-party-edinboro-vbs-2022\*\*](#)

## From the Pastor

### “S u m m e r time....” “and the [Christian] living is easy” (So they say)

As the month of July dawns, I am astounded that summer seems nearly half over. Admittedly, Independence Day Weekend is only one-third of the way to Labor Day Weekend, but for individuals and families whose lives revolve around the school calendar, much of August will include activities ranging from pre-season sports and music practices to school shopping to actually starting classes before the month is out. For those folks, we really are at about the halfway point.

As for 2022, we are *literally* at the halfway point. Sure, February is shorter than other months, and more 31-day months are backloaded into the second half of the year, but July 2 is the midpoint (even in leap years). So it's time to take time to reflect and plan.

There are very few songs across history that “everyone” knows, but one which has a better-than-average mass recognition is the George Gershwin classic “Summertime”. (To date 1,161 recordings of that song have been officially released.) The lyrics, including “Summertime, and the livin’ is easy,” were written by DuBose Heyward, author of the novel upon which *Porgy and Bess* was based. The song’s style has been described as a spiritual lullaby.

On one level, it seems a bit odd for its story to speak to how the living is easy, your parents are beautiful and rich, and there is no need to cry...especially when the story also includes poverty, disabilities, racism, criminality and domestic abuse. The song, the opera version and the theatrical and movie portrayals balance out the negativity and the hope.

As we live out the Summer of 2022, you and I can focus on being mired in the realities of crime and poverty and hopelessness. Wars, literal and otherwise, rage on. Some people are not even able to talk with or listen to other people, because of the divisiveness of the surrounding culture. Anxieties over politics and the economy – and a long list of other things – could bring us to sing dirges instead of lullabies.

However, to do so would leave some of our best resources locked up and unused. Hope is a Christian virtue and a gift from God. Truth can carry us through the culture’s confusion. Justice works itself out. Unity is a goal – and a task to be accomplished. Love overcomes so much. Salvation is a promise fulfilled.

Please don’t let all the negativity drag you down with it. If you and I look around – *when* you and I look around, we can discover/rediscover that the “fish are jumping”, good things are happening, the people closest to us bring value to our lives, and each day and each breath is a gift from the Lord.

We see what we look at. We hear what we listen to. These are scientific, provable facts. They also are spiritual truths. If we were to fill our attention with all that is negative, then pessimism is the obvious result. However, when we look for beauty, or true riches, or serene evenings, that is where our awareness goes. When we sing happy songs, we stir happiness in our minds and our souls. Whenever we get away from the noise, we become more able – and more eager – to hear God’s loving lullaby which reminds us that all will be well.

Life is hard. Sure. Yes, it is. But for those of us who have put our lives into God’s hands, the living is easy. Take very specific time this summer, or even this very week, to bask in that confidence and calmness. Our Now, our Short-term Future, our Eternal Future – are safely entrusted to the God of hope and truth and justice and unity and love. Salvation is for forever, and its implications are valid and active even now

Jesus’ Peace, Jesus’ Joy,  
*Greg*

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### **Please help with our Card Shower which brings kindness to our neighbors at the Edinboro Manor**

We are providing a “Card Party” for our neighbors at the Edinboro Manor. They have suffered with the isolations of the past two years, and the reduced interaction with their loved ones and the staff. Into those challenges, we can send a little sunny brightness into their week. There are 80+ residents who will receive a greeting card from us.

Take part in this card shower by either:

- *Filling out a few cards available on the table in the east entryway, or*
- *Buy or use your own “thinking of you” or “have a happy/blessed day” card from home, and deliver it to FUPC.*

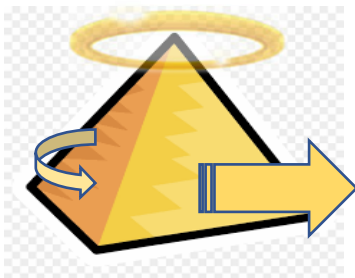
Your note inside can be short and meaningful, a word of blessing, or something simple. Add “from (your name) and all your friends at Edinboro Presbyterian Church”. We will deliver the cards to our 80+ neighbors in mid-July.

## Prayer suggestions, for our PRAYER, CARE, and CONNECTIONS

When a group of congregational leaders held a half-day planning and discernment retreat earlier this year, they sought to hone in on the factors which lead toward fruitful, faithful ministry. The process developed three primary areas with which we can decide what activities to do, how to determine priorities on which to center, and how to evaluate our mission and ministries.

That group process led us to three directions which we can hold in tandem: upward, inward, outward. The first relies on PRAYER – asking God for guidance and blessing, and listening for the directions which our Lord would have us take. Some of those will be familiar, some may reclaim past goals, and some will take us into uncharted territory. Second is INWARD CARE – staying connected with one another, those who have found a home in this household of faith. The outward direction leads us into MISSION AND OUTREACH – sharing our faith, demonstrating our hope, and connecting with our neighbors and their needs.

The pyramid image is one visual representation of how these goals interconnect and build upon each other. For this month, here are daily prayer recommendations. The emphasis for the month ties together prayer (obviously) and the community connections goal.



- Mondays: For our outreach as a congregation.
- Tuesdays: For our faith sharing/demonstration as individuals.
- Wednesdays: For other congregations in Edinboro and the area.
- Thursdays: For people who have fallen away from God.
- Fridays: For the next five new members of this congregation.
- Saturdays: For innovation, boldness, and other-centeredness.

## Summer worship schedule: 10:00 a.m. & 24 / 7

FUPC's summer sanctuary worship begins at **10:00 a.m.** for June, July, August & Labor Day Weekend. We have used this seasonal transition for multiple years. Many people like the earlier start, which then opens up other options for the rest of Sunday. We do recognize that the switch from 11:00 a.m. does put limits and hardships on other people though.

**Worship Online** is available 24/7 if you are unable to attend in person, or if you will be away on any given Sunday. This is a way to stay connected when you are traveling this summer. Highlights of recent sanctuary services, plus special content for our website worshippers, can be found on the "Videos" page at [www.EdinboroPresby.org](http://www.EdinboroPresby.org). Please invite others to worship with us. Special July 4 related content will also be posted with our worship videos

## Gauging interest in a Community Handbell Choir

We at the FUPC office received an invitation to publicize an effort to explore interest in a community bell choir, starting with people from Erie County Presbyterian churches. Amy Fugate, the bell choir director at the Church of the Cross in Fairview, tentatively plans to first meet at the end of August at Westminster Presbyterian Church. For more information or questions, you may call or text 814-440-7429.

Please let us know through the Edinboro Presbyterian office as well – either or both: that you have interest in the county-wide bell choir, and/or that you want to be involved with the handbell choir of our local church. FUPC has a long tradition of using handbells to add to our worship. Those who participated enjoyed some deep friendships through the process too. Like many other things all around us, our bell choir took a hiatus starting in 2020.

## Mailing & E-mailing the church newsletter

Knowing that summer schedules and travels bring differing routines, this month we are mailing printed versions of the *Presby Press* to everyone on our list. Those who ordinarily receive it by e-mail will get both.

This is a good chance for everyone to update the church office on how you prefer to receive newsletters, our Prayer/Calendar and other information about your congregation. Let us know: prefer e-mail, benefit from printed copies in the postal mail, want to be removed from the mailing list, text me a message and I will look it up on the website, or any other option(s) that are helpful to you. Thanks.

# Fun summer reading, and timely helpful resources

Summertime can be a great time to catch up on some light reading, or you can invest quality time with a book or magazine which provides you some practical and important insights. FUPC is happy to share with you some resources which may fit your interests and needs, be that for something serious or something fun. Find links to downloadable materials from the NEWS tab at [EdinboroPresby.org](http://EdinboroPresby.org).

Our regions Resource Presbyter, the Rev. Keith Sundberg (a recent guest speaker at FUPC) invites us to utilize the collection of books and videos at the Presbytery Resource Center. You can browse through the shelves at Elmwood Avenue Presbyterian Church, 2816 Elmwood Avenue in Erie, or call Keith to ask what materials might be available. Those can be delivered to you at your home. There are prayer books, Christian novels, devotional materials, and personal and group Bible studies. You can also check out (for free) books on cultural and theological issues, plus encouragement for parents, church leaders and people facing hard times or health challenges. Call 814-440-5376 or e-mail [ksundberg922@gmail.com](mailto:ksundberg922@gmail.com) to schedule a conversation or a time to meet.

Cigna, our denomination's mental health services provider, has created a two-page guide to help families talk to children when there is a major tragedy covered by the media, such as the school shootings last month in Texas. We encourage parents and grandparents to read it. It can be downloaded from our webpage's [NEWS](#) section.

## Here is our updated leadership lineup

The leadership councils of Edinboro Presbyterian Church have aligned our ordained officers with the new lineup of our Ministry Teams. These teams function best when people from throughout the congregation are plugged in, not just carried out by a few deacons or elders. Now is the time for all of us to ponder how God can use our talents and interests and availability to strengthen this church for its work and its shared life.

When we get to the start of the new school year/program year, we wish to have a nice diverse roster of people ready to help with a particular project, share a few ideas, or serve in an ongoing role with one of the teams.

### SESSION (COUNCIL OF ELDERS) Ministries of governance, discernment, leadership and shepherding

Children & Youth Team: Brian Long, Milly Williams	Stewardship: Pauline Kraus
Property Team: Doug Roberts, John Austin	Worship: Sue Payne
Finance & Personnel: Shari Gould, Art Smaltz, Doug Roberts	Session Clerk: Jan Zeart
Session Moderator: Greg Gillispie	Church Treasurer: Doug Roberts

### BOARD OF DEACONS Ministries which do and teach prayer, care, outreach and compassion

Mary Walker (Deacons Moderator)	JoAnn Austin
Linda Rummel (Fellowship Team Moderator)	Marcia Cooke
Jan Schulz (Mission Team moderator)	Margo Roberts
Loretta VanStone	Marilee Wnek

(updated 6/2022)



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*Presby Press* is the monthly newsletter for our members, friends, and the community at-large. Archived newsletters are available on the website. All information in our publications and online is provided as general information. We cannot and do not replace medical, tax, legal or financial professionals who should give you specific advice for your unique personal situation. Only the Session (Council of Elders) can make official statements or positions of this congregation.

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