

FPC – Session Meeting Highlights – November 21, 2023

- Dave Collins led the opening devotion and prayer.
- Liz Burns gave the Clerk's Report. Correspondence included a note and donation in support of Stepping Stones, saying it was a great idea and great use of the Manse. Peter Kelley performed the marriage of Mark Smith, son of Mark and Christine, on October 7.
- There was no Treasurer's Report.
- The next meeting of the Presbytery of Long Island will be on January 30, 2024 on Zoom. Liz Burns will serve as commissioner.
- Betty Kiernan was the representative from the Deacons. They hosted a Food Drive and put together 42 Thanksgiving baskets over the prior weekend. They're working on gifts and notes for college students and church members in the military. And they requested bakers for the Cookie Walk on December 17.
- Dave Collins reported for Buildings & Grounds. Paul Geiger is recovering from an ankle replacement. Dave was able to get the church's wifi speed upgraded and the price lowered from \$190 to \$137 per month. He will work with Mike Mraz to purchase and install a point-to-point antenna that will extend the wifi to the Manse.
- Marla Koster reported that the Cemetery committee met October 30. Margot Bridgen has led the effort to replace and add to trees and shrubs in the cemetery. The granddaughter of the Price family had the stained glass replaced in the mausoleum. There is a new bench in the Old Burying Ground in honor of Jane Andrews. Jay Dempsey continues to work on digitizing Cemetery records.
- Faith Formation is going strong, Sue Russell reported, with about 40 students attending SALT each week. Mary Mraz is departing on December 10.
- There will be an Inquirer's series on two Sundays: January 14 and 21 after worship. Elders are encouraged to attend. There will be a Potluck Supper to welcome new members on Friday, January 26.
- Karen Murray reported that the Stepping Stones Open House was well attended. We met with CAST to discuss the parameters of the program. They are thinking of families who might be a good fit. Our goal is to work with CAST to assess the family's needs and create a long-term plan to help the family.
- In addition, there is interest in starting up the Eagle's Wings program again, to drive people to medical appointments. Several people have volunteered to serve as drivers,

but we need someone to coordinate the program, connecting requests with drivers. Please call the church office if you're interested in serving with this ministry.

- John Touhey reported for the Personnel Committee. Jan Falkowski will take over for Mary Mraz as Faith Formation Facilitator. She will also work half-time in the office, handling communication and outreach. The committee will look to hire a part-time administrative person and bookkeeper, for roughly 17 hours per week. The position of Treasurer will also need to be filled. The committee thanks Ann Romeo for all that she does to help with the church's finances. There will be a farewell celebration on December 10 for the Mraz family. The committee is close to finalizing Dan Koontz's contract, which will take effect December 1st.
- The Nominating Committee will begin its work shortly, led by Sue Russell. The goal will be to propose changes to the by-laws to shrink the size of the Session. The committee is also looking to build the Deacons back up to 15. Karen Murray will be an Elder representative on the committee. Bonnie Zellner will be a Deacon representative.
- Ralph Edwards thanked all the Elders who helped write personal messages on the Estimates of Giving mailing campaign. The "home" campaign is going well.
- The Worship Committee reported that there will be two services on Christmas Eve: an informal Sunday worship at 10 am, and a Family/Candlelight service at 4 pm. We will see how this approach works, as the 8 pm service has not been well attended in several years. The Celebration of the Lord's Baptism will be January 7th, and the Lord's Supper will be moved to January 14th.
 - **People are needed to livestream worship services. Dave Collins can teach people how to do it. Right now, we only have two people to handle this vitally important task. Please reach out to Patty Shuford or Dave if you can help.**
- The meeting was adjourned with prayer from Liz Burns.