



# THE FORECASTER

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## From Pastor Becky

Dear Beloved Community in Christ,

I am thinking of you all daily and thanking God for you as I hold you close in my heart and pray for you without ceasing.

This journey since my emergency back surgery has been a challenging one with some unexpected bumps in the road along the way with the blood infection. On Wednesday, I had my first round of follow up appointments with the surgeon and his team.

My first appointment was with Dr. Puet, who is in charge of the Rehab in the hospital and works with Dr. Kohli in his office. Dr. Puet met with me and did a full evaluation of my progress from my in-home physical therapy program (which I graduated from Tuesday due to my progress). He was impressed with the progress that has been made. He refilled some of my medications (pain medication and muscle relaxants for one month) and will see me for a follow up appointment in one month's time. In the meantime, I am to continue to walk daily, adding 250-500 steps each day as tolerated. I am to continue the physical therapy exercises that the in-home therapist left with me, as well as now begin the 8 exercises that his office sent home with me. These exercises are to be done daily and intentionally in this time to continue to build the muscles and protect around the spine while I continue to wear the back brace (which looks very much like a bullet-proof vest).

From this appointment, I went to the hospital to have an x-ray taken for Dr. Kohli for my 1 p.m. appointment which was my final appointment of the day. Dr. Kohli was very impressed with the progress that has been made since last week when he saw me in the

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### **From Pastor Becky Continued:**

hospital with the blood infection. The incision is healing well, my balance is good, the x-rays looked wonderful and everything is healing "beyond his expectations all things considered." He said that I can begin driving again next week (when I am not taking medication) for short distances (10 minutes or less). He said that I will need to continue to wear my back brace at all times (minus bathing and occasionally when resting and lying flat) for the next two months and we will see if it will need to be stretched out to the fourth month (which was the original projection) when I go back to see him in two months for my next checkup. At that time, we will hopefully sign off on work plans as well as begin outpatient physical therapy.

The appointments both went very well. With the time out and about though left me very tired and it took me a whole day to recover. It is going to take a lot of work and energy for me to get to where I need to be able to be to serve with energy, imagination, intelligence and love.

I am grateful that the Session has given me this time of leave to work on healing so that when I come back, I can be at 100 percent. In the meantime, I am very thankful for my colleague in ministry, Rev. Dr. Meta Cramer who will be serving as the Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown while I am on medical leave. Meta has served God faithfully for many years in our Presbytery in congregations and in the presbytery itself in a number of different ways. She is thoughtful, insightful and seeks to serve to the glory of God in all that she does. You will be well cared for by Meta, our staff and in the loving hands of our Lord in this time.

Know that I look forward to being with you again as soon as the way is clear. Until then, know that I am holding you close in my thoughts, prayers and ALWAYS in my heart.

Peace and Love,

Pastor Becky

Rev. Dr. Rebecca A. Kahnt

Pastor

First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown

## **Worship Services**

IT'S HERE!!



The Worship Committee would like to announce that Worship Services are now on YouTube!

Beginning with Sunday, May 10th, you will find the Worship Service every Sunday. Please go to our website at [fpcyo.org](http://fpcyo.org) and click on the sunrise. That link will take you to YouTube and the Sunday Service.

During this time of the COVID-19, First Presbyterian Church thanks you for worshipping with us.

## CONTINUING TO PRAY FOR

Rick Benson, Kathy Hunter (Marilyn Shakley), Peggy Tompkins, Scott Anderson (Donna Hageman's nephew), Janis DePasqua, Barbara Bestic (Betty Bestic's daughter-in-law), David Maniago (Emily Slaven), Alessia Brown (Janis DePasqua), Debbie Osman (Chet Cooper's sister), Barb and Craig Maltby (Donna Hageman's sister and brother-in-law), Tina Scritchfield, Tammy Helmuth (Klaus), Cheryl (Lynn Toman's sister), Ron Strasik (Renae Scharf), Sarver Family (Lynn Toman), Caleb (Barbara Altman's grandson), Barbara Altman, Terry Murray, Robert Farrell (brother of Pat McCaughan), Eugene O. Loomis III, Jody Donoghue (sister of JoEllen Kieffer), Mary MacGregor Neff (Wilma Miller), Jim Wildish, Janet Trevathan, Pickett family, Arlene Wright, Victor Wan-Tatah, Terry Gregory, Joyce Martin and Karen Stilgenbauer (Karen Cooper), Nancy Woodman, Marlen Sue Martin, Cindy Milicich, Bridget Benson, and Kristy Glover (Bege Bowers).



## Favorite Hymn Sunday



“Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give him glorious praise.” (Psalm 66:1-2) It is wonderful to be able to make a joyful noise to the Lord. And there is something about music that can speak to us in a way like nothing else. It can bring back memories, teach us, help us to grow and inspire us. This seems especially true about music in the life of the church.

Favorite Hymn Sunday is back for another year. One Sunday, once we are back together, we will be having Favorite Hymn Sunday where our whole worship service will be the top 7-8 hymns that you all vote for. Here is how you vote:

Throughout this time while we are worshipping at home, email your favorite hymns to JoEllen or myself. If you do not have access to email, you can write them down and mail them in. A third option is to call them in and leave them on the church machine. We will be tallying them all up and once we have a date, Larry and I will put together the service around the top 7-8 hymns. If your hymn is not one of the ones chosen for that Sunday, don't fret, we will keep this information in mind and use these hymns throughout the Sundays in the weeks and months to come. We are excited to sing these praises to God with you! We hope you will vote and vote often!

## MISSION COMMITTEE COLLECTING BOOKS

The Mission Committee is still collecting books for children in grades Kindergarten through Eighth Grade. Books will be isolated long enough to be sure they are safe to share with others. While we await in person classroom decisions, books can still be dropped off at the church for distribution at a later date. Please be mindful if buying used books, that they are clean and not overly worn. The Mission Committee will be exploring ways to continue the tradition of distributing books to students as Christmas gifts.

### Mission Interpretation Committee

Did you know?

Our Presbytery has made a statement **standing with Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde**, whose church was used by President Trump for a photo op during a peaceful demonstration, protesting the murder of George Floyd. Church volunteers were removed forcibly from their church's patio where they were aiding protestors with water and eye wash (for tear gas) so that the President and his men could occupy the space for a picture of him holding a Bible. The Bishop expressed her outrage.

Did you know?

The mission Interpretation Committee of FPC has a Social Justice Task force. If you drive by our church you'll see that the wording on our sign has been changed. It says, "**BLACK LIVES MATTER TO GOD, AND THEREFORE TO US**". Although we've been interrupted by a pandemic, we are still here to witness to the love of God for all people. When our brothers and sisters of color are mistreated, we believe that God's people are called to stand with them.

The social Justice task force as part of Mission Interpretation has asked our Session to make a statement about our congregation's commitment to justice for those who have been oppressed by systemic racism. Look for that statement here, The Forecaster, in late July or August.

Did you know?

You could become a part of FPC's witness to the cause of treating everyone as a beloved child of God, come join our task force.

Contact:

Becky Murray 330-729-9132 [terencemurray0992@sbcglobal.net](mailto:terencemurray0992@sbcglobal.net) or

Pat Diamond 330-360-8919 [airesong@hotmail.com](mailto:airesong@hotmail.com)

## BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, July 14th , at 10:00 am is the regular meeting time for our book club. The group will meet at **Maryann Limmer's house**. The book they will be discussing is *Educated* by Tara Westover.

In the early 2000s, **Tara Westover** was a preteen living in Idaho with her fundamentalist Mormon family. They were isolated from other people, even her extended family, except for at church. Her father didn't believe in doctors or "government schools," putting the children to work in a family-owned junkyard. Eventually, she and a brother taught themselves enough math to attend Brigham Young University. When Westover arrived, she fully believed she would return home eventually, marry, and live in the way her father intended.

Today, Westover lives in a flat in London. She visits doctors, has a doctorate from Cambridge, and had a fellowship at Harvard University. How she made that disorienting jump is the subject of her memoir. Westover's story is as much about her difficult childhood and what it's like to grow up on fringe beliefs as it is about seeing the world through the eyes of a singular, intelligent, and observant person.

Hope to see you at Maryann's house on July 14th.

Becky Murray



## EMAILS SENT FROM FPCYO.ORG

I have heard from a number of you that you have not been getting any emails that are sent out from FPCYO.org. If you can try and remember to check either your spam or junk mail, it might be in there.

When I send out emails from FPCYO.org, I will also send them from my personal account, [joellenkieffer@hotmail.com](mailto:joellenkieffer@hotmail.com).

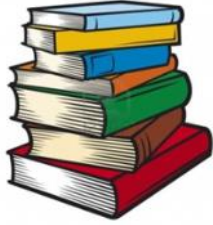
I'm sorry for any inconvenience this might cause, but I do not want anyone to miss out on information.

Thank you for your understanding.

JoEllen

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

1	Eric Monroe	13	Lindsey Goodman
8	Claudia Sturtz		Donna Hageman
	Nolan Wittenauer	15	Julius Balogh
9	Lisa Einfalt	20	Jolien Helsel
12	Sandy Benson	22	Hanna Kahnt
	Elsie Dursi	29	Michael Klaus



## First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown 2020 Book Study Schedule



Our Wednesday Book Study continues, even if it may look a little bit different than what it used to look like. In this time of wonderful fellowship, thoughtful conversation and inspiring insight into the books we are reading and God's work in this world and in us, we are now meeting on a Zoom meeting after dinner time. On Wednesday, July 15th, we will be meeting at 6:30 p.m. If you are interested in participating, please e-mail Margie Patterson ([margiep6257@gmail.com](mailto:margiep6257@gmail.com)) by Tuesday, July 14 and she will include you in the Zoom invitation when it is sent out Wednesday July 15th, in the morning.

Our book for this month's discussion is *Black-and White Bible, Black and Blue Wife: My Story of Finding Hope after Domestic Abuse* by Ruth A. Tucker. As the back cover of the book states, "In this memoir, Ruth Tucker recounts her own harrowing story, exploring how the theological abuse of Scripture can lead to the physical abuse of women. Weaving together her shocking story, stories of women and powerful stories of husbands who truly demonstrated Christ's love to their wives, Ruth makes a compelling case for mutuality in marriage and helps women and men become more aware of potential dangers in a doctrine of male headship." Join us for this conversation and different perspectives along the way.

As we move into a new year together, here are the books we will be exploring in 2020:

- August 19, 2020**     Present over Perfect: Leaving behing Frantic for a Simpler, More Soulful Way of Living by Shauna Niequist
- September 16, 2020**     Girl, Wash Your Face: Stop Believing the Lies About Who You Are so You Can Become Who You Were Meant to Be by Rachel Hollis
- October 21, 2020**     Troubled Minds: Mental Illness and the Church's Mission by Amy Simpson
- November 18, 2020**     A Crazy, Holy Grace: The Healing Power of Pain and Memory by Frederick Buechner
- December 16, 2020**     Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others by Barbara Brown Taylor

### FPW UPDATE

Due to the ongoing situation with the Covid-19 pandemic, the July 29th FPW picnic is cancelled. The Women's Retreat on Friday August 21st—Saturday, August 22nd is also cancelled. We hope to be able to reschedule the retreat for 2021. As of now, the remaining events of the year are pending. That includes the October 22nd craft event with Carol Reed, dinner at MVR on November 4th, and lunch/trip to Kraynak's after church on December 6th. We will continue to monitor the health situation and keep you updated. Meanwhile we are still honoring our Mission commitments. If you are able to contribute to FPW, please contact Karen Cooper. We appreciate your financial support.

We ask that you continue to pray for and support the women of FPC during this time when we can't be together in person. You can do this through a phone call, an email, text, Zoom or Facetime, or a card.

Remember, "To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world".  
(Dr. Seuss)

## Task Force Update

At their June 18, 2020 meeting, Session approved the Task Force's recommendation to hire Rev. Meta Cramer as the Temporary Pastor of FPCYO. She will serve from July 1 - September 30 or until Pastor Becky is released by her doctor. We will provide updates to her schedule and how to contact her as we get closer to July 1. Since Session also voted ***not to resume Sunday worship in the church in July***, Rev. Cramer will be providing the sermons for the You Tube services.

Rev. Cramer is recently retired after serving as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio. She is currently Moderator of the Eastminster Presbytery Committee on Ministry. Rev. Cramer is quite familiar with our church.

An update to Pastor Becky's health has been included. We ask that you refrain from calling, emailing or texting her at this time. Cards are welcome. Please keep Pastor Becky and her family in your prayers. If you are in need of pastoral care before July 1st, you can contact:

Richard "Jamie" Milton  
Pastor – First Presbyterian Church of Mineral Ridge  
336-675-2306  
[pastorjmilton@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjmilton@gmail.com)

## THANK YOU FROM PASTOR BECKY !

My family and I would like to thank everyone for all your thoughts, prayers, warm wishes, meals, flowers, cards, gifts and all the ways you have helped our family throughout the last several weeks as I am recovering from surgery! Words cannot express how much all of your care for us has meant during this time. I continue to grow stronger each day and look forward to being with you as soon as the way is cleared by the doctors, but until then know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers!

## THANK YOU FROM PAT DIAMOND !

A humble thank you for the prayers from the family and friends of Amelia Khounthiloumane. Shortly after moving from Chicago to Charlotte last August, Amelia had started experiencing pain in her abdomen. After a couple doctor visits, there was no conclusive evidence of anything seriously wrong. By October, pain had increased and extensive testing resulted in diagnosing a rare cancer throughout her tiny 3-year old abdomen. Many prayers, surgeries, and chemo treatments later, she is thriving. Covid may have limited the physical celebration of her 4th birthday, though nothing could limit the spirit of that celebration and official diagnosis of remission. She is growing and growing and her long strong legs are getting tanned with outside play. Again, a very humble thank you for your prayers.

Due to COVID19 travel bans, many international students are stranded on campus at YSU. Please consider helping feed our neighbors who are so far away from home and family.



## Penguin Pantry Food Drive!

### Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month



You can help out YSU students in *one* of these ways:

- ✓ **Direct Donations:** Drop off food and personal hygiene items from 12-2:30pm, Mon-Fri, at Kilcawley Center's North entrance (on Elm St.)
- ✓ **Porch pick up:** Sign up for a volunteer to pick up donations from your porch (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month) and they can deliver them to the Pantry for you. (<https://tinyurl.com/yaep5of3>)
- ✓ **Volunteer:** Pick up & deliver goods on Fridays.
- ✓ **Donate Items:** Amazon Wish List. (<https://tinyurl.com/y9flfn49>)
- ✓ **Donate Money:** *Penguin to Penguin Fund.* (<https://tinyurl.com/y9wgr534>)



For more information contact: Alicia Prieto ([aprietolangarica@ysu.edu](mailto:aprietolangarica@ysu.edu)) or Jacob Haskins ([jehaskins@ysu.edu](mailto:jehaskins@ysu.edu) and 330-941-2555)