



August 23, 2023 Session Meeting Highlights

The following are the highlights from the August Session meeting:

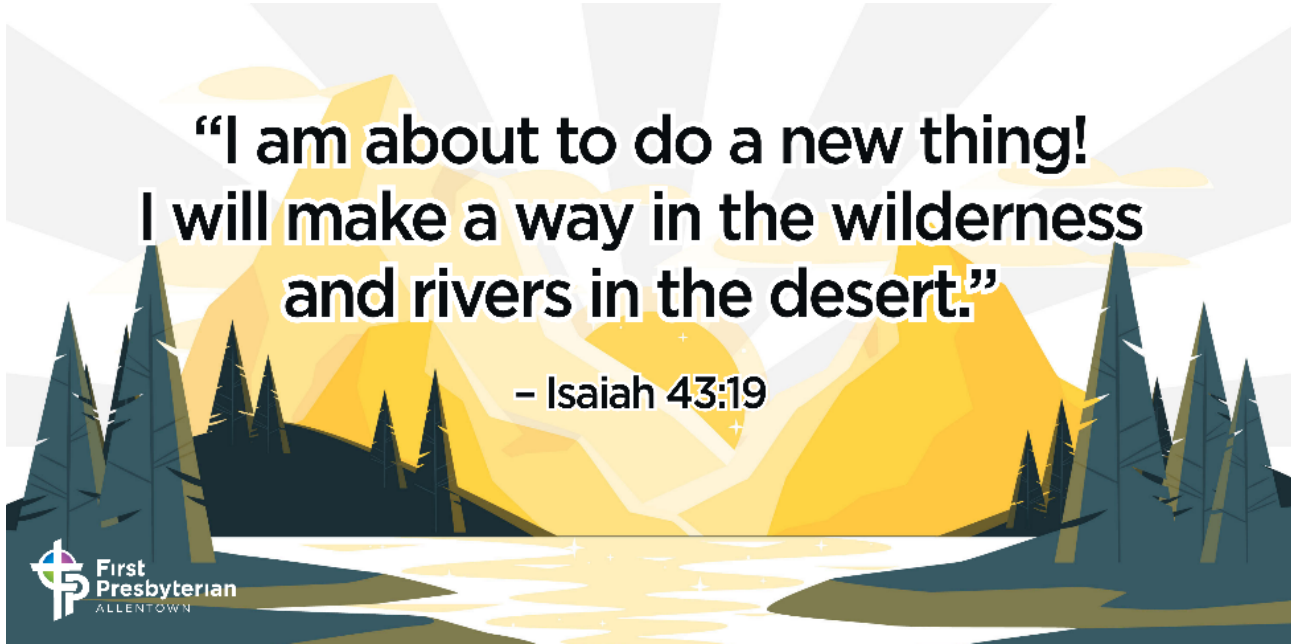
- Discussion is underway regarding a possible men's retreat this Fall.
- A hiring team is being formed to fill the vacant Director of Contemporary Music position.
- The mini VBS had 22 children, 15 youth, and 13 adults participating. It was incredibly successful.
- The adult faith formation Fall opportunities have been finalized.
- The Fall Kick-Off will be on September 10, 2023 with a combined worship service followed by an all-church picnic.
- 18 members from among First-Allentown, First-Bethlehem, Faith-Emmaus, and College Hill Easton manned a booth at the August 20, 2023 Pride Event to share God's love, tell people about our church and denomination, and give out prayer squares knit by our knitters as well as to apply temporary tattoos.
- Census Update:
 - "Indicated or Deemed active" (850 members)– no further action needed.
 - "Want to be removed" (38 members) – Removed from FPCA roll at the August Session meeting.
 - "No response" (237 members) – Additional checking is underway to see if they have participated in the life of the church in the past two years through attendance and/or financial giving. If there is no indication then we will send them a pastoral letter expressing our hope that they will remain active, but unless we hear from them, we will presume they wish to be removed from the active roll.
 - "Want inactive" (107 members) – We will try to reach out to them next year at about this time with special pastoral sensitivity. We know that some members chose this category because health keeps them from attending but they still wish to be connected to the church. Session will decide how to handle members requesting "inactive" status at that time.

Following the membership actions taken at the August Session meeting, we currently have 1,202 members which includes new members.

- The removed pews cannot stay in storage indefinitely. Session briefly discussed exploring the potential feasibility of repurposing them as chairs for the Sanctuary. No firm decision has been made as to what to do with them.
- At the end of July 2023, year-to-date General Fund Revenues were about \$122,000 below year-to-date budgeted general fund revenues (with pledges about \$91,000 below year-to-date budgeted pledges) and year-to-date expenditures were about \$98,000 below year-to-date budgeted expenditures. This results in about a \$23,000 year-to-date deficit compared to the year-to-date budget. Actual total revenues for July 2023 were about \$4,000 below total actual expenses.
- Session accepted with regret Sara Lakatosh's resignation from Session effective July 13, 2023.
- Session approved a year-long Stewardship theme outdoor banner based on Isaiah 43:19 as shown below.
- The Fellowship Hall video system is being evaluated by a professional firm to determine what equipment needs to be repaired and/or replaced. Currently, it is unclear if services can be live-streamed from Fellowship Hall.
- The Session approved the purchase of car magnets with the payment coming out of the Head of Staff discretionary fund. The magnets will be available without charge to

church members and will be a good way to celebrate FPCA's ministry and gently share with the public the congregation which people are glad to call their home.

- The Session agreed to schedule a town hall on Sunday, October 22, between the two English language services to give an update on the mission statement, the mission study, and the process for electing a pastor nominating committee to search for the next lead pastor.



**“I am about to do a new thing!
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.”**

– Isaiah 43:19