

2025 Session

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Session



Pastor KJ & Blake

192nd Birthday Celebration

Dear Family and Friends of FPCD,

I am so grateful for you!

As we celebrate our 192nd year as a congregation, I am reflecting both on the steadfast love of God and the torrid of change in our nation and world.

The Old Testament prophets spoke with boldness about God's movement in the midst of economic injustice (Amos), environmental disaster (Joel), and oppressive warfare (Obediah). The great Theologian Karl Barth encouraged us to read scripture in one hand with the newspaper in the other. As we do this together in community, perhaps we see an abundance of similarities between the stories of old and our own stories. My prayer is that in the midst of our personal and collective struggles, we remember, God is with us.

I'm so thankful for the way that you act as God's hands and feet, showing up for one another in times of joy and hardship. I'm encouraged by each of you as I see you using the good gifts God has given you to serve God by loving one another.

In particular, let us give thanks for FPCD's new Music Director Romellus Wilson. Romellus not only brings excellence in music skill vocally and through the piano, he also brings a deep love for God, for community, and for drawing people into worship. I'm so grateful that God has brought Romellus in this time and thankful for the excellent hard work of the Human Resources Committee for their prayers and discernment through the process.

Let us also give thanks for our Deacons hosting a variety of social gatherings and taking care of those in need, for our Session members leading with determination, for our new community partnerships including Project Linus and Citizens Against Abuse, and our ongoing mission and fundraising events like the Community Garden and Garage Sale. God is using you in mighty ways, and I could not be more thankful to serve God with you.

Love, Pastor KJ

P.S. Enjoy the pictures of our congregation and community at various events throughout our 192nd year.

◆ Fellowship/Outreach Committee ◆

Every week after church, worshipers gather to share, laugh and enjoy coffee and treats at Coffee Time courtesy of the Fellowship Committee. Panera Bread continues to donate breads, bagels and pastries to the church and community. We also held an Ice Cream Social after church in May. Thanks to everyone who participates after church.



Pastor KJ & Blake's Wedding

● Worship Committee ●

On behalf of the entire church family, thank you for your generous contributions to the Capital Campaign for Hymnal and Worship Upgrades.

In just two months we reached our goal of \$1800!

Giving in the manner that you do doesn't simply happen – it's the result of faith, trust, and intentional choices, and is a testament to your faith and commitment to our shared mission.

We are incredibly thankful for your support.



Swingset Big Band Event Raffle Table

* Stewardship Committee *

We want to thank everyone for their generous contributions in support of the hymnal and worship upgrades and the effort to repair the electronic sign on Weber Road. Because the cost to repair the existing sign kept increasing beyond original estimates, Session decided it was not in FPCD's best interest to invest in the older sign technology. Based on the encouragement we received from the congregation, our committee will continue to work with Session to explore options and costs for the sign replacement.

Later this summer, we will kick off the FPCD pledge campaign for 2026 so that the Finance Committee can plan our budget for the new year. Our goal will be to have pledges in place by early October 2025.

We're happy to report that we'll be partnering with organizations to conduct future events in service to our church, congregation, and community.

Some of the future events include:

- ▶ Estate Planning / Legacy Giving Workshop and Luncheon - July 27, 2025
- ▶ Citizens Against Abuse Event - August 22, 2025
- ▶ Swingset Band Christmas Concert - December 2025
- ▶ WorldStrides Heritage Festival Choral Performances - April 17 - 18, 2026



★ Intergenerational Committee ★

We have continued to host the Parents' night out. We are looking for more volunteers and new ideas, so let us know if you can help.

Upcoming events in October: Trunk or Treat and a new event Fire and Home Safety

Thank you to all the current volunteer helpers.



\$ Finance Committee \$

We have been working very diligently this year to continue keeping up with our bills. In January, we took a loan from our investments to pay all vendors and have ZERO balances with them. We have remained current, until July. Unfortunately, we had a bit of an HVAC issue with the sanctuary. It will be an extra \$4,700 that we did not anticipate. We are confident that God will send us what we need, after all, He tells us in *Philippians 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.*

As Stewardship has stated, we will be working together to begin our Pledge Campaign so that we will have a better idea of income when we plan our 2026 budget. Thank you for your continued support.



Romellus Wilson

■ HR Committee ■

After our spring search, we have hired our Music Director, Romellus Wilson, who started on June 15, 2025. Thank you for all of your prayers during our search and your support of Romellus.

2025 Deacons

Liz Waikas, *Co-Chair*
Alyssa Crebo, *Co-Chair*
Linda Altonen
Tammy Altonen-Horak
Jennifer Harrison
John Holloway
Ruth Nauta
Barb Petrie
Margo Stark



June 8th brought a 50's-themed luncheon to Fellowship Hall. We had yummy food, heard some rock 'n' roll hits and played bingo. The month of June also found the deacons very busy helping with the Garage Sale/Bake Sale.

The Session and Deacons will be having a mid-year meeting on July 25th.

Our next Stewardship breakfast will be on September 13th, and we are busy planning for that. Our next Sunday Potluck is on October 19th—the theme and sign-up sheet will be available closer to the date.