



Serenity Inns Dinner Fellowship

Why is Dinner Fellowship So Necessary?

Serenity Inns is a residence for men in recovery from alcohol and/or drug abuse in Milwaukee. FPLC has a long history of members providing 3 dinners a month and sharing the meal and conversation with the men. Our volunteers know that

providing and sharing a meal with the residents enables the men to share their stories with others, feel the compassion of a caring community and build their communication skills that have suffered during their times of isolation and addiction. Now is a wonderful time to add more volunteers to enjoy this experience of learning, sharing, growth and compassion.

"Dinner Fellowship taught me things about myself I never knew. Serenity Inns changed my life. Serenity Inns saved my life." –A recent Serenity Inns graduate

What to Expect When Volunteering

Volunteers make dinner and take it warm to the Inn by 5:45 pm (for a 6 pm start time). The men meet you at your car to carry items inside. Prepare the meal in your cookware (vs buying aluminum pans) if you like because the men will wash it and carry it to the car at the end of the meal. As the number of residents varies, you'll receive an email a week before your date with the number of residents; right now the number is between 9 and 12. You'll be cooking for yourselves, the men and the innkeeper. You're usually on your way home by 7 pm. Two families, friends, small group members etc. are welcome to volunteer together to share the meal prep and dining experience.



*Serenity Inns:
2825 W. Brown St., Mke*

**Volunteers
needed:**

What Should We Prepare for Dinner?

Many of us may not be experienced cooking for a group this large. Here are some suggestions from experienced meal providers:

"While they appreciated some of our family favorites, they love meals with a lot of flavor and spice/heat. Expect someone to pull out that bottle of Franks RedHot at every meal!"

"We've done fried chicken, jambalaya, red beans and rice, collard greens, cornbread, a particular favorite, but also meals like barbe-cued hamburgers and brats are favorites."

"A main dish, 2 sides and a small dessert—like cookies—works well. The men appreciate a good fresh fruit salad, rolls and other salads as well."

"We have served chicken dishes that have gone over well and fresh green salads with fruit. Overall, the men are so grateful for the guests and the food."

"Also, you can never make too much food. Whatever is leftover, the men use for lunches the following day."

How To Sign Up and Ask Questions

Why not volunteer for this important and meaningful opportunity? This is a wonderful and popular SOP option for your student that you can do as a family.

Sign up on the website (with link below) or on the signup in Fellowship Hall.

Do you have questions? FPLC member, and long-time SI volunteer, Lorraine Buehler is happy to answer any of your questions; lcbuehler@cs.com.

Click here to sign up!

Sign Up!





**This
Sunday**



New Grief Support Group Beginning in February

Information Session: Sunday, February 2; 11:45 am

Grief can be one of the most painful and persistent forms of sorrow, impacting our lives in many ways. When we're grieving the death of someone we love, we need support from others who understand what we are experiencing and a place to gather together to offer care and encouragement to one another.

In February, we will begin a shared journey of twelve sessions meeting on a weekly basis. They will be facilitated by one of our pastors. If you are interested in learning more, please plan to attend an informational session. You may also reach out to Pastor Bruce at pastorbruce@foxpointchurch.org.

Date: Sunday, February 2

Time: 11:45 am

Location: The Sanctuary

Chili Throwdown!

One of our most popular social events, the Chili Throwdown is a fun event for all! We have all the Chili chef's we need, but join the fun of sampling the chili!

Chili Tasters

Come to sample tasty, homemade chili and rate your favorite recipes and help determine the winning chefs. There will be a beer tasting station for adults and hot dogs & chips for the kiddos.

It will be a great night of eating chili and connecting with friends old and new! We are not able to offer child care for this event. To register to attend or to cook, click the links to the right.



⚡ FPLC'S 10TH ANNUAL ⚡

CHILI THROWDOWN

BRING THE HEAT!

CONTESTANTS	ATTENDEES
<p>BRING THE HEAT!</p> <p>FULL</p> <p>Prizes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chef's Choice Runner Up Most Creative Display <p>Chef Sign Up</p>	<p>YOU BE THE JUDGE!</p> <p>Sample The Recipes</p> <p>Beer Tasting</p> <p>For kids: Hot Dogs, Chips and Lemonade</p> <p>Attendee Sign Up</p>

SAT. FEB. 1
5-7 PM



**ENDS
FRIDAY!**



Soles for Jesus

Shoes. They are a basic luxury that we take for granted every day as we choose our favorite pair from our closet. Millions of people across our globe live barefoot lives. Not only does

this cause health issues, it makes injuries more prevalent. It also keeps people from work and school, where shoes are required.

We are holding a shoe drive for Soles for Jesus now through January 31. They accept new and used shoes for children or adults, male or female. All sizes and types of shoes are welcome donations. Shoes not appropriate for others to wear are recycled and turned into other materials, like playground flooring. The shoes are sent to developing countries in Africa.

At the end of January, some of our Confirmation students will be going to the Soles for Jesus warehouse to learn more about their mission and to volunteer sorting, washing and packing shoes. (Confirmation families, see page 9 for details and to register.)

To learn more about the mission of Soles for Jesus click on this link for videos, statistics, pictures and more: [Soles for Jesus](#)

A donation box will be located next to the Welcome Desk starting the first Sunday in January. Questions? Contact Stacia Hickey; stacia@foxpointchurch.org.



FPLC '25 Blood Drives

**Thurs
March 27
1 – 6 pm**

**Thurs
May 22
1 – 6 pm**

**Tues
July 22
1 – 6 pm**

**Thurs
October 30
1 – 6 pm**

Despite 65% of the population being eligible, only 3% of Americans currently donate blood. Be a hero and donate blood to help save lives! Thank you for donating. Never donated before? Become a first-time donor!!

FPLC's 2025 Blood Drives are open to all, so invite a friend to donate with you!

To sign up: Click [HERE](#)



Hospital Visits

If you or a loved one is hospitalized and would like a visit or call from a pastor (or just for them to know you are hospitalized), please call the church office;

414-352-8990. Due to HIPAA rules, hospitals are not allowed to share with us that you are a patient.



Missing Something

We have quite a collection of coats, water bottles, sunglasses . . . stop by the Welcome Desk on Sunday mornings and they will show you our lost and found or come into the office during the week to claim your items. If items aren't claimed after several weeks, they will be donated.



On 21 May 2015 Joanne Weinberg, Debbie Konkol and Chris Halverson visited the grave in the Jewish cemetery in Strasbourg, in which their grandmother Alice Simon is buried. The little stones that they left behind for memory, they had brought with them from their homes in USA.

Women's Club (Men Invited!)

From Holocaust to Civil Rights

Three sisters present the story of their pilgrimage to Germany and France to retrace their grandmother's recently discovered, tragic and shocking murder during the Holocaust. The Simon sisters discuss how this history influenced their father, the Rev. Dr. Carl R. Simon, in his lifetime commitment to work for civil and human rights. They describe his trip to Alabama in 1965 to support the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's Selma March.

Date: Wednesday, February 12

Times: 11:30 – Gather in Fellowship Hall for Fellowship

12:00 – Lunch; with presentation to follow

Location: Fellowship Hall

Cost: \$10, includes lunch

Sign up: In Fellowship Hall or on our website under Life @ FPLC, Connecting Events, Women's Club, by Sunday, February 9, noon

Contact: Gail Sommerfeld at sommerfeld56@gmail.com or 262-395-0396.

Our March Meeting is:

March 12 | 11:30 am

Collage Keepsakes by Judy (Collage Quilting)



Men's Club (Women Invited!)

Pastor Bill: The State of The Church

Hear Pr. Bill share the hopes and vision for our ministry in 2025. He will walk us through the successes and challenges we face as a church.

Date: Thursday, February 20

Time: 11:30 am

Location: Fellowship Hall

Cost: \$10, includes lunch

Signup: In Fellowship Hall

Contact: Call the church office, 414-352-8990



Women's Book Club

February 24; 7 - 8:30 pm

The February book is Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon. We meet in the lower

level in the Meeting Space (next to the lower level Cafe). For a full list of the books, see our [website](#). Questions: contact Joanne Ginster; jmginster@yahoo.com or (414) 491-8939.

Ushers Needed!

Would you like to join our usher team? It's open to Confirmation students with a parent, and high school kids through adults. Sign up with the QR code or contact Lori Barrieau; lori@foxpointchurch.org.





Fox Point Moms—Friday Mornings

Jan. 31, Feb. 14 & 28; 9:30 – 11 am

This is for moms of all ages with children or grandchildren of all ages! We'll support each other on mom and family issues and discuss a short

devotional at each meeting.

We're creating a judgment-free time to mentor each other, vent, ask parenting, family or spousal questions and be a support to each other. We meet twice a month. Haven't joined us before? No problem, join any time. Thanks!

If you have any questions, contact Diane Knapp; diane@foxpointchurch.org.

Join the Group



Fox Point Moms—Tuesday Evening Group

February 4 & 18; 6:30 – 8 pm; meeting in the Heritage Room

This adult group offers a safe, open space to support moms

of any age. We will begin with a podcast (Revived Motherhood) by Becky Thompson, who offers realistic and supportive faith-based advice for today's busy moms. The group meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. This will be a time to mentor and support each other and discuss parenting and family issues. Please RSVP so we know how many people to expect. Thanks!

If you have any questions, contact Diane Knapp; diane@foxpointchurch.org.

Join the Group



Knitters and Crocheters Needed!

Soap Sacks

Soap Sacks are hand-knit or crocheted drawstring bags that hold a standard size bar of soap. The sacks can be used simply to hold the soap or people can leave the soap in the bag and use it as a soap-filled wash cloth. FPLC will fill each bag with a donated bar of soap and deliver them to our partners in Milwaukee to give to their pantry guests. Some of the guests are homeless or move frequently. They may not have access to soap or washcloths on a regular basis. If you can't make these but would like to help, donate standard-sized bars of soap in our food carts.

This is an ongoing project, so you may donate these any time in our Food Donation Cart or at the

Welcome Desk.

If you wish to include a standard-sized bar of soap with the Soap Sacks you donate, please keep the soap in its wrapper before putting it inside the sack. That way it stays clean until it reaches its recipient. Donations can be left in our food donation carts.

See the links below for instructions. If you have a pattern you'd prefer to use, that's fine! We just ask that they be similar in size, have a drawstring or tie to close the sack and that you use cotton yarn.

A sample will be in Fellowship Hall on the Sign Up Tables!

If you have any questions, please contact Stacia Hickey; stacia@foxpointchurch.org.

Directions



Kids' Church!

Our new Sunday morning program for kids, **Kids' Church**, has started! If your children are participating in Kid's Church and haven't been registered yet, click the appropriate button below to fill out the registration form ASAP.



Our preschool friends–Little Foxes–will continue to meet in the lower-level Preschool Room.



Our younger elementary friends (K5–3rd grades)–our Faith Explorers–will meet in the Movie Room in the Sunday School hallway. We will use a variety of rooms in this area, based on our different activities each Sunday.



Our older elementary kids (4th–6th grades)–our Faith Builders–will now meet in the Café area, which gives them the space they need to build their faith and community in new and varied ways.

If you have questions, contact Julie Schlifske, Director of Children's Ministries; julie@foxpointchurch.org. Of course, you are welcome to come downstairs on any Sunday to meet our new teachers and see our programs in action.

Preschool Registration:

Do you have a child who will be age 3 as of September 1 through 4 years old?

PRESCHOOL

Elementary Registration:

Do you have a child who is in K5 – 6th grade this fall?

ELEMENTARY



Vacation Bible School

Are you currently in K4-3rd grade? Then bring lots of friends and join us for this fun and faith-filled week!

We Have a SUPER GodWho Asks Us to Be SUPER Friends!

Join us for lots of games, crafts, Bible stories and a secret super hero who will help us learn more about our super God and how to be a super friend to others!

Date: June 16-20

Time: 9 am – noon

Registration: Click [HERE](#)

Fee: \$75 per child

*Scholarships available, contact the church office.



Little Lambs

Little Lambs is designed for children who have turned age 3 by January 1, 2025, through those currently in a P3 program.

Join us as we sing, play games, make crafts and investigate how to follow Jesus.

Date: June 16-20

Time: 9:15 am – 11:45 am

Registration: Click [HERE](#)

Fee: \$75 per child

*Scholarships available, contact the church office.

Helpers Needed!

We are looking for volunteers for VBS and Little Lambs. If you can help for a few hours or every day, please contact Julie Schlifske;

julie@foxpointchurch.org.





Sheepshead at FPLC

Dates: Feb 14 & 28

Declared the official card game of Milwaukee in 1983, Sheepshead is a staple to Wisconsin card players.

Are you interested in joining a group of Sheepshead players to meet at church for some friendly competition? We play in Fellowship Hall, on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. We will have “learning aids” available to help with the basics, and experienced players to guide you.

We are looking forward to sharing the fun! For more information, contact Jim Schmidt at schmidttyjim@aol.com.



High School Youth Group

At Youth Group, our vision is to create an atmosphere for high schoolers to grow, connect, worship and serve.

We welcome all! Whether you go to church every Sunday, or have never stepped foot inside FPLC, if you're interested in exploring your faith, fellowship

and having some fun—come join us!

If you need a ride, we encourage carpooling (responsibly). If anyone needs a ride, let us know and we WILL figure something out so all can attend. We do need people to RSVP to these events; a link to do so will be sent out ahead of time. If you have any questions about Youth Group, please contact Hannah Knapp; hannah@foxpointchurch.org.

Feb 22: Chicago Mini-Mission Trip—NEW DATE!

We will be taking the train to Chicago to serve those in need! Come travel in the city, serving those who need help. (8am-5pm, estimated time.)

RSVP is required
for this event:

RSVP

HS Summer Trip!

Keep your eye out for an email from Pr. Bill about a summer trip meeting happening soon.



The Basics of Baby Massage: A Parent Infant Class

Best for babies 2 weeks to under 12 months and their parent(s)/guardian(s).

Infant massage can relieve fussiness, pain and discomfort for the baby as well as help babies fall asleep sooner and sleep more restfully. Bring your baby, a blanket and wear comfy clothes to class as we will be on the floor. Handouts will be provided.

Date: February 21; additional sessions are on the 3rd Friday of the month. It's a one-session class, but you can come to more if you would like.

Time: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Limit: 6 families per session

Registration: Call or email Angie Biersach to RSVP, 414-207-2808 or angiebiersach@gmail.com.



Coffee Hosts Needed!

Hosts make the coffee and serve the donuts on Sundays. You are still able to attend the church service. Just slip in at the back as the service is starting and slip out as it's ending.

Families are welcome to volunteer with their kids! **It's also a great Service Opportunity for our Confirmation students (with an adult).**

9:00 am shift: (Approx 8:15 am – 10:15 am) Cut up the donuts, brew the coffee, and set things out.

10:30 am shift: (Approx 10:15 am – 11:45 am) Keep the coffee brewing, fill the donut trays as needed and clean up afterwards.

If you'd like to help with this important part of Sunday mornings, please sign up with the link below or contact Lori Barrieau in the church office if you have any questions; lori@foxpointchurch.org or 414-352-8990.

**Help Needed:
Feb 9
and beyond!**

Sign Up!



Meru Coffee at Home!

Support Mt. Meru Coffee Farmers and Drink Delicious Coffee at Home!

You can purchase Mt. Meru Coffee (beans, ground, regular, decaf, sample flavor packs, Seasonal Premium Mt. Meru coffee, k-cups) at church to brew at home.

Not only is the coffee delicious, but your purchase helps support the growers running small coffee farms in the Meru District of Tanzania.

Stop by the Welcome Desk on Sunday mornings or in the office during the week to make your purchases.



Caregivers Support Group

Led by FPLC member Susan Halling, a marriage and family therapist, this group is for care-givers dealing with changes in family dynamics. Challenges include: role reversal, juggling responsibilities, handling dementia, loss and transitions as we move into uncharted territory. The group meets Fridays at 10:30 am in FPLC's first floor Heritage Room. If you are interested in joining or learning more, please call the FPLC office at 414-352-8990.



Bayside Garden Cards

Keep the birds well fed by purchasing feeders or seed at Bayside

Garden Center. They also have beautiful indoor plants from tiny to large to keep your home feeling cozy during the winter months.

Bayside Gardens helps us send teens in Tanzania to high school—an FPLC commitment of \$10,000 a year. All you have to do is purchase Bayside gift cards at church (NOT at the garden center). We retain 15% of each card's cost, which helps us keep our promise to our partner dioceses in Tanzania. Cards can be purchased at the Welcome Desk on Sunday mornings or in the church office during the week.

URGENT NEED: SPACE HEATERS!



Point your camera at the QR code to access the registry; or click on the Amazon logo.



MBHS REGISTRY

Help the guests of MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary stay warm and well-fed this winter.

- Go to our registry (use the QR code below or search Amazon's custom gift registries for MBHS)
- Select and pay for the items you choose
- They will be sent directly to MBHS's delivery address

OR

Purchase items where you like and place them in the FPLC food donation carts.

- Crock pots
- Toaster ovens
- Space heaters
- Electric skillets
- Electric hot plates
- Blenders (for those who have trouble chewing)

QUESTIONS?

stacia@foxpointchurch.org



All the information you need can be found on our website here: [Confirmation](#). If you have any questions regarding Confirmation, please contact Lori Barrieau; lori@foxpointchurch.org.

Upcoming Dates:

February 12—Workshop
February 26—Workshop

March 12—Workshop
April 2—Workshop

Confirmation Soles for Jesus Event

On Saturday, January 25, about 23 Confirmation students and 5 parents went to the Soles for Jesus warehouse to learn about the organization's mission and to help sort donated shoes. Although our shoe drive isn't over until Friday, they brought the shoes FPLC has received so far—approximately 200 pairs! Following is a note from the organization after the event and some pictures taken from the day. Thank you to Lori Lorenz for helping to organize this event, attending and taking the pictures. If you would like to learn more about Soles for Jesus, see their website: [Soles for Jesus](#).

FPLC-

Thank you for joining us and for volunteering in our warehouse! The time that you shared is greatly valued and appreciated.

Thanks to volunteers like you, over 908,561 lives in Africa have been touched by the love of Jesus and the gift of shoes. We couldn't do this without the help of many and we hope to see you again.

God bless you for your kindness!





One Angel Needed!



Keep the Pantries Stocked

Your generous donations allow FPLC to continue donating nutritious, filling and culturally-appropriate food to our partners. Each of the 3 pantries we support receive at least one delivery of food & personal care products a month.

All Peoples Church served 16,000 individuals at their pantry in 2024. MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary serves 200+ households and individuals weekly. It's easy for their supplies to dwindle each week, so it's important we help them restock on a regular basis.

If you have any questions, please contact Stacia Hickey; stacia@foxpointchurch.org.

Note: We cannot accept any expired foods; check labels. We are looking for filling and culturally-appropriate foods, not specialty items.

Food Needs:

Baked Beans

Canned black-eyed peas

Ensure Infant Formula

Dinty Moore Stew

Canned fruit

Canned beef and chicken

Soup (not tomato)

Baby formula

Spam

Sardines

Peanut butter

Canned Yams

Chicken Noodle Soup

Tuna

Salmon

Vienna sausages

Mac & cheese

Canned vegetables

16 oz oatmeal

Canned Pasta

Pasta Sauce in cans or plastic

Honey Nut Cheerios/Cereal

Hamburger Helper

Jelly

Personal Care Items:

(Regular full-sized preferred, not bulk size)

Men's deodorant

Women's deodorant

Body wash

Toothpaste

Shampoo/Conditioner

Feminine products

Razors

Diapers sized 4-6

Body lotion

Toilet paper

Lip balm

Vaseline

Dish soap

****Standard-sized Bar soap:** We have a special need for bar soap to fill the soap sacks our knitters/crocheters have been busy making. See page 5 for info on those.



Kitchen Angels

It's feels good when you walk into an organized, clean and well-supplied kitchen when you are ready to cook, serve a meal, prepare for an event.

What is a Kitchen Angel?

That is exactly what our Kitchen Angel team does here at FPLC. They make sure we have plenty of ground coffee for Sunday morning, that the creamer is stocked and fresh, that dishes are put away in their proper places and that there are clean towels ready for washing and drying the dishes. Once a year they get together to do a big deep-clean of the entire kitchen.

What's Involved if I Volunteer?

Each person who signs up to be an Angel chooses one month during which they check the kitchen supplies and lets the office know what needs to be ordered. They also launder the towels. Generally they do this once a week on a day of their choosing.

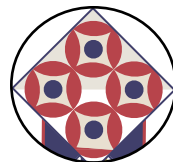
The whole group meets once a year to give the kitchen a thorough cleaning. With up to 12 helpers, this goes pretty quickly!

How Do I Sign Up?

You can sign up right in Fellowship Hall, where you will be able to choose which month you would like to be an Angel. There is a list of instructions next to the sign up. You will also be emailed the instructions and a contact list of all the other Angels for guidance.

This Sounds Awesome (and super helpful to FPLC), but I Have Some Questions

Sandy Gepfert can answer all your Kitchen Angel questions! Just give her a call! 414-351-0374.



Quilters/Piecemakers: Join Us!

Join us as we make quilts for those in need. New members are always welcome and we'll teach you what to do. Bring your lunch and enjoy a break with other quilters. Come and go as your schedule permits.

Date: Tuesday, February 18

Time: 9 am – 1:30 pm

Location: Fellowship Hall

Contact: Ellen Feider; 414-435-8440;

efeiderwi@gmail.com



PRAYER LIST

All in The Family

Join us on Sunday, for the virtual service. If you or your family need anything we can help you with, call the office at 414-352-8990 or email church@foxpointchurch.org!

We encourage you to keep these people in your prayers during the week.

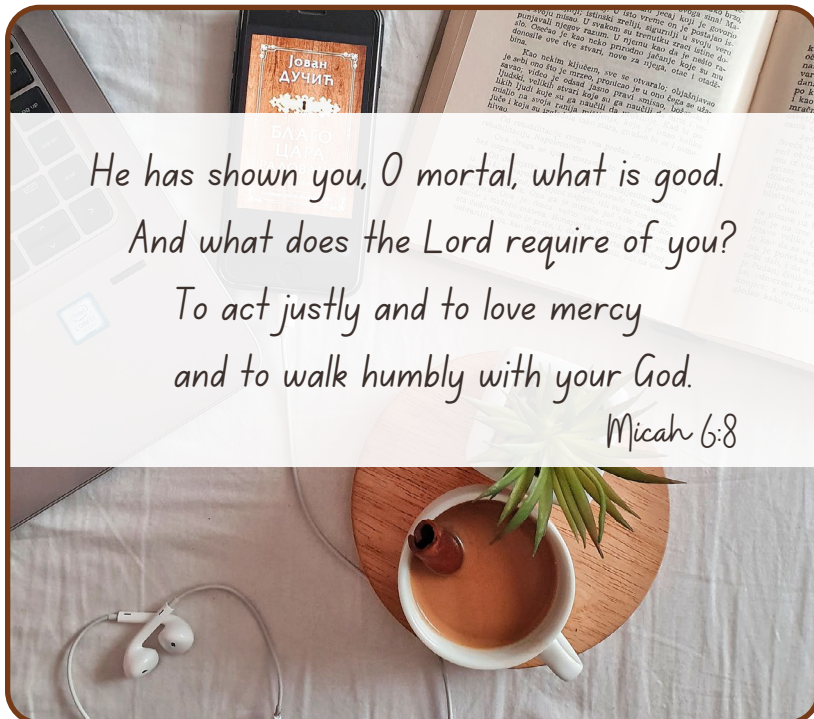
Woody Barksdale	Cammy Endres	Jon	Robert Palmer
Kim Bell	Erin	Donna Jordahl	Patrick
Jay Blair	Frank	Julia	Peter
Brenda	Rick Frank	Randy K.	Tan Popatas
Cullen C.	Andrea G.	Kath	Rebecca
John Chamberlain	Jenny G.	Corrine Kraus	Mary Ellen Resenhoeft –
Cheryl	Eden Gilday	Leslie	Bloomquist
Richard Choi	Joan Gildner	Linda	Rick
Chris	Guy	Pr. Luke	Robert
Christine	Anna H.	Laurie M.	Dave Rotter
Chrystal	Claire H.	Steve M.	Roy
Claire	Heather	Mary	Ryan
Curt Claus	Heidi	MaryEllen	Sarah
Colin	Sue Hiller	Matt	Stephen
Rosie Conaway	Harlow James	Pat Meyer	Jane T.
Craig	Lila Jerabek	Michael	Terry
Lyle Dabney	Jim	Mike	Thad
Dale	Joan	Nancy	Tom
Pr. Dan	Joeli	Curt Nash	Mike Umland
Daniel	John	Marla O'Brian	

Prayer Requests

Now you can make a prayer request through our web-site. Click [Prayer Requests](#) to submit a form or submit a request through email—church@foxpointchurch.org.

Military

Alex	Grant
Cooper	Ian
Danny	Kyan
David	Matthew



Congratulations

Baptisms

Nash Newlin Pierce and Breck Jensen Pierce, sons of Craig and Lane Pierce were baptized on January 26.



FPLC Annual Meeting

Sunday, Feb. 16

The FPLC Annual Meeting is February 16 in the sanctuary after the 10:30 service. We'd love to see you there!

FPLC Office Hours
Monday–Thursday from 8:30 am–4 pm

See our webpage for all information regarding virtual worship, outreach, and children & youth programs. Click →



Fox Point Church



Written by FPLC member, Mary Buscher. This devotion was first shared on Wednesday, January 22. If you would like to receive Mary's devotion on a weekly basis, please sign up here: [Weekly Devotion](#).

Hello!

"See how very much our heavenly Father loves us, for he allows us to

be called his children-think of it-and we really are!" – 1 John 3:1

As I parted the kitchen curtains on a very cold 9 above zero morning, I spotted a little girl and her mom out walking. The child was bundled up with a jacket, scarf and boots and stomping her feet, trying to keep warm. The mom grasped her mittened hand and quickly stepped forward as if to say, "come on, it's cold, we're close to the house, let's run and warm up!" As they hurried up the steps into the house, it brought me right into one of those beautiful and poignant God moments. Our heavenly Father takes our hand and leads us too, keeping us close – guarding, supporting, protecting and loving us, always! How beautifully and perfectly He cares for His children!

Nearly 20 years ago, I wrote a short story about a little girl being helped by her father as she tried hard to climb some very steep steps. I didn't see the pattern for my own life then, but I do now. My own words were telling me about what it feels like to be a child of God.

From "Take Three Giant Steps" –

"There was no going around the twosome as the short flight of steps was tight...Then it happened. Up she went, one, two...almost there...a gentle hand at her elbow from dad...three! At the end of the climb, there was just a triumphant ear-to-ear grin on her small round face, a knowing smile on his, and two big arms cuddling her little parka! The same strong arms that provided a modest scaffolding for her ascent and gently supported her...were now opened wide to embrace her in congratulations on her big achievement!"

"But friends, that's exactly who we are, children of God. And that's only the beginning. Who knows how we'll end up! – 1 John 2 in The Message

In this passage from 1 John in The Message, Eugene Peterson paraphrases, "Who knows how we'll end up!" As a child of God, the possibilities are endless and unlimited. Who would not want to partake of Our Father's parental love, grace and forgiveness? The father's strong arms that held the little one on the steps? God was surely in that mix and is forever in our lives the same way.

Thank you, God, for providing us with your strength and support in all that we do, with courage to help us quell our fears, and as the recipients of your love as your precious children. Amen.

Blessings for this week! – Mary