

# Spring 2022

# CHIMES



*A quarterly newsletter from Falls Church Presbyterian Church*

## Welcome, Megan Klose!

After a long delay caused by the pandemic, FCPC will have a new Associate Pastor starting April 1. FCPC's Search Committee, Session, and the National Capital Presbytery all voted in favor of Megan Klose becoming FCPC's next Associate Pastor.

Many of you know Megan from her time as a member here before becoming an ordained pastor in 2017. Megan and her husband, Frank Burdette, joined FCPC in 2007. Over the years, Megan has served on the Worship, Music, and Arts Committee; the Christian Development Committee; and the Arts and Soul Team. She also served FCPC as a seminary intern from September 2011 to May 2012. She earned her MDiv from Wesley Theological Seminary in 2014 and became our Parish Associate in 2017. You may have heard Megan preach from the pulpit while filling in for James or Diane Walton Hendricks, and it will be wonderful to have her lead us in worship once again.



While Megan will join us in April, she will also be finishing up her work as interim pastor at Christ Presbyterian Church, Fairfax. We look forward to seeing her at Sunday worship beginning in May.

To get to know Megan a bit better, we asked her to provide a few answers to which we attempted to provide the questions.

A: *God stalked me!*

Q: Why did you go into ministry?

A: *Consubstantiation.*

Q: What is your favorite understanding of the Lord's Supper?

A: *Polity!*

Q: What made you want to become Presbyterian?

A: *Support for parents of queer kids, holistic discipleship, and wine parties.*

Q: What are three things you are most passionate about?

A: *Yes, but I was very young and it was a long time ago, and I don't plan on doing it again.*

Q: Did you ever TP a house?

## INSIDE

- Pastor's Letter page 2
- Shout Out for Justice April 2 page 3
- Online Worship: How does it work? And who's watching? page 4
- Anne Mugler publishes book Meg Foreman offers spiritual direction page 5
- FCPC in the Falls Church News-Press page 6
- Eagle Scout Project page 7
- Escape Weekend 2022 Holy Week/Easter schedule page 8

## Pastor's Letter

Dear siblings in Christ,

I am writing this on the two-year anniversary of the pandemic lockdown. When Covid first turned our world upside down, most of us never imagined what we were in for. I remember talking about how we would have a slightly delayed celebration of Easter, something that never happened. For much of the past two years, we have seemed to be treading water, keeping things afloat as we awaited some sort of return to “normal.”

But now we will finally get that Easter celebration. Last year some of us gathered for worship in the parking lot, but this year will be the first time in three years that we will gather in the building for Easter. Dare I consider that we may have finally turned a corner on this pandemic.

One bit of normal that will resume starting on Palm/Passion Sunday is a return to separate 8:30 and 10:45 a.m. worship services. I look forward to relearning these old rhythms on Sunday mornings, including the possibility of classes and other spiritual growth activities between the two services. And I know that many people will be overjoyed to have “their” service back.

As we resume something of a normal Sunday schedule, I am thrilled that we will be joined by a new Associate Pastor, Megan Klose. Many of you know Megan

from her time here as a member, but she has been ordained as a Presbyterian pastor since fall of 2017. Currently she is serving as the interim pastor at Christ Presbyterian Church in Fairfax.

Megan will begin her work with us in April but will also be finishing her interim work at the same time. That means that we will not have Megan with us on Sundays until May.

It is difficult to express how much I am looking forward to Megan joining the staff here at FCPC, and it seems a most appropriate time for this to happen. Over this long Covid season of waiting and treading water, I feel like I have gotten into some pretty deep ruts from so much focus on keeping things going and so little on variety and creativity. Now, as we begin to move toward pre-pandemic patterns and activities, I am so looking forward to an influx of energy and creativity that will add renewed energy to my own ministry.

I also hope that the coming months will bring a renewed sense of energy to our life as a congregation. I suspect that many of you have some pandemic ruts that you are more than ready to leave behind. I hope that a return to something resembling normal will energize you and have you asking where Jesus is calling you to ministry. All of us are called. All of us have gifts that are needed if the body of Christ is to be whole, if it is to be light to the world.



*James Sledge, Pastor*

Soon we will join together to shout, “Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!” That proclamation is our assurance that no darkness, no pandemic, not even the terrors of a horrific war, can finally extinguish the light. And so we are a people of hope. We know that there is much darkness in the world. There are forces that are bent on evil and destruction. But we know that Christ is risen, and so we know that the darkness cannot win. Together, we will celebrate Easter. Together, we will celebrate the light. Together, let us be light and hope to the world.

May the joy and hope of Easter be with you all,

## Shout Out for Justice event April 2

Last summer at the one-year anniversary of our Silent Witness, the Justice Ministry decided to make changes to the biweekly event that was born after the murder of George Floyd. Moving from a biweekly to a quarterly event, we rebranded it “Shout Out for Justice” to acknowledge our purpose in gathering along Broad Street. Even as we made plans for our first Shout Out event last fall, a small and faithful group have continued to show up biweekly in an ongoing Silent Witness to highlight systemic racism in our country and the injustices it creates.

In selecting dates for the quarterly Shout Out gatherings, we knew that the fall event would take place around Indigenous Peoples Day, the winter one around the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, with the summer event to be once again on or around Juneteenth. At the time, we listed a spring date as “to be decided.” A few weeks ago, when the team realized that April 2 marks the beginning of Ramadan, we felt a tug to acknowledge the racism and injustices our Muslim siblings face in our country, and decided to hold our spring event on that date.

As the season of Ramadan begins April 2, we acknowledge bias against our Muslim community members. Many face hostility, mistrust, surveillance, and other types of discrimination in their neighborhoods, schools, and workplaces. They are called offensive names, profiled by police and community members, and singled out by airport security. They are maligned, labelled as terrorists, and told to “go back home” even when they are born here. Their mosques, which are places of worship and peace, are targeted by outsiders with hate and violence. Even as they endure this ongoing discrimination and injustice, Muslim brothers and sisters all over the world during the month of Ramadan practice fasting, prayer, self-reflection, self-improvement, and enjoying community.

So please join us in being the vision of the church as we stand for justice for Muslim siblings in our neighborhood and throughout the nation. We will gather on Saturday, April 2, from noon to 1 p.m. along Broad Street to stand up and shout out against systemic racism in our country and acknowledge our Muslim siblings in faith as they begin their holy month. The Justice Ministry team hopes to see many of you there!

Want to participate and don't have a sign? Come anyway – we'll have extra! Want to create a new sign in honor of our Muslim friends? Here are some ideas:

- Standing with Muslim Americans
- Muslim Americans Belong
- Muslims Matter #BanHate
- Muslim Americans Are Home

For more information, visit the [Justice Ministry's Shout Out for Justice page](#) on the church website.



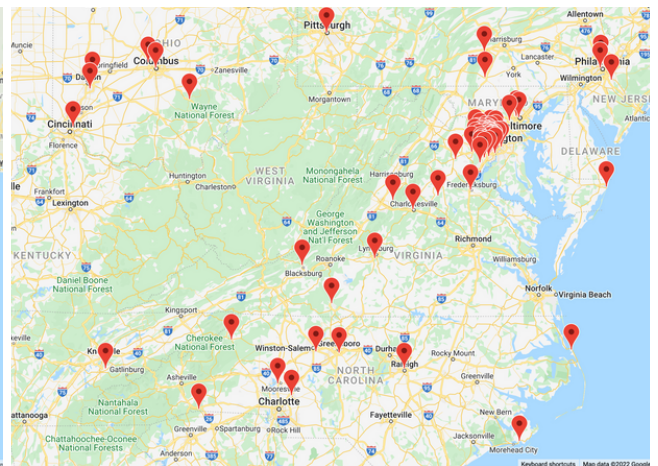


# Online Worship: How does it work? And who's watching?

Our first "virtual" worship service took place on March 15, 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic was just evolving. We assumed we'd be worshipping virtually for about two weeks and then we'd be back together. Two years later, it turns out live stream worship is here to stay. We have learned so much along the way.

One benefit of virtual worship is that it has enabled us to expand our community of worshippers to include those anywhere around the world with internet access. Last spring, we changed the way we share our worship services from exclusively streaming on Facebook to include YouTube and from our website. Using sermon.net, a third-party site that helps us manage our audio and video worship service recordings, we gained the ability to see where people are worshipping with us.

The maps below represent unique IP addresses (locations) of those who have tuned in to worship through our website since April 2021. (Maps do not include Facebook or YouTube views.) Facebook and YouTube data are readily available online. Looking at all three on Sunday, March 6, 2022, we can see that Facebook had 21 participants during livestream and YouTube had 12. The website showed 16 had tuned in, and we had 59 people in Fellowship Hall for in-person worship, for a total of "live" participants of 108. Less than an hour after our worship service ended, we had an additional 3 views on the website, 6 views on YouTube, and 48 views on Facebook, a total of 57 additional views/participants.



## Anne Mugler publishes book

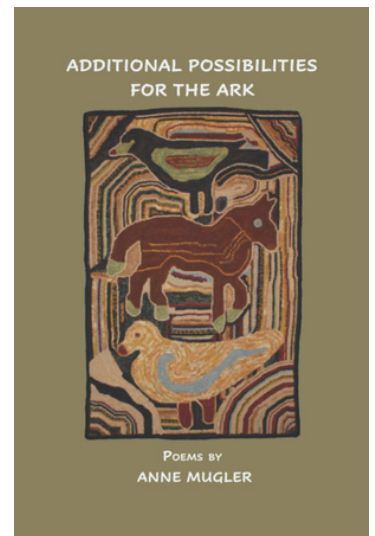
Longtime FCPC member and Spiritual Growth Ministry Team Leader Anne Mugler recently published her first book. It is available in the church library and for purchase on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). Congratulations, Anne!

From the Amazon.com website:

*Additional Possibilities for the Ark* is Anne Mugler's debut poetry collection. Dispersed throughout the poems are photos of Mugler's vibrant hooked rugs, hand-dyed and hooked with outstanding precision. The rugs illustrate some of the poems, but they also give the reader a stunning visual experience all on their own. Mugler creates her poetry with the same precision she brings to her rug hooking. She begins the collection with poems about her early life describing, with humor and poignancy, events and people that populated her childhood. She continues with poems about the wider world always searching for what gives nourishment. Surrounded by the beauty of her hooked pieces, these well-constructed poems illustrate a life lived with discernment and creativity.



Anne Mugler



## Meg Foreman offers spiritual direction

Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus - known as the "Jesuits," a Roman Catholic religious order for men — knew from personal experience that God communicates with each of us in very different ways. One feature of Ignatian ministry is spiritual companionship, often referred to as "spiritual direction." The name is a little misleading because it does not actually involve directing — but rather, listening.

As part of Meg's ongoing graduate course work at Creighton University, a Jesuit university in Omaha, Nebraska, she is offering spiritual direction to those who may feel called to greater intimacy with God. Spiritual direction involves a one-to-one relationship, usually with monthly meetings in person (at FCPC) or via Zoom. It requires a commitment to prayer on the part of the person seeking direction, as well as a desire for growth in relationship with God. No homework assignments are given, nor is it a Bible study; rather, it is an opportunity to explore how God may be working in your life, how you may feel called to greater intimacy with God, or where God may be leading you. It is centered around experience, not ideas or even theology. Spiritual direction is not pastoral or personal counseling, neither of which Meg is qualified to perform.



Meg Foreman at  
Creighton University in 2021

Meg discovered spiritual direction many years ago as part of her own call to ministry, which comes after 34 years working for the Federal government — on active duty in the U.S. Army and as a civilian. Meg says, "Although I identify as Catholic, Falls Church Presbyterian has been my church family for several years now and has supported me as I continue to discern where God is calling me. I welcome the opportunity to minister with believers of any or no denomination; and as a veteran, I am particularly drawn to ministry around veterans. If you believe God may be leading you to spiritual direction, feel free to contact me at [megforeman66@gmail.com](mailto:megforeman66@gmail.com)."

## FCPC in the Falls Church News-Press

The Feb. 17 Falls Church News-Press featured an article on inclusive churches within the City of Falls Church. Reporter Amanda Snead reached out to FCPC and spoke with Diane Maloney about FCPC and Diane's experience here. Following is an excerpt from the article.

### Local Churches Welcome LGBTQ+ Individuals

*Given its small size of 2.1 square miles, it's no wonder that the Little City of Falls Church has fostered such a close knit community. While the "issue" of being "queer" (a generic reference to homosexual that is meant in a non-derogatory sense) has persisted in various churches for decades, local churches in the City have made it a mission to be more inclusive and open to people, regardless of who they are.*

*There are a number of prominent signs in front of churches in the Little City that display rainbow flags and emphasize "all are welcome."*

*One case is Diane Maloney. She has been on the staff at Falls Church Presbyterian for almost four years where she serves as the Director of Spiritual Growth and Community Engagement.*

*"One of the things that drew me to Falls Church Presbyterian was how open and affirming they were," said Maloney. "As a queer person myself, it is very hard to find jobs in churches and hard to find places that will accept and welcome you with open arms as your whole self."*

*Falls Church Presbyterian joined the Covenant Network of Presbyterians in the mid-90s. Essentially a sub-ministry that churches can join that "seeks an equity still not fully realized for LGBTQIA+ people in church and society" by "engaging," "educating" and "equipping."*

*Maloney grew up attending church and youth groups and found herself called to ministry in her teen years.*

*"When I realized I was queer a year or two later I felt like I couldn't have both things so I spent a lot of time battling that and trying to decide if I just live my life in the closet as a minister since I feel like that's where God is calling me. Or, do I live as who I feel like I am and disregard this thing I feel I'm being called to," she said about her teen and young adult experience. "I did my undergrad degree and then went to seminary and was still undecided. In seminary,*

*I had this shift within me of understanding the entirety of scripture and who God is. God is love and where there is love, God is present. That shifted some of the things in my head and made me feel like I could live my life like that. Once I finished seminary I started to look for a church that was open and affirming where I could be my whole self and that's how I found Falls Church Presbyterian."*

*Working with many teens in the church, Maloney works to make sure everyone feels loved and accepted. It includes a mural (pictured along with this article) that features the quote "You belong here."*

*"For me, as a person who works with youth and has invested a lot of my life into teenagers, I wanted that to be a message that they heard as they came up the stairs. You belong here no matter what," said Maloney.*



Mural at the entrance to the third floor youth lounge

Snead also reported on Falls Church City's two United Methodist churches, Christ Crossman and Dulin Methodist. Both are working to bring more inclusion to the church. Read the entire article [here](#).



# Eagle Scout Project

## Garrett Anderson: Fence rebuild and repair

Garrett Anderson, of BSA Troop 104, Arlington, recently completed his Eagle Scout Project by rebuilding FCPC's north parking lot fence. The project was one of several options suggested by facilities manager John Loyd. The fence had been in a state of disrepair, with several panels and individual slats having failed. Garrett was all set to repair the fence when a USPS delivery truck ran into it, knocking a section of the fence and one of the posts completely out of place. After revising his plan to address the new damage, Garrett purchased the materials needed for the repair, and with the help of his fellow Scouts, reset the fallen post in concrete and stained and installed five new fence panels.

Garrett was baptized at FCPC and spent nine years growing up in the church. His family transferred to Trinity Presbyterian, Arlington, in 2002. His mother, Heather Anderson, has continued her involvement in Welcome Table, serving on the Welcome Table Planning Team and as a frequent head chef.

Many thanks to Garrett and Troop 104 for a job well done on the fence repair!



*Fence in need of repair*



*Scouts at work repairing fence*



*Replacing one of five panels*



*Project completed!*





# HOLY WEEK & EASTER

WORSHIP WITH US

<b>PASSION/ PALM SUNDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY - FRIDAY</b>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>
WORSHIP 8:30 AM 10:45 AM	LABYRINTH & PRAYER STATIONS OPEN DAILY 10AM - 8PM	WORSHIP 7:30PM	WORSHIP 7:00AM 8:30AM 10:45AM

ALL SERVICES IN-PERSON  
AND STREAMING ON FACEBOOK, YOUTUBE, AND  
FALLSCHURCHPRESBY.ORG



Do you have a story or photos to share in our next issue of *Chimes Online*? Send to [chimes@fallschurchpresby.org](mailto:chimes@fallschurchpresby.org). Deadline for the summer 2022 issue is May 31.

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