

SUMMER 2023 CHIMES



The latest news from Falls Church Presbyterian Church

Welcome, Pastor Yena Hwang!

FCPC was delighted to welcome Yena Hwang as our transitional pastor on May 16, 2023. In her short time here, she has helped reenergize worship, led two new member classes, and turned her office into a bright and welcoming space. If you haven't done so already, please give Yena a warm welcome!



Hello, Chimes readers!

My name is Yena Hwang and I am the new Transitional Pastor here at Falls Church Presbyterian Church. I began my work here in mid-May. It's been a busy but rewarding time as I learn more about Falls Church Presbyterian through meeting and getting to know many members.



Yena Hwang, Transitional Pastor

You may be wondering what makes a Transitional Pastor different from an Installed Pastor. As the title suggests, I am here as your pastor for a limited time, to help you in your time of transition between your former pastor and a new pastor/head of staff. I am here to create opportunities, and to generate and facilitate conversations as you examine what kind of church you want to be and discern what kind of leader will take you there.

As I work alongside you, I have a few requests:

- 1) If you are not in Breeze, our church management system, please contact the church office to set up your account. If you can add a photo that shows your face in Breeze, that will be super helpful. Breeze will help me to learn your faces and names!
- 2) If possible, please attend Sunday worship in person. There is a great vibe in the sanctuary when we gather for worship, and I want you to experience that in real time! Online worship is convenient and good, but if you can, please join us in person. I look forward to seeing you and greeting you.
- 3) Consider scheduling a one-on-one meeting with me. I want to get to know you, and I want you to get to know me. You can email me at yhwang@fallschurchpresby.org to schedule a meeting.

I am excited to be a part of this congregation during this season of transition. I look forward to the flurry of activities scheduled for this summer as well as the 150th Anniversary celebration that will take place as we kick off a new program year on September 10.

Come and feel the Spirit of God stirring things up at Falls Church Presbyterian!

Peace,
Yena

INSIDE

Good morning, Church!	page 2
150th Anniversary Escape Weekend 2023	page 3
Graduate recognitions	page 4
FCPC at Pride Fest, VOICE Crooked Steeple Festival	page 6
FCPC staff additions Eagle Scout award	page 7

Good morning, Church!

Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave. (Philippians 2:4-7a)

Something that has given me hope lately is the Matthew 25 group, which grew out of the Justice Ministry. We've been meeting Sunday mornings since May to read and discuss *Necessary Risks: Challenges Privileged People Need to Face* by Teri McDowell Ott. Ott, who is currently the editor of *Presbyterian Outlook*, is a white woman who served for a time as Dean of the Chapel for Monmouth College. This book grew out of her experience working with marginalized students at Monmouth and teaching at a men's prison.



Megan Klose, Associate Pastor

In working with these people, Ott became aware of the unconscious and subconscious assumptions she, as a white woman of privilege, held about how to talk to students (it depends on who the students are), how to organize activities (it depends on the activity and audience), and what she had to offer people very different from herself (a lot more than she expected, but not in the way she expected).

The book is organized by ten “risks” privileged people need to face:

1. **Risk going** into a non-privileged context.
2. **Risk staying** even when conversations or situations get uncomfortable.
3. **Risk learning** about marginalized culture and history from books and other media.
4. **Risk teaching** in a way that invites everyone to contribute.
5. **Risk following** by letting people who don't lead much have a chance.
6. **Risk leading** by using our privilege to advocate for justice for all.
7. **Risk listening** by being truly present to marginalized voices and tending to our reflexive reactions elsewhere.
8. **Risk speaking** out for justice, even if your position is unpopular.
9. **Risk failing** at something important. Better to fail and learn than not to try.
10. **Risk succeeding** by responding to the call of our hearts. There are a million ways to rationalize ourselves out of taking an action the Spirit is nudging us toward. Disrupt your comfort.

Each week, rich discussion has emerged from the group reflecting vulnerably on Ott's words and relating the chapters to our lives. We wonder when it's okay to try to enter another group's space; we explore past events with new perspective; and we identify places in our lives where we can serve as “intermediary gadflies,” to riff on a term by Martin Luther King, Jr.

Just as Jesus saw his privilege not as something to lord over people but as something to leverage for the salvation of the world, we people of privilege are called to examine our own privilege so that we can leverage it for the good of all. We are already talking about what we will do next. It is good to struggle together, to experience recognition and grace without being let off the hook. Reading this book together is an important step in moving us toward living more fully into God's call to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

Falls Church Presbyterian's 150th Anniversary

2023 marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of Falls Church Presbyterian Church. Presbyterians had been meeting in Falls Church since 1812, when The Rev. William Maffit was directed by the Baltimore Presbytery to devote himself to planting roots in areas of Northern Virginia, one being Falls Church. When Lewinsville Presbyterian (McLean) was built in 1843, Falls Church members traveled there on rolling, rough, and rutted roads to attend worship. Later, the Lewinsville pastor began to make the trip to Falls Church twice a month and services were held in members' homes and later a schoolhouse. Membership grew, funds were raised, and Groot Hall (located where the present sanctuary now stands) was purchased in 1866 as a new church home. In 1873, a momentous decision was made to withdraw from the mother church at Lewinsville and form an independent organization to be known as "The Presbyterian Church of Falls Church, Virginia." It was another 11 years before our "Old Stone Church" — the original sanctuary — was built.

Mark your calendar!

On **Sunday, September 10**, we will have one worship service at 10:00 a.m. followed by a catered brunch and celebration of our first 150 years! Please plan to join us. In the meantime, we will continue to bring you a weekly Fun Fact via the Friday egram and Sunday bulletin. Also, stay tuned for a scavenger hunt that you can do at your leisure. ***Sneak peak scavenger hunt question: Can you locate these cornerstones that mark expansions to the church?***



Escape Weekend — November 3-5, 2023 — Sign up by August 1

Escape with your church family for a relaxing, rejuvenating, and fun weekend at Shrine Mont in Orkney Springs, Virginia, nestled in the foothills of the Great North Mountain in the Shenandoah Valley!

There are dozens of reasons why you should come. Here are a few:

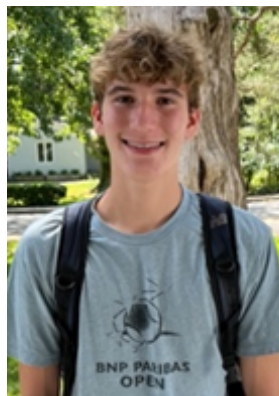
- Escape to the mountains and celebrate the easing of the pandemic
- Beautiful mountains and trails for hiking
- Home-cooked meals
- Programs for children, youth, and adults
- Porches with rocking chairs
- Cottages with wood-burning fireplaces
- Saturday evening bonfire with s'mores and singing
- Woodland labyrinth
- Pickleball and tennis
- Sunday Worship outdoors at the Cathedral Shrine of the Transfiguration

Register by August 1 at fcpc.breezechms.com/form/escape23.



Graduate Recognitions

High School Class of 2023



Owen Bruce, son of Carolyn and Tom Bruce, graduated from Meridian High School and will attend Virginia Tech in the fall to study computer science. *Go, Hokies!*



Sasha Geisinger graduated from Jakarta Intercultural School and will attend the University of Virginia, where her parents, Narra and Nick, met. *Go, Wahoos!*



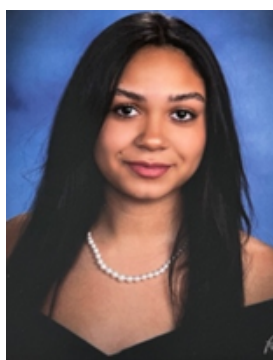
Natalie Good, daughter of Molly and Jason Good, graduated from Yorktown High School and will attend the University of Georgia to study biology with a focus in pharmaceutical research. *Go, Dawgs!*



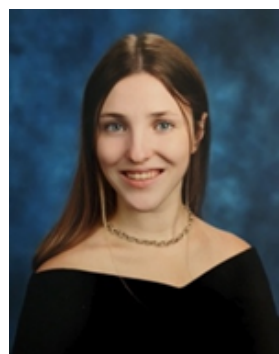
Amelia Grannis, daughter of Kerry and David Grannis, graduated from W.T. Woodson High School and will attend Smith College in the fall. *Go, Pioneers!*



Owen Growney, son of Jenny and Chris Growney, graduated from George C. Marshall High School and will attend Christopher Newport University. *Go, Captains!*



Ella Hoak, daughter of Allison and Michael Hoak, graduated from Yorktown High School and will attend the University of Miami to study marine biology. *Go, Hurricanes!*



Helen Jordan, daughter of Hannah and Jeff Jordan, graduated from Meridian High School and will attend North Carolina State University to study political science. *Go, Pack!*



Matthew Joseph Lenert, son of Dawn and Keith Lennert, graduated from George C. Marshall High School and will attend the College of Charleston where he will play D1 men's soccer. *Go, Cougars!*

Graduate Recognitions

High School Class of 2023



Henry Martin, son of Suzanne and Dale Martin, graduated from Falls Church High School and will attend James Madison University with plans to major in civil engineering. *Go, Dukes!*



Caelan McCormack, daughter of Catriona and Doug McCormack, graduated from the Potomac School and will attend St. Lawrence University in the fall. *Go, Saints!*

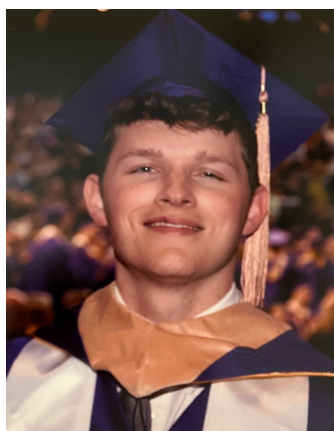
Undergraduate Degrees



Tam Ayers, child of Margie and Kevin Ayers, graduated from Luther College with a degree in music education. Tam will complete his degree requirements in the fall with a student-teaching internship in Chicago Public Schools.



Justin Hyunwoo Choi, son of Yena Hwang and Rick Choi, graduated from James Madison University with a B.S. in Computer Science. He recently returned from Kyoto, Japan, where he completed requirements for a minor in Asian Cultural Studies. Justin will be working at MicroAutomation, a communications firm in Centreville, Va.



Nathan Hendricks, son of Diane and Andy Hendricks, graduated with a B.B.A. in Computer Information Systems from the College of Business of James Madison University. He will be working with Deloitte in Rosslyn, Va.



Sydney Newburn, daughter of Edward Newburn, graduated from the University of Virginia with a B.S. in Kinesiology. She is currently in Mbarara, Uganda, working at a medical clinic.



Luke Emerson Sausville, son of Jen and Dave Sausville, graduated from James Madison University College of Arts and Letters with a B.A. in Anthropology. He plans to attend graduate school at JMU for a degree in Public Administration.

Graduate Degree



Margie Ayers earned her M.Ed. in curriculum and instruction with a certificate in International ESL in December 2022 from George Mason University. She has been teaching third grade English learners at K.W. Barrett Elementary School in Arlington since January 2022.

FCPC represents at Pride Festival and VOICE event

FCPC members recently showed their support at two events in our area. Pastor Megan Klose and others proudly carried the FCPC banner at the Mosaic Pride Festival on June 3. On July 9, FCPC members joined other VOICE (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement) members and leaders from the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police and the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Triangle, Va., to meet with Gov. Glenn Youngkin to address the issue of youth behavioral health in Virginia.



Frank Burdette and Pastor Megan with Fairfax County School Board member Karl Frisch at Mosaic Pride Festival, June 3



Gov. Youngkin responding to questions at the VOICE event



More than 800 people attended the VOICE event on July 9, including 10 members from FCPC

Crooked Steeple Literary Festival

On April 15 we welcomed our third and final author in this inaugural year of the Crooked Steeple Literary Festival. A.M. Homes, who wrote the stunning alternative history, *The Unfolding*, read from her novel and then was interviewed by FCPC's own Chuck Anderson. Chuck's thoughtful and, at times, humorous questions were a good match for Homes' own lightning wit and intelligent comments on national affairs and the current state of the country.

We are happy to report that the National Capital Presbytery has awarded us an Equipping Congregations for Ministry grant for the purpose of supporting the Crooked Steeple Literary Festival. The grant is for \$3500 and will be used to partially cover next year's expenses. The Festival planners have already begun to organize for next year. We are thrilled that our first author, Meredith Hall, will read from her book, *Beneficence*, on November 11, 2023. Critics have stated, "If the word 'luminous' did not already exist, you would have to invent it to describe Meredith Hall's radiant new novel, *Beneficence*."



Chuck Anderson interviewing A.M. Homes



A full house at A.M. Homes Crooked Steeple event

FCPC staff additions



Dan McMillan, Facilities Manager

Dan McMillan joined the FCPC staff in May 2023. Dan has over 30 years of experience in the building maintenance field, from groundskeeper to regional chief engineer. He plays bass, keyboard, and guitar, and writes and sings in a band called Code Purple. Dan is a black belt in Taekwondo with experience in Krav Maga. He has a son and a daughter and two grandchildren, both girls, with another on the way. Originally from Texas, Dan has lived in the DMV area since 1985.



Gail Robarge, Office Assistant

FCPC member **Gail Robarge** joined the church staff in May as part-time office assistant. Gail was installed as a deacon on June 18, having previously served as a deacon, Class of 2008. She is a founding member of the Welcome Table team and currently serves as the team leader. Gail worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for many years before retiring in 2022. Gail and her husband, Marc, joined FCPC in 2001. They have two adult children, both raised in the church, and recently became grandparents. In her free time, Gail enjoys gardening, traveling, and playing pickleball.

Troop 895 Eagle Scout Award

Troop 895, chartered by FCPC in 1957, is proud to congratulate Abe Krell Enriquez, and his family, on earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Abe recently sat before his Eagle Board of Review and successfully completed his final requirement to earn the rank. For his Eagle Scout project, Abe planned and built an equipment cart for Falls Church High School's sports teams. He has been a great youth leader for the Troop and this achievement is a recognition of his dedication and hard work. Abe plans to continue as an Assistant Scoutmaster with the Troop.



Abe working on his Eagle Scout project, a sports equipment cart



Abe receiving his Eagle Scout patch from Assistant Scoutmaster Jon Sanford

Celebrate with us!
Sunday, September 10, 2023

Falls Church Presbyterian 150 YEARS

1873 - 2023



*Join us after worship to kick off the program year
and look back at our 150-year history!*



Do you have a story or photos to share in our next issue of *Chimes Online*?
Email chimes@fallschurchpresby.org. Deadline for the fall 2023 issue is September 15.

225 E. Broad Street, Falls Church, VA 22046 | www.fallschurchpresby.org | 703-532-6518