

FPC – Session Meeting Highlights – March 19, 2024

- Sue Russell led the opening devotion and prayer.
- Liz Burns was elected Clerk of the Session for the coming year. In the Clerk’s Report, Liz noted that worship attendance has averaged 60 people. FPC received a note and a donation from Ron Yedloutschnig and Anita Brush, who enjoy watching the livestreamed services from Florida. Liz attended a Presbytery Minutes Review in Sag Harbor. Our minutes were approved without any changes.
- Jan Falkowski was unable to attend. She sent the Treasurer’s Report via email.
- The Presbytery of Long Island is meeting on April 13 in West Islip. John Touhey will be the Commissioner from FPC. And Vickie DeFriest will serve as the Commissioner for the Presbytery meeting on June 15 in Oceanside.
- The Deacons are meeting this week, and Colleen Clark will be the Session representative.
- Buildings & Grounds reported that the ice machine broke and was going to be repaired.
- The Cemetery Committee is meeting on March 27.
- For Faith Formation, Sue Russell reported that Kids’ Church is going strong, with several volunteers rotating through the lesson plans. S.A.L.T. is doing well. An Easter Egg Hunt is planned for March 30. There are six potential students for Confirmation, and they are meeting on Sunday afternoons. John Touhey shared his faith journey with the students. They will participate in a retreat at Holmes on April 26-27. The team is requesting volunteers to help coordinate the preschool Faithful Friends program on Saturdays.
- Stew Ross reported that the Fellowship & Hospitality Committee has a good roster of volunteers to host Sunday Fellowship. The committee will start planning the Pentecost Party for Sunday, May 19. The menu will focus on “red foods,” such as hamburgers, hot dogs and red velvet cake. Anyone who would like to help with the planning of the party should reach out to Stew.
- Karen Murray reported that the Stepping Stones committee will set up a meeting with the Chacon family to check in and see how they’re doing and what help they might need.
- The Nominating Committee shared the proposed amendment to the by-laws to shrink the size of the Session from 15 to 12. Through terms expiring and attrition, the transition from our current size to 12 should take two to three years. The vote for congregational approval will take place after worship on Pentecost.

- In addition, the chair and members of the Nominating Committee for 2025 should be named as soon as possible so they can begin their work sooner than last year.
- Ralph Edwards reported for Stewardship & Finance, and presented several options for ongoing independent review of the church's books by Baldessari & Koster. The committee is recommending a review annually for four years, at a cost of \$4,000 to \$6,000 per year, with a full audit in the fifth year, at a cost of \$10,000. The committee was asked to get comparison pricing from another provider, and to work with Al Koster to lower his firm's estimates. Ralph also reported that the committee recommends working with the Town of Southold to improve cell service, potentially by permitting cell tower/equipment to be installed on church grounds. The Town is conducting a survey and looking for long-term solutions. The Session approved sending a letter to Supervisor Krupski offering to help be part of the process. The fees for installing cell equipment could be a useful ongoing contribution to the church's working capital.
- The Henn Scholarship committee, including Ralph, Liz Burns, Marla Koster and Jay Batterman, will schedule a meeting to begin the process of designing an application and parameters for choosing recipient(s).
- Patty Shuford was thanked for her exceptional service on the Worship Committee. Several people have offered to help Patty and Dave Collins with livestreaming worship, including Garrett DeFriest, Bonnie Zellner, Heather MacArthur and Penny Kelley and, eventually, Billy Lynch. Vickie DeFriest will be organizing the Palm Parade for Palm Sunday. Ordination and installation of Deacons and Elders will take place on April 7, which is Holy Humor Sunday. Jay and Caryll Batterman, Patty and Jan will decorate the sanctuary with Easter flowers.
- The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Ralph Edwards.