

## **Shepherding Announcement**

Over the past year, the Session has been asking ourselves how we can better shepherd our congregation. How can we lead and care for the people that God has given us? To that end, we've conducted a survey and had numerous conversations, including our recent session retreat.

We were very grateful that some of you responded to our shepherding survey earlier this year, but due to lack of more participation, the results were not as complete as we would have liked. Some responses were very complementary – some highlighted shortcomings. The survey's anonymity made it impossible to follow up with individuals who cited shortcomings. Nevertheless, the Session did try to make some sense of the survey responses we did receive and decided the best way to follow up was to reaffirm our commitment to shepherd Forestgate in several ways.

The Session has committed to assign a shepherding elder to each member of Forestgate, including children, pastors, and elders. Each elder has committed to pray for all family members on his shepherding

list on a weekly basis. Each elder has committed to contact his shepherding list on a monthly basis either in person, over the phone, or in another manner. And we would ask you to be on the lookout for this. Our goal is not to be invasive but to build a relationship with you.

We would ask you, the members of Forestgate, to help us as elders by asking for our assistance when you need it and by informing us of specific prayer needs you may have. You do not have to wait for an elder to contact you – contact us when you have a need of any kind.

And I am sure that the pastors and elders would appreciate your prayers for them. It's always better if the shepherding relationship is a two-way street.

We're committed to shepherding our congregation as God's under-shepherds. We are not the Good Shepherd, but we hope to imitate him as we relate to our people, and to guide others to Him, in all that we do.

Thanks for your prayers, support, and encouragement.

-From the Session of Forestgate Presbyterian Church  
December 3, 2023