



Staying Connected



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Spring has finally arrived in Latrobe, which puts a smile on my face and at the same time makes me realize how quickly the year is moving. Our Simple Interactions initiative is continuing to expand through collaborations with the Child Life Department at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh as well as Allies for Children, who is working with the city of Pittsburgh crossing guards.

The winter months brought a hiring search, and we will announce the newest member of our team to help lead our Digital Media and Learning initiatives soon. What I can say is that this person comes to us with a different perspective on technology and their current work has been highly regarded nationally. In addition, we will be announcing our newest Senior Fellow as we carry forward Fred's messages in the digital age. These new additions, along with our partnership with

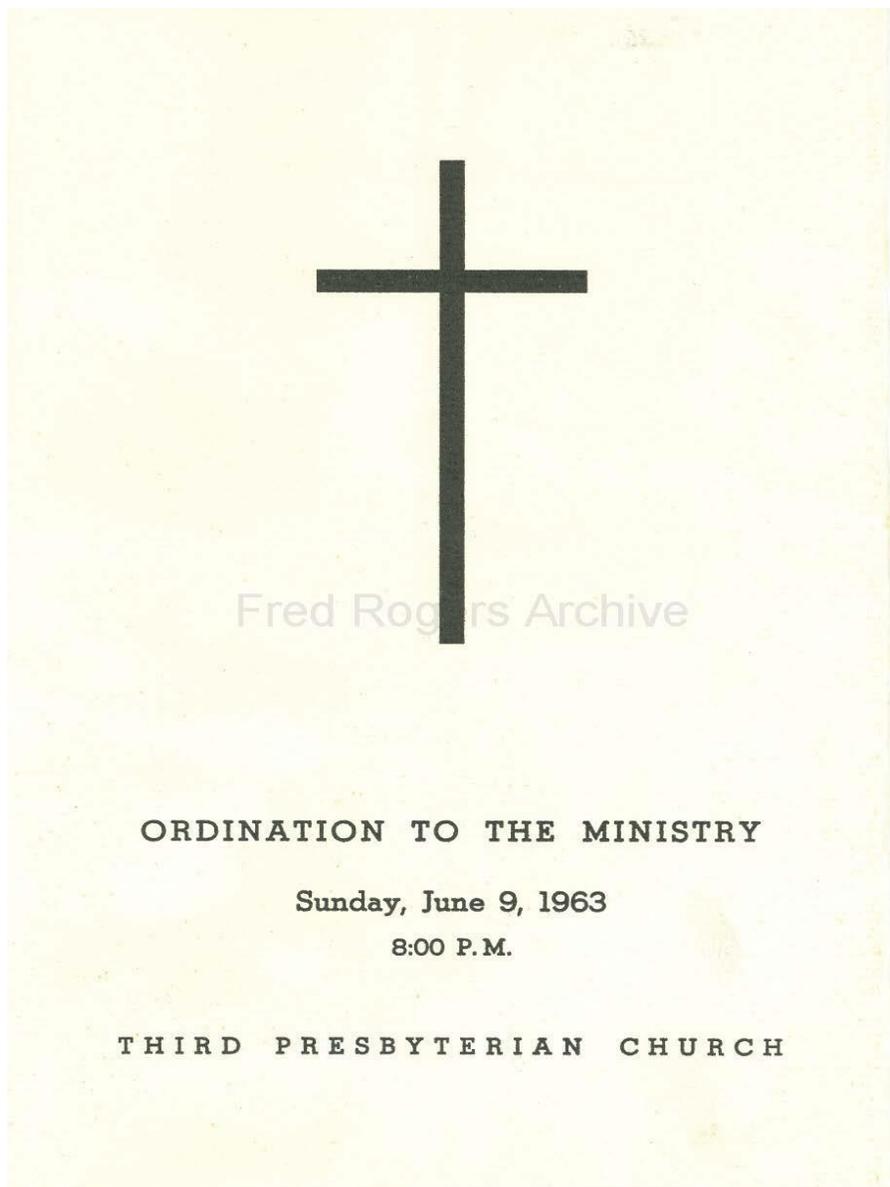
Dr. Chip Donohue and the TEC Center at Erikson Institute, contribute to a focused and a Fred-like approach to this field.

Enjoy the beautiful days ahead,



Rick Fernandes

IN THE ARCHIVE



Ordination

Did you know that Fred Rogers was an ordained Presbyterian minister? He received his Master of Divinity degree in May 1962 from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He had taken his classes during his lunch breaks from the WQED television studio where he was working on *The Children's Corner*, his first television program for children. A year after his graduation, in June 1963, Fred received his charge to serve children through television.

In the Fred Rogers Archive is the program from the ordination service. The program is valuable not just as an historical artifact from the event, but it also shows us what hymns and prayers were performed and who participated in the service.

Three ministers' names from the program are especially important: Kenneth L. Barley; Clifford E. Barbour, Sr.; and William P. Barker. Barker was a close friend of Fred's and also the voice of Dr. William Duckbill Platypus, a puppet in the Neighborhood of Make-Believe. Barker was the one to deliver Fred's charge. The other two ministers' names appear in other documents in the Archive. Fred was a personal friend of Barbour's, as evidenced by a photo of them together at a Christmas party. As for Barley, Fred delivered the sermon at Barley's installation service at a church in 1989. It is interesting to find these connections in the Archive and to identify those people who were important to Fred during his seminary years.

NEW ON THE BLOG



Month of the Young Child

“This April Pittsburgh will celebrate our most valuable resource...children. There are many ways to celebrate. I trust you’ll find your own.” –Fred Rogers

In March of 1978, Fred Rogers spoke these words in a public service announcement for KDKA, a Pittsburgh-based television station, to promote Month of the Young Child. Fast forward 38 years and Pittsburgh has transformed itself into Kidsburgh, one of the nation’s best cities for raising a child. What makes the Steel City so great for kids and families, you may ask? In honor of this year’s Month of the Young Child, here’s a Fred-inspired round-up.

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NEIGHBORHOOD MUSIC VISITS

Incubator 143, the student research and development lab at the Center, recently launched a new student-driven outreach program, the Neighborhood Music Visits. The Neighborhood Music Visits provides young children with an opportunity to learn from Saint Vincent College student musicians through a “music visit” modeled after Fred Rogers’ very own visits with artists on *Mister Rogers’*

Neighborhood. Designed to inspire wonder and encourage positive self-expression in children ages 1 to 8, a student “facilitator” and a student “performer” host a discovery experience to learn about the instrument, the performer, creative expression, learning challenges, and constructive ways to manage feelings. Moreover, the project aims to build and sustain a model of interdisciplinary service learning by college students with child development interests or musical talents to reach out to underserved children in their own community. Dr. Kathleen Beining has been appointed as Faculty Fellow to support this endeavor. The opportunity to grow this program has been made possible by a Remake Learning Grant from The Sprout Fund.



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DAY OF GIVING MAY 3

The Day of Giving will soon be upon us. All gifts between \$25 and \$1,000 designated to the Fred Rogers Center on May 3 will be matched by additional funding. Your gift, large or small, will support our mission of helping children to become confident, competent, and caring. Simply visit the giving portal <http://www.westmorelandgives.org> between 8:00 a.m. and midnight to make a

donation.

REMAKE LEARNING DAYS

Remake Learning Days are just around the corner. From May 9 -15, Remake Learning Days will highlight the exceptional work of teachers, students, nonprofit organizations, governments, and companies that are creating amazing learning experiences that make Pittsburgh Kidsburgh.

The Fred Rogers Center will be co-hosting three sessions in conjunction with the week-long celebration.

Connecting the Dots: Exploring the Intersection of Child Development, Early Learning and Technology and the Emerging Role of Early Childhood Educators as Media Mentors

May 10, 2016, 1:30 p.m.

Learn about key messages for appropriate use of technology in the early years from the NAEYC/FredRogers Center joint position statement and explore recent guidelines from HighScope, Zero to Three, the RAND Corporation, American Academy of Pediatrics, Institutes of Medicine, and more. Reflect on what we know, what we need to know, and why it matters. Identify research findings, the big ideas and emerging best practices. Consider how intentional and appropriate use of technology supports healthy child development, promotes early learning and early literacy and encourages social-emotional development in the early years. Explore an essential role for early childhood educators as media mentors in the digital age. This session is presented by Dr. Chip Donohue of the TEC Center at Erikson Institute.

Capturing Simple Interactions and Creating Change, May 10, 2016, 2:15 p.m.

What if capturing a simple interaction between a staff and child on video can change the big picture of how children learn and grow everywhere? In this interactive workshop, we are going to take a closer look at what these “simple

interactions” are like in school classrooms, out of school time programs, and early childhood education. The learning process is simple, but the affirmation and impact on child-serving professionals can be profound. We will share an innovative and affirmative professional learning approach that has been carried out throughout Pittsburgh in schools (Fred Rogers Center), out of school (Allegheny Partnership for Out of School Time, APOST), and early childhood (Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children, APOST). To register for this or the above session, call (724) 805-2750.

Let's Talk: Technology & Young Children, May 10, 2016, at 4 p.m.

Fred Rogers Center and ISA Learning will facilitate a conversation about the affordances and drawbacks of using technology in early educational settings. In this conversation, we will draw on the expertise of invited stakeholders with different backgrounds including experts on the position statement, pediatricians, EdTech companies, early educators, to clarify terminology, and brainstorm the opportunities and perceived threats of using technology in the classroom. For more information, click [here](#).

Maker Tots, May 14, 8:00 a.m.

And finally, our friends at the Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children ([PAEYC](#)) and co-host [Carnegie Science Center](#) are bringing together leading organizations at the forefront of creative learning specifically for young children.

Can toddlers do circuitry? Why is "making" important for young children? Can STEAM learning happen through play? Unconference Maker Tots can answer these questions and more.

The day features keynote speaker Sarah Wolman from the [LEGO Foundation](#), workshops from local organizations, and a round table discussion on how to continue innovative learning beyond the [UnConference](#).



CARRYING THE LEGACY FORWARD

In My Own Words

Just as Fred Rogers understood the importance of community, we know that it takes advocates, collaborators, donors, and so many other friends, to help achieve our mission. Here is a reflection on Fred's life and work.

Thank you for giving so much of yourself to the children of the world. My children grew up with your shows and so did I. My life was changed because of your accomplishments and humility.

Your dedication to your faith and following your calling is a personal inspiration. Thank you again for your selflessness.

With love,
Vickie Perkins

[SHARE YOUR STORY](#)

WORDS OF WISDOM



“We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say 'It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.' Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes.” -Fred Rogers



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Photos of Fred from The Lynn Johnson
Collection: Ohio University Libraries. Photo for
Month of the Young Child: Ben Folio for The Sprout
Fund.

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Children's Media**

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