



THE FORECASTER

A publication of the First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown, Ohio.

First Presbyterian Church
201 Wick Avenue
Youngstown, Ohio 44503
Phone 330-744-4307

Rev. M. Payne Warner, Pastor & Head of Staff
Prof. Larry Harris, Director of Music/Organist
Dave Todd, Property Manager
David Pratt, Financial Secretary
Patty Schuley, Church Secretary

From the Pastor's Desk

Generational floods in the American Southeast from Hurricane Helene. Continued and expanding conflict in Ukraine, the Middle East, and elsewhere. Divisive political campaigns. Threatened and enacted violence in our schools and communities. White Supremacist signage going up on our local college campus.

Life can be overwhelming, and this is before we count the events and pressures of our personal lives.

This fact is one of the reasons I feel so truly blessed to be counted in the family of God. My foundation is sure, even if everything else feels far less so.

As we look at a world that seems to be intent on destroying itself, let us recognize the problems; acknowledge the effects they have on us, the people around us, and people across our planet; and lift them all to God in prayer. After lifting them to God let us take each of them individually and seek out the ways we can affect change for that situation through our own words and actions.

We have to trust God, but we also must trust God to work through us. You and I may not be able to fix the lives of people affected by Helene or the expanding wars in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, or any of the multitude of issues and conflicts facing our world, but we can be a small or even big part of the solution.

Trust God always and in all things.

God's blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rev. M. Payne Warner".

Rev. M. Payne Warner

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From the Session

The Vision Statement of the First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown

The First Presbyterian Church, an increasingly diverse faith community,

- *opens its heart and doors to all,*
- *serves everyone with compassion,*
- *fosters spiritual growth through scripture-based worship and study*
- *works for racial and social justice for all; and,*
- *models the principles of Jesus' life and teachings in the world.*

SESSION UPDATE

Clerk's Corner

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown met on Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at the church. Ruling Elder Margie Patterson, members of the 225th Anniversary Committee, volunteers and staff were thanked for all their hard work and time given to make the September 1st Anniversary Luncheon a success. Worship was wonderful with 135 people in attendance, and the Sunday luncheon afterward was attended by 133-134. The Anniversary Committee has more events ahead including the October 26, 2024 concert performed by Sophié and Pierre van der Westhuizen with their "Fairy Tales in Four Hands." Watch the bulletin announcements and the *Forecaster* for more goodies.

Session also discussed the Schaff Lecture which will feature the Rev. Dr. Teresa Fry Brown. The day will include a workshop in the afternoon for clergy and interested others in dealing with the issues facing the Youngstown community, followed by a meal and worship service with sermon/lecture presented by Dr. Fry Brown. Watch for upcoming details.

Session is planning a leadership event. The multi-part event will start with church officers and leaders, and eventually involve the congregation as First Youngstown starts to vision for the next 225 years.

Projects continue with our lovely old building. The carpeting in areas of the Sanctuary has been replaced, and the children's church school room has new carpeting as well. Technology is almost ready to replace our old computers in the administrative offices. Heating and air conditioning are ongoing projects as well. As any home owner will attest, there are always projects as well. As any home owner will attest, there are always projects to complete around a home (or church building.)

The next meeting of Session will take place on Tuesday, October 15th at 7 p.m.

-- Patricia L. Gruver, Clerk of Session

COMMUNION DATES FOR 2024

In order to prepare for the celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, the following dates have been approved by the Session:

- Sunday, October 6 – World Communion
- Sunday, November 3 – All Saints Day
- Sunday, December 1 – First Sunday of Advent



Mission and Community Ministry



Little Free Libraries

Our Little Free Libraries are being used by adults and children. As always, we can use more books. Please keep in mind books that help young people understand social justice, ways to be kind, anti-bullying, care of our earth and each other, etc. Also please be mindful that youth and children's books represent various cultures, skin colors and gender diversity. There is a basket just inside the church doors off the parking lot. Thank you!

Peace and Global Witness Offering

The Peace and Global Witness Offering is one of the four special offerings of the PCUSA. It affirms that the peace of God, which is central to the gospel, starts with us. We are there to sow seeds of peace by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and around the world.

Last year the local share of this offering went to the *Community Initiative to Reduce Violence*. We plan to donate to them this year also.

The offering will be dedicated on World Communion Sunday, October 6, 2024.

There are three ways to give: 1. Through your congregation, 2. Donate by credit card online at pcusa.org/peace-global, or 3. Text PCUSAPEACE to 41444.

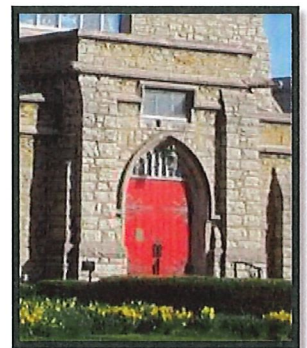
Visit pcusa.org/peace-global for more information

Please give what you can. **IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ALL ADDS UP**

MISSION COINS REMINDER

We continue to collect coins for the **Red Door Café and Food Pantry at St. John's Episcopal Church**. Your loose change helps provide a meal and groceries to our community neighbors in need. You can help by depositing your coins in the collection plates on Sunday mornings. You may write a check and put in the the memo - RDC.

THANK YOU,
The Mission Committee



NON-VIOLENCE PARADE

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 6th. The 14th annual Non-Violence Parade and Rally will kick-off the local Non-Violence Week. The parade begins at the corner of Wick and Wood, right outside of our church.

How can you help?

- Volunteer to help pass out water to walkers.
- Volunteer to man the building so we can open it for people who need to use the restroom or get out of the elements.
- and/or walk in the parade which travels downtown and finish at the Youngstown Foundation Amphitheatre, where a rally will be held.

Call the office to sign up.



Volunteers Needed

The Mission Committee had to reschedule the event for the residents of Gutknecht Towers. We have moved the event to the first Saturday in December. Please watch for ways you can help as we work to get this ministry to our neighbors going. We will need help with treats and goodies for the residents that attend, as well as help making sure the event goes well that day.

Christian Education

Adult Sunday School Class

The Christian Education Committee will be offering various learning opportunities for you, beginning this Fall. On Sunday, October 13th, Amy Bordonaro, formerly of RAHAB, now of FREETHREE, an agency to help victims of Human Trafficking in Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana Counties, will give us an update on this growing problem in our communities. Please join us at 9:30 that morning in the church parlor. Refreshments will be provided. We want to begin promptly at 9:45 and end at 10:30, to leave time for preparation for the church service.

First Presbyterian Women

Upcoming Events

You are invited to join us for any of or all the following activities.

Early December – Either Sunday Brunch or a weekday dinner at *The Federal* (decorated for Christmas) in downtown Youngstown, depending on reservations. Watch for details.

BABY SHOWER

Given by First Presbyterian Women

WHO: Baby Boy Clark (Konnor Clark and Tahlia Wilson)
Konnor is on the staff of FPC. He has worked as security in the evenings for the last 3 years while he is completing his education at YSU. We would like to celebrate this special time for them. Tahlia is registered at Amazon.

WHEN: Sunday, October 20, 2024, 12:15 p.m.

WHERE: Helen Chapel; lunch and dessert provided

R.S.V.P. to Sandy Benson by Wednesday, October 16, 2024

Call or text Sandy at 330-503-4407 for reservations or questions.

WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US FOR THIS FUN EVENT!!!



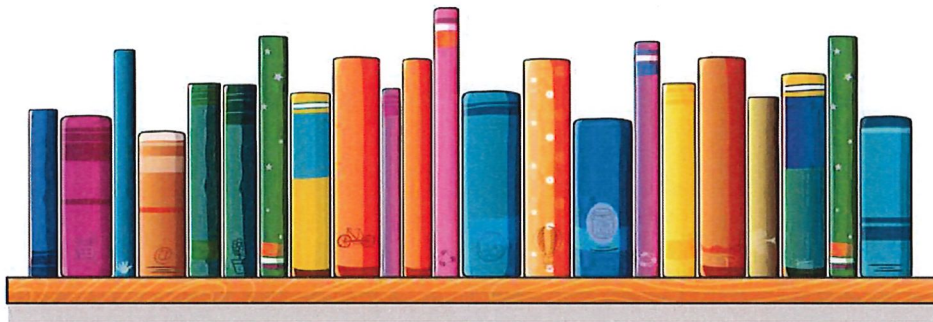
FPC Book Club
Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at 10 A.M.

Our selection for October is *Eat a Peach: a Memoir* by David Chang and Gabe Ulla. This is a story about an intimate account of the making of a chef, the story of the modern restaurant world that helped shape and discover that success can be much harder to understand than failure. Chang lays his mistakes and wonders about his extraordinary luck as he recounts the improbable series of events that led him to the top of his profession. He wrestles with his lifelong feelings of otherness and inadequacy, explores the mental illness that almost killed him, and finds hope in the shared value of deliciousness. Chang gives us a penetrating look at restaurant life, in which he balances his deep love for the kitchen with unflinching honesty about the industry's history of brutishness and its uncertain future.

We hope you will join us on October 8th in the Parlor of the Church. Please join us even if you haven't finished the book. Call Becky Murray 330-360-7526 if you have any questions.

Below is the last book we are reading this year.

NOVEMBER - Sci-Fi /Fantasy - *Fourth Wing* – By Rebeca Yarros (Empyrean Book 1). An epic of a world-building story, this is a tale of a kingdom under duress, a deadly competition to become an elite dragon rider, and the woman who bucks the odds.



December will be time to plan for next year.
Watch for the article in the November *Forecaster*
for information on the December meeting and the plans for 2025

Prayer List

Please keep these members of our congregation, our family and friends, our neighbors, our mission partners, and people around our nation and world in your prayers.

Barb Altman
Julius Balogh
Bridget Benson
Lucas Benson
Rick Benson
Leeann Comstock
Janis DePasqua
Karen Doyle
Bob Fitch

Pat Fitch
Martin Goss
Patrice Hight
Tim Keenan
Marion Kohler
Marlen Sue Martin
John McCaughan
Cindy Milicich
Judy Mineo

NuShawn Moore
Debbie Osman
Lynne Pebworth
Rev. Jim Ray
Jackie Rogenski
Victor Wan-tatah
Arlene Wright

October Birthdays



10-1	Nancy Sutton	10-13	Lauretta Amanor
10-3	Jessica Bestic	10-14	Cherry Poteet
10-3	Arlene Wright	10-19	Mia Cooper
10-6	Darlene Graft	10-20	Alex Esseniya
10-9	Estelle Miller	10-20	Rachel Watts
10-10	Marilyn Shakley	10-23	Cammie Toman
10-10	Patti Keenan	10-27	Carrie Wittenauer
10-11	Rev. Richard Fruit	10-28	Caro Higgins
10-12	Becky Murray	10-29	Joanna Forbes



OCTOBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 5:30-7 pm – NAMI Yoga – HC 6 pm Scouts	2 8:30 am-12:30 pm – Lunch Time Learning – HC 11-1 pm Citizens Circle – Parlor	3 MFHC PT 9 am – 2 pm PT 3 pm – 8 pm 6-7:30 pm – T'ai Chi - HC	4 1:30-2:30 pm – OL – YSU Fitness – HC	5
6 Worship Service 11 am Communion Sunday 2 pm Non-violence Parade	7	8 10 am – 11 am FPC Book Club – Parlor 6 pm Scouts 6 pm Mission Mtg- Library	9 5-7 pm Nonviolence Spoken Word – Penny Wells – HC 6:30 pm – Finance Mtg – Pastor's Office	10 6-7:30 pm – T'ai Chi – HC MFHC PT 9 am – 2 pm PT 3 pm – 8 pm Clinic 5 pm – 8 pm	11 1:30-2:30 pm – OL – YSU Fitness – HC	12
13 9:45-10:30 am – Adult Forum-Amy Bordonaro Worship Service 11 am	14	15 12-6 pm – OL – Red Cross/FPC Blood Drive – HC 6 pm Scouts 7 pm Session Mtg – Library	16 10-11:30 am – Saving Our Seniors - HC	17 6-7:30 pm – T'ai Chi - HC MFHC PT 9 am – 2 pm PT 3 pm – 8 pm	18 8-1 pm – OL – Living Well – HC 1:30-2:30 pm – OL – YSU Fitness - HC	19
20 Worship Service 11 am 12:30 pm – Baby Shower – Tahlia & Konnor – HC 	21	22 6 pm Scouts	23 3-4:30 pm – OL – Dana School of Music Program – Sanctuary	24 6-7:30 pm – T'ai Chi - HC MFHC PT 9 am – 2 pm PT 3 pm – 8 pm Clinic 5 pm – 8 pm	25 10-2 pm – Domestic Violence Symposium – HC	26 4 pm – Piano Concert-Sophié & Pierre van der Westhuizen – Sanctuary
27 Worship Service 11 am	28	29 6 pm Scouts	30	31 6-7:30 pm – T'ai Chi - HC 		



FAIRYTALES IN FOUR HANDS

With the Westhuizen Duo

Pierre & Sophié van der Westhuizen, piano

A piano duet recital to include works by Dvorak,
Grieg and Ravel.

Saturday, October 26 at 4:00 p.m.

Free Concert

This concert is in celebration of First Presbyterian Church's 225 years of ministry and worship in Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley.

All are welcome.

Light refreshments will be served after the concert.

Westhuizen Duo

Pierre and Sophié van der Westhuizen, pianos

The Westhuizen Duo's performances have been described as "... music-making that rewards you seventy times seven." They have been hailed by audiences and critics alike for their "... excellent sensitivity for each other," combined with playing that is "... charming, lyrical, and brilliant..." (Volksblad, South Africa).



Their performances have been heard on WCLV (Cleveland), ClassicFm (South Africa), Radio Sonder Grense (SA), WGTE (Toledo), WYSU, and WFMT (Chicago). Their interest in new music has led to premiere performances of works written for the duo by young composers, and they enjoy taking part in new music festivals. Highlights include performances and guest teaching at major South African festivals, as well as others in the USA such as Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series in Chicago (broadcast live on NPR and PBS Television), Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory's Bach Festival, Cleveland Institute of Music's [Summer Sonata Festival](#), Gilmore Keysfest, College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati, [Colorado International Piano Festival](#), Chautauqua Piano Institute, Kent State University Keyboard Series, and Cleveland Art Song Festival, among others. They also made their New York debut at Steinway Hall in 2017.



Pierre has served as juror for several international competitions, including the Cleveland, Scriabin (Italy), MozArte (Germany), and UNISA (South Africa), and serves on the boards of the Yun Foundation (Philadelphia) and Magistera Soloists (Canada), as well as the Honorary Committee for Astral Artists (Philadelphia) and the Advisory Board for the Avery Fisher Career Grants in New York.

The Westhuizen Duo resides in Kalamazoo, MI, where Pierre is the Executive and Artistic Director of the Gilmore International Piano Festival and Award. Prior to this, he served as President of the [Cleveland International Piano Competition \(CIPC\)](#). Sophié joined the faculty of Kalamazoo College, and maintains a private teaching studio. In the summer she teaches at Interlochen Arts Camp. She was Director of ArtsConnect, the community outreach program for the CIPC, and also taught at Cleveland State University and the Cleveland Music Settlement. They both previously served on the faculty of Heidelberg University as Assistant Professors of Piano and Co-coordinators of the Keyboard Division.

The Westhuizen Duo are Steinway Artists.