



THE FORECASTER

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

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From the Pastor's Desk

Happy birthday to you! Happy Birthday to each of you that are a member of our wider church family. You look good for 225 years.

Let us consider that history for a moment. Since the beginning of this congregation, we have seen Ohio become a state, we have been the American frontier and seen that boundary pass beyond us, we have seen civil strife and the Civil War, we have participated in the growth of America, and we have defended her. Our history is not only the history of Youngstown, but the history of Ohio, and our country, and even our modern world.

This history speaks to a foundational truth for us in our faith. God is faithful. When we fall short or stumble, when we fail to recognize and celebrate the divine spark in ourselves and our neighbors, when we live for earthly things instead of holy things, when we stand up for what is right, when we live out God's love for us in loving our neighbors, when we humble ourselves before God, in all things God is faithful. God is consistently good, whether we live up to it, or even recognize it.

My call for you over the coming months is to consider what God has done for you, and for us together. When you do, consider what that eternal and perfect faithfulness has meant for you as a person and for us as the body of Christ. And then, I want you to find a way to live faithfully into what has been generously given to us. Seek out community. Seek out each other. Seek out new friends. Live into God's promise for us by extending it to everyone you can.

God's blessings,

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

Rev. M. Payne Warner

September 2024

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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 met on August 20, 2024. The Session "took the Summer off" kinda, but they met throughout the summer months to read and discuss *Canoeing the Mountains* by Tod Bolsinger. Using the Lewis and Clark expedition as a metaphor, the author discussed what happens when the map ends, and one must travel off the map because all the old realities no longer apply. The Session discussed the implications of what this calls them to as leadership of the First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown. We will celebrate 225 years of existence on September 1st. Then what?

In addition to visioning the future, the Session had a full agenda. The record noted the death of Terry Murray on June 11, 2024, with his memorial service on July 20th. Helen Kalfas was not a member, but she and her family attended for many years. The memorial service for Helen was held on July 30. Also noted was the death on June 7, 2024, of Barbara Kaminsky, the wife of former pastor, the Rev. David Kaminsky. The Session celebrated that Emily Slaven transferred her letter, and Janie and Monty Warner asked to become members of FPCYO -- Session unanimously agreed. This raises our membership to 128. The Session also recorded the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism of Emma Marie Culp, granddaughter of Emily Slaven, on August 4, 2024.

Due to the declining membership, the Session decreased the size of the church officers, with Session and the Board of Deacons being reduced to 6 members. With vacancies in classes of both boards, as they start their search, the Nominating Committee will look for individuals who are called to leadership roles with the understanding that attendance at monthly meetings is mandatory, as well as attendance, leadership and participation on two standing committees.

There is a lot of maintenance happening in the building. The church school room has been painted and new carpet will be installed and we are working to receive estimates for major repairs to our boiler and HVAC systems. The Finance Committee reported that our investments continue to grow with the swings of the stock market, but the budget next year will need modifications. Finance and BEG need to look toward grants from foundations which might address needed repairs to major systems in the church building. BEG wants to have a valuation done of the property. Additionally, there will be purchases of new computers, internet wiring and capabilities, and printers. Session approved purchasing equipment and installation of a new phone system.

Finally, there was sadness during Elsie Dursi's report from the August 13, 2024 meeting of Eastminster Presbytery with the news that our sister church, Gibson Heights Presbyterian Church, is closing. The only churches left in the City of Youngstown are the Hungarian Presbyterian Church and us -- a sobering close to the meeting. The next meeting of Session will be September 17, 2024 at 7 p.m.

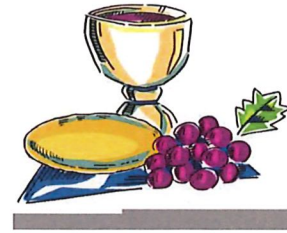
The members of the Session are Daniel Ayana, Sandy Benson, Karen Cooper, Miranda D'Amico, Elsie Dursi, John Einfalt, and Margie Patterson.

-- 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.

25% of this Offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community.

25% of this Offering goes to our mid council and joins with other congregation gifts to support peacemaking work in our region.

50% of this Offering supports the work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

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.

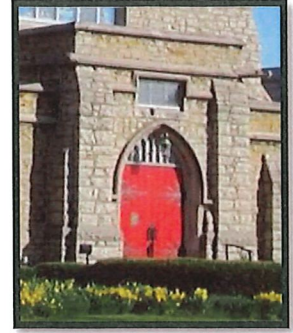
Visit pcusa.org/peace-global for more information

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.

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 is hosting a Fall Harvest party for the residents of Gutknecht Towers on Saturday, October 5th in Helen Chapel from 2:00 to 4:00. We can use your help with snacks and Bingo. Please consider donating your time from 1:00 to 4:30. Call the church office if you have any questions or are able to help us.

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.

Tuesday, September 3rd – Pumpkin craft by Bev Porter (Marilyn Shakley's niece).

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, September 10, 2024 at 10 A.M.

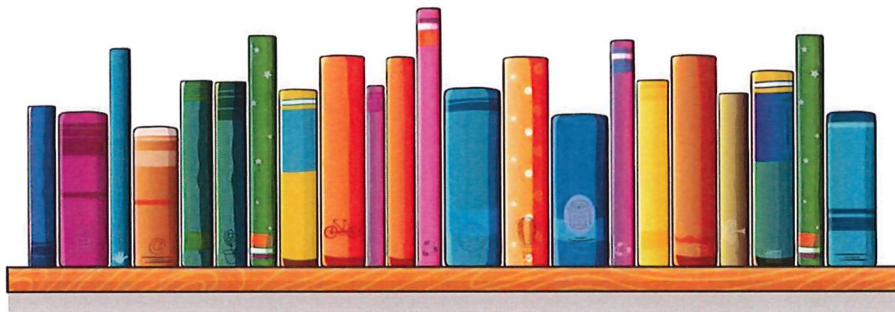
Our selection for September is *The Fondling: a Novel* by Ann Leary. This is a Historical Fiction story of two friends, raised in the same orphanage, whose loyalty is put to the ultimate test when they meet years later at an institution. When Lillian begs Mary to help her escape, alleging the asylum is not what it seems, Mary is faced with a terrible choice. Should Mary trust her troubled friend with whom she shares a dark childhood secret? Mary's decision triggers a hair-raising sequence of events with life-altering consequences for all.

We hope you will join us on September 10th 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 are the rest of the books we are reading this year.

OCTOBER - Nonfiction – *Eat a Peach* – By David Chang and Gabe Ulla. Chang shares the amazing story of his coming of age from starting a little noodle place to a restaurant empire.

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.



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.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The residents of the Realty Building & International Tower - The people of the Ukraine - The people of Israel and Gaza - Our Mission Partners including Mahoning Valley Association of Churches, Wick Transition Housing, Community Education & Schools (with Taft School), Ethiopian Children (EECMY), Protestant Family Services, CityScape, Needle's Eye, RAHAB Ministries, and Meals on Wheels, the City of Youngstown, our community, and for one another. - NuShawn Moore (Jackie Rogenski's daughter) - Carol Reed - Patrice Hight (Carol Reed's sister) - Lila King (Lynn Toman's mother) - Debbie Osman (Chet Cooper's sister) - Cheryl (Lynn Toman's sister) - Ron Strasik (Rena Scharf) - the Sarver family (Lynn Toman) - Caleb (Barb Altman's grandson) - Mary MacGregor Neff (Wilma Miller) - Barb Altman | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dave Todd - Pat and Bob Fitch - Lynne Pebworth - Leeann Comstock - Martin Goss - Rick Benson - Bridget Benson - Cindy Milicich - Janis DePasqua - Rev. Jim Ray - Mary - Jackie Rogenski - Julius Balogh - Arlene Wright - Marien Sue Martin - Tim Keenan - Marion Kohler - Victor Wan-Tatah - The Pickett family - Terry Gregory |
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September Birthdays



9-1	Nina Hudock	9-15	Betsy Sturtz
9-2	Wilma Miller	9-18	Carol Lynn Reed
9-6	Kathy Esseniya	9-19	Jeanne Cotters Joan
9-8	Alyssa Lalanne	9-20	Sandy Bromley
9-10	Daniel Amanor	9-20	Joey Roman
9-10	Margie Patterson	9-21	Beth Burnette
9-11	Janet Einfalt	9-25	Addison Hudock
9-15	Elizabeth Ayana	9-29	Pat Fitch
9-15	June D'Amico	9-30	Halley Jo Toman



SEPTEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship Service 11 am Communion Sunday 225 th Anniversary Service & Luncheon	2 OFFICE CLOSED 	3 1:30-4 pm FPW Craft - HC 5:30-7 pm - NAMI Yoga - HC	4 11-1 pm Citizens Circle - Parlor	5 MFHC PT 9 am - 2 pm PT 3 pm - 8 pm	6 1:30-2:30 pm - OL - YSU Fitness - HC	7
8 Worship Service 11 am	9	10 8 am-2 pm - OL - Chaplains/Clergy Conference - HC 10 am - 11 am FPC Book Club - Parlor 6 pm Scouts 6 pm Mission Mtg - Library	11 11:30-1 pm - Lunch Time Learning - HC 6:30 pm - Finance Mtg - Pastor's Office	12 6-7:30 pm - T'ai Chi - HC MFHC PT 9 am - 2 pm PT 3 pm - 8 pm Clinic 5 pm - 8 pm	13 1:30-2:30 pm - OL - YSU Fitness - HC	14 9-1 pm - Steering Clear-License Intervention Workshop - HC Judge DiSalvo
15 Worship Service 11 am 4 pm - 7 pm - Youngstown Area Jewish Film Festival - HC	16	17 6 pm Scouts 7 pm Session Mtg - Library	18 10-11:30 am - Saving Our Seniors - HC	19 6-7:30 pm - T'ai Chi - HC MFHC PT 9 am - 2 pm PT 3 pm - 8 pm	20 8-1 pm - OL - Living Well - HC 1:30-2:30 pm - OL - YSU Fitness - HC	21
22 Worship Service 11 am	23	24 6 pm Scouts	25	26 6-7:30 pm - T'ai Chi - HC MFHC PT 9 am - 2 pm PT 3 pm - 8 pm Clinic 5 pm - 8 pm	27 1:30-2:30 pm - OL - YSU Fitness - HC	28
29 Worship Service 11 am	30					



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.