

THE FORECASTER

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

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From the Pastor's Desk

The cycle of time continues on. It seems like Christmas was only Yesterday, and Easter was only a month or two ago, but here we are finding ourselves almost on the eve of Lent once again.

The practice of following the liturgical year may not be one you were raised in. It definitely has ties to the Catholic traditions, but it might have been one of the many "babies thrown out in the bathwater" of the Reformation. The cycle of the year brings us back to key stories and events in scripture.

The world may feel like a difficult place, but God is unchanging and unchanged by human turmoil. God simply, if we can call anything about the infinite God of the universe "simple," is. "I am that I am" (Ex. 3:14). In this holy season of Lent, let us take time to remember who God is, who Jesus is, and who the Spirit is. Let us consider the life that the Spirit has called us into as we work to live out our lives as followers of Jesus. Let us open our hearts to more people. May we freely offer forgiveness (even when it isn't asked for). May we love completely and without any barriers. May we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, embrace the brokenhearted, be present with the prisoner, offer relationship to the lonely, and offer care to the sick.

As we spend time in preparation for what God did for us through the cross and the tomb, let us live more fully into our relationships with the people and creation all around us. Let us prepare by living into the promises made on our behalf, and by worshipping and praising God through the care we offer to others.

The church must be relevant to the world, not by living up to the standards and expectations of the world, but by working to live up to the example of God.

God's blessings,

Rev. M. Payne Warner

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From the Session

First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown Vision Statement

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, February 18, 2025. We had a special guest join us for the first fifteen minutes of the meeting, the Rev. Dr. Dan Schomer. Rev. Dr. Schomer is the Moderator of the Resource Committee of Eastminster Presbytery. Among its many tasks, the Resource Committee also deals with mission projects and resourcing congregations. The Committee has a new initiative called "Serving Others/Serving Christ Together." This provides hands-on mission opportunities for those who would like to do mission work but their church is too small to take on mission projects. The Resource Committee has developed several opportunities to work with groups aiding people. The first two are on May 17, 2025 in Akron and on October 18, 2025 in Warren. The Committee has planned an out-of-state 5-day mission trip to Detroit in September of 2026, and a week-long out-of-state mission trip to Staten Island, New York in the Fall of 2027. Finally, there will be a week-long mission trip to Puerto Rico in 2028. After Rev. Dr. Schomer's presentation and during its regular business meeting, the Session agreed to participate in the Presbytery's mission initiative. If anyone is interested in any of the mission opportunities, please watch for the bulletin announcements and articles in the *Forecaster*. These sound like exciting opportunities.

There will be Lenten adult study classes from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. starting on March 9, 2025. Lenten devotional material will be available on tables in the narthex.

The Schaff Lecture will be Wednesday, April 23, 2025. Watch for bulletin announcements and articles in the *Forecaster* asking for volunteers. We will need lots of hands that day to help with registration, assisting visitors, and preparation for and clean-up of the meal.

Session approved requests by the Mission Committee (1) for the goal of this year's One Great Hour of Sharing of \$1500, and (2) the Mission Committee will be assisting Ohio Living in creating "care packages" for the YSU students who reside next door at the Campus Lofts.

The next Session meeting will be Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 7 p.m.

UPCOMING COMMUNION DATES FOR 2025

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, March 2

Sunday, March 9

Sunday, April 6

Thursday, April 17

Schaff Lecture

The annual Schaff Lecture will be Wednesday, April 23. If you are interested in helping make this event happen, please email Rev. Warner at pastor@fpcyo.org.

Mission and Community Ministry

SUPER SIX

The Mission Committee is once again sponsoring a food drive during Lent. We are asking for your help collecting the following items each Sunday:

Sunday, March 9th – Boxed Cereal

Sunday, March 16th – Peanut Butter

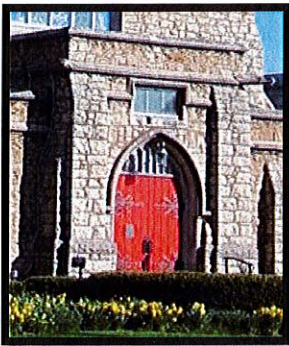
Sunday, March 23rd – Canned Tuna

Sunday, March 30th – Canned Beef Stew

Sunday, April 6th – Canned Vegetables

Sunday, April 13th (Palm Sunday) – Canned Soup

The food will be donated to Protestant Family Service to assist with their food pantry. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!**



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 memo – RDC.

THANK YOU,
The Mission Committee

One Great Hour of Sharing 2025

Help us go fishing! Our church's Mission Committee has set a goal of \$1500. For every \$25 that is collected, a fish will be caught in our fishing net. For over 70 years, **One Great Hour of Sharing** has provided



Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors around the world. The three programs supported by **One Great Hour of Sharing** – *Presbyterian Disaster Assistance*, the *Presbyterian Hunger Program*, and *Self-Development of People* – all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

There are three easy ways to give:

- Through our church (marked for OGHS)
- Mail your gift to **One Great Hour of Sharing**
Presbyterian Mission Agency
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15204-3700
- Presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs

Won't you help us reach our goal? The **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering will be dedicated on Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- WHO – Members and Friends of FPCYO
- WHAT – St. Patrick’s Day Party with our neighbors from Gutknecht Tower
- WHEN – Saturday, March 15th from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- WHERE – FPCYO Helen Chapel
- HOW – You can help us host this event by
 - Supplying cookies
 - Helping residents play Bingo
 - Assisting with Bingo or serving snacks
 - Helping with set up or clean up – 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.



The Mission Committee thanks you for your help. Please see Wilma Miller at worship to sign up or call Margie Patterson at 330-507-2345.



Flowers for Worship

We welcome your participation in making the chancel a visual representation of the worship we offer our almighty God each week. If you are interested in helping us keep fresh flowers for the chancel, contact Patty Schuley in the church office.

Easter Flowers

The church is ordering Easter Flowers to place on the chancel for Easter. If you would like to order flowers in memory or in honor of someone, please have your order to the church by **Sunday, April 6th**. Call the church office and speak to Patty. She is in Tuesday-Friday, 9 am – 4 pm. Easter flowers will cost \$20 per pot. You will need to tell her the names you want to honor and whether they are “In Memory Of” or “In Honor Of”.

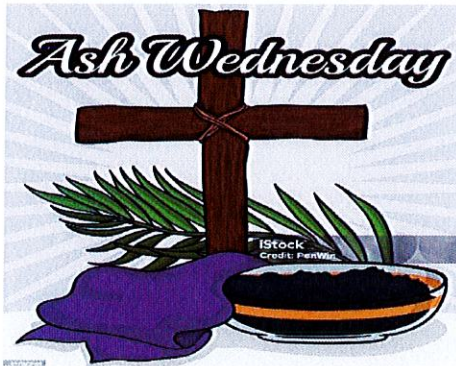


Lent and Easter

Lenten Sunday School and Adult Forum

During Lent, we will explore the Gospel of Luke after Jesus turned himself toward Jerusalem. We will explore this turn and what it means for us through the lens of art, music, and stories of where Jesus disrupted the status quo. You are invited to join us in our Sunday School hour beginning on Sunday, March 2, from 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. for discussion and light refreshments.

ASH WEDNESDAY



We are joining together with other congregations in the Eastern side of the Presbytery for Ash Wednesday. The service will be held at 7:00 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Boardman on Wednesday, March 5.

Welcome back, Taizé

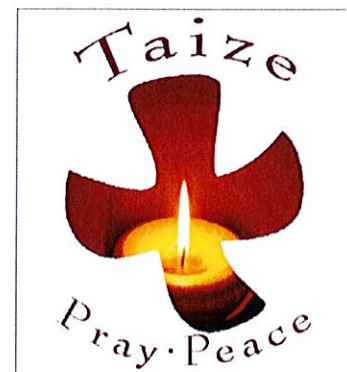
The FPC 225th anniversary committee suggested revisiting a pre-pandemic event: an evening Taizé service. Larry Harris, our music director, took over from there and has selected Thursday evening, March 27 at 7:05 p.m. for a Lenten Taizé in our sanctuary.

Taizé is meditative worship designed to bring all Christian denominations together. Song, silence, and scripture are entwined with the purpose of encouraging peace and reconciliation. Taizé is named for the small town in France where Roger Schütz founded this ecumenical monastic order in 1940. Worship included Bible readings and texts set to simple tunes, which are then sung repetitively; the music is enhanced by instrumentalists and vocal solos. Attendees will find that Taizé is especially meaningful during Lent since its focus is prayer and introspection.

The sanctuary will lend itself to the beauty of this service as hundreds – yes hundreds – of lighted candles will offer illumination. The simplicity of the music makes it easy enough for all to sing while more experienced singers can fill in various harmonies.

We are inviting other area churches to join us, so please feel free to spread the news yourself and bring any guests with you. All are invited!

Again, a Lenten Taizé will be on Thursday, March 27 at 7:05 p.m.



FPC Book Club

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 10 A.M.

Our selection for March is a Historical Fiction – *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate. This book brings to life startling stories from actual “Lost Friends” advertisements that appeared in Southern newspapers after the Civil War, as newly freed slaves desperately searched for loved ones who had been sold away. This dramatic historical novel of three young women searching for family amid the destruction of the post-Civil War South, and of a modern-day teacher who learns of their story and its vital connection to her students’ lives.

We hope you will join us on March 11th in the Parlor of the Church. Please join us even if you haven’t finished the book. For more information – call Becky Murray 330-360-7526.

Below are the books we are reading this year.

APRIL – Nonfiction – *The Spy and the Traitor: The Greatest espionage Story of the Cold War* by Ben McIntyre. Story of Oleg Gordievsky, the Russian whose secret work helped hasten the end of the Cold War. Best Seller NY Times.

MAY – Historical Fiction – *The Women: A Novel* by Kristen Hannah. In 1965, Francis “Frankie” McGrath joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows her brother’s path to serve in Vietnam.

JUNE – Romance – *The Paper Palace* by Miranda Cowley Hiller. A story of summer, secrets and lies. In the course of a single day on Cape Cod, one woman must make a life-changing decision that has been brewing for decades. Best Seller, Reese’s BC

JULY – Biography – *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy* by Eric Metaxis.

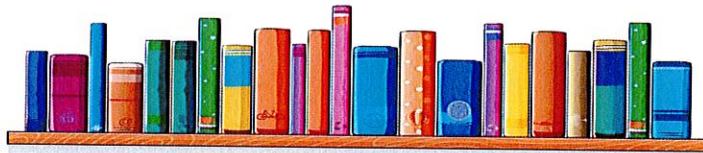
AUGUST – Young Adult Fiction – *The Last Brass Ring* by Liz Hill. Lilli Whitaker spends the summer of 1989 before her senior year with a job at a run-down amusement park, which leads to romance, new friendships, and a long-hidden family secret.

SEPTEMBER – Historical Fiction – *The Butcher: a Novel* by Joyce Carol Oates. A harrowing story based on history about Doctor Silas Weir, a gyno-psychologist at a women’s asylum in the 19th century.

OCTOBER – Nonfiction – *Heartwood: The Art of Living with the End in Mind* by Barbara Becker. Becker inspires readers to live with the end in mind and proves that turning toward loss rather than away is the only true way to live life to its fullest.

NOVEMBER – Historical Fiction – *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger. The unforgettable story of four orphans who travel the Mississippi River on a life-changing odyssey during the Great Depression.

DECEMBER meeting at Piccadilly Parlour to decide next year’s books.



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.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <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) - Cheryl (Lynn Toman's sister) - Ron Strasik (Renaë Scharf) - the Sarver family (Lynn Toman) - Caleb (Barb Altman's grandson) - Mary MacGregor Neff (Wilma Miller) - Audrey Frost's family | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Barb Altman - 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 |
|---|---|

March Birthdays



- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 3-1 Chuck Mansfield | 3-13 Sheriff Ron Evans |
| 3-2 Patti Gruver | 3-13 Amy Helmuth |
| 3-2 Tracy Rudrick | 3-16 Sabrina Doyle |
| 3-4 Tammy Helmuth | 3-19 Larry Harris |
| 3-5 Mary Parsons | 3-26 John Einfalt |
| 3-9 Jayne Cating | |

Commemorative Ornaments



To honor First Presbyterian Church's 225th anniversary, the Anniversary Committee is selling commemorative ornaments. The ornaments are ceramic, 3 inches in diameter, have a beautiful picture of the church on one side and the wording "First Presbyterian Church 1799-2024" on the other. The cost is \$5.00 per ornament. Please contact Patti Keenan, pbk1010@gmail.com or 330-770-0999 for more information or to place an order. There are a limited number of these ornaments available.



MARCH 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Worship Service 11 am-Communion 	10-11 am – Bible Study – Parlor	2-3 pm – Piano Recital-Madison Sheffield - Sanctuary 5:30 – 7 pm – NAMI Yoga – HC 6 pm Scouts 6-7 pm AMF - Bible Study - Parlor	ASH WEDNESDAY at Westminster Presbyterian 11-1 pm Citizens Circle – Parlor 11:30-1 pm – Lunch Time Learning – HC	MFHC PT 9 am – 12 pm PT 4 pm – 8 pm 6-7:30 pm – T'ai Chi – HC	1:30 –2:30 pm –OL YSU Fitness – HC	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Worship Service 11 am Communion Sunday  1st Sunday in Lent	10-11 am – Bible Study – Parlor	10-11 am – FPC Book Club – Parlor 5 pm – BEG Mtg – Pastor's Office 6 pm – Mission Mtg – Library 6 pm Scouts 6-7 pm AMF – Bible Study - Parlor	2-4 PM OL-YSU Piano students – Sanctuary 6:30 pm – Finance Mtg – Pastor's Office	MFHC PT 9 am – 12 pm PT 4 pm – 8 pm Clinic – 5 pm – 8 pm 6-7:30 pm – T'ai Chi – HC	1:30-2:30 pm – OL YSU Fitness – HC	2-4 pm – St. Patrick's Day Party for Guthnecht Towers – HC
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Worship Service 11 am	10-11 am – Bible Study – Parlor 	6 pm Scouts 6-7 pm AMF – Bible Study - Parlor 7 pm – Session Mtg – Library	10-11:30 am – Saving Our Seniors - HC	MFHC PT 9 am – 12 pm PT 4 pm – 8 PM 6-7:30 pm – T'ai Chi – HC	10-1 pm – OL Living Well – HC 1:30–2:30 pm – OL YSU Fitness – HC	9am-1:30pm Steering Clear License Intervention Judge DiSalvo – HC
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Worship Service 11 am	10-11 am – Bible Study – Parlor	6 pm Scouts 6-7 pm – Trombone Recital - Sanctuary 6-7 pm AMF – Bible Study - Parlor		MFHC PT 9 am – 12 pm PT 4 pm – 8 PM Clinic –5pm–8pm 6-7:30 pm – T'ai Chi - HC 7:05 pm-Taizé Service – Sanct.	8-3 pm – Judge Dellick – Parlor 1:30–2:30 pm – OL YSU Fitness – HC	
30	31					
Worship Service 11 am 12 pm – Worship Comm. Mtg – Pastor's Office	10-11 am – Bible Study – Parlor					