

THE FORECASTER

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

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From the Pastor's Desk

Happy Spring!

This season seems to be a near perfect model for my message throughout Lent. We must exist in the tension between different poles or extremes. For our spring conditions it is the extremes of high and low temperature and sunny and stormy weather. I appreciate the complexity of creation, but my head and sinuses are not appreciating it being 70 and rainy one day and 30 and sunny 36 hours later.

Our sermons are a bit more complex, and have looked at living in between points such as stranger & neighbor, faith & works, rest & growth, and lost & found. We will close out this season with sermons on righteousness & mercy, shouting & silence, power & humility, and grief & hope.

As we live our lives, we will live on a sliding scale between all these positions. Sometimes we will be more lost than found or need more rest than active growth, and other times we will be in a different place. That is okay. Our calling is to listen to the Spirit, follow Christ, and love God the Father in every season, wherever we may be between any of those points.

As we look toward the closing of the Lenten season and we approach the high point of Easter morning, and the season of Easter that follows, may we offer grace to ourselves, our fellow believers, and the people that surround us. May we find space for our own existence in the midst of everything going on, while also looking for the people struggling to find themselves in the tension between all these different points and offering the grace, mercy, and love of Christ as they find some sort of equilibrium.

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, March 18, 2025. There has been a change in the keynote speaker for the Schaff Lecture. The new presenter is Dr. Jennifer Carner, a visiting professor of preaching at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. She will lead the workshop entitled "The Enduring Power of the Folk Homiletic & Ethic in the Practice of African American Preaching." The workshop will be from 2-4 p.m. for clergy, dinner at 5 p.m., and a worship service open to the public starting at 6:30 p.m.

There was action taken to welcome more people to assist during Communion. There was a request from a Scout with Troop #55 for his Eagle Scout Project at First Youngstown. Both the Session and the BEG Committee have some questions and will have communication with the Scout. The BEG Committee reported on repairs to the second floor men's room, installation of the HVAC in the Sanctuary, ceiling repairs, and installation of video and audio equipment in the Sanctuary.

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

Patricia Gruver, Clerk of Session

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, April 6

Thursday, April 17

Sunday, May 4

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. You can register for the dinner here: <https://www.pts.edu/schaff-2025>. We will let you know when the workshop is open for anyone to register.

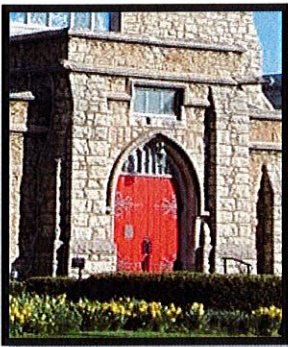
Mission and Community Ministry

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!**



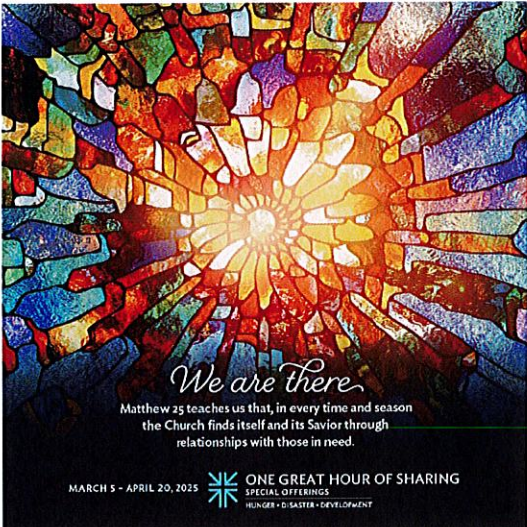
MISSION COINS REMINDER

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

Thank You

The Mission Committee would like to thank everyone who helped us host our friends at Gutknecht Tower for our first ever St. Patrick's Day celebration. It was a huge success. We appreciated the donations of snacks, gifts for prizes, and those who donated their time that afternoon. Our guests enjoyed an afternoon of Bingo and trivia. We received many thank-yous and positive comments.

We will be hosting another gathering in May. Watch for further details.



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.

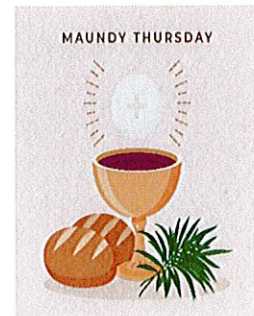
Palm Sunday



Worship will be at our regular time. Please plan to join in waving Palms. After worship, all are invited to the Helen Chapel for a light lunch as we watch the Gospel of Mark as recited by Alex McCowen. Alec is a British stage actor who memorized the Gospel of Mark and traveled the US and Britain presenting it dramatically on stage.

Maundy Thursday Communion and Tenebrae

Maundy Thursday worship service along with Tenebrae will begin at 7:30 p.m. The service of Tenebrae symbolically plays out the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection for us. If you want to know more about what Christianity is all about, Tenebrae is a service for you.



Good Friday



The office will be closed on Good Friday but Rev. Warner will be available in the Chapel for prayer from 9:00 a.m. until 1 p.m.

FPC Book Club

Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 10 A.M.

Our selection for April is a Nonfiction – *The Spy and the Traitor: The Greatest Espionage Story of the Cold War* by Ben McIntyre. This book is a story of Oleg Gordievsky, the Russian whose secret work helped hasten the end of the Cold War. The savvy, sophisticated Gordievsky grew to see his nation's communism as both criminal and philistine. As the Cold War reached its twilight, Gordievsky helped the West turn the tables on the KGB, exposing Russian spies and helping to foil countless intelligence plots, as the Soviet leadership grew increasingly paranoid at the United States's nuclear first-strike capabilities and brought the world closer to the brink of war.

We hope you will join us on April 8th 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.

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.

- 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
- Barb Altman
- Pat and Bob Fitch
- Lynne Pebworth
- Martin Goss
- Bridget Benson
- Cindy Milicich
- Janis DePasqua
- Julius Balogh
- Arlene Wright
- Marlen Sue Martin
- Tim Keenan
- Marion Kohler
- Victor Wan-Tatah
- The Pickett family
- Terry Gregory

April Birthdays



- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 4-2 Josh Bodnar | 4-16 Ginny Dineen |
| 4-2 TJ Hudock | 4-17 Daniel Ayana |
| 4-3 Nancy Shillington | 4-18 Patty Schuley |
| 4-4 Carl Schramer | 4-20 Brad Moison |
| 4-7 Jenna Hudock | 4-26 Rev. Jim Ray |
| 4-10 Jacob Poteet | 4-28 Marlen Sue Martin |
| 4-11 Denise Narcisse | |




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.



APRIL 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		5:30 – 7 pm – NAMI Yoga – HC 6 pm Scouts	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 12 pm – Staff Mtg 6-7:30 pm – T'ai Chi – HC	1:30 –2:30 pm – OL YSU Fitness – HC	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Worship Service 11 am-Communion 	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 6-7 pm AMF – Bible Study – Parlor	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	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Worship Service 11 am – Palm Sunday 	10-11 am – Bible Study – Parlor	6-7 pm AMF – Bible Study – Parlor 7 pm – Session Mtg – Library 7:30-8:30 pm – Trombone & Brass Recital – Sanctuary		MFHC PT 9 am – 12 pm PT 4 pm – 8 pm MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:30 pm Worship Communion	GOOD FRIDAY - CHURCH CLOSED EXCEPT FOR OPEN CHAPEL FROM 9am-1pm	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Worship Service 11 am – Easter Sunday 			Schaff Lecture 2-4 Workshop 5-6:30 Dinner 6:30-8:30 Worship Service	MFHC PT 9 am – 12 pm PT 4 pm – 8 PM Clinic – 5 pm – 8 pm 6-7:30 pm – T'ai Chi – HC	9 am-1 pm – Americorps Seniors Annual Recognition – HC	
27	28	29	30			
Worship Service 11 am		6-7 pm AMF – Bible Study - Parlor				