

THE FORECASTER

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

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From the Pastor's Desk

Season's Greetings!

We have entered a season of preparation. As I select and write sermons and liturgy, it feels like whiplash to go from discussing what we are thankful for and how we respond, to celebrating of the Reign of Christ, and then immediately having to switch to a season of preparation for the birth of the savior of the world.

And yet, that is what this liturgical season asks us to try to work out.

As we work our way through the next few weeks, I would like to ask you to see this as a time of preparation. Our culture wants us to start Christmas music as soon as the sun rises on November 1. We are inundated with ads showing us all the must have items. While children often seem the most susceptible, adults don't get off scot-free. We are faced with the ads directed at us, clothes, cars, vacations, and more, and we also have to face the ones designed to be the desire of our children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

With all the pressures of the season it is easy to lose sight of the purpose of Advent, and reach a point where we are simply ready for the season to be over. In that we can lose sight of the purpose and even lose our grasp on the joy that Christmas brings.

For Advent, for these next 4 weeks, I would like to invite you to enter into a space of preparation. Spend time in prayer. Spend time in the Word. Spend time with a devotional. Carve out some time each day where you can live into your feelings. The reasons the world needed and needs Jesus didn't go away with his birth, life, and death. We are still human. We still need to find and grow our connection with our creator. The world can be and still is a dark and scary place where the light of God is still breaking in. The expectations of the faithful for what the coming of a savior would mean are still valid in our lives. We are facing destruction and hate and oppression and starvation and, and and, and and...

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The needs are many. The hurt is vast. The world is longing for a savior. We celebrate the now and future reign of Christ and we immediately turn to remember that there are still wants, needs, and desires to be fulfilled. The world and its people are still calling out for a savior and waiting on a messiah. We know he has come, and yet we still are left yearning for the reign of Christ to wash over us all.

As we prepare for Christmas, and the joy of the birth of the Christ-child, let us spend some time reconnecting with the needs and desires that leave us preparing for the birth and eventual return of the Savior who was foretold, who was born, who lived, who died, who rose, and who will one day come again in his Glory.

Advent and Christmas blessings,



Rev. M. Payne Warner

What is going on with livestreamed worship and the pews?

Livestreamed worship: We are livestreaming our worship services to those who ask to be added to our distribution list. Please contact the church office to be added to the list.

The pews: All our pews are open for seating. We would like to encourage our members and visitors to try to sit closer to the front and closer to each other. It makes a difference for everyone gathered, the worship leadership, and our members who cannot join us in person to be able to see and hear each other as we worship together.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Warner by calling the church office at 330-744-4307 or by emailing him at pastor@fpcyo.org.

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, Ohio met on Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at 7 p.m.

The Session had a special guest visiting—our Eastminster Presbytery Committee on Ministry Representative, Peggy Richmond. Peggy had a year off COM, and returned to it this year. Peggy was so helpful in creating the Bridge Pastor relationship with Rev. Rusty Cowden, as well as assisting the PNC as they alle Rev. Payne Warner. And, Peggy was thrilled to see First Pres so active—it was Tuesday night, and the Midlothian Free Clinic and the Scout Troops were meeting in addition to Session.

The Session decided to continue the relationship with Carol Hornbeck and Julie Neraas, the two counselors who are helping as Session decide what are next steps for First Youngstown as we start our next 225 years.

Correspondence was received from Lorraine Hollabaugh YSU Division of Student Affairs thanking the church for donations to the Penguin Pantry and Career Closet.

The next meeting of the Session will be on Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at 7 p.m.

Patricia Gruver, Clerk of Session

From the Session and Committees (Cont.)

UPCOMING COMMUNION DATES

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

December 7, 2025

January 4, 2026 (*pending*)

FINANCE COMMITTEE

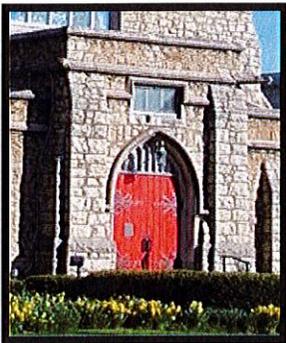
Thank you to those who are faithful in paying your pledge! If you haven't done so yet, please submit your pledge for 2026 as soon as possible. We are working on the 2026 budget and really need your support.

As a connectional church, there is a Per Capita fee that we are mandated to pay for each member of FPC, and this fee is shared with Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly for operating purposes. For 2025, the fee per member was \$33.00. Our church is faithful in paying the full amount due, which was \$4,356.00 this year. Donations in the amount of \$1,188.00 have been received so far to offset this expense, but we will gladly accept more donations!

Next year's Per Capita fee will be increasing to \$35.00 per member, and we encourage you to prayerfully consider including this in your pledges for 2026.

(NOTE: 1 member = \$35, 2 members = \$70, 3 members = \$105, 4 members = \$140...)

Mission and Community Ministry



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

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Our post-worship coffee hour is a great time to gather with other members and guests in fellowship. We are looking for new hosts to join the rotation. If interested, please speak to Margie Patterson, or any of the other hosts. You provide the snack (homemade, store bought, donuts, crackers and cheese, whatever your heart desires), the church provides the beverages, the staff will help you prepare, and you just need to step out during the closing hymn to move things from the parlor kitchen.

PROTESTANT FAMILY SERVICE EMERGENCY COLLECTION

We are collecting Peanut Butter & Jelly for Protestant Family Services. If you are able, please bring donations to the church by December 21st and we will deliver to Protestant Family Services.

Mission Committee Updates

The Mission Committee has been involved in several hands-on activities this fall, in addition to our ongoing financial support of global and local missions.

- Ten walkers participated in the city's Peace and Non-violence parade on Sunday, October 5th. Several other volunteers handed out water and directed parade participants to restrooms in our building.
- On Sunday, October 12th several members of FPCYO walked in the annual Crop Walk for Hunger at the Unitarian Universalist Church.
- Six members went to the Warren Family Mission in Warren as part of an Eastminster Presbytery Mission Project on Saturday, October 18th to help with food distribution, preparation of Christmas giveaways, and serving lunch to clients.
- We hosted our neighbors from Gutknecht Tower on Saturday, November 8th for an afternoon of Bingo, snacks and fellowship. Scout Troop 55 helped us make this a successful event.
- FPCYO members will be shopping for Christmas presents for children for Protestant Family Service.
- Our Little Free Libraries continue to offer free books to the local community.

You, too, can be a part of the ongoing missions of our church. If you would like to help with any of our projects, call the church office at 330-744-4307.



Martin Luther King Workshop

FPCYO will again be hosting the annual community Martin Luther King Workshop. The Mission Committee is looking for volunteers to help us that morning. The workshop will take place from 8:30 – noon on Monday, January 19, 2026 in Helen Chapel. We can use greeters, as well as help in the kitchen. If you are interested in helping us, please call the church office at 330-744-4307.

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

There are some Christmas ornaments left from the church's 225th anniversary celebration. Christmas will soon be here and these ornaments would be a lovely gift for a former member, family members who have moved away or anyone! 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 the church office for more information or to place an order.



FPW CHRISTMAS PARTY

Help us celebrate the Christmas season with dinner at **Picadilly Parlour on Tuesday, December 2nd at 6:00 p.m.** We will again have an ornament exchange, so you can start looking for that perfect one! Who knows what surprises will be in store?



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.

POINSETTIAS

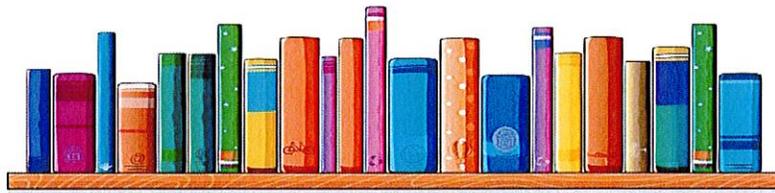
The church has ordered poinsettias to place on the chancel for Christmas in honor and memory of members, their family, and their friends. If you would like to have flowers in memory or in honor of someone, please call Patty Schuley, our church secretary, at the church by **December 19**. Call the church office and speak to Patty. She is in Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Poinsettias will cost **\$20** per pot. She will need the names you want to honor and whether they are "In Memory Of" or "In Honor Of".



FPC Book Club DECEMBER

We have reservations at the Piccadilly Parlour in Canfield at 11 A.M. on December 9th for our December meeting where we discuss the books we will read for 2026.

All are welcome to join us. Call Becky Murray 330-360-7526 for more information.



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)
- Jennifer Patterson
- Barb Altman
- Pat and Bob Fitch
- Lynne Pebworth
- Bridget Benson
- Cindy Milicich
- Janis DePasqua
- Julius Balogh
- Marlen Sue Martin
- Frank Harry Martin
- Tim Keenan
- Marion Kohler
- Victor Wan-Tatah
- The Pickett family
- Terry Gregory
- Sandy Benson
- Libby Benson
- William Miller
- Alex Esseniyyi

December Birthdays



12-3 Annie Oton Amanor	12-11 Doug Goodman
12-4 Elfie Bulkey	12-15 Chet Cooper, Jr.
12-5 Connor Wittenauer	12-15 Matt Mineo
12-8 Judy Smith	12-18 Doug Doyle
12-10 Veronica Burnette	12-19 Sean Barron
12-10 Karen Cooper	12-19 Ben Bestic
12-10 Shannon Flauto	12-21 Barbara Altman

ANNUAL BIRTHDAY LUNCH

Join us on Sunday, January 25, 2026 for the All-Birthday lunch. It will take place in Helen Chapel following the church annual meeting that will be held immediately after worship that day. This (free) lunch is sponsored by First Presbyterian Women. You will enjoy homemade soup, salad, rolls and birthday cake. We ask that you sit at the table signifying the month of your birthday. This is a fun and popular event. If you are able to provide a homemade soup or a cake for one of the months, please see or call Karen Cooper.



DECEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		10-3 pm Bodimus Sr Activity-Comm Rm 5:30-7 pm – NAMI Yoga – HC 6 pm Scouts 6 pm- FPW Xmas Party Piccadilly Parlour	11-1 pm Citizens Circle – Comm Rm 11:30- 1 pm Lunch Time Learning – HC	10-3 pm Bodimus Sr Activity-Comm Rm 5-8 pm – Clinic 6:30-8 pm Troop/ Pack 55 Comm Mtg- Comm Rm		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
11 am Worship Service Communion Sunday 		10-3 PM Bodimus Sr Activity-Comm Rm 11 am-FPC Book Club Piccadilly Parlour 12:30 pm – BEG Mtg – Pastor’s Office 6 pm Scouts	10-11:30 am – Saving Our Seniors Xmas Party – HC	8:30-12 pm – PT 10-3 pm Bodimus Sr Activity-Comm Rm 5-6:30 pm – MLK Planning Comm – Youth Team – HC	6 pm – Staff Xmas Party – Davidson’s Restaurant	11-2 pm – Hats Off To Seniors Xmas Luncheon – HC
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Worship Service 11 am		10-3 pm Bodimus Sr Activity-Comm Rm 6 pm Scouts 7 pm – Session Mtg Library	12-2 pm – Yo. VA Blind Veterans Holiday Party – HC	10-3 pm Bodimus Sr Activity-Comm Rm 5-8 pm – Clinic 5:30-7:30 pm-NAMI Bd Mtg-NAMI Office		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Worship Service 11 am 12 pm Xmas Party – HC		10-3 pm Bodimus Sr Activity-Comm Rm 6 pm Scouts	OFFICE CLOSED AT NOON 7:30 pm - Worship	OFFICE CLOSED MERRY CHRISTMAS 	OFFICE CLOSED	
28	29	30	31			
Worship Service 11 am	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED 