



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
Betsey Philips, Property Manager
David Pratt, Financial Secretary
Patty Schuley, Church Secretary

From the Pastor's Desk

Good morning,

I am writing to you looking into our courtyard filled with snow and thinking. Over the last few months, I have often found myself in deep thought as I consider the world and everything going on, and I must admit to you all that I am tired. My family and you, the congregation continue to bring me joy and build me up. Connections to other pastors are life-giving and expanding my pastoral horizons. And yet, there is a weariness that exists on the edges of it all that is constantly present.

The news out of Minneapolis has been the current catalyst, but before that it was Greenland and Venezuela, Russia and Ukraine, Israel and Palestine, the shutdown, and more. It seems that every day there is a new horror from somewhere around the world or within our own country that makes me question our ability to live life together. The murder, and that is not a word I throw around lightly, of US citizens and people within our borders, as well as the abuse of people, especially children by agents of our government cannot be ignored. I don't have a good outlet, and perhaps that is one of the causes of the exhaustion.

The reality we face is not a new one. The government we elect and the agents that enforce the policies our government enacts have been operating outside of acceptable norms for generations on many fronts, and some groups have faced the shortfalls since the beginning of our nation.

In the face of all of this going on, perhaps it is poetic and perfect timing that we are quickly approaching Lent. Lent is a period of preparation and a time to lessen ourselves, to minimize our presence, in order to better see and hear God. My invitation to you all is to find practices that are lifegiving for you. To help you in those practices we are putting together devotional and meditation resources in a simple kit. These will be available for pick up by February 15, and maybe by February 8. Additionally, look for an invitation to a weekly potluck dinner and Bible Study loosely based around the previous Sunday's sermon, on Wednesday nights during Lent with discussion at 5:15, dinner at 6, and further discussions if needed after dinner is over. There may be other opportunities as well.

Blessings,

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

Rev. M. Payne Warner

February 2026 *Inside This Issue*

From the Pastor's Desk	1
FPCYO Vision Statement	2
Clerk's Corner	2
Livestream worship	2
Community Ash Wednesday	2
Communion Dates	3
Finance Committee	3
Lenten Food Collection	3
Flowers for Worship	3
Christmas Ornaments	3
Coffee Hour Hosts	3
Mission Coins	4
Mission Committee Updates	4
Volunteers Needed	4
One Great Hour of Sharing	4
FPC Book Club	5
Prayer List	6
January Birthdays	6
February Calendar	7



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 FPCYO met on January 20, 2026 in person in the Pastor's office and by Zoom for those who did not want to venture out into the winter weather. Opening devotions and prayer were presented by Ruling Elder Karen Cooper. The Agenda and the Consent docket was approved, with the exception of the minutes from the December Session meeting. Because the minutes were received late due to the weather, they will be reviewed and approved at the February meeting. The position of Clerk of Session is still open and the Pastor is looking for a volunteer for this important position.

Elders were given copies of the Policies and Procedures Handbook and asked to review and update as necessary. We will also be reviewing the Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult policies. There was also a discussion about devising policies concerning ICE, Federal government, Police actions, etc.

Approval was given to the Mission Committee for the goal of \$1,500 for the One Great Hour of Sharing campaign. It was also noted that \$700 was collected for the Christmas Joy offering.

The Pastor alerted us to a new social media activity where individuals call churches requesting supplies and financial support, and if they are denied, they write negative reviews about these churches on social media platforms. The Pastor will work with staff on how to handle these situations.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Ruling Elder Karen Cooper. The next Session meeting is February 17, 2026 at 7:00 pm. Opening devotions: Ruling Elder Carol Reed, closing prayer: Ruling Elder Elsie Dursi.

~Karen Cooper, Clerk Pro Tem

Livestreamed Worship

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.

Community Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church of Youngtown

This year we are hosting the annual community Ash Wednesday Service. In order to make this a successful community event, we will need some additional greeters and ushers. Please plan to join us for worship, and consider if you are able to help make the worship service happen.

Please contact the church office to sign up, or speak to John Einfalt or Rev. Payne Warner.

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:

February 1, 2026 February 22, 2026

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....)

LENTEN FOOD COLLECTION

The Mission Committee will again be collecting food items for Protestant Family Service during Lent. Please watch for items that will be needed.



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.

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

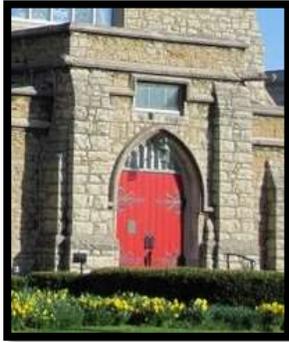
There are some Christmas ornaments left from the church's 225th anniversary celebration. Christmas will soon be here and these ornaments would be a lovely gift for a former member, family members who have moved away or anyone! The ornaments are ceramic, 3 inches in diameter, have a beautiful picture 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.



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.

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

Volunteers Needed

- WHO – Members and Friends of FPCYO
- WHAT – St. Patrick's Day Party with our neighbors from Gutknecht Tower
- WHEN – Saturday, March 14th 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.

One Great Hour of Sharing 2026

What does the Lord require of you?...to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

This is the theme of our **Great Hour of Sharing** offering this year. We are celebrating that we are all God's people and we care for each other. Our church's Mission Committee has set a goal of \$1500. For every \$25 that is collected, a "person" will be added to our globe. Your contribution of any amount can help us reach our goal. 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 begins on Sunday, February 22, 2026 and will be dedicated on Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026.

FPC Book Club

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026 AT 10 A.M.

Our selection for February is a Historical Fiction – *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles. A novel based on the life of a former Civil War soldier who travels through northern Texas, giving live readings from newspapers to paying audiences hungry for news of the world.

We hope you will join us on February 10th 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

MARCH – Mystery – *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger. Novel of life, death, and redemption in a small Minnesota town. Winner of Edgar Award for best novel.

APRIL – Autobiography/Memoir – *The Book of Hope* by Jane Goodall.

MAY – Classic – *All Creatures Great and Small* by James Harriot. Beloved story of a British Veterinarian.

JUNE – Fantasy – *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. Unlikely friendship between a recent widow and an intelligent giant Pacific octopus.

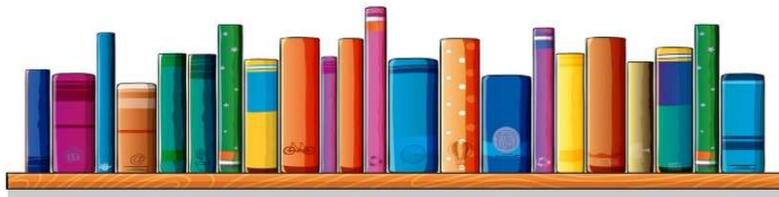
JULY – Historical Fiction – *When the World Fell Silent* by Donna Jones Alward. A novel of the 1917 Halifax explosion.

AUGUST – Fiction – *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi. Explores anonymously performed acts of kindness and creative generosity, which spark stories and friendship.

SEPTEMBER – Autobiography/Memoir – *Colors of the Mountain* by Da Chen. Memories of a childhood in rural China during Mao's Cultural Revolution.

OCTOBER – Historical Fiction – *Canticle* by Janet Rich Edwards. Aleys runs away from home and finds shelter among the beguines, a fiercely independent community of religious women who refuse to answer to the church.

NOVEMBER – Nonfiction – *Everything is Tuberculosis* by John Green. Tells a deeply story illuminating the fight against the world's deadliest infectious disease.



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 (Rena 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 Esseniya

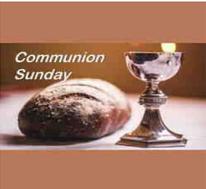
February Birthdays



2-7	Konnor Clark	2-18	Lynn Toman
2-7	Amanda Frederick	2-23	Chris Soller
2-14	Becky Mallin	2-24	Heather Cooper
2-15	Derrick Amanor	2-24	Rye Dalton
2-15	Jessica Poteet Clark		



FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11 am Worship Service Communion Sunday Annual Congregation Mtg 12:30 pm-Annual Birthday Lunch – HC		1-4 pm-YSU Exercise Class – HC 3:30-7 pm-Penguin PT 5:30-7 pm – NAMI Yoga – HC 6 pm Scouts	11-1 pm Citizens Circle – Parlor 11:30-1 pm-Lunch Time Learning-HC 12:30 pm Visitation 1 pm Funeral-Julius Balogh	8:30-12 pm – PT 1-4 pm-YSU Exercise Class – HC 3:30-7 pm – PT 6:30-8 pm-Troop/Pack 33 Comm Mtg Comm. Rm		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11 am Worship Service		10-11 am-FPC Book Club – Parlor 12:30 pm-BEG Mtg – Pastor’s Office 1-4 pm-YSU Exercise Class – HC 3:30-7 pm-Penguin PT 6 pm Scouts 6 pm-Mission Mtg – Library		8:30-12 pm – PT 1-4 pm-YSU Exercise Class – HC 3:30-7 pm – PT 5-8 PM - Clinic		HAPPY VALENTINES DAY 
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
11 AM Worship Service Scout Sunday	OFFICE CLOSED PRESIDENTS’ DAY	1-4 pm-YSU Exercise Class – HC 3:30-7 pm-Penguin PT 6 pm Scouts 7 pm – Session Mtg Library	10-11:30 am – Saving Our Seniors HC 7 pm – Worship ASH WEDNESDAY	8:30-12 pm – PT 1-4 pm-YSU Exercise Class – HC 3:30-7 pm – PT 4 pm-MVAC Bd Mtg HC 5:30 pm – MVAC Annual Mtg - HC 6-7:30 pm-NAMI Bd Mtg-NAMI Office		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
11 am Worship Service  12-3 pm-MV Sojourn To the Past Spaghetti Dinner – HC		1-4 pm-YSU Exercise Class – HC 3:30-7 pm – Penguin PT 6 pm Scouts		8:30-12 pm – PT 11-1 pm Reentry Coalition Qtrly Mtg HC 1-4 pm-YSU Exercise Class - HC 3:30-7 pm – PT 5-8 pm – Clinic 6-7:30 pm-T’ai Chi – HC		