



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

Happy New Year!

I hope you had a joy-filled Christmas filled with wonder, hope, and peace. As we enter this new year, I am excited about various things we have coming up in the New Year here at First Church.

Later this month we are excited to host Rev. Dr. Asa Lee, the president of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary to preach on Sunday, January 18. The following day, January 19, we host the annual MLK Workshop at 8:30 a.m. Please sign-up by calling the office or by speaking to Wilma on Sundays. We then close the month the next Sunday, with our Annual Meeting and the Birthday Lunch. See the announcements later in the newsletter for more details.

In February we will have our now annual combined Ash Wednesday worship service. The pastors are meeting to discuss details and we will let you know as soon as possible. Of course, Lent has its own rhythms and special services, concluding with Easter in March.

To close out our busy first four months of the year we will have the annual Schaff Lecture at the end of April with more details to come in the coming months.

The list so far doesn't include regular gatherings like the Book Club, the Prayer group, or other activities and projects from groups like the Mission Committee.

My invitation to you in this new year is to find ways to be in community with others in the church. Join one of the events already planned, or let us know that you want to start something else. It can be a Bible Study, a regular game night, a walking group, or whatever you may be interested in.

Blessings,

Rev. M. Payne Warner

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, Ohio met on Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at 7 p.m. In addition to current Session members, Daniel Ayana and Chuck Mansfield attended as part of the incoming Class of 2028.

The Order of the Day was a Zoom meeting with the two counselors with whom the Session has been consulting regarding our ministry and mission.

Rev. Warner reminded all of upcoming events including the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. worship on January 18, 2026 and the workshop on January 19, 2026. The Schaff Lecture will be in April. Rev. Warner shared Communion dates. The Annual Congregational Meeting will be after worship on Sunday, January 25 followed by the annual birthday luncheon. In preparation for the Annual Meeting, committee chairpersons were reminded to get their committee reports for the Annual Report in by January 16, 2026. Additionally the budget for 2026 was approved.

As part of the meeting, refreshments, a cake and homemade cider were shared in celebration of Elders who were ending their terms of office. Elder Sandy Benson was ending her sixth year, and Karen Cooper, who was also part of the Class of 2025, elected to serve a second term. Finally, Patti Gruver was stepping down as Clerk of Session.

The next meeting of the Session will be on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 7 p.m. If you are interested in serving as the Clerk of Session, please contact rev Payne Warner.

Patricia Gruver, outgoing Clerk of Session

What is going on with livestreamed worship and the pews?

Livestreamed worship: We are livestreaming our worship services to those who aske 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 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:

January 4, 2026 February 1, 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....)

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held Sunday, January 25, 2026 after service at which time you will receive the annual report.



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

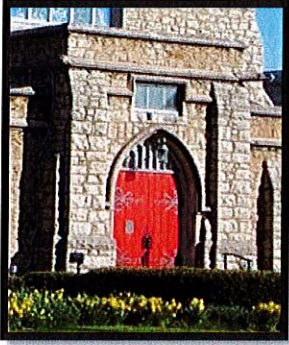
There are some Christmas ornaments left from the church's 225th anniversary celebration. Christmas will soon be here and these ornaments would be a lovely gift for a former member, family members who have moved away or anyone! The ornaments are ceramic, 3 inches in diameter, have a beautiful picture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

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.

FPC Book Club
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026 AT 10 A.M.

Join us on the second Tuesday of each month for FPC Book Club held in the Parlor at 10 a.m. We aim to read a variety of books—classic, mystery, nonfiction, romance, biography, humorous, historical fiction, etc. This is a chance to expand your types of reading material and then discuss what you have read. Yes, we are all women, but we promise to welcome men, too. You don't have to be a church member. Give it a try. Our selection for January is a Humor/Historical Fiction – *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge. A novel inspired by the true story of 2 giraffes transported across the U.S. in 1938.

We hope you will join us on January 13th 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

FEBRUARY – Historical Fiction – *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles. Based on the life of a former Civil War soldier who travels Texas reading the news.

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.

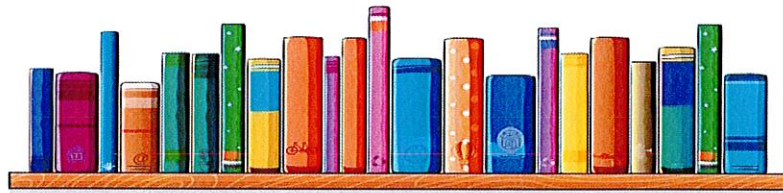
JULY – Historical Fiction – *When the World Fell Silent* by Donna Jones Alward. A novel of the 1917 Halifax explosion.

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. Aleya 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 (Renae 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

January Birthdays



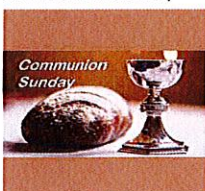
1-1	Jeanne Goodman	1-23	Noah Funk
1-1	Nancy Hauser	1-24	Jayne Mansfield
1-2	Marion Kohler	1-28	Robert Mossman
1-4	Harper Fredrick	1-31	David Burnette
1-12	Pam Toman	1-31	Simuben Wan-Tatah
1-21	Michael D'Amico		

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.



JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY NEW YEAR 		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 am Worship Service Communion Sunday 		5:30-7 pm – NAMI Yoga – HC 6 pm Scouts	11-1 pm Citizens Circle – Parlor	5-8 PM - Clinic 6:30-8 pm Troop/ Pack 55 Comm Mtg- Comm Rm		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Worship Service 11 am		10-11 am – FPC Book Club – Parlor 12:30 pm-BEG Mtg Pastor's Office 3:30-7 pm – Penguin PT 6 pm Scouts 6 pm – Mission Mtg Library		8:30-12 pm – PT 3:30-7 pm - PT 6-7:30 pm-NAMI Bd Mtg-NAMI Office		Cub Scout Lock In
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Cub Scout Lock In Worship Service 11 am	OFFICE CLOSED 8:30-12 pm- Martin Luther King Workshop HC	3:30-7 pm – Penguin PT 6 pm Scouts 7 pm – Session Mtg Library	10-11:30 am – Saving Our Seniors Xmas Party – HC	8:30-12 pm – PT 3:30-7 pm – PT 5-8 pm – Clinic 4:30-5:30 pm – Midlothian Hlth Clinic Bd Mtg-Parlor DR 5:30-7 pm-NAMI Volunteer Recognition Dinner – HC		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Worship Service 11 am 12 pm – Congregational Mtg 12:30 pm Annual Birthday Lunch – HC		3:30-7 pm – Penguin PT 6 pm Scouts		8:30-12 pm – PT 3:30-7 pm - PT		

2026 MLK COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

INTERFAITH WORSHIP SERVICE

🕒 SUNDAY, JANUARY 18 AT 3:30 PM

📍 ELIZABETH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
1210 HIMROD AVE. YOUNGSTOWN, OH

GUEST SPEAKER: DR. ASA LEE, PITTSBURGH
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY PRESIDENT

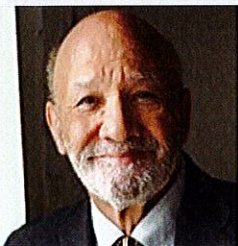


COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

🕒 MONDAY, JANUARY 19 AT 8:30 AM

📍 FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
201 WICK AVE. YOUNGSTOWN, OH

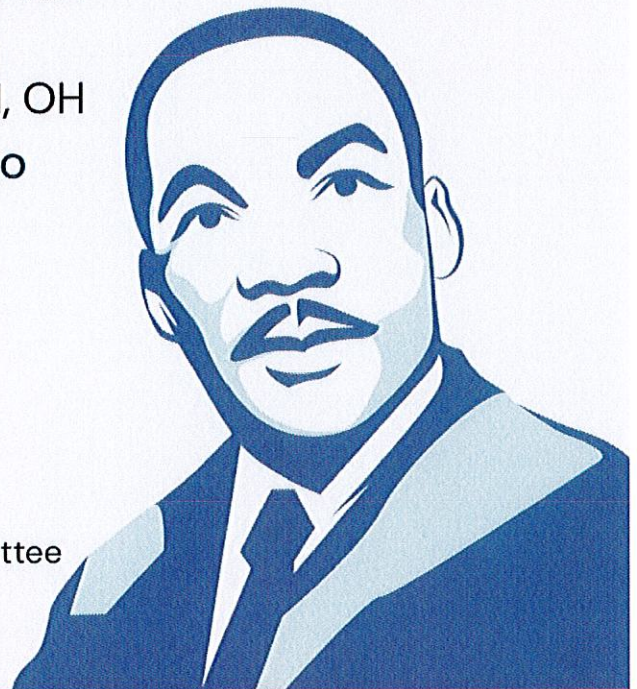
GUEST SPEAKER: TOM ROBERTS, OHIO
CONFERENCE NAACP PRESIDENT



GIVELIFY



- Choose Amount
- Select MLK Committee



Presented by the MLK Planning Committee
Co-Conveners: Jaladah Aslam, Rev. Kenneth Simon, Penny Wells