



THE FORECASTER

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

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From the Pastor's Desk

Lenten greetings!

I hope you are finding ways to deepen your connection with God in this Holy season. While our focus in worship is on our theme, *the good news is...*, this is still a season of preparation. My hope is that you are finding ways to live into that tension, just as we must do with the tension of living in a sinful and broken world, while also living in the reality that God is continuously redeeming creation and claiming it for God's own (while also accepting and living into the fact that we too are redeemed and claimed for God's own).

As we live into these 40 days (plus the mini feast days we find on every Sunday, make sure you enjoy them if you have decided to fast), my prayer for you is multi-faceted in that you are finding opportunities for personal spiritual devotion, meditation, and growth; while at the same time you find new ways to continue to grow in community and fellowship with other people and with God.

This season has a certain amount of cultural baggage to fast and do certain things, not all that dissimilar from New Years' Resolutions, and like our resolutions, they don't often make for real and lasting change. I am reminded of Jesus's teachings in the Sermon on the Mount, and more specifically his teachings on fasting (Mt. 6:16-18) and the verses that precede it. He teaches that when we are doing things in service to God, that we should look and act as we normally do, so that we do not draw attention to ourselves.

For me, in this season, I am trying to live this out by growing practices I already participate in and adding new ones. I am encouraging myself to see it as a season of growth, not one of absence or lessening. If at the end of the season the growth and new practices are regular parts of my life that continue, then it will have been a season that worked the way it was always intended to.

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 FPCYO met on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 7:05 pm in the church library. Opening devotions and prayer were presented by Ruling Elder Carol Reed. The Agenda and the Consent Docket were both approved by voice vote. With a motion made by Ruling Elder Elsie Dursi and seconded by Ruling Elder Carol Reed, and with a unanimous approval, Elder Karen Cooper was elected as the new Clerk of Session. A discussion was held regarding combining Committees so that job duties can be covered more efficiently. Ruling Elder Carol Reed was chosen as chair of the Christian Education Committee, and Ruling Elder Chuck Mansfield was selected as chair of the Finance Committee. The Policies and Procedures Handbook will be reviewed by the various committees and updated with their suggestions.

The Session unanimously approved the communion dates proposed for 2026 and approved donating the Ash Wednesday offering to One Great Hour of Sharing.

The Pastor announced that the Schaff Lecture will be held on April 21, 2026, at 6:00 pm with dinner by A La Carte and a lecture to follow. Rev. Monroe also announced that Ruling Elder Miranda D'Amico has resigned as an elder, and the Session sadly accepted her decision. Rev. Warner asked the Session to consider what new things we can try as a congregation to build community, to further interact with our neighbors, and to grow as a church.

The next Session meeting has been changed to Tuesday, March 24th at 7:00 pm since the 17th is St. Patrick's Day. Opening devotions and prayer and closing prayer will be offered by Ruling Elder Patti Keenan. The April meeting has also been moved to April 28th since the Schaff Lecture will be held on the regularly scheduled third Tuesday of the month. Opening devotions and prayer and closing prayer for April will be offered by Ruling Elder Elsie Dursi.

~ Karen Cooper

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.

Lenten Opportunities

- We have Lenten Prayer Kits still available. Swing by the church for one, or give us a call and we will work out getting one to you.
- Weekly Bible Study: Join us on Wednesday nights at 5:15 p.m. for study and stick around for a potluck dinner around 6:00 p.m.
- Our Prayer Labyrinth has reappeared with the melting of the snow! As temperatures warm, you are invited to come make use of the labyrinth. If you want to walk it, but are unsure of the process, there are resources to guide you in the main office.

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:

March 1, 2026 April 5, 2026
April 2, 2026

PER CAPITA 2026

Thank you to everyone who has already paid their Per Capita fee for 2026. This year's fee is \$35.00 per church member (1=\$35, 2=\$70, 3=\$105, etc). We have a budget of \$4,356 that will be sent to Presbytery, and we need everyone's help to try and achieve that goal. As of 2/11/26, we have received \$375, so we have a long way to go! Please prayerfully consider giving your Per Capita to help us meet our budget. Thank you!

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.



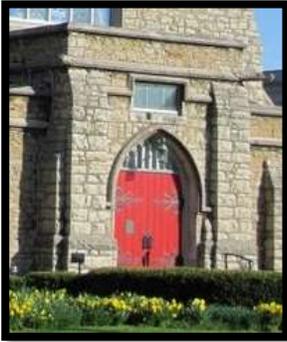
MISSION COMMITTEE

We are again collecting food items for Protestant Family Service during Lent. This year we are asking for just three items that are needed. You can bring them anytime throughout Lent and place them in the large box in the Garden Room. Thank you for your help. The items that are needed are: 1) Jelly 2) Cereal 3) Apple juice

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, MARCH 10, 2026 AT 10 A.M.

Our selection for March is a Mystery – *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger. A novel of life, death, and redemption in a small Minnesota Town where a boy standing at the door of his young manhood, trying to understand a world that seems to be falling apart around him. It is an unforgettable novel about discovering the terrible price of wisdom and the enduring grace of God.

We hope you will join us on March 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

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 (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
- 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

March Birthdays



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

Our own Sean Barron is a correspondent for The Vindicator and Tribune Chronicle. Last month he received an award from the Ohio School Board Association, and named to the OSBA's Media Honor Roll, for his "fair and balanced education reporting."

Congratulations, Sean!!



MARCH 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11 am Worship Service Communion Sunday  2-5 pm-Pinewood Derby HC – Cub Scouts		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 5:15 pm-Potluck Dinner & Bible Study - Parlor	8:30-12 pm – PT 1-4 pm-YSU Exercise Class – HC 3:30-7 pm – PT 6-7:30 pm-T'ai Chi HC 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	5:15 pm-Potluck Dinner & Bible Study - Parlor	8:30-12 pm – PT 1-4 pm-YSU Exercise Class – HC 3:30-7 pm – PT 5-8 PM – Clinic 6-7:30 pm-T'ai Chi HC		2-4 pm-St. Patrick's Day Party – Gutknecht Tower - HC
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
11 am Worship Service		1-4 pm-YSU Exercise Class – HC 3:30-7 pm-Penguin PT 6 pm Scouts HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY	10-11:30 am – Saving Our Seniors HC 5:15 pm-Potluck Dinner & Bible Study – Parlor	8:30-12 pm – PT 1-4 pm-YSU Exercise Class – HC 3:30-7 pm – PT 6-7:30 pm-T'ai Chi HC 6-7:30 pm-NAMI Bd Mtg-NAMI Office		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
11 am Worship Service		1-4 pm-YSU Exercise Class – HC 3:30-7 pm – Penguin PT 5:30-8 pm – Parent Workshop – HC 6 pm Scouts 7 pm – Session Mtg – Library	5:15 pm-Potluck Dinner & Bible Study - Parlor	8:30-12 pm – PT 1-4 pm-YSU Exercise Class – HC 3:30-7 pm – PT 5-8 pm – Clinic 6-7:30 pm-T'ai Chi HC		
29	30	31				
11 am Worship Service 		1-4 pm-YSU Exercise Class – HC 3:30-7 pm-Penguin PT 6 pm Scouts				