

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 (early) Easter!

I was listening to a pastor I follow and he made an interesting point and a good reminder as we come to the celebration of the resurrection. We often greet each other with the phrase "He/Christ is risen!" and reply with "He/Christ is risen indeed!" This call and response is theologically sound, but the words of Mary Magdalene in John's Gospel may be more on point.

In John's telling, Mary Magdalene is the first to visit the tomb. She finds the stone rolled away, and goes to tell Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. The two men find the tomb empty, and leave. Mary now enters the tomb and finds two angels, and on leaving she runs into Jesus and doesn't recognize him until he speaks to her. After their conversation she returns to the disciples and declares, "I have seen the Lord."

This declaration speaks to the active and continued inbreaking into our world by the resurrected Christ. This is not a passive observation, but a declaration of a continuing truth. Christ is present and real. Death and the tomb have been defeated. Jesus is present.

The question for us is what do we do with this information? Can we declare the same thing? Do we follow and serve a Lord that is not only risen, but also one that is actively present in our world?

As we prepare to enter into this season of Easter (it isn't just a day), what are we doing to look for Christ in the world? And, perhaps more importantly, how are we going to be the ways that other people see an active and present Christ in the world?

As we live out our calling to serve Christ may we be able to declare alongside Mary Magdalene "I have seen the Lord," and in real ways be the reason others see the Lord active in their lives.

God's Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "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 FPCYO met on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 7:01 pm in the church library. Opening devotions and prayer were offered by Ruling Elder Patti Keenan. Quorum was declared and the Agenda and Consent Docket were both approved by voice vote. Session members completed the worksheet for Opening Devotions and Closing Prayers for the remainder of the year. The majority of the meeting was spent in discussing the possibility of combining Committees into three main categories: Administrative (Personnel, Finance, BEG), Mission (Internal and External), and Worship (Worship & Music and Christian Ed). Committee opinions were shared, and this will be an ongoing discussion. A task group was formed to look into the options.

The other major topic of the meeting was "Wha Do We Want to Try?" This was divided into Internal Ministries (congregational activities to enhance our sense of community), and External Ministries (how can we be involved in our neighborhood and the greater Mahoning Valley?) Ideas were shared, and Session was asked to prayerfully consider the possibilities.

The Pastor reminded all about the Schaff Lecture coming up on April 21st, and encouraged all to register and attend. A request from Scout Troop 55 was presented for fundraising possibilities to provide scholarships for their Summer Camp. Session approved their request to ask for sponsors from the congregation, and to do a Minute for Mission during worship after the Easter Season.

The next Session meeting will be Tuesday, 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.

David S. Schaff Lecture 2026



Healing Body and Soul

April 21, 2026, 6:00 p.m. ET
First Presbyterian Church
Youngstown, Ohio

Keynoter: Esther Chung-Kim

Register by scanning this Code.



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:

April 2, 2026

April 5, 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

THANK YOU

The Mission Committee would like to thank the volunteers from FPCYO and Scout Troop 55 who helped us with the Gutknecht Tower St. Patrick's Day party. It was a fun afternoon and our guests enjoyed the Bingo, fellowship, snacks and of course, the prizes. We couldn't have done it without you.

If you had fun and would like to help again or didn't get a chance this time, we will be hosting a Kick-off to Summer party on Saturday, June 6th from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Watch for sign-up for this!

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, APRIL 14, 2026 AT 10 A.M.

Our selection for April is a Autobiography/Memoir – *The Book of Hope* by Jane Goodall. Jane focuses on her “Four Reasons for Hope”: The Amazing Human Intellect, The Resilience of Nature, The Power of Young People, and The Indomitable Human Spirit. This book touches on vital questions, including: How do we stay hopeful when everything seems hopeless? How do we cultivate hope in our children? What is the relationship between hope and action? Jane tells the story of how she became a messenger of hope, from living through World War II to her years in Gombe to realizing she had to leave the forest to travel the world in her role as an advocate for environmental justice. The book is a rare and intimate look not only at the nature of hope but also into the heart and mind of a woman who revolutionized how we view the world around us and has spent a lifetime fighting for our future.

We hope you will join us on April 14th 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 – 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
- 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

April Birthdays



4-2	Josh Bodnar	4-11	Denise Narcisse
4-2	T.J. Hudock	4-16	Ginny Dineen
4-3	Nancie Shillington	4-17	Daniel Ayana
4-4	Carl Schramer	4-18	Patty Schuley
4-7	Jenna Hudock	4-20	Brad Moison
4-10	Jacob Poteet	4-28	Marlen Sue Martin



David S. Schaff Lecture 2026

Healing Body and Soul

April 21, 2026, 6:00 p.m. ET
First Presbyterian Church
Youngstown, Ohio

April 22, 2026, 4:00 p.m. ET
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Keynote: Esther Chung-Kim



Register for Youngstown



Register for Pittsburgh



2026 Keynote Speaker



Ester Chung-Kim, Ph.D.
Professor of Religious Studies
Claremont McKenna College

In early modern Europe, physicians studied the natural world, including plants and herbs, to better understand their medicinal qualities and ways they could be used to treat diseases or maintain health. What is less well known is that one of their motivations for studying nature was a belief that God had included the means of healing human diseases with the structure of a divinely created universe. For this reason, some physicians in 16th-century Europe turned to an unexpected source in their study of medicine: the Bible.

Full of healing stories, the Bible provided support for various treatments and therapeutic methods. In the process of studying the Bible, healers not only gleaned medical observations but also moral lessons, both of which they recorded in their medical manuals. Some physicians, like Dutch physician Levinus Lemnius, linked botany and theology, highlighting the idea that divine intervention is an important part of healing and that the natural world is God's providence for the cure of diseases. Dr. Chung-Kim's study of these medical publications demonstrates that medical knowledge fulfilled multiple functions, ranging from popularizing home remedies for common ailments, offering guidance for preventive care, to explaining the ways that supernatural forces work through the natural world, all for the sake of healing.



APRIL 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			11-1 pm Citizens Circle – Parlor 11:30-1 pm-Lunch Time Learning-HC	8:30-12 pm – PT 1-4 pm-YSU Exercise Class – HC 3:30-7 pm – PT MAUNDY THURSDAY Worship Service – 7:00 pm	OFFICE CLOSED GOOD FRIDAY 	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11 am Worship Service Communion Sunday 		1-4 pm-YSU Exercise Class – HC 3:30-7 pm-Penguin PT 5:30-7 pm NAMI Yoga HC 6 pm Scouts		8:30-12 pm – PT 1-4 pm-YSU Exercise Class – HC 3:30-7 pm – PT 4:30-5:30 pm – Midlothian Health Clinic Bd Mtg-Parlor DR 5-8 PM – Clinic 6-7:30 pm-T'ai Chi HC		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
11 am Worship Service		10-11 am-FPC Book Club – Parlor 12:30-BEG Mtg-Pastor's Office 1-4 pm-YSU Exercise Class – HC 2 pm-Mission Mtg – Library 3:30-7 pm-Penguin PT 6 pm Scouts	10-11:30 am – Saving Our Seniors HC 6:30 pm-Finance Mtg – Pastor's Office	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		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
11 am Worship Service		1-4 pm-YSU Exercise Class – HC SCHAFF LECTURE 6:30 pm - Dinner 7:30 pm - Lecture 6 pm Scouts		1-4 pm-YSU Exercise Class – HC 5-8 pm – Clinic 6-7:30 pm-T'ai Chi HC		
26	27	28	29	30		
11 am Worship Service		6 pm Scouts 7 pm – Session Mtg Library		6-7:30 pm-T'ai Chi HC		