

# 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 (continued) Easter!

I am working on a project for publication in the preaching fellowship I joined last year. This is the concluding project for the first cohort in the program, so it feels as if there is some added weight to what we do. As a group we are setting the bar for the future of the program. The fellowship is made up of pastors from around the country, and it is hosted by a group that looks for ways for us to be guided by, and engage in, our faith as we participate in public life, or governance, policy, a civil society.

My focus for the project stems from close readings of mostly Old Testament texts focusing on the idea of the shared responsibility of the community in facing both what it has and hasn't done, and how those actions and inactions affect the community itself and others. The study of these texts and engaging with other writers and theologians on the topic lead to deep discussion of ideas of shared communal confession and reconciliation.

In the Jewish scriptures we have the Levitical Law and the idea of the scapegoat as the recipient of the nations sins and then banished to the wilderness to take those sins away. Later, in the Prophets we have examples where the prophets led the people in national confession of sins, accompanied by recommitting the people to following God and the covenant. When engaging these texts, there is a need to also engage with the previous prophets and what they declared the sins of the people were, and often the condemnation is directed at the people who have abused the widow, the orphan, the poor, the sick, the hungry, and the alien.

As we continue in our season of Easter. As we remember our risen Lord and His teachings. As we declare again and again that He is risen indeed! May we remember what Jesus lived and taught, and living out his example in the world. Jesus can be read in and through all of the texts of the Old Testament. The sins of the people then continue to be the sins of people today. We must continue to do the ongoing work of confession and reconciliation

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, April 28, 2026 at 7:01 pm in the church library. Opening devotions and prayer were offered by Ruling Elder Elsie Dursi. Quorum was declared and the Agenda and Consent Docket were both approved by voice vote, with the BEG and Mission reports pulled for discussion. Liam Jones, of Merrill Lynch, joined us (as well as the Finance Committee) to update us on how our investments are doing. We have had a positive month, and Liam was informed of some upcoming expenditures we have to undertake to maintain our building.

Mission Committee asked for approval to do a special offering this year to benefit our Scout Troop 55 for Summer Camp. The Pentecost offering has been eliminated by PCUSA, which would benefit children, so they requested that this special offering be approved. It was approved unanimously by voice vote.

BEG Committee presented a list of upcoming needed repairs, and sought approval for ones outside their approved budgets. The biggest expenditure is to repair/replace entry doors to put them into compliance, and for safety. This project was approved by voice vote. Another expenditure being researched is redoing the parking lot, as there are cracks and potholes. More quotes are being sought.

The next Session meeting will be Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 7:00 pm in the church library. Ruling Elder Daniel Ayana will have the opening devotion/prayer, and the closing prayer.

~ Karen Cooper, Clerk

## 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.

## 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:

May 3, 2026	May 24, 2026
June 7, 2026	July 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 4/30/26, we have received \$820, so we have a long way to go! Please prayerfully consider giving your Per Capita to help us meet our budget. Thank you!

## From the Committees



### 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 keep fresh flowers for the chancel, contact Patty Schuley in the church office.

### 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.



### FPW NEWS

After a long, cold winter, we are ready to start getting together again. We are planning to get together on the last Sunday of each month for lunch, following worship. Our first lunch will be on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. Anyone who would like to join us is welcome. This is not just for the women! We'll meet after coffee hour in the Garden Room and travel to the Bull and Bear Neighborhood Grille and Tavern at 3917 Belmont Avenue. We'll each pay for lunch on our own.

Also, stay tuned for another Sip and Paint. This will happen this summer.

We are exploring several ideas for an FPW service project. We'll keep you posted.

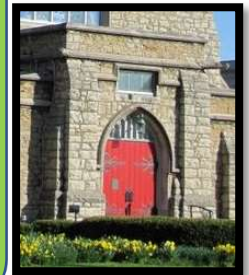


## Mission and Community Ministry

### 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 food 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



### Special Offering Update

The PCUSA has discontinued the Pentecost Offering. It will now be combined with the Peace and Global Witness Offering, to form a new offering, the World Communion Offering in the fall of this year. The Pentecost Offering was previously designated to help children and youth. Our Mission Committee has decided to collect our own offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>. We will donate 100% of this offering to Scout Troop 55 to help individual scouts go to camp. You can use the envelopes marked Troop 55, found in the pews, or use the regular envelopes and write Troop 55 on them. If paying by check, please make payable to First Presbyterian Church and indicate for Troop 55. THANK YOU!

## FPC Book Club

**TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026 AT 10 A.M.**

Our selection for May is a classic – *All Creatures Great and Small* by James Herriot. The author is the world’s most beloved veterinarian, and his menagerie of heartwarming, funny, and tragic animal patients. In this book we meet the young Herriot as he takes up his calling and discovers that the realities of veterinary practice in rural Yorkshire are very different from the sterile setting of veterinary school. Some visits are heart-wrenchingly difficult, some are lighthearted and fun, and others are inspirational and enlightening. From seeing to his patients in the depths of winter on the remotest homesteads to dealing with uncooperative owners and critically ill animals, Herriot discovers the wondrous variety and never-ending challenges of veterinary practice as his humor, compassion, and love of the animal world shine forth.

We hope you will join us on May 12<sup>th</sup> 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**

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

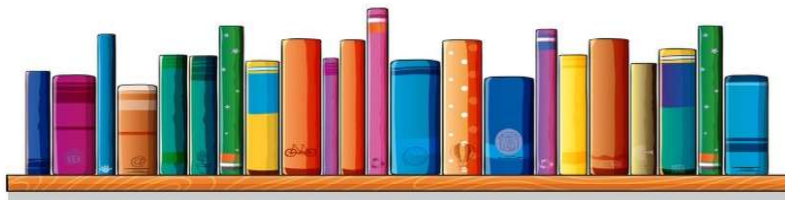
JULY – Historical Fiction – *When the World Fell Silent* by Donna Jones Alward. A novel of the 1917 Halifax explosion.

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. Alys 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



## May Birthdays




5-1	Christian Bestic	5-18	Julie Miller
5-2	Maryanne Limmer	5-18	Monty Warner
5-2	Lorne Mossman	5-20	David Helsel
5-8	Abel Ayana	5-22	David Phibbs
5-10	Darrel McClendon	5-26	May Einfalt
5-10	Glenn Patterson	5-28	Joanie Cochran
5-13	Diane Nemeth	5-29	Mike Shepherd
5-15	Cindy Milicich	5-31	Wuyuni Wan-Tatah

## OUTDOOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Youngstown Cityscape invites you to be a part of their 29<sup>th</sup> annual Streetscape Planting Day on **Saturday, May 30, 2026, from 9:00 am until noon**, with a luncheon to follow. You can help plant, mulch and weed. This year's theme is "*Red, white and Bloom!*" in recognition of our country's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. The first 500 registrants will receive a colorful t-shirt. You can be a part of this beautification event by registering (it's free) online at [YoungstownCityScape.org/Streetscape](https://YoungstownCityScape.org/Streetscape). If you have any questions, you can call them at 330-742-4040.



# MAY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					12-2 pm-OL – Technology Training for Srs Comm Rm	4-8 pm – Eagle Scout Court of Honor – Joe Zucco - HC
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11 am Worship Service Communion Sunday 12-5 pm-Annual Spaghetti Dinner-Troop 55 - HC		5:30 am-10 pm – Primary Election 5:30-7 pm NAMI Yoga HC	11-1 pm Citizens Circle – Parlor 11:30-1 pm-Lunch Time Learning-HC	6-7:30 pm-T'ai Chi HC	12-2 pm-OL – Technology Training for Srs Comm Rm	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
11 am Worship Service 		10-11 am-FPC Book Club – Parlor 1:30-4 pm – YSU Exercise Class – HC 3:30-7 pm-Penguin PT 6 pm Scouts		1:30-4 pm – YSU Exercise Class – HC 1:30-7 pm-Penguin PT 5 pm – Clinic	12-2 pm-OL – Technology Training for Srs Comm Rm	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
11 am Worship Service		1:30-4 pm – YSU Exercise Class – HC 3:30-7 pm-Penguin PT 6 pm Scouts	10-11:30 am – Saving Our Seniors HC	1:30-4 pm – YSU Exercise Class – HC 1:30-7 pm-Penguin PT 6-7:30 pm-NAMI Bd Mtg-NAMI Office	12-2 pm-OL – Technology Training for Srs Comm Rm	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
11 am Worship Service Communion Sunday 	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  <b>Memorial DAY</b>	1:30-4 pm – YSU Exercise Class – HC 3:30-7 pm-Penguin PT 5:30-7:30 pm – Parent Workshop – HC 6 pm Scouts		11-1 pm-Reentry Coalition Qtrly Mtg – HC 1:30-4 pm – YSU Exercise Class – HC 1:30-7 pm-Penguin PT 5 pm – Clinic	12-2 pm-OL – Technology Training for Srs Comm Rm	
31						
11 am Worship Service 