

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WARREN

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THE CONFIRMATION JOURNEY CULMINATES ON MAY 11

Join the celebration on May 11 as members of this year's FPC Confirmation process make their personal professions of faith during the Sunday morning worship service. This group has been meeting with church leaders and individual mentors to explore the significance of Christian discipleship and church membership.

The Deacons will host a cake-and-punch reception that Sunday, which is also during Mother's Day Weekend.



FIRST SUNDAY SPEAKER will be held on **May 4, at 11:15 a.m., in the Parlor.** The guest speaker will be Stacey Altieri, a Family Support Specialist with the Trumbull County Combined Health District. Stacey founded the ORRIN Collaborative to End Human Trafficking in 2021 and has a deep commitment to community outreach. The topic will be *Medical Marijuana in Our Community*.



PALM SUNDAY



THE SPARE

ISSUE 2025 VOLUME 5

MAY 2025



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WARREN

Easter 2025



MEMORIAL EASTER LUMINARIES

On Easter Eve, memorial luminaries were placed and lit in front of the Church and in the garden.

May Days are always busy. It's true from church to schools to families to communities. The month ahead gets us hip-deep into so much: the start-up of spring, the celebration of Mother's Day and Memorial Weekend and forthcoming graduations; a *lot* is happening.

Let me offer a few ideas on what *else* is coming up. Don't overwhelm yourself with my entire list. I commend to you each of these ideas, but I also encourage you to focus on one, at first. If you have a few May Days left over after those, then pick maybe one more.

Summer Camp or a Conference: I know, I know. Summer calendars are jam-packed, long before students and teachers are done with their school year. However, as someone whose own faith was fostered by time as a young-adult counselor at church camp – and a parent who took our sons to Family Camps, I can tell you there is something special that happens away from home, away from cell towers, and away from “the routine.” Call or text me, and I can offer a few ideas on a camping or retreat experience that matches you.

Family Vacation or a short Get-Away: Whether it's church retreat, a sports camp or something else, yes, there are big benefits available at programmatic off-site adventures. Yet, speaking as an empty-nest parent, I really encourage our young and middle-aged families to prioritize something “special” once or twice (at least!) for the summer ahead. It might be a long trip you take to make some memories, but there are shorter, less expensive options close by. Maybe it's a cook-out or ice cream every Tuesday in July. Maybe you spend a day at a park --- state park, ball park, local park. Maybe the grandparents invite you over for an old-fashioned Board Game afternoon.

Wills Emphasis Month: PresbyterianFoundation.org has a very insightful guide about legal wills and estate planning. Wills are not just for older people. If you are in your 20s or 30s, especially if you have children, you need a will. If you already made one, but it's been years ago, changing circumstances may make a review a great step for you now.

Enjoy your month. Make the most of it. Take time to sit still and rest, too!

Pastor Greg



CONGRATULATIONS to Alex and Amanda Polenick on the birth of a baby boy, **Cameron James**, on April 5, 2025. The proud grandparents are **Rich and Joyce Polenick** and proud great-grandmother is **Pat Hebberts**.




SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION Our next celebration of Communion will be *Sunday, May 4, 2025*, during our regular 10:00 a.m. worship service.

TWO-CENTS-A-MEAL OFFERING The Deacons will be collecting for the 2¢-A-Meal offering on **Sunday, May 4, 2025**, during our regular worship service. This program provides a channel for Presbyterians to respond to the crisis of hunger at home and abroad.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE If you or someone you know would like a visit or assistance from the Pastor or a Deacon, please call the Church Office.

FPC WEB PAGE ADDRESS is <http://www.fpcwarren.org> - come visit us on the 'Net! Our e-mail address is info@fpcwarren.org.

LISTEN TO US EVERY SUNDAY MORNING at 10:00 a.m. on WHTX 1570 AM and 97.7 FM.

 **MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVED** The Church Office will be **closed Monday, May 26, 2025**, in observance of Memorial Day. Let us give thanks and honor to all Veterans who have served our country in the past and who are currently serving.

MIRIAM ESTHER CIRCLE will meet at 11:00 a.m. on **Thursday, May 1**, to discuss Lesson 8 of "Let Justice Roll Down." Bring your own lunch and join us for this time of fellowship and study.

FPC VISTA BIBLE FELLOWSHIP will meet at Lake Vista on the second Monday of each month. It is for all members of FPC and Lake Vista residents. This is a wonderful opportunity for renewing old friendships, making new ones, and keeping those who cannot attend services aware of how much they are missed. The next meeting will be **Monday, May 12, at 11:00 a.m. in the Lake Vista Chapel**. We can carpool from the Church for parking convenience or drive on your own. **Join us.**

RELIVE THE GLORY OF EASTER WORSHIP

The music and majesty of Resurrection Sunday is available online. Our FPC Easter Celebration was such a delight for so many people who attended: in person, online, or via our weekly radio broadcast.

You can see and hear the April 20 worship with our recorded Facebook video, which is now available any time, day or night. Find it through the WORSHIP tab at the top of FPCWarren.org.

By the way, thanks to our Tech Team who got us relaunched back onto Facebook live. Members and friends of the Church can watch us live Sunday mornings at 10:00, or catch up with the music and the message anytime afterwards. You can promote our Expanded Outreach by sharing the website link or liking our Facebook posts.

50 Days of Easter Prayer Calendar

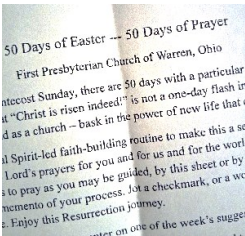
For each day of the Easter Season (stretching from April 20 until June 8 this year), you are invited to invest some focused time in prayer. The themes of resurrection, faith and discovery are highlighted in a two-page prayer guide created by FPC Pastor Greg Gillispie. Get your copy:

The next time you are in the church building

Ask for a copy to be mailed to you

Download the "50 Days" guide from

tinyurl.com/50EasterPrayerstinyurl.com/50EasterPrayers



As the calendar turns to May, the Deacons are busy with many activities. The monthly Community Lunch/ Grocery Distribution took place on April 22. Forty attendees enjoyed a lunch of ham and potato casserole, salad, and pistachio cake. Our volunteers gave out 44 cartloads of groceries. A few people have inquired why the lunch count and grocery count are not the same number. There are two reasons for this. First, some people are unable to stay for lunch and they just register for groceries. Secondly, the groceries are distributed by households, not individuals. This monthly distribution is a mission our Church has provided for many years. We thank all of the volunteers who make this event successful.

The Mission Committee delivered Easter Treat Bags to eighteen of our Special Care Members. The Easter bags were packed with a small chocolate treat, bookmark, and a cute gingham magnetic butterfly. (Thank You to the Craft Group!) We would like to thank all of you who signed the Easters cards, too. They were greatly appreciated and brought a few tears, too. Your Easter wishes truly blessed those who received the cards.

The Mission Committee continues their outreach in the community. The money from the *Chili Cook-Off* will be donated to Trumbull Mobile Meals. It seems only right that we enjoyed the wonderful meal of chili that we should help the numerous people in our county who rely on the service Mobile Meals provides. The Mission Committee also plans to provide funds to Free Indeed for their Garden Program. The Deacons and Voices of Micah are joining forces to provide garden equipment. Free Indeed provides support and transition to men and women who are recently released from the prison system. Gardening is a very positive and caring activity. With our help, they will be able to increase their Garden Program. "To plant in the garden is to dream of a better tomorrow."

The Mission Committee is pleased to announce the Blessing Box is now installed by the office entrance. We would like to thank Buck Gillispie for his work in building this. The Deacons plan to supply the box with small items a person in need could use such as non-perishable food items, small hygiene items, and some clothing items. This box will be monitored, so items can be replenished when needed. The next time you come in the Office Door take a moment to look at the Blessing Box. The grant from the Sheely Foundation provided the funds for the construction of the box.

The Fellowship Committee is busy planning a few upcoming events. On May 11, they are hosting a reception after Church to celebrate the 2025 Communicants' Class. Please plan to stay after service that day and celebrate this special day. This Committee also plans to host the Juneteenth Reception after the Community Juneteenth Service on 6/19/25.

May You Feel the Bright, Joyful Blessings of Spring,
Sarah Hirt Buzulencia- Moderator of the Board of Deacons



ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION! There will be a special section in the June *Spire* about our high school and college graduates. PLEASE send all information and updates to Church Office at kathietrow-bridge@fpcwarren.org no later than **May 12, 2025. Thank you!**



FPC MAY 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 National Day of Prayer 9:00 am Prayer Talk, FH 8:00 am Chickadee Photo, P 11:00 am Miriam Esther Circle	2 Church Office Closed 8:00 am Chickadee Photo, P	3 11:00 am AA, MC				
4 Communion/2 Cents 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Speaker Series 3:00 pm Confirmation Class	5 Election Day Set-up, FH 10:00 am OA, P 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm AA, MC	6 5:00 am Election Day, FH	7 10:00 am Crafters, B 6:00 pm Relay for Life Meeting, FH 6:30 pm AA, MC 7:00 pm Church Growth Meeting	8 9:00 am Prayer Talk, FH	9 Church Office Closed	10 11:00 am AA, MC
11 Youth Sunday/Mother's Day 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am Confirmands Reception, FH	12 10:00 am OA, P 11:00 FPC Vista Fellowship 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 6:30 pm BGA Meeting, FH 7:00 pm AA, MC 7:00 pm Voices of Micah	13 9:30 am Al-Anon, MC 5:00 pm Bowling Banquet, FH 7:00 pm NA, MC	14 5:00 pm Someplace Safe, B 6:00 pm NAMI, P 6:30 pm AA, MC 7:00 pm CE Meeting	15 9:00 am Prayer Talk 12:00 pm Dessert & Dialogue Women's Grp, P 7:00 pm Worship Meeting	16 Church Office Closed	17 11:00 am AA, MC
18 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School	19 10:00 am OA, P 4:00 pm Deacons' Meeting 5:30 pm Girl Scout, B 7:00 pm AA, MC	20 9:30 am Al-Anon, MC 10:30 am Free Grocery Distribution and Lunch 5:00 pm Girl Scouts, FH 5:00 pm Finance Mtg, P 7:00 pm NA, MC	21 SPIRE Deadline 1:00 pm Crossroads Bereavement Grp, P 6:00 pm Grant Mtg. 6:30 pm AA, MC	22 9:00 am Prayer Talk	23 Church Office Closed	24 11:00 am AA, MC
25 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School	26 Memorial Day 	27 9:30 am Al-Anon, MC 7:00 pm NA, MC	28 5:00 pm Someplace Safe, B 6:30 pm AA, MC 7:00 pm Session Meeting	29 9:00 am Prayer Talk	30 Church Office Closed	31

- FPC Birthdays**
- 05/01 Susan Devanny
 - 05/02 Cliff Straitiff
Ray Zeuner
 - 05/03 Sandie Van Fossan
Addison Odille
Ian Odille
 - 05/04 Sue Kindelberger
Watson Meyer
 - 05/06 Jenny Annandono
Donna Weidman
 - 05/07 Chris Lovett
Karen (Hesselman) Scrafford
Zach Scher
Emma Creighton
 - 05/08 Linda Adair
Marjorie Walker
John Carroll
 - 05/09 Violet Burd
 - 05/13 Jacob Ewell
 - 05/16 Dotty Hope
Josephine Caputo
Katherine Caputo
Franco Muccio
 - 05/17 Jennifer Beerbower
Donna Latessa
 - 05/18 Heather Trowbridge
 - 05/20 John Pogue
Rocco Muccio
 - 05/22 Jeanne Brown
 - 05/27 Katylu Herriman
 - 05/28 Marissa Welke
 - 05/29 Janet Williams

If we have overlooked anyone's birthday, we apologize. Please contact the Church Office so that we may update our records.

