

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WARREN

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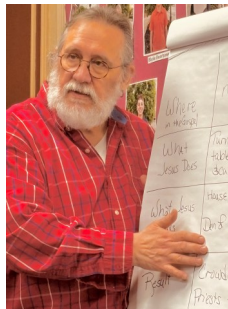
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A SPECIAL SOMEONE

Who is the creative person behind so many of the programs at FPC? Some clues might be great teacher, generous with time and talents, music and theatre lover, very original, a visionary, and dedicated to FPC, to name a few. If you guessed Russell Zampino, you are right! Russell has been the creative spirit behind our Lent and Advent studies for many years and, most recently, our Juneteenth service. He has also been involved in our Mother's Day/

Youth Sunday services. If a group in the church is looking for ideas, Russell is always a wealth of information. He has a special way of bringing Scripture, music, and decorations together to create wonderfully touching programs for our church family. He has done this year after year for over 25 years. Up until last year when he retired, Russell did all this while being a computer programmer for major companies including PPG. Retiring for Russell hasn't meant slowing down. He and his wife Annette moved to a lovely home in Howland, where they are still busy settling in with their cats and collections of favorite things that show their strong faith in the Lord and His presence in their daily lives. Annette has worked alongside Russell at FPC to create backdrops, make food, and to be a caring and welcoming friend to all. FPC thanks Russell and Annette for all their dedication to teaching and fellowship and pray he will continue his work in our Church for many years to come.



THE SPARE

ISSUE 2026 VOLUME 8

August 2026



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WARREN

ADULT VBS



The Christian Education Committee held an Adult Vacation Bible School this summer. The study was fun and well attended.

Look inside for additional opportunities for Bible Studies coming this fall.



The FPC Music Ministry Director, Melanie Vlad, organizes many wonderful soloists to participate in our Sunday worship services.

Pictured are Alexis Musgrove, soprano; Melanie Vlad; and Shanyse Strickland, French horn.





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Our Fall schedule is complete, and we will have several new offerings for adult Christian Education. It's going to be a great year!

Sunday Morning 9:00 - 9:45 AM Sept/Oct

Wednesday Night 5:30 - 7:00 PM Sept/Oct

First Sunday Speaker October 6 11:00 AM.

Tuesday, October 13 5:30 MEET & EAT program

Sunday, October 18 ASPIRE event in Hermitage PA

Sunday, November 15 FPC History w/ Sarah B

November & December Advent Programs



New Bible Study Series

In January and February, we are looking for five or six members who would like to host a Home Bible study. Due to weather conditions during this time of year, the shorter distance people have to travel is best. We already have a home in Cortland volunteered. This doesn't mean you have to teach and will include about five to six members in your area. You can choose your day and time. It will be a discussion group with a study guide.

The September Spire will give more information about these programs.



Rally Day is fast approaching! Be here on August 30 for worship. Immediately following worship, join us for a "Back to School Carnival" including activities, fellowship, and food. This is a great way for us to kick off our church program year and school year and a perfect time to invite other friends and family to join us.



SCHOOL SUPPLY Drive

ADOPT-A-SCHOOL 2026-27.... Let's continue our efforts to help our community children, many of whom will lack the basic supplies needed for school. Don't forget **School Supplies** the next time you are out and about. Look for those "early bird" specials! Please be aware that Ohio's sales tax holiday weekend will be in effect from August 7 – 9. You can drop off your donations at the Church Office.



On Sunday, June 14, Rev. Ruth-Aimee Belonni-Rosario preached in Pastor Greg's absence. Ruth-Aimee is the Associate Executive for Racial Justice at The Synod of the Covenant in Detroit.



PARKING LOT RESURFACING

During the week of August 3 – 9, the Church parking lots will be resurfaced. It should take one week, weather permitting. During that time, members, visitors, and staff will need to park in the former YMCA lot. The entrance is off Harmon Ave. next to the Trumbull County Administration building.

TOUR

Twenty-eight people attended a Millionaires Row tour hosted by the Trumbull County Historical Society on Saturday, July 18. Sarah Buzulencia led a tour of our Sanctuary and spoke of our Stained-Glass Window restoration.



Miriam Esther Circle is a group of women at FPC who meet for **Bible Study** on the first Thursday of the month beginning in September at 11:00. We gather afterwards with our bag lunches and a dessert is provided. The Presbyterian Women's book this year is "United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other" based on Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. The Corinthian Church was in conflict, and Paul was calling them

to loving unity rooted in the reality that Jesus Christ had been crucified and resurrected for *everyone*. The Christian Education Committee will provide the books. If you want to **join us**, we would love to have you. **Please tell Mary Kilpatrick, Sue Dennis, or the Church Office so we can order a book for you. Deadline: Sunday, August 8.**

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the award of the FPC scholarship for 2026 to Tavish Burd - son of Amy and Thomas Burd. Tavish received \$500, which is not much for the costs of higher education, but every bit helps! Congratulations and best wishes for continued success!

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION: Our next celebration of Communion will be *Sunday, August 2, 2026*, during our regular 10:00 a.m. worship service.

TWO-CENTS-A-MEAL OFFERING will be collected on **Sunday, August 2, 2026**. This provides a channel for Presbyterians to respond to the crisis of hunger at home and abroad. Remember to bring your coins to drop in the special offering buckets.

LISTEN TO US EVERY SUNDAY MORNING at 10:00 a.m. on WHTX 1570 AM or 97.7 FM or watch us live on Facebook at First Presbyterian Church of Warren.

THE SPIRE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for this month is **Friday, August 21**. Please send your articles and pictures to Kathie at kathietrowbridge@fpcwarren.org.

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

GENERAL ASSEMBLY PROGRAM: Find out about the recent General Assembly of the PC(USA). Elder Mary Ann Bromley was chosen by Eastminster Presbytery as a commissioner to our national biennial meeting. This short program and Q&A session will be in Fellowship Hall starting about 11:10 a.m. on **Sunday, August 2**.

FPC’S ANNUAL PICNIC will be **Saturday, August 1**, at Marty and Susan Nadenichek’s home, 2185 Britany Oaks Dr. NE. Church Life will provide chicken, and guests are asked to bring a dish to share. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall or call the Church Office if you plan to attend.

PASTOR’S VACATION: Pastor Greg will be on **vacation through August 4**. Whenever the pastor is away, you are encouraged to notify one of the Elders or call the Church Office for a circumstance that needs immediate attention or follow up.



Deacons’ News

As we begin the month of August, The Deacons continue to provide outreach for the congregation and community. The Grocery distribution took place on July 21 with 41 families receiving carts of groceries and 55 friends and neighbors enjoying a picnic-style lunch of hot dogs, macaroni salad, watermelon, and cookies.

The Deacons met for our summer meeting on July 19. We discussed projects and events taking place during the next few months. The Congregational Care Committee continues to stay connected with our congregation. The birthday cards and treats continue to be happy reminders of our church fellowship.

Kathie reported on the continued success of the Blessing Box and told us of the generous donation made by the Canfield Presbyterian Church to support this effort. Our donation has refreshed the Wings pantry with cleaning and laundry products. We will be concluding our Christmas in July toy drive for the Warren Family Mission at the beginning of August. These toys will help to fill the shelves at the Mission for their annual Christmas party. Please leave donations in the bins near the Christmas tree in Fellowship Hall.

The Deacons will not meet during the month of August. However, our work for the congregation and community will continue. We know that this will be a busy and important time for our congregation! Enjoy the long days as summer begins to wind down. May you also make time for growth, learning, and reflection.

Cindy Athya, Recording Secretary

A personal note from Greg

A pastoral transition is forthcoming at FPC

There is exciting news and a promising chapter upcoming at FPC Warren. As a “transitional” pastor, I have *not* been involved with our Pastor Nominating Committee’s 2+ year process of creating a description of the church and the new pastoral position, sorting resumes and interviewing candidates, and prayerfully making a selection. (Other denominations use differing patterns for selections of clergy.) Pending approvals by the congregation and our regional presbytery, the new longer-term pastor will be installed here this fall.

Before all that happens, I want to give you a quick update about me and my role here. I started here as a Bridge Pastor “for a time,” in March 2025. It was expected to be for a ten-month interim time. As the PNC was continuing to work, we extended that to the end of July this year, then just recently expanded it one more time to take us as far as mid-November if needed, to whatever point when the next pastor would be ready. I have been blessed beyond measure to be a preacher and pastor and partner among you throughout this expanded season. The chapter, though, will come to a close at a date to be determined, likely in September, give or take. We’ll know more about that timeline in a few weeks.

During my 16 months (so far), I know that I have heard wonderful affirmations of my ministry. Multiple members told me things like “I hope you stay, Greg” or “we already have a great candidate already here.” While wonderful to hear, I am quite content with my intention to move into a new vocational chapter soon. My own process of discerning my next calling is already underway, and I am excited that my successor will be on the way soon. Because of your new pastor and your Elders and our members, First Warren has great opportunities to thrive into our 224th year of ministry and beyond!

Obviously, we’ll talk more about the upcoming transition, my own plans, and my appreciation for all that we’ve shared and all that the Lord accomplished through us in the past year and a half. In print and in person, I look forward to recalling a representative sampling of the highlights of our time together. I also will have to communicate my appreciation for the ways you have received my ministry and motivated my leadership. We have done important work and made meaningful memories. I’ll continue to express my gratitude — to God and to FPC’s people — for what has been an incredibly valuable chapter of my life and vocation.

Wishing you Jesus’ Peace & Joy,

Greg

Note: This is an update of Greg’s column published two weeks ago in our weekly e-mailed Spire newsletter updates. If you are not receiving these e-Spires, please email info@FPCWarren.org and request to be added to that distribution list.

FPC Birthdays

08/01 Sarah Buzulencia

08/04 Sharon Jorgensen

08/07 Marjorie Danganan

08/10 Julie Trowbridge

Bill Burns, Jr.

Karen Sanders

08/13 Gary Wireman

08/15 Chick Haering, Jr.

Matt Ries

08/19 Barbara Pollock

08/22 Mike McKee

Buck Gillispie

08/23 Cassy Tenney

08/25 Theresa Kemp

Cindy Athya

Tim Ward

08/28 Jeffrey Miller

Lynda Fowler

08/29 Lydia Sasanecki

08/30 Betsy Parsons

08/31 Parry Hesselman

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

Birthdays to Celebrate



AUGUST 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 11:00 am AA, MC 12:00 pm Church Picnic 4:30 pm Concert Parking
2 Communion 2¢/meal 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am GA Program, FH	3 10:00 am OA, P 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, FH 7:00 pm AA, MC	4 9:30 am Al-Anon, B 5:00 pm Girl Scouts, B 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, FH 7:00 pm NA, MC	5 Office Closed at 2:00 pm 6:30 pm AA, MC	6 Kathie Vacation	7 Kathie Vacation Church Office Closed	8 11:00 am AA, MC
9 10:00 am Worship	10 10:00 am OA, P 11:00 am Cortland Fellowship, Otterbein 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 6:30 pm BGA Meeting, FH 7:00 pm AA, MC	11 9:30 am Al-Anon, B 5:00 pm Presbytery Meeting, Canfield 7:00 pm NA, MC	12 5:00 pm Someplace Safe, B 5:30 pm CE Meeting 6:00 pm NAMI Mtg., P 6:30 pm AA, MC	13 5:00 pm Chickadee Orientation, FH	14 Church Office Closed	15 11:00 am AA, MC 4:30 pm Concert Parking
16 10:00 am Worship	17 10:00 am OA, P 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm AA, MC	18 9:30 am Al-Anon, B 10:30 am Free Lunch Grocery Distribution 5:00 pm Finance, P 5:00 pm Girl Scouts, B 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, FH 7:00 pm NA, MC	19 Office Closed at 1:00 pm 1:00 pm Crossroads Bereavement Group, P 6:30 pm AA, MC	20 Kathie Vacation 7:00 pm Worship Meeting	21 Kathie Vacation SPIRE Deadline Church Office Closed	22 11:00 am AA, MC 4:30 pm Concert Parking
23 10:00 am Worship	24 10:00 am OA, P 5:00 pm Chickadee Orientation, FH 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm AA, MC	25 9:30 am Al-Anon, B 7:00 pm NA, MC	26 11:00 am Crafters, B 5:00 pm Someplace Safe, B 6:30 pm AA, MC 7:00 pm Session Meeting	27 2:00 pm Care Share Circle, P	28 Church Office Closed	29 11:00 am AA, MC 4:30 pm Concert Parking
30 Rally Day 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Back to School Carnival	31 10:00 am OA, P 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm AA, MC					