

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WARREN

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## Maundy Thursday Dinner

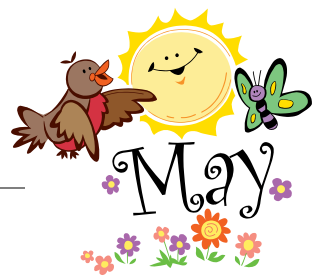


**ATTENTION! ATTENTION!** There will be a special section in the June *Spire* about our high school and college graduates. PLEASE send all information and updates to Church Office at [kathietrowbridge@fpcwarren.org](mailto:kathietrowbridge@fpcwarren.org) no later than **May 14, 2026**. Thank you!



# THE SPIRE

ISSUE 2026 VOLUME 5 MAY 2026



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WARREN

### Holy Week 2026



# He is RISEN

The Deacons have been and continue to be busy with many activities and projects. The monthly Community Lunch/Food Distribution took place on March 17. A lunch consisting of casserole, salad, and dessert was served to twenty-seven people. Our volunteers gave out 44 loads of groceries. This monthly distribution is a mission that First Presbyterian has provided for many years. With the increasing cost of groceries, this distribution goes a long way to aid those in our community. We appreciate the volunteers who make this event successful each month!

As an Easter treat, the Deacons, led by the Congregational Care Committee, delivered beautiful tulips and a special plush "lamb" to each our Special Needs members. Special thanks to the Crafters group for the sweet lambs. They were a big hit! The Congregational Care Committee continues to send birthday greetings and sweet treats to our members. Our Corresponding Secretary, Marjorie Dangaran, stays connected with members by phone and by sending cards.

The Deacons, through our Mission Committee, donated \$300 to the Warren Family Mission to help with the cost of the Easter baskets given to area children during their Easter meal. Kathie reported that the Blessing Box continues to be visited regularly by people in need. She restocks the box daily with food and other useful items.

The Fellowship Committee will be busy during the month of May. We will hold a Mother's Day reception on May 10 following worship. Please join us for treats and conversation. On May 24, we will hold a reception to honor all the volunteers who help to keep our church and our programs running. This will be a wonderful opportunity to speak with members who volunteer regularly. Please consider joining us! Whatever your interests, we have a group whose work you would find rewarding. Please note, the Juneteenth service and reception will be held on Thursday, June 18. This is always a moving service, and the Deacons provide a reception following the service.

Wishing you a Happy Spring!

Cindy Athya, Recording Secretary



## MEET-N-EAT

Church Life organized a Meet-n-Eat on April 14; about thirty members and friends gathered for a delicious pasta dinner and fellowship.



Congratulations to our own **Sarah Hirt Buzulencia**, who was celebrated as a 2026 Community Star! Sarah was selected on the basis of her multi-faceted volunteerism, primarily with the Packard Museum, the Trumbull County Historical Society, and First Presbyterian Church.

## Congratulations to Chickadee on GOLD AWARD

Chickadee Preschool has received a Gold Step Up to Quality Award from the state of Ohio in recognition of their commitment to quality and an ongoing dedication to the learning and development of children.



Step Up to Quality is a rating system that awards a bronze to gold rating to learning and development programs that go above and beyond basic licensing standards. Gold rated programs lay the foundation for children's learning and development and build skills that are important for success in school and in life. Programs with gold ratings employ highly trained teachers, develop children's school readiness skills, commit to continuous improvement, and value relationships with families and communities. Research confirms the first five years of a child's life have a direct impact on how well children develop emotionally in addition to learning and social skills. Emily Benjamin, director and teacher at Chickadee, said, "I am so grateful to the First Presbyterian Church family for welcoming this wild idea into their space. When I first pitched it to Pastor Betty, I never imagined we would be completely full for our 2nd and 3rd years! And now, here we have a gold rating! Giving kids a childhood full of play and nature is not easy, but it is so worth it! Thank you for your continued support!"

Chickadee's mission is to "Provide an environment for young children that honors childhood through play and nature." The school is a non-profit and is the only preschool of this type in our area.

**Juneteenth** is the annual observance of a Texas event which marked an end to organized slavery in the United States. The anniversary itself is on June 19. FPC will host a community Juneteenth Eve worship experience on **Thursday evening, June 18**. It is co-sponsored by the "Voices of Micah 6:8" task force.

## Serving Others/Serving Christ Together



The Presbytery Resource Committee is offering a range of mission opportunities for our congregations. The first is on **Saturday, May 16**, at Justin T. Rogers Hospice Care Center in Akron from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. On **Saturday, October 17**, we will again help Warren Family Mission organize their annual coat drive from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. A longer multi-day/night mission project will be held in Detroit, Michigan, at Cass Community Social Service on **September 16-20**. The total cost is \$200; a \$100 deposit is due with registration by June 30.



We had a special visit from former FPC Pastor Terry Schoener's adult children. They grew up at FPC and were very excited to take a tour and reminisce with us.



**SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION** Our next celebration of Communion will be *Sunday, May 3, 2026*, 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 3, 2026**, 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](mailto: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 25, 2026**, 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. We also remember all our departed loved ones.

**MIRIAM ESTHER CIRCLE** will meet at 11:00 a.m. on **Thursday, May 7**, to discuss Lesson 8 of "Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity." Bring your own lunch and join us for this time of fellowship and study.

**CORTLAND OTTERBEIN FELLOWSHIP** will meet on the **second Monday** of each month. It is for all members of FPC and Otterbein 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 11, at 11:00 a.m. in the Cortland Otterbein Chapel**. Reach out to Sue Dennis if you have questions or would like to car pool.

#### Update on Continuing Education:

I am elated to say that I have officially completed 18 credit hours for my MACE program. I have received all A's and a B+ pulling a 3.83 GPA. This past semester, I was awarded the "Beryl B. and Charles E.S. Kraemer Scholarship," which is established by alumni of PSCE. I was nominated for this award by my professors, who submitted my nomination as a rising Christian Educator. I am not only honored but so grateful to receive this acknowledgement and hope I can continue to do God's work in this continuing education process.

The past two semesters, I have learned more than I could have imagined and I am becoming more confident in my knowledge and ability to teach the word of God. This semester is a short one; it began April 13 and will end June 20. I am taking nine credit hours of interesting courses that will be an asset to my education, which, in turn, I will bring back to the Church. This summer, I have the opportunity to spend the week in Charlotte, NC, working with their VBS. Over this week, I will teach and assist in implementing different teaching techniques like incorporating art in teaching. I intend to come home from this week tired, but inspired, and would like to have an intergenerational small VBS over a Friday- Saturday in August. Watch for more information on this! I would like to thank the congregation for their continued support during this time, I truly couldn't do it without you all.

Blessings,

Marissa, Director of Family and Youth Ministry



**This "May" be one of the busiest months of each year.**

My Friends,

Between the events around this congregation, people's holidays, the culmination of another school year, and the ways so many other things on your calendar and mine are moving toward the end of another program year, May is so full. Isn't it? (I think it's a good thing that 2026's May worked out to have FIVE Sundays!)

Get out your schedule. Compare it to the calendar elsewhere in this newsletter (and in e-mailed updates). Prioritize what is important and beneficial and meaningful. Here we go.

The month ahead has Mother's Day, and that will be a focus for FPC that day. Moms are certainly worthy of our honor, and I certainly fondly remember my own, even seven years after her passing. I should also say that my personal preference is that we use that day to honor *all* the women of the church. Not everyone has a motherhood story, and this can be a challenging holiday for those whose connections with a mother – or *as* a mother – or not being a mom – is hardly "Hallmark Cards Holiday" worthy. I'm thinking of the multiple times in recent months where Bible studies and discussions around here have focused on women of the Bible, even when the cultural influences in the day didn't even bother to keep track of those women's names. Regardless of their personal status, *all* the women of First Presbyterian add such vitality to our life together and to our outward mission.

We also will have the twin observances of Pentecost Sunday and Memorial Day Weekend. The Christian festival celebrates the birthday of the worldwide church, as the Holy Spirit inspired commitments from 3,000 people – in one day, to one sermon (Acts 2), for a universal hunger for something unique and better and true. Pentecost is one of the three biggest events on the annual theological calendar. This year, it overlaps with Memorial Day, which is another big event, albeit centered more secularly for some. However, both of these holidays have profound faith-based content, and we will weave them together on May 24. That day also has a reception to celebrate the ministry of the huge number of volunteers who have accomplished so much during our current program year.

On our other May Sundays, we will celebrate an award our Marissa Welke earned from Union Theological Seminary, where she is part way through her program leading toward certification and a Master's Degree in Christian Education. We also will bless Mary Ann Bromley (and commit to pray for her this summer). Mary Ann was chosen by Eastminster Presbytery to be among the voters who will set national Presbyterian policy this summer as our Elder Commissioner on behalf of our five-county region. She will do that, with a week of virtual meetings, plus a week in Detroit.

We also continue our 50-day celebration of Easter. The Good News of Jesus' resurrection inspires us, certainly during these weeks, but all year long.

Wishing you Easter's Joy and Jesus' Peace!

Pastor Greg

**THE FIRST SUNDAY SPEAKER SERIES** will be held on **Sunday, May 3, at 11:15 a.m.** in the Parlor. The speaker will be Douglas Doyle from Direction Home of Eastern Ohio. Direction Home provides resources on aging and disabilities. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

**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
- 05/08 Emma Creighton  
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
- 05/28 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.



# FPC MAY 2026



| Sun   | Mon   | Tue  | Wed   | Thu   | Fri   | Sat  |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|
|   |   |  |   |   |   |  |
|   |   |  |   |   | 1<br>Church Office Closed<br>8:30 am Chickadee Photo, P | 2<br>11:00 am AA, MC                               |
| 3<br>Communion/2 Cents<br>8:30 am Choir Rehearsal<br>10:00 am Worship<br>11:15 am Speaker Series<br>11:15 am Bell Choir<br>PCUSA Older Adults Week        | 4<br>Election Day Set-up, FH<br>10:00 am OA, P<br>5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B<br>7:00 pm AA, MC  | 5<br>5:00 am Election Day, FH<br>9:00 am Al-Anon, B  | 6<br>10:00 am Crafters, B<br>6:30 pm AA, MC   | 7<br>11:00 am Miriam Esther Circle, P                                       | 8<br>Church Office Closed                               | 9<br>8:00 am Steering Clear, FH<br>11:00 am AA, MC |
| 10<br>Youth Sunday/Mother's Day<br>8:30 am Choir Rehearsal<br>10:00 am Worship<br>10:15 am Sunday School<br>11:15 am Deacons' Mother's Day Reception, FH  | 11<br>10:00 am OA, P<br>11:00 Cortland Otterbein Fellowship, Cortland<br>5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B<br>6:30 pm BGA Meeting, FH<br>7:00 pm AA, MC<br>7:00 pm Voices of Micah | 12<br>9:30 am Al-Anon, B<br>5:00 pm Bowling Banquet, FH<br>7:00 pm NA, MC  | 13<br>5:00 pm Someplace Safe, B<br>6:00 pm NAMI, P<br>6:30 pm AA, MC<br>7:00 pm Church Life, Z                | 14<br>6:30 pm Safety Committee<br>7:00 pm Care Share Circle                 | 15<br>Church Office Closed                              | 16<br>11:00 am AA, MC                              |
| 17<br>8:30 am Choir Rehearsal<br>10:00 am Worship<br>10:15 am Sunday School<br>11:15 am Bell Choir<br>11:15 am Marissa and Josh's Wedding Celebration, FH | 18<br>10:00 am OA, P<br>4:00 pm Deacons' Meeting<br>5:30 pm Girl Scout, B<br>7:00 pm AA, MC   | 19<br>9:30 am Al-Anon, B<br>10:30 am Free Grocery Distribution and Lunch<br>5:00 pm Girl Scouts, FH<br>5:00 pm Finance Mtg, P<br>5:30 pm Girl Scouts, FH<br>7:00 pm NA, MC | 20<br>SPIRE Deadline<br>1:00 pm Crossroads Bereavement Grp, P<br>5:30 pm Relay for Life, FH<br>6:30 pm AA, MC | 21<br>12:00 pm Dessert & Dialogue Women's Grp, P<br>7:00 pm Worship Meeting | 22<br>Church Office Closed                              | 23<br>11:00 am AA, MC                              |
| 24 Pentecost<br>8:30 am Choir Rehearsal<br>10:00 am Worship<br>10:15 am Sunday School<br>11:15 am Volunteer Reception, FH                                 | 25 Memorial Day<br>Church Office Closed   | 26<br>9:30 am Al-Anon, MC<br>7:00 pm NA, MC  | 27<br>5:00 pm Someplace Safe, B<br>6:30 pm AA, MC<br>7:00 pm Session Meeting                                  | 28<br>7:00 pm Care Share Circle   | 29<br>Church Office Closed                              | 30<br>Generosity Workshop, FH<br>11:00 am AA, MC   |
| 31<br>10:00 am Worship<br>10:15 am Sunday School  |   |  |   |   |   |  |