

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WARREN

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DEACONS' NEWS

The Deacons held their first meeting of 2026 on January 18. We began the meeting with a devotion and immediately got to work!

The Mission Committee continues their good works for the community. Kathie reported that she has stocked the Blessing Box with warm clothes and gloves. She replaces food items each day. Our box is regularly visited by our neighbors. She confirmed that our donations to The Wings, the Salvation Army's Kettle Drive, and The Shepherd of All God's Children went out to provide cheer over the Christmas season. We considered ways that we can support Sleep in Heavenly Peace. This group builds and delivers beds for children who need them.

Stay tuned for more information on this drive that will begin soon. Kathie told us that Trumbull Mobile Meals is looking for donations to expand their kitchen. We all agreed to send them \$400 for this purpose.

The Congregational Care Committee continues to stay connected with our Special Care Members. They also continue to send birthday cards and treats to our members on their birthdays. Marjorie sends cards and places calls to keep up with our members who need a little sunshine in their days.

The Fellowship Committee is holding a reception for JoAnn Rubrake as she steps back from day-to-day operations associated with the Food Pantry. We are all grateful to her for her many

years of service to this worthy project. We will continue to look for her help as we move forward. The Fellowship Committee is planning receptions and will work towards promoting fellowship within our congregation.

Grocery Distribution and Community Lunch took place on January 20. We distributed 49 bags of groceries on a very cold and blustery day. Our Kitchen Crew served 38 hot meals of chicken and rice casserole. Thanks to all our volunteers!

Peace and Happiness to all!
Cindy Athya, Recording Secretary



THE SPIRE

ISSUE 2026 VOLUME 2 FEBRUARY 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WARREN

Youth Lock-In



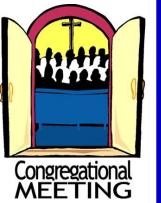


Two significant all-congregation meetings happen in February

The month ahead has two significant meetings for members and friends of First Presbyterian Church. We hope both will get highlighted on your personal calendars.

Annual Business Meeting: February 15

Presbyterian churches, usually early in each year, hold an annual business meeting for the small number of functions which our form of governance reserves for the gathered members to decide. Our Session (council of ordained Elders) is likely to choose February 15 as the date, in conjunction with the Sunday morning worship service. The agenda, an annual report and other background information will be distributed separately by mail or email to our active members. (Non-members are always welcomed to attend, too.)



Supper and Vision-Casting: February 25

There will be a Wednesday evening for prayerful conversation and important discussions, as our ordained leadership boards meet together to identify the small handful of priorities which FPC will carry through the rest of 2026. While all Elders and Deacons will be the core of these conversations, please do not leave it solely to these folks to do the discernment. All the people of the congregation are eagerly invited to be part of this process. Everyone has something to add – newcomers, team leaders, long-time members, paid staff, the congregation at-large. All of us can benefit by listening to each other.

We'll provide a supper starting at 6:00 (and if you'll be later, arrive when you can and we'll feed you). The Rev. Barry Chance (the leader of our regional presbytery) will guide the small group and larger discussions, dreams and brainstorming across a couple of hours. You will be into the parking lot before 8:30.

Please contact an Elder or the Church Office, if it would be helpful for you to request carpooling or child care or specific dietary needs. We also benefit if you RSVP so the right number of meals can be arranged.

NEWCOMERS INFO: Are you new to FPC or curious about Presbyterianism? Stay for a bonus half-hour after worship on **February 22**, when the pastor and a few other members offer an informal “Newcomers Info” orientation.

NEW MEMBER

William “Bill” Campbell was recognized and welcomed to FPC on Sunday, December 21.



CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING will be held on **Sunday, February 1, after worship**. Are you currently a caregiver for a loved one? Have you been a caregiver? Is there a probability that you will become a caregiver?

If you answered “yes” to ANY of the above questions, you will be an important part of this group. There are so many decisions to be made when we care for a loved one. Many of us start this without any idea of what to expect. If you’ve done this already, the knowledge that you have is invaluable to others.

Please support the formation of this important group with your attendance.



FIRST SUNDAY SPEAKER

FIRST SUNDAY SPEAKER will be on **Sunday, February 8**, after worship in the Parlor. Our first speaker of 2026 will be founder and CEO of Inspiring Minds, Deryck Toles. Deryck suffered a career-ending injury to his professional football dreams. While spending hours each day in therapy, Toles reflected on the good and bad moments in his life. Inspired by his memories, Toles began meeting with several students once a month in Warren, to talk about their future. Once a month turned into once a week, and those students started bringing their siblings and their homework. One day, one of those students wanted to go to college but didn't know how to apply; Inspiring Minds was born.



Chickadee Preschool



The pictures are from our field trip to OH WOW! We had a blast and did not want to leave! When we got back to school we suited up and went sledding!

You are invited to an Anti-Bias Workshop on February 19 in Fellowship Hall. See the poster below for details.

You Are Invited

ANTI-BIAS EDUCATION WORKSHOP



The workshop will include:

An overview of anti-bias education
Practical parenting strategies
Engaging activities to get to know yourself and others in our community
More resources to continue learning & growing!

THURS, FEBRUARY 19

4:00-6:00PM

256 MAHONING AVE NW

DINNER WILL BE SERVED AT 6PM

CHILDCARE WILL BE PROVIDED

RSVP WITH EMILY
CHICKADEEPK@GMAIL.COM

MEET OUR PRESENTER
Dr. Jasmine Moses is an educator, advocate, and proud mama who brings socially conscious, developmentally appropriate practices to life in her work. As the host of the Children Deserve Better podcast and founder of Equity in Bloom, she supports caregivers and educators in rethinking harmful systems and nurturing socially conscious children through anti-bias, anti-racist, and justice-centered approaches.

CHICKADEE PRESCHOOL ART SHOW

FEBRUARY 21, 2026

6-9PM
180 N PARK AVE
WARREN, OH 44481

Enjoy a complimentary drink with ticket purchase and appetizers while browsing a silent auction filled with charming, original art pieces made by the children. All funds raised will help our preschool grow, learn, and create even more magic!

TICKETS
\$15 OR 2 FOR \$25



@antibiasece
@equityinbloom
equityinbloom.com



SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION: Our next celebration of Communion will be **Sunday, February 1, 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, **February 1, 2026**, after our regular worship service. This program provides a channel for Presbyterians to respond to the crisis of hunger at home and abroad. Don't forget to bring your coins to drop in the special offering buckets.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: If you or someone you know would like a visit or assistance from the Pastor or Deacons, please call the Church Office at 330-393-1524.

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

DON'T FORGET... Jigsaw puzzles are available in Fellowship Hall on the bookshelf. Most of the puzzles are 500 pieces or less. Take one; complete it; return it; borrow another. A great activity during the winter months!

MIRIAM-ESTHER CIRCLE will meet Thursday, **February 5, 2026**, at 11:00 a.m. in the Parlor to continue with Lesson 5 of "Finding Resilience, Joy, and our Identity." Please bring a bag lunch; dessert will be provided.

DESSERT AND DIALOGUE WOMEN'S GROUP will meet **Thursday, February 19**, at noon in the Parlor. We will discuss Chapters 11 and 12 of "Accidental Saints."

THE 2025 ANNUAL REPORT will be available on **Sunday, February 8**, for you to reference during the Annual Meeting on **February 15**. We ask that you take only one per family. If you want the Annual Report mailed to you, please call the Church Office.

OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY is extended to Linda and Mark Adair on the death of Mark's brother, Robert.

CORTLAND (VISTA) FELLOWSHIP GROUP MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 11 AM: Lake Vista is now Otterbein of Cortland. We will now refer to our fellowship group as the Cortland Fellowship Group. We begin at 11 AM with devotions and discussion. At noon, we continue the fellowship around the lunch table. The cost for lunch is \$8.50. They ask that we bring the correct amount in cash. Please sign up each month you can attend (indicating if you are having lunch) on the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. There is limited staff in the restaurant, and it is helpful that we call ahead so they can be prepared for the number that are coming. Our members in Cortland look forward to our visits each month.

ONE-DAY WORKSHOP: GRACIOUS LIVING & HOSPICE 101: The Presbytery Resource Committee is hosting a special one-day workshop on **Saturday, February 7, 9:00 a.m.** at United Presbyterian Church in Cuyahoga Falls. Led by Rebecca McCurdy, who brings 30 years of experience from Ohio's Hospice LifeCare in Wooster, the event will draw from her work recruiting, training, assigning, and supporting volunteers who provide direct care to patients and their families in life's final season. Anyone interested in learning more about this heartfelt ministry so needed in our congregations is welcome.

In conjunction with our new Caregiver's Group at FPC, there is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall for anyone who would like to attend this event. We will be arranging carpools, so please indicate if you are interested in driving. Please sign up as soon as possible.



From the Pastor: "Rooted Good"

Using the assets of the church to foster mission and connection

Four of us from FPCW traveled to Akron on a cold December evening, hoping to benefit from a presentation provided for us by our network of colleagues in Eastminster Presbytery. Mark Elsdon flew in (also through snow and delays) to teach multiple dozens of us about the successes he has fostered in an era when so many congregations are bogged down by building costs—and therefore curtailing multiple aspects of their local mission and ministry.

Thankfully, First Presbyterian Warren is not in dire straits to these levels, yet quite a number of our members previously were leaders in congregations where that painful process was all too real. Now, while this church is strong, some of our Elders find the "Rooted Good" process which Elsdon developed might become insightful, beneficial and inspirational to us as well.

I'll have more of my insights in an upcoming Sunday message, and our council of Elders may explore further study. For now though, the "TL;Dr" version of what "Rooted Good" helps each congregation explore is how to leverage current assets to foster mission work and community connections. Sure, a church has assets like buildings and real estate and bank accounts. Yet to expand our awareness of additional church assets reminds us of how valuable people and reputation and vision and relationships can be. Plus, unlike other "community organizations" we Christians always have available the assets of faith and calling and GOD'S PRESENCE to be invested in our present and our future!

The particular combinations for each church in each neighborhood/town/city will vary. Elsdon emphasizes that the "correct" answers cannot be "transplanted" in from outside—or even from a wise and successful consultant. The opportunities are unique and must be uniquely developed by a team which can build consensus in each place. The even better answers will not be our own decisions. They will enhance our vitality if/when they are developed in an ongoing conversation, when the church talks with and the listens to the surrounding community.

I look forward to seeing what 2026-20?? will become, carrying forward the best of our traditions while fostering life-changing, Jesus-honoring steps into God's vibrant future.

We know who Holds the Future!

Pastor Greg



SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR A FACILITIES BACKUP ROLE

Occasionally, FPC needs a volunteer to help back up our facilities crew. The Staff Relations Team hopes to identify several new people to add to that roster. You could either provide hospitality and guidance to an evening community group, cover an event on a weekend, or help to open or lock up the building if Cassy or Dave is out or on vacation on a given Sunday. Speak with Christ Lovett, Cliff Straitiff, or Lynn Griffith to ask questions or set up a quick orientation.

FPC February
Birthdays



02/06 Velma Woodall
Guy Latessa
02/07 Bob Coupland
02/09 Cathy Hesselman
Riley McKee
02/10 Atticus Siembida
02/15 Levi Griffith
02/16 Enzo Muccio
02/19 Marty Nadenichek
Matt Haering
02/25 Nancy Hochadel
Bill Chuirazzi
02/27 Sharyn Common

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



FPC FEBRUARY 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion/2 Cents 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Deacons' Reception, FH 11:15 Caregivers Organizational Meeting, P	2 10:00 am OA, P 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm AA, MC	3 9:30 am Al-Anon, MC 5:00 pm Girl Scouts, FH 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm NA, MC	4 10:00 am Crafters, B 6:30 pm AA, MC 7:00 pm Church Growth Meeting	5 11:00 am Miriam Esther Circle, P	6 Church Office Closed	7 11:00 am AA, MC Graceful Living Event, Presbytery
	8 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am First Sunday Speaker Series, P	9 10:00 am OA, P 11:00 Lake Vista Study 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 6:30 pm BGA Meeting, FH 7:00 pm Voices of Micah 7:00 pm AA, MC	10 9:30 am Al-Anon, MC 7:00 pm NA, MC	11 5:00 pm Someplace Safe, B 6:00 pm NAMI Meeting, P 6:30 pm AA, MC	12 6:30 pm Safety Committee Meeting	13 Church Office Closed
	15 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am Annual Congregational Meeting 11:45 am Chili Cook-Off	16 Presidents' Day 10:00 am OA, P 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm AA, MC	17 9:30 am Al-Anon, MC 10:30 am Free Lunch and Grocery Distribution 5:00 pm Finance Mtg., P 5:00 pm Girl Scouts, FH 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm NA, MC	18 Ash Wednesday 1:00 pm Crossroads Bereavement Grp, P 6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Dinner, FH 6:30 pm AA, MC 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service	19 12:00 pm Dessert & Dialogue Women's Group, P 4:00 pm Chickadee Workshop, FH 7:00 pm Worship Meeting	20 Church Office Closed 6:00 pm Lent Study, FH
	22 1st Sunday of Lent 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11:11 am Newcomers Info Gathering, P	23 10:00 am OA, P 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm AA, MC	24 9:30 am Al-Anon, MC 7:00 pm NA, MC	25 5:00 pm Someplace Safe, B 6:30 pm AA, MC 6:00 pm Session Supper and Vision Gathering, FH	26	27 Church Office Closed 6:00 pm Lent Study, FH
						28 11:00 am AA, MC 2:00 pm Tenney Party, FH

*"We love because He first loved us"
1 John 4:19*

