First Presbyterian Church of Warren

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FPC AT WARREN PRIDE DAY

Volunteers from First Presbyterian Church greeted many people at the Warren Pride Event. We handed out rubber ducks, bead necklaces, candy, cold water, and flyers with information about FPC.

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.

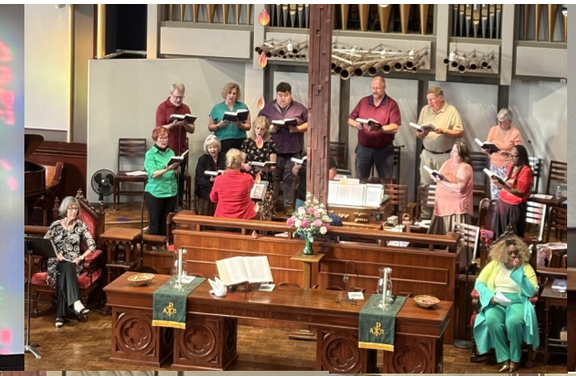
The Spire

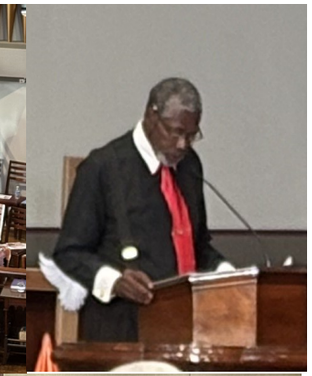
Issue 2026 Volume 7 July 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WARREN

JUNETEENTH A GREAT SUCCESS

Thank you to all who attended the Juneteenth Celebration on Thursday, June 18. We are especially thankful to Christ Episcopal Church for partnering with us with members of their choir and their music director, Jamie Sheill, as our guest organist. We were honored to have Rev. Dr. Robin Woodberry, their rector, as our speaker that evening; also, thanks to the Deacons for the beautiful and colorful refreshments after the service.





SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE
Applications for 2026 scholarships are now being accepted. Program rules and applications are available in the Church Office. Please turn in your application by **Sunday, July 5.** The awards will be given later in July.

Our church applied to the Thomases Family Endowment Fund to receive a grant for our food pantry. We were awarded a $5000 grant to strengthen our grocery distribution and community lunch for nine months. It will allow us to purchase more protein for the grocery bags along with more paper and hygiene products. It will also support purchasing more shelving and rolling carts. We are very grateful to be able to help our community more during this time when costs are rising.

DEACONS' NEWS

The Community Lunch and Grocery Day took place on June 16. It was a busy day with 39 carts of groceries distributed. A delicious summer lunch of sloppy joes, corn salad, chips, and cookies was served to 40 visitors. For almost fifty years, this Lunch/Grocery Outreach has been a valuable mission for our Church to provide help to the people of Warren.

As the calendar turns to July, the Deacons are busy with projects within the church and the community. The Fellowship Committee hosted a Juneteenth Reception following that service. About 65 people celebrated the importance of the recognition of Juneteenth. The Congregational Care Committee continues the Birthday Greetings and calls/visits to our Special Care Members. They also provided chocolate bars for Dads on Father's Day. The Mission Committee is collecting toys for Warren Family Mission's Christmas in July toy drive. Bring in new unwrapped toys and place them in the barrel in Fellowship Hall.

The Deacons plan to meet on July 19 after worship to plan for August and September.

May You Feel the Joyful Blessings of Summer!

Kathie Trowbridge - Deacon Moderator

SHARE CARE CIRCLE

Our Share Care Circle caregivers support group has been meeting on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. since April. As is often the case with a new program, attendance started slowly, but we have been encouraged by the steady interest. Growth, and participation.

Having the opportunity to share experiences, listen to others who understand, and learn practical ideas can be an invaluable source of encouragement and support.

Beginning in July, our schedule will change slightly. We will continue to meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Our second monthly meeting will now be held on the fourth Thursday but at 2:00 PM. That meeting will be led by Christy Boone, from Direction Home of Eastern Ohio (DHEO). DHEO is the area agency on aging for Ashtabula, Trumbull, Mahoning and Columbiana counties. She is responsible for the National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP). This program is funded through the Older Americans Act Title lll – E. These support programs are meaningful ways to bring caregivers together to share experiences and learn more about community resources which will assist them in their continuing caregiving journey.

Whether you are new to caregiving, face the possibility of becoming a caregiver, or have been a caregiver for years, you are warmly invited to join us on **Thursday, July 23, at 2 p.m.** in the Parlor.

CHURCH PICNIC

FPC'S ANNUAL PICNIC will be **Saturday, August 1,** at Marty and Susan Nadenichek's home. Church Life will provide chicken, and guests are asked to bring a dish to share. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall if you plan to attend.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY? That's right. The Church Life Team along with Deacons will be celebrating Christmas in July with a toy collection for Warren Family Mission during the month of July. Please bring in new, unwrapped toys to help stock the Christmas Toy Room at WFM for Christmas 2026. Look for the Christmas Tree and place your donation in the WFM barrel in Fellowship Hall.

Good Stuff You Need to Know

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION: Our next celebration of Communion will be **Sunday, July 5, 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, **July 5, 2026**. Don't forget to bring your coins to drop in the special buckets.

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

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

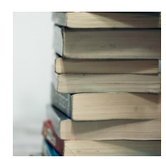
THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed on **Friday, July 3,** in observation of Independence Day.

THE SPIRE DEADLINE for this month is **Wednesday, July 23**. Please send your articles and pictures to the Church Office at kathietrowbridge@fpcwarren.org.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE WHEN someone is in the hospital; someone comes home from the hospital; someone is ill and needs a visit; someone has moved; someone needs a visit or there is a death to report.

VACATION: Kathie will be on vacation **July 3 - July 12.** The Church Office will be open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and closed Friday.

PASTOR GREG'S VACATION will by Thursday, July 23, through August 2. During his time away, please contact an Elder or the Church Office for assistance.



ARE YOU A PAPERBACK BOOK READER? Ray Rubrake has boxes of used paperback books for the bargain price of FREE. If you are interested in taking a look, see Ray or give him a call at 330-395-6989.

Congregational Meeting: Election of Elders & Deacons

The elders of our Session have called a congregational meeting, and the Officer Nominating Committee will be ready to present eight candidates to you to join our two leadership councils for the coming three years. Presbyterian Churches rotate one-third of the Board of Deacons and the Session each year, and a key part of our theology expressed in the Presbyterian Constitution is that the people have an "inalienable" right to elect our own leaders, as the voice of the gathered people seeks to be the method to demonstrate God's calling for individuals and churches: "This call is evidenced by the movement of the Holy Spirit in the individual conscience, the approval of a community of God's people, and the concurring judgment of a council of the Church." [G-2.0103]

Near the end of the 10:00 worship service on July 12, the committee will place into nomination the following for new leadership roles:

Deacons, Class of 2029: Ray Rubrake; Julie Trowbridge; Jelani Lampley; George Egner

Elders, Class of 2029: Thomas Torrence III; Tom Torrance Jr.; Sue Dennis; Alexis Musgrove

The Constitution also mandates that additional nominations may be made by any voting member of the congregation. Those who receive a majority of votes during that day's election, after a period of orientation and review with the current Session, will have a service of ordination/installation. That is likely to happen in the late summer.

Two other items are on the docket for the July 12 meeting:

- Requested action on several amendments for our corporation's bylaws. These are designed to bring our Ohio state document into alignment with the Presbyterian Constitution, to make changes recommended by our banking professionals regarding our endowment administrators, and to provide more flexibility for future nomination and election processes. Electronic versions of the proposed amendments will be sent to everyone on our distribution list. Printed copies can be picked up at the church building, downloaded from [tinyurl.com/2026BylawsProposedFPCW], or mailed to you upon request.
- The church will also be asked to choose three to four people to be at-large members of our next Officer Nominating Committee. If you would be willing to serve in this role or would like to recommend someone, let Alexis Musgrove know or speak up during the meeting.

THE PARABLES OF JESUS - A VBS FOR ADULTS = AVBS

This month we will continue diving deeper into the meaning of some of the Lord's most practical, imaginative, and spiritually enriching teachings (Parables) as we continue our AVBS program. We will meet on Wednesday evenings, **July 8 and July 15,** from **5:30 to 7:30 p.m.** Each week's program is independent, so you are welcome to attend one or both sessions and still benefit. Please bring a light sack supper of your choice July 8. For our final gathering on **July 15, dinner will be provided.**

Dessert will be served before we close each evening. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall so we can plan accordingly. If you forget to sign up, don't let that keep you from coming – there's always room for one more..

A summer of preparation and coaching for new adults

I recently came across an online article from a secular source, yet its message has profoundly spiritual implications.

July is the recommended occasion to take action on this!

"The Conversation" website (and their presence on X and on Facebook) has what I believe to be insightful advice for families. "Before your child leaves for college, there are a few conversations worth having. Researchers say talks about drinking, stress, relationships and expectations can help reduce risky behavior during their first semester 'away'." While the initial focus is geared especially to parents of high school graduates who head off to a new college experience this fall, I would expand the practical application of these recommendations far beyond the Frosh!

- While the recommendations are about setting good habits and routines for the early weeks for a first time on campus, students returning to college for future years would benefit from parental encouragement on their faith and values and healthy patterns. Yes, this summer.
- Such conversations don't need to wait for the summer between high school and college. There are options for current high school and middle school students – to talk with them about selfhood and social pressures and fear of not fitting in. It applies while adolescents are still living at home *and* for the upcoming chapter of more independence.
- This isn't just for college-bound youth. Some sons and daughters are heading to vocational training or a career launch or military service or the proverbial "gap year." All these who at 18 gain adulthood's legal status are still developing socially and physiologically well into their mid-20s.
- This is not just for parents. Grandparents have a role. Mentors from the Confirmation Journey at church have a role. Any of us who care about our "kids" can offer wisdom, encouragement, and support.

I hope you will read the full article, *especially* if any of the circumstances on my list apply to you specifically. Yet all of us have something to learn from it, if nothing else than to understand the pressures and fears of the newly-adult generation these days. On one level, it may seem like this is pointing to "The Talk" – the one cautioning about the dangers of the proverbial "sex and drugs and rock-n-roll" out there – but it is more than that. For many in this generation who are moving into a next chapter of their lives, they are dealing with especially strong depression or anxiety. If they don't have a sense of belonging, of beloved identity, college and other new adulthood can add to fear the of not fitting in. Thankfully, we have more than the secular information to share. The Christian faith offers the assurance of love and belonging and abundant living. Biblical wisdom is something to say for these young people. Biblical resources can assist parents and others who are not quite sure what to say, in the multiple conversations which can be so important, now and ongoing.

Blessings, to all our Generations, Greg

>> Read the research from The Conversation US here:

https://tinyurl.com/convo-HS-College

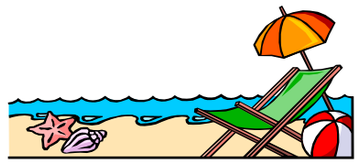
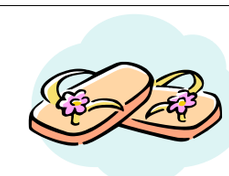
PARKING LOT CLOSURE: The Church Parking Lot will be resurfaced the week of August 3. During this time, please park in the old YMCA parking lot off of Harmon Ave.

FPC Birthdays

07/01 Gunner Ward
07/02 Lynnette Devanny
07/03 Mary Kilpatrick
07/06 Brandyn Hurd
07/07 Bekki Kemp
07/08 Theda Simeone
07/10 Pat McLean
07/13 Leslie King
07/14 Heidi Holk
07/15 Susan Nadenichek
Kathie Trowbridge
07/16 Makayla Miller
07/19 Greg Herriman
Lucas Heiligenberg
07/20 Evangeline Bittner Torrence
07/21 Brian Wistar
07/23 Gracie Lipscomb
07/25 Renee McCollum
07/27 Tony Ewell
07/29 Katie Gray
07/31 Everett Burd

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

FPC JULY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30 pm AA, MC	2	3 **Kathie's Vacation** **Church Office Closed**	4 **Independence Day!** 11:00 am AA, MC
5 **Communion** **2 Cents A Meal** **10:00 am Worship** **Deadline for Scholarship Applications**	6 **Kathie's Vacation** 10:00 am OA, P 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm AA, MC	7 **Kathie's Vacation** 9:30 am Al-Anon, B 7:00 pm NA, MC	8 **Kathie's Vacation** 5:00 pm Someplace Safe, B **5:30 pm Adult VBS** 6:00 pm NAMI Mtg, P 6:30 pm AA, MC	9 **Kathie's Vacation** **7:00 pm Care Share Circle**	10 **Kathie's Vacation** **Church Office Closed**	11 11:00 am AA, MC **4:30 pm Concert Parking**
12 **10:00 am Worship** **11:15 am Congregational Meeting**	13 10:00 am OA, P **11:00 am Cortland Fellowship, Otterbein** 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B **6:30 pm BGA Mtg., FH**	14 9:30 am Al-Anon, B 7:00 pm NA, MC	15 1:00 pm Crossroads Bereavement Grp., P **5:30 pm Adult VBS** 6:30 pm AA, MC	16 **7:00 pm Worship Meeting**	17 **Church Office Closed**	18 11:00 am AA, MC **4:30 pm Concert Parking**
19 **10:00 am Worship** **11:15 Deacons' Meeting, P**	20 10:00 am OA, P 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm AA, MC	21 9:30 am Al-Anon, B **10:30 am Free Lunch/ Grocery Distribution** **5:00 pm Finance Mtg, P** 7:00 pm NA, MC	22 **SPIRE DEADLINE** 5:00 pm Someplace Safe, B 6:30 pm AA, MC	23 **Greg's Vacation** **2:00 pm Care Share Circle**	24 **Greg's Vacation** **Church Office Closed**	25 **Greg's Vacation** 11:00 am AA, MC **4:30 pm Concert Parking**
26 **Greg's Vacation** **10:00 am Worship**	27 **Greg's Vacation** 10:00 am OA, P 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm AA, MC	28 **Greg's Vacation** 9:30 am Al-Anon, B 7:00 pm NA, MC	29 **Greg's Vacation** 6:30 pm AA, MC	30 **Greg's Vacation**	31 **Greg's Vacation** **Church Office Closed**