

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WARREN

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MEET-N-EAT



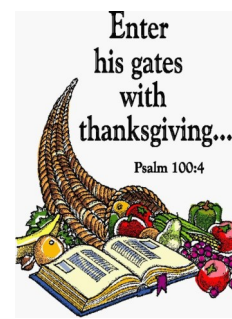
Meet-n-Eat was held on Tuesday, October 14. A delicious taco bar was served and many of our youth attended.



THE APSIRE EVENT was “inspiring,” “energetic,” “hilarious fun,” “motivating,” and “educational”. We will be doing this again next year. Watch for the sign-up sheet next fall!



TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK on **Saturday, November 1**, before going to bed. Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 2, 2025.



THE SPUR



ISSUE 2025 VOLUME 11 November 2025

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WARREN

Baptism



FIRST SUNDAY SPEAKER was held on Sunday, October 5. Honeya Price spoke about gun violence and awareness.

Evangeline Bittner and Rakia Torrence were baptized on Sunday, October 19, 2025.

FPC FOUNDERS' DAY CELEBRATION - On November 19, 1803, the Rev. Joseph Badger founded a Congregation composed of four women and two men; this Congregation survives today as the *First Presbyterian Church of Warren, Ohio*. As members and friends of this Congregation, we will worship on **Sunday, November 23**, 222 years later, to celebrate this anniversary. Dinner will be **eat-in or carry-out**. The meal will be catered by the Saratoga Restaurant with a choice of Thanksgiving dinner, beef tips and noodles, or vegetarian. The cost is \$15.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children; children under 5 eat free. To make your reservation for the dinner on Sunday, **November 23, 2025**, please complete the form below and return it to the Church Office, along with your prepaid amount, no later than Sunday, November 16, 2025. **NO ADDITIONAL DINNERS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON FOUNDERS' DAY.**

It is very important that we have an accurate count by the November 16 deadline.

=====Tear Here=====

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Choice/number of meal(s) Turkey _____ Beef Tips _____ Vegetarian _____

Eat-In _____ Carry-Out _____





Eastminster Presbytery at Warren Family Mission



On Saturday, October 18, Eastminster Presbytery held a mission day at Warren Family Mission. Seventy-five Presbyterians helped organize the coat drive. Thirteen out of fifteen congregations were represented, and nine of our own FPC family joined in. What a wonderful outreach to our community!

DEACONS' NEWS



The Board of Deacons continues their outreach both within the congregation and beyond. The Board met on October 19 to discuss issues for the remainder of this busy year.

We had a successful Community Lunch and Grocery Distribution on October 21. Sixty-three lunches of chicken casserole, salad, and dessert were served, and fifty-four bags of groceries, as well as fresh produce and baked goods were distributed. The next scheduled distribution will be held on November 18. Volunteers are needed for various roles in the grocery distribution process. Please let Kathie Trowbridge or Cindy Athya know if you are interested in participating.

The Mission Committee has been supporting various groups with material and monetary donations. Our Blessings Box continues to be used and replenished daily. Kathie has purchased clothing for layering and blankets for comfort for these cooler days and nights. We supported the Warren Family Mission and Someplace Place Safe with monetary donations. Looking ahead to the Christmas Season, we agreed to assist with projects to support mothers and infants. We are assisting the Chick-a-Dee School with the transportation costs for an upcoming field trip and are continuing to support Willard School with funds to stock their pantry with hygiene products.

The Congregational Care Committee continues to stay connected with our members. A Sympathy card and several Get Well cards went out to our members over the past month. Birthday cards and sweet treat gift cards continue to be happy reminders of our special days. The Committee will send Starbucks gift cards, to our college students for use during their finals. We are asking that they send us photos when they use the cards so that we can all see them as they take a break from their studies.

The Fellowship Committee hosted a Fall reception on October 26 following our Sunday service. We continue to plan the Founders' Day Dinner on November 23. Please check the Spire for information pertaining to this event and for registration information.

Wishing you blessings of hope, faith, and love during Thanksgiving. *Cindy Athya, Recording Secretary*



ALTERNATIVE GIFT-GIVING

"A few days ago, I was with a large group of people. Each was sharing what he/she wanted for Christmas. 'I want!' 'I want!' 'I want!' was all I heard. Well, I thought and thought about that. What I want is for the hungry to have food. I want the homeless to have shelter. I want the sick to be comforted. I want families to remain whole and complete. I want the abuse, abandonment, and hoarding of animals to stop. I want people to love one another, to care for each other, and to make time for each other. (adapted from C.M Richey-Bentley)

It's time once again for our highly successful Alternative Gift-Giving (AGG) event! This year's organizations will be Animal Welfare League, FPC Wish List –ACTS Fund, Free Indeed Ministries, Pink Lights the Way, Second Harvest Food Bank, and Water for the People – PCUSA. The event will be held after worship service on **Sunday, Nov. 2**, in Fellowship Hall. Please attend – have a cookie or two or three – meet representatives from some of the organizations – be generous. Open your heart to help those who need help. AGG will continue through **Monday, Dec. 15, 2025**.



BUFFET LUNCH: Church Growth is organizing a luncheon on **Sunday, November 9**, following worship at Urban Tap, located at 439 E. Market St. This will be a buffet, and Church Growth will pay half the cost. If you are interested, please sign up in Fellowship Hall and include \$10.00 for the meal. The deadline is **Monday, November 3**.



All Saints Sunday: November 2

The first Sunday of November in many branches of the Christian Church is observed as All Saints Sunday. There are a variety of patterns and traditions depending on the place, but the twin areas of emphasis are:

Recalling the saints of the church who have passed from this life into the next, as members of the heavenly Church Triumphant; and
Celebrating that all of us claimed by Christ are recipients of the designation of "saint."

As shown in Romans 1:7, Psalm 30:4, and Colossians 1:2 – among many other verses – the Bible refers to the members of the family of faith as Saints. This is not because of any "super-virtue" within an individual but is conferred on us as "set apart by the Lord for holy purposes." The status of sainthood is a gift of grace.



Marilyn Townsend joined the Church Triumphant on October 19, 2025. Marilyn was a seventy-seven year member of FPC. Our sincere sympathy is extended to her family.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Katylu Herriman. Katylu was a sixty-five year member and joined the Church Triumphant on October 22, 2025.



GOOD STUFF YOU NEED TO KNOW

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION Our next celebration of Communion will be **Sunday, November 2, 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, November 2, 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 Deacons or Pastor, please call the Church Office.

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

OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED— The Church Office will be closed **Thursday, November 27**, and **Friday, November 28, 2025**, in observance of Thanksgiving. Have a wonderful holiday weekend.

MIRIAM ESTHER CIRCLE will meet **Thursday, November 6**, at 11:00 a.m. in the Parlor. We will discuss Lesson 2 in “Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity.” Lunch will follow at noon. Please bring a bag lunch; dessert will be provided.

DECK THE HALLS (and the Sanctuary)...with boughs of holly on **Monday, November 24, at 5:30 p.m.** **DON’T FORGET...** Jigsaw puzzles are available on the book shelf in Fellowship Hall. Take one; complete it; return it; borrow another. Enjoy!

50-YEAR MEMBER RECOGNITION: Join us by radio, Facebook, or in our Sanctuary on **Sunday, November 23, 2025**, as we take time to recognize those who have been members for 50 years or more. **Mark your calendars and join the celebration!**

FPC CRAFTERS will meet **Wednesday, November 5, at 10:00 a.m.**, in Badger Hall. All skill levels are welcome to join us.

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY: Pastor Greg is leading an online Zoom Bible study on **Tuesdays at 7:17 p.m. on November 4 and 11**. It is based on Max Lucado’s *Tame Your Thoughts* Bible study. Watch your email for the invitation to join the zoom study.

On Sunday, November 9 we will re-dedicate the Stained-Glass Windows. Please plan on joining the celebration.

The FPC-Vista group will meet on November 10, at 11 a.m.

Our program this month will be led by our family and youth director, Marissa Welke. She will lead us in a Bible study that will be her final grade for her educational course “Teaching the Bible.”

Support Marissa’s educational journey as well as visit with our family at Lake Vista. Lunch is \$8.50 (exact cash) if you want to stay. Sign up in Fellowship Hall by November 9 and indicate if you will stay for lunch. Hope to see you there!

CHURCH HISTORY PRESENTATION

Why did the bell at FPC ring for 12 hours on April 2, 1860?

What amazing role did the women of FPC play in the construction of our present day church?

Is there a tunnel under our church which was part of the Underground Railroad?

Sarah Buzulencia will tell the answers to these questions and many more amazing historical facts about our church following worship on **Sunday, November 16**, in Fellowship Hall following worship. You don’t want to miss this.

SHARING OUR PRAYER CONCERNS (APPROPRIATELY)

One of the hallmarks of FPC Warren has been the compassion and support we mutually offer to each other. Yes, we have multiple other priorities too, but this pray-and-care emphasis has been strong here for a long, long time.

One of the challenges with it though is sharing timely information with each other, especially when there is a particular need or an update in someone’s circumstance. Examples are: someone goes into the hospital; someone’s surgery was successful; someone got a different diagnosis. While we certainly can pray for someone without knowing their specifics, compassionate people do want to speak to the Lord of the individual’s need.

At a recent meeting, the Board of Deacons has agreed to a new mode of communication to be able to pass along congregational news. We have an e-mail group which gets “Prayer Chain” updates, but that circle is a small group for our mid-sized congregation. So, we are going to (1) increase the distribution of these prayer requests to more people, and (2) increase the content of such emails. With the help of others, I anticipate a regularly scheduled email, generally on Tuesdays. We can update the full congregation with requests that were shared Sunday, plus others which are shared by phone, texts, emails or social media. I foresee that some of these will also pass along not just a “hospital list,” but also prayers for each other, even when it isn’t about sickness but maybe when we need to be more grateful for blessings and joys! There will be prayers for upcoming FPC events, for local needs and items from a much broader geography, and the monthly list of churches and ministries on our regional Eastminster Presbytery prayer calendar.

Two added notes I feel I should share about prayer:

First, as was true at FPC prior to when I became your bridge pastor, we have not been announcing many specific names and diagnoses during our worship service. While many of us would be happy for a world-wide-web of Christians praying for whatever our request might be, there are also others who would prefer not to have their crisis or medical history or whatever else broadcast on the radio or our internet streams. In fact, while some of us might be happy for a small group of immediate friends and connections to know about some situation, some of us would rather not have it announced to dozens and dozens of worship attendees. (I’ve heard it said that there needs to be a distinction between “heartfelt prayer requests” and “churchy gossip!”) So, to honor those who feel more tender about sharing, we will announce only those prayer updates which are appropriate to share and in these emails.

You can request to be included in these PRAYER CHAIN emails. (The subject line will always start with those two capitalized words, so the regularly-scheduled and occasional urgent updates) will stand out in your inbox. Send us an email [info@fpcwarren.org] if you wish to be added to the Prayer Chain and watch for these to begin during November.

Secondly, I have practical and theological reasons for us to erase (or at least diminish) the phrase “pastoral care” from our in-house vocabulary. I understand the traditional/common understanding of what that function is, but it is limiting. “Congregational care” is a better, more accurate, and more expansive goal. Yes, the pastor has a very significant role in providing prayer and care on behalf of the congregation, but this kind of mutual support happens in so many other ways and by so many other people. (How do we provide care, when there is no pastor in place? What happens in so many of our partnered churches that no longer have a pastor, and may not ever again?) I have the privilege of making caring visits and have done so these recent 7+ months and across 30 years of ministry. I will continue to do so. But YOU have, too! I know it; I’ve seen it; I’ve heard about it from the recipients of church members caring for church members. Ponder how this rewording might be appropriate for FPC moving forward.

Praying for Faith, Hope, Love, Pastor Greg



FPC NOVEMBER 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 11:00 AA, MC Turn Clocks Back
2 Communion/ 2 cents 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Alternative Gift Giving, FH 11:15 am Bell Practice	3 10:00 am OA, P 1:30 pm Election Set-up 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm AA, MC	4 ELECTION DAY Church Closed 7:17 pm Zoom Bible Study	5 10:00 am Crafters, B 6:30 pm AA, MC	6 11:00 am Miriam Esther Circle, P	7 Church Office Closed 6:00 pm Advent Study, FH	8 11:00 AA, MC
9 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am Bell Practice 11:15 am Urban Tap Lunch	10 10:00 am OA, P 11:00 am 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	11 9:30 am Al-Anon, FH 11:00 am Veterans Day Program 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm NA, MC 7:17 pm Zoom Bible Study	12 5:00 pm Someplace Safe, B 4:00 pm Deacons Mtg., FH 6:00 pm NAMI Mtg. P 6:30 pm AA, MC	13	14 Church Office Closed 6:00 pm Advent Study, FH	15 11:00 AA, MC
16 Love Tree 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 10: 15 am Sunday School 11:15 am Bell Practice 11:15 am Church History Presentation, FH	17 10:00 am OA, P 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 6:00 pm Advent Study, FH 7:00 pm AA, MC	18 9:30 am Al-Anon, B 10:30 am Free Lunch & Grocery Distribution, FH 5:00 pm Finance Mtg, P 5:00 pm Girl Scouts, FH 7:00 pm NA, MC	19 SPIRE Deadline 1:00 pm Crossroads Bereave-ment Grp, P 6:00 pm Relay for Life, FH 6:30 pm AA, MC	20 12:00 pm Dessert & Dia-logue Women Grp, P 7:00 pm Worship Meeting	21 Church Office Closed 6:00 pm Advent Study, FH	22 11:00 AA, MC
23 Founders' Day 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am Founders' Day Dinner, FH	24 10:00 am OA, P 5:30 pm Decorate the Church 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm AA, MC	25 9:30 am Al-Anon, MC 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm NA, MC	26 5:00 pm Someplace Safe, B 6:30 pm AA, MC	27 Church Office Closed	28 Church Office Closed	29 11:00 AA, MC
30 First Sunday of Advent 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School						

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

