

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WARREN

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## CONGRATULATIONS, MARISSA AND JOSH ROBBINS!

Our Youth and Family Director of Ministry, Marissa Welke, married Josh Robbins on Friday, May 15, in the Women's Park. On Sunday, May 17, the new Mr. and Mrs. Robbins celebrated their union with the congregation after worship. We wish them a lifetime of love and happiness.



**THANK YOU:** We would like to thank everyone who celebrated with us; we are overwhelmed by the love and support you have shown us. We are truly blessed to have all of you pray over and celebrate our marriage. A special thank you to those who put in extra work to make our reception special. Again, thank you from the bottom of our hearts! Love, Josh and Marissa Robbins

**THE FPC SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE** announces that applications for 2026 scholarship awards are now being accepted. Applicants must be FPC members who are completing or have completed one year of post high school education or vocational training. Program rules and applications are available from the Church Office. Application deadline is **Sunday, July 5**, with awards later in the month.



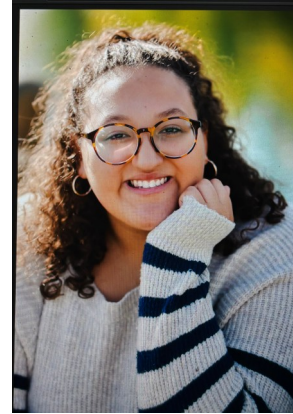
# THE SPARE

ISSUE 2026 VOLUME 6 JUNE 2026



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WARREN

### 2026 GRADUATE



We are proud to announce the recent high school graduation of one of our FPC family members. Congratulations, Addison!

**Addison Schubert** is the daughter of **Melanie Vlad and Steve Schubert**. In the fall of 2026, she will attend Kent State University, majoring in early childhood education, with the goal of becoming a preschool teacher. Addison's goal to pursue teaching is driven by wanting to give children a positive experience as they start their education. She currently has a 4.0 GPA and, during her four years at Warren G Harding High School, has maintained her GPS while participating in school and community activities. She has been a three-year member of Key club and a four-year member of the Renaissance Program at Harding. A talented musician and vocalist, she has

played trumpet in the marching and symphonic band for the last four years and has been in the jazz band for four years. Recently, she has been featured as a vocalist for Jazz I. Addison was chosen for OMEA District V Honors Band for three years, honors jazz band for one year, and has participated in OMEA District V Solo & Ensemble since middle school.

In addition to school, Addison was a dancer with Debonaire School of Dance for many years before starting musical theater at James Dance and Performing Arts Center. She has been the recipient of many awards for her efforts and has years of happy memories with her dance and theater families.

At First Presbyterian, she has been a Motet Choir member since middle school, has participated in Youth Group, and has served as a Youth Representative for Deacons after being confirmed. She has led worship service and has been part of the Youth Sunday celebration for many years. She also volunteers as a counselor and assistant teacher at Chick-A-Dee Preschool and was an active member of the Vlad Pediatrics Relay for Life Team for many years.

She is pleased to have been awarded a Merit Scholarship from Kent State University, the Warren City School District Board of Education/Warren Education Association Scholarship, and the Jay Lacy Memorial Scholarship.

**CONGRATULATIONS to Pat Rogers' great-granddaughter, Avery Gillis.** Avery graduated from Ohio State and was on the Dean's list every quarter.

### CONGRATULATIONS, JOHNNA!

Johnna Wright was inducted into the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society for her academic success in her first year at the University of Mount Union.





The First Presbyterian Church of Warren and its Voices of Micah 6:8 Ministry invite you to attend our **Juneteenth Community Service of Celebration on Thursday, June 18, at 7:00 p.m.** at First Presbyterian Church. Please join us as we celebrate this important event in our nation's history, which

will help us understand the past, recognize opportunities in the present, and build relationships in the community. Many people will participate in the service including Pastor Greg Gilispie, our friends at Free Indeed, and other community leaders. A reception will follow the service. We hope you will join us!

CHICKADEE PRESCHOOL

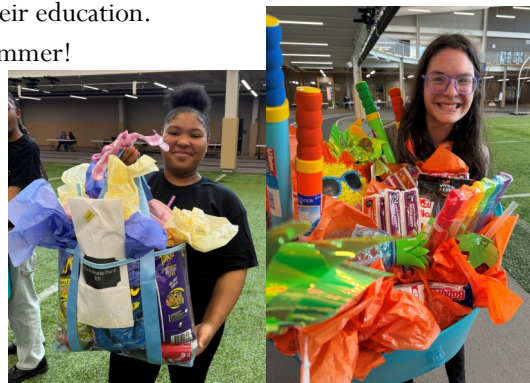
CAPE GRADUATION CEREMONY



Chickadee Preschool celebrated the closing of their 3<sup>rd</sup> year at FPC. This year eleven little chickadees flew the nest and are off to soar into kindergarten. This was the first year that Emily got to cape the very first chickadees. We are so proud and honored to get to witness these little ones' start of their education. Thank you for another great year! Have a safe and wonderful summer!

WILLARD CRAFT FAIR

The Willard School Craft Fair at the Harding Wellness Center was a great success on Saturday, May 16, thanks to hard work of staff and students. Many thanks to those who contributed to the three baskets that FPC had in their Chinese raffle. Pictured are the happy winners who were present to claim two of our baskets that day.



NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, April 26, we welcomed **Tina Wilson** and **Frank Tenney** as our newest members. Welcome to FPC! We are delighted to have you with us!



LAWN PARTY AT FPC

Get ready for our lawn party on **June 27 at 4:30 p.m.** We will be "Rocking with Seven Bridges," who will be playing at the Amp. Come relax and socialize on the church lawn while listening to the music. Church Life will provide pizza and beverages. Please bring a lawn chair and a snack (chips, pretzels, etc.) Oh yes- don't forget to bring a friend(s)! Sign up for the fun in Fellowship Hall.

A VBS FOR ADULTS = AVBS

That's right, it's our turn this year!

We all know about the PARABLES, but this summer we'll be diving deeper into their meaning in our very first ADULT VACATION BIBLE STUDY.



Join us on **Wednesday evenings: June 17, 24, July 8 and 15 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

Bring a light sack supper and enjoy an evening of videos, music, creativity, and discussions centered on four popular parables. Dessert will be provided before we close each evening. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall.

DEACONS' NEWS

May has been a busy month for the Deacons! June promises to be the same. The Community Lunch/Food Distribution took place on May 19. Forty-five bags of groceries were given to our neighbors. Fifty dinners, consisting of chicken and rice casserole, salad, and pear crisp were enjoyed. This monthly distribution is a mission that First Presbyterian has provided for many years. With the increasing cost of groceries, we hope to aid those in our community who are finding it difficult to provide meals for themselves and their families. We appreciate the volunteers who make this event successful each month, and we appreciate the contributions from the congregation.



The Deacons continue to stay in contact with our members by calls, cards, and visits. We also supported Willard School with a monetary donation to assist them in purchasing microwavable food for their food pantry. The Free Indeed Ministries received a donation for their Youth Gardening Project.

We celebrated Mother's Day with a reception following the service on May 10. Participants enjoyed rice pudding and cookies. On May 17, we celebrated the wedding of Marissa and Josh with a cake and punch reception. It gave the congregation an opportunity to congratulate the newlyweds and wish them well! We will celebrate all church volunteers on Sunday, May 24. It takes many hearts and hands to keep our church and our operations going! It is also Pentecost, so expect to see the color red on Sunday.

Coming in June, we will hold a reception following the Juneteenth service on Thursday, June 18. Please join us in Fellowship Hall following the moving service. On June 21, we will celebrate the fathers on their day!

Wishing you a safe and happy summer! Cindy Athya, Recording Secretary

**SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION:** Our next celebration of Communion will be Sunday, **June 7, 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, June 7, 2026**, during our regular worship service. This program provides a channel for Presbyterians to respond to the crisis of hunger at home and abroad.

**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 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 Pastor Greg or the Deacons, please call the Church Office.


**LOOKING FOR A DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE?** The June/July/August issue of the Our Daily Bread is now available in the hall by the Church Office. These free magazines are compliments of your Board of Deacons.

**SUNDAY MORNING NURSERY IS AVAILABLE THIS SUMMER!** As a convenience to our parents and families with preschool-aged children, FPC will offer child care during worship throughout the summer. The nursery is available for children infants up to age four.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to **Bill and Ali Chuirazzi** on the birth of their daughter, **Sophia Juliana**. Sophia joins her twin sisters, **Gemma and Francesca**, and her proud grandparents, **Chris and Mary Chuirazzi**.

**THANK YOU** to all who attend our **First Sunday Speaker events**. I get comments from the speakers saying how pleased they are with the number of people in the room. I appreciate your support of these events and the speakers, especially on your busy Sunday mornings. Thank you very much! **Marjorie Dangaran**

**THANK YOU:** The Wistar Family would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, cards, and hugs they received during this difficult time. Your condolences were very appreciated.

 Our **sincere sympathy** is extended to **George Egner** on the death of his brother-in-law, Robert Pearce.

We extend our **deepest sympathy** to **Janet Williams and family** on death of her husband, Richard Williams.



## An FPC Prayer Calendar: “I have called you by name...”

*“Do not be afraid. For I have bought you and made you free. I have called you by name. You are Mine!”*

As we honor the Lord’s promise passed along to us through the Prophet Isaiah ([Chapter 43](#)), we remember how significant it is to be “known by name” or to “be on a first name basis.” In light of that, we are encouraging everyone to pray, by name, for everyone who has or recently had a connection with the First Presbyterian congregation.

By taking all the first names in our church roster of members and friends, we have come up with a two-month calendar of 6-8 names to pray for each day. Some of these are unique to only one person in our church family. In many cases, there are multiple people who share a first name. As we move into June, please place this listing in a prominent place for you, so that your daily prayers can ask the Lord’s blessings on each other. This pink version insert is updated and corrected from the one you received last month. You also can download the latest calendar or look at it on your phone and tablet by going to [tinyurl.com/FirstNamesFirst-MayJune2026](http://tinyurl.com/FirstNamesFirst-MayJune2026).

## A primer on the primary mood of our times: Fear

Fear and faith. Anxiety and trust. Doubting and believing.

I am just back from an exemplary workshop, where three dozen pastors from across a three-presbytery region spent a day to receive theological teaching and practical hope from Dr. Craig Barnes. His Biblical interpretation and his motivational presentation truly gave us some timely footholds as churches and societies seek to gain traction in our rocky climb out of such cultural upheaval.

Now retired from 30 years of pastoring some of the PCUSA’s largest and most influential congregations, plus a long and successful stint as president of one of our seminaries, Dr. Barnes is now in the midst of a multi-year project evaluating how churches and their leaders are navigating today’s trends: divisive partisanship, mistrust of governments and institutions, the cosmic impact of lightning-fast advances in technology, the loss of status for faith and morality, all this widespread depression and disconnect from one another. As he and his team are part way through their national research, those of us clergy and commissioned pastors who gathered at Villa Maria got a bit of a “test drive” of what they are learning so far. More importantly, they are working toward responses which are simultaneously *real-world* and *faith-filled*.

In a single clergy column, I cannot recapture for you all the wisdom that filled my mind and filled my notepad that day. Among the overarching highlights is his contention that fear can become contradictory to faithfulness. Dr. Barnes was attentive to clarify that not all fear is improper. Proper fear of biting dogs or standing too close to the edge of a canyon or playing carelessly with poison or a gun – like the overused catchphrase “be afraid, be very afraid.” However, Jesus was very clear that being immobilized by most fears actually harms our spiritual lives.

He pointed out a fairly frequent trend in Scripture: when it comes to fear and doubt, Jesus often has either harsh judgment or strong corrections for people trapped by fear. The Lord is much more tolerant of those who doubt. As one example, when the Apostle Peter took Jesus up on His offer to get out of the boat and walk on the water, it was not long before Peter’s fear of the choppy waves sank him. (Dr. Barnes wisely pointed out that even though Peter was the only one to risk the water-walking, he became the example. No critiques, but no bonus points, for the other disciples who didn’t even try!)

It really is true. Fear of unrealistic possibilities and disasters will demonstrate a lack of faith. Anxieties weaken trust. However, throughout the Holy Book, we see that doubts can coexist with belief. “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.” ([Mark 9:24](#)) Of course we have doubts. If we had absolute guarantees and evidence, we would have certainty, not faith.

For many years, I have taught and preached about one of the most frequent greetings our Lord gave when we walked into a room (especially when His arrival was in an unexpected or miraculous method.) Do you know what that line is? “Do not be afraid.” “Fear not, because \_\_\_\_\_.”

If fear has paralyzed some aspect of your life, ask God to displace its grasp on you. Believe. Trust. Have faith in the One Who is always faithful. Wishing you Jesus’ Peace and Assurance, Pastor Greg

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**AMPHITHEATER SUMMER CONCERTS:** Do you like music and supporting the Church financially? Volunteers are needed this summer to collect \$5 from people who want to park in our parking lot for the concerts at the Warren Community Amphitheater. FPC splits the proceeds between Deacons’ missions and parking lot maintenance. Choose a band you want to hear on the sheet in Fellowship Hall and sign up for a shift that night. We need two people for each shift. It is and a fun way to spend a Saturday evening!

**FPC Birthdays**

- 06/02 Brianna Wistar
- 06/03 Jason Creighton  
Maxwell Sasanecki
- 06/06 Kathi Ensweiler
- 06/07 Matthew Ward
- 06/08 Dallas Woodall  
Sarah Ries Palchak
- 06/09 Mike Buzulencia  
Emma Lipscomb
- 06/10 Bethany Sasanecki
- 06/12 Mary Bate
- 06/13 Andrea Lehman
- 06/14 Lynn Griffith III  
Indy Meyer
- 06/15 Addison Schubert
- 06/16 John Wright III
- 06/17 Carol Haering  
Rachael Herriman  
Ethan Palchak
- 06/23 Sally Thomas  
Kristina Wright  
Darcy Hurd
- 06/24 Michael McKee
- 06/27 Brandon Holk
- 06/28 Barbara Wike
- 06/29 Owen Scrafford  
Kinsley McKee

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



# FPC JUNE 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 10:00 am OA, P 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm AA, MC	<b>2</b> 9:30 pm Al-Anon, B 5:00 pm Girl Scouts, FH 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm NA, MC	<b>3</b> <b>10:00 am Crafters, B</b> 6:30 pm AA, MC	<b>4</b> <b>12:00 am Miriam Esther Circle</b>	<b>5 Kathie Vacation</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b>	<b>6</b> 11:00 am AA, MC
<b>7</b> <b>Communion/ 2 Cents a Meal</b> <b>10:00 am Worship</b>	<b>8 Kathie Vacation</b> 10:00 am OA, P <b>11:00 am Cortland Fellowship, Otterbein</b> 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B <b>6:30 pm BGA Mtg, FH</b> 7:00 pm AA, MC	<b>9 Kathie Vacation</b> 9:30 am Al-Anon, B 7:00 pm NA, MC	<b>10 Kathie Vacation</b> 5:00 pm Someplace Safe, B 6:00 pm NAMI, P 6:30 pm AA, MC	<b>11 Kathie Vacation</b> <b>6:30 pm Safety Committee</b> <b>7:00 pm Care Share Circle</b>	<b>12</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b>	<b>13</b> 11:00 am AA, MC <b>4:30 pm Concert Parking</b>
<b>14 Father's Day</b> <b>10:00 am Worship</b> <b>11:15 am CE Meeting, P</b>	<b>15</b> 10:00 am OA, P 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm AA, MC	<b>16</b> 9:30 am Al-Anon, B <b>10:30 am Free Grocery/ Lunch, FH</b> <b>5:00 pm Finance, P</b> 5:00 pm Girl Scouts, FH 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm NA, MC	<b>17</b> 1:00 pm Crossroads Bereavement Grp, P 5:30 pm Relay for Life, FH <b>5:30 pm Adult VBS</b> 6:30 pm AA, MC	<b>18</b> <b>7:00 pm Juneteenth Service</b>	<b>19 Juneteenth</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Pride Event, Courthouse Square</b> 11:00 am AA, MC 4:00 pm AA Service, FH <b>4:30 pm Concert Parking</b>
<b>21</b> <b>10:00 am Worship</b>	<b>22 SPIRE Deadline</b> 10:00 am OA, P 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm AA, MC	<b>23</b> 9:30 am Al-Anon, MC 7:00 pm NA, MC	<b>24</b> 5:00 pm Someplace Safe, B <b>5:30 pm Adult VBS</b> 6:30 pm AA, MC <b>7:00 pm Session Meeting, FH</b>	<b>25</b> <b>7:00 pm Care Share Circle</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b>	<b>27</b> 11:00 am AA, MC <b>4:30 pm Church Life Lawn Party</b> <b>4:30 pm Concert Parking</b>
<b>28</b> <b>10:00 am Worship</b>	<b>29</b> 10:00 am OA, P 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm AA, MC	<b>30</b> 9:30 am Al-Anon, MC 7:00 pm NA, MC	FH-Fellowship Hall MC-Mable Culver P-Parlor B-Badger Hall T-Tieffle Lounge			

