

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WARREN

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DON'T FORGET...turn your clocks one hour ahead on Saturday, March 7, before going to bed. Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 8.

The FPC Crafters made valentine hearts for some members and friends to brighten their winter days and share FPC love.



CHICKADEE PRESCHOOL went to Beautiful Whirl'd on a field trip! All of the children ordered their own food and paid by themselves! Also, they just held their second workshop on anti-bias education and parenting with Dr. Jasmine.



THE SP  RE



ISSUE 2026 VOLUME 3 MARCH 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WARREN

JOANN RUBRAKE'S THANK YOU RECEPTION



The Deacons hosted a thank you reception for JoAnn Rubrake on February 1.

She dedicated 35+ years to the FPC Food Pantry and Free Lunch program.

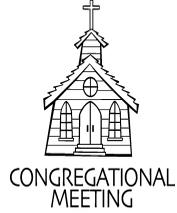


CHILI COOK-OFF



THE CHILI COOK-OFF raised \$204.00 for the Deacons' Missions. Our 2026 winners were: First Place, Julie Trowbridge; Second Place, Russell Zampino; and Third Place, Ray Rubrake. Thank you to all those who entered their delicious chili and to those who tasted and voted for their favorites.





The Annual Congregational Meeting was held on February 15, 2026. The newly elected Nominating Committee is Sharyn Common, Rich Coupland, Jelani Lamp-ley, Shealeigh Lipscomb, and Kathi Ensweiler. The Pastor Nominating Committee consists of Alexis Musgrove, George Egner, Ray Rubrake, Sue Dennis, Jenny An- nandono, Kathi Ensweiler, and Marissa Welke.



THE GOSPEL OF MARK IN 40 DAYS

Accept the challenge to read the Gospel of Mark throughout Lent. Use the insert from last month's SPIRE or ask the Church Office for a copy.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Join us each Friday during Lent at 6:00 p.m. for dinner, fellowship, video, and discussion. Each week's study is self-contained; if you cannot attend every week, you can still participate in the evenings that fit your schedule. Sign up in Fellowship Hall and join us for the "Entering the Passion of Jesus" study.

LENTEN FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY

We will have a light lunch, fellowship, and Lenten-based activities on **Sunday, March 8**, following worship.



The Deacons will not have a regular meeting in February. In place of our monthly meeting, the Session, the Deacons, and interested members of the congregation will meet on February 25 for a vision-casting meeting. This meeting will help to identify priorities which FPC will conduct throughout the remainder of 2026. The group continues to be busy addressing the needs of our congregation and community as we begin Lent. We continue to appreciate the support of our congregation for the work we do in our Church and community.

The Community Lunch/ Grocery Distribution took place on February 17. Fifty people enjoyed a hot and hearty meal of chicken broccoli rice casserole, salad, and cake. Fifty-nine grocery orders were distributed. We have noticed an increase in the demand for groceries and will be prepared with additional grocery bags. Thank you to the volunteers who make this community outreach possible every month.

Our Missions Committee continues to support our Blessings Box, located outside of the door to the church office. Kathie Trowbridge has filled the box with purchased and donated clothing. A variety of food is replenished daily. The Deacons also agreed to support Trumbull Mobile Meals with a \$400 donation to their drive to expand their kitchen space. The need for their services continues to grow in our community. Watch for information on a joint drive between the Deacons and the Lenten Committee to support Sleep in Heavenly Peace, an organization dedicated to supplying beds and bedding for needy children.

The Congregational Care Committee continues to send out birthday cards and treats to celebrate our mem- bers' special days. Our Corresponding Secretary, Marjorie Dangaran, sends out get-well and sympathy cards to stay connected with members.

On February 1, the Fellowship Committee hosted a reception to thank JoAnn Rubrake for her many years of service and dedication to our Food Pantry. JoAnn spoke of the history of the Pantry and the many members of the congregation who have worked to make this Pantry an ongoing resource for our community. It was a special event where attendees enjoyed cake, punch, and fellowship. Please continue to support the Pantry by donating the items listed in the Sunday Bulletin. The Fellowship Committee also supplied brownies for the dessert table at our Chili Cook-Off on February 8. This annual event never ceases to be great fun and well attended by our members. We appreciate the donation of the proceeds to the Deacons' Local Missions!

Wishing you Peace, Love and Reflection during Lent.

Recording Secretary, Cindy Athya



Congratulations to Sarah Hirt Buzulencia on being chosen for the Tribune Community Stars.



SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE is a mission that provides beds for children who are without. SHP believes that every child deserves a safe, comfortable bed. Sleep in Heavenly Peace volunteers build, deliver, and assemble brand- new, hand-crafted beds with mattress and bedding for children in need at no cost to families. Your support and donations will make a huge impact on local families.

The Deacons and the Lenten Committee have decided to make this their mission for Lent. They are accepting monetary donations or twin-size sheets, comforters, blankets and pillows. Please place your donations on the table in the Sanctuary or in the Church Office.



SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION: Our next celebration of Communion will be **Sunday, March 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, **March 1, 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 at 330-393-1524.

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

MIRIAM-ESTHER CIRCLE will meet Thursday, **March 5, 2026**, at 11:00 a.m. in the Parlor to continue Lesson 6 of “Finding Resilience, Joy, and our Identity.” Please join us! Bring a bag lunch; dessert will be provided.

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: The new Daily Bread and Upper Room devotionals are available in the rack outside the Church Office.

THE SPIRE DEADLINE for March is **Friday, March 20, 2026**. Please send your articles and pictures to Kathie at kathietrowbridge@fpcwarren.org

DESSERT AND DIALOGUE will meet at **noon on Thursday, March 19, in the Parlor**. We will discuss **Chapters 13 and 14 of “Accidental Saints.”**



With Deepest Sympathy

We extend our sincere sympathy to the family of long-time member, **Dianne K. Martin**. Dianne joined the Church Triumphant on **February 16, 2026**.

THE FIRST SUNDAY SPEAKER SERIES will be held on **Sunday, March 1**, after worship in the Parlor. Our speakers will be **Geri Romito and Brittany Kennedy** from Direction Home of Eastern Ohio.

Geri, a social worker in the Outreach Department, goes into the community to raise awareness of the programs and services that Direction Home of Eastern Ohio offers to older adults that can promote independence.

Brittany is the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Volunteer Coordinator and works to advocate for residents of long-term care facilities and helps to ensure that the residents' voices are heard.

Stay up-to-date with FPC updates

In addition to our monthly “Spire” newsletter mailed out to our members and friends, we can also keep you up to date with information and updated news every week. We digitally publish an “eSpire” e-mail each Thursday. We publish this through the Constant Contact program. If you are not receiving the eSpire, please email info@fpcwarren.org to request to be added to that distribution.

You can also find updates, invitations, and videos on www.Facebook.com/FPCWarren. You do not need to have your own Facebook account to have access to the congregation's content there. This month, check our Facebook for special readings and devotional messages for the spiritual season of Lent.

Some of our members and attendees also receive prayer updates on a regular basis, plus when there are urgent updates. To be added to this e-mailed Prayer Chain, make your request through Kathie in the Church Office.



FPC Staff: Same people, some new alignments and schedules

Our Elders have approved some new roles, alignments and schedules among our marvelous paid staff for 2026. Working with these ministry specialists' ideas and requests, our Staff Relations Committee (also great) developed our staffing plans for the year ahead. These have been adopted by the Session, and I want to be sure our church members know of what is changing, what stays the same, and why.

Marissa Welke: Our talented director for ministries with children and youth and families has done well with that role in 20 hours a week. At the urging of our Church Growth team, we recognize that FPC needs to enhance our online connections and relationship-building through social media. Marissa will also be our Coordinator for Social Media Outreach. This brings Marissa to 36 hours in an average week, across the twin positions.

David Skipper: Dave has asked that we trim his hours as our daytime facilities attendant, in order to protect his new Social Security income. He is eager to continue to work for the church, and he will now work an average of 24-25 hours weekly (down from 31 last year).

Cassy Tenny: In part because of Dave's changes, our night facilities attendant will pick up some extra hours. We will move Cassy up from her previous 19 hours to 25-29 hours in an average week, although that will increase with special projects and with Saturday events. She has our primary staff responsibilities most Sunday mornings.

Kathie Trowbridge: Our Administrative Assistant manages the office, congregational communication, and financial records. Her hours will remain the same this year, five 7.5-hour days per week. Office hours are 9:00 to 3:30, Monday through Thursday.

Melanie Vlad: Hours and responsibilities for our longtime Music Ministry Director will stay the same as recent years. Melanie develops our music program, plays organ and piano for regular and special worship, and leads our vocal and handbell choirs.

Sarah Torrence: Sarah is our nursery attendant for two hours each Sunday morning. As of 2025, we expanded this position to year-round, in order that younger families can have child care options in the summer months, too. This will continue for Summer 2026 as well.

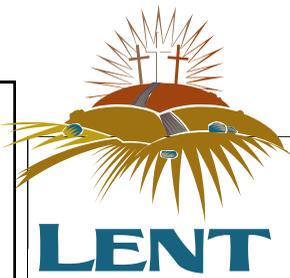
Greg Gillispie: As for me, I am honored to continue as your “Bridge Pastor” for a new term which could last up to another six months, during the time the PNC continues its search for the next long-term clergy. I ordinarily schedule Fridays as my Sabbath Day. However, I do want you to know I am available by texts and calls for anything immediate, regardless of the day of the week or the time of day or night.

I am strongly convinced that paid church staff cannot replace the ministry of all the members and volunteers. True at this church; true at every other congregation, too. I absolutely am thrilled with the dedication and insights of the employees who foster the Christ-centered work of this congregation. Even moreso, I remain thrilled with the diverse talents and significant number of “unpaid staff” who carry out our mission and ministry and care. FPC is blessed to have so many devoted volunteers and leaders and do-ers, churchwide. I am glad all of you are on this team!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Greg

FPC MARCH 2026



FPC March Birthdays

- 03/06 Alexis Musgrove
- 03/08 Pat Rogers
- 03/09 Mary Chuirazzi
- 03/10 Sophie Lipscomb
- 03/13 Pat Hebberts
- 03/14 Angus Macaulay
Pastor Greg Gillispie
- 03/15 Cara Annandono
Maverick Robbins
- 03/18 Brooklyn Oliver
- 03/19 Marilyn Johnson
- 03/22 Jelani Lampley
- 03/25 David Heckman
- 03/26 Wayne Johnson
- 03/27 Susie Wireman
- 03/29 Ray Rubrake
Linda Slusher
- 03/31 Brian Annandono

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 2nd Sunday of Lent Communion/2 Cents a Meal 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Bell Choir 11:15 am Sunday Speaker, P	2 10:00 am OA, P 5:30 am 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	5 11:00 am Miriam Esther Circle, P	6 Church Office Closed 6:00 pm Lent Bible Study	7 11:00 am AA, MC Turn Clocks ahead
8 3rd Sunday of Lent/Daylight Saving Time 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School, B 11:15 am Bell Choir 11:15 am Lenten Fellowship, FH 11:15 am Officer Nominating Committee, P	9 10:00 am OA, P 11:00 am Cortland Fellowship 5:30 am Girl Scouts, B 6:30 pm BGA Meeting 7:00 pm AA, MC	10 9:30 am Al-Anon, MC 5:00 pm Presbytery Gathering, Youngstown 7:00 pm NA, MC	11 5:00 pm Someplace Safe Meeting, B 6:00 pm NAMI Meeting, P 6:30 pm AA, MC	12 6:30 pm Safety Meeting, FH	13 Church Office Closed 6:00 pm Lent Bible Study	14 11:00 am AA, MC
15 4th Sunday of Lent 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am Deacons Meeting, B 11:15 am Bell Choir	16 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 1:00 Crossroads Bereavement Grp. P 6:30 pm AA, MC	19 12:00 am Dessert & Dialogue Women's Study 7:00 pm Worship Meeting	20 SPIRE Deadline Church Office Closed 6:00 pm Lent Bible Study	21 11:00 am AA, MC
22 5th Sunday of Lent 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am Bell Choir	23 10:00 am OA, P 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm AA, MC	24 9:30 am Al-Anon, B 7:00 pm NA, MC	25 5:00 pm Someplace Safe Meeting, B 6:30 pm AA, MC 7:00 pm Session Meeting, FH	26	27 Church Office Closed 6:00 pm Lent Bible Study	28 11:00 am AA, MC
29 Palm Sunday 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am Bell Choir	30 10:00 am OA, P 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm AA, MC	31 9:30 am Al-Anon, MC 7:00 pm NA, MC				