



THE SP RE

ISSUE 2025 VOLUME 4 APRIL 2025

April 

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WARREN

ASH WEDNESDAY



Lenten Fellowship and Rev. Greg Gillispie Reception was held after worship on March 23. A light lunch, crafts, and activities were enjoyed by all.



HAVE A HAPPY SPRING

This is the day the Lord has made;
We will rejoice and
be glad in it.

PSALM 118:24 NKJV



DEACONS CORNER

Spring has arrived, and the Deacons are working on various events and projects for the month of April. The Mission Committee plans to provide funds for the Warren Family Mission to purchase items for Easter Baskets for families with young children. This Committee also approved funds from the Sheely Foundation to create a small outside *Mission Box* for people in need. This box can be stocked with non-perishable food items, socks, gloves, and hygiene items. The box location is planned for near the office entrance in sight of the security cameras. The Mission Committee sends a sincere Thank You to the congregation for their support with the cleaning supplies for the YWCA- The Wings. The many boxes and baskets of cleaning supplies were greatly appreciated by the residents to keep their apartments clean and tidy.



The Congregational Care Committee will soon be on the “bunny trail” with Easter Gifts for our Special Care Members. They plan to deliver these gifts the week before Easter. On Palm Sunday, the Deacons plan to have Easter Cards for our congregation to sign, so we can “shower” our homebound members with Easter Wishes.

The Fellowship Committee hosted a Welcome Reception for Rev. Gillispie on March 23. This Committee continues to assist with the Lenten Activities, too.

Kathi Ensweiler and I delivered Home Communion on March 3. Three Special Care Members received Communion. Thank You, Kathi, for organizing this important outreach in our congregation each month.

The Grocery Distribution took place on March 18. It was a busy morning with 48 grocery orders distributed. The “Kitchen Crew” provided 31 meals of chicken and rice casserole, salad, and angel food cake with peaches. With the price increase of groceries, this monthly distribution becomes vital for people facing food insecurity.

The Deacons greatly appreciate the support of our congregation for the work we do in the community and our Church. May you be blessed with our Lord’s love and peace this Easter.

Sarah Hirt Buzulencia, Moderator of the Deacons

FIRST SUNDAY SPEAKER SERIES



The next speakers will be Denise Horsley, Supervisor of Solace Center and Someplace Safe Legal Advocates, and Lauren Webb, Director of Domestic Violence Services in Trumbull and Portage County with Access Family Services. Their goals are to empower women to find their own way, free from abuse, and to work towards making home safe for everyone. The subject of this talk will be “The Three R’s of Violence Prevention - Recognize, Respond, and Refer.” Join us after worship on **Sunday, April 6**, in the Parlor.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Katylu Herriman received an award on March 1, 2025, from Someplace Safe for her many years of service and being one of the founders.

MEMORIAL GARDEN BRICKS

FPCW is providing an opportunity for you to purchase memorial bricks to be placed in the Memorial Garden. We have the bricks, and volunteers will place them. If you want your brick to be placed in a specific location, please indicate that at the bottom of the form. The cost is \$25.00 for a single brick and \$50.00 for a double brick. Order forms are in the Church Office.



A Note from the Pastor



Lent Continues, FPC Continues – 40 Days of Re/Orientation

What a wonderful launch weekend we shared. Thank you for the very warm and enthusiastic welcome on March 23. Worship, side conversations, the wonderful food at the reception, and my first two afternoon events got our new season off to a delightful start.

My theme for worship that morning – and for ministry in these early weeks we will be together – overlaps with the Christian season of Lent. These 6 ½ weeks are essentially a one-tenth (“tithe”) of the year. The spiritual focus is on deep reflection, on discipleship, and toward repentance. The Lenten Season is a reorientation for the soul, a time for getting centered, figuring out new (and renewed) commitments, and preparing to receive the forgiveness and grace which shows itself in profound ways on Resurrection Sunday, just as it has for twenty centuries of Easter celebrations.

As I arrive to minister among you as the next pastor “for a time,” my ministry will continue to build upon a long, celebrative and faithful tradition, too. FPC hasn’t *quite* made it to 200 decades, like Jesus’ universal church has. Still, each of our stories is being woven into the one Story – the central purpose for which the Lord brought each person into this particular outpost of the Gospel.

This is not my first time as a “transitional” pastor. Among the many priorities and opportunities as we begin this journey, our other ordained leaders and I will be attentive to the “five tasks of interim ministry,” which I suspect many in this congregation have become aware of in other times as pastorate, the community, and the culture continue to change. Much of this has already happened with our preceding pastors, and we’ll carry on with the discernment, the preparations, and the attentiveness to the *still, small voice* of God.

I will deeply appreciate the assistance you give to me, as I use these 20 days before Easter and the 20 or so after for my own pastoral orientation and reorientation. I seek your help to learn the traditions, mission, dreams, and *most importantly* the people and their stories here. This is also the first time in my three decades of preaching and pastoring that I am not transitioning from one congregation-based work to another. I expect a little “rough riding” as I get back on the church-leadership “horse”, after my most recent calling to the specialized ministry of Christian broadcasting. This spring will be a period of reorientation for me – and you reorienting to a new person in the pulpit, the pastor’s study, at the hospitals. With forgiveness and grace and celebration, this next chapter will be a great one.

Lenten Peace, Anticipating Easter’s Joy

Greg

NEW! Pastor Greg’s contact information:

GregGillispie@fpcwarren.org

Please enter this into your phone, put it under a refrigerator magnet, or keep it available in other ways, so you can reach out to in an emergency.

Pastor’s new phone number coming soon.

5 Tasks of Interim Ministry

Coming to terms with history

Discovering a new identity as God’s people

Strengthening patterns of shared leadership

Renewing denominational connections

Committing to new directions in ministry

(This list of transitional tasks is common among multiple denominations and traditions, with slight adaptations. These are well-researched and recommended for the health and vitality of each congregation’s next chapters.)

FPC April Birthdays

04/01 Marilou Zampedro
 04/02 Jim Ries
 Sheila Wistar
 04/03 Sue Motzer
 Jennifer Ferguson
 04/04 Axel Robbins
 Francesca Chuirazzi
 Gemma Chuirazzi
 04/05 Debbie Ries
 04/07 Sarah McKee
 04/08 Casey McKee
 Finnegan Wireman
 Oliver Wireman
 04/09 Shealeigh Lipscomb
 04/10 Herb Bate
 04/11 Bob Beerbower
 Tavish Burd
 04/12 Amelia Sasanecki
 Susan Jeffers
 04/14 Bob Stahl
 Maria Oswald
 04/17 Mary Ann Bromley
 04/18 Dominic Ewell
 04/19 Richard Coupland
 04/21 Jane Odille
 04/24 Thelma Snyder
 04/25 Kaitlyn Buehler
 04/30 Rick Hope
 Dottie Gorton



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



FPC



Sun

Mon

Tue

		1 9:30 am Al-Anon 5:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm NA, MC
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6 Communion/2 cents Fifth Sunday in Lent 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am First Sunday Speaker, P 3:00 pm Confirmation Class	7 10:00 am OA, P 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm AA, MC	8 9:30 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm NA, MC
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13 Palm Sunday 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School	14 10:00 am OA, P 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 6:30 pm BGA Meeting, FH 7:00 pm Voices of Micah 7:00 pm AA, MC	15 9:30 am Al-Anon 10:30 am Free L Grocery Distrib 5:00 pm Girl Sco 5:00 pm Finance 7:00 pm NA, MC
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20 Easter Sunday 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School	21 SPIRE DEADLINE 10:00 am OA, P 4:00 pm Deacons Mtg, FH 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm AA, MC	22 9:30 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm NA, MC
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27 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 3:00 pm Confirmation Class	28 10:00 am OA, P 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm AA, MC	29 9:30 am Al-Anon 7:00 pm NA, MC
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C APRIL 2025



	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	2 10:00 am Crafters, B 6:30 pm AA, MC 7:00 pm Church Growth	3 9:00 am Prayer Talk, FH 11:00 am Miriam Esther Circle, P	4 Church Office Closed 6:00 pm Lenten Bible Study, FH	5 11:00 am AA, MC
	9 5:00 pm Someplace Safe, B 6:00 pm NAMI, P 6:30 pm AA, MC 7:00 pm CE Meeting	10 9:00 am Prayer Talk, FH	11 Church Office Closed 6:00 pm Lenten Bible Study, FH	12 11:00 am AA, MC
	16 1:00 pm Crossroads Bereavement Grp., P 6:00 pm Relay for Life Meeting, B 6:30 pm AA, MC	17 Maundy Thursday 9:00 am Prayer Talk, FH 12:00 pm Dessert and Dialogue Women's Study, P 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service	18 Good Friday Church Office Closed 12:00 pm Good Friday Vigil 2:00 p.m. Good Friday Service	19 11:00 am AA, MC Evening—Memorial Luminary Display
	23 4:00 pm WPO Set-Up 5:00 pm Someplace Safe, B 6:30 pm AA, MC	24 9:00 am Prayer Talk, FH 6:00 pm WPO Rehearsal	25 Church Office Closed 6:00 pm WPO Rehearsal	26 11:00 am AA, MC 2:00 pm WPO Rehearsal 7:00 pm WPO Concert
	30 6:30 pm AA, MC 7:00 pm Session Meeting, FH			

GOOD STUFF YOU NEED TO KNOW



SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION: Our next celebration of Communion will be **Sunday, April 6, 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, April 6, 2025**, during our regular worship service. This program provides a channel for Presbyterians to respond to the crisis of hunger at home and abroad.

JOIN US THURSDAY MORNINGS for our weekly prayer talk. We meet in Fellowship Hall for guided devotionals with scripture, prayer, and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome!

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.

FPC WEB PAGE ADDRESS is <http://www.fpcwarren.org> - come visit us on the 'Net! Our e-mail address is fpcwarren@hotmail.com

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

MIRIAM ESTHER CIRCLE will meet **Thursday, April 3, at 11:00 a.m.** in the Parlor. We will continue Lesson 7 of "Let Justice Roll Down." Join us! Bring a bag lunch; dessert will be provided.

PER CAPITA: Once a year each congregation must pay a Per Capita Assessment for each member. The Per Capita for 2025 is **\$33.00 per member**. Any contribution for this should be placed in the envelope provided in your box or in another envelope labeled "Per Capita".

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION! There will be a special section in the June *Spire* about our high school and college graduates. PLEASE send all information and updates to Church Office at kathietrowbridge@fpcwarren.org no later than **May 12, 2025. Thank you!**

WARREN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA will present their spring concert at 7:00 p.m. on **Saturday, April 26, at FPC.**

A **SPECIAL THANK YOU** to everyone at FPC for all the beautiful cards, prayers, and phone calls when my beloved husband Michael recently passed. Also, the delicious valentine cookies were a grand surprise. Thank you so very much for remembering me. Linda Scala

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Barb Sherwood is now at Armstrong Memory Care 2 Windsor Place Warren, Ohio 44483.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

FPC VISTA BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

A new small group will start at Lake Vista on the second Thursday of each month. It is for men and women members of FPC and Lake Vista. This is a wonderful opportunity for renewing old friendships, making new ones, and keeping those who cannot attend services aware of how much they are missed.

The first meeting will be **Thursday, April 10, at 11:00 a.m. in the Lake Vista Chapel. Those interested can then join us for lunch in the dining room.** Please sign up in Fellowship Hall if you are able to attend. We can carpool from the Church for parking convenience or drive on your own.

SERVING OTHERS/SERVING CHRIST TOGETHER

The Resource Committee is organizing mission service projects and inviting the churches of Eastminster Presbytery to join together in this endeavor to serve others and serve Christ. The first project will be held on Saturday, May 17 at Justin T. Rogers Hospice Care Center in Akron to spruce up the property for Spring and make it more inviting for its residents.

MEET-n-EAT March 11, 2025



LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: Sign up in Fellowship Hall for the Lenten Study, *The Final Days, A Lenten Journey Through the Gospels* by Matt Rawle. Each week, we will meet at 6:00 p.m. and enjoy dinner and fellowship together followed by a video and discussion. The weeks are self-contained; if you cannot attend every week, you can still participate in the sessions that fit your schedule.

EASTER FLOWERS— Easter is **Sunday, April 20, 2025**. We are now taking orders for flowers to grace our Sanctuary. We will again offer a variety of flowers. Please complete the form below and include payment with your order. Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church. Please turn in the completed form (with payment) to the Church Office or put it in the offering box. Orders must be received by **Friday, April 4**, in order to secure your selections. (If orders are received after the deadline, choices cannot be guaranteed.)

-----Tear here-----

In memory/honor of (circle one) _____

Given by _____

Easter Lilies/**\$9.25** each _____

Hyacinth/**\$7.75** each _____

Daffodils/**\$7.75** each _____

Tulips/**\$7.75** each _____

\$ _____ for Stained-Glass Window Fund

\$ _____ for FPC Endowment Fund

Your Name _____



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WE'RE ON THE WEB

WWW.FPCWARREN.ORG



WILLARD SCHOOL UPDATE



Christian Education continues to support Willard School with the collection of candy to fill Easter eggs for the hunt to be held the week of April 14 at Willard. We all love candy, and this is a special treat for students. Members of the Christian Education Committee will have the fun of assisting with hiding eggs. You can donate any type of small candy and put it in the Willard bin in Fellowship Hall.

We are also making "Birthday Cake Boxes" to send home with students for their birthdays. If you can support this project, donate the following:

- Disposable cake pan
- Cake mix
- 12 oz. can of pop
- Birthday candles
- Container of icing



FPC will add a birthday card and the recipe for making the cake without eggs or oil. The can of pop is the substitute for both ingredients. Coke or Pepsi for chocolate cake and Ginger Ale, Sprite, etc. for a white or yellow cake.

Thank you all for your continued generous support of our Willard students. Please keep them and their teachers and families in your prayers.



Congratulations to the winners of this year's Chili Cook-Off! First Place was Russell Zampino; Second Place was Mike Welke, and Third Place was Ray Rubrake.