

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WARREN

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WILLARD SCHOOL NEWS



We extend our sincere sympathy to Jim Ries and family on the death of Debbie Ries, a 45-year dedicated member of FPC.

Thank you to all who donated school supplies to Willard. Two carloads of supplies were delivered on Monday, September 9, and was met with great enthusiasm by the staff and students. Among the supplies were 45 bookbags and four cases of notebooks. In addition, Deacons donated microwaveable food that is available for students to take home on the weekends throughout the school year. Several of our members sent cookies that we served to parents at the Open House on August 28! We thank Donna Weidman, Marjorie Dangaran, Thelma Snyder, Jenny Annandono, Rich Coupland, Susan Stahl, Betty Kay Womer, and Sue Dennis for the delicious baked goods. Parents and students that evening were so appreciative of the treats, as we took our ministry to them. Smiles, kind words, and enthusiasm for the coming school year overwhelmed us with joy as Pastor Greg, Sue Dennis, and Donna Latessa welcomed the parents and students. Your generosity is overwhelming, and you make this ministry possible!



THE SP RE

ISSUE 2025 VOLUME 10 October 2025

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WARREN

RALLY DAY





ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Ordination and Installation of **Elder, Heather Trowbridge**

Deacon, Shealeigh Lipscomb

Installation of **Elders, Mary Ann Bromley and Donna Latessa**

Deacons, Susan Nadenichek and Janet Williams



STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS PROJECT - SUMMARY

A big FPCW thank you to all who donated their funds, time, and prayers for a successful stained-glass restoration project here at the Church! Your efforts worked, and we now have beautifully restored Sanctuary windows to guide and inspire us as we continue to worship our ever-faithful God.

In September 2021, FPCW was awarded a “Save America’s Treasures” grant from the Department of the Interior with a commitment from the federal government to help with the window restoration.

Whitney Stained-Glass, a Cleveland area restoration company, was hired, and work began in April 2022. Restoration was done in three stages with the last phase, the Rose Window, completed at the end of July 2025.

The total cost of the restoration project was \$290,955.00. Our grant covered \$145,477.00 of the cost. The rest was paid for through your generous donations of \$38,451.00 and the Endowment Fund, which covered the remaining \$107,027.00.

Thank you so much for your donations and support!



FPC will be ground zero for the 2025 Ghost Walk, which will be held **October 17, 18, 24, and 25, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.** Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children age 12 and under. Tours leave every 15 minutes. Bring your family and friends for this educational and entertaining event.

Volunteer opportunities



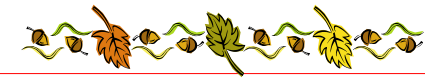
Now is the time to take advantage of ways you can grow and serve our Church. There are sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall for small groups and volunteer options. Please look at the descriptions and consider where you can join and serve.

Deacons...

Leading
through
Service



On Sunday, October 26, we will celebrate the Deacons and all the work and ministry they do within our Church and throughout this community. Show the Deacons your appreciation after worship at a reception in Fellowship Hall.



DEACONS' NEWS

The Deacons met on September 21 to begin plans for the upcoming year. We are pleased to welcome Shealeigh Lipscomb, Susan Nadenichek, and Janet Williams to the Board of Deacons. The Officers for 2025-2026 are Kathie Trowbridge- Moderator, Susan Nadenichek- Vice Moderator, Cindy Athya- Recording Secretary.

Deacons' Sunday will take place on October 26. After worship, the Fellowship Committee invites you to a reception in Fellowship Hall. Please plan to attend. The Founders' Day Celebration is set for November 23. Look for reservation information in the November Spire.

The Deacons, through our Mission Committee, continues to provide help within our community and to the larger world around us. We are supplying funds to the Warren Family Mission and Someplace Safe for much needed hygiene and household supplies. We also provided needed funds for Healthy Hearts and Paws animal rescue for their good work. We continue to support the Blessing Box. Kathie replenishes this resource for the needy each day and continues to collect items to fill the box.

The Congregational Care Committee continues to send cards and birthday treats to our members. The Fellowship Committee is planning a reception following worship on October 26 and are gearing up for our annual Founders' Day celebration and lunch on November 23.

The Grocery Distribution and Lunch took place on September 16. Lunch was served to forty-five people and forty-six bags of groceries were provided for our neighbors. We would like to thank all the volunteers who help with this outreach to our Community.

May fall be a time of renewed purpose for us all,

Cindy Athya— Recording Secretary



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HAPPENINGS

Aspire Women's Event - Sunday, October 19

An evening retreat in three hours! Call Sue Dennis (330-392-4385) or sign up on the pink sheet in Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$10 plus lunch. We will leave FPC at 2:30 for lunch, then arrive at the event. We will return to FPC @ 8:30. **Your last chance to sign up for this amazing event is Sunday, October 5.**

“66 books of the Bible“ in 2 hours?! Christian Education and Pastor Greg invite you to join us on **Thursday, October 23**, for dinner and a Bible study from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Pastor Greg has been telling us about this program, and now we will hear it! Hope to see you there. Sign up in Fellowship Hall.

FPC /Vista Fellowship and Lunch. Monday, October 13. - wonderful opportunity to bring the love from FPC to our friends who are not able to be with us during worship. The cost for lunch, if you decide to stay, is \$8.50. (Please have correct change). **Please join us.** The joy on the faces of those who have missed us is a true blessing.

Presbyterian Mission Project at Warren Family Mission on Saturday, October 18, 9:30 AM to 1 PM. Join our members as well as others from churches in our Presbytery to help WFM set up for their annual coat giveaway. There will be other areas where we can help them as well.



TWO-CENTS-A-MEAL OFFERING The Deacons will be collecting for the 2¢-A-Meal offering on **Sunday, October 5, 2025**, after our regular worship service. This program provides a channel for Presbyterians to respond to the crisis of hunger at home and abroad.

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

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, WE CELEBRATE WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY. On this day, we celebrate our oneness in Christ, the Prince of Peace, in the midst of the world we are called to serve – a world ever more in need of peacemaking.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED: The Church Office will be closed at **11:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 9**, and **closed on Friday, October 10**, for Kathie’s vacation.

SPIRE DEADLINE: The SPIRE deadline for October is **Wednesday, October 22**. Please send your pictures and articles to kathietrowbridge@fpcwarren.org.

MIRIAM ESTHER CIRCLE will discuss Lesson 1 in “Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity” on **Thursday, October 2, at 11:00 a.m.** in the Parlor. Lunch will follow in Fellowship Hall at 12:00 p.m. Please pick up your book in the Church Office and bring a bag lunch. Dessert will be provided.

FPC CRAFTERS will meet on **Wednesday, October 1**, at 10:00 a.m. in Badger Hall. All are welcome!

MEET-N-EAT will be held on **Tuesday, October 14**, 5:30-7:00, in Fellowship Hall for a wonderful meal and fun activity. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall or call the office by **Sunday, October 12**, so we know how much food we need.

FIRST SUNDAY SPEAKER

FIRST SUNDAY SPEAKER SERIES will resume at **11:15 a.m., October 5, in the Parlor**. The speaker will be Honeya Price, devoted community leader, a Warren Councilwoman, and the founder of Mothers Against Gun Violence. Honeya is a motivational speaker and is dedicated to combating gun violence. Join us on October 5 after worship as she will help raise awareness and provide education about gun violence.

66 BOOKS IN 2 HOURS : The Entire Bible in Just One Night

Some people would love to attend Bible Studies. However, a year-long commitment – or even a six-week series – may not easily work into some schedules. So, an alternative is upcoming this month at First Presbyterian Church of Warren!

Pastor Greg Gillispie will teach a one-night Bible Study with the goal of covering the entire Scriptures in a single setting. Yes, “66 Books in 2 Hours!”

Admittedly, some of the very valuable Biblical content will have to be skimmed over with that pace and time frame. However, this class will be a good overview of the wide swath of Scripture, how the various writing styles and historical eras flow together, and how all these diverse stories combine into God’s one story. If you’ve invested a lot of effort and delight in Bible reading across the years, “66 Books” will tie together more of what you already know. If your Bible practices have you feeling more like a novice, maybe this one evening can give you a better handle on the Holy Book and add to your curiosity and motivation.



A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

What your church leaders are talking about these days

There are many, many aspects of ordained ministry I particularly enjoy, and across three decades I’ve developed some experience in many of these. Two which have been among my specialties at other congregations and in other presbyteries have been vision catching and leadership development.

As we have been doing leadership development for our newly-elected Deacons and Elders, your congregational leaders have been in some deep and productive discussions about catching a combination of new and continuing visions about the shape and priorities of FPC Warren. Our incoming, returning and out-going officers have been brainstorming about the “next steps” to take in the year ahead.

Rather than starting with *my* ideas or *their* wishes, this series of meetings instead began with *your* requests. FPC’s people invested a lot of energy and thought and time into our congregational self-study with the “Holy Cow” consulting group. That detailed report extended past three dozen pages, but it boiled down to three priorities. These three wishes/requests/ideas were strongly suggested by our members, as the goals which will assure the vitality of this congregation and the extensiveness of our community outreach long into the future:

1. Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.
2. Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.
3. Work to renew and revitalize the community around the church by building coalitions with partners that share this vision and commitment.

Now, it would be one thing to say that these three items are solely *our* goals. But, no, our ordained leaders seem to agree that this isn’t merely the pathway to “consumer satisfaction”. There is a strong consensus that the voice of this congregation has also aligned the Almighty God’s desires for how this congregation moves faithfully into the future. What you told with those “agree/neutral/disagree” ovals in 2024 also seems to simultaneously be what God is telling us.

Our boards, committees, teams and work groups will be asking throughout this new program year about how to enhance us in these areas. Some of these are simply to continue to do what we already are doing. We have children and teens and young families and young adults in our midst already! (*Please: any grumblings about “not having any young people” are not true – and are counterproductive toward the younger people who are already here.*) Some next steps will add a ministry or program or emphasis that will help us move more quickly toward the goals and wishes you identified in Holy Cow. Please pray we will be creative, open, and faithful in these experiments and directions.

One other thing I’d encourage our wider membership to do: There is a four-minute video by a wise church commentator that I showed during some of our leadership gatherings. Dr. Tod Bolsinger is a pastor, change facilitator, and a recent speaker at Pittsburgh Seminary’s fall lecture series. I hope you will check out his “Canoeing the Mountains” metaphor at [youtube.com/watch?v=Yu5PzgeKpT0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yu5PzgeKpT0). Then, I hope you’ll engage some conversation with a pastor, elder, or deacon about its implications for FPC in 2025, 2026, and beyond.

Serving Jesus’ Church, *Greg*

FPC October Birthdays

10/02 Brennan Scrafford
Elliot Scrafford
10/06 Ruth Wilson
10/08 Savannah Ewell
10/11 Hannah Ferguson
10/12 Marilyn Fritch
Sally Taylor
10/16 Judy Wistar
Kaelynn McKee
10/18 Kennedy McKee
Kylie McKee
10/19 M.A. Vlad
10/20 Marilyn Townsend
Joseph Dudley
Bayleigh Wistar
10/21 Cathy Vanasdale
10/22 Susan Stahl
10/26 George Egner
10/27 JoAnn Rubrake
10/28 David Fowler
Elizabeth Leininger
10/30 Sarah Harvey

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



FPC OCTOBER 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:00 am Crafters, B 6:30 pm AA, MC	2 11:00 am Miriam Esther Circle, P	3 Church Office Closed	4 11:00 am AA, MC 8:00 am Steering Clear, FH
5 World Communion 2 Cents a Meal 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am First Sunday Speaker, P 11:15 am Bell Practice, S	6 10:00 am OA, P 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm AA, MC	7 9:30 am Al-Anon, B 5:00 pm Girl Scouts, FH 7:00 pm NA, MC	8 5:00 pm Someplace Safe, B 6:00 pm NAMI Meeting, P 6:30 pm AA, MC	9 11:00 am Church Office Closed/Kathie Vacation 7:00 pm CE meeting	10 Church Office Closed/ Kathie Vacation	11 11:00 am AA, MC Pastor Vacation
12 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am Bell Practice, S 11:15 am CE Meeting, T Pastor Vacation	13 10:00 am OA, P 11:00 am FPC/Vista Group 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 6:30 pm BGA Meeting, FH 7:00 pm Voices of Micah Meeting 7:00 pm AA, MC Pastor Vacation	14 9:30 am Al-Anon, B 5:30 pm Meet n Eat, FH 7:00 pm NA, MC Pastor Vacation	15 1:00 pm Crossroads Bereave- ment Grp., P 6:00 pm Relay for Life, FH 6:30 pm AA, MC Pastor Vacation	16 12:00 pm Dessert and Dia- logue Study, P 7:00 pm Worship Mtg. Pastor Vacation	17 Church Office Closed 5:00 pm Ghost Walk Pastor Vacation	18 11:00 am AA, MC 5:00 pm Ghost Walk
19 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am Deacons Mtg., B 11:15 am Bell Practice, S 2:30 pm Ladies Aspire Event	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. 5:00 pm Girl Scouts, FH 7:00 pm NA, MC	22 SPIRE DEADLINE 5:00 pm Someplace Safe, B 6:30 pm AA, MC	23 5:30 pm Dinner and 66 Books of the Bible	24 Church Office Closed 5:00 pm Ghost Walk	25 11:00 am AA, MC 5:00 pm Ghost Walk
26 Deacons Sunday 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am. Sunday School 11:15 am Deacon Reception 11:15 am Bell Practice, S	27 10:00 am OA, P 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm AA, MC	28 8:00 am Al-Anon Anniver- sary Dinner, FH 7:00 pm NA, MC	29 6:30 pm AA, MC 7:00 pm Session Mtg., FH	30	31 Church Office Closed	