



March 15 through March 21, 2026

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31).

Dear Friends in Christ,

During last fall's Listening Sessions, you requested that more be held. Your Session has set dates for two more Sessions...

- **Thursday, March 19, 7:00 PM**
- **Sunday, March 22, after worship**

These will be a chance to ask questions, or tell your leadership your thoughts or feelings. The Transition Team (Christi Bechtel, Ivonne Holsinger, Megan Hunsberger, Ken Jones, Mark Mitchell) will tell you what they are doing, with the goal of electing a Pastor Nominating Committee – hopefully by June 1.

In preparation for the Sessions, I would like you to consider something – how do you respond to God in the world? How do you respond to what God is calling the church to do? What God is doing in your life?

Several years ago, I was introduced to a book, *GodViews: The Convictions That Drive Us and Divide Us* 1, by Rev. Jack Haberer. In his book, Rev. Haberer proposes five GodViews to articulate the various ways Christians and Churches respond to God and his work. The five are briefly described on the attached page in this newsletter. Please read the attachment, and consider the five ways.

At the Listening Sessions, the Transition Team will ask you to review the descriptions, and choose which two GodViews best describe Ohio Church. (The Session and Deacons did this at their joint meeting / retreat March 7 th . Your results will be combined with theirs.)

The Listening Sessions, as well as your GodViews, are only part of the analysis the Transition Team is conducting as we proceed. The Team is revising the congregational survey used during Pastor Bob's time. The survey will be sent electronically as well as mailed/handed out. The results will be compiled along with the GodViews as well as anything from the Listening Sessions. The Team may conduct more interviews to make sure all voices are heard.

Again, the goal is the preparation and approval of the Self-Study, describing OUPC, our characteristics, challenges, programs, future hopes, and (most important) the type of pastor we believe God wants for us. We hope to have the Study available by May.

In the meantime, continue to pray for the Transition Team, the eventual election of the Pastor Nominating Committee, and for the (eventual) naming of the one whom God has already called as your Pastor.

Finally, I and the Team are available to talk with you at any time.

In Christ,

Pastor Jim

1 John H. Haberer, Jr., *GodViews: The Convictions That Drive Us and Divide Us*, Louisville: Geneva Press, 2001.

GodViews Comments

GodView: Our view of who God is, our view of what God is doing in the world, our view of what God is calling the church do, our view of what God is calling us to do. A view that finds its basis in the revealed word of God.

Confessionalist: Committed to discerning, proclaiming, and preserving the truth. The Confessionalist dreams of the world being filled with the knowledge of the Lord “as the waters cover the sea.”.

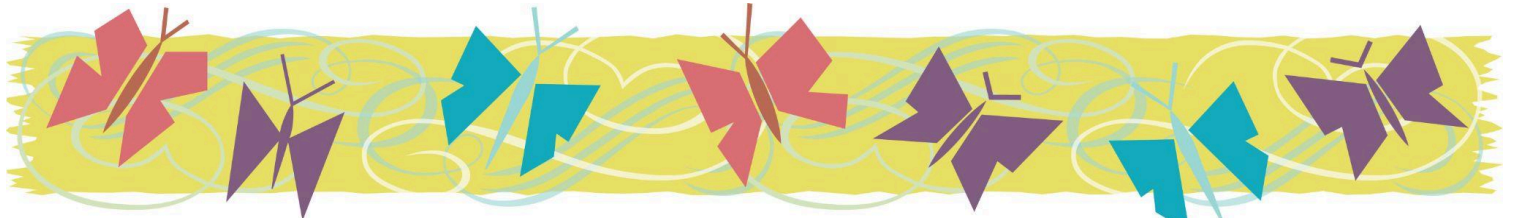
Devotionalist: Hungry for God; they love to pray; they worship, meditate, and study. They want to know God, and they want others to know God too. Dreams of the day when the knowledge of the Lord is not just head knowledge but a heart-experience of God.

Ecclesiast: Known not so much for their advocacy, but for their actions. They serve on committees, teach Sunday school classes, sing in choir, attend community-wide ecumenical events, and give generously. They provide the backbone of healthy church ministries. Yearns to see the church exercising quality pastoral care, informed Christian education, God-glorifying worship, and significant world Mission.

Altruist: They see human tragedies that others overlook, and they do something about them. They give to the needy, serve in local soup kitchens, build community-wide homeless shelters, and serve on boards of charitable organizations. Dreams of eradication of poverty, ignorance, and abuse.

Activist: They address far-reaching realms: systemic evils, racial prejudices, gender exclusion, power-mongering, and injustice in every form. They join protest marches, demonstrate against polluters and political machines, advocate for policies of inclusion and compassion, and raise their voices for those silenced by unjust structures in society. Dreams of wolves lying down with lambs, of a day when justice reigns down over all the earth.

- A healthy denomination pursues all five GodViews.
- Most local churches pursue all five to varying degrees.
- Most believers can discern at least two – and as many as five – at work within them.
- But at the end of the day, most believers find that one of these stands above the others.



BABYSHOWER

The Women's Association is collecting donations for Adoption Connection, located in Beaver, PA. Donations can be placed in the marked box in the Cry Room every Sunday in March. The items most needed are:

- Gently used baby items
- Diapers-size newborn to 6, and wipes
- Shampoo, conditioner and body wash
- Baby wash and lotion
- New hairbrushes, combs
- New underwear and socks (all sizes)
- Gently used clothing of all sizes

Thank you for your donations!!

Questions? Contact Eleanor Pike
at 724-601-4007



Worship	
• Sunday School for children 3yr.-6th grade is during worship after the children’s chat • Adult Sunday School is at 9am • 83 in church on March 8, 2026	
Congregational Care	
• Story Time continues on Wednesdays at 9:30 or 10:30am	
Mission	
• The Lenten Mission project has raised \$1367 out of \$3000, which will go to building two water wells. Offering designated as “Lenten Mission Project” will go towards this goal. If your child needs a coin container, talk to Simon Hunsberger. The next congregation collection will be on Palm Sunday.	
Operations	
• Contributions Year to Date • Expenditures Year to Date	\$38,749 \$26,435

The Deacons are requesting donations for our food pantry. Any donations are appreciated but we are running low on cereal and canned vegetables. Donations can be placed in the bin at the back of the sanctuary.

We are looking for individuals who are interested in providing special music on the Sundays that the choir doesn’t sing. If interested, sign up on the form outside the choir room

Church FAMILY —PRAYER LIST—



- Pastor Jim—Prayers for Bonnie Martin who is off chemo and at home under the care of hospice. Also Prayers for John and family
- Diane Gennaro—Prayers for Donna Olexick who is in Weirton Hospital with kidney issues. Donna's husband Mark has the flu and can't get over it.
- A neighbor of Diane, Perry Morgan, passed at 98 years.
- Lynn Smith—Brother-in-law Larry had back surgery and it went well. Prayers for healing
- Jenn Davis—Prayers of comfort for the Boggs family as Trudy passed on Sunday afternoon.



Anniversary	Birthdays	Birthdays
Jason & Liz Cagnon 03/05	Mark Muslin 03/01	Daniel Fox Sr. 03/21
	Tracy Simmons 03/08	Casey Honess 03/23
	Savannah McLynden 03/09	Leonard Laird Sr. 03/23
	Michael Duganich 03/11	Betty Solinski 03/25
	Logan Gregory 03/14	Evelyn Cagnon 03/27
	Rich Palmer 03/16	Kasey Hoth 03/27
	Joshua Kocher 03/20	Debbie Ceccarelli 03/29

