



April 26 through May 2, 2026

Greetings from the Ohio UP Transition Team!

We hope that this newsletter finds you happy, healthy, and filled with God's amazing grace.

We have been praying and working hard behind the scenes to create a strong path to move forward into this new chapter at Ohio UP. Our team meets with Pastor Jim every other Sunday following worship. We are so grateful for his guidance and compassion – God's hands were truly at work when he led Pastor Jim to us during this time.

One of our main focuses thus far has been creating a survey for members of our church family to complete. Combined with the listening sessions that we've held, this survey will help us further identify who we are as a church and give us more insight into what kind of pastor will best fit our spiritual and church family needs.

We plan to distribute the survey electronically but will also make paper copies available for those who need it. We are hopeful that all members of our church will complete it so that we have a full and accurate picture of where we are heading. Your opinions matter so much to us – so please let your voice be heard!

In addition to the survey, our team will also be constructing a new Self Study, which is a comprehensive document that describes our congregational makeup, our distinctive features, and our Church's many blessings and offerings.

Ultimately, the goal of the Transition Team is to help set the foundation for the Pastoral Nominating Committee as they begin the search for our new pastor. We're hopeful that our findings from the meetings, research, and discussions will give them the information they need to interview and find an excellent match for Ohio UP.

We ask that you continue to pray for us as we work through the next steps in this process. We are grateful that you've trusted us with this very important task, and we know that with God's guidance, we will find the right Pastor for our great church.

Blessings,

Christi Bechtel
Ivonne Holsinger
Megan Hunsberger
Ken Jones
Mark Mitchell



Worship

- Sunday School for children 3yr.-6th grade is during worship after the children's chat
- Adult Sunday School is at 9am
- 77 in church on April 19
- Communion is on May 3

Congregational Care

- Story Time continues on Wednesdays at 9:30 or 10:30am
- Women's Association meets on May 5 at 6:30. All women are welcome
- Ruth Circle meets on Wednesday, May 13 at 1pm
- **Ice Cream Fellowship at Brusters on Thursday, May 14 at 6:30pm. Each person to pay for his own ice cream. Everyone is invited!**
- Women's Tea on Sunday, May 17, following worship. See sign up form in bulletin for more details

Mission

There will be a Missions Committee meeting Sunday the 26th after Church in Library. If interested in joining, talk to Simon Hunsberger

Operations

Saturday, May 2 is Spring Clean up Day starting at 9am—Big and small jobs and there will be donuts!!
Monday May 4 is the property Meeting at 6:30pm

VBS Craft Items Needed: Pop/soda twist off bottle caps

CDs or DVDs

Marbles

Empty toilet paper rolls

Empty paper towel rolls

There will be a box in the Narthex for the donations.

Church FAMILY —PRAYER LIST—

- Diane Gennaro—Sister-in-law Chris Davis taken off arthritis medicine—can hardly walk.
- Christi Bechtel—Kathy fouse had knee replacement surgery last week. Prayers for healing
- Sue Burak—Rich Kerlin is struggling today with pain. Prayers that pain diminishes.
- Charles Hendrick—Lost a friend last week.
- Eleanor Pike—Grateful for Page preaching here this past Sunday
- Jen Davis—Prayers for myself as I have some cardiac testing coming up and a procedure.
- Prayers for Patti Strominger as she recovers at home from a knee replacement



Anniversaries	Birthdays	Birthdays	Birthdays
Michael & Crystal Saxon 04/13	Holly Diccico 04/01	Evelyn Lawson 04/09	Donna Olexick 04/18
Denise & Chris Mathias 04/25	Ivonne Holsinger 04/01	Logan Palochak 04/09	Hannah Lanctot 04/20
Kenneth & Patti Strominger 04/30	Jeff Davis 04/02	Doug Murdoch 04/11	Jim Williams 04/20
	Jason Cagnon 04/09	Denise Mathias 04/16	Paul Magee 04/27





**Vacation Bible School
@Ohio United Presbyterian Church**

**June 8th -June 12th
9:30am-12pm
Age 4 – Finishing 5th Grade**

[Register Here Today!](#)

Also at ohiopresbyterian.org/vacation-bible-school-vbs (not up yet)

**Volunteers welcome! (and needed!)
(finishing 6th and up – sign up on registration form)
Adults must have clearances
Contact casey.honess@gmail.com to volunteer!**

Deacon's 4/14/2026 Meeting

Highlights From the Deacon's 4/14/2026 Meeting

Investigate the Needy – We are always looking into our community to see if we can assist with anyone that may need help.

Correspondence/Cards – We sent out 6 cards in February.

Extra Care List – We have updated contact information for church members that cannot attend services. We recently delivered Easter fruit baskets and chocolates for these members.

Fellowship – We had a wonderful fellowship hour after Palm Sunday service. The remaining schedule is as follows:

May 24, 2026 – Pentecost Sunday (strawberries, cake, fruit punch coffee, and milk)

August 23, 2026 – We secured the Hopewell Township Park pavilion for our annual outside service

Food Programs: We have been blessed with a successful food drive for the Little Free Pantry! Last month we received a donation of 600 boxes of cereal.

Blessing Bags – We currently deliver 10 bags to Hopewell Jr. High; 10 bags to Hopewell Elementary; 8 bags to Margaret Ross Elementary and 2 bags to the Senior High. Delivery to the schools must be before noon on Thursdays unless there is a short week or early Friday dismissal then Wednesday is the delivery day. Next

Meeting – May 12, 2026, at 6:30 pm

Highlights from the April 14th Session Meeting

- The Administration granted Cathy Kapton use of the kitchen, fellowship hall, and nursery to hold a baby shower on July 11th, 2026 from 11am to 7pm.
- The death of member Bonnie (Fouse) Martin (63yrs) occurred on March 16th, 2026.
- Beckett John Lanctot (born 10-20-25), son of Curt and Hannah Lanctot, was administered the sacrament of Baptism on March 22nd, 2026.
- Pastor Jim Steiner intends on starting a New Members class sometime in May.

Actions by Session

- Approved use of the church parking lot for Suzanne Kuzma (teacher at Hopewell Jr. High) to assemble kids for a "Bike Bus" to the Jr. Highschool before the start of classes and then return to the church parking lot at the end of the school day. The date for the "Bike Bus" is April 24th; the rain date is May 1st. A church use request form has been filled out.
- Approved a new software called Churchtrac as recommended by the Finance Committee. This would consolidate and do many things, eliminate Flocknote and Quickbooks while being more cost effective.
- Approved the Financial Audit Report for fiscal year 2025.
- Approved a double baptism on May 31st, 2026 for Kathleen Grace Crosby (b. 10-7-2025), daughter of Chris and Lauren Crosby and Hayes Fouse Hopkins (b.1-22-2026), son of Greg and Lindsay Hopkins.

Joe Glatz, Clerk of Session