



OHIO UNITED

Presbyterian Church

May 3 through May 9, 2026



Dear Friends in Christ,

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together... They broke bread...and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved (Acts 2:42-47).

Merriam-Webster: Success: *The degree or measure of succeeding, the satisfactory completion of something, or the gaining of wealth, respect, or fame. It is fundamentally the favorable or desired outcome of an attempt.*

These past several weeks, the idea / issue / notion of *success* has been bouncing inside my head. How would you define a *successful* church?

- Full pews?
- Lots of young families with kids?
- Vibrant worship and music?
- Balanced, even profitable budget?
- Ten percent to mission?
- A building program?
- Dynamic young pastor...
 - With beautiful children?
 - Plays the guitar?
 - Has 25 years of experience (but is still in his/her 30s)?
 - Phenomenal preaching?

Maybe a better way to define *success* would be to look at the early church, described by Luke in the Book of Acts. If you agree they were *successful*, let's list the evidence:

- Devoting themselves to teaching and fellowship
- Filled with awe at the many wonders and signs (since the apostles are now in heaven) *enabled by the Holy Spirit*
- Believers together, sharing all they have (a.k.a. *tithing!*)
- Spending time together with glad and sincere hearts
- Praising God
- Adding to your numbers *those who are being saved*

Even though the last item speaks of adding to their numbers, it really doesn't say anything about full pews. Those *added to the fellowship were those who were being saved*. The definition of a successful church is a *vibrant community of believers living out their **life in Christ** in and through the Body of Christ called Ohio United Presbyterian Church.*

Or another way to describe success, found in our website: *Loving God, Loving Neighbor; Helping Our Neighbors to Love God*

I believe **OUPC is, and has the makings of a successful church.** You demonstrate the characteristics described by Luke. What I see and experience daily and weekly are the makings of *success*. The key to building on that *success* is *reliance upon* and *response to* the moving of the Holy Spirit. Your next pastor, already identified and named by God, will not be a consultant hired to *grow the church*, but a spiritual shepherd sent by God to lead you where God calls.

Continue to live out your *successful* lives at OUPC. Others will see and come to know your *success*, and more (a.k.a., *those who are being saved*) will be added to your fellowship.

That is what *success* is to me.

In Christ,

Pastor Jim

|



Worship

- Sunday School for children 3yr.-6th grade is during worship after the children's chat
- Adult Sunday School is at 9am
- 74 in church on April 26
- Guest preacher is Judy Angleberger on May 3
- 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
- Deborah Circle meets on Tuesday, May 19 at 6:30pm

Mission

Operations

Monday, May 4 – Finance Committee Meeting at 6pm
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—Prayers for family of little boy killed in Rochester
- Pastor Jim—Rev. Becky Collins from North Sewickley is having major health problems Prayers for healing.
- Prayers for those involved in White House Correspondents Dinner
- Christina Palmer—Prayers for Danny's girlfriend's grandmother who is in hospice
- Dawn Psik—Meeting oncologist for testing
- Anita—Prayers for my husband Phil who is having back problems.
- Taffy Kapton—Prayers for Joel who is seeing a pediatric cardiologist this week.
- Jen Davis—My sister Chris has a date for hip replacement. Thanks for all the prayers.
- Prayers for Jen as she is having a procedure to reshape the inside walls of her heart in June.



Anniversaries	Birthdays	Birthdays	Birthdays
Lois & Kenneth Kearns 05/03	Shelley Summy 05/08	Kim Hughes 05/20	Victoria Guiney 05/28
Lynn & Ber Smith 05/11	Jack Nan 05/09	Jeff Barth 05/21	Chris Mathias 05/29
Simon & Megan Hunsberger 05/14	Bryan Magee 5/10	Wendi Rybicki 05/24	Mark Mitchell 05/29
Michael & Linda Duganich 05/15	Dolly Kerlin 05/15	Edmund Lawson 05/24	Sofia Cronin 05/31
Paul & Karin Magee 05/29	JoAnne Polizotto 05/15	Nick Hoth 05/27	Ava Diccico 05/31
	Ray Atwell 05/19	Robert Hurni 05/27	Patrick Smith 05/31





**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!**