



June 7 through June 13, 2026

Dear Friends in Christ,

A person's steps are directed by the Lord. (Proverbs 20:24).

[N]o one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. (1 Corinthians 2:11).

First, an announcement in the life of the church – Session has called a Special Congregational meeting for this Sunday, June 7, immediately after worship, to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).

The Nominees are:

- **Christi Bechtel**
- **Greg Holsinger**
- **Janis Lewis**
- **Chris Mathias**
- **Marcus McCowin**
- **Corinna Petrella**
- **Eleanor Pike**

This is an important step in the Transitional Process, resulting in the arrival of the person whom God has called to lead OUPC. Once elected, the PNC will gather for training on how to navigate the (somewhat complicated) Search Process in the PC(USA). The training will coincide with the completion and approval of the Self-Study, being prepared by the Transition Team (Christi Bechtel, Ivonne Holsinger, Megan Hunsberger, Ken Jones, and Mark Mitchell). The Congregation will review and approve the Self-Study in the coming weeks.

The PNC will consider the Self-Study, the Survey responses, and the previous *Ministry Discernment Profile* (MDP) prepared by the PNC that called Pastor Kalyn. This may take several weeks, depending on the changes needed for the MDP.

As I have mentioned, the Search Process in the PC(USA) is like online dating. Churches seeking pastors have an online document (the MDP) that describes their characteristics, ministries, hopes, and the type of pastor they are seeking. Candidates seeking a Call have a similar document, the *Personal Discernment Profile* (PDP). The forms are similar, and are matched – PNCs receive “matches” from Candidates who might be a good fit.

The process takes time – churches are looking, and Candidates are looking too. It's moving targets for both sides. As the PNC receives PDPs over time, the Holy Spirit enables their thoughts and opinions, as the members prayerfully discern whom God is calling.

Included in this Newsletter is a document describing the steps in the Process. I will have a large posterboard in the Sanctuary – as each step is complete, we will mark our progress. Also, as the weeks come and go, the PNC will provide regular updates on the progress.

Take a moment and read the two passages again. God will direct the steps of the PNC, and we all must be patient! God knows the time and number of steps in the journey! Further, only God knows whom he has called to be your next leader. You may think you know, but you don't.

But allow me to offer a promise – based on my experiences with eleven previous churches, your PNC, under the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, will be of one mind, one heart, one voice, one opinion, and one Spirit during their search. Ask anyone who has served before – it's amazing (a miracle?) how God the Holy Spirit intervenes and becomes part of the conversation.

Be patient – you are only getting started. God knows what the conclusion looks like, and we must hopefully await the Day of your pastor's arrival.

In Christ,

Pastor Jim

CALL PROCESS CHECKLIST

1. Dissolution of pastoral relationship (Ministry & Vocation, Congregation)
2. Discern the next stage of the life and mission of the church (Transition Team, Session, Congregation, MVC)
3. Self-Study Approved (Session, Congregation)
4. Assess the financial capability of the congregation (Session, MVC)
5. Call details and criteria for the new Position (Session, MVC)
6. Elect Pastor Nominating Committee, representative of the congregation
7. MVC trains Pastor Nominating Committee on Call process
8. Session shares criteria for the new Position with the PNC
9. PNC prepares the Ministry Discernment Profile
10. Session and MVC approve the MDP
11. MVC invites Clerk of Session to access Church Leadership Connection system.
12. PNC enters MDP into the CLC system
13. MVC trains PNC on Personal Discernment Profile review and interview process
14. PNC receives and reviews PDP (Candidate) matches and referrals
15. Reference & background checks (PNC, MVC)
16. Select a Nominee (PNC)
17. Extend a Call (PNC)
18. Negotiate terms of Call (PNC, Session)
19. Approve terms of Call (PNC, Session)
20. Call Congregational meeting to elect the pastor, introduce Candidate (Session, PNC)
21. PNC presents the Candidate to the congregation
22. Candidate sermon, congregation votes (If congregation votes "No", back to step 16)
23. Sign the call. (PNC, Session, MVC)
24. Welcome the new Pastor to the Congregation and community (PNC, Congregation)



Worship

- Sunday School for children 3yr.-6th grade is during worship after the children's chat
- Adult Sunday School this Sunday at 9am.
- 107 in church on May 31

Congregational Care

- Ruth Circle is starting a new Bible Study on **Wednesday, June 10** about the book of Job. The study of Job "Wrestling with God" is written by Paul Stevens. Ruth Circle meets the second Wednesday of the month at 1:00pm in the Library from March through November. If you are interested in an afternoon Bible Study, contact Karen Keller to order a study book.
- VBS IS THIS WEEK!!

Mission

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Operations

Contributions Year To Date: \$95,963
Expenditures Year To Date: \$57,076

VBS Craft Items Needed:

CDs or DVDs
Camp Lanterns

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

Church FAMILY —PRAYER LIST—



- Joy for the baptism of two beautiful babies this past Sunday
- Janice Lewis—Her father Ed is having health issues; Dianne is taking care of him. Prayers for both of them
- Kathy Fouse—Thanking church family for everything and family for traveling
- Rich Palmer—His brother has a heart attack this past Friday evening. Prayers for healing
- Pastor Jim—Thankful that Skye has returned safely from her wonderful trip abroad.
- Dolores Hartley was in the hospital but she is home now. She has a fracture in the lower lumbar region of her back. She is in a lot of pain. Prayers for pain relief and healing.
- There was a fire next door to Sue Hughston's house. She was able to call 911 to prevent the fire from spreading to her home. Praise the Lord!
- Sharon Neville—Her friend, Nola, has pneumonia. Prayers for healing and comfort.



Anniversaries	Anniversaries	Birthdays	Birthdays
Amy & Mark Muslin 6/3	Rich & Dolly Kerlin 6/24	Kristen Nan 6/1	Susan Burak 6/10
Marcus & Jesseca McCowin 6/9	Robert & Chris Humi 6/25	Kenneth Tamburrino 6/2	Richard Kerlin 6/10
Ivonne & Greg Holsinger 6/15	Nick & Kasey Hoth 6/27	Larry Palochak 6/3	Willow Honess 6/12
Andrew & Whitney Shaffer 6/15	Bob & Karen Keller 6/28	Marcy Zombeck 6/6	Paul Kulha 6/13
Kim & Tom Hughes 6/16		Bryan Cronin 6/7	Andrea Tamburrino 6/26
JoAnne & Bill Polizotto 6/21		Caitlin Colesar 6/8	Dolores Hartley 6/27
Doug & Sherri Murdoch 6/22		Penelope Hoth 6/8	Andrew Honess 6/28
			Drew Lewis 6/30