



August 2 through August 8, 2026

Dear Friends in Christ,

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer” (Romans 12:12).

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past” (Isaiah 43:18).

I have been thinking about the unfortunate delays affecting the work of the Pastor Nominating Committee – maybe you’ve been wondering what’s happening. Once the Self-Study was approved, and the PNC elected, we tried to have someone from Ministry & Vocation (MVC) train them in July. Unfortunately, MVC requires that all seven members be present for the first training session. There were no days in July or August when all seven PNC members were available, so we are now in September. I remain hopeful that the training will be *Monday, September 21* – pray for that date!

Once the PNC is trained, they will begin their work. The best will be for them to meet weekly. Since it’s only been a short time since the last Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) was posted, hopefully it won’t take too long to post the new one.

In the NIV above, the word is *affliction*, but other translations have trouble, setbacks, or sufferings. I sincerely hope that the momentum we had has not been lost. We were all excited in June, and now we find ourselves approaching August. Has the wind gone out of your sails? Has there been a letdown? Are you impatient for news?

My friends, Ohio Church is alive and well, and we are moving forward, if only at a slow and deliberate pace. Again, I remain confident the PNC will move quickly to post the MDP and begin to receive resumes. Work is proceeding on the manse, also at a deliberate pace. Ohio remains a significant contributor to the life of Hopewell, and your leaders remain committed to spreading the Good News of the Gospel. Worship continues to be a blessing to everyone (it certainly is a blessing to me each week!)

As each day comes to a close, Ohio moves forward into a bright future, and one day further from the past. The prophet instructs us, *“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.”* Certainly our past has shaped us, and however we were changed goes with us into the future. But (again) let us keep our eyes on what lies ahead, and not behind.

We will get there – let us be patient and hopeful. God is in charge.

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 • 83 in church on July 19; 73 in church on July 26
Congregational Care
• Communion is on August 9 • Ruth Circle is on Wednesday, August 12 at 1pm • Church Picnic and worship is on Sunday, August 23 at 10am at Hopewell Park. Bring a chair and a covered dish to share
Mission
•
Operations
• Property Meeting is on August 3 at 6:30pm

The Story Time team is seeking gently loved stuffed animals to be part of our story time in the fall. The children will adopt one to be their ‘new friend’. Each Wednesday morning it will enjoy some cuddles and dancing.

If you would like to rehome a plush animal we’d appreciate it. Our little ones would be most comfortable hugging ones that are about 12” -16”. There will be a bin in the Narthex or you may drop them off in the church office.

Church FAMILY —PRAYER LIST—



- Sharon Neville—Kortney's mom diagnosed with breast cancer
- Sally Alviani fell and broke right wrist
- Pastor Jim—Joy for love and stewardship from our church
- Prayers for property committee
- Prayers for peace
- Prayers for Steve and Monica Ward. They lost his Aunt Alice.
- Paul Kulha is home after a stroke. Prayers for continued healing
- Dave Kocher has a new hip. He is healing well.
- Amy Muslin—Dr. Brett Quinto an endocrinologist called to Jordan Base that was attacked. He is safe but destroyed his office
- Diane Gennaro—Sister-in-law Chris starting new breast cancer drug
- Dawn Psik— Prayers for sister Sue as she goes back to work; she is tired as she continues meds
- Jen Davis—Mom is home! Thank you for all your prayers!
- Dick Klein—Prayers for his friend Bruce and his son Doug who has stage 4 cancer
- Lynn Smith—Her friend Bob has cancer
- Caroline S.--Baby boy not much of an immune system
- Great Bake Sale! Thank you!



Anniversaries	Birthdays	Birthdays
Ryan & Katie Lucas 8/05	Alan Repman 8/03	Brooke Otto 8/13
Steven & Monica ward 8/08	Breanna white 8/04	Owen Smith 8/13
Andrew & Casey Honess 8/16	Kristy Otto 8/05	Leah Moreno 8/14
Corinna & Joe Petrella 8/22	Zbig Lachowicz 8/06	Slade McLinden 8/15
Ken & Trevis Gregory 8/28	John Martin 8/09	Hayden Lewis 8/18
Dylan & Chelsea Winkle 8/28	Nancy Hribar 8/11	Shirley Fluharty 8/22
	Catherine Kapton 8/12	Rachel Colesar 8/27