



July 5 through July 11, 2026

Dear Friends in Christ,

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

First, my sincere thanks to you for your patience this summer. I haven't been able to write a weekly newsletter these past few weeks (my sincere thanks to those who filled in for me.) These past few weeks have been very busy, personally and professionally.

And to the scripture above – if you've been paying attention, the passage above is the same one I used for the June 4 newsletter. This week's offering is (once again) about *steps*. Ohio Church continues to *take steps* towards the arrival of your next pastor. This past Sunday, you approved the excellent Self-Study prepared by the Transition Team. The Study was developed based on comments from the five Listening Sessions, the Questionnaire, discussions with members, and our own lively conversations about OUPC. You all responded very well to the "GodViews" analysis we presented.

Once they receive training, the PNC will use the Study (and their own prayers and discussions) to prepare the Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP), the online document that will describe OUPC. Those looking for a call will respond to our MDP, and submit their own online document.

No one knows how long things will take – no one knows how many resumes will be received, or how many interviews the PNC will have. Only God knows, and he is the One who will direct the steps of the search.

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 • 72 in church on June 20; 75 in church on July 28 • Communion on Sunday July 12
Congregational Care
• Ruth Circle is on Wednesday, July 8 • Session is meeting on July 14 at 7pm • Deacon’s Meeting is on July 26 following worship
Mission
•
Operations
• Property Meeting on Monday, July 6

Church FAMILY —PRAYER LIST—



- Jen Davis—Thank you for all your prayers for myself and my mom. I'll have the results from my procedure in a few weeks. Mom is back at her facility working with PT, OT, and speech therapy. She's exhausted but happy to be home.
- Janis Lewis—Dad, Ed, has Hodgkin's lymphoma . He will have chemo for a while. My sister Kira has breast cancer. Prayers for healing and comfort.
- Rich Palmer—My cousin, Frank, passed away on Saturday night. Prayers of comfort and peace for the family
- Courtney Marlatt's brother was killed in a car a crash on his way from Florida to his mom's in Michigan. His wife Lillian and 2 year old son are in Florida. Prayers of comfort for families.



Anniversaries	Birthdays	Birthdays	Birthdays
Drew & Janis Lewis 7/5	Michael Kamenski 7/1	Dylan Winkle 7/14	Susan Palochak 7/25
Edward & Susan Burak 7/7	Jack Gennaro 7/4	Mark Olexick 7/15	Chelsea Winkle 7/25
Roger & Belinda Notte, Jr. 7/9	Joshua Magee 7/7	William Diccico 7/17	Alexa Burak 7/28
Andrea & Kenneth Tamburrino 7/10	Brittany McLinden 7/7	Steven Ward 7/17	Edna Petrella 7/28
	Chris Otto 7/9	Miles Rastetter 7/22	Jenn Davis 7/30
	Alexander Colesar 7/14	Christina Palmer 7/24	Jessica McCowin 7/30
	Kendal Smith 7/14	Rose Honess 7/25	

Bakers and Helpers are Needed

The Women's Association will be having a Bake Sale on Saturday July 25th during the Hopewell Twp. Yard Sale Crawl. Bakers and helpers are needed.

Bakers: All types of baked goods are welcomed. They need to be packaged to sell. Cookies should be packed in zip lock bags, packaged to sell for \$2.00 a bag. Baked goods should be dropped off at the church on Friday between 5 and 6pm. If you have access to the church, they can be dropped off earlier and marked that they are for the bake sale.

Helpers: We will be setting up at 7:30 am on Saturday. Plan to bring a chair with you if you will be staying for the sale. That will be easier than carrying chairs from the church. We will need help carrying tables from the church outside.

All proceeds will benefit the Ohio UP General Fund.

Please Contact Eleanor Pike (724-601-4007) or Patti Strominger (724-494-2160) if you have any questions.

Thank you for any help or baking you are able to provide.