



August 23 through August 29, 2026

The people all responded together, “We will do everything the Lord has said” (Exodus 19:8).

Dear Friends in Christ,

If you are reading this on the 20th, 21st, or 22nd, you still have time to respond to my request to come to the church picnic! In case you’ve been away, we meet this Sunday at 10:00, at the Hopewell Community Park, Pavillion 3. If you don’t know where it is, call someone to ask! Bring food to share, and a chair. We will have a (almost) full worship service, then (what I really enjoy about ministry!) eat! OUPC is a loving, hospitable church that loves to eat. Please come and enjoy!

This week and next, I will be preaching about two famous “calls” in Scripture – the calls of Gideon and Moses. In both cases, God called, but the one receiving the call spent quite a long time arguing with God! Gideon tried at first to tell God he was calling the wrong guy, then tested God several times just to make sure. Moses came up with a multitude of excuses why he was the wrong choice.

If we consider these two calls carefully, we are most likely convicted: How often has God called us, and we argue or disagree? How many have made excuses as to why God must be mistaken? Too little? Too much? To this or that? (I won’t ask for a show of hands...)

This letter is a case of *do-as-I-say-not-as-I-do* – I avoided, declined, and argued against God’s call to ministry for twenty-seven years, until I finally succumbed to his call. I often wonder what my life and ministry would have been like if I had said “YES” over fifty years ago. (On the other hand, the events that took place during those fifty-plus years have shaped my ministry for today.)

My friends, God is calling – I don’t know to what, or how, but he has something in mind for YOU, especially at OUPC. For your own good, and for the good of the Body of Christ, I encourage you to listen (carefully!) to the Call of God. When you respond, he will bless your response.

Don’t do what I did, waiting for twenty-seven years – as it says above, *[t]he people all responded together, “We will do everything the Lord has said”*

Let’s respond together.

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 • 75 in church on August 9; 82 in church on August 16
Congregational Care
• 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

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.



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 McLynden 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



- JoAnne Polizotto's husband, Bill, had major back surgery. Prayers that it was a success and that he is healing well.
- Christina Palmer—Her niece got engaged! What a joy!
- Diane Gennaro—Joy that her voice is returning and that the spinal ablation was successful
- Megan Hunsberger—Prayers for trip to Iceland
- Jen Davis—Trevis Gregory is at Cedar Hill Health and Rehab for her broken thigh bone. Doing well with rehab.
- Evelyn Lawson fell and had a softball size hematoma on her leg, In Mercy Hospital. She had a transfusion. Hopefully will be home in a few days
- Caroline S.--Thanks for prayers for baby. A donor was found. Surgery is on Thursday.continued prayers for baby without an immune system.
- Dave Kocher—Thank you for prayers. He is feeling much better.
- Mark H.--Sister was accepted at college
—Aunt lost her mother
- Kenny Jones—Lost friend, Mark
- Mark M—Brotherin Law diagnosed with lung and pancreatic cancer. He's refusing treatment



**On Sunday,
September 13, we
will hold a special
collection to
support the Garden
of Knowledge
Library and help us
automate our book**

**collection and lending process. Our children's library
continues to grow and now includes more than 1,300
books. Last year, over 50 children participated in
Storytime, with more than 20 children regularly checking
out books to enjoy at home each week .**

**Automating our library will allow us to better organize and
track our growing inventory, manage book checkouts and
returns, and ensure that our collection remains a valuable
resource for the children and families we serve. Please
consider making a special contribution on September 13
to help us continue growing and improving this important
ministry. If making your donation by check, please write
“Library Automation” on the memo line.**

Highlights from the August 13th Session Meeting

- Jennifer Davis has stepped down as Director of Safety and Wellness Team.
- The Clerk of Session filed the Annual Report to the State of PA for Non-profit Corporations before the June 30th deadline.
- A gift of \$5,000 was donated to the Manse Fund in honor of Bonnie Martin.
- PNC training to begin Monday, September 21st.

Actions by Session

- By email vote, approved allowing food trucks and trailers in the parking lot at the 2026 homecoming parade.
- Baptism - approved the baptism request for Andie Lucas, the daughter of Ryan and Katie Lucas.
- Revised the wedding and church use policies.
- Moved the September Session Meeting to September 15th, 2026.
- Dissolved the Transition Team.
- Agreed by consensus, Pastor Jim's September vacation from Sat 9/5 thru Sun 9/13.
- Approved fundraising for the Children's Library which has over 1300 books. The goal is to raise \$1500.

Joseph R. Glatz, Clerk of Session