



August 9 through August 15, 2026

Dear Friends in Christ,

“He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds” (Psalm 147:3).

“...a time to heal...and a time to build...” (Ecclesiastes 3:3).

Dear Friends in Christ,

Many years ago (I was about three years old), I was at a neighbor’s house, and we were banging our hands on a storm door. Suddenly, the glass shattered and exploded (safety glass was not used in storm doors until the late 70s, twenty years later)! Needless to say, my hand and wrist began bleeding profusely, and I was terrified. My mom raced over to help, but I thought she was mad at me – I ran from her, directly through a rose bush trellis! I still have the scar on my left thumb (and wrist), and as you can tell by now, I vividly remember the event.

The scar remains from that episode; I vividly remember what happened; I will carry the memory with me for the rest of my life.

But do I now avoid storm doors? Do I freak out when a glass door closes too loudly? (I will admit that, years ago, I caught my two grandchildren banging on their door, and I did react rather strongly...)

So why am I telling you this? Here is the reason:

We’ve all had things happen to us – we remember them, good and bad. They become part of us, part of our *“life portfolio.”* But they should not control our every action? Should they dominate our behavior? Should they evoke fear in everything we do?

Just over a year ago, Ohio experienced some painful difficulties. This past year has been one of trial and tribulation. Friends and families have left our fellowship; not-so-nice words were exchanged; feelings were hurt. Painful memories remain.

But, *“...he heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.”* We can look at the life and experiences of Christ, and stand in awe as we see the hurt and pain he experienced. But Jesus is the great healer, and he will bind up our wounds from our past. Indeed, *“...there is a time to heal, and a time to build.”*

My brothers and sisters, our wounds are healing, but scars will remain. Let us not become preoccupied with those marks, but let us look to the future with joyous anticipation. Christ is not only the great healer, he is the great builder. Let us continue as a community, as a loving Body of Christ, continue to heal and build for the future.

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 • 58 in church on August 2
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
Finance Committee Meeting is on Monday, August 17 at 6pm

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



CHURCH *picnic*

And worship

On August 23 at 10am

At Hopewell Park

*Bring a chair and
a covered dish to share*