



September 27 through October 3, 2026



Dear Friends in Christ,

*“But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day” (2 Peter 3:8).*

*Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord (Psalm 27:14).*

This past week, Monday was a great day. Your Finance Committee met, and year-to-date, total income is essentially equal to the annual budget. Your financial response to God’s grace and provision has exceeded expectations. Financially, emotionally, physically (building-wise), and spiritually, things are UP!

A year ago, your Session was concerned they would not be able to pay my salary. But as things began to get back to “normal,” giving resumed, even increased. Attendance is now stable – in a few weeks, you will welcome seven new members into the Body.

As you know, the manse work continues – it is beautiful! New flooring is being installed; the upstairs hardwood floors will be sanded and refinished. Final touches are in the near future.

***And the final reason Monday was so great? Your Pastor Nominating Committee had its first training session!***

Rev. Jason Sinagra from Ministry & Vocation instructed the PNC on the first phase of the search process, the preparation of the online document describing OUPC and its ministries.

The PNC members are:

- Christi Bechtel, Chair
- Marcus McCowin, Vice-Chair
- Greg Holsinger
- Janice Lewis
- Chris Mathias
- Corinna Petrella
- Eleanor Pike

The group is balanced and diverse – three have been members since birth, one has been here thirty years, and three for five years. A wonderful assembly!

So why the verses above? We are all very anxious for your new pastor to arrive. As I have said, God has known his/her identity since the beginning of time – but we must wait for God to reveal the name! Our timing is not God’s timing – we must remain patient and let the process play out to a successful conclusion.

Rev. Sinagra made a comment about OUPC that is very appropriate; “You are now healthy enough to start looking for a new pastor.”

It has been my honor, privilege, and joy to help you through the process. But be patient and wait on the Lord!

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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sunday School for children 3yr.-6th grade is during worship after the children’s chat</li><li>• Adult Sunday school is at 9am studying Judges</li><li>• 84 in church on September 20</li><li>• Communion is on October 4</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Congregational Care                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Choir Rehearsals begin on Sunday, September 13 after worship. The choir will sing every other week starting September 27. You don’t have to read music or even sing well to join us for fun, fellowship and praising God through music!</li><li>• Story Time is back in action on Wednesday, September 23 at 9:30 or 10:30!</li><li>• Women’s Association Meeting on October 6 at 6:30pm</li><li>• <b><i>Women’s Retreat, October 24, 2026, Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Judy Angleberger. Details included on Sign up sheets located in narthex</i></b></li></ul>                                                      |
| Mission                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Manna is on Tuesday, September 29. Set up starts at 5:15pm. Need volunteers to serve and clean up. If you can help, please contact Linda Duganich at 724-622-7929.</b></li><li>• On Sunday, September 27, Brandi Pupi, the director of Aliquippa Impact, will be giving a Minute for Mission. Over the summer Aliquippa Impact hosted their summer camp for 85 youth. The children learned how to play drums, write poetry, and speak Spanish. They also helped at the food pantry, made bookmarks for the library and much more. The loose offering on the 27th will go to support Aliquippa Impact.</li></ul> |
| Operations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Property Meeting is on Monday October 5 at 6:30pm</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

A heartfelt thank you to the members of Ohio United Presbyterian Church for your incredibly generous support of the Garden of Knowledge children’s Library automation project.

Because of your generosity, we received enough donations to complete the project! Your support will allow us to automate our collection of more than 1,300 children’s books and make checking out and managing the library much easier,

We are so grateful for your continued support of the Garden of Knowledge Library and, most importantly, for your investment in the children and families who enjoy it. Thank you for helping our library continue to grow!

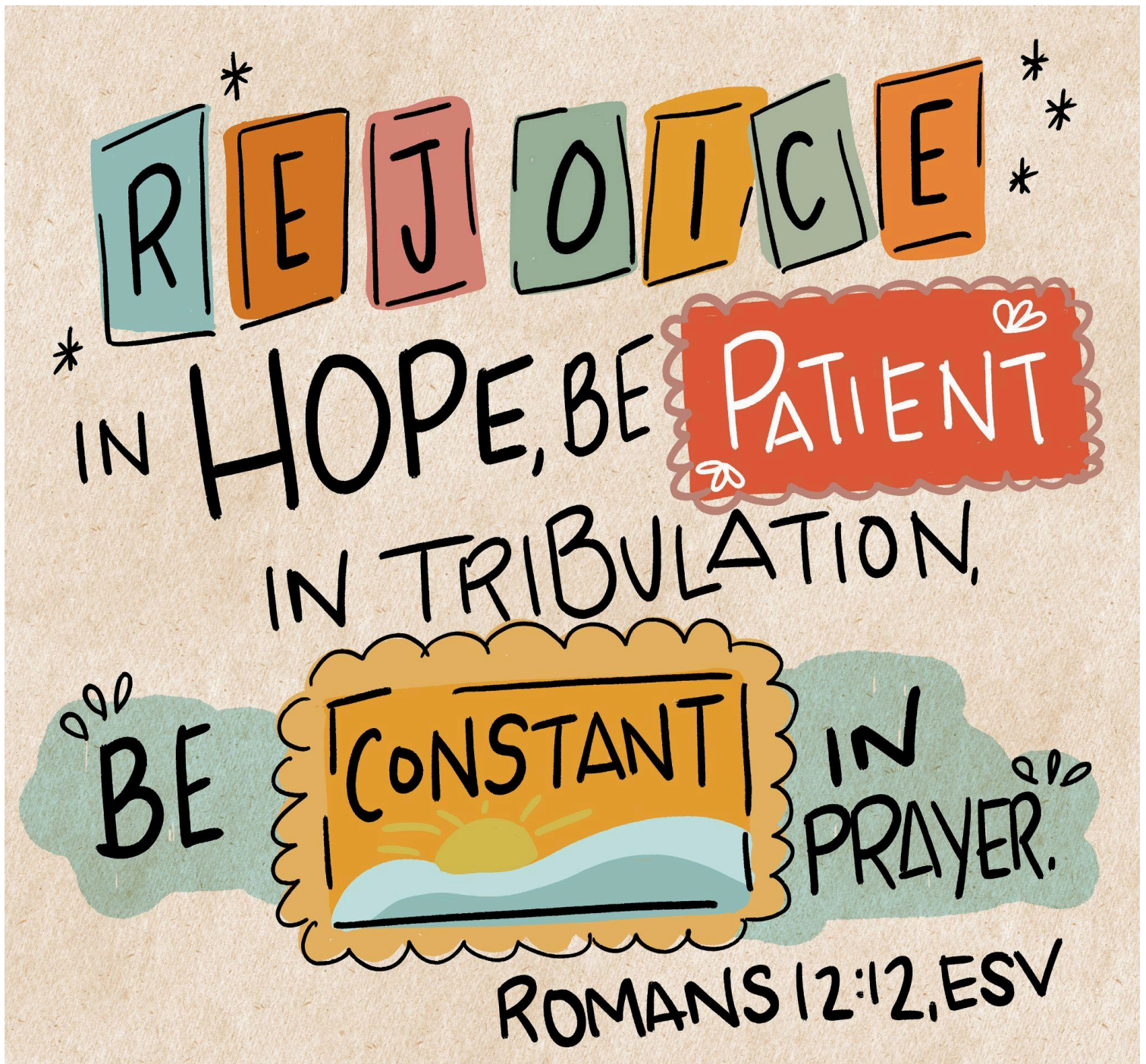
Christina



| Anniversaries                    | Birthdays          | Birthdays               | Birthdays             |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Chris & Kristy Otto<br>9/02      | Edward Burak 9/01  | Charles Hendrick 9/17   | Emma Diccico 9/26     |
| Charles & Linda<br>Hendrick 9/04 | Karen Gartley 9/03 | Karen Keller 9/17       | Kiara Kapton 9/28     |
| Elizabeth & Alan<br>Repman 9/15  | Ken Jones 9/5      | Terri Owczarzak<br>9/20 | Michael Sardo 9/28    |
| Donna & Mark<br>Olexick 9/25     | Sue Hughston 9/10  | Nicholas Barth 9/22     | Ella Mae Spieker 9/28 |
| Eleanor & Richard<br>Pike 9/26   | Ginny Adams 9/12   | Linda Hendrick 9/22     |                       |
| Diane & Jack<br>Gennaro 9/30     | Chris Humi 9/15    | Parker Hoth 9/23        |                       |



| Anniversaries                   | Birthdays              | Birthdays              | Birthdays             |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Ken & Lorraine Jones<br>10/05   | Joe Gavita 10/03       | Dana Gavita 10/14      | Peggy Franzese 10/20  |
| Nancy & Kevin Hribar 10/11      | Greg Holsinger 10/08   | Breyson Hoth 10/14     | Emmet Rastetter 10/22 |
| Caitlin & Nick Colesar<br>10/15 | Eleanor Pike 10/08     | Brittany Smith 10/16   | Peggy Atwell 10/24    |
| Jeff & Jennifer Davis 10/16     | Karen Bauder 10/09     | Patti Strominger 10/18 | Keith Murdoch 10/24   |
| Scott & Sharon Neville<br>10/16 | Lois Kearns 10/10      | Calliope Hoth 10/19    | Trent Nan 10/29       |
| Susan & Larry Palochak<br>10/23 | Shanna Rastetter 10/12 | Kenneth Kearns 10/19   |                       |
|                                 | Janis Lewis 10/13      | Lillian Otto 10/19     |                       |



- Shirley F.--granddaughter getting married on Saturday in Massachusetts. Shirley will be playing at the wedding. Granddaughter is neighbors with a former pastor from Zelionople
- Sharon N.--Her friend had a biopsy and they found MRSA and other results. She is 81 and needs our prayers. Also, Shayna fell and broke her arm had surgery on Monday
- Missy S.--Prayers for family coming in for niece's wedding.
- Dawn P.--Her sister Susan met with oncologist ; getting a liver scan

## **Ohio UP Deacons**

The Deacons want the congregation to be aware that we are available to assist not only our church members but also our community as well. Please reach out to any Deacon if there is a need and we will do what we can to help. The list of the current Deacons is on the back of the bulletin or you can call the church office for assistance.

**Amen to Action Volunteer Opportunity**  
**Our Lady of Fatima Gymnasium**  
**November 7, 2026**  
**8:30am-11:30am**

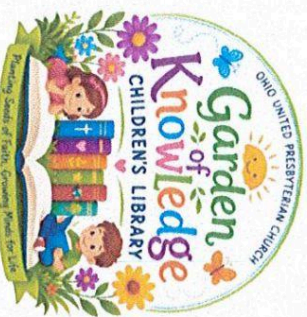
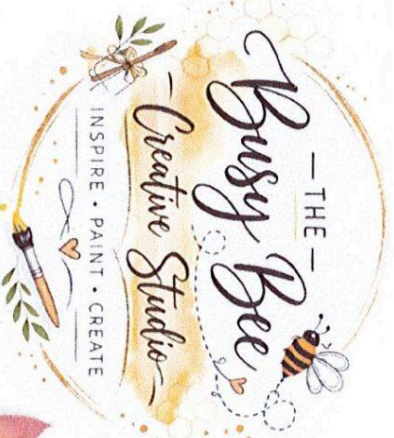
**Mary Queen of Saints will be hosting Amen to Action – an interfaith project to prepare 75,000 packaged meals. All meals will be going to Families Matter Food Pantry. They will be shared with a couple of pantries in the county.**

**Volunteers (230) will help package the food which will be provided by Meals of Hope. All packaging materials will also be provided by Meals of Hope.**

**If interested in volunteering for this awesome event, sign up on Amen to Action website <https://plf.org/amen-to-action-volunteer/>**

**Questions, contact Jim or Peg Bishop at [mrbishop58@hotmail.com](mailto:mrbishop58@hotmail.com)  
Or [pbishop158@yahoo.com](mailto:pbishop158@yahoo.com)**

# Paint Party FUNDRAISER!



Benefits: Garden of Knowledge  
Children's Library at OUPC



Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>  
| 1-3:30 PM

**Projects are \$45**

All projects are  
18 inches tall or round

## Five Options to Choose From!

Option 1



Option 2



Option 3



Option 4



Option 5



**A little note about paint colors:** Each project comes with a pre-poured paint palette featuring the colors shown in the example. Please plan to use those colors as additional color options are not typically available at the Party. Everything you need to paint your selected design will be ready for you!

No refunds once registration closes.  
Unable to attend? I'll be happy to pack  
your project and supplies to go!

**All Registrations are due no later than  
October 17th!**



SCAN HERE

## Highlights from the September Stated Session Meeting

### *Actions by Session:*

- *Approved the use of the facilities (kitchen and fellowship hall) by the Margaret Ross PTA (Casey Honess) to prepare hoagies for a school fundraiser. The date is Wednesday, October 28th 9am - 1pm for assembling and 2pm - 5pm for pickup. Tuesday evening would also be needed to drop off supplies.*
- *Approved the date for the Hopewell Big-band concert (paid for by the Musicians Union). The date is Thursday, December 10th from 7pm to approximately 9pm.*
- *Approved a request from the Property Committee for funds (not to exceed \$1,000) to finish repairs on the Manse.*
- *Approved the renewal transitional contract of the Rev. James R. Steiner for the period October 1st, 2026 to March 30th, 2027.*
- *Approved the use of \$5,000 out of the Building Fund by the Property Committee to repair the lift which has issues with the control board.*
- *Approved the purchase of a laptop computer (not to exceed \$600) for the Clerk of Session to use in place of the archaic computer in room 20.*

### *Other Information:*

- *PNC training started September 21st.*
- *Baptism of Andie Marie Lucas (born 4/6/26) on September 27th.*
- *Last Manna for Ohio UPC to be September 29th.*
- *Christmas Cantata scheduled for December 20th.*
- *Mission Committee is in need of a Vacation Bible School Director.*

*Joseph R. Glatz, Clerk of Session*