



September 20 through September 26, 2026

Dear Friends in Christ,

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us (Romans 12:4-6).

So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church (1 Corinthians 14:12).

When we give our life to Christ, God sends the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, to live inside us. One Greek word used by Jesus to describe the Holy Spirit is *paraklete*, meaning, “one who walks alongside.” Besides the gift of eternal life, we also receive another thing (or things) – we receive *spiritual gifts*. Every Christian has at least one spiritual gift; some have more.

The next three weeks, my messages will look at spiritual gifts. If we read Scripture, we can count fifteen; some books list as many as twenty-seven. The most important thing is to discern and know what our gift is (or what our *gifts* are.) As I have said, another *benefit* of knowing your gifts is knowing what our gifts *are not* – if we are not comfortable with teaching, or administration, or hospitality, that’s fine – maybe God has given us another gift.

Have you ever taken a spiritual gift survey? Do you know what your gifts are? We will be distributing a survey in the coming weeks for you to fill out. After you’re finished, you will have some idea of what God has given you.

More important, once you discover what your gift is, God himself *commands* us to live it out to build up the Body of Christ. Every member of the Body is important, and each one contributes to the work of the Body.

In a future newsletter, I will include a brief list descriptions of some spiritual gifts. Look them over, and see what interests you – perhaps God is speaking.

As you read this, we await the actual first meeting of Ohio’s Pastor Nominating Committee – they will receive training this coming Monday. Continue to pray for your PNC, as they work to discern whom God has called to be your next pastor – they need your support, encouragement, and prayers.

Work continues on the manse renovation – the new floor is being installed, and they are working on finishing touches. (I’ve stopped in, and it’s beautiful.) Many thanks to all who contributed their time, talents, and finances.

Challenges remain, but this is only brief period in the life and history of OUPC. God is faithful, and since we know there is a “happy ending” ahead, enjoy the journey.

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)



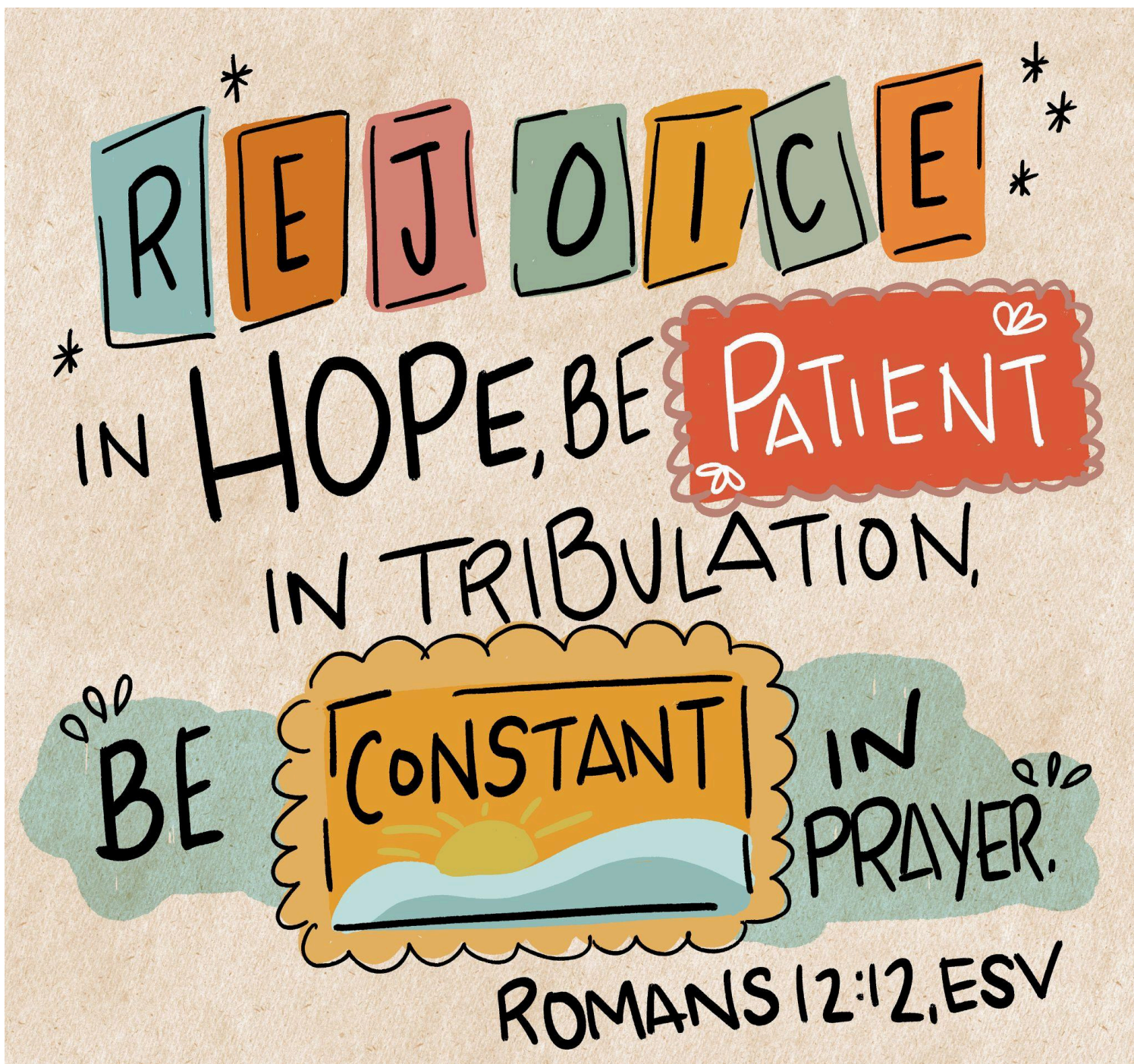
Worship
• Sunday School for children 3yr.-6th grade is during worship after the children’s chat • Adult Sunday school is at 9am studying Judges • 69 in church on September 13
Congregational Care
• Choir Rehearsals begin on Sunday, September 13 after worship. The choir will sing every other week starting September 27. You don’t have to read music or even sing well to join us for fun, fellowship and praising God through music! • <i>Women’s Retreat, October 24, 2026, Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Judy Angleberger. Details included on Sign up sheets located in narthex</i>
Mission
• 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. • 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.
Operations
•

Prayer Shawls
Have you been in Sunday Worship and have seen a Prayer Shawl or Baby Blanket being blessed and thought of an OUP Member, a family member, a friend or co-worker who might feel blessed to receive one? If so, please contact Eleanor Pike by phone or text 724-601-4007 or call the church office.

We are looking for volunteers to provide music on Sundays when the choir doesn’t sing. The choir will be singing every other Sunday starting 9/27. That song you have been wanting to share? Sing it! Play piano! Flute! Guitar! Harp! Anything is welcome! Please share your gift! Just sign up on the sheet outside the choir room.



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



- Prayers of comfort for the family of Zbig Lachowicz who passed on Monday.

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.

Highlights from Deacon's Meeting October 8

Investigate the Needy – If any members of the church know anyone that may need the Deacon's help please let us know. We are always looking into our community to see if we can assist anyone that may need help.

Correspondence/Cards – We sent out 29 cards from May through August.

Extra Care List – We have updated contact information for church members that cannot attend services.

Fellowship – The annual church picnic was a success as over 60 people attended service. We are also planning for Pastor Appreciation Day to be held on either October 11, 2026, or October 25, 2026.

Food Programs: We continually maintain inventory for the Little Free Pantry and will be making food purchases during September and October.

Blessing Bags – We will be delivering to Hopewell Jr. and Sr. High, Hopewell Elementary, and Margret Ross Elementary this year. We are awaiting a final count from the schools. Last school year, we delivered 10 bags to Hopewell Jr. High; 10 bags to Hopewell Elementary; 8 bags to Margaret Ross Elementary; and 2 bags to the Senior High. We will need to have volunteers to help pack the bags. delivery day.

Community Update: Our Lady of Fatima is having an "Amen to Action" interfaith event on November 7, 2026. They are looking for volunteers to prepare 75,000 packaged meals. The Deacons discussed volunteering on this day to help.

Next Meeting – October 13, 2026, at 6:30 pm

**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.

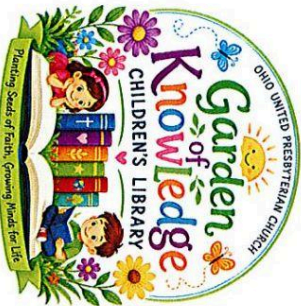
If interested in volunteering for this awesome event, sign up on Amen to Action website <https://plf.org/amen-to-action-volunteer/>

**Questions, contact Jim or Peg Bishop at mrbishop58@hotmail.com
Or pbishop158@yahoo.com**



Paint Party

FUNDRAISER!



Benefits: Garden of Knowledge
Children's Library at OUPC



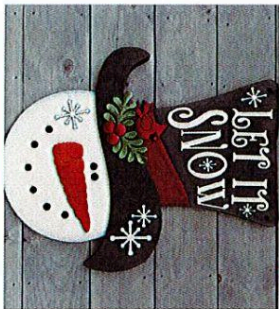
Saturday, November 21st
1-3:30 PM

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!



CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

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!

