

First Presbyterian Church of Grove City

Monthly Digest

AUGUST 2026

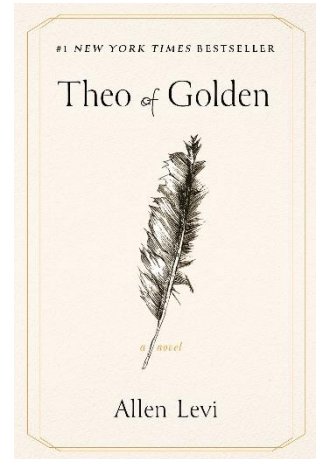


"To Know Christ and Make Him Known"

From the Desk of the Pastor

Dear Church,

Have you read Theo of Golden? Have you heard about it? It's the debut novel of Georgia attorney and musician Allen Levi, and it quickly became a best seller. For me, it was one of those novels I didn't want to end. And after I finished it, I didn't want to read anything else! From Allen's website: "Theo of Golden is the endearing story of a curious old man who quietly moves into a southern city and, for reasons unknown to anyone but himself, undertakes a campaign of anonymous generosity. Theo's love for people, combined with his fondness for books, art, birds, and story, unite in a colorful expression of outreach and affection." Besides being a wonderful story, it weaves important themes of faith (What does it mean to believe in heaven? What is a calling? How do we experience God?), without being overtly religious. Let me know if you have read it and what you think. Let me know if you'd like to read it and then talk it over.



As we turn the calendar to August, there is LOTS to look forward to! Your church leaders are busy — how will you plug in? Would you like to be part of a monthly small group for the coming year? Read more and sign up! Did you know our church financially supports the annual West Virginia work camp called Cabell-Lincoln? Don't miss worship on August 9 when this year's team will lead worship and share their experiences. Do you carry a backpack? Or a book bag or a briefcase or satchel? Bring it with you to worship on August 16 for the Blessing of the Backpacks. We will send our young people back to school with a tangible blessing, and we have blessings for adults as well! On August 23, bring a dish to share, and join us for worship around the tables in Fellowship Hall. AND before the month is over, we will welcome Pastor Peter Okyere, Presbytery Minister for Immigrants, to our pulpit on August 30. Whew!

See you in church,

Rev. Wendy McCormick

(812) 455-9556, w.mccormick@fpcgc.org

Important Upcoming Dates

Aug. 2 nd	Baptism & Communion
Aug. 9 th	Mission Work Camp participants lead worship
Aug. 16 th	Blessing of the Backpacks
Aug. 23 rd	Summer Worship and Potluck Celebration (Worship in the Fellowship Center)
Sept. 27 th	Illuminati LGBTQ+ Sacred Music Ensemble performs during service

News & Notes



Work Camp Sunday

August 9th is Workcamp Sunday! Those who worked on homes in West Virginia in June will lead us in worship and share their thoughts about serving in this unique and important ministry!



Blessing on the Backpacks

On August 16th, we will have our traditional Blessing of the Backpacks to welcome and bless a new school year.

Bring any bag, satchel, briefcase, etc. that you will use in your daily life, and we will bless it.



Make New Friends and Keep the Old!

If you would like to be part of a small group, now is the time to sign up! Groups will meet monthly for about an hour, starting in September. Each gathering will include a short Bible study and time for fellowship and getting better acquainted. One gathering is already established: Third Wednesday of each month, 2:00-3:00 pm. You can sign up for this time, or you can sign up and indicate that you prefer "evening" or "weekend" and you will be connected with a group. Sign up on the FPCGC app or in the narthex!



Summer Worship & Potluck Celebration

Join us on August 23rd for our annual summer worship celebration. We will gather in the fellowship hall for a brief service, then enjoy lunch. Bring a dish to share! Don't miss this opportunity for food, fellowship and fun!



Special Musical Guests: Illuminati

We are pleased to welcome Illuminati, the sacred music ensemble of the Columbus Gay Men's Chorus, to worship on Sunday, September 27. Through sacred song, Illuminati shares the message that all people are whole, holy, loved, and have a place in the faith community. We hope you will join us for this special service!

Learn more at www.cgmc.com/illuminati.



Monthly Blood Pressure Screenings

Beginning in September, Barbara Parker, RN, from LifeCare Alliance will offer free blood pressure screenings during Fellowship Time on the first Sunday of each month.

Barbara is already a familiar face at First Presbyterian Church through her work here on Mondays and Fridays. Stop by during Fellowship Time for a quick and convenient blood pressure check.

From the Pastor Nominating Committee

The Pastor Nominating Committee continues to carefully review candidates recommended from across the denomination. We have also been contacted by candidates who have expressed interest in serving our congregation.

We are currently conducting phone interviews with selected candidates. Video interviews and in-person visits may follow as the process continues. At the same time, we are continuing to review new candidates identified through the PC(USA) Church Leadership Connection portal.

We will continue sharing updates through the church website, bulletin board, worship announcements, and other church communications.

Please pray for those being interviewed, those conducting the interviews, the members of the PNC, and for continued wisdom and discernment throughout this process.

Faithfully,

FPCGC Pastor Nominating Committee

Phyllis Gibbs • Kate Hardin-Hernandez • Gary Isaacs • John Mulvany
John Noss II • Bridget Okata • Pat Wiedner

Giving

July 2026:

Income \$27,609.57

Expense \$18,862.37

YTD:

Income \$202,585.26

Expense \$176,890.99

Attendance

July 2026 Total Average Attendance: 90

In Person Average (Counted & Signed In): 82

Online Average (Commenting or using app): 15

Online Average Views (on Facebook & Youtube): 324 views