

First Presbyterian Church of Grove City

Monthly Digest

OCTOBER 2026



"To Know Christ and Make Him Known"

From the Desk of the Pastor

Greetings!

It has been a year since I was blessed to become part of this congregation during your pastoral transition. There is much to celebrate in all that you have accomplished to prepare for your next installed pastor! And in so many ways you have demonstrated the strength and commitment of this congregation as you have stepped up to keep the church moving forward and not just waiting around.

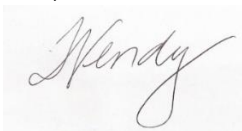
The Session and I have agreed to extend our original contract, and I look forward to continuing as your Transitional Pastor through November of this year. And then I look forward to retiring! Not surprisingly, church leaders are already on top of securing pastoral leadership for the "gap" between when I retire and when your Pastor Nominating Committee finishes its work. So stay tuned --- in the next few weeks you will be hearing about those plans.

This month, we welcome John Noss II to his new full-time role as Director of Communications and Operations. It has been a great privilege for me to work alongside John and to work with Session members as they came up with this creative solution to many of the challenges facing churches like ours today. John's faith and skills make him the ideal person to manage the operational and communications needs of our congregation and to help us communicate more effectively beyond our walls.

On October 4 we celebrate World Communion Sunday with your wonderful traditions of bounteous international breads and worship music from all around the globe. Our guest preacher will be Rev Emily Krause Corzine, Presbyterian pastor and our presbytery's Presbyterian for Congregational Life and Transitions. And on October 11 we welcome Rev Dr Rick Nutt as our preacher. Also a Presbyterian pastor, Rick is a retired professor from Muskingum University. Rick is knowledgeable about Christian Nationalism and has advised our denomination and helped with preparing the General Assembly statement on this emerging challenge. After worship on October 11 he has agreed to lead an informative discussion of this topic. You can pick up some background information Rick prepared for that discussion in the narthex.

When I return from vacation mid-month, I will begin a short sermon series on the fascinating and challenging book of Job. One of the most common challenges of faith is understanding why tragedy and suffering befall people who seem so clearly not to deserve it. Like many pastors, I can say this question has come to me more often than any other: What did I do to deserve this? Why is God causing -- or is God causing -- my loved one to suffer? The book of Job gives us a chance to consider that in a series I call "Does Everything Happen for a Reason".

See you in church,



Rev. Wendy McCormick

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

From the Pastor Nominating Committee

Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church,

The Pastor Nominating Committee continues its careful and prayerful search for our congregation's next pastor.

This month, we are meeting with candidates in person, and candidates are also meeting with the presbytery. These meetings are an important step in the search process, offering opportunities for deeper conversation and continued discernment about each candidate's ministry and potential fit with our congregation.

We have also advertised the position in additional places and are speaking with additional candidates. We continue to welcome the opportunity to learn about people with a variety of experiences, perspectives, and gifts for ministry.

While these are meaningful steps forward, several stages remain before we can call and install a new pastor. As we approach the Advent and Christmas seasons, many candidates understandably wish to remain with their current congregations during this important time in the church year. We continue to anticipate that our next pastor will begin serving with us no earlier than 2027.

This work is long and detailed, and we take the responsibility you have entrusted to us very seriously. Each conversation and each step requires preparation, thoughtful consideration, and prayer. We remain committed to giving this process the time and care it deserves as we seek God's guidance for our congregation's future.

The committee welcomes your questions, concerns, and ideas, and we will share information as confidentiality allows. If you hear something about the search that raises questions, please speak directly with a member of the PNC. Open and honest conversation helps prevent misunderstandings and protects both the search process and the life of our church.

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

Please continue to pray for the candidates and their congregations, for the members of the PNC, and for God's wisdom and guidance throughout this process. Thank you for your patience, encouragement, and trust as we continue this important work together.

In Christ,

FPCGC Pastor Nominating Committee

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

(Re)-Introducing John Noss II

The Session of First Presbyterian Church has hired John Noss as our new Director of Communications and Operations, effective October 1. This full-time position combines the work John has been doing as our part-time office manager with expanded responsibilities to increase the efficiency of our operations and the effectiveness of our communications.



John is passionate about this church and our faith. He was only too familiar with churches that are intolerant and judgmental and was thrilled to find a welcoming and inclusive church focused on Jesus and serving others. He just wishes more people knew that this kind of a church exists, and he believes we can do better to get the word out. He likes to say we’re good at “to know Christ” but not as good at “and make Him known”. John feels called to help us do that.

This decision from our leaders comes after a Session-led process that began late last year and included the work of two task groups as well as our Personnel and Stewardship Committees.

Continuing Responsibilities	New Responsibilities
Church communications (email, phone, text)	Expand and improve website and app
Church website and app	Design, build and maintain growing church social media presence with a focus on guests and seekers
Sunday bulletins and slides	Work with church leaders to identify content and branding to represent our church and mission in the wider community
Bookkeeping and bill paying	Improve office systems and processes so staff and church leaders can work more efficiently
Church calendar, scheduling and internal communications	Coordinate technology, vendors, and building use to support the church’s ministries and events
Administrative support to pastor and music director	Continue to promote and develop ties with our town, strengthening the longstanding bond with Grove City

Office Hours:

As John’s responsibilities expand, the office will now be open Monday – Friday 8:30AM – 4:00PM.

From the Presbytery of Scioto Valley

Fall Youth Retreat — November 13–15

Students in grades 6–12 are invited to Kirkmont Camp and Conference Center for the Presbytery's Fall Youth Retreat. Friends and students from other churches are welcome! The church is paying for our youth to attend.

Registration closing October 31. Each participant must register individually: <https://forms.gle/etq2ZNJ53VDQCDQ49>.

Coats for Kids — Throughout October

Help keep children warm this winter by donating new or gently used coats for students in kindergarten through grade 12. Coats may be dropped off at the Presbytery office, 4131 N. High Street, Suite B, Columbus. To arrange a collection box for your church, call or text Patti Nussle at **614-209-5600**. Coats will be sorted and distributed in early November.

Presbytery-Wide Online Book Study

Explore Amanda Tyler's *How to End Christian Nationalism* on **Tuesdays, October 13, 20, and 27**, with sessions offered at **10 a.m. or 7 p.m.** Each session lasts 70 minutes. For the first meeting, read the introduction and chapters 1–2. Contact kathibubb@gmail.com to sign up.

Looking Ahead

The next hybrid Presbytery meeting is **November 17, 3:30–6:30 p.m.**, at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2070 Ridgecliff Road, Columbus. Covenant will also host the annual **Partners in Education gathering on January 30, 2027**, exploring "The Future Is Now: The Perils and Possibilities of AI."

Please Keep in Prayer

Rev. David Faulkner, whose eye surgery is scheduled for October 13, and the congregations and pastoral leaders of Bethany, Broad Street, and Covenant Presbyterian churches in Columbus.

News & Notes



Harvest Celebration – October 25th

Join the Worship, Christian Education, and Membership committees for a Harvest celebration after church on October 25th! Enjoy harvest themed activities for adults and children. We will also share a potluck lunch. Hope to see you there!



Halloween Costume Drive — Donations Due October 18

The Deacons are collecting Halloween costumes for children at the Van Buren Homeless Shelter through Sunday, October 18. Each year, the shelter hosts a special trick-or-treat event for the children living there. Your donations help bring joy and a sense of normalcy to families experiencing homelessness. Thank you for helping make Halloween special for these children!



Sunday, October 11 – Conversation after Worship

Understanding White Christian Nationalism

Join us at 11:15 a.m. in C3 for an informative conversation about White Christian Nationalism. This gathering is an opportunity to learn about this movement in our society, ask questions, and deepen our understanding in a welcoming setting.

Rev. Dr. Rick Nutt, retired professor from Muskingum University and one of the authors of the PCUSA statement on White Christian Nationalism from this year's General Assembly, will lead the conversation. Rick has provided the statement as background reading for our time together. Session members Cindy Ferguson, Jan Miller, and Ken Simeral will host the gathering.



Monthly Blood Pressure Screenings

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



Diaper Drive

Your generosity was overwhelming! We had over **1,500** diapers donated, which far exceeded our expectations! We will continue to give them out during our monthly brown bag lunch, but we will also donate extras to the Van Buren Center. **Thank you!**

Important Upcoming Dates

Oct. 10 th	Men's Fellowship Breakfast and Bible Study
Oct. 11 th	"Understanding White Christian Nationalism" Conversation after worship
Oct. 18 th	Session Meeting (Date Change)
Oct. 24 th	Community Brown Bag Lunch
Oct. 25 th	Harvest Celebration
Oct. 27 th	PW Circle Meeting and Bible Study

Giving

September 2026:	YTD:
Income \$35,098.57	Income \$255,183.07
Expense \$33,270.08	Expense \$240,213.61

Attendance

September 2026 Total Average Attendance: 108.8

In Person Average (Counted & Signed In): 99
Online Average (Commenting or using app): 11
Online Average Views (on Facebook & Youtube): 268 views

General Assembly in Brief

The 227th General Assembly in Milwaukee is now in the history books. It was an incredible week of public action, worship, and discernment as the PC(USA) looks to the future. Commissioners and advisory delegates took on some joyful and difficult conversations, while focusing on the theme "Persevering Toward Wholeness."

Learn more about the assembly and its impact on those attending and monitoring online in this year's GA In Brief: https://www.pcusa.org/sites/default/files/2026-08/2026-0812_GA-in-Brief.pdf (Limited print copies are available in the narthex)



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Treasurer: Steve Nelson E-Mail: s.nelson@fpcgc.org	4227 Broadway Grove City, OH 43123 Office Hours: M-F 8:30AM – 4:00PM