

First Presbyterian Church of Grove City

Monthly Digest

SEPTEMBER 2026



"To Know Christ and Make Him Known"

From the Desk of the Pastor

Greetings!

Even though the new year still begins in January, September always feels like a fresh beginning to me, and perhaps it does for you too!

Please read the thoughtful and informative update from our Pastor Nominating Committee, and please keep up on the many goings-on in our church through our weekly announcements.

This month, we will focus on the *Christian practice* of **welcome** or **hospitality**. This is a deeply biblical concept, rooted in both the Old and New Testaments. We all know it's good to be welcoming, but in our worship this month we will go a little deeper and ask what it means to *practice* welcome as individual Christians and as a congregation. Our Christian Education team will include some of these themes with our young people during this month. Speaking of young people, pay attention to our older youth staying in worship with us on communion Sundays. This fall, those young people who are interested will also take leadership roles on communion Sundays. Please help them feel included!

We are very excited to welcome *Illuminati* to offer special music in our service on Sunday, September 27. Illuminati is the sacred music ensemble of the Columbus Gay Men's Chorus, performing monthly at worship services and other religious events throughout central Ohio, serving as a bridge between the LGBTQIA+ and religious communities. Illuminati works to demonstrate that we all have a place in sacred spaces, and are whole, holy, and loved. Illuminati's mission is to demonstrate, through song, that ALL people have a place in the religious community. What a perfect way to end our month-long focus on welcome and hospitality. Thanks to Pat Wiedner for helping arrange for Illuminati to be here.

Finally, time flies! My contract with First Presbyterian Church of Grove City ends on October 15. While I have loved our time together, I am feeling called to retire. I will extend my service here through November and am in conversation with the Session and the Presbytery about securing pastoral services for the church in the "gap" between my departure and the arrival of your next pastor. We will have plenty of time to discuss and arrange those details and to celebrate the ministry we have shared.

See you in church,



Rev. Wendy McCormick

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

News & Notes



Men's Fellowship Returns

Men's Fellowship resumes Saturday, September 12, at 7:30 a.m. Join us as we begin studying *More Than a Carpenter* by Josh and Sean McDowell, an accessible exploration of the evidence for Jesus' life, identity, and resurrection. All are welcome.



Diaper Drive

Our youth invite you to donate diapers (sizes 1, 2, or 3) to be shared with neighbors who come to our monthly brown bag lunch. Diapers are expensive, and lack of diapers can cause health complications for babies. Please be generous!



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.



Christian Nationalism FAQ (From PC(USA))

Recently a church leader said, "we keep hearing about Christian nationalism, but I don't even know what it is!" Fair enough! It's important to know the difference between patriotism and nationalism and why nationalism is dangerous. Check out a helpful one-page FAQ that starts with "What is Christian Nationalism?" Print copies are in the narthex. A longer read is the statement recently adopted by the General Assembly, the most representative body in our denomination, including the biblical and theological reasons nationalism is not consistent with our faith. Check with the office if you would like a copy of this document.



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.



Live Streaming Reminder

We're thrilled to continue to offer online worship for those who cannot join us in person. As we continue to improve our technology, we encourage you to utilize YouTube to view our service. Compared to Facebook, YouTube is a more stable and accessible platform, and we are finding there are fewer issues with viewing the stream there. Please check the app, website, or the link here: <https://www.youtube.com/@FPC-GC-Ohio/live>

Important Upcoming Dates

Sept. 7th Labor Day (Office Closed)
Sept. 12th Men's Fellowship & Breakfast returns (7:30 AM)
Sept. 22nd PW Circle Returns (10 AM)
Sept. 26th Community Brown Bag Lunch
Sept. 27th Illuminati LGBTQ+ Sacred Music Ensemble performs during service

Giving

August 2026:	YTD:
Income \$17,236.66	Income \$220,084.50
Expense \$25,186.10	Expense \$206,943.53

Attendance

August 2026 Total Average Attendance: 96.6

In Person Average (Counted & Signed In): 87.8
Online Average (Commenting or using app): 11
Online Average Views (on Facebook & Youtube): 268 views



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