



February 2026

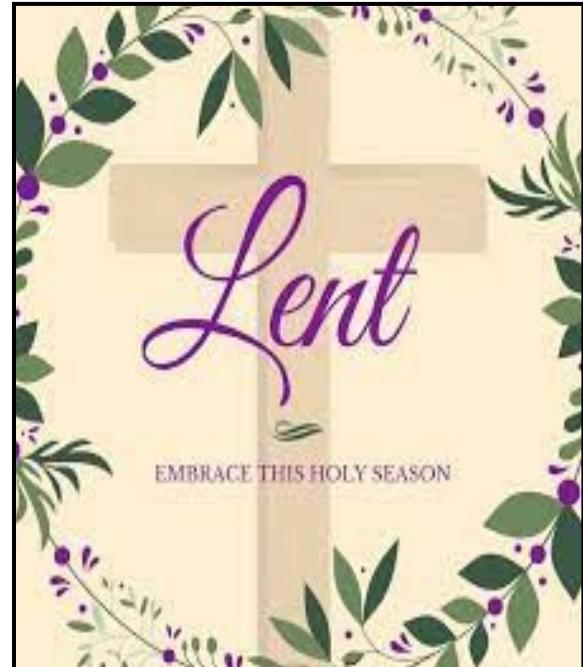
# LIFELINE

## January Highlights



### Welcome Reverend Stan Gockel!

We are very happy to have Rev. Gockel with us through April while we search for a new pastor. Rev. Gockel is a very familiar figure to many people in the Miami Valley Presbytery. Even though January has been very cold outside, Rev. Gockel's welcoming and friendly ways have made for a warm and enjoyable experience on Sunday mornings.



Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 18th. We will have a worship service with communion at 7:00 pm that day to begin the Lenten season.

We volunteer at Matthew 25 Ministries on the third Mondays in the odd numbered months (January, March, May, July, September, and November). At our first trip in 2026 we removed the retail packaging from new slippers so that the only thing in the shipping containers were slippers for those in need. Come join us in March!



*"He who is greatest among you shall be your servant."*  
Matthew 23:11



## CLERK'S CORNER

JANUARY 2026

Session Meeting Recap  
January 18, 2026

Temporary Moderator, Ruling Elder, Jay Peterson called the meeting to order with prayer. He thanked Kathleen for providing lunch and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Pastor Gockel joined us as a guest. A Quorum was present.

**Session approved, received, and/or elected:**

- The November 16, 2025, meeting minutes.
- The membership total of 77 as of 12/31/25. The total on 01/18/26 remains 77.
- Kathleen Seewer as Clerk of Session for 2026.
- Troy Oliver as Treasurer.
- Officers of the Corporation for 2026:
  - President: Julie Brown
  - Vice-President: Bill McMillan
  - Secretary: Kathleen Seewer
  - Treasurer: Troy Oliver
- Collecting a *Souper Bowl* offering on February 8th with 100% of the proceeds to go to the *FISH* program. February 8 is also the next Sunday Funday with the theme *Souperbowl of Caring*.
- Linda Hartsock as Elder Commissioner to all 2026 Presbytery Meetings. We decided to ask an elder in the congregation if they would consider being an alternate Commissioner when Linda is not available. See Kathleen if you are willing or need more information. The next Presbytery meeting is February 14 starting at 9:00 a.m. using ZOOM.
- The 2025 annual PCUSA Statistical report.
- An Ash Wednesday service with communion starting at 7:00 P.M.
- Moving the February 1 Communion to February 8.
- February 15, 2026, for the next Session meeting

**Additional Information:**

Troy distributed a copy of our assets as of 12/31/2025 and her Treasurer notes which will be in the Annual Report. The detailed YTD income/expense reports were distributed prior to the meeting. The total Income for 2025 was \$194,165.21. The total Expenses were \$220,602.32. The net was a negative \$26,437.11.

2026 Committee Assignments	
Nominating Committee	Kathleen Seewer (chair)
Congregational Life & Service	Diane Sondergelt (chair)
Christian Education	Troy Oliver
Mission	Linda Hartsock
Worship	Diane Sondergelt
Fellowship	Diane (chair)
Stewardship	Troy Oliver (chair) Linda Hartsock
Operations	Art Myers (chair)
Property	Art Myers Mitch Oliver
Administration	Diane Sondergelt (chair) Linda Hartsock
Treasurer	Troy Oliver
Finance	Roland Sommer
Personnel	Troy Oliver (co-chair) Linda Hartsock Roland Sommer
Other Assignments	
Clerk of Session	Kathleen Seewer
Presbytery Commissioner	Linda Hartsock
Presbytery Alternate Commissioner	?
Deacon Rep to Nominating Committee	Judy Myers
Boy Scout Liaison	Elaine Brown

Kathleen P. Seewer, Clerk of Session 2026

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for your support of Matthew 25 Ministries. Your recent gift of \$118 from your Peace and Global Witness Offering will make a meaningful impact in the lives of those in need. Rooted in the scripture of Matthew 25:34-40, we remain committed to caring for “the least of these” with compassion. Every act of giving, whether through volunteering, product donations, or financial contributions, makes a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve.

In 2025, we shipped over 21 million pounds of aid, helping nearly 29 million people in need. Thank you for helping us bring hope and joy to people in need.

God's Blessings,  
Tim Mettey, CEO





## Save the Date: February 8, 2026

Our next Sunday FUN Day is on February 8 immediately after Worship. Wear your favorite Team Sweatshirt or school colors.

**Souper Bowl of Caring** started in 1990 by a South Carolina Presbyterian youth group to raise funds to help fight hunger in their area. The idea spread to other Presbyterian Churches including First Presbyterian of Fairborn. We have supported this project for many years and this year our proceeds will be donated to FISH.

We plan to serve a variety of Soups, Crackers & Rolls, Veggie Tray, and PB&J sandwiches for the children, plus Dessert. Please invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join us.

Team First Presbyterian Church--Kathleen Seewer, Donna Downing-Kulhanek, Bob Hendrix., and all our volunteer cooks, THANK YOU for your support!

Dear Friends,  
On behalf of the Fairborn Board of Education, I would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to you for your donation of hats, gloves, scarves, and socks to FPS and for your donation of food and supplies to the Hawks Pantry.

Again, thank you for your thoughtfulness, interest and consideration of the student and staff of the Fairborn City Schools.

Respectfully,  
Amy Gayheart  
Superintendent



We would like to support this young lady in her mission to provide birthday cake kits to the Fairborn FISH Pantry. The picture has the list of items she puts in the packages. If you are interested in helping by either purchasing items and/or putting packages together, please let Julie know by **Feb. 15th** so that we can be sure to have the items we need. We will meet in the Board Room on **Feb. 16th at 10:00 am** to package our donations. You can contact Julie at 937-776-3622.

## A NOTE FROM ECCLESIAL—OUR RESIDENT CHURCH MOUSE

It's been a wild time this past month with snow and cold. Let's hope the groundhog does not see his shadow and winter will soon be over! We have much to be grateful for in the life of our church. Pastor Stan has been a true blessing and we feel fortunate he will be with us through April. Have you heard him sing? WOW!! We are in the process of getting a new air handler for the furnace. Blessings to the those who work in the office - they haven't had heat for several weeks while the work is being done. My family and I have hunkered down in the sanctuary to stay warm. We had a group who went to Matthew 25 Ministries to volunteer in the warehouse. It is ALWAYS a rewarding experience, plus a great time of fellowship during the car ride to and from Blue Ash, and great lunch conversation. A delicious free lunch was served for our first month back at the Senior Center. Everyone enjoyed the enchilada casserole and all the trimmings. Hope Circle, led by Judy, started back up for 2026 and will continue to meet the first Monday of the month at 1:00. We are blessed to also have Judy lead Cornerstone Class on Wednesday's at 2:00. Blessings to all of you and continue doing all your good works. All of our extended church mouse relatives say YOU are the Friendliest Church in Fairborn. ~*Ecclesial Mouse*



# February 2026

**Sun****Mon****Tue****Wed****Thu****Fri****Sat**

1 10:15 am Worship	2 1:00 pm Hope Circle—Lounge	3	4 2:00 pm Cornerstone Class—Lounge	5	6	7
8 10:15 am Worship with Communion	9	10	11 2:00 pm Cornerstone Class—Lounge	12	13	14 Happy Valentine's Day 
15 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Session Mtg	16 10:00 am Birthday Kits - Board Room 	17	18 2:00 pm Cornerstone 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service 	19	20	21
22 10:15 am Worship	23	24 Lifeline Articles Due	25 11:30 am Sr Ctr Lunch 2:00 pm Cornerstone Class—Lounge	26	27	28



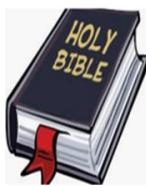


## Happy Birthday!

Feb 2	Diane Sondergelt
9	Marilyn Löw
12	Linda Keller
19	Jody Hoag

### Cornerstone Class Resumes

Judy Myers is leading the Cornerstone Class on Wednesdays at 2:00 pm in the Lounge. The class is currently watching a video series on places in Israel where the early Christians celebrated their faith. All are welcome.



### Children's Lenten Project with Heifer International

The children of our congregation will once again be collecting donations for Heifer International at sometime during Lent. Watch the bulletins and Midweek Updates for more information. Let's help show them how we all can do something to help those in need.

### Little Free Pantry and Little Free Library

Jan Smith is doing a great job trying to keep our Little Free Library and Little Free Pantry stocked. Our library has plenty of children's books but could especially use some fiction books for adults. Our pantry is always in need of non-perishable food items. It seems that as soon as we fill it up, there are hungry visitors looking for some help. The pantry could especially use some canned fruit, soup, and entre type items. Please leave your donations in the bin in the children's area of the Lounge. We may never know who is visiting our library or pantry, but our community knows that we are here to support them.



### 2026 Church Directory

We are working on the 2026 Church Directory. If you have had a change of address, phone number, or email address in the past year, please let the office know. We hope to have the directory out in early spring.



**Lifeline—the monthly newsletter of the  
First Presbyterian Church of Fairborn, Ohio  
1130 Highview Dr., Fairborn, OH 45324  
phone: 937-878-3954**

**email: [firstpresbyterianfairborn@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbyterianfairborn@gmail.com)**

Office Hours: Wednesday and Thursday, 10 am—2 pm

***“The Friendliest Church in Town”***

Sunday Worship: 10:15 am with an on-line option from the church website

Pastor: Rev. Stan Gockel

### SESSION

**Moderator:** Miami Valley Presbytery Representative

**Clerk:** Kathleen Seewer

**Ruling Elders:** Linda Hartsock, Art Myers, Troy Oliver, Kathleen Seewer, Roland Sommer, and Diane Sondergelt

Articles for next month's Lifeline need to be in the office by February 24th.

There will be a limited number of copies of the *Lifeline*  
in the lower narthex if you want to pick one up.

Please let the office know of any meetings that you have scheduled in the church building  
so that we can maintain an accurate calendar and answer questions as folks call.