



March 2026

# LIFELINE

## February Highlights

Thank you SO MUCH to Ms. Julie and the other members of [Fairborn First Presbyterian Church](#) for their donation of 30 complete cake kits and some additional supplies to add to what we have on hand! It means so much to have their support ❤️ We will be starting to put the kits together this week to have them prepped for my birthday in just 13 days!!



**Making Birthday Cake Kits - February 16th**



**Souper Bowl Sunday - February 8th**

**Scout Sunday - February 22nd**

**Scout Pancake Breakfast- February 22nd**



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## CLERK'S CORNER

### Session Meeting Recap

February 15, 2026

Temporary Moderator, the Rev. Lynn Bova, called the meeting to order with prayer. The Rev. Terry Kukuk, EP of the Presbytery, Jay Peterson, COM Liaison, and Jan Smith as a member of our pastor search committee joined as guests. A Quorum was present.

The two representatives from the Presbytery attended this meeting to provide information and guidance related to finding a new pastor. After all information and questions were addressed, the three guests departed.

### Session approved and/or received:

- the January 18, 2026, meeting minutes.
- the membership total of **76** as of 02/15/26 due to the death of Frank Lowe.
- **February 22**, as the replacement date for the previously postponed Congregational Meetings.
- the detailed YTD income/expense reports were distributed prior to the meeting. The total Income for YTD is \$16,753.50. The total Expenses were \$4,997.69. The Net was a positive \$11,755.81.
- a donation to Honey Creek Presbyterian Church for acquiring their streaming equipment, subject to the viability to integrate with our sound system.

- the next Presbytery meeting will be on May 12 in person at the Bellbrook Presbyterian Church. This meeting will start at 2:00 p.m.
- March 15, 2026, for the next Session meeting

### Committee Reports:

**Enon Montessori School:** Mitch Oliver is the new liaison to the Montessori School. He provided a written report of his first meeting with them. Currently there are two agreements and an addendum, which he will combine into a single document, with a renewal date of June 1st each year.

### Presbytery Commissioner Report:

We received a written report provided by Linda Hartsock, our Elder Commissioner, to the Feb. 14th Presbytery meeting.

**Property:** Insurance was renewed. The Air Handler installation has been completed, and system is operable. The Snow blower was repaired.

### Additional Information:

We are still looking for an Elder to be a Presbytery Commissioner alternate if Linda is unable to attend. There are two meetings via Zoom and two in person. The pastor search committee is Troy Oliver (chair), Julie Brown, Jan Smith, and Diane Sondergelt. They also collaborate with Moderator, Lynn Bova, Executive Presbyter, Terry Kukuk, and liaison, Jay Peterson.

Kathleen P. Seewer, Clerk of Session 2026

## ***A NOTE FROM ECCLESIAL—OUR RESIDENT CHURCH MOUSE***

Welcome to March! February was busy as we celebrated with an Ash Wednesday service where you all received ashes and celebrated communion together. It was a moving service with a message from Pastor Stan along with hymns. Hope Circle, led by Judy Myers, met and continued the study of their book 'Finding Resilience, Joy, and identity in Jesus Christ'. Judy and Art are also leading Cornerstone Class on Wednesday afternoons at 1:00 - join them for study, conversation and snacks. "Souper Bowl" Sunday was a big hit - soups and desserts were abundant and everyone enjoyed the games they played. A donation was taken to support the Fairborn FISH Pantry. Scout Troop 72 provided a pancake breakfast after worship on Scout Sunday where they started our service with posting the colors. You all were so generous to provide items and several of you met and put together 30 Birthday Cake Kits which will be provided to the FISH Pantry. This was a mission a Fairborn Middle School student, Evelyn, started 3 years ago to celebrate her own birthday. We wanted to help her reach her goal of providing at least 100 complete kits. Last, but not least, lunch was provided for the Senior Center and our church family. The ham, green beans, hash-brown casserole and dessert was enjoyed by all. As we continue in the Lenten season, know that all you do to help your community and celebrate together is what we are all meant to do. Let's look forward to Spring arriving and enjoy the new beginnings. ***~Ecclesial Mouse***



We wore our team spirit wear and gathered for a delicious lunch of soup after worship for our “Souper Bowl” Sunday Fun Day. In addition to the great food, we played “Football Bingo” for fun and fellowship. With your generosity we collected over \$200 for the FISH Food Pantry. “Souper Bowl of Caring” began when a Presbyterian youth group in South Carolina was inspired to turn Super Bowl weekend into a time to fight food insecurity by helping local food pantries. They asked people to donate \$1 or a canned good for this project. This has generated over \$220 million for local food charities since its origin in 1990.



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Several of us gathered together to assemble birthday cake kits to help a Fairborn girl, Evelyn, with her project of providing FISH with 100 birthday cake kits for their clients. We provided 30 kits thanks to your generous donations. Each kit contained everything anyone needed to make a birthday cake. Also to complete the kit, an unsigned birthday card was included to be used to wish the birthday person many good wishes.



On Scout Sunday, Troop 72 presented the colors for a flag ceremony at the beginning of worship and then presented their charter to our church. They prepared a delicious pancake breakfast for us after worship. Great job Scouts! Good luck with all your planned activities.



The Senior Center welcomed us back for another year. We all enjoyed a nice lunch and time together.

### Pastor Search Update

The search for our next pastor is well underway. The search committee has submitted a job description as well as the Ministry Discernment Profile survey requested by our Presbytery. We were joined in our February Session meeting by Terry Kukuk, Executive Presbyter, as well as Jay Peterson, Committee on Ministry Liaison and Lynn Bova who served as moderator. Terry led a discussion that started with our sharing the experiences we had with Pastor Joe that we hope to continue with our new pastor. Some of the common themes expressed were: bringing in new people, engaging in our community, engaging with our youth, relatable multi-generationally, and cultivating a place of belonging at First Presbyterian Church. Terry will take this information into consideration as she screens the pool of candidates.

There is no predetermined timeline to secure a new pastor. We are working diligently to find the pastor that best fits our congregational needs. In the meantime, we will continue to have church as usual with sermons, Christian education, fellowship and mission. Lynn Bova will continue to serve as our moderator of session and to guide and support us as we face the challenges in this period of change.

Please feel free to talk with any of us on the search committee.

Sincerely,

FPC Search Committee: Troy Oliver, Jan Smith, Diane Sondergelt, Julie Brown



### Children's Lenten Project with Heifer International Sunday March 1st and March 8th

The children of our congregation will collect donations for Heifer International in the Lounge after worship on March 1st and 8th. Heifer International is an organization with a mission to end hunger and poverty in a sustainable way by supporting and investing alongside local farmers and their communities. Donations to Heifer until March 16th will be matched by ten times, helping to make **TEN times** as many families move from poverty to prosperity. Each child will have their own donation box so bring your loose change or dollar bills. If you prefer to write a check, please make it out to the church with "Heifer Intl" on the memo line. Let's help show the children how we all can do something to help those in need.



## Easter Lily Order Form



It is suggested that gifts be at least \$20.00 but may be up to any amount you wish. This form and your payment need to be received by Wednesday, April 1st. Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church and marked "Easter Lilies."

Enclosed is my cash/check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for lilies

In memory of / In honor of / Celebrating (circle one)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print names as you wish them to appear in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 5th.)

I wish / do not wish (circle one) to take my lily home after worship on Easter Sunday.

# March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>10:15 am Worship with Communion</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>1:00 pm Hope Circle— Lounge</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>1:00 pm Cornerstone Class—Lounge</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> 
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>10:15 am Worship</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>1:00 pm Cornerstone Class—Lounge</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>10:15 am Worship</p> <p>11:30 am Session Mtg</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>10:15 am Matthew 25 Field Trip</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Happy St. Patrick's Day</p> 	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>1:00 pm Cornerstone Class—Lounge</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>10:15 am Worship</p> <p>11:30 am Deacon's Mtg</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>11:30 am Sr Ctr Lunch</p> <p>1:00 pm Cornerstone Class—Lounge</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Lifeline Articles Due</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p>10:15 am Worship</p> 	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>				



### Happy Birthday!

- Mar**
- 5 Sam Cline
  - 10 Colton Barson
  - 13 Norm Willoughby
  - 17 Joyce Burnette
  - 22 Dan Kulhanek
  - 26 Linda Hartsock
  - 28 Christy Brewer
  - 30 Paul Schneider

### Thank You Honey Creek Presbyterian Church

Honey Creek Presbyterian Church in New Carlisle closed their doors at the end of November 2025 due to declining membership. As a generous offer, Honeycreek made their video equipment and about 50 copies of *Glory to God*, the PCUSA hymnal published in 2013, available to our church. We have those items now at our church. With this, Session voted to make a donation to Honeycreek to help with the costs associated with their closing. Bob Hendrix is looking at setting up the video equipment for possibly live streaming our worship service each Sunday. *Glory to God* is an excellent update of the blue 1990 hymnal. We intend to have both hymnals in the pews to use. The Sunday bulletin will indicate which hymnal we are using on a given Sunday.



### 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 April.

***Lifeline***—the monthly newsletter of the  
**First Presbyterian Church of Fairborn, Ohio**  
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 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, Rev. Lynn Bova

**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 March 26th.

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.