

FAITH HAPPENINGS

As we officially enter into the final quarter of the calendar year, I wanted to give you all a quick “behind the scenes” peek at what I’m up to right now.

What am I reading (not including the Bible)?:

- Determining the Form: Structures for Preaching by O. Wesley Allen Jr.
* I believe there’s something powerful in hearing The Word proclaimed. Preaching is an artform, it’s a craft, and it’s one that I am always trying to grow more adept in. This is also in keeping with my heartfelt desire to make worship services at NP First as meaningful as possible. That time together is truly precious ... I always want to grasp it for all it’s worth! Reading this book is me being intentional about all of this.

What am I excited about at NP First?

- Well, a lot! The thing I’m perhaps most excited about is sharing with the wider congregation about some meaningful steps we will soon be taking to further live into our new vision for NP First. I will be sharing this during some sermons in November, so be sure to stay tuned!

What am I learning?

- I’ve never preached a Reformation Sunday sermon before, but that’s going to change on Sunday, October 25th! I’m already beginning to spend some time learning (and re-learning) about the Reformation. I haven’t done a deep-dive on it since my seminary days!

What music am I listening to?

- As of writing this, my last saved song on Spotify is “Money on 7” by Amy Helm. I know relatively nothing about this artist, but there’s something about the song that’s moving to me. The singer has soul, and there’s an authenticity to her voice I appreciate. Plus, there’s various instruments, which is cool. Check it out if you get a chance!

What am I praying for?

- My primary prayer for our church is that we’d continue to catch wind of what the Spirit is doing in our midst ... and that we’d become more and more excited about it.

With Love,
Pastor Ryan

FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

AUGUST 2026 UNIFIED INCOME

Forward in Faith Tithing *includes One time Pledge fulfillment of \$76,500 Other Income	\$102,969 <u>\$2,638</u> \$105,607
<u>August 2026 Expenses</u> utilities, insurance, maintenance, staff Miscellaneous expense	 \$31,580 <u>\$7,018</u> \$38,598

AUGUST NET INCOME/LOSS \$67,009

As you review this month's income and expense report, we want to offer a brief reminder that giving is not always consistent from month to month—some contributions are made annually, quarterly, or at different times—so one month alone may not fully reflect where we stand.

We are grateful for your continued generosity and support of the church's mission and ministry. If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Respectfully,
The Finance Committee

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 1st & 15th Women's Group 6:30pm

October 4th -25th United Against Hunger

October 23rd Red Cross Blood Dive 12:00-6:00pm

October 25th Trunk or Treat 4:00-5:00pm

MORTGAGE BURNING CELEBRATION

On September 13, we celebrated a tremendous milestone as NP FUMC officially paid off its mortgage! It was a day filled with excitement and gratitude as we celebrated what can be accomplished through perseverance, faithful giving, and a shared commitment to our church.

With this chapter behind us, we look to the future with anticipation and a renewed sense of purpose—ready to serve our community and continue Opening Hearts, Opening Minds, and Opening Doors.



UNITED AGAINST HUNGER CHILI COOK OFF

We had a fantastic time at our United Against Hunger Chili Cook-Off at Camp Wanakee! It was a fun evening filled with delicious chili, great fellowship, and a wagon ride to top it all off. A big thank-you to everyone who brought chili and joined us for this fun event!

And now, the competition continues! Let's unite against hunger throughout the month of October by donating to the Greater Dover-New Philadelphia Food Pantry. Every donation makes a difference as we work together with our friends at Dover First UMC to help fight hunger in our community.

Our winning chili was made by Brandon Keck! Congratulations, and thank you to everyone who participated!



United Against Hunger
Dover-Phila UMC Rivalry



CONGREGATION AND COMMUNITY CARE

The Congregation and Community Care Committee continues to look for ways to care for our church family while serving our community with the love of Christ.

If you or someone you know is in need of a visit, prayer, or encouragement, please let one of our committee members know. We are committed to caring for our congregation and our community, and we are grateful for every opportunity to share Christ's love with others.

LOOKING AHEAD

There are lots of exciting opportunities coming up at New Philadelphia First UMC! From fellowship and fun to meaningful ways of serving our community, there is something for everyone to look forward to this fall.

Trunk or Treat – October 25

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 25, from 4:00–5:00 PM for our annual Trunk or Treat! The event will be held rain or shine, so we're looking for plenty of decorated trunks and lots of treats. Free hot dogs, popcorn, and hot chocolate will be available. Whether you decorate a trunk or simply bring your family to enjoy the fun, we hope you'll join us!

Share-A-Christmas

Our Share-A-Christmas donations will look a little different this year, but the purpose remains the same! Instead of traditional gift tags, we will be collecting monetary donations to help local families with their Christmas needs. Envelopes will be available on a Christmas tree in the Sanctuary, and our November Noisy Offering will also support this effort. All donations will still go directly to T4C, who will use the funds to help local families with their Christmas needs. While we won't be shopping for specific items from gift tags this year, your generosity will continue to make Christmas brighter for families in our community.

Reverse Advent Food Boxes

Our Reverse Advent Food Box project returns this year! Beginning in November, we'll have a collection box available and will provide a specific food item to collect each week of Advent. The idea is simple: instead of receiving something each day during Advent, we give something each day. By the end of Advent, our goal is to have food boxes filled with items that can be distributed to local families in need.

Trivia is Coming!

Our trivia has been scheduled for December 6th as a potluck following the service. Get your team ready for a fun filled action packed trivia challenge!

FROM THE BISHOP

A HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH REFLECTION

Many Peoples, One Beloved Community

“There was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne.” – Revelation 7:9

Hispanic Heritage Month, observed from September 15 through October 15, invites us to celebrate the faith, histories, cultures, and contributions of Hispanic and Latino communities. For the churches of the Ohio Episcopal Area, it is also an invitation to embody more faithfully the beloved community envisioned in Scripture.

In Revelation, people from every nation, tribe, and language gather before God. Their unity does not erase their differences. They worship together while retaining the beauty of their identities, languages, memories, and traditions. This is God’s vision of diversity – not assimilation, but communion; not uniformity, but unity in Christ.

Hispanic and Latino communities enrich Ohio through vibrant faith, strong families, joyful worship, generous hospitality and courageous leadership. As we celebrate these gifts, we must also listen to their experiences and stand with families facing challenges involving immigration, education, employment, housing, health care, language access and racial justice.

Christian advocacy begins with listening. It honors the leadership of those most directly affected, confronts harmful stereotypes and works so that every child of God may live with dignity, safety and hope.

Through Multiply Ohio, we are committed to cultivating new faith communities across our state. This must include planting and strengthening Hispanic and Latino congregations, developing clergy and lay leaders and investing in children, youth and young adults. God is already at work in these communities. Our calling is to recognize that work, build trusted relationships and join what the Holy Spirit has begun.

This celebration also calls us into solidarity with other immigrant and marginalized communities. We especially remember our Haitian neighbors in Springfield, who have endured distorted narratives, dehumanizing rhetoric, discrimination and fear. The Haitian community has its own distinct history, culture and linguistic identity and should not be confused with Hispanic and Latino communities. Yet their experience reminds us that prejudice against any community wounds the whole body of Christ.

When immigrants and communities of color are reduced to stereotypes or used as symbols in political conflict, the Church must not remain silent. We must challenge misinformation, reject racism and xenophobia, listen to community leaders, support trusted local ministries and advocate for dignity, fair treatment, safety and belonging. Advocacy is not separate from discipleship; it is part of our public witness to the love and justice of Jesus Christ.

I invite every congregation in the East and West Ohio Conferences to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month meaningfully by:

- inviting Hispanic and Latino leaders to preach, teach, share their stories and help lead the celebration.
- building lasting relationships with Hispanic congregations and community organizations.
- learning about the concerns affecting immigrant families and advocate alongside them.
- standing with Haitian neighbors in Springfield and other communities experiencing discrimination.
- praying about supporting or beginning a Hispanic, Latino, multilingual or multicultural faith community.

We are becoming one not because we are all the same, but because Christ welcomes us to the same table. There, no culture is considered inferior, no language is silenced, and no neighbor is abandoned to fear.

May Hispanic Heritage Month deepen our gratitude, strengthen our solidarity and renew our commitment to Multiply Ohio. Together, may we become a Church of many peoples and languages – rooted in love, abounding in hope and united in Jesus Christ.

WE NEED YOUR TRUNK!
SIGN UP AT THE DESK

**TRUNK
OR
TREAT**



**SUN, OCT 25
4-5PM**

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Devan Marks

Tell us about yourself:

I work at SSB Community Bank as a commercial loan processor. When not at work I love supporting my kiddos. JaeLynn is now coaching volleyball and softball at Tusky Valley, Jonah is playing college baseball at Lake Erie College and Jiana is in her Senior year of high school enjoying volleyball. Jason and I both enjoy Cleveland Sports (not always the Browns) and spending time in our pool.

I have been married to my husband Jason for 24 years, we are parents to my 3 favorite people, JaeLynn (23) Jonah (20) and Jiana (18). We have a Jack Russell Terrier, Millie who is 6.



Tell us some fun facts:

- **Favorite Ice Cream:** Mint Chocolate Chip
- **Favorite Sports Team:** Cleveland Guardians & Cleveland Browns
- **Dream Vacation:** Travel the United States
- **Favorite book:** I love to read, I can't pick just one! Where the Crawdads Sing is a top
- **What is your favorite board game?** Risk
- **Favorite show:** Survivor
- **Favorite Bible Verse:** Jeremiah 29:11

In what ways do you volunteer at at NP FUMC?

I enjoy volunteering as the liturgist, helping with Children's church, Children's moment and communion steward. I am also on the Congregation & Community Care Committee.

Do you have a favorite volunteer role at our church?

I do really enjoy Children's moment, I love to try to come up with a creative message for the kids.

Why is it important to you to volunteer at our church?

Volunteering helps me live out my personal faith. I feel as I am supporting the church and it expresses my faith through action and I feel connected to others within the church.

If you could encourage someone else to volunteer at our church, what would you say? I think it is simple. Volunteering in any capacity provides a sense of purpose. If we all did 1 thing to volunteer the church grows and benefits in many ways. I would challenge you to find 1 thing that would get you involved. Involvement helps you feel connected to others and builds strong bonds.

BIRTHDAYS

Eric Anderson - 1st
Livie Hamilton - 1st
Davie Singhaus - 1st
John Murphy - 3rd
Terry Anthony - 4th
Randy Kamban - 4th
Tom Lightner - 4th
Jacob Hanner - 7th
Judy Newburn - 8th
Jonah Marks - 9th
Clara Delahunty - 10th
Caroline Hanner - 10th
Pat Bible - 11th
Lennard Mizer - 11th
Audrey Downing - 11th
Reed Anderson - 12th
Bethany Goddard - 12th
Mike Stephens - 13th
Godfrey Holzbach - 14th
Sharon Price - 16th
Dillon Tipka - 19th
Abby Garbrandt - 21st
Beth McClain - 22nd
Julie Johnson - 23rd
Leah Harmon - 25th
Birdie Rausch - 25th
Allie Watson - 25th
Bill Graham - 26th
Oliver Johnson - 26th
Brad Rippel - 28th
Sandra Bornhorst - 30th
Cheryl Eichel - 31st

October

ANNIVERSARIES

Phil & Vicki Daniels
October 16- 27 years!

Kelly & Sharon Price
October 16 - 56 years!

Craig & Kay Barnett
October 26 - 70 years!

