

Oak Leaves

OCTOBER 2026

FIRST UNITED CONTACT INFO

Pastor: Vern Gauthier

(717) 385-9526 - 1stupastor@gmail.com

Secretary: Elisabeth Gauthier

8:30-11:30am Office Hours

(717) 776-7525 - 1stupoffice@gmail.com

Clerk of Session: Jim Ellingsworth

(717) 609-3102 – jellingsworth22@gmail.com

Moderator of Deacons: Sally Ann McCrea

(717)385-4734 samccrea@gmail.com

New phone numbers/emails/ address

Please update the Church Office whenever
you have **NEW** information

Thanks

Elisabeth Gauthier

717-776-7525

1stupoffice@gmail.com

Happy October Birthday

3. Bob Over

6. Rausa Roscinski

7. Elaine Fry

7. Sally Ann McCrea

9. Brenda Anderson

11. Michele Gomez

28. Luke Flynn

Happy October Anniversary

5. Terry & Eric Bear

16. Dick & Ann Smith

Sunday November 22nd - Gracious Parting
Farewell to Pastor Vern, a lunch at 12:00pm
more details to follow.

You have the opportunity to join our sisters and brothers in Christ in spreading justice, and hope throughout the globe. Your contributions to the World Wide Communion Offering provides communities with fresh, healthy meals, helps farmers get paid fair prices, supports justice for women, girls and all races. Your offering supports Christian-led organizations work toward reconciliation and sustainable peace through interfaith experiences. This offering will be collected on September 27th and October 4th. Thank you for your contributions.

THANKS

First UP- Thank you all for all your notes, prayers, visits and phone calls. They were all greatly appreciated.

Janice Glesner

Dear Church friends, Many thanks for remembering me with heartfelt best wishes, cards, visits and prayers for my recovery after my recent fall. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated.

Thank you. Marilyn Miller

Monday, October 26 - Pumpkin Bash to begin activities at 5:00pm. We are planning our annual Pumpkin Bash again for the evening of the Newville Halloween Parade. There will be sign-ups on the table with specific needs. We are looking for help with games, greeting people, food, decorating (to start at 3:30 on the Monday of the Bash). We will have a short organization meeting after church on October 18. If you have any questions please let Sherri Webber-Mains or Margie Fry know.

Greetings,

Oak Leaves

As I write this, I am down to nine Sundays left with you. Nine Sundays to plan and lead worship at First United Presbyterian Church. Nine Sundays to proclaim the Word of God at a place, in a community, that I have had the great honor of doing so for 25 years.

If I were to sum up the overall theme of my preaching over these 25 years it would be, *"To walk the talk."* Or as it says in the Epistle of James, *"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."* My preaching over the years has not had the aim of me telling you what the Word of God should look like in your lives, but asking you how the Spirit of God is speaking to you about how the Word might look like in your life and our lives together.

At our September Session meeting Mike Fry began the meeting with 1 Corinthians 13. This text is no doubt familiar to us all, *"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."*

These words while often spoken and reflected upon at weddings, are really meant to be heard and acted upon by Christians in their daily lives together. This makes perfect sense as the Apostle Paul states, *"The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love."* With Jesus himself saying, *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."*

In short, the Christian community we commonly refer to as the Church, is to be a

community where the love of God is lived out, both in obedience to God and as a witness to the world of the reality of Jesus Christ. This is why in the 13th chapter of the Gospel of John Jesus says, *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

Of course, this is more easily said than done, and none of us do it perfectly, and if we are honest we too often fail at it miserably as individuals and as a community. Yet by the grace of God, and often in spite of ourselves, the love of God remains in the Church and in the world.

So, the three things I would have you remember about my preaching among you are one, that love is the basis of who God is, the Christian faith, and our lives together. Two, we are not merely to talk about this love but attempt to live it out in our daily relationships. Three, we will fail and at times pretty miserably in doing this, but there is grace. Grace God shows to us. Grace that we should be quick to show to others, and to ourselves.

I leave you now with this charge from Colossians 3, *"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."*

In Christ,

Pastor Vern

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Highlights of Session Meetings held on September 17, 2026

- **APPROVED** Debby Madden to assist with Worship on Sunday, November 22, 2026 with no stipend.
- **APPROVED** Ted Krocheski to play the organ during Worship on Sunday, November 22, 2026 and be paid a stipend of \$75.00.
- **APPROVED** the “**Terms of Dissolution**” between The Rev. Dr. Vernon Gauthier and First United Presbyterian Church Newville, 111 West Big Spring Avenue Newville, Pa 17241, to be dissolved effective December 1, 2026 and to be approved by the Congregation on November 8, 2026 during the Annual Congregational Meeting (See “**Terms of Dissolution**” following the Highlights)
- **APPROVED** the “**Declaration of Intent**” of The Rev. Dr. Vernon Gauthier effective December 1, 2026 upon his retirement. (See “**Declaration of Intent**” following the Highlights)
- **APPROVED** the request from SPY to use our Fellowship Hall to host a Christmas party for their students and families on Sunday, December 6th from 1:00 to 4:00pm – they should be cleaned up by 4:00 – 4:30 pm.
- **APPROVED** the following Special Offering for 2027: One Great Hour of Sharing March 7, 14, 21, 28, Worldwide

Communion Sept. 12,19,26, Oct. 3and the Christmas Joy Offering Dec. 5,12,19,26.

- **The ending checking account balance as of 8-31-2026 was \$2,290.61. Income for August was \$16,558.28 and the**
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- **year-to-date income is \$185,601.37. Expenses for August totaled \$18,288.52 and year to date expenses were \$189,296.76.**
- **APPROVED** to change the October Session meeting date from October 15 to October 22 and hold a Budget workshop meeting on Monday, October 12 at 6:30 pm.

Submitted by Jim Ellingsworth – Clerk of the Session. (DISCLAIMER - "Notes from unofficial minutes and subject to change.")

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TERMS OF DISSOLUTION BETWEEN The
Rev. Dr. Vernon Gauthier and First United
Presbyterian Church 111 W. Big Spring Ave.
Newville PA.

This agreement dissolving the terms of call
will be presented at the Congregational
Meeting of 11/8/26 for congregational
approval, before being sent to the Commission
On Ministry for final approval.

We, the First United Presbyterian Church
Session agree to request dissolution of the
pastoral relationship with the Rev. Dr. Vernon
Gauthier for the following reasons and on the
following terms:

1. Rev. Dr. Vernon Gauthier's Retirement.

2. Terms and Conditions:

a. No salary or any other cash benefit
will be paid after 11/30/2026.

b. All medical benefits through the
Presbyterian Board of Pensions will terminate
as of 12/1/2026.

c. Any unused vacation and/or study
leave will be forfeited with no cash
compensation as of 12/1/2026.

d. Rev. Dr. Gauthier will be allowed to
keep his work laptop and associated software
free of charge as a portion of a parting gift
from the congregation.

3. ALL Ministry duties and Pastoral Services
will cease effective 12/01/2026.

Removal of personal property will be
completed by this date as well.

4. Rev. Dr. Gauthier may be contacted by the
Clerk of Session or the Moderator of Session
through 12/31/2026 if a question arises that
requires institutional or procedural knowledge
that he alone may possess.

The Session and Rev. Dr. Gauthier have
negotiated this agreement in good faith and
have every intention of being faithful in
fulfilling it.

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Declaration of Intent (The terms described herein become effective 12/1/26)

and will have no pastoral role in the service or celebration.

Pastor Vern's Commitment:

As a colleague who respects my fellow ministers and their desire to faithfully carry out their ministry following my departure from this call, I understand that it is vital for me to step away from the life of the congregation in every way. I therefore make the following commitments:

- **I will not attend official fellowship activities of the congregation**, whether they are held at First United or at another location. I do, however, reserve the right to maintain appropriate social relationships with individual members of First United. In those relationships, I will not engage in discussions about the congregation, nor will I serve as a sounding board for complaints or concerns regarding the congregation, its leadership, or its direction, whether expressed by members or others in the community.
- **I will not accept pastoral responsibilities within the life of my former congregation**, including weddings, funerals, baptisms, or other pastoral functions, even when those events take place outside the church. I do reserve the right to attend visitation and/or funerals of members as an expression of respect for the deceased and for their family. If I attend a wedding, I will do so only as a guest

- **I will be mindful of my ongoing relationships, including those maintained through social media.** If I remain in contact with members of First United, I will take care that I do not resume a pastoral role, whether in person, by telephone, through electronic communication, or online. I will not use these relationships to influence, direct, or otherwise participate in the ongoing life or leadership of the congregation.

As a Teaching Elder and Minister of Word and Sacrament in the service of Christ and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), I understand that leaving a call well requires me to create the necessary space for a new minister and the congregation to discern and carry out their ministry together. My departure should therefore be understood not simply as leaving a position, but as intentionally making room for the next chapter in the congregation's life.

I willingly commit myself to these principles as I transition out of this call and thereafter. Therefore, the commitments described above are intended to remain in effect indefinitely and will not expire at any time in the future.

Session's Commitment:

As the session of First United Presbyterian Church, we understand the need to look toward the future and agree to the terms stated above in regards to Rev. Dr. Vernon Gauthier.

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