

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILLOUGHBY

“No Weapons in God’s House” Policy

The First Presbyterian Church of Willoughby welcomes everyone to receive God’s grace and mercy and believes it is its obligation to ensure that ALL - church members, guests, and visitors - have a safe and meaningful worship environment that prohibits the possession or use of weapons on church property. This “No Weapons in God’s House” policy is one element of FPCW’s overall commitment to everyone’s safety and security.

Subject to Ohio law, anyone entering this church is prohibited from carrying, using, displaying, possessing, or discharging weapons of any kind – concealed or otherwise – at any time. Weapons are defined as firearms, explosives, knives, and other items that can be potentially dangerous or that could cause harm to others.

While the list below is not all-inclusive, the following describes the types of weapons this policy is referring to:

- Guns of any kind concealed or otherwise such as handguns, pistols, air pistols, tasers, stun guns, assault rifles, machine guns, any simulated firearm operated by gas or compressed air, and/or large firearms.
- Knives over two-and-one-half inches (2.5 Inches) such as sabers, swords, daggers, combat knives, hunting knives, bayonets, kitchen knives, etc.
- Slingshots, sand clubs, metal knuckles, or any instrument that can be used as a club and poses the risk of serious injury.
- Bows and Arrows or Cross Bows.
- Chemical and/or Biological Weapons.

Part of the FPCW commitment to safety is to ensure a secure and inviting atmosphere for all who gather within its walls—members, guests, and visitors alike. In alignment with this pledge, any individual carrying weapons is requested to safely secure them in their vehicles before entering the building. Failure to do so, in the interest of everyone’s safety, may result in the need to seek assistance from the relevant authorities.

Everyone’s cooperation in upholding this policy is essential to the church’s commitment to maintaining a sanctuary of peace, free from weapons, within God’s house.