

# ADVOCATE

First Presbyterian Church  
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Westerville, Ohio 43081-2103  
614-882-3155 Phone  
[www.westervillefirstpresbyterian.org](http://www.westervillefirstpresbyterian.org)

**December 2024**



## **Christmas at First Presbyterian**

<b>December 13</b>	<b>Habitat for Humanity Concert at First Presbyterian (and two other churches)</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>
<b>December 15</b>	<b>Advent Craft Luncheon</b>	<b>11:30 am</b>
<b>December 20</b>	<b>Longest Night Service</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>
<b>December 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Service</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>

**All Are Welcome!**

**Advent Devotionals Available**

The Worship Committee invites you to pause for reflection during Advent by signing up for daily online devotionals provided by the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, a Presbyterian school. The devotionals are offered free of charge and delivered directly to your email. You can sign up at <https://www.pts.edu/email>. Once you have filled out the form, you can receive devotionals for both Advent and Lent. Please consider signing up for these devotionals and taking time during each day of Advent for reflection.



## **The Longest Night Service**

### **Friday, December 20, 6:00pm**



For many, the holiday season is not filled with happiness and celebration, but rather is a time of sorrow and grief. This is a time of year when the loss of a loved one and the challenges of life can be particularly painful. To help those who find December to be a difficult time of year, First Presbyterian Church will host a Longest Night Service. This brief service will focus on the message of hope, healing, and wholeness that the light of

Christ brings into the world. You can attend in person or via our LiveStream. Rev. Mary Jane Hitt and Rev. Nancy Dumford will lead this service.

## **Circle 4 Starting New Study**

Circle 4 Women will be starting a new *Horizon Bible* study in January, so this is an ideal time for you to join this group and share faith and fellowship. We usually meet on the third Thursday of the month at 11 am on Zoom. There are nine lessons in each study.

In December, we will have a Christmas social meeting with finger foods on Thursday, December 19, at 11 am in the Knox Room. If any women in the church are interested in joining us, you are welcome to attend! Contact Elaine Foley after church on Sundays or by email for more information and for the Zoom link. We have some really good discussions.

# Our Handbell Choir Prepares for the Holiday Season



This photo of our Handbell Choir shows some of our wonderful players rehearsing for the worship services coming up in the next two months. With veteran players and some new members, we can have two to three octaves of bells playing! After a hiatus of a few years, our choir has enjoyed working together this fall to create a variety of musical pieces, and we look forward to soon sharing those with the congregation.

## Mission Study Research Moving Forward

Our next step in finding our permanent pastor is completion of a mission study. As transition coordinators, Scott Reichley and Sherri Monteith have been working with Rev. Kathy Nice, our new head Presbyterian. We have examples from other churches going through the same process, and we have guidance on how best to present our situation as we search.

Fortunately, much of the data we need to collect has already been gathered for Step Forward. It just needs to be repurposed. And there is a bit of new data to be collected. The study needs to be formatted around three questions:

- 1) Who are we?
- 2) Who is God calling us to be?
- 3) Where is God calling us to go?

If you have not yet responded through email or the blue boxes that were located in the Gauen Gathering Area in November, you can still email responses to [pastoral\\_transition@fpcw.us](mailto:pastoral_transition@fpcw.us) over the next week. Your input will be collected, and the data obtained will be organized within the confines of the three questions. A very rough first draft will be presented to Session in January and further discussed in our Session-Deacon retreat that month.

Following that, the document will be distributed to the congregation, with a brief comment period – a few weeks to see if we have missed anything critical or misconstrued someone's thoughts. When we have what we believe to be a final version, it will be submitted to Presbytery for its approval. Then we can move on to developing a Pastor Nominating Committee.

# Deacons' Corner

## First Presbyterian Meal Train

The Deacons are looking for some culinary help! They are creating a list of willing people to prepare and deliver a meal to our members in time of need. When the time comes, you would be contacted by one of the Deacons to see if you are available to help. If you are interested in serving at some point, please email Anne Bates.

Hebrews 13:16 reminds us "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

## Sunday Morning Transportation Needs

Also, would you be willing to provide transportation for some of our members who are no longer driving? The Deacons would like to compile a list of willing participants. Contact Anne Bates.

## Blessing Box Needs

The Blessing Box can now be filled by using the Amazon Wishlist:

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1DY4C82NTO9BE?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1DY4C82NTO9BE?ref=wl_share)

But to avoid deliveries at the church when it's closed, please put Audra Hauff's shipping address in before placing the order.

Remember, buying items in bulk makes the per-piece price less than purchasing them individually. You could even split the cost with a friend. Many of the items are individually wrapped for sanitation. Please call, text, or email Audra with any questions.

Of course, you can still donate individual items. Most-needed are proteins (peanut butter, chicken and tuna packets or cans), soup (cans with pop tops are appreciated), bottled water, breakfast bars, and hygiene products: soap, shampoo, toothpaste, and toothbrushes.

Money donations are also gratefully accepted. All items can be dropped off at the church whenever it's open, including Sundays. Please place your items on the shelves under the rear stairs near the Pike County crates. Any items that are not picked up are donated to Pike County. Nothing is wasted. Please consider donating. Thank you!



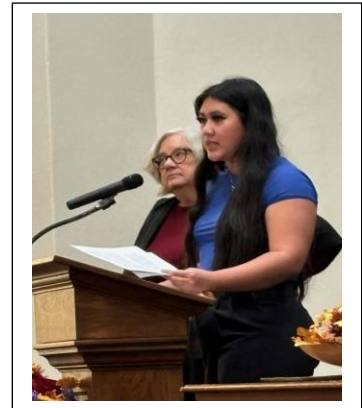
## Seeking a Part-Time Youth and Family Ministry Director

Our church is looking for a part-time Youth and Family Ministry Director. This person will oversee all aspects of our Youth Ministry, from nursery through high school. Key responsibilities include planning and implementing programs, managing volunteers, and ensuring a safe and nurturing environment for children. The director will also explore innovative approaches to attract new families and engage the congregation in outreach activities. For more information, please contact Chris Henson or Nancy Dumford at [jobs@fpcw.us](mailto:jobs@fpcw.us).

### And We Have Another New Intern!

In addition to a potential new Youth and Family Ministry Director, our church has two new interns, one focusing on children's ministry and the other on communications. They each will work six hours a week during the school year.

As reported in the November *Advocate*, Jeffrey Siefker will be our new children's ministry intern. He's already on the job! And Sarah Bricker-Smith will be our new communications intern! We have watched Sarah, daughter of Mary Bricker, grow up in our church and look forward to having her apply all she's learned earning bachelor's and master's degrees to our church's communication needs. Also in the photo, Sherri Monteith, chair of our Communication Committee.



### More Help Wanted

The church's Mobility Assistance Program (MAP) needs a person or persons to perform maintenance on our donated mobility devices. Our "mechanic" would inspect equipment and repair or adjust so it operates safely and correctly. (No electric devices are dispensed by MAP.) Marion Ackerman has provided this service for many years and wishes to step aside, with our heartfelt thanks. This volunteer position will require 5 to 10 hours per month. If you are interested, please speak or call John Cameron.



FRIDAY

13

DECEMBER



## SOUP FOR SHELTER

5 - 7PM, TICKETS \$20

(LIMITED TO 350, NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR)

WESTERVILLE SENIOR CENTER

350 N CLEVELAND AVE, WESTERVILLE, OH 43082



## PROGRESSIVE *Christmas* CONCERT

7 - 9:15PM, TICKETS \$15

WALK TO THREE UPTOWN WESTERVILLE CHURCHES

Church of the Master, Church of the Messiah, First Presbyterian Church



Attend one or both events. Tickets can be purchased online by scanning the QR codes.

Confirmation email to be used for entry.

(Any remaining concert seats will be sold at the door at 6:30pm.)

ALL PROCEEDS FROM BOTH EVENTS SUPPORT BUILDING PROJECTS FOR  
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF DELAWARE / UNION COUNTIES





*with Kenston Henderson*

# WESTERVILLE MLK BREAKFAST CELEBRATION

"CREATING THE BELOVED  
COMMUNITY, EVEN WHEN  
WE DON'T AGREE"

MON. JAN. 20, 2025 | THE MEDALLION CLUB



On Monday, January 20, the Westerville Area Chamber of Commerce will sponsor the Annual MLK Breakfast, featuring Kenston Henderson, a transformative leadership speaker, trainer, and author. He is dedicated to igniting, inspiring, and empowering individuals and organizations. The theme for 2025 is "Creating the Beloved Community, Even When We Don't Agree."

MLK Award winners will also be recognized at the breakfast. The time and place: 8:30-10:30 am. at the Medallion Club, 5000 Club Drive, Westerville 43082.

Last year, our church sponsored—and filled—two tables of eight people. This year, First Presbyterian has bought three tables in support of the project, Leadership Westerville's commitment to advancing Westerville towards becoming Dr. King's Beloved Community. So, we have 24 seats available at \$35/each. If you attended the breakfast in previous years, you know what a moving experience it is, and you won't want to miss it this year. Please call the church office to register—before we run out of seats at our tables!

## Oh, Boy!

On Saturday, November 2, the Deacons organized a well-attended baby shower for two of our families. Two days later, Kathryn Moore (on the right in the photos) had little Emmett David Moore. Proud dad is Joshua Moore!

Still waiting, as of November 24, are soon-to-be parents, Abby and Dakota Hanson.

At the shower, the first-time moms opened many, many gifts for the two little boys, and we enjoyed fun games, cute decorations, and lots of delicious food, including cake, of course. Our best wishes to the two newest members of our congregation—and their excited/exhausted parents! And thanks to the Deacons for a fun time!



# The Church's October Financial Report

<div> <div>11/4/2024 01:37 pm</div> <div> First Presbyterian Church  <b>Treasurer's Report, Majors with Annual Budget</b>  Finance year 2024, October </div> </div>				
<b>Book 01: Operating</b>	Actual Oct. 2024	Actual as of 10/31/2024	Budget as of 10/31/2024	Budget 2024
<b>Income</b>				
01 - Budgeted Contributions	24,788.00	275,237.80	256,298.40	307,558.08
02 - Administrative Services	0.00	912.50	833.30	999.96
03 - Christian Education	0.00	35.00	166.70	200.04
05 - Membership & Evangelism	0.00	20.00	166.70	200.04
08 - Worship	75.00	1,805.11	2,166.70	2,600.04
<b>Incomes:</b>	<b>24,863.00</b>	<b>278,010.41</b>	<b>259,631.80</b>	<b>311,558.16</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
01 - Personnel	16,597.42	178,233.87	197,280.79	232,896.24
02 - Administrative Services	2,935.64	49,324.59	44,558.40	53,510.08
03 - Christian Education	0.00	293.43	3,750.00	4,500.00
05 - Membership/Evangelism/Events	0.00	1,807.10	2,958.30	3,549.96
06 - Stewardship	2,809.10	17,103.86	19,066.70	21,950.04
07 - Outreach	1,580.00	6,105.75	6,683.40	8,800.00
08 - Worship	420.22	4,846.40	5,383.30	6,625.00
09 - Deacons	0.00	82.95	208.30	250.00
10 - Communications and Technology	399.15	5,164.02	7,025.00	8,430.00
<b>Expenses:</b>	<b>24,741.53</b>	<b>262,961.97</b>	<b>286,914.19</b>	<b>340,511.32</b>
<b>Summary: Book 01: Operating</b>				
	Actual Oct. 2024	Actual as of 10/31/2024	Budget as of 10/31/2024	Budget 2024
<b>Incomes:</b>	<b>24,863.00</b>	<b>278,010.41</b>	<b>259,631.80</b>	<b>311,558.16</b>

## November Session Actions

At its November meeting, the Session voted to

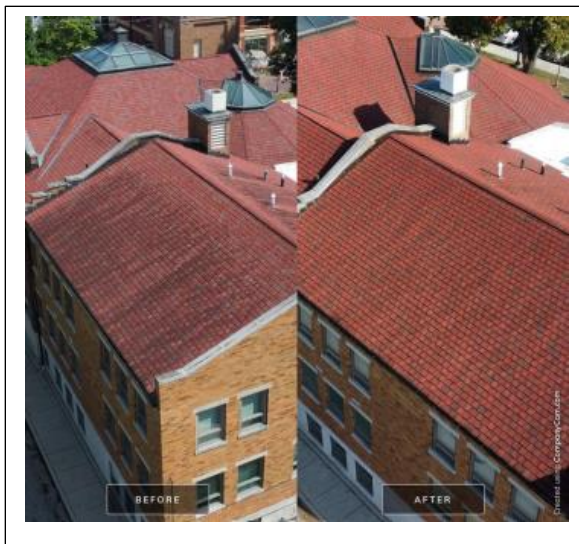
- Approve minutes from the 10/14/2024 regular Session meeting.
- Approve moving forward with exploring Christian Education outreach opportunities.
- Approve opening a Certificate of Deposit to get a better interest rate.
- Approve the October financial reports.
- Update the Membership Roll to reflect that Eric Fredrickson passed away on November 5, 2024.

--Scott Reichley, Clerk of Session

# Revitalizing Our Roof

The roof on our church is approximately 25-30 years old and was nearing the end of its life cycle. Administrative Services had three different roofers examine it, and they all indicated that it was generally in pretty good shape for its age. One estimated that we could expect another 3-4 years before needing to replace the roof; a second roofer indicated 2-3 years of remaining life. We then contacted RoofMaxx, a local roofing contractor that uses a spray treatment to revitalize existing roofs. After inspecting our roof, this contractor indicated it was a good candidate for their treatment process. They have a full warranty for FIVE YEARS and indicate that with their treatment process, we'll likely get 7-10 more years before needing to replace the roof.

The two before-and-after photos below show what a significant improvement this treatment made! Thank you, Administrative Services!



# Event Update



## **Genealogy Club: Next meeting: March, 2025!**

In 2025, we will move to quarterly meetings, with the first one in March. In the meantime, if you are interested or just curious and have not contacted us before, contact Bill Hitt or Ken Bonvallet.

## **Dine Out: Friday, December 6, 6:30 pm**

The Dine-Out Group will be returning to our favorite December restaurant, Lucky House on Schrock Road. **NOTE: this is the first Friday of the month due to the Habitat Concert on 12/13.** You and your friends are all invited to come and have a good time with us! As usual, please contact Jim Hines if you plan on attending or have any questions.

## **Ladies' Night Out: No meeting in December**

Please join us again on January 21. Suggestions for a restaurant? Contact Diana Westfall.

## **Fabrics of Faith: No meeting in December**

Please join us again on January 27. Contact Beckey Stamm for information.

## **Circle 4 Women: Thursday, December 19, 11:00 am**

Our Presbyterian Women's group meets monthly for fellowship and Bible study. In December, we will have a Christmas social meeting with finger foods on Thursday, December 19, at 11 am in the Knox Room. If any women in the church are interested in joining us, you are welcome to attend! Contact Elaine Foley after church on Sundays or by email or phone for more information. We have some really good discussions.

## **Presbyterian 9 Patchers (P9P): Monday, December 16, 12:00 noon**

The P9P are meeting at Vicki Moon's house for a holiday lunch on December 16. You are welcome to join our regular meetings once or every week as we work on quilts and other projects to be given away. Questions? Contact Karen Hoggarth.



## Pastor's Page      Rev. Nancy Dumford

### Making Room in Advent

December 2024

Happy New Year! The Christian calendar begins anew, inviting us to live the story of Jesus all over again. We start with Advent—a season of anticipation, waiting, and wonder. As the world rushes toward Christmas, the church tells time differently. We slow down, listen, and make room. Author Michaela LaVigne says it this way her book *Living the Way of Jesus*:

“The rhythms of the Christian calendar orient us to God’s reality. We do not merely ask God to join our life; instead, we are invited to participate in God’s life. Subtly and explicitly, this way of marking time reminds us that we are part of a story that is different from the stories we hear all around us.”

It’s hard to balance the rush and bustle of Christmas preparation and the quiet pondering and longing that prepares our heart. The beloved carole *Joy to the World* reminds us, “*Let every heart prepare Him room.*” It’s a simple yet profound invitation. We know what it’s like to prepare our homes for Christmas guests—clearing clutter, tidying spaces, and swapping everyday things with Christmas things to create room for others to feel welcome. Advent calls us to do the same in our spiritual lives.

Making room isn’t about emptying ourselves entirely. It’s about creating space to notice the unexpected ways God shows up. When we declutter our hearts and minds—letting go of distractions or tightly held plans—we find space for anticipation, for wonder, and for the joy of welcoming Christ anew.

This Advent, we will explore the theme of *Making Room*, as we wander through the stories found in Luke of Zechariah, Elizabeth, John, and Mary, even as we wonder about the things we desire to find space for in our own crowded lives. We will light the Advent wreath, watching it glow with hope, peace, joy, and love, once again reminded of God’s gift to us. Behold, the Messiah comes. May heaven and nature sing as we prepare Him room!

With great anticipation of spending this Advent with you, Pastor Nancy

