

West Berlin Presbyterian Church

The MESSENGER December 2024



The mission of West Berlin Presbyterian Church is to follow God's law and act in true faith by being a welcoming place where community members come to learn, take part in worship, find fellowship, and serve those in need, for the glory of God.

The Small Strong Church with a Big Heart



From the Pulpit –Pastor Bob

Just could not pass up sharing with you the "Your (Unofficial) Guide to Advent" created by the United Church of Canada.

Your (Unofficial) Guide to Advent

The Basics

WHAT IS ADVENT?

Happy New Year! Advent is the start of the Christian Church Calendar. Advent traditionally starts four Sundays before Christmas Day. The word "Advent" is a mashup of two Latin words: adventus (arrival) + venire (come). This makes sense because during Advent we anticipate and prepare for the arrival of the coming (or more accurately the second coming) of Christ and reflect on what that means for us.

WHY IS EVERYTHING IN CHURCH BLUE OR PURPLE INSTEAD OF CHRISTMAS RED AND GREEN?

Blue is used to symbolize Mother Mary, hope, and anticipation. Purple is often linked to penance and Lent, another time of waiting in the church year.

WHAT SCRIPTURE IS LINUS QUOTING IN A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS?

In A Charlie Brown Christmas, Charlie Brown cries: "Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas all is about?" Linus, with his security blanket, takes center stage and recites the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 2, verses 8–14. During his recital Linus drops his blanket (like a mic) and at the end, picks up his blanket, returns to Charlie Brown, and says: "That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown." Linus is speaking truth!

CAN YOU TALK ABOUT SANTA CLAUS IN CHURCH?

Santa Claus and "small c Christmas" go together like hot chocolate and marshmallows. Santa isn't as good a fit for "big C Christmas," but Jolly Old Saint Nicholas is! December 6 is Saint Nicholas Day, a wonderful time to celebrate the life of the early Christian bishop. Just like Santa Claus, there is more legend about Saint Nicholas than fact. He is consistently known for his kindness and generosity, especially to the less fortunate.



WHY DO I GET GIFTS IF IT IS JESUS' BIRTHDAY?

That's a good question. What do you think?

For more facts about the season and ways to prepare for Advent, check out Advent Unwrapped resources at inited-church.ca/worship-theme/advent-unwrapped.

Women's Society Annual Auction

The WBP Women's Society Annual Silent Auction will be held on Wednesday, December 4, at 6:00 P.M. in the WBPC Fellowship Hall. Shop for Christmas gifts, decorations, and especially the crafts and goodies made by our congregation. Don't miss the delicious baked goodies!!!!

Bidding opens at 6:00 PM; Auction results at 7:00 PM; plenty of treats in between. Bring families, friends, and neighbors to this special annual event.

If possible, please bring items for the auction to the church on Sunday, December 1. For more details, please contact Amy Martindale (martindaleaj@hotmail.com)



Women's Society November Meeting

The November meeting of the women's society as held on Wednesday the 6th. Old business was discussed including money spent and the fall cookout. New business included the upcoming silent auction on December 4. There will be raffle tickets for the quilt and trying a new idea of an instant raffle. Please bring an appetizer to share.

The women's society will again sponsor our annual trip to see Fantasy of Lights on December 11. We will meet at 5:30 for pizza and leave at around 6:00 to caravan to see the light display. Please plan to help decorate the church on November 29 at 9:00am. Winter hats and mittens were collected for donation.



Important Dates!!!

December 1
Hybrid Worship*
Communion
10:30 AM

December 2
Advent Study
7:00 PM

December 3
Session Meeting
7:00 PM

December 4
Women's Society Silent
Auction
6:00 PM

December 7
Alice Cox Class Party
All-Occasions
5:30 PM

December 8
Hybrid Worship*
Special Congregational
Meeting

December 9
Advent Study
7:00 PM

December 11
Deacon & Mission Bd
Meeting
12:00 PM

December 11
Christmas Party & Fantasy
of Lights
5:30 PM Pizza
6:00 PM depart for Fantasy
of Lights

December 15
Hybrid Worship*

December 16
Advent Study
7:00 PM

December 17
Education Committee
7:00 PM

December 21
Reverse Advent Collection
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

December 22
Hybrid Worship*

December 24
Christmas Eve Service
3:00 PM

December 29
Hybrid Worship*
Special Recorded Service
from Senate of Covenant

December 29
No Adult Class

Upcoming Special Services

Christmas Eve Service – December 24, 2024 (3:00 PM) It will be a traditional service of lessons and carols to be held at 3:00 PM. Join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ!

A service targeted for December 29th has been recorded by the Synod of the Covenant. We use this service at our usual time (10:30 AM) on the 29th. You may come and watch at church or through Zoom at home. You may remember we very much enjoyed a similar service last year.

Special Mission Opportunities for Advent, "The Reverse Advent Calendar" and More

It is now an Advent tradition that we put special focus on collecting food, hygiene, and clothing items for the Open Table Food Pantry at Grace Point Church (2393 Peachblow Rd., Delaware). Our efforts for this are organized by the Deacon and Mission Board.

One alternative is to make this an Advent practice by starting the first Sunday of Advent (December 1), each day add at least one item to your "Advent Box". Suggestions items are Shelf stable foods that are easy to prepare are preferred. Please no perishable items. Hygiene items like toothpaste, bar soap, and famine care products are sought. New or gently used clothing. Cash donations will also be welcomed. Bring your "Advent Box" to the church either Saturday December 21 between 10 AM and 2 PM or Sunday December 22. Deacons will be available to help unload cars during these times. Just pull up to the east door.

If these drop-offs do not work for you, the Red Wagon in the Annex can be used for drop-offs at any time (all year long).

Church Christmas Party and Fantasy of Lights Trip, Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Meet in the church at 5:30 PM Thursday, December 14, 2024, for pizza. At 6:00 PM we will have our traditional singing of the 12 Days of Christmas. At 6:15 PM we will caravan to the Fantasy of Lights site as groups in cars, trucks, and vans. The Women's Society will cover the cost. Look for coupons in Val Pak Mail for the Fantasy of Lights.

The 24th Annual Fantasy of Lights is a Drive Thru Light Show (like 2 miles) and Santa House. Partial gate proceeds benefit Recreation Unlimited. The physical address is: 3190 South Old State Rd. Delaware, OH 43015.

December

Birthdays:

1- Janet Thompson
3 - Roy Cottrill,
26 - Ed Cox



Anniversaries:

6 – John and Jennifer Jordan
21 – Bob and Yvonne Gustafson

PRAYER LIST:

Rodger Glenn, Dan Cottrill, Gene & Penny Ford, John & Debbie Rucker, Jack Smith (father & son), victims of Helene and Milton, William Nierman, Mary Howell, Rosemary Craig & Krista George, Mary Ann Johnson, Ann Dennis

DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

A great crew "gave up" Black Friday shopping to decorate the church for the Christmas Season. Come and see!



Get Ready for Year-End Giving

Did you know that more charitable giving happens in December than any other time of the year? Over one-third of all charitable giving is done in the last quarter of the year. The majority of that giving happens in the month of December.

WBPC could use your gifts. We are running behind in our expected contributions. We hope you can help us end the year on a positive note.

Please make your contributions, at a church service, via mail to Church Treasurer Edmund Cox, 257 Pennsylvania Av, Delaware, OH 43015 or on-line giving through westberlinpc.info

Thanks for your support!!!

Advent Daily Devotional

If you are looking for a way to do a simple daily practice to acknowledge the Season of Advent, a daily devotional is a separate attachment to this newsletter. The daily devotional is entitled "Patterns of Divine Possibility – An Advent Search." It is written by Rev. Teri McDowell Ott and published by The Presbyterian Outlook.

If you need a printed copy, please check the information table at church or contact Pastor Bob.

Congregational Meeting for Election of Officers

A special congregational meeting will be held on December 8, 2024, for the election of officers for terms beginning January 1, 2025. This meeting will be immediately after the church service that day.

The nominating Committee will be bringing forward names of Tom Roll, Amy Martindale, and Jerianne Gooding for Elder; and as Deacons Ruth Strichter and Susan Glass. Official installation of those elected will be in January.

Adult Education Opportunities

Our Monday evening (7:00 PM) Adult Education opportunities for December will focus on an Advent study as created by the Bible Project (bibleproject.com). Christians have long observed the Advent season by meditating on peace, hope, joy, and love. These rich biblical words are the focus of the Advent series. For all classes 7 PM, come to church or through Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6145951009> Or Voice only Dial 929 436 2866 or 312 626 6799 Meeting ID: 614 595 1009
No classes week of December 29.

Christmas Joy of PC(USA)

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift past, present, and our future leaders of the PC(USA). Supporting the Christmas Joy Offering honors God's gift of Jesus Christ by aiding current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Please designate gifts to Christmas Joy offering any time between December 1 - December 22, 2024.

Important Training!!! January 11, 2025 Church Officers Training

Registration is now open for the Presbytery Church Officer Training on Saturday, January 11, 2025. We will have check-in starting at 9:00 a.m., and the event will finish by 11:30 a.m. Classes for elders and deacons will be held at Gahanna Mifflin Presbyterian Church

PSV PIE (Partners in Education) Event!
We are excited about this year's Presbytery of Scioto Valley **PIE (Partner s in Education)** Event on Saturday, March 1, 2025, at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Columbus, starting with registration at 9:00 a.m. and ending by 2:30 p.m.

Our keynote speaker will be the dynamic Dr. Corey Schlosser-Hall, the Presbyterian Mission Agency's Deputy Executive Director of Vision, Innovation and Rebuilding. We will also have eight workshops, including "Making Your Church More Visible", "Real Talk from Young Adults", "Anti-Hunger Advocacy", and "Prayer Practices for Lent". The cost for the event is \$20 which includes lunch. More information is coming soon!

Reverse Advent Project (Sponsored by Deacon and Mission Board)

The Reverse Advent Calendar idea is simple – rather than *receiving* a treat each day, you *gift* one.

Packed to the brim with Christmas spirit, it's an ideal tradition to start in your home or business and perfect for reminding us to think of others at this busy time of year. With every passing day, your Reverse Advent Calendar fills with non-perishable food items, hygiene products, and other essential supplies. **One of the best things about the reverse calendar is that you can be flexible with the items. Those on the calendars are only suggestions for your consideration. Suggested steps are:**

1. **Choose a container for your contributions.** An old cardboard box will do fine. Decorate it if you'd like and set it up in an easy-to-see location (to keep momentum going).
2. **Add at least one item for each day.** From canned goods and pasta to hygiene products like shower gel, feminine hygiene products or clothing like winter caps, mittens, and gloves.
3. **Deliver to your collection.** We will have special collection times **on Saturday December 21, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM and Sunday morning December 22** with a dedication of gifts at our regular service.
4. **WHAT SHOULD I PUT IN MY BOX?**



- DEC 1 – box of cereal
- DEC 2 – peanut butter
- DEC 3 – stuffing mix
- DEC 4 – boxed potatoes
- DEC 5 – macaroni & cheese
- DEC 6 – canned fruit
- DEC 7 – canned tomatoes
- DEC 8 – canned tuna
- DEC 9 – dessert mix
- DEC 10 – jar of applesauce
- DEC 11 – canned sweet potatoes
- DEC 12 – cranberry sauce.
- DEC 13 – canned beans
- DEC 14 – box of crackers
- DEC 15 – box of rice
- DEC 16 – container of oatmeal
- DEC 17 – box of pasta
- DEC 18 – spaghetti sauce
- DEC 19 – chicken noodle soup
- DEC 20 – tomato soup
- DEC 21 – can of corn



From the Treasurer

November:

Attendance:

November 3
33 - 21 On-site
9 On-line

November 10
29 - 20 On-site
9 On-line

November 17
32 - 20 On-site
12 On-line

November 24
35 - 22 On-site
13 On-line

November 26
Thanksgiving
12 - 10 On-site
2 On-line

Giving

Nov 3 - \$2,100
Nov 10 - \$1,416
Nov 17 - \$1,053
Nov 24 - \$1,011
\$5,580

Please make your contributions via mail to Church Treasurer Edmund Cox, 257 Pennsylvania Av, Delaware, OH 43015. On-line giving through westberlinpc.info