

West Berlin Presbyterian Church

The MESSENGER February 2025



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 – “Downsizing” Our Nursery Room for a Re-envisioned Mission

Since the beginning of COVID19, our church nursery area, located on the second floor, has received limited usage. In an unsupervised fashion, it has been used during special events at the church, such as weddings and funerals. It had accumulated lots of “extras” in the room making it unattractive and less useful and comfortable.

After discussion, the Education Committee took on the task of re-envisioning how this space will be used in the future by cleaning and re-equipping the space. A couple of things were important in the decision-making process:

- First, current policies on staffing, such as a space in the church during our regular worship service, will require that two adults always be present. All adults volunteering to supervise in the nursery are required to have documented background checks.
- Second, current trends in parenting make it less likely that parents will leave infants in a nursery by opting to keep them in the worship service. Perhaps, using car carriers for the youngest children. Some churches are now using areas in the sanctuary as “Kid’s Spaces” by taking out a pew (or two) in the front or back for nursery space. If the opportunity arises, this option could be a future consideration.
- Adequate space has been kept supporting the amount of equipment used for the Wednesday Morning Toddler program. Extra items in good condition were donated to Goodwill. The refreshed room will remain available for use and is modestly equipped for infants and toddlers. The larger “conference” room is available and is periodically used by both the 4-H and the Cub Scouts

Please note the Education Committee has prepared “Kids Bags” with age-appropriate activity material placed at each entrance to the church. The Committee has a program of distributing Christian Education materials to children (and grandchildren) on a quarterly basis. This is usually done through parents and grandparents.



Again, as need arises, the Committee will consider what needs to happen to best support educational needs of our church family.

Pastor Bob



Ordination & Installation of Officers

On January 5th, the annual ordination and installation of church officers was held. Jerianne Gooding, Amy Martindale and Tom Roll, all previously ordained as Ruling Elders, were installed to active service as Elders.

Susan Glass was ordained and installed as a Deacon. Ruth Stichter will be ordained and installed as a Deacon later this year.



Upcoming Adult Education

The Monday evening 7 PM Adult Education sessions continue. We will focus on the Gospel of John with the leadership of Adam Hamilton and his book John, the Gospel of Light and Life for three more weeks. The February 3rd study focuses on The Farewell Discourse; Feb 10th on The Arrest, Trial, and Crucifixion of the King; and Feb 17th on Eternal Life. On Feb 24th we will branch off to current issues in biblical context from using the Wired Word.

Our Lenten Study will begin March 10th. All meetings will be hybrid. The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6145951009?omn=84010742545>

Important Dates!!!

February 2025

February 2

Worship*
Communion

February 3

Adult Study
7:00 p.m.

February 4

Session Meeting
7:00 p.m.

February 9

Worship*

February 10

Adult Study
7:00 p.m.

February 12

Deacon and Mission
Board
Noon

February 16

Worship*

February 17

Adult Study
7:00 PM
(Presidents' Day)

February 18

Presbytery Meeting
3:30 PM

February 19

Education Committee
7:00 PM

February 23

Worship*

February 24

Adult Study
7:00 p.m.

February 25

Administrative
Committee
7:00 PM

*Worship is Hybrid

10:30 a.m.

See email invite for Zoom link and bulletin. Mailed copies of bulletin and sermons are available upon request from Pastor Bob

2025 Annual Congregational Meeting Recap

The WBPC Annual Congregational meeting was held as part of our service on January 26th. The following are highlights from the meeting:

- The Clerk of Session's report showed our official membership decreased from 62 to 58. This was due to death of one member, removal of three inactive persons from our membership list and no new members in 2024. David Howell has taken over as Clerk of Session. Gratitude was expressed to Lou Ann Shy for her seven years of service as Clerk of Session.
- The Treasurer's report showed that expenses exceeded income for 2024 by \$4,700. 2025 Budget, as approved by Session, was presented. All were asked to prayerfully consider increasing contributions in 2025.
- The Minister's report highlighted:
 - 1) our changing neighborhood demographics,
 - 2) the way we use technology to be a hybrid church,
 - 3) fiscal health of the church, and:
 - 4) preparing for our sequential in January of 2026.
- Committee reports and groups briefings highlighted accomplishments in 2024 and some goals for 2025. This included a survey form handed out by the Education Committee.

If you would like a hard copy or electronic copy of the Annual Report, please let Pastor Bob or Ed Cox know.



February

Birthdays:

1 – Robert McOwen
10 – Shelly Harmon
11- Kitty Cottrill
18 - Hrishi Pesula



Anniversaries:

9 - Rollin & Kristina Michael
10 - David & Mary Howell
19 - Jerry & Mary Jo Stein

PRAYER LIST:

Rodger Glenn, Dan Cottrill, Gene & Penny Ford, John & Debbie Rucker, William Nierman, Mary Ann Johnson, Ann Dennis, Linda Fields, Debbie Rucker, Josh and Carrie Ford, victims of California wildfires, John Temple, Janet Thompson, Linn Hough, and Family

Committee and Other Officers for 2025

Note from Pastor Bob

An especially important position in any PC(USA) Church is the Clerk of Session. This person not only keeps the minutes of our Session and Congregational meetings but also keeps our official records of membership and files our reports to Presbytery and PC(USA). Lou Ann Shy has served us with distinction for the past seven years but has decided it is time for someone else to step up for this role. We want to thank Lou Ann for her excellent service. She will continue to edit our newsletter.

I am pleased that David Howell has agreed to take over as Clerk of Session for 2025.

Chairs of our Committee are established on an annual basis. Committee chairs for 2025 are:

Worship and Outreach – David Howell
Christian Education – Jerry Stein
Administrative – Tom Roll
Personnel – Susan Fisher
Nominating Committee – Jerianne Gooding

From the Treasurer

January Attendance:

Jan 5 33- 21 On-site
12 On-line
Jan 12 41-25 On-site
16 On-line
Jan 19 31 -23 On-site
8 On-line
Jan 26 40 - 29 On-site
11 On-line

Contributions:

Jan 5 - \$1,350
Jan 12 1,240
Jan 19 411
Jan 26 15,566
\$ 18,567

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

PIE (Partners in Education) Event! - March 1, 2025

"Visions and Dreams" PIE (Partners in Education) will be Saturday, March 1, 2025, at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Columbus with registration at 9:00 am. The event lasts until 2:30 pm and the \$20 cost includes lunch from Freedom a la Carte. Our keynote speaker is Dr. Corey Schlosser-Hall, Presbyterian Mission Agency's Deputy Executive Director of Vision, Innovation and Rebuilding. Eight exciting workshops will be offered, four in the morning and four in the afternoon, including Matthew 25 issues, children and youth ministry, a youth adult panel, making your church more visible, chair yoga, Lenten prayer practices and more.

Register at <https://psvonline.org/event/pie-partners-in-education-event/>

Services of the Witness to the Resurrection

We are saddened at the death of WBPC member Sharon Lee Hough. She passed peacefully Thursday, January 30, 2025, at her home, surrounded by her loving family.

Friends may call on the family from 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm, Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at the Robinson Funeral Home, 32 West Winter Street, Delaware, Ohio 43015. Pastor Robert Gustafson will officiate a celebration of Sharon life at 11:00 am at the Robinson Funeral Home. Burial will take place in the spring at Berkshire Cemetery in the spring.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed towards Stockhands Horses for Healing, 3788 Olentangy River Road, Delaware, Ohio 43015. Memories and condolences may be expressed at www.robinsonfuneralhomeinc.com. A full obituary will be available in the coming days at the Robinson website.

Member Contact Information

Please help us maintain correct contact information for all our members and friends. If you change email address, made a phone change, or change of address, let us know. Or if you just want to make sure we have the correct information, please send information to gustafson15@gmail.com. Thanks for your assistance.