

West Berlin Presbyterian Church

The MESSENGER January 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 –Pastor Bob

You may not be surprised to learn that one of the items I received for Christmas (from Santa of course, never too old to believe) was a book by a New York Times writer I much enjoy, David Brooks. Brooks often writes on topics that include religion, moral values and how those are expressed in life. The book is entitled The Road to Character.

Although I have not yet finished the book, I would like to share some initial impressions with you. He starts his introduction with a concept I have heard him use in other pieces, the difference between resume virtues and eulogy virtues. The resume virtues are ones you list on your resume, the skills that you bring to the job market and that contribute to external success. The eulogy virtues are deeper. They are the virtues that get talked about at your funeral; where you brave, honest, and faithful.

He hypothesizes that most of us if asked would say eulogy virtues are more important than the resume virtues. But then he starts to build the case that this may not be where our society has moved to in recent decades. He will contrast two moral ecologies. The older is a culture and intellectual tradition that emphasized our brokenness. It was a tradition that demanded humility in the face of our own limitations. He suggests we have seen a broad shift from a culture of humility to the culture of what you might call the Big Me, from a culture that encourages people to think humbly of themselves to a culture that encouraged people to see themselves as the center of the universe.

The shift from one moral culture to another is not a crude story of decline, from noble restraint to self-indulgent decadence. He acknowledges that each moral climate is a collective response to the problems of the moment and the change has not been without both gains and losses.

One of his examples that I will share briefly is just too appropriate for this time of year. Some of us will remember in January of 1969 when two great quarterbacks faced each other in Superbowl III. Both Johnny Unitas and Joe Namath were raised in the steel towns of western Pennsylvanian. But they had grown up a decade apart and lived in different moral cultures. Unitas grew up in the old culture of self-effacement and self-defeat. Remember his white short-sleeved, button-down shirt and narrow black tie. Remember Namath with his white shoes and flowing hair, brashly guaranteeing victory. Broadway Joe to many fans. (By the way, the AFL Jets defeated the NFL Colts 16 to 7.)



If you want to read this book after I finish, let me know. Or I am sure you can get it from either the library or Amazon. I would be interested to know what you think about how this is reflected in and impacts the church and the larger society.

Women's Society Annual Auction

A successful WBPC Women's Society Annual Silent Auction went off smoothly on December 4th. Lucky, generous bidders won many great items. A new instant raffle was added this year. Polly Mitchell won the raffle for the beautiful Winter quilt made by Kathy McCreary. A total of \$2,000+ was raised for future Women's Society's missions and church-related activities. Thanks to all who supported the WBPC Women's Society.

Start planning for next year's Silent Auction contributions!

Fantasy of Lights Excursion

Thanks go to the Women's Society for organizing and support our annual pizza night and excursion to this year's Fantasy of Lights display. A great time was had by all.



Alice Cox Christmas Party

The annual Alice Cox Christmas party was held on December 7, 2024, at the All Occasions Catering Hall located in Waldo, Ohio. Seventeen people attended. All enjoyed a wonderful meal and white elephant gift exchange lead by Jerianne Gooding. It was a wonderful time of food, friends, and fellowship.



Important Dates!!! January 2025

January 5
Hybrid Worship*
Communion
Installation of Officers
10:30 AM

January 6
Study of John
7:00 PM

January 7
Session Meeting
7:00 PM

January 8
Deacon & Mission Bd
12:00 PM

January 12
Hybrid Worship*
10:30 AM

January 13
Study of John
7:00 PM

January 19
Hybrid Worship*
10:30 AM

January 20
Advent Study
7:00 PM

January 21
Education Committee
7:00 PM

January 26
Hybrid Worship*
10:30 AM

January 27
Adult Class – John
7:00 PM

*See email invite for Zoom link and bulletin. A copy of the bulletin and Sermon can be mailed to you. Let Bob know.

Reverse Advent Donations Collection & Open House December 21, 2024

The Deacon and Mission Board thanks all who contributed to the Reverse Advent Food, Hygiene and Clothing drive. It was a wonderful success. A truckload was already delivered to the Open Table Food Pantry at Grace Point Church on Monday December 23, 2024. Throughout the year, non-perishable food, clothing, and hygiene items can be dropped off at the church (red wagon near east door). They will periodically be taken to the food pantry.

In conjunction with our collection day, an Open House was held for neighbors. We had one couple, with an adorable one-year old, who lives in the new West Berlin Farm development behind us drop in. We will try this again as the Berlin Farms and other developments continue to expand.



January

Birthdays:

2- Leora Hughes
3 - Kathy McCreary
4- Teri Jordan
8- Julie Clark, Noah Ribar
16 - WBPC
Established 1876
17- Carolyn Glenn
20- Russell Jordan
24-Matthew Coldren
27- Bailey Szuch
28- Sean Ball



Anniversaries:

14-Roy & Kitty Cottrill
18-Jerome & Becky Donovan
27-Scott & Cindy McGraw

Adult Study John – The Gospel of Light and Life by Adam Hamilton

This six-week study is open to all participants in hybrid mode. Starting Monday evenings at 7 PM, January 6 going through February 10, you may attend at church or online. Adam Hamilton, senior pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas, is a master at explaining questions of faith in a down-to-earth fashion. This video series with accompanying book will take us through the Gospel of John. If you would like a book, please let Pastor Bob know.

Watch for weekly email announcements, materials and Zoom invitation.

PRAYER LIST:

Rodger Glenn, Dan Cottrill, Gene & Penny Ford, John & Debbie Rucker, William Nierman, Mary Ann Johnson, Linda Fields

Annual Reports and Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be set for January 26th after our worship service. This is an opportunity to review accomplishments of the past year and look forward to 2025, our 150th Anniversary year, and beyond.

The meeting will be hybrid. We will just continue our Zoom connections from worship for the meeting.

Watch for it. Participation is encouraged!!!!

**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

**From the
Treasurer**

December:

Attendance:

December 1
31 - 19 On-site
12 On-line

December 8
34 - 24 On-site
10 On-line

December 15
35 - 22 On-site
13 On-line

December 22
34 - 24 On-site
10 On-line

December 24
44 - 36 On-site
8 On-line

December 29
19 - 5 On-site
16 On-line

Dec 1 - \$1,311
Dec 8 - \$2,624
Dec 15 - \$ 661
Dec 22 - \$1,287.00
Dec 29 - \$ 573
Total \$6,456

**PSV PIE
(Partners in Education) Event!**

This year's Presbytery of Scioto Valley **PIE (Partners in Education)** Event will be held 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!

Member Information Session

If you are interested in membership at WBPC, membership information class is available upon request. The class will last about 1.5 hours and cover what we as Presbyterians believe, how we are governed, how we worship, and some specifics about our church.

If you would like to participate, please let Pastor Bob know and we will get a time scheduled. This class is not limited to those participating in person. Those participating are welcome as well!!!

New Year blessings for 2025

- May your heart be full, your mind be clear, and your journey be filled with joy.
- Cheers to new beginnings, fresh opportunities, and a year filled with growth, success, and laughter.
- Leave behind what didn't serve you and step into 2025 with hope, confidence, and unstoppable energy.
- Here's to another year of laughter, adventure, and making memories we'll never forget! Cheers to 2025!
- Wishing you a year filled with endless joy, success, and cherished moments. Happy New Year 2025!!!

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