

West Berlin Presbyterian Church

The MESSENGER June 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

I was particularly struck by a recent piece from Lauren Jackson an associate editor and writer for The Morning a column for the New York Times. She has also spent the past year reporting on belief.

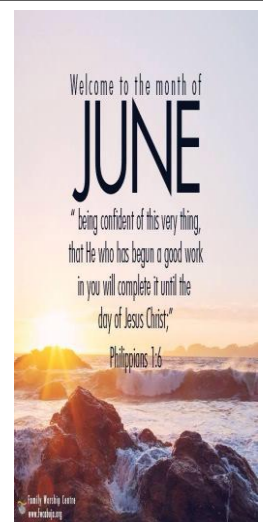
In her work and that of others, she discovered a powerful, common theme: In a moment of division and disagreement, partisanship and polarization, people long to believe in *something*. That longing also appeared in data. A few months ago, the Pew Research Center released a study that found that the entire country, 92 percent of American adults, said they had some form of spiritual belief — in a God, human souls or spirits, an afterlife or something “beyond” the material world. “We’re meaning-making creatures,” the journalist and professor Michael Pollan says. “That’s never gone away.”

Jackson has traveled worldwide in her exploration of the complicated topic of belief. Since publishing a recent essay that launched her book “Believing,” She has heard from thousands of readers. She notes everyone has a story to share about belief, no matter how they come at the topic. Her inbox is now a microcosm of the internet: MAGA bros, professors, wellness influencers, theologians, climate activists, pop psychologists, grandmothers and a source who sent me an unpublished letter from Pope Francis.

She heard from people across America and around the world, including Brazil, New Zealand, and Saudi Arabia. In the messages, a clear trend emerged that unites this very disparate group: People crave meaningful connection.

In her work she distills what religion offers people down to the three B’s.

beliefs about the world,
behaviors to follow and
belonging in a community or culture.



She notes readers seized on the last one. They said they wanted to belong — in rich, profound, and sustained ways.

Food for thought.
Pastor Bob

Upcoming Adult Education

The Education committee has made the decision that will take a summer sabbatical from our Monday evening classes. The plan is to restart September 22, 2025.

The following table shows the tentative plan. Input is still welcome.

	Study Title	Author
Fall (Sep 22 – Oct 27) – 6 wks.	The Difficult Words of Jesus – A beginner's Guide to His Most Perplexing Teachings	Amy-Jill Levine
Fall (Nov 3 – Nov 17) – 3 wks.	Facilitated discussions about important matters of faith raised by news of the week	Wired Word
Advent (Nov 30 – Dec 22) – 4 wks.	Heaven and Earth – Advent and the Incarnation, Watch Out. God is on the way.	William Willimon
Winter (Jan 5 – Feb 16) 7 wks.	Feasting on the Word – Lectionary-based study	PC(USA)
Lent (Feb 23 – Mar 23) 6 wks.	The Final Days – A Lenten Journey Through the Gospels	Matt Rawle
Spring (Apr 13 – May 18) 5 wks.	The Message of Jesus – Words that Changed the World	Adam Hamilton

Women's Society

Women's Society had their most recent luncheon at noon on May 7, 2025. This picture shows the wonder contribution of hygiene products collected for the Open Table Food Shelf. The next Women's Society luncheon will be September 3, 2025, at noon.



Important Dates!!! June 2025

June 1

Worship*
Communion

June 3

Session Meeting
7:00 p.m.

June 8

Worship*

June 15

Worship*

**Father's Day,
Outside Worship,
& Potluck Lunch**

June 22

Worship*

June 29

Worship*

***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

Pentecost Offering

Our Pentecost Offering will be received June 8, 2025, on Pentecost Sunday. The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life.

Pentecost Offering is distributed in the following way:

- 40% Stays with the congregation to support ministries with children, youth, and young adults.
- 25% Supports Young Adult Volunteers serving in communities around the world.
- 25% Supports Ministries to Youth including the Presbyterian Youth Triennium.
- 10% Is devoted to Children At-Risk and supports to improve education and provide safe havens.



June Birthdays:

2- Christina Clark,
Matt Parish
3- Katie McGraw, 8-
Mac Michael,
17- Evan
Martindale,
18- Sage Jordan,
19- Sue Glass,
21- William
McGraw,
26- Becky Cottrill
Johnson,
29- Jason Glenn



Anniversaries:

8-Edmund & Diane
Cox, 26-Rodger &
Carolyn Glenn, 28 –
Charles & Sue Glass

PRAYER LIST:

Rodger Glenn, Dan
Cottrill, Gene &
Penny Ford, John &
Debbie Rucker,
William Nierman,
Linda Fields, Debbie
Rucker, Janet
Thompson, Bill
Philput, Jr., Krista
George, Timothy
Smith, Kipp
McGlone, Grace
Glaros, Tony
Howard, Marian
Redding, Tanya
Harper, Jeannie
Harsh, Nathan
Stein, Terry Stein,
Bev Etling, Mary
Ann Johnson, Hardt
Family

Outdoor Service and Potluck

Please plan to attend our service in the shelter house June 15, 2025, at 10:30 AM. Music leadership will be supplied by John Morgan a musician from Westerville. John has for many years supplied music for cancer patients at Ohio Health Riverside Hospital.

Please bring a comfortable lawn chair if you like. Following the service will be a potluck organized by the Women's Society.



Poetry Contribution

Bruce and Sherry Shaffer are North Carolina friends of Bob and Yvonne Gustafson. They were married in our church in April of 2021. Sherry has a mission of doing poetry for their church service. The following are two of her poems she wanted share with us. Enjoy!

FAITH

Jesus, please walk with me to the door of Our Father's chamber.
Whisper to Him that we'd like His ear.
When You take my hand and lead me to Him
I've never a doubt that He shall hear.

You are the pathway, my guide to the Source.
When we walk together, there's never a fear.
That all I'm in need of, all that I seek.
Will be filtered through His Will, until it is clear...

... that the mind of this human can never compare.
To the plans that Our Father prepares for me.
... that the unanswered prayers that He holds at bay.
Bring blessings that I could have never seen.

Jesus, I choose to move forward with You.
And to always desire that Your Will be done.
May I always believe that Your plans for me
Bring the right place and time where each challenge is won.
(Arts4Peace/S. Shaffer/3-24-2025)

I CLING TO THE TRUTHS OF THE TRINITY

Spirit of God who dwells in me:
Pinch me, bother me, tickle me.
Until I am joyfully feeling Thee.

Spirit of God, who strengthens me:
Show me, teach and enlighten me.
With all the truths You'd have me see.

Through the powerful rope of Jesus's love,
I cling to the truths of the Trinity.

Spirit of God, who walks with me:
Guide me, empower and form in me.
The love and the joy that sets me free.

Spirit of God, who believes in me:
Help me to see what You see in me.
Then together sew pure and healthy seeds.

From the Treasurer

May 2025 Stats

Attendance:

May 4 – 36
25 On-site
11 On-line

May 11 - 37
29 On-site
8 On-line

May 18 - 42
24 On-site
18 On-line

May 25 - 28
19 On-site
9 On-line

Contributions:

Apr 4	\$1,631
Apr 11	512
Apr 18	5,607
Apr 25	<u>676</u>
	\$8,426

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

Through the powerful rope of Jesus's love,
I cling to the truths of the Trinity.

Spirit of God, who transcends all things:
Light up my soul until it sings.
The song to which all believers' clings.

Spirit of God, who transformed my heart:
Thank you for making me a part.
Of guiding others to a brand-new start.

Through the powerful rope of Jesus's love,
I cling to the truths of the Trinity.
(Arts4Peace/S.Shaffer/4-21-2025)

How to Use our Electronic Giving

WBPC has an electronic giving option. To use the electronic giving option, just start by going to the church's website (WestBerlinPC.info) and clicking on the green "Give Now" button. The first time you do so you will need to use "Create a Profile." This will include the following five steps:

1. Search Organizations – enter West Berlin Presbyterian Church and click **Search**. Then select our church.
2. Select Your Fund and Amount – We only have one fund set up, select General Fund and donation frequency, then select your payment method.
3. Enter Payment Method – Select a payment method and enter your credit card, debit card or bank account information. You can save this payment method for future donations.
4. Choose to Cover Processing Fees – You can choose to cover the donation processing fees by adding a small amount (1.5%) on top of your gift. Click the button to opt in.
5. Complete Your donation – Review and complete your gift by clicking **Submit**.

Thank you for your support of WBPC!!!

a godly Father is:



Faithful to God and family.
Able to discern God's will in trying times and good times.
Thankful for all the joys and trials of life.
Happy, no matter what the life brings.
Enthusiastic, about a life lived with purpose.
Righteous, rock-solid in heart and mind, from a growing relationship with Jesus.

For these things and so many more
we praise God for our Fathers,
this Father's Day and always.