

West Berlin Presbyterian Church

The MESSENGER June 2026



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

This month I want to commend a letter from our Executive Presbyter for your reading. It was originally written for the Delaware Gazette.

Pastor Bob

Your Pastor Speaks

Rev. Kathy Nice, Executive Presbyter
Presbytery of Scioto Valley

In my work with the Presbytery of Scioto Valley, I coordinate efforts of 81 churches in 21 counties of middle and southern Ohio. These churches are all so different, even while being within the same denomination (Presbyterian Church USA). We have one church with only a few members, and we have a few churches with over 1,000 in membership. While the numbers are important for statistical work, they don't really speak to the real work of the churches.

In the book "The Forgotten Church" by Glenn Daman, he quotes a study where over 2,000 congregations were surveyed. Daman notes that small churches were "the most effective in six of the categories" of church vitality: "growing spiritually, meaningful worship, participating in the congregation, having a sense of belonging, sharing faith, and empowering leadership." Daman continues to note that middle sized churches "excelled in caring for children and youth, focusing on the community and looking to the future" and larger churches excelled in "welcoming new people."

Yes, there are outliers to each of these categories, because just like people, no church can be squished into a box! One of the things to identify here isn't the seeming strength of one or another church, but to recognize that not all churches are the same. People looking for a church to belong to (or just to attend) will find that one church doesn't fit all. We will always find things we like and things that make us uncomfortable in a church.



Comfort shouldn't be our focus, though. Church attendance should help us become transformed into alignment with the character of our God, our higher power, the divine. We should be uncomfortable as we grow; just as muscles grow by gentle tearing and building up in exercise, so our spiritual muscle grows as we learn, test our assumptions, and explore spiritual practices in our faith journey.

Some churches are really good at social justice ministries. Others are good at care of the sick and homebound. Still others have amazing worship experiences. When you walk in one church it might be like Norm walking into Cheers, a place where everyone knows your name. In other churches you can come in and leave without a single person greeting you – perfect for those introverts out there – you know who you are!

The real work of the church is to humbly (read that word again) study our Bible (or holy documents) and practice the posture that we learn. From my Christian setting, that means understanding the "why" behind Jesus and his behaviors in situations reported in the Gospels. Why did Jesus eat with tax collectors? What does that say about our own hospitality measures? Why did Jesus care about the poor and hungry? What does that say about our own priorities in life? And then not just say, "that's cool that Jesus did that" but find ways to do likewise in our own lives.

One of the greatest challenges is finding a church where you can work on all the areas of your own growth, which is also a measure of the vitality of a church. Are you able to grow spiritually (try new practices, learn spiritual reading, recognize the divine in your daily life)? Are you finding meaningful worship (not that you like it, but that you find meaning in it)? Are you participating in the life of the congregation and its mission (not just being a pew-sitter who goes home until the next Sunday)? Are you finding a place to belong where others challenge you to be even better than you were? Are you learning to and actually sharing your faith with others? Are you being invited to help lead within the church (read parts of the service, usher, help direct people to parking, provide hospitality, serve on the governing board or a committee)? Are you showing the children and youth that you care about how they grow spiritually and supporting those who help in that endeavor? Are you focused on your community and the real needs it has, not just the ones you like? Are you looking into the future and how your church can continue to be relevant to the community in 5 years and 10 years? And are you inviting other to join you, to go with you, to sit with you, to learn with you, as you participate in the life of the church?

All these things are important for our faith in the divine to grow and continue to support us in times that are more difficult. If you haven't really engaged in your church, I encourage you to raise your hand and ask how you can get more involved in your own faith journey. We aren't meant to be static, but to be transformed forward and closer to God's desire for us. I hope that you will grow this spring!

Important Dates!!! June 2026

June 2
Session
7:00 PM

June 3
Deacon & Mission Bd
Noon

June 7
Worship*
Communion

June 10
Church Clean Up Day
11:15

June 14
Special
Sesquicentennial
Worship
10:30 AM
Luncheon and
Program
11:30

June 16
Administrative Comm.
7:00 p.m.

June 21
Father's Day
Worship*

June 23
Deacon & Mission Bd
Noon

June 28
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

Women's Society May 2026 Meeting

Business at Women's Society May luncheon meeting was dominated by planning for our luncheon and program for the June 14, 2026, Sesquicentennial celebration.

But members did not forget to bring hygiene items pictured for the Open Table program. Next meeting will be June 23.



East Ramp Being Replaced



You may have noticed that we are in the process of replacing the ramp at our east door. The concrete around the railings failed. Therefore, we needed to close and remove the ramp.

The new ramp will use a different type of railing, less likely to cause the ramp to fail. In the meantime, the east door with railings is still open for use.

If a ramp is needed, we can use the ramp on the north (towards the playground) side of the church.

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, John &
Debbie Rucker,
William Nierman,
Linda Fields, Krista
George, Alice Coy,
Michael Jordan, Eloise
Eschbaugh, Debbie &
Carl Gustafson, Joyce
Harmen, Sandy Bell,
Richard Johnson,
Greer Family, Tiffani,
Arlene Thompson,
Terry Bischoff, Family
of Keith Ott, Janet
Dawson, Family of
Janet Thompson

June 14, 2026 - Sesquicentennial Events



*Celebrating 150 Years
Rooted in Faith
Growing in Hope*

*West Berlin Presbyterian Church cordially
invites you to our*

SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION SUNDAY JUNE 14, 2026

*10:30 Service
Lunch & Program to Follow*

2911 Berlin Station Rd, Delaware, Ohio 43015

Sunday June 14 will be a big day for celebrating our Sesquicentennial (150th).

- Come early so you will have an opportunity to ring the church bell.
- We will have a special 10:30 AM worship service where Rev. Dr. Charles Hardwick, Executive for the Synod of the Covenant will be our guest preacher. His sermon title will be entitled "150 Years with a Heartbeat of Hesusd"
- Worship will be followed by a luncheon prepared by Deacon and Mission Board and hosted by the Women's Society.
- A special program is to follow lunch.
 - John Jordan will briefly trace early history of the church.
 - Descendants of founding families will be recognized.
 - Member accomplishments will be celebrated.
 - Mementos will be on display.
 - New content for Storybook Walk will be highlighted.
 - Special guests and friends will be recognized.

Come and be part of this event to commemorate our landmark accomplishment.

From the Treasurer

May 2025 Stats

Attendance:

May 3
29
17 On-site
12 On-line

May 10
33
23 On-site
10 On-line

May 17
30
23 On-site
10 On-line

May 24
28
22 On-site
6 On-line

May 31 TBD -

Contributions:

May 3	\$1,011
May 10	1,236
May 17	1,024
May 24	1,066
May 31	<u>TBD</u>
	\$4,337

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

Bev Etling Concert

You are invited to a musical concert by Bev Etling (friend of WBPC) Sunday, June 14, 3:00 PM at Frist Presbyterian Church, 41 W. College Ave., Westerville.

Bring friends and stay for refreshments afterwards.



New 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 online are welcome as well!!!

Giving to West Berlin Presbyterian Church

West Berlin Presbyterian Church (WBPC) truly depends on all its members and friends to operate in a way that serves God. WBPC has only one paid employee (75%-time pastor). All other work is completed by many dedicated volunteers or occasionally contracted out (like our ramp repair going on right now.) The volunteer efforts of many are truly appreciated. If you would like to get more connected, please speak to Pastor Gustafson.

Fiscally, West Berlin depends completely on the contribution of members and friends to make its budget each year. Our current budget this year is a little over \$81,000. All are encouraged to contribute as you are able to the fiscal health of the church. You can give on Sunday morning. WBPC has an on-line option for giving. See the GIVE NOW button on the church website WestBerlinPC.info. If you prefer, please mail contributions to West Berlin PC C/O Ed Cox, Treasurer, 257 Pennsylvania Ave., Delaware, OH 43015

Gifts of Service Tree

Our "good deeds" tree is leafing out nicely, but you could make it even more beautiful. If you have not yet contributed a "good deed" to our Gifts of Service Tree on the annex bulletin board, please do so. The idea is to celebrate our sesquicentennial by noting good deeds done for others. Maybe you made a call to a troubled friend, supplied a ride, and mowed someone's grass. Please add leaves to the tree.

