

West Berlin Presbyterian Church

The MESSENGER May 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

Some things just cannot help but restore your optimism about our youth and our future. As a former department chair, I for some years have served on the Industrial and Professional Advisory Group (IPAG) for the Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering at Ohio State University. As one part of this commitment, we get to interact with senior students doing their capstone design course. For them, this is a year-long venture. So, in the fall semester we get to hear presentation about their selected projects and get to share our "sage advice and wisdom" early in the process. In spring semester, I personally get to do an hour and half workshop on engineering ethics with the whole class. Then at the end of spring semester IPAG teams review poster presentations by the student teams on their projects.

This year's projects were varied and interesting. Two of the projects, supported by NASA, dealt with issues of growing food in space, like evaluating a simulator for zero gravity. A couple of the projects dealt with design of water delivery systems and water treatment plants in developing countries. Some of the team members had travelled to the counties over winter or spring break. One project dealt with facilitation of a farmer with disabilities getting on and off a skid loader, supported by the OSU Agribility Project. Other project dealt with the design of a station for swapping out 700-pound batteries for battery powered tractors, so they could stay in continuous operation, and an autonomous machine for grooming artificial turf, like in the horseshoe. And there were more.

It is restorative to see the students' commitment to these projects. See how professional they are in their demeanor and communications. And hear how they can reflect on how they have grown as engineers and people through these projects. When asked what they have learned most through the projects, student responses most often focus on the importance of teamwork and communications.



It is also great to see how my fellow IPAG members from industry and government can come away feeling good about the opportunity to interact with these students. A telling observation is how often I hear them saying - I could not have done that project when I was a student; I was not that polished communicator; I wish I could go back and be part of one of these projects.

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Pastor Bob

Easter Service Flowering Cross

Flowering of the Cross as part of our Easter Service is a WBPC tradition. The flowering of the cross represents the transition from Good Friday to Easter, from meditation on Jesus' death to joyful celebration of his resurrection. The ceremony transforms a barren cross, a reminder of Jesus' death, into an Easter symbol. A symbol of death, darkness, pain, and hopelessness is transformed into something beautiful, new, and alive in celebration of the Resurrection of Christ. This year's cross was particularly full and beautiful.



Matthew 25 Food, Hygiene, Clothing Drive

The Saturday before Palm Sunday has become one of two traditional days during the year to put special focus on contributions of food, clothing, and hygiene products for the Open Table Food Shelf. You can see the generous donations along with both the new signage (thanks to Amy Martindale) for our Matthew 25 program and collection volunteers. The "red wagon" remains available for donations at any time.



Important Dates!!!

May 2025

May 4

Worship*
Communion
Program on International Mission, 11:30 AM lunch, 12:00 Program

May 5

Adult Study
7:00 p.m.

May 6

Session Meeting
7:00 p.m.

May 7

Women's Society Luncheon
12:00 PM

May 11

Mother's Day
Worship*

May 12

Adult Study
7:00 p.m.

May 14

Deacon & Mission Bd
noon
Education Committee
7:00 PM

May 18

Worship*

May 19

Final Spring Adult Study
7:00 PM

May 20

Presbytery Meeting,
Circleville
3:30 PM

May 21

Delaware Ministerial Assoc.
Picnic at WBPC
11:30 AM

May 25

Worship*

May 26

Memorial Day

***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

New Graphics in the Annex

Thanks go to both the Education Committee and the Deacon and Mission Board for leading project to improve communication about our church and its missions to anyone in our Annex space. The graphics pictured here, as well as those for our Matthew 25 food, clothing, and hygiene product collection, are designed with the idea of focusing on messages we want to convey to visitors about WBPC.



One Great Hour of Sharing (March 5 – April 20, 2025)

OGHS is one of our PC(USA) national offering programs. It runs during the period of Lent. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

This year with "fish bank" yielding \$423.50 and other contributions from our congregation of \$365.00, we set an all-time high for our commitment to this work.

Thanks to all who donated and made this possible!!!!

May Birthdays:

1-Julie Glenn Baugher,
3 - Jennifer Eastman Hinkle,
4 – Barb Schanck, Hunter Szuch,
6 – Jared Ball,
7 – Sherry Westbrook,
15 – Bev Etling,
25 – Mary Jo Stein,
26 – McKinley Roll, Stephen Coldren



Anniversaries:

None

PRAYER LIST:

Prayer List: Rodger Glenn, Dan Cottrill, Gene & Penny Ford, John & Debbie Rucker, William Nierman, Linda Fields, Debbie Rucker, John Temple, Janet Thompson, Bill Philput, Jr., Krista George, Timothy Smith, Kipp McGlone, Grace Glaros, Tony Howard, Marian Redding, Tanya Harper, Jeannie Harsh

Chicken Noodle Dinner

Thanks to all those who braved the rain for our Chicken Noodle Dinner Friday evening, April 25. Thanks to Ed and Diane for their organization and effort to manage this event. Even with the heavy rain we had a great social time with neighbors and friends.

Among our notable guests were Rev. Kathy Nice, Executive Presbyter for Scioto Valley Presbytery and her spouse. We raised \$754 to support the church.



From the Treasurer

April 2025 Stats

Attendance:

April 6 – 31
17 On-site
14 On-line

April 13 - 30
21 On-site
9 On-line

April 17 (Maundy Th)
14
12 On-site
3 On-line

April 20 - 48
43 On-site
5 On-line

April 27 - 30
20 On-site
10 On-line

Contributions:

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Apr 6 \$821
Apr 13 791
Apr 20 2,221
Apr 28 TBD
\$ 3,833

Upcoming Adult Ed

The Adult Education Monday evening sessions will wrap up the program year discussing current events in a Christian context. We will be using the Wired Word as our source of discussion topics and background material. Meeting Monday evenings 7:00 PM, hybrid, May 5 through 19. All are welcome to join this lively discussion.

If you have suggestions for next year's Adult Education offerings, please get those to Jerry Stein (Chair of Christian Ed) or Bob Gustafson (Pastor). Next year's offerings are currently being planned by the Education Committee

Deacon and Mission Board – Challenge

CRIS Support

Given the challenges being faced by legal migrants due to changes in government support for immigration services, the Deacon, and Mission Board issues a challenge to contribute to the Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS) in Columbus (where Lou Ann Shy works).

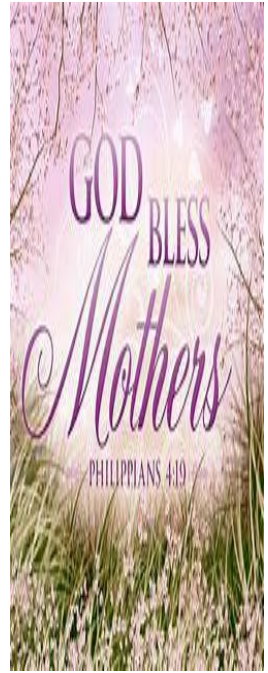
The church has been able to send a check for \$750 to CRIS. Thank you for your donations.

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



Presbyterian Women (PW) Spring Gathering at Hanover Presbyterian Church, May 3, 2025.

Join Presbyterian Women for a day filled with worship, talks by mission activists from Bremen-Bethel, Circleville and Hanover Churches, election of new leaders, and a special program in the afternoon – a **"Chalk Talk"** by Elva Hurst, a Mennonite, artist and speaker from Lititz, PA. Please bring an offering of Diapers (for children) for the Hanover Clothing Attic. Registration is \$20 (which includes lunch). Send check by April 25, made out to PW/PSV to Betsy Sebastian, 3259 Avalon Road, Columbus, OH 43221.



Women's Society

The next Women's Society Luncheon is Wednesday May 7 at noon. Attendees are encouraged to bring hygiene items for contribution to our Matthew 25 efforts of food, clothing, and hygiene items for the Open Pantry.

The Open Pantry continues to be an important mission of WBPC!!!!

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 are welcome as well!!!

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!!!