

# West Berlin Presbyterian Church

## The MESSENGER May 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**

Judging by the weather as I write this, if April showers bring May flowers, we should have a beautiful and flower-filled May. It should be a wonderful month as we continue to celebrate our Sesquicentennial (150<sup>th</sup>) Year. I was asked recently if I have been here the whole time. I had to admit that I am a newcomer. But I am enjoying the fruits of the labors of both those in our history and those in our present. Thanks to the Women's Society and others for taking leadership on event and planning. I would like to highlight a few elements of our celebration.

Sesquicentennial is a time for looking back to recall joy, celebrate growth and accomplishment.

- On January 18<sup>th</sup>, remarkably close to our official Jan 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, we celebrated with a service that simulated the style and content of a service in 1876. At our luncheon that day, John Jordan (6<sup>th</sup> generation member at WBPC) gave us a wonderful talk with visuals regarding what was happening at that time in history and about some of the founding members of our church. (See church website <https://westberlinpc.info/services-and-sermons.html> or on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0DXxGmhae8&t=26s>)
- Pictures being accumulated by Jerianne Gooding are making for wonderful remembrances. Selected "slide shows" are being made throughout the year for services and special events.
- It is my understanding that Ed Cox and Julia Roll are working on updates to elements of "A History of West Berlin Presbyterian Church, 1876-1976" written by Harlan Hall for the Centennial of the church.

Sesquicentennial is a time to celebrate who we are and share our excitement with the community.

- Gifts of Service Tree has been set up on a bulletin in the Annex. Everyone is invited to add a leaf to the tree to highlight deed of service you have accomplished,
- We have scheduled a June 14 Sesquicentennial Celebration Service and Lunch. Pleased that the Rev. Dr. Charles Hardwick will be our guest preacher for the day. Old friends and previous pastors are being invited to worship and share fellowship with us. Make sure you have this on your calendar.



- New West Berlin PC tee shirts. Jerianne Gooding is getting sizes so that we can all have great looking tee shirts that acknowledge our sesquicentennial. If you have not yet, let Jerianne know your size. Do it now!
- Education Committee is updating the Storybook Walk to highlight Delaware County in the 1870's. Look for that soon.

Sesquicentennial is a time for looking ahead to who God is calling us to be.

- Session has agreed to use later part of year to look forward. We will participate in Project Regeneration provided by the Presbyterian Foundation. A consultant provides copies of the book "Sailboat Church" by PCUSA Elder and former Moderator Joan Gray. The team provides data to the Foundation for assessment while they read the book.

Then a period of 40 days of prayer commences (it's outlined in the book). The consultant returns with suggestions for the church as they proceed forward. We can take the recommendations or not or build off the recommendations but do our own thing. We will be looking beyond Session for people to participate in this activity.

We only get to celebrate our Sesquicentennial once. I am pleased to be part of the celebration.

Pastor Bob

### Important Dates!!! May 2026

#### May 2

Terry Cahill – Steven Szymankiewicz Wedding  
3:00 PM

#### May 3

Worship\*  
Communion

#### May 4

Adult Study  
7:00 p.m.

#### May 5

Session Meeting  
7:00 p.m.

#### May 6

Women's Society Luncheon  
12:00 PM

#### May 10

**Mother's Day**  
Worship\*

#### May 11

Adult Study  
7:00 p.m.

#### May 12

Del. Ministerial Association  
Picnic at WBPC  
12:00 PM

#### May 17

Worship\*

#### May 18

Final Spring Adult Study  
7:00 PM

#### May 19

Presbytery Meeting,  
Circleville  
3:30 - 6:30 PM

#### May 20

Education Committee  
7:00 PM

#### May 24

Worship\*

#### May 25

Memorial Day

**\*Worship is Hybrid  
10:30 a.m.**

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

### Easter Service Flowering Cross and Family Pictures

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. This year's cross was particularly full and beautiful. Thanks also go to Ed Cox for his taking group pictures each Easter Sunday.

If you have not gotten your yet, pictures are available on the information table in the sanctuary.



## Service to Jacob's Porch

Presbyterians are collaborating with three other denominations to support campus ministry at OSU through Jacob's Porch. On April 12 five WBPC'ers took food for dinner and worshipped with the OSU students. Taylor Barner, Presbyterian Campus Minister hosted us. We hope to do this again next year.



## 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, John & Debbie Rucker, William Nierman, Linda Fields, Krista George, Kipp McGlone, Grace Glaros, Alice Coy, Michael Jordan, Eloise Eschbaugh, Debbie & Carl Gustafson, Joyce Harmen, Sandy Bell, Richard Johnson, Greer Family, Tiffani, Noah and baby Charlie Fisher, Mark Fleming Family, Ben, Samanth and Baby Applegate, Allan Viers, Maxine Stanbaugh, Arlene Thompson, Wes Glass, Terry Bischoff

## Palm Sunday Table Decoration

This Palm Sunday we had a new scene to decorate the communion table. It is a scene of Jesus entering Jerusalem. Thanks to Becky Donovan!



## 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. The "red wagon" remains available for donations at any time.



## Chicken and Noodle Dinner

The dinner this spring was a great success! We raised over \$800. But more importantly supplied an opportunity for community and social interaction.

Many thanks go to the volunteers from Berlin 4H who helped shuffle trays and bus tables.



## From the Treasurer

### April 2026 Stats

#### Attendance:

April 3 (Maundy Th) 13  
April 5 (Easter) 52 -  
44 On-site  
8 On-line  
April 12 29 - 17 On-  
site  
12 On-line  
April 19 29 - 17  
On-site  
10 On-line  
April 26 31 - 23 On-  
site  
8 On-line

#### Contributions:

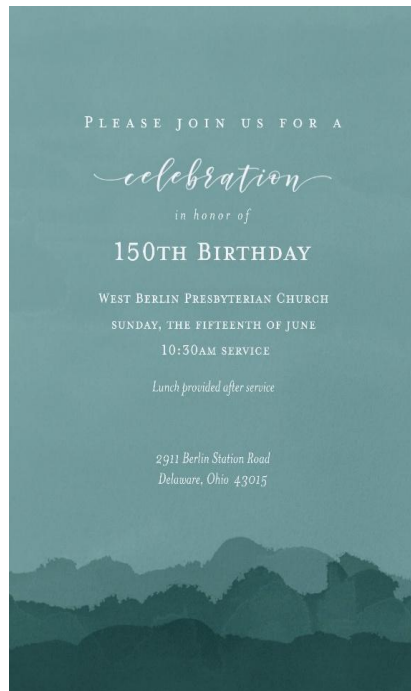
#### Contributions:

Apr 5	\$2,086
Apr 12	986
Apr 19	741
Apr 26	<u>1,501</u>
	\$5,314

## June 14 Sesquicentennial Event

Sunday June 14 will be a big day for celebrating our Sesquicentennial (150<sup>th</sup>). We will begin with a special worship service were Ref. Dr. Charles Hardwick, Executive for the Synod of the Covenant will be our guest preacher. This will be followed by a luncheon and a brief program. Invitations are going out shortly.

Please plan to attend June 14.



Please make your contributions via mail to Church Treasurer Edmund Cox, 257 Pennsylvania Av, Delaware, OH 43015. On-line giving through [westberlinpc.info](http://westberlinpc.info)

## Getting to Know a Neighbor

On May 31 we will have one of our lunches and learns after the service. It will be an opportunity to get to know Tom Houser, the new lead pastor at Grace Point Church. Deacon and Mission Board will supply a light lunch.

Then we will get to spend some time with Pastor Tom. Plan to attend!!!

## 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 a leaf to the tree.



## 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!!!

## Graduations



We are pleased to honor two graduates:

- Jadyne McCreary graduated in December from Berlin High School. Jadyne is working at Turning Point in Delaware as a Program Aid
- Sierra Sparks graduating this May from Berlin High School. Sierra will be attending Bowling Green University this fall with a major in business.

