

West Berlin Presbyterian Church

The MESSENGER November 2024



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

The following is an article I submitted to the Delaware Gazette for week 10-23-24. I hope you can enjoy this sermon summary.

As our election approaches, if we turn to the Bible, Paul's letter to the Philippians can be seen as a helpful call for unity in diversity. This call naturally raises the question: "What does unity in diversity really look like?" Whether we think of the people in Philippi or those in our own communities today, differences are a fact of life. Just look at the variety of people walking in and out of local stores as an example. It's also true that the idea of unity is sometimes misused, becoming a way to silence different voices, dissenting opinions, or force conformity under the guise of unity. Phrases like, "Oh, under the skin, we're all the same!" can be used to ignore the richness, opportunities, and challenges that diversity brings.

Churches are not immune to this challenge. Today, churches grapple with many forms of diversity—racial, economic, theological, political, and even differences in sports loyalties. How do we navigate these real differences? Should we see them as a threat to the church? Should we revert to the practices of the medieval church, where heretics were burned at the stake to maintain unity and theological purity? Or should we accommodate these differences by worshiping in separate spaces? The saying that 10:30 on Sunday morning is the most segregated time in America reflects a harsh reality.

The early church in Philippi faced similar diversity issues. In Paul's letter, we hear of a dispute between two women, Euodia and Syntyche, which may reflect deeper underlying tensions. We don't know the specifics of their conflict, as we only have Paul's perspective. Euodia and Syntyche might have seen things differently. Regardless, their disagreement was significant enough for Paul to address it directly.

When I read Paul's words in Philippians 2:1-13, I see him offering a logical framework for unity. The engineer in me appreciates this, as it resembles the "if-then" statements found in programming languages, which are fundamental to logical reasoning. Paul presents a multi-part "if" statement: "If there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation from love, if there is any sharing in the Spirit, if there is any compassion and sympathy."

Special Recognition of Veterans

On Sunday November 10, 2024, we will include in our service a special recognition of those who have served in our armed forces.

We honor and thank all Vets for their Service!!!!!!



If any of these are true, then there are corresponding actions we should take. Paul lists four of them, and we are to apply all four:

- If Christ, love, or the Spirit exists, then: **"Be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind."**
- If Christ, love, or the Spirit exists, then: **"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves."**
- If Christ, love, or the Spirit exists, then: **"Look not to your own interests but to the interests of others."**
- If Christ, love, or the Spirit exists, then: **"Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus."**

These are four deeply challenging instructions: be of the same mind, do nothing out of selfish ambition, prioritize the interests of others, and adopt the mind of Christ.

As election season approaches, the question remains: how will we respond to our diversity? When we encounter voters who differ from us—in language, appearance, or worship style—will we, as Paul instructs, put their interests first? Or will we retreat into self-interest? God is at work in all of us, calling us to live out true unity in diversity, just as Christ did.

Important Dates:

November 2024

Dates:

November 3
Hybrid Worship*
Communion – All Saints
Recognition
Daylight Savings Ends

November 4
Adult Education –
Philippians
7:00 PM

November 5
Election Day - VOTE
Session Meeting
7:00 PM

November 6
Women's Society Lunch
Meeting
12:00 PM

November 10
Hybrid Worship*

November 11
Veterans Day
Adult Education – Last
Class on Philippians
Zoom only!
7:00 PM

November 12
Worship & Outreach
Committee
7:00 PM

November 17
Hybrid Worship*
Lunch & Conversation with
Emily Corzine
11:30

November 18
Adult Education – Current
Issues
7:00 PM

November 19
Presbytery Meeting
3:30 PM
Covenant Presbyterian

November 25
No Adult Education

November 26
Thanksgiving Eve Eve
Service*
7:00 PM

December 1 – Advent
Begins

Adult Education Opportunities



- Our Monday evening (7:00 PM) Adult Education opportunities for the first two weeks in November, will finish our study of Philippians with Rev. Tom Are, Jr.
- For November 18th will use materials from *The Wired Word*. They supply solid scriptural material to help adult groups discuss important matters of faith raised by news of the week.
- We will thank a break for November 25 (thanksgiving Week)
- Our Advent Study starts Monday, December 2. We will be using advent materials from the Bible Project.

For all classes 7 PM, come to church or through Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6145951009> Or Voice only Dial 929 436 2866 or 312 626 6799 Meeting ID: 614 595 1009

Women's Society Joint Meeting

The West Berlin Women's Society hosted a joint meeting with the Worthington Presbyterian Women's Society at our church on September 10. WPC women brought the lunch. Bob Gustafson gave a brief overview of WBPC for the WPC group. Yvonne Gustafson did a program on communication styles for the combined group.

Next meeting for WBPC Women's Society is November 6. Attendees are encouraged to bring winter mittens and gloves for donation.

Thanksgiving Eve, Eve Service

We will have our traditional Thanksgiving service with communion on TUESDAY, November 26, 2024, at 7:00 PM. This will be a hybrid service, so you can attend on-line or on-site.

Since Thanksgiving services are not common across all churches, be sure to use this opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors. You can do this by forwarding your email invite (to come later) with your own special invitation. This service will include communion. For those on-site, there will be pumpkin pie to follow.



November

Birthdays:

- 1- Cindy McGraw
- 2- Gene Ford
- 11-John Jordan
- 12-Laua McCreary
- 13-Shelly Glenn
- 16-Susan Fisher
- 25-Kathy Thompson
- 26-Leigh Coldren



Anniversaries:

- 8- Tom & Jerianne Gooding
- 15- Mike & Michelle Mellen
- 16 – Rex and Leigh Coldren

PRAYER LIST:

Rodger Glenn, Dan Cottrill, Gene & Penny Ford, John & Debbie Rucker, Jack Smith (father & son), victims of Helene and Milton, William Nierman, Mary Howell

Good Deeds Program

We were pleased to host the *Good Deeds Program* offered by David Hejmanowski, Delaware County Probate Judge; Melissa Jordan, Delaware County Recorder; and Natalie Fravel Delaware County Clerk of Courts for one of our Deacon and Mission Board sponsored programs after church on October 27. The three share vital information of how to prepare now to avoid the probate process later and graciously hosted questions from the audience. A recording of the session is available. A few handout packets are available if you missed the session and would like to see their material. Contact Pastor Bob.



Women's Society Annual Silent Auction

The WBP Women's Society Annual Silent Auction will be held on Wednesday, **December 4, at 6:00 P.M.** in the WBPC Fellowship Hall. Shop for Christmas gifts, decorations, and especially the crafts and goodies made by our congregation. Don't miss the delicious baked goodies!!!! Bidding opens at 6:00 PM; Auction results at 7:00 PM; plenty of treats in between. Bring families, friends, and neighbors to this special annual event.

Please bring items for the auction to the church on Sunday, December 1. For more details, please contact Amy Martindale (martindaleaj@hotmail.com)



Advent

Advent Starts Sunday December 1, this year. **If you would be interested in doing the special Advent liturgy and candle lighting one of the four Sundays, please let Pastor Bob know.**

The Worship and Outreach Committee and Deacon and Mission Board have exciting things planned for us for the Advent Season including:

- *Decorating the Church* for Advent and Christmas will occur Friday morning after Thanksgiving, November 29 (9:00 AM start). All are welcome to come and assist. We will usually be done by noon (or so). Great fun! Wonderful way to avoid Black Friday shopping.
- Special focus on *Open Table* food, clothing, and hygiene donations, see separate piece.
- All church shared trip to *Fantasy of Lights*
- A daily Advent Devotional – starts December 1, will be distributed soon.
- Christmas Eve Service

Watch for more details in December Messenger.

Hyssong Gospel Concert

Over fifty people attended a wonderful gospel music concert by the Hyssongs family music group the evening of October 17. We were treated to great songs, got to sing along with familiar gospel hymns, and thoroughly enjoy robust music in our sanctuary. Attendees came from Mansfield, Zanesville, Columbus, and other locations to enjoy the concert. Most stayed for treats and fellowship after. Tentative plans are underway for a concert next year on Thursday October 2, 2025.

Conversation with Reverend Emily Corzine

Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, Presbyter for Congregational Life and Transitions will be with us on November 17 as guest preacher and will lead a discussion on her role in Presbytery after the service (Light lunch will again be provided.)

A lifelong Presbyterian, Emily grew up in Cambridge, Ohio. She has degrees from Denison University, Indiana University and Princeton Theological Seminary.

Since 2010, Emily has served Presbyterian Churches in Ohio and First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus. She has experience as a chaplain at Riverside Methodist Hospital and as the Neonatal Intensive Care Chaplain at Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus.

Emily has served the Presbytery on the Committee on Preparation for Ministry and as Vice-Moderator and Moderator in 2022-2023. She is a trained facilitator for Healthy Congregations, Inc., and a facilitator in conflict mediation and conflict transformation from the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. Emily was named Presbyter for Congregational Life and Transitions for the Presbytery of Scioto Valley in March.

Emily, her husband, Jeff, their daughter, Camryn (10) and black Labrador retriever, Molly, live in Dublin, Ohio.



Book Drive

We (Rita and Brian Selle-Grider of Delaware) are aiming again for 50K Bibles/Books for our 8th Bible Drive Year which will reach ONE MILLION people in impoverished countries! It's always heart-touching to hear testimonials from people that took real efforts to get a Bible! If you have Bibles or other religious books you would like to contribute. Please bring them to the church in early November. They may be left in the Red Wagon with the food shelf items.

Woodland Walk / Wee Kirk Update

Our Woodland Walk has been renamed to be more descriptive. It will now be called the Storybook Walk. Posted material for both kids and adults at the stops along the will be refreshed shortly.

Our Wee Kirk "Little Church" Library continues to have new offerings. The Education Committee continues to maintain these for all to use.

Be sure to check them out and try out one or more of our four benches on the walk.

Reverse Advent Project (Sponsored by Deacon and Mission Board)

The Reverse Advent Calendar idea is simple – rather than *receiving* a treat each day, you *gift* one.

Packed to the brim with Christmas spirit, it's an ideal tradition to start in your home or business and perfect for reminding us to think of others at this busy time of year. With every passing day, your Reverse Advent Calendar fills with non-perishable food items, hygiene products, and other essential supplies. **One of the best things about the reverse calendar is that you can be flexible with the items. Those on the calendars are only suggestions for your consideration. Suggested steps are:**

- 1. Choose a container for your contributions.** An old cardboard box will do fine. Decorate it if you'd like and set it up in an easy-to-see location (to keep momentum going).
- 2. Add at least one item for each day.** From canned goods and pasta to hygiene products like shower gel, feminine hygiene products or clothing like winter caps, mittens, and gloves.
- 3. Deliver to your collection.** We will have special collection times **on Saturday December 21, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM and Sunday morning December 22** with a dedication of gifts at our regular service.
- 4. WHAT SHOULD I PUT IN MY BOX?**



- DEC 1 – box of cereal
- DEC 2 – peanut butter
- DEC 3 – stuffing mix
- DEC 4 – boxed potatoes
- DEC 5 – macaroni & cheese
- DEC 6 – canned fruit
- DEC 7 – canned tomatoes
- DEC 8 – canned tuna
- DEC 9 – dessert mix
- DEC 10 – jar of applesauce
- DEC 11 – canned sweet potatoes
- DEC 12 – cranberry sauce.
- DEC 13 – canned beans
- DEC 14 – box of crackers
- DEC 15 – box of rice
- DEC 16 – container of oatmeal
- DEC 17 – box of pasta
- DEC 18 – spaghetti sauce
- DEC 19 – chicken noodle soup
- DEC 20 – tomato soup
- DEC 21 – can of corn



From the Treasurer

October:

Attendance:

October 6 – 34 (28 on-site, 6 on-line)
October 13 – 30 (27 on-site, 3 on-line)
October 20 - 36 (22 on-site, 14 on-line)
October 27 - 31 (20 on-site, 11 on-line)

Giving

Oct 6	\$1,866
Oct 13	\$ 846
Oct 20	\$ 468
Oct 27	<u>\$ 464</u>
	\$3644

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