

West Berlin Presbyterian Church
The MESSENGER - November 2026

The Small Strong Church with a Big Heart

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.

From the Pulpit

I learned at the most recent Delaware Ministerial Association meeting that *A Place of Warmth* the community warming center serving Delaware has changed locations. Place of Warmth provides a safe, warm space for unsheltered individuals to sleep during nights of extreme cold (below 20F). Guests are treated with dignity and respect. There is no cost, no paperwork, and no requirement to participate in any religious or community program to spend the night – just a warm, safe place to rest from 8:00 PM to 8:00 AM.

A Place of Warmth opened its doors in 2015. The entire community's energy came together to open the doors, showing how special a place Delaware truly is. The community vision was implemented at Zion UCC with the leadership of Pastor Jon Peterson. Zion housed the center for eleven winters until it outgrew the space in 2026. St. Mark's Lutheran Church has opened its doors to continue this mission of providing warmth to our community. The program administration and donations will continue to be under the management of Andrew's House. Volunteers are needed to welcome guests, keep the space running, and offer a friendly face overnight. Donations – cots, blankets, coats, snack, and beverages - are all made possible through community donations and financial gifts. You can give via andrewshouse.org or send checks (With memo: A Place of Warmth) to Andrews House, 39 W Winter St., Delaware, OH 43015.

Pastor Bob

Thanksgiving Eve, Eve Service

We will have our traditional Thanksgiving service with communion on TUESDAY, November 25, 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.

Advent

Advent starts Sunday, November 29, this year. If you (individual or family) would be interested in doing the special Advent liturgy and candle lighting on one of the four Sundays or Christmas Eve, 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 27 (9:00 AM start, come any time). 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.
• All church shared trip to Fantasy of Lights – December 3, Women's Society sponsoring, pizza 5:30 PM, Depart 6:00 PM
• A daily Advent Devotional – starts November 29, will be distributed later in month.
• Christmas Eve Service, 3:00 PM Watch for more details in December Messenger.

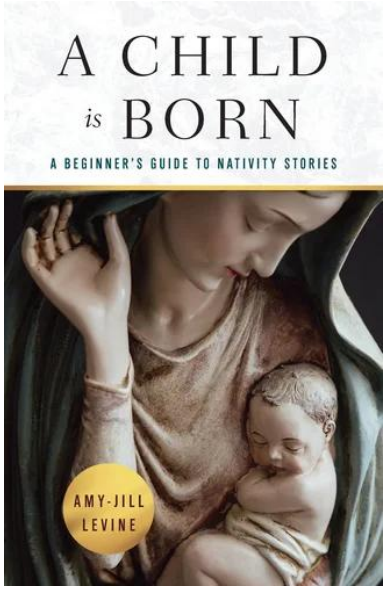
Women's Society Meeting
Next luncheon meeting will be Wednesday November 5. Hostesses: Becky Donovan, Eileen Doucher, Kathy McCreary; Spiritual Nugget: Amy Martindale; Giving Cause: Hats and Gloves.

All Saints' Day for 2026
All Saints' Day recognition will be on Sunday, November 1st this year. It has been our tradition to recognize members and friends of the congregation who have died in the past year during our service that day. To assure that we do not miss anyone you would like to have recognized, please refer names to Pastor Bob (gustafson15@gmail.com or 614 595 1009) or be prepared to announce them during the service.

Adult Education Opportunities
Our Monday evening (7:00 PM) Adult Education opportunities continue. We finish up our study of the book "Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America – A Guide to Reclaiming the Good News of God's Grace" by Ted Foote Jr and Alex Thornburg on November 16. Take Thanksgiving week off. Then on November 30 we will begin our Advent study.

November 2 – Chap. 6 God's Truth I Evolving, Not Stagnant
November 9 – Chap. 7 Presbyterians Are Reformed, and Always Reforming
November 16 – Chap. 8 Democracy (Not Authoritarianism) Is the Presbyterian Way and Conclusion: Grace Is Our Resistance
November 23 – Thanksgiving Break – no meeting
November 30 - Advent 1: A Child Is Born - A Beginner's Guide to Nativity Stories" by Amy-Jill Levine

About our Advent study - See Jesus's birth through the lens of ancient Nativity stories.
Discover the fascinating connections between ancient birth stories and the Nativity of Jesus in this captivating four-week Advent study. The book discusses the births of Isaac and Ishmael, Samson, and Samuel to reveal how they foreshadow and enrich the timeless Christmas story in the final chapter. Author Amy-Jill Levine brings her expert knowledge of Scripture and careful consideration of the Christian story to show readers how Scripture's earlier birth stories anticipate the story of Jesus's birth and how the birth resonates and gives new meaning to those earlier stories. Transform your Advent season with fresh insights and inspiration from *A Child is Born*.



For all classes, 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

Red Cross Service Program
After service on November 8, the Deacon and Mission Board will supply a light lunch before we have a program from the Red Cross. The program will highlight the range of services available through the Red Cross in Central Ohio.

Special Recognition of Veterans
On Sunday November 8, 2025, just 3 days before Veterans Day on November 11, 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!!!!!!

Fall Church Picnic



Even though the weather outside moved us inside, we had a wonderful Fall Church Picnic on October 11. Thanks to the Women's Society for organizing, Roy and Kitty Cottrill for cooking hamburgers and bratwursts, and all those who brought food. It was a wonder feast and great time together.



Trees Going Away, Gutters Replaced
Two walnuts and an red oak tree have been taken down on the west side of the church. These are trees that would be taken down by the county when the road expansion occurs. We were able to sell the three trees ($1,000). Thanks of to Jerry Stien for organizing the sale and the clean up. We did clean up ourselves. Thanks to the cleanup crew Jerry Stein, Terry Stein, David Howell, Tom Roll, Yvonne Gustafson, Bob Gustafson. Hopefully this will also reduce the number of walnuts showing up in the belfry.



It is harder to take a picture of, but all of our gutters on the church and the shelter house have been replace with gutters and toppers to keep leaves out. Session designated funds from what we have gotten for road right -of-way expansion for this project.

Prayer List: Rodger Glenn, John & Debbie Rucker, William Nierman, Alice Coy, Michael Jordan, Eloise Eschbaugh, Joyce Harmen, Dana Carmack, Pam Evener, Kent Brooks, Claybon Family, Matt & Jennifer Furer, Floris Laggah

November Birthdays
1 - Cindy McGraw, 11-John Jordan, 13-Shelly Glenn, 16-Susan Fisher, 25-Kathy Thompson, 26-Leigh Coldren
November Anniversaries
8 - Tom & Jerianne Gooding, 16 – Rex and Leigh Coldren

Important November 2026 Dates

November 1	Hybrid Worship* with Communion, All Saint's Day	10:30 AM
November 2	Adult Education* - Dysvangelicalism	7:00 PM
November 3	Session Meeting	7:00 PM
November 4	Women's Society Luncheon	12:00 PM
November 8	Hybrid Worship with Veteran Recognition* followed by Luncheon and Red Cross Services Program	10:30 AM
November 9	Adult Education*	7:00 PM
November 10	Project Regeneration Team Meeting	7:00 PM
November 15	Hybrid Worship*	10:30 AM
November 16	Adult Education*	7:00 PM
November 17	Presbytery of Scioto Valley Meeting	3:30 PM
November 22	Hybrid Worship*	10:30 AM
November 23	NO Adult Education*	
November 24	Thanksgiving Eve, Eve Service	7:00 PM
November 29	Hybrid Worship* - Advent Begins	10:30 AM
November 30	Adult Education* – A Child Is Born series begins	7:00 PM

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

From the Treasurer September Stats: Attendance and Giving

October 4	– 27 (17 on-site, 10 on-line)	$820
October 11	– 32 (22 on-site, 10 on-line)	$1,094
October 18	– 26 (17 on-site, 9 on-line)	$715.00
October 25	– 20 (21 on-site, 8 on-line)	$1,420

Gratitude Calendar

Please see a "Gratitude Calendar intended to lead us up to Thanksgiving.

FIVE SIMPLE WAYS TO USE THIS CALENDAR

1. Make it a small daily ritual. Whether you reflect on the prompt alone over a cup of coffee or discuss it with your family before bed, choose a time that works for you.
2. Respond however you like. Write your answers, draw a picture, say them aloud, or keep a note on your phone.
3. Cross off the days you do the exercise. Gratitude is a habit. See how many days in a row you remember.
4. Be flexible and return. It's okay if you miss a day or two. Pick up where you left off!
5. Share with others. If your whole community is using this calendar, text, call, or email each other with your shared answers.

Call for Giving!

Our Administrative Committee wants all to be aware that our contributions to the church so for this year have fallen behind our expenses. We would ask all to prayerfully consider their contributions to the church and if you are able help us close the year without deficit spending. Please make your contributions during worship or via mail to Church Treasurer Edmund Cox, 257 Pennsylvania Av, Delaware, OH 43015. On-line giving through westberlinpc.info is also available.

NOVEMBER 2026 GRATITUDE EVERY DAY

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THU	FRI	SAT
1 A small thing I am thankful for	2 A color I am thankful for	3 A family member I am thankful for	4 A song I am thankful for	5 A memory I am thankful for	6 A freedom I am thankful for	7 A game I am thankful for
8 A book I am thankful for	9 A friend I am thankful for	10 An animal I am thankful for	11 A goal I am thankful for	12 A food I am thankful for	13 A dream I am thankful for	14 A teacher I am thankful for
15 A smell I am thankful for	16 A treasure I am thankful for	17 A season I am thankful for	18 A thing in nature I am thankful for	19 A possession I am thankful for	20 A promise I am thankful for	21 A time of day I am thankful for
22 An act of kindness I am thankful for	23 A piece of advice I am thankful for	24 A talent I am thankful for	25 A mystery I am thankful for	26 A tradition I am thankful for	27 A memory from yesterday I am thankful for	28 A word I am thankful for
29 A lesson I am thankful for	30 A place I am thankful for					



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