

West Berlin Presbyterian Church

The MESSENGER September 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

At our August 18th Presbytery meeting, we were led in worship and a brief workshop by Rev. Charles Cotherman. He is Executive Director of the Center for Rural Ministry at Grove City College, in Grove City Pennsylvania. I would guess he is in his early forties. He has three young children. He is also leading a new church start in Oil City, PA., Which means he is bi-vocational. He is also author of the 2026 book "Strip Mine Jesus – Hope for the Rural Church, Small Towns, and Overlooked Places". He uses his history of growing up in the economically depressed, strip mine area of Appalachian PA as a foundation for his commitment to rural and small churches.

One of his messages was how paying attention to things can change those things and how that has value. In his case, paying attention to a rural area with its sense of lost opportunity is at the core of his ministry. He would contend that the common message "go big or go home" is a false message. He asks us to be realistic about why it is hard to hear God in small places because of what we idol.

We idolize:

- Influencers, hard to be one in a small, rural church.
- Efficiency, scale works against efficiency of programs and work.
- Autonomy, not big enough to be highlighted by the larger world.

If your heart is still in service to the Rural, Small Town and Overlooked Places, he has some advice:

- Expect to live counterculturally.
- Expect stability.
- Expect all will know the truth of identity for pastor and fellow members.
- Recognize that place matters and you need to love the place.

He had many other points I could not think fast enough or write fast enough to capture. But I have a copy of his book I am currently studying it. If you would like to read it when I am done, let me know.

Pastor Bob



Hyssongs Gospel Concert – Thursday September 10, 2026 7 PM



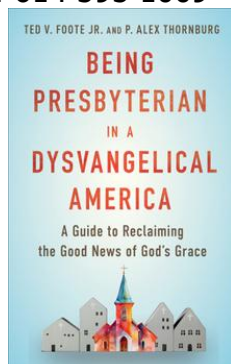
As part of our Sesquicentennial celebration series, mark your calendar for the return of the Hyssongs for our annual gospel music concert. This will be at 7:00 PM Thursday, September 10.

Dell, Susan, and Richard Hyssong travel full-time as the award-winning Hyssongs. Their energetic ministry combines family vocal harmony, humor, and brass instruments (trumpet and trombone) to delight audiences with their Christ-centered message, share through the powerful medium of music. Their music fills our sanctuary in a delightful way. Bring some friends and come for a delightful evening.

Adult Education Opportunities

Starting Monday, September 28 at 7 PM we resume our Adult Studies with an eight-week series "Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America – A Guide to Reclaiming the Good News of God's Grace", by Foote and Thornburg. Armstrong and Larson say about the book, "Ted and Alex have written a very readable guide that, in a spirit of humility and with touches of humor, articulates why Presbyterians sometimes feel out of sync with many prominent and loud Christian voices in America. It is a wonderful reminder of our theological heritage and an honest examination of PC(USA) history that makes clear the importance of our distinctive witness as Presbyterians."

If you would like a copy of the book, please let Pastor Bob know. 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



Important Dates!!! September 2026

September 1
Session Meeting
7:00 PM

September 2
Women's Society
Luncheon
12:00 PM

September 6
Hybrid Worship*
Communion

September 7
Labor Day

September 9
Deacon and Mission
Bd
12:00 PM

September 10
Hyssong Gospel
Concert
7:00 PM

September 13
Hybrid Worship*
Horse Parade
3:00 PM

September 15
Education Committee
7:00 PM

September 20
Hybrid Worship*

September 27
Hybrid Worship*

September 28
1st Adult Class
7:00 PM

September 29
Administrative
Committee
7:00 PM

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

Invitation to the 4-th Annual All Horse Parade September 13, 2026 - 3:00 PM

Horses, ponies, wagons, carriages, and marching bands (Berlin High School included) coming down the street. Join others from WBPC to watch the parade from the front lawn of Ed and Diane Cox, 257 Pennsylvania Avenue, Delaware, Ohio and stay for the food after.

The parade starts at 3pm from the Delaware County Fairgrounds onto Pennsylvania Avenue. Right across from the Cox home. Bring your lawn chairs and join the fun!!!



September Birthdays:

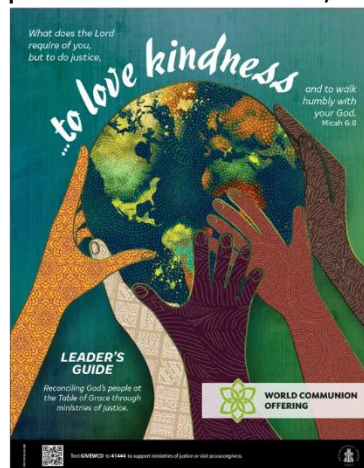
10- Ruth Stichter
11- Diane Cox, Athena Hughes
12- Colton Sparks
15- Jerome Donovan
24- Norma Harper
25- Bill Philput, Robert Gustafson
28- Mica Sparks



Anniversaries:

15- Russell & Joan Jordan
16- Jeff & Teri Jordan

PC(USA) - World Communion Offering September 6 - October 4, 2026



All of God's people gather around the Table to celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Part of the atonement that happens around this Table is reconciliation, which is the focus of the World Communion Offering. Experience the grace that comes from reconciling all people from all nations around the corner and around the globe through the ministry of this offering.

This is now one of three national offerings of the PC(USA). We will focus on collecting donations on World Communion Sunday, October 4.

PRAYER List

Rodger Glenn, John & Debbie Rucker, William Nierman, Linda Fields, Krista George, Alice Coy, Michael Jordan, Eloise Eschbaugh, Debbie & Carl Gustafson, Joyce Harmen, Greer Family, Tiffani, Arlene Thompson, Terry Bischoff, Dana Carmack, Pam Evener, Ray Bob Foster Family, Colton Applegate and Family, Kent Brooks, Lily Metzler

Donation Options

You are encouraged to prayerfully consider what you are able and what you are called to contribute to the support of the church. West Berlin PC does not participate in an annual pledging system. Instead, we rely on people's generosity in their giving and other financial support. The tradition of contributing on Sunday morning continues.

WBPC also has an on-line giving option. See the **GIVE NOW** button on the church website (WestBerlinPC.info). You can give an electronic one-time gift or continuous gifts to the church.

Contributions to West Berlin PC may be mailed C/O Ed Cox, Treasurer, 257 Pennsylvania Ave., Delaware, OH 43015

If the contribution is to be directed for a specific purpose (i.e., a memorial or special offerings *Like One Great Hour of Sharing* coming up soon). Please indicate this on the memo section of your check or with a note designating the purpose and/or use of the special contribution.

From the Treasurer

August 2026 Stats

Attendance:

August 2 – 25
(19 Onsite, 6 On-line)
August 9 – 28
(20 Onsite, 8 On-line)
August 16– 28
(20 Onsite, 8 On-line)
August 23 – 30
(22 Onsite, 8 On-line)
August 30- TBD (Onsite, On-line)

Contributions:

August 2 \$ 646
August 9 \$ 1,060
August 16 \$ 1,303
August 23 \$ 601.00
August 30 \$TBD
\$3,610

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

Women's Society Update

The next Women's Society Meeting and luncheon will be Wednesday, September 2nd. Bring your lunch. Hosts will be M. Howell, A. Martindale, K. Thompson. Giving cause will be Humane Society.

Open Table (from Deacon and Mission Bd.)

Donations of shelf-stable foods, hygiene products and new or gently used clothing are welcome at any time for the Open Table Program at Grace Point Church. Donation bins are in the Annex of the church. Items can be brought to the church anytime.

Items are delivered to the Open Table Program on a regular basis.



Deacon & Mission Board Project

The Deacon and Mission Board wants to thank all who have stepped up to support its project of supplying notebooks of a specific type to a Franklin County Corrections Early Release Program. Yvonne Gustafson is part of a team doing parent education for their incarcerated fathers. If they complete the 180-day program, which can include things like work towards a GED, personal management, parenting for those with kids, they can earn "early released" rather than be further incarcerated.

The picture shows how we have stocked up using the back-to-school sales at Staples and Walmart. (The old idea of making hay when the sun shines and storing it for the winter.) We may have close to enough for the full year. GREAT WORK WBPC!



Try the Newly Updated/History Focused Storybook Walk

In honor of our Sesquicentennial, the displays stations (12) within our walk have been updated to highlight history of our area and church. As you walk through our woods, four benches are available for respites.

If the path is challenging for you, check out the display on the west wall of the annex. Invite some friends to join you for this refreshing experience. A recent visitor called this a wonder opportunity.



Toddler Time

This ministry of the church takes place on Wednesday morning (10:00 – 11:30) when toddlers and their care givers are invited to the church for a play and educational time. Yvonne Gustafson with assistance from Ruth Stichter offer the program. It needs your continuing help through prayers of support and assistance in identifying families with toddlers in the community. Recruitment fliers are available on the information desk that you can hand out.