



First Presbyterian Church

Courier

January 2024

**211 Schmitt Drive
Waverly, OH 45690
740-947-2905**

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MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

January 7, 2023

MINISTERS FOR THE COMMUNITY: EVERY MEMBER

Pastor: Jane B. Johnson

Secretary: Bobbie Hall

Clerk of Session: Elaine Zingg

Choir Director: Edy Panjaitan

Organist: Patricia Penrose

Pianist: Edy Panjaitan

Treasurer: Michael Milam

MINISTERS FOR VISION AND MISSION: SESSION:

Class of 2023

Class of 2024

Class of 2025

John Mikelson

Pat Mikelson

Susan Thomas

Barbara Pettit

Jewell McCliment

Joyce Holben

Elaine Zingg

Barbara Taphorn

MINISTERS FOR MEMBER CARE: DEACONS

Tom Hlasten

Irene Clark

Barbara Patterson

COMMITTEES:

Discipleship and Worship: Pastor Jane

Evangelism & Mission: Pat Mikelson

Fellowship: Barbara Taphorn

Finance & Stewardship: Susan Thomas

Congregant Care: Joyce Holben

Nominating: Pat Mikelson

Personnel: Pat Mikelson

Presbytery: Barbara Pettit

Presbyterian Women: Pat Penrose

Property: Barbara Pettit

Technology/Communication: John Mikelson

MEMBERS SERVING IN OTHER PLACES:

- Allen Wollenberg, Pike County Outreach Council of Churches
- Mark, Jenny, Kella Rosa, and Aika Estela O'Hare
Papay-Costa Rica
- Jim McGill, *Sudan*

We are open for worship in the church at 10:15 am. Masks are optional, but recommended. Fellowship Hour follows after worship. We continue to have worship on line each Sunday morning at 10:15 am. You can tune in by your computer or telephone.

If you are using a computer to connect: Open your computer browser (Internet Explorer, Chrome or Safari) Enter <https://zoom.us>

542 773 5626 in the address bar. Follow screen instructions. Password: 6NgnrH

If you are using a phone to connect, dial 312-626-6799 and then enter ID:

542 773 5626#.

When prompted for a password enter 355142#.



CONGREGANTS' CARE COMMITTEE

JOYCE HOLBEN

We are all creatures of time, but as Christians we have life eternal! Yet the clocks tick on and the calendar pages and seasons change. Sometimes, though, we get lost in time as we get consumed by time's anxieties: we are burdened by the past or overwhelmed by the present—we even fear the future. God invites us to

walk alongside and thus, time becomes our partner as we live in the expectation of God's return. Comfort and walk alongside each other; be a gift of companionship to another as you pray and share together the anxieties of time in this new year!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PAT PENROSE

Thanks to all those who attended the Advent Covered Dish Dinner, Thanks to those who set up and cleaned up and everyone who brought all of the delicious food that was enjoyed by all. Also thanks to those who had a part in the program: **Nel Diehlmann, Joyce Holben, Karen Henderson, Pat Penrose, Geri Prod, Sherry Sapienza** and those who participated in the beautiful carol singing.



ADULT CLASS RESUMES

CAL TYSEN

Adult class resumes this Sunday at 9:15. The DVD course from Great Courses that was started last fall will continue in January and February until Lent begins. The subject: the New Testament, its writers and summary of contents.

This edition of the First Presbyterian Church Courier sponsored by

BRISTOL VILLAGE



National Church Residences

660 East Fifth Street • Waverly, Ohio 45690 • 740-947-2118



Missionaries Mark O'Hare, Jenny Bent and family visited FPC on December 10.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

The food pantry needs these products which are in great demand!

MACARONI PASTA

(Most requested – more so than spaghetti!)

MAC AND CHEESE MIXES

RAMEN NOODLES – ANY KIND

Thank you very much!

COPE CHRISTMAS AND THANKSGIVING

Thanks to your overflowing generosity, four children, ages 8, 10, 12 and 14 woke up to new bikes, helmets and bike locks! This was a dream come true for every one of these kids. They also received other presents – a Baby Alive doll for the 8-year-old girl, nerf-guns and board games for the 10- and 12-year-old boys, and a string of lights, cologne and a Starbucks card for the 14-year-old boy. All of the children received warm sweatshirts, long-sleeved shirts, jeans and pajamas. Together you generously gave \$2,160 to COPE. Of this, \$535 was for Thanksgiving meals and vacation food.

Then \$1,070 was used to purchase bikes, clothing and other presents for these four children. The remaining donations were combined with the local offerings for Pentecost and Peacemaking to send a check of \$1,093 to COPE to support the many COPE families. Together we at First Presbyterian are helping do God's work in our community – your COPE offerings help stabilize and family environments so kids can successfully complete high school, develop their own sturdy sense of self, and learn skills that will provide a better emotional and economically stable future.



SADNESS AND BLESSINGS

A Letter from Jim McGill, serving in Niger and South Sudan Winter 2023

Dear family and friends,

On July 26, the presidential guard took the President of Niger hostage and declared themselves to be the new leaders of the country. I first received this news from Jodi via WhatsApp, as in Niamey, where the coup took place, everything had remained peaceful. Over the next week, the only changes that I experienced were more electrical black-outs and the closure of banks. ATMs only allowed withdrawals to the equivalent of about \$15. Gratefully, while life has become more expensive, it has so far been a peaceful takeover.

Our family had experienced a couple of failed coup attempts during our time in Niger, and so it was difficult to realize that this event was indeed different from the previous ones. However, it became clear through the vast international coverage of this coup that Niger now has a different status within the international community. The West, the African Union, and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) had seen the recent stability within Niger to be an opportunity to heavily invest in regional security basing within Niger. These investments have dramatically changed the importance of Niger within the international community.

An immediate result of the coup was a complete shutdown of all trade within and outside of the country through the closing of all borders and airspace. A major result of the coup was that ECOWAS, the U.S., and the EU, including France and other European countries, suspended development aid to Niger. Sanctions were implemented that both targeted individuals as well as the nation, with national measures intended to strangle the country's economy. Nationwide sanctions may be effective over the long term, but these sanctions have an immediate effect on the people who are already the most vulnerable. The well-known African proverb. "When elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers" very appropriately describes the short-term effects of these sanctions.

After roughly a month of no trade and no aid, the African Union's Peace and Security Council called for the sanctioning countries to "minimize [the sanctions'] disproportionate impact on the citizens of Niger." The United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs joined many other aid organizations in appealing for humanitarian exemptions to these blockades. While support for the most vulnerable has politically been determined to resume within Niger, the effects of this coup have dramatically made life more difficult for people.

Our partner church, the Evangelical Church of the Republic of Niger (EERN), has seen few changes related to the coup. The new junta government so far has not discriminated against Christians or Christianity, for which the EERN has been very grateful. A member of the EERN Church has been appointed to be a Minister within the new leadership, and it is believed that the ruling group will remain secular. Two months after the coup, schools, including those of the EERN, have reopened allowing Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Schools programs to restart. However, contrary to the new regime's promises, there has been increased jihadist activity within the country that has increased instability in some areas. One of the EERN's One Evangelist/One Well villages saw the jihadists using the confusion from the coup to move into the village, so the EERN withdrew the pastor's family to keep them safe. EERN WASH subsequently pulled out the pump, panels and storage tank from the village until stability returns.

Personally, the transition of being called to return to the U.S., and leaving friends, peers and colleagues behind in such an unstable situation has been difficult. From a work perspective, many opportunities that were opening for the EERN WASH team are now on hold for an unknown period of time.

While there have been many worries and disruptions due to the coup, being back with family in the U.S. has been a

blessing. I have been able to see our son John play soccer for his college in Milledgeville, Georgia, and have also been with our son Joseph as he transitions into new studies here in Atlanta. I have been able to celebrate family birthdays and attend two memorial services, to share in the celebration of the lives of two extraordinary people with our families and friends – all of which I would have otherwise not been able to be a part of. This time back is also allowing me to learn of the latest research of colleagues working on WASH in Africa at the Centre of Global Safe WASH at Emory University's Department of Public Health. PC(USA) is providing another Continuing Education Grant to attend the annual Water and Health Conference at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, which I haven't been able to do for more than 10 years. This disrupted schedule is also allowing me time to attend to some medical issues that need to be taken care of soon.

So, while we celebrate time with family, we mourn as we pray for the people of Niger –the poorest, as always, being the ones to suffer the most. We ask for interceding for the people of Niger, we ask for continued prayers for the EERN, and for a quick return to security and normality for the people, so that the EERN can continue its work of lifting up the people of Niger.

Peace and blessings to all,
Jim

THE 2023 MATTHEW 25 \$1000 GRANT AWARDED TO THE GRADES K-5 STEM EXPLORATION LEARNING CENTERS EASTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Eastern Local School District is a rural school district with 100% of the kids receiving free lunch. The k-12 students are all on one campus. Over the past 10 years Tishina Brown-Harris, K-5 Technology Teacher in the Eastern Local School district has developed computer science STEM classes that give the 300+ K-5 students the basic skills classes to same opportunities as more affluent districts. The school provides chrome books and hotspots for the students to use afterschool. Without these the kids would not be able to have access or tools to complete basic school assignments. She has since coached teams of students in various coding competitions placing in the top 10 nationally for three consecutive years. Last year she launched their first Girls Who Code after school coding club.

During the coding unit the students utilize STEM exploration centers that are set up where students can get hands on practice with the concepts. They start with physical coding using hands on materials such as beebots, ozobots and spheros. Then they will move on to digital coding using programs code.org and scratch. Tishina has also involved other teachers and the school has added a junior high and high school coding class and hope to offer after school coding clubs. The \$1000 Matthew 25 award will be used to add coding kits to the exploration centers. These include Lego education kits, Beebot expansion kits and STEM building supplies. **On Sunday January 28 Tishina will join us at Fellowship time to share more about her programs.**

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Thank you for your generous support of this PCUSA offering to assist current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The offering was \$1,060 from Congregation donations plus \$1,000 from the budget for a total of \$2,060.



EXPLAINING THE PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT

When you receive your box of offering envelopes, the second envelope will be titled, "Per Capita." Per Capita is a set assessment per member that each congregation pays to share in funding overhead expenses in carrying out the functions of our tri-level representational governmental structure: Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. We believe in a tri-level governmental structure because it connects us to all of the Presbyterian Churches in the US.

As a congregation, we support these governmental structures in two ways. Through our operating budget, we contribute towards the Presbytery of Scioto Valley's missions. Through the Per Capita we help finance the overhead expenses that make it possible for the Presbytery to provide services to its member churches and to support its missions.

This year the Per Capita rate is \$40 per member, which means, with 42 members, our church contributes \$1,680 as its share. However, the Presbytery still has us listed as 51 members as they are unaware of the 9 members who died in 2023, so it is assessing us at \$2040. An additional 20+ individuals who are not members of our congregation have been worshipping with us: 10 retired ministers whose membership remains in the body that ordained them, and another group of individuals who attend worship and are actively engaged in our congregation, but have not chosen to seek formal membership. These individuals

are not counted in the church's Per Capita calculation. Our treasurer, Mike Milam, sends the full amount of our Per Capita Assessment into the Presbytery of Scioto Valley, and it forwards a pre set portion of those funds to the Synod of the Covenant and the General Assembly. We encourage active members to pay their own Per Capita share. We have a number of members who are in the Bristol Health units who do not pay their Per Capita, so the church pays their share, and any other unpaid Per Capita, as part of our general operating fund.

Our congregation is one of the 86 congregations with 12,817 members in the Scioto Valley Presbytery, which encompasses 21 Ohio counties. Your Per Capita will help finance the costs associated with its offices at 4131 North High Street, Suite B, Columbus, Ohio 43214 - 3001, and salaries of its paid staff.

The work of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley is also carried out by a number of unpaid positions including Moderator, Vice-Moderator, and chairs and members of the following commissions: Commission for Church Professionals, Commission for Presbytery Operations, Commission for Nurture and Outreach, Commission for Congregational Life.

In drawing up an operational budget for 2024 we set a goal of half of the assessment for individual member Per Capita payments. Please help us meet that goal.

Elaine Oser Zingg, Clerk of Session

JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4 W&D 1:30 pm	5	6
7 Adult Studies 9:15 am Worship 10:15 am	8 Fellowship Committee 1 pm	9	10 M&E 2:30 pm Bible Study 4 pm	11 Session Reports due Clergy Breakfast 9 am Finance 10 am	12	13
14 Adult Studies 9:15 am Worship 10:15 am	15 MLK JR DAY Office Closed	16	17 Session 1:30 pm Bible Study 4 pm	18 Courier Articles due	19	20
21 Adult Studies 9:15 am Worship 10:15 am Annual Congregational Meeting Jane speaks at Vespers 7:30	22	23	24 Bible Study 4 pm	25 Prime Thyme Gardening 5:30 pm	26	27
28 Adult Studies 9:15 am Worship 10:15 am Tishina Brown-Harris speaks at Fellow- ship Hour	29	30	31 Bible Study 4 pm			

In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Remember in Prayer:

Maurice Bailey
 Gary Baker
 Marilyn Beilstein
 Dan Beilstein
 Irene & Jim Clark
 Jeanne Conrad
 John Dawson
 Monica Dawson
 Jean Earnhardt
 Glenn Franklin
 Bobbie Hall
 Jerry Hall
 George Hartwell
 Bruce Henderson
 Sherlene Keefer
 Liv M.
 Jewell McCliment

Marty Miller
 Barbara Patterson
 Tom Patterson
 Pat Penrose
 Babsy Pettit
 Steve Rhoades
 Jeff & Nancy Sapienza
 Rosann Severding
 Nancy Seward
 Lew Stratton
 Angie Strewsbery
 David Stinnett
 Melissa Stinnett
 Martha Whitehouse
 Allen Wollenberg
 Judy Wollenberg
 Ruth Wonnell
 Elaine Zingg

Diane Zwick

Bristol Health Care:

George Hartwell - 105
 Bill Johnson - 113
 Nancy Seward - 205
 Judy Wollenberg - 312

Birthdays:

Martha Whitehouse- 5
 Judith Harrell - 6
 Tom Mellinger - 11
 Ruth Wonnell - 12
 Linda Milam - 13
 Eiinor Hodder - 13
 Brue Henderson - 14
 Doug Holben - 30



GREETERS

January
 Betsy Hall
 Bobbie Hall
 Barbara Taphorn



LITURGISTS

January Irene Martin

EST.



1842

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF WAVERLY

211 Schmitt Drive
Waverly, OH 45690

The Amen Corner

