



December 2024

LIFELINE

November Highlights



Art Myers spoke on the “Psychological Trauma of War” at our “Lunch and Learn” on November 3rd. He started with a history lesson, showing examples of trauma going back as far as 2100 BC. He then shared his professional experience of helping those with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Thank you Art for sharing your knowledge and giving us a better understanding of PTSD.



The handbell choir, accompanied by Jeff, treated us to a beautiful prelude one Sunday. Another Sunday, Shelda led the choir in a wonderful anthem.

We are thankful

We shared our blessings during worship on November 17th as the children collected canned goods for our food pantry missions.





CLERK’S CORNER
Session Meeting Recap
November 17, 2024

Pastor Joe led our meeting. He thanked Dixie for providing today’s lunch. He opened the meeting with prayer. A quorum was present.

Session approved:

- the September 15, 2024, meeting minutes.
- Acknowledged the email vote approving the date change for the Congregational Meeting from 10/27/2024 to 11/19/2024, to act on the slate of officers as presented by the Nominations committee.
- the 2025 Communion schedule.
- the 2025 budget.
- leave for Pastor Joe from 11/25-11/29 to allow him to be with his father in Texas for Thanksgiving.
- calling a Congregational meeting on **January 26, 2025**.
- the date of January 19, 2025, for the next Session meeting. Julie volunteered to provide lunch.

Additional Information:

- The membership total on 09/15/24 was 86. Our membership total remains at 86 on 11/17/24.
- Session received the Deacon’s minutes from their meeting on September 22, 2024.
- Session received the YTD Financial report prepared by Carolyn McMillan:
 YTD Expenses are \$218,710.54. YTD Income total is \$168,340.50. The YTD deficit is \$50,370.04. The money from the Broad Street project sale was received from the City of Fairborn.

- The Clerk advised the session that recent Book of Order changes require us to have additional written policies/practices. Julie, Kathleen, and Joe will work on these changes.
- All women are invited to attend a *Women’s Spiritual Nurture Retreat* at Kirkmont camp from April 25-27, 2025.

CLS Report:

The next Sunday Funday is planned for December 15. Everyone is encouraged to wear their Ugly Christmas Sweater that day. Please watch the bulletin and Wednesday Update for more details.

Property Report:

They will investigate the temperature issue in the Fellowship Hall reported during the November 3 Lunch and Learn. They are also working to resolve heating and AC issues in the Activity Room. It seems to be related to a thermostat in the kitchen. A new AC unit for the lower-level classroom will be purchased in the spring of 2025 to replace the broken unit.

Presbytery Report: Our commissioner, Dixie, was unable to attend. Pastor Joe, Kathleen Seewer, and Michael Seewer were in attendance. Kathleen and Michael were not authorized to vote on behalf of First Presbyterian. The Session discussed the possible appointment of an alternate commissioner. This alternate Presbytery commissioner could be an Elder who is not currently serving on Session.

Kathleen Seewer
 2024 Clerk of Session



At Matthew 25 we prepared jars of hand cream for shipment to people in need. Before we started we enjoyed lunch in their café. It was an enjoyable time together helping such a worthwhile organization. Please join us when we return in January!



A NOTE FROM ECCLESIAL—OUR RESIDENT CHURCH MOUSE

Thanksgiving is here and gone - my family and I hope you all enjoyed a delicious meal with warm feelings of love and hope. November was a month filled with good things in the life of our church. We have had a few maintenance (mainly heating) issues - but your great volunteers on the Property Committee got them taken care of. We have had some happy times together as an extended family. Your Session met and approved a budget - even though it's a "faith" budget. They know that the expenses will exceed the pledges coming in - but have faith they can make it work. The Cornerstone class finished their study of Ruth - and had many good discussions and plenty of questions which Pastor Joe and class members worked on together. Hope Circle met and enjoyed their book study and discussions about it led to many other topics. The Lunch and Learn get together was quite interesting. Art Myers gave a talk on PTSD which was very informative. Bean soup, cornbread, slaw and dessert was enjoyed by everyone. Several of your friends went to Matthew 25 Ministries and volunteered preparing items for delivery wherever they are needed - whether it be in disaster areas in the United States or abroad. The children of the church collected canned goods during children's time with Pastor Joe - which will be shared between our Little Free Pantry and the Fairborn City Schools Transitional Living program. The Mitten Tree Project was finalized and you provided 230 items to help keep the children of our school warm during the cold winter months. The Christmas Family project is in full swing and hopefully we will be able to provide a nice Christmas for four local families suggested to us by the Lions Club. Many of you helped decorate for Advent and Christmas - and we are ready to celebrate the birth of Baby Jesus. Enjoy the upcoming month while reflecting on the reason for the season. *~Ecclesial Mouse*



Hanging of the Greens

Many helpful hands gathered to decorate the sanctuary and Lower Narthex for the Advent Season. A special thank you goes out to the Kellers for donating our new tree. Special thanks also goes out to Shelda for assembling it and stringing the new lights. The church is beautiful and adds to the joy we feel at this wondrous season.





CHRISTMAS CONCERT & RECEPTION

DECEMBER
9TH
6:30PM



@XENIA
UNITED
FREE
(LOVE OFFERING)

Enjoy an evening of Christmas music followed by a festive reception with tea sandwiches, cookies, and punch.

XENIA UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
343 W. ANKENY MILL RD. XENIA, OH
937-376-9461 / XENIAUNITED.ORG



Christmas Eve Service Tuesday, December 24th

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 4:00pm. Please join us to celebrate this wonderful, joyous time.



All Church Ladies Christmas Luncheon

The annual All Church Ladies Christmas Luncheon will be held Monday, **December 2** at 11:30am in Fellowship Hall. All ladies are invited to the Christmas luncheon of soup and salad. Carolyn from Hollon Florist will present our program. We will have door prizes & Christmas carols. So come and get in the Christmas spirit. Please let Judy Myers (937-878-1230) know if you can make it.



Ugly Christmas Sweater and Sunday Fun Day December 15th

Please wear your Ugly Christmas Sweater and join us for our 3rd Annual Ugly Christmas Sweater Day during our Sunday Fun Day immediately after worship on December 15th. We will serve ham, mac-n-cheese, and green beans. Please bring a batch of your favorite Christmas cookies to share for dessert. There will be door prizes. Please invite your friends and neighbors to join the fun!



Christmas Poinsettia Order Form



Enclosed is my cash/check for \$ _____
-- Form and payment due **December 15**

In memory of

In honor of

Celebrating

Given By:

Please print names exactly as you wish them to appear in the bulletin
It is suggested that gifts be at least \$20.00 but may be any amount one wishes.

- ____ I/We wish to take my/our poinsettia(s) home after worship on Dec 22nd
 ____ I/We wish to take my/our poinsettia(s) home after worship on Christmas Eve
 ____ I/We do not wish to take my/our poinsettia(s) home



Happy Birthday!

Dec 8	Cindy Bowen
10	Janet Swaim
24	Carolyn McMillan
25	Carol Murphy
31	Bill McMillan

2024 Family Christmas Project

We received the names of four families this year from the Lions Club. This includes thirteen children and one more on the way. Please choose a tag or two from the tree in the Lower Narthex if you'd like to purchase a gift. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please write "Family Christmas Project" on the envelope. Checks should be made out to the church. Please return the wrapped gift with the name tag attached by December 1 or let Maryann know if you need more time. Thank you for supporting these families and bringing joy to them during this holiday season. Please see Maryann for more info.



2025 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Here is the latest stewardship information for you. We have received 30 pledge cards. It's not too late to pledge your financial support for 2025. Please consider submitting a pledge card and help reverse this trend. Please see Troy Oliver with any questions.

Year	Dollars pledged
2025	\$ 94,382 30
2024	\$113,352 36
2023	\$132,740 37

Christmas Card Crusade

We are doing our Christmas Card Crusade again this year where we take signed cards to Senior Living Facilities. We will collect the cards you sign and then package 2 or 3 with a ribbon and candy cane for the staff to hand out to the residents. Please have the cards to the church office by Dec. 15th. Please see Linda Hartsock for more information.



Christmas Cards for Our Church Family

There are bins on the tables in the Lower Narthex where you can leave Christmas cards for people in the congregation. You can leave cards there without sending them through the U.S. Post Office. Please check the bins regularly for cards to you.



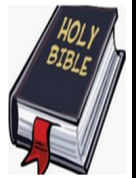
Senior Center Church Tour Tuesday December 10th

The Fairborn Senior Center has organized a tour of the churches in Fairborn to see all the beautiful Christmas decorations. They will be visiting our church during the afternoon of Dec. 10th, exact time to be determined. Please feel free to come to our church to welcome our visitors. Please contact Diane for more information.



Cornerstone Class

The Cornerstone Class meets at 2:00pm every Wednesday for Bible study and discussion. We will look at the history of Israel as our next topic of study and discussion. There are snacks! Come join us!



December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>10:15 am Worship with Communion 11:15 am Deacon's Mtg.</p> <p>First Day of Advent </p>	<p>2</p> <p>11:30 am Ladies Christ- mas Luncheon Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>2:00 pm Cornerstone Class —Lounge</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>10:15 am Worship</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>1:00 pm Fairborn Senior Center Church Tour</p>	<p>11</p> <p>2:00 pm Cornerstone Class —Lounge</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>10:15 am Worship Sunday Fun Day immedi- ately after wor- ship</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>2:00 pm Cornerstone Class —Lounge</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>10:15 am Worship</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>4:00 pm Candlelight Service</p> 	<p>25</p> 	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>10:15 am Worship</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				

SCHOOL PANTRY NEEDS

A shopping list is provided for your use. Any items collected will be given to the Fairborn School Pantry. You can leave items in the bins in the narthex. If you need help with shopping or with pick-up and delivery, just let me know. I'll be happy to help.

Linda Hartsock
School Pantry Coordinator



Pasta Noodles	Oatmeal	Crackers
Pasta Sauce	Pancake Mix (add water only)	Snacks
Ravioli (Can or individual)	Pancake Syrup	Canned Vegetables
Soup	Poptarts	Juice
Rice and Noodle Mixes	Nuts	Paper Towels
Mac and Cheese (Box or individual)	Pudding	Toilet Paper
Tuna and Chicken cans	Fruit cups	Shampoo/Cond.
Vegetable Oil/Spray	Peanut Butter	Body Wash
Cereal	Jelly	Feminine Hygiene
Breakfast bars/muffins		

***Lifeline*—the monthly newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Fairborn, Ohio
1130 Highview Dr., Fairborn, OH 45324
phone: 937-878-3954**

email: firstpresbyterianfairborn@gmail.com
Office Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 am—2 pm
Thursday 9 am –11am and 1 pm—3 pm
(closed Monday and Friday)

“The Friendliest Church in Town”

Sunday Worship: 10:15 am with an on-line option from the church website

Pastor: Reverend Joe Hinds
email: pastorjoe1stpres@gmail.com

Financial Secretary: Carolyn McMillan

Organist: Jeff Firestone

Choir Director: Shelda Cox

Director of Chancel Ringers: Rena Leatherman

SESSION

Moderator: Reverend Joe Hinds

Clerk: Kathleen Seewer

Ruling Elders: Julie Brown, Linda Hartsock, Dixie Jenkins, Art Myers,
Kathleen Seewer, David Sellers, Kim Sellers, and Roland Sommer

Articles for next month’s Lifeline need to be in the office by December 27th.
There will be a limited number of copies of the *Lifeline*
in the lower narthex near the Welcome/Visitors table if you want to pick one up.

Please let the office know of any meetings that you have scheduled in the church building
so that we can maintain an accurate calendar and answer questions as folks call.