



February 2025

LIFELINE

January Highlights



Ken Gadd's Dinner Group gathered at BJ's to enjoy good food with good friends. It was a good time for all. Please let Ken Gadd know if you are interested in joining them at their next gathering.

On a cold and snowy day we gathered at Troy's house to work on our unfinished crafts. Maryann made cards, Diane and Leslie wove sleeping mats, Cathy finished a fleece throw, Heidi did a Diamond Art craft, and Troy was scrapbooking. Troy and Cathy provided a delicious brunch and lunch. Later Julie and Pastor Joe came to chat and check out the projects. It was a fun time together.



Thank you Krista and Izzy for the new aprons embroidered with our church's name! We wore them proudly when we served lunch at the Senior Center. Thank You!



CLERK’S CORNER
Session Meeting Recap
January 19, 2025



Prior to the Session meeting, we met with Chet Saunders, our financial advisor, for a recap of our investments and his recommendations for 2025. Bill McMillan also attended this meeting as a representative of the Finance committee. After Chet and Bill departed, we had our lunch and began our meeting. Pastor Joe led our meeting by welcoming everyone to the start of a new year. He welcomed returning member Diane Sondergelt, and Dave Sellers and Kathleen Seewer for agreeing to a second term. He thanked Julie for providing today’s lunch. He opened the meeting with prayer. The Clerk reported a quorum was present.

Session actions:

- Approved the Nov. 17, 2024, meeting minutes.
- Approved the Dec. 29, 2024, special meeting minutes.
- Reported the membership total as of 12/31/24 was 85. The roll total today is 84.
- Elected Kathleen Seewer as 2025 Clerk of Session.
- Elected Officers of the Corporation for 2025:
 President: Julie Brown
 Vice-President: Bill McMillan
 Secretary: Kathleen Seewer
 Treasurer: Troy Oliver
- Approved collecting a *Souper Bowl* offering on February 9th with 100% of the proceeds to the *FISH* program. It is also the next Sunday Funday.
- Elected Dixie Jenkins as Elder Commissioner to all 2025 Presbytery Meetings. Elected Linda Hartsock as Alternate Presbytery Commissioner.
- Learned that the next Presbytery meeting is February 8 starting at 9:00 a.m. using ZOOM.
- Approved the 2024 annual PCUSA Statistical report.
- Approved the date of March 16, 2025, for the next Session meeting.

Additional Information:

Roland provided the final 2024 Financial Report prepared by Carolyn McMillan: Total income for 2024 was \$216,182.61; total expenses for 2024 were \$255104.26; the net amount for 2024 was (-\$38,921.65). Property continues to work on various maintenance issues such as handicap door not working, HVAC, and roof leaks.

<u>2025 Committee Assignments</u>	
Nominating Committee	Julie Brown (chair)
Congregational Life & Service	Diane Sondergelt (chair)
Christian Education	Troy Oliver
Mission	Linda & Diane (co-chair) Kim Sellers
Worship	Julie Brown
Fellowship	Diane & Julie (co-chairs)
Stewardship	Troy Oliver (co-chair) Dixie Jenkins (co-chair) Julie Brown
Operations	Art Myers (co-chair) David Sellers (co-chair)
Property	Art Myers (co-chair) David Sellers (co-chair) Bill McMillan Mitch Oliver
Administration	Julie Brown (chair) Linda Hartsock
Treasurer Finance	Troy Oliver Roland Sommer
Personnel	Dixie Jenkins (co-chair) Troy Oliver (co-chair) David Sellers
Other Assignments	
Clerk of Session	Kathleen Seewer
Presbytery Commissioner	Dixie Jenkins
Presbytery Commissioner (Alternate)	Linda Hartsock
Boy Scout Liaison	Elaine Brown

Kathleen Seewer, 2025 Clerk of Session

Where Do You Fit?

FPC’s 2024 Annual Report and Newsletter describe the vibrant life and ministry of this church. Did you know that you do not have to be an Elder or Deacon to be on a committee or working group? I encourage everyone to consider where you feel called to be involved or to share with me a new idea or question that you have. +Pastor Joe



A NOTE FROM ECCLESIAL—OUR RESIDENT CHURCH MOUSE

Welcome to February! January was cold, snowy and quiet - and although there still were wonderful things happening in the life of our church, I want to take this opportunity to talk about the behind the scenes angels we walk beside. Our congregation is vested in helping others, both in our community and within our church. I have a mouse's eye view of all the happenings in our building, and would like to share with you some of the things that only happen because of our wonderful church family providing for one another. For instance, did you know that we have our parking lot plowed but not sidewalks and entrances? We have an individual who comes every time it snows or gets icy to ensure we all have a safe path into our warm building. We have a group who makes sure you have a safe and comfortable building to worship and share fellowship. They also make sure light bulbs are changed, restrooms are stocked, trash is picked up, floors are mopped and carpets vacuumed. Our expenses are paid, payroll processed, monetary gifts counted and deposited, checkbook reconciled and financial reports prepared - all by volunteers. The Little Free Pantry and Library is maintained with your generous gifts by volunteers. The refreshments we enjoy after service and other events like Cornerstone Class are donated and prepared by volunteers. The bulletin you worship with every week, the monthly newsletter, the website, and the updates you receive via email are prepared by volunteers. The children are taken care of and provided a lesson every week that is put together by a volunteer. Communion is prepared by volunteers. The sanctuary is prepared for Sunday service by a volunteer. The sound system is run by a volunteer. Our wonderful choir and handbell groups are made up of volunteers. These are just a few of the things you might not even think about - but is all part of the beauty of your love for one another and your desire to serve. Let's all look forward to Spring and praise the Lord for our wonderful church family. *~Ecclesial Mouse*



Christmas Card Crusade Thank You

Thank you very much for the Christmas cards. I love mail so this is the best present! I hope you all had a joyful and love filled holiday. I wish you a Happy New Year.
Joyce—Fairborn Assisted Living



Congratulations Terry! Mom, Christie, and sister, Mallory, helped him celebrate making the A Honor Roll. Great job!



HELP US CHANGE THE GAME AND TACKLE HUNGER!

Sunday February 9 - Souper Bowl Day of Caring

Our next Sunday Fun Day will be on "Souper Bowl Day of Caring" Sunday, February 9th, immediately after worship. Please wear your favorite team gear – any sport, any team, and any level. We will serve chili with beans and hot dogs. "Souper Bowl" Sunday was started by a Presbyterian youth group in South Carolina in 1990. On Super Bowl Sunday, they asked people to donate \$1.00 to help fight hunger in their area. Their simple prayer - "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat". We will take "Souper Bowl" donations for FISH at this event. Please invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join us. See Diane, Julie, or Linda for more info.



Happy Birthday!

- | | | |
|------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Feb | 2 | Diane Sondergelt |
| | 9 | Marilyn Löw |
| | 12 | Linda Keller |
| | 13 | Harriet Ensor |
| | 19 | Jody Hoag |

Minute for Mission

Matthew 25 Ministries (M25M)



We help provide hope for those in need every time we volunteer at Matthew 25 Ministries (M25M). When we unwrap the packaging of personal care items we are preparing a product to be included in a personal hygiene package for someone who has nothing. When we make pairs of gloves from large boxes of gloves we are preparing an item to be included in a disaster cleanup package for someone whose home or town is no longer livable. These acts may seem trivial on our part but to someone who suddenly has nothing or may never have had anything, these packages mean hope.

In 2025, we are continuing to volunteer at Matthew 25 Ministries in Blue Ash, OH, a suburb of Cincinnati. We are part of the more than 4000 volunteers who help make M25M what it is. We go there on the third Monday of odd numbered months (i.e. Jan., Mar., May, July, Sep., and Nov.). We believe this is an excellent way to help those in need and share God's love. As a bonus, we have fun and enjoy our time together! If you'd like to join in, please let Diane know.

M25M is an international humanitarian aid and disaster relief organization helping local, national and international victims. The founder, the Rev. Wendell Mettey, believed that Matthew 25: 34-30 shows us how to help those in need. He believed that caring for a needy world is not just something we want to do, it is what we are called to do to show God's love. The people that M25M helps are not receiving a handout, but a helping hand.

M25M emphasizes rescuing and reusing products from major corporations, manufacturers, hospitals and individuals. These companies and organizations send their surplus or unsellable products to M25M to support the M25M mission. As volunteers there, we have unwrapped products from their commercial packaging to ensure that there is more product and less packaging material in the shipment. This also saves packaging material from going to a landfill in the disaster area. Since its founding in 1990, M25M has shipped more than 170,000,000 pounds of aid to people in need. Another example of rescuing and reusing products, is making sleeping mats from plastic grocery bags. To date we have donated two mats from the bags you have donated. It takes approximately 1000 bags to make a 30"x72" mat. Maryann trims the bags to get them ready and Diane weaves them into a mat. Please keep bringing in your bags – they are used quickly!

M25M strives to accomplish their goals in the most efficient way possible. In order to do this, they have established, and maintain, a network of local aid workers across the nation and the world. The local contact ensures that M25M's aid is what is needed most. These local contacts report directly on how M25M's aid can be most effective. They do not have to rely on reports from others on how to help. If the local contact says they have plenty of bottled water but they are shorthanded on cleaning supplies, then M25M sends cleaning products. As an example of how they are efficient, when disaster calls, an aid worker on site can pick up a cleanup kit (which includes a pair of latex gloves) and have everything needed to get to work quickly. Also, when we donate clean, empty medication bottles, M25M does not need to purchase them for the medical professional aid workers to dispense medications. It is another cost avoidance measure.

More than 99% of their donations, including monetary and goods (in-kind), go to programs. Less than 1% goes to administration and fund raising. Charity Navigator, an organization which provides data and tools to help guide people with their philanthropic decision making, has given M25M its highest rating – 100% and 4 stars. M25M is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. This is a very worthwhile organization. As a church, we have chosen to volunteer our time rather than providing a monetary donation. If you would like to make a donation or would like more information about Matthew 25 Ministries, their website is: <https://m25m.org>.

February 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2 10:15 am Worship with Communion	3 1:00 pm Hope Circle— Lounge	4	5 2:00 pm Cornerstone Class —Lounge	6	7	8
9 10:15 am Worship "Souper Bowl" Fun Day follow- ing worship 	10	11	12 2:00 pm Cornerstone Class —Lounge	13	14 	15
16 10:15 am Worship	17 	18	19 2:00 pm Cornerstone Class —Lounge	20	21	22
23 10:15 am Worship	24	25	26 11:30 am Sr Ctr Lunch 2:00 pm Cornerstone Class —Lounge	27	28 	

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, Roland Sommer, and Diane Sondergelt

Articles for next month’s Lifeline need to be in the office by February 24th.

**There will be a limited number of copies of the *Lifeline*
 in the lower narthex 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.**