



# OHIO UNITED

*Presbyterian Church*

January 21 through January 27, 2024



Dear Friends in Faith,

Monday was a holiday, a day for remembering and celebrating the life of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It falls on the third Monday of January as one of a number of 'minor holidays' on our county's calendar. Perhaps it comes from growing up on a dairy farm where the life was not tuned to vacation and holiday days, but I've never found a rhythm in setting aside work on all these minor, to me, holidays.

It's not that I don't want to celebrate Dr. King. I deeply appreciate his leadership in the civil rights movement and his teaching that real change for social justice comes through non-violent witness. He modeled this as closely as he possibly could on the witness and teachings of Jesus. To quote Dr. King

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only **light** can do that.  
Hate cannot drive out hate; only **love** can do that."



Racial prejudices and tensions continue to be a challenge for our society today. Divisiveness in general is a very present darkness. We own that. The question that arises—how do we address these situations? How do we get engaged?

On the Presbyterian planning calendar is another date noted this week. Thursday begins the *Ecumenical Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*. In times past some community's churches would gather to worship and pray together during this week. We've largely lost that practice.

Ponder, if you will, the variety of prayers that might be offered across a group of ten or twenty churches....the carefully crafted prayers of the highly liturgical...the contemplative prayers of the ancient church...the spontaneous prayers that engaged the congregation in 'Amen's' and 'Hallelujahs.' Some would ponder the awe of God...some would pound their fists in calls for righteousness and justice. Together we are stronger.

Reading back over this note it seems to be a bit of a confession. Confession is good for the soul. How will I, how will we, look in the rearview mirror of this moment and lean into the next days, the next week in a stronger and healthier way? May we, on holidays and ordinary days, strive to embody the light and the love that Dr. King points us towards.

with the hope of Jesus,

pastor bob



**The Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held on Sunday, January 28, following worship. We'll distribute the 2023 reports, review the 2024 budget and elect a deacon to fill Ava DiCicco's term as she has resigned to finish high school and head to college later this year.

| Worship                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Worship Committee will meet on January 21 following worship</li><li>• 76 in worship on January 14</li></ul>                                                                                                      |
| Congregational Care                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adult Sunday School resumes on Sunday, January 21 at 9am</li><li>• Children's Sunday School has resumed for children 3 yrs. old – 6th grade</li><li>• Story Time is back at 10am on Wednesdays.</li><li>• </li></ul> |
| Missions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Start saving those coins, it's almost time for the 'Water Project'</li></ul>                                                                                                                                         |
| Operations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |





# JANUARY

## Birthdays

| <u>Birthdays</u> | <u>Birthdays</u>        | <u>Birthdays</u>      | <u>Birthdays</u>       |
|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Jerri Lech 1/06  | Camden Hoth 1/17        | Simon Hunsberger 1/22 | Everitt Laird Jr. 1/25 |
| Paul Hurni 1/10  | Michelle Sebastian 1/18 | Rich Kerlin 1/22      | Jonathan Lech 1/31     |
| Bob Keller 1/12  | Brian Archer 1/19       | David Kocher 1/22     | Robert Nan 1/31        |
| Eric Nan 1/12    | Belinda Nolte 1/20      | Jacob Cagnon 1/23     |                        |
| Sara Allen 1/16  | Kevin Smith 1/21        | Megan Hunsberger 1/25 |                        |

*He has made everything beautiful in its time.*

*Ecclesiastes 3:11*



- Marsha Douglass–Prayers for Mark who has COVID. Update on Mark's brother-in-law, John. He is home from the hospital - thanks for your prayers.
- JoAnne Polizotto–Prayers for new granddaughter, Capria, who was born without a thyroid.
- Marsha Douglass–Starting a new job at the end of the month.
- Dave Kocher–His mother Willa is now under hospice care
- Kristy Otto–Rejoicing for softball player, Katie, who is now off ventilator and walking
- Paul Magee–Thank you for prayers
- Jeff Barth–Chris Hurni's dad in hospital with heart problems
- Elizabeth Repman–Lost a nephew unexpectedly
- Diane Gennaro– Prayers for Donna Olexick who is out of hospital and for Jack Gennaro who has pneumonia.
- Prayers for the family of Cate Colesar who lost her mother.
- Prayers for Jim Williams who is seeing a specialist for swallowing issues.



January 7 – 6-7:30 Meeting at the Manse

January 14 – 6-7:30 Meeting at the Manse

January 21 – 6-7:30 Meeting at the Manse

January 28 – 6-7:30 Meeting at the Manse

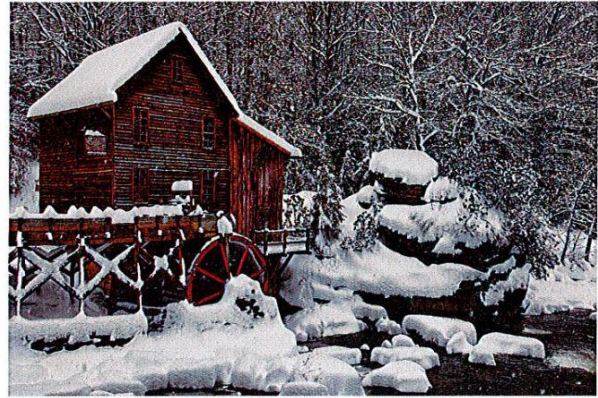
**Need at least 1 helper at Youth Group please volunteer!!**

## Highlights from the January 9th, 2024 Session Meeting

- Received with regrets the resignation of Ava Diccico as a Deacon so she can concentrate on her remaining high school and then college education.
- Approved having the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to receive reports, review the budget, new policies, and the pastor's contract on January 28th, 2024. Also a Deacon will be elected at the meeting.
- Approved Wendi Rybicki and Joe Glatz to be the representatives to Presbytery meetings in 2024.
- Discussed the continuation of joint services with Concord Presbyterian Church, Baden. This year an Ash Wednesday service will be at here while the Maundy Thursday worship service will be at the Concord Church. More details later when the arrangements are set.
- Discussed 2024 Session Committee Matrix and committee tasks, assignments, and responsibilities.
- The Scout Room will be cleaned to free some storage space.
- The Sacrament of Baptism was administered to Wyatt Arthur Moreno on December 3rd, 2023.

Joe Glatz, Clerk of Session

# January 2024



Picture Caption

| Sunday                                                                     | Monday                                                | Tuesday                        | Wednesday                | Thursday | Friday | Saturday                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|--------|--------------------------------------|
|                                                                            | 1                                                     | 2                              | 3<br>Story time<br>10am  | 4        | 5      | 6                                    |
| 7<br>Dedecorating<br>The church                                            | 8                                                     | 9<br>Deacons 6:30<br>Session 7 | 10<br>Story Time<br>10am | 11       | 12     | 13                                   |
| 14<br>Ordination &<br>Installation<br>Communion<br>Trinity Choir<br>1:30-5 | 15<br>Property Meeting 6:30<br>Deborah<br>Circle 6:30 | 16                             | 17<br>Story Time<br>10am | 18       | 19     | 20                                   |
| 21<br>Worship<br>committee<br>meeting<br>Trinity Choir<br>1:30-5           | 22                                                    | 23                             | 24<br>Story Time<br>10am | 25       | 26     | 27<br>Presbytery<br>Meeting<br>@10am |
| 28<br>Annual<br>Meeting<br>Trinity Choir<br>1:30 - 5                       | 29                                                    | 30                             | 31<br>Story Time<br>10am |          |        |                                      |
|                                                                            |                                                       |                                |                          |          |        |                                      |