



OHIO UNITED

Presbyterian Church

February 25 through March 2, 2024



Dear Friends in Faith,

This week, a word of deepest gratitude and a joy filled welcome. First things first!

On behalf of the session, I want to express our deepest gratitude to Shirley Fluharty for almost fifty-five years of service to the Ohio congregation as organist and bell choir director. Shirley's unflagging zeal and divine giftedness for making beautiful music to the glory of God has been an amazing gift to this congregation. At their recent session meeting we received, with regret, Shirley's notice of retirement. In the motion to accept her letter, the session named Shirley Organist Emeritus. A celebration of Shirley's ministry of music will be held, we hope, in the not too distant future!



As we all are aware, in the Fall choir members, in search of a temporary accompanist, connected with Ms. Ellen Davis. Ellen has been a wonderful gift to the choir, assisting them with rehearsals and accompanying the anthems in worship. Additionally she has joined with them to sing in the cantata and at other moments. The session has now moved Ellen from temporary to a regular part-time staff position as the choir accompanist. Welcome to Ellen in this new, but not totally new, role!

with faith and hope and love,

pastor bob

225th Anniversary!

"In 1799, around the time the area west of the Appalachian Mountains was settling more quickly, a new Presbyterian congregation known as the Flaughtery's Run Congregation was established....Services were held outside, in a tent, or a member's bar if the weather was too inclement...The first semi-permanent structure was near the home of member Peter Eachleas at what is now known as Five Points. In 1827 or 1828 the tent was moved close to where the building of the Ohio U.P. Church stands today."

-from the Bicentennial History, 1799-1999

This year will mark the 225th anniversary for the Ohio Church so it's time to celebrate. A committee is being formed to organize and lead a time to mark this special year. If you'd like to help out in some way please contact Lynn Smith, Dianne Kanitra or Dick Klein.



Worship

- We gather for worship Sundays at 10am
- 89 in worship on February 18
- Choir rehearsal, Thursdays at 7pm

Congregational Care

- Adult Sunday School is at 9am
- Children's Sunday School, for children 3 yrs. old – 6th grade, following the Children's Chat in worship
- Story Time is back at 10am on Wednesdays.

Missions

- **Lenten Mission Project**–Join us in reaching our goal of \$3000 to provide a well and access to clean water for a community abroad, as well as to donate to a water bank in Butler County, providing clean water for more than 40 families without access. You can give during the children's collections (**February 18 and March 24**) by dropping money in the well or by designating the Lenten Mission Project in your giving.

Operations

- January expenses– \$11,007, receipts– \$14,886

FOR THE LENTEN SEASON

Local Pilgrim: A Wandering, Wondering Daily Devotional for Lent will invite us to purposefully explore, discover and reflect on our community leading to meaningful contemplation and sacred discoveries. Copies are available in the narthex.

A **Lenten Bible Study**, *Walking the Way of the Cross with Paul*, will be held on Wednesdays, through March 20. Supper for those who'd like to share a meal at 5:30, study at 6:30 in the Gathering Place.

Lenten Mission Project



"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." – John 7:37-38

Approximately 784 million people around the world are without basic access to clean water. That is roughly 1 in 10 people on Earth. More people die from unsafe water, than from all forms of violence, including war.

Through Presbyterian Giving, we can provide the resources necessary for a community to receive a well for just \$1,500. It will provide a reliable source of clean water for drinking, bathing, washing, and irrigation. This access to clean water, close to home, can transform lives – improving health, hygiene, and economic prospects.

Our goal is to be able to raise \$3000 to purchase one well and to also provide a donation to a water bank run by a Presbyterian church in Butler, called Water for Woodlands. It provides water to more than 40 families who experienced deteriorating water quality, and can no longer drink, nor safely cook or bathe in their water.

Join us in giving – during the children's collections (February 18th & March 24th), by dropping money in the well, or by designating the Lenten Mission Project in your giving.





FEBRUARY

Birthdays

<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>
Linda Duganich 2/4	Ken Gregory 2/11	Michael Colesar 2/16	Sharon Nevill 2/24
Dawn Psik 2/4	Weston Shaffer 2/12	Diane Gennaro 2/18	Chris Cronin 2/26
Eric Rastetter 2/6	Crystal Saxon 2/13	Noah Honess 2/21	Nathan Cronin 2/26
Dolores Skinner 2/6	Jonah Honess 2/14	Tanner Lewis 2/21	Richard Pike 2/26
Homer Summy 2/6	Marsha Douglass 2/14	Martha Piroli 2/22	Corinna Petrella 2/28
Noah Repman 2/9	Marloe Rastetter 2/15	Trevis Gregory 2/23	

The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Psalm 138:8

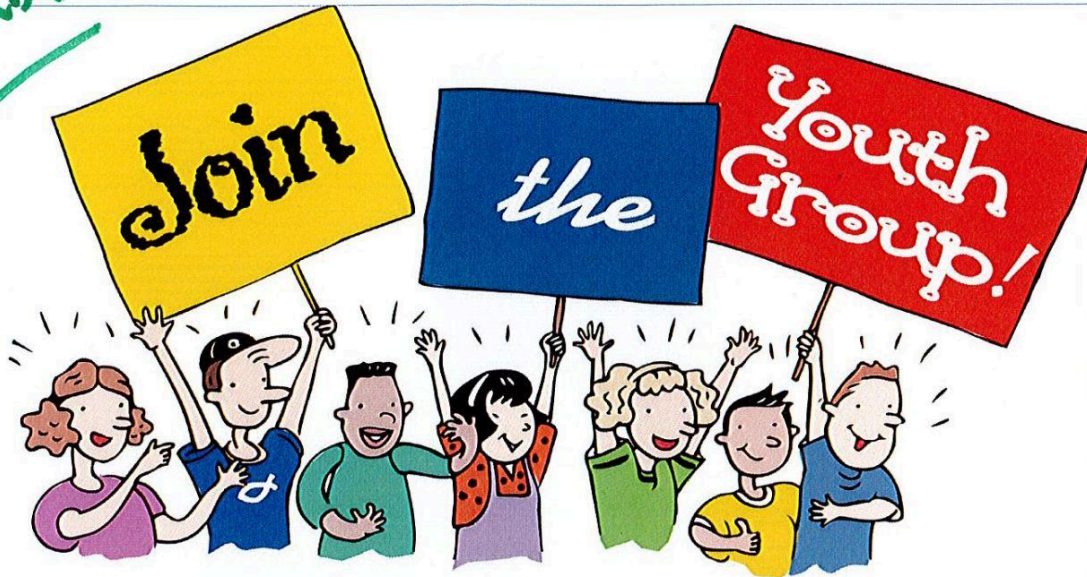


- Marsha Douglass–Sends her thanks for birthday and get well wishes. Also, Shirley Fluharty feels better after doctors dropped 3 medications.
- Jeff Davis–A joy for all musicians who played on Sunday.
- Dawn Psik–Had two appointments this week. One with the oncologist to find out what treatment/therapy she may need moving forward. The second was with her surgeon to check that the incisions are healing well. Prayers that both of these appointments went well.
- Marsha Douglass–Please be in prayer for her friend’s mom; she is declining rapidly and asking for prayers. Her name is Madeline Kosela and has 4 daughters. They believe that she will pass soon.

Home Communions

Would you like to receive Home Communion because you were unable, for any reason, to come to church when communion was served? Please call the church office by March 9 and someone will contact you to make the arrangements. The office number is 724-378-3690.

Update



January 21 – 6-8:00 Football and pizza

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

February 4 – No YG Peggy will be away

February 11 –Super Bowl Sunday

(Enjoy time with family/friends)

February 18 – Boyce Park Snow Tubing 12:30-2:30

February 25 - 6-7:30 Meeting at the Manse

Need at least 1 helper at Youth Group please

Highlights from the February 13 Session Meeting

- B-B Presbytery is conducting a free workshop for church leaders @ Cranberry P. C. from 2-5pm on March 10, 2024.
- The Clerk received 2 thankyou cards:
 - Pastor Bob and ChrisAnn Goossen for the Christmas gift from Session members.
 - The Girl Scouts for the use of the facility - a \$100 check was enclosed.
- Session is looking for interested people to help organize a celebration to commemorate the 225th Anniversary of Ohio UPC.
- 2 Special worship services:
 - Ash Wednesday Service @ Ohio UPC - (already occurred.)
 - Maundy Thursday Service @ Concord on 3-28-2024, 7pm.
- Pastor Bob presented his study leave and vacation schedule to Session.
- Property Committee has scheduled a workday at the church on May 4th.

Actions by Session

1. Received the retirement letter with regret from Shirley Fluharty and will list her on the bulletin as Organist Emeritus.
2. Approved Personnel Committee's recommendation to hire Ellen Davis as a regular part-time accompanist @ \$25/hr.
3. Approved the Property Committee's to replace the freezer.
4. Approved the Communion schedule from the Worship Committee.

2024 Communion Schedule

Jan 14	Jul 14
Feb 11	Aug 11
Mar 10	Sep 8
Apr 14	Oct 6
May 19	Nov 3
Jun 9	Dec 1

Joe Glatz, Clerk of Session



Garden of Knowledge Library

As we expand our library, we have created an Amazon wish list that you may purchase books for our library. The books range in age from newborn to young adult. Here is a link to our wish list:
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/11KT1O8IDN6AG/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_2

