

Belong

EPIPHANY NEWS
& VIEWS
VOL 74, ISSUE 1

Be Challenged



Be Love

Belong, Be Challenged, Be Love

Over the past few years, we have spent time digging into our DNA as a congregation, identifying our core values and reconnecting with our passions and what makes church “church” for us. This past November, the session voted to focus our mission and ministry with the following: **belong, be challenged, be love.**

We **belong** to God and to one another. Community. Relationships. That is an important part of who we are and what we want to share with others. We welcome all people. At times, that is difficult to figure out how to do. But we believe the diversity of God’s children is something to be celebrated.

We honor the journey of faith, recognizing that it is lifelong. We’re open to being shaped and molded as we make our way together as a faith community.

Spiritual maturity isn’t always a cake walk. We welcome the space to **be challenged.**

We exist not for ourselves, but embrace the opportunity to serve others. As those made in God’s image, we welcome the chance to **be love** for others and often seek them out. Loving one another is difficult, but we continue to try, even when we make mistakes.

Join us this year as we dive more deeply into our mission together. Look for opportunities to explore how you can more fully engage in our life together as a community!

Mission Funding Update:

Your mission committee has been busy! With local mission funds we will be supporting:

- Chopin Hall**, \$6000, to pay for voucher patrons for milk at local markets
 - Hope House**, \$2000, to purchase equipment for special needs children
 - Read for Life**, \$2000, to support their literacy and English as Second Language program
- With our international funds we sent:

- Addie Fox**, \$1000, for her medical mission to Costa Rica
- Camino Humanitar**, \$2000, a humanitarian ministry to those in Ukraine.

Learn more about Camino Humanitar on **Sunday, January 5th** during 2nd hour Faith Formation, when we welcome Jan Dus, who will zoom in from the Czech Republic.

On **Sunday February 2nd** during 2nd hour, we will learn more about Read for Life.

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Stewardship

Parent's Night Out Photos



Gift bags and tags for our surprises!

"Jellyfish" in a game called "Shipwreck" There are lots of other silly Captain's orders!



Our youth have been busy! We enjoyed Parents Night Out on December 15th. On February 22nd we will travel to Toledo Christ Church and help build beds for children. This will be an all-day event with our mission work on the beds and fun as well. We are also working on getting together with local Findlay youth groups sometime in 2025. Questions? [Contact Leslee Kirkconnell.](#)



A Future With Hope: 2025 Stewardship Campaign Update:

We'd like to extend a big **Thank You** to all who have submitted pledge cards. There is still time to submit your card if you have not done so yet!

Our year-to-date 2025 pledges are \$43,630 below our 2025 budgeted income. We are anticipating a small surplus from 2024 that we could carry over into 2025, but it will not cover the deficit. We prefer not to cut costs by postponing any more scheduled repairs and maintenance within the next couple of years, particularly since some of these projects have already been pushed off due to necessary repairs that have popped up such as the chiller replacement. Some of these desired projects are:

- Add a sidewalk in front of the church that leads around to the Columbarium, allowing a smooth path for walkers and wheelchairs (\$27K)
- Add exterior signage to direct visitors towards the Great Room and other locations (\$10K)
- Repaint and reglaze the south side sanctuary windows (no bids yet but costly)

If you have any thoughts on how costs could be cut, we welcome your feedback to any of our committee members listed below. We hope you prayerfully consider either adding a pledge or increasing your current pledge for 2025. Thank you all for your generosity!

The Stewardship and Finance Committee:

Brandi Clark (2024 Chair)
Julie Anderson
Howard Elliott

Beverly Dowling (2025 Chair)
Matt Croy
Al Holtzscher

Faith Formation

Sunday Morning Adult Faith Formation:

January 5: Meet Jan Dus, Czech pastor and NGO founder of Camino Humanitar, 11:00 a.m.

Fellowship Hall. Learn more about how they are helping those impacted by the war in Ukraine.

January 12: Community Dinner, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Great Room. Mexican & Italian casseroles, salad, fruit and cookies.

January 19: Kathryn Bausman, Executive Director of City Mission. 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall. She will share more about Martha's Home, and other ongoing ministries at City Mission.

January 26: Annual Meeting, 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall

February 2: Kristy Szkudlarek, coordinator Read for Life. 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall. Since 1987 Read for Life has been committed to literacy, but has a new reach into the community with immigrants. She will share the programs they offer in our community and how we can support those adjusting to American life.

February 9: Community Dinner, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Great Room. Chicken & stuffing casserole, salad, fruit and cookies.

February 16: A conversation about the proposed Bylaws, 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall. Come with questions and concerns!

Family Faith Formation,

Sunday, January 19, 5:00 to

7:00 p.m. We gather at

5:00p.m. for dinner in

Fellowship Hall, have a time of

worship and then move to rooms for faith conversations. Pastor Jessie leads the adults, Leslee leads the youth, and Meg Ramlow leads the children (K-5th). Child care is available for preschoolers. Please RSVP to Leslee by Thursday, January 16th. We'll be using the PC(U.S.A) **Follow Me** materials ***Do Not Fear!***



The Rise of Bonhoeffer:

an adult education class with depth and challenge.

We'll dive deep into the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German theologian who dared stand against the



Nazis. Discover how his theological insights shaped his resistance to Hitler, and inspired a generation of believers to act with courage and conviction. This is for those who are ready to dig deeper into an important Christian leader and theologian of the 20th Century. One who can give us tools and insights into being faithful Christians during our time. The class will meet on **Tuesdays from 7-9pm. (January 21 & 28, February 18, March 11 & 25, April 8 & 22).** Some reading as well as listening to a podcast prior to each class expected. **Please RSVP for the class to Pastor Jessie.** **Get ready! This is going to be a ton of fun!**

Godly Play

Godly Play brings wonder to both children and adults. Following the Blessing of the Children on the second-fourth (fifth) Sundays, Heidi Croy leads Kindergarten-5th graders to the Godly Play Room upstairs. Children are invited to listen to the story and respond.

Jan 12th - Epiphany

Jan 19th - Presentation of baby Jesus at the Temple

Jan 26-Feb 23 -- Each week we'll choose the life of a Saint to explore. Possible examples include St. Teresa of Avila, St. Julian of Norwich, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Catherine of Siena, and so on.



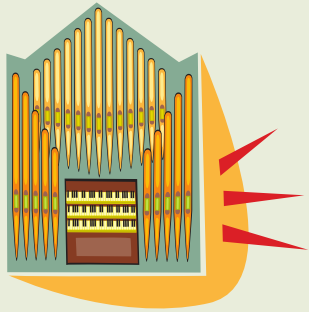
Music Ministry

Cabaret/Talent Show

Friday, February 7, 6:00-8:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Do you have a special talent you'd like to share with us? Play the spoons? Knock-knock jokes? Want to perform an act for a live audience? Join us this night for food, festivities, and lots of laughter and fun. Our summer mission team will serve dinner to benefit this summer's mission trip. Tickets will be \$10 and will go on sale in January.

Contact Clint if you want to participate in the Talent Show. Contact Leslee with questions or to help with the meal.



Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza

Saturday, March 1, 9:00am-2:00pm

First Presbyterian Church is hosting the Toledo chapter of the American Guild of Organists *Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza* for youth who want to learn about the pipe organ. This is a day of engaging children in the construction and playing of the pipe organ. We will have demonstrations of our two pipe organs, tours of the blower room, a kit that shows how organs work, and pizza!! Registration begins in January on our website. **All ages elementary school through high school are welcome!** Contact Clint for more information.

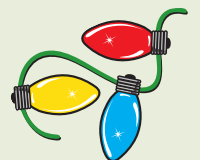
Nursery School



Our Nursery School spent December decking the halls, singing carols, and making ornaments and gifts for our parents. We celebrated by ending the year with a Christmas Program where our families joined us for cookies and juice. A HUGE thank you to Clint and Mrs. Ward for playing the piano.



Santa brought gifts for the school!



Updates & Invites

Lunch Bunch resumes on Thursday, January 2 in room 113 at noon. Bring your lunch for casual fellowship.

Thursday, January 9, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Pauli Murray: Rebel, Dude, Priest - Lessons for our Times

Led by the Rev. Dr. Darcy Metcalfe, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Findlay.

Come explore a Civil Rights leader who was far ahead of her time. Murray had a vision of community ("the freedom to be"), that she hoped America would embrace that not only attended to the individual's negative and positive freedoms but also nurtured "freedom to be" - a wholistic flourishing of the individual in a way that is inseparable from the goodness and flourishing of all existence. Murray lived and thought in the "grey;" understanding that the world's most dire challenges are not black and white - but somewhere "in between." She abandoned binary and categorical thinking to open herself and others to possibilities that would otherwise be unimagined. Please come and learn about her and contribute to the discussion of how we can create spaces where people develop and nurture their "freedom to be" as part of the expansive whole of our life together, especially in such divisive times.

Please RSVP for lunch by Tuesday, January 7 - call the office - 419-423-2112, send an email to info@findlayfpc.org or sign up outside the office.



Men's group start up meeting!

Join us Sunday January 12th at 9:00 a.m. in Room 211. This group is open to all men of the church. Let's get to know each other better and share our stories. We will meet each Sunday morning before worship-grab your coffee and join us. For more information contact **Curt Hugunin**. Hope to see you there!



Many, many thanks to all who contributed to our Church World Service clean up buckets. On December 15th we gathered in Fellowship Hall to pack buckets and enjoy fellowship. Nine buckets were completed and we anticipate being able to do at least six more making our goal of 15 buckets. Your generosity has made this possible and these buckets will help when disaster strikes.



The church will be closed

Wednesday, January 1, office hours on Thursday & Friday, January 2 & 3, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. In addition the church will be closed on Monday, February 17 for President's Day. Leslee Kirkconnell will be out of the office attending the APCE Annual Event from January 27-February 3.



Thursday, February 13: Bob Ross and the Joy of Painting

Join Nate Miller, a Certified Bob Ross Instructor who'll spend some time talking about Bob, sharing some of his background as well as how the Joy of Painting began, all the while painting like Bob Ross. It will be a fun time of learning and sharing.

(Nate is also the son of retired Presbyterian pastor Jim Miller, of Pemberville Presbyterian Church.) **As always-friends are welcome!**



During the January Community Dinner

KnitWits will be giving away hats, gloves, and scarves to our community neighbors in need. If you have some handmade items, you can donate them as well. There will be a table outside the Great Room. Thank you for your support.

Mission



Our next Community Dinner will be Sunday, January 12, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Great Room. We look forward to a delicious meal of Italian and Mexican casseroles, salad, fruit, and cookies. Help will be needed with items for the meal, preparing the food, setting up, serving, and cleaning up. A sign up sheet is posted in the hallway outside the office. You can call or email to sign up as well. 419-423-2112, info@findlayfpc.org. Save the date for our **February 9 Community Dinner**, menu includes chicken and stuffing casserole. More details soon.

The first 2025 Mobile Food Pantry will be in February. Katie Abbott is coordinating volunteers. Help will be needed from 7:30-10:30 a.m. outside the Great Room. A wonderful activity for families - come pack boxes of food for our neighbors who need a helping hand. Email Katie with questions or to volunteer.



Partnering with City Mission enables us to bring more help. Our donations for Darrel allow the Mission to use their funding for other items they would not otherwise be able to provide. Our January collection is **twin size sheets (regular) and pillows**. Let's overflow Darrel!

Lenten Visioning, Thursday January 16, from 6:30-8:00pm in Room 209-210. Join others who are interested in helping us create our Lenten faith formation opportunities. There will be a number of themes presented, opportunities to help with planning particular pieces of Lent, like Sunday worship or Wednesday Lenten Suppers or other faith formation opportunities. Come and explore Lent and help us discern what our congregation may need in terms of connection and formation during the season of Lent. Contact Pastor Jessie with any questions. See you there!

Facilities

Bell Securities is wrapping up installation of our new security cameras. Security cameras and a main door video intercom system has been installed as a requirement from our insurance company. We now have 'eyes in the sky' in the columbarium, parking lot and several around the preschool. Thank you Brian Bell for your hard work.

As the Nursery School has been on break, we have done a deep clean along with general maintenance to the classrooms. Our **Christmas tree** in the Great Room has seen better days. We are looking for a new artificial 12 foot or taller tree. If you have one you would like to donate please contact Kelly. And thank you for your patience with our heating system. It does not like the fluctuations in outside temperatures that can be 20° in one day. So one room may feel like sauna and another an igloo. We will get it set soon.



Pictures from our Life Together



**Onward & Upward
Christmas Sing-a-long**



**Hanging of
the Greens**



**Church World Service
Clean Up Bucket Packing
Party.
Good food, good fellowship,
sharing God's love!**



**Thanks to Mary Alice Patrickson and
Diana Wagar for pictures.**



**Christmas caroling to our
at-home members!**





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Financial Report

Year to Date 2024

YTD Income	\$644,336
YTD Income Budget	\$718,997
YTD Expenses	\$704,714
YTD Expenses Budget	\$812,277

Thank you for your generous support of Christ's Mission here at First Presbyterian Church Findlay!

Looking Ahead

January 5: Epiphany Worship
January 9: Onward & Upward
January 12: Men's Group Begins; Community Dinner
January 16: Lenten Visioning
January 19: Family Faith Formation
January 26: Annual Meeting
February 7: Cabaret Talent Show & Mission Trip Fundraiser