



December 2023

# LIFELINE

**We give thanks and share our blessings in many ways**



Donating pies for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner



Collecting food items for FISH and the Fairborn School Pantry



Singing in the Choir



Saluting our veterans for their service



Volunteering at Matthew 25 Ministries



Donating almost 450 gloves, mittens and hats for Fairborn students



Playing bells in the Bell Choir

“Leafing” notes of thanks on our Thanksgiving Tree





### **November 2023**

Our regular stated Session Meeting was held on November 19, 2023. Pastor Joe Hinds opened the meeting with prayer, and thanked Diane Sondergelt for providing lunch. Acting Clerk, Julie Brown, reported we did have a quorum. As an incoming Elder in 2024, we welcomed Linda Hartsock at this meeting.

#### **Session approved:**

- The Consent Agenda, including minutes of the last stated Session Meeting
- A Special Session meeting to accept Shelda Cox as a new member, a Special Session meeting accepting Chris and Megan Barson as new members, and approving the baptism of Megan, Colton and Luke Barson. Our roll total is now 89 with the addition of these new members.
- A written Pastor's report of pastoral care contacts, information on the weekly Cornerstone class, his community activities, and Presbytery duties.
- The budget for 2024

### **Committee Reports:**

**CLS:** A Sunday Fun Day will be held on December 17, which will be Ugly Christmas Sweater Day. Lunch will be served. Volunteers attended a day of work at Matthew 25 Ministries (M25M). Our next volunteer day at M25M will be January 8th.

**Operations:** A contract for the railing to be installed at the Highview Drive door entrance has been signed. This should be accomplished in the month of December. We are still waiting for the installation of Boiler #2 that heats our building.

**Presbytery Report:** Pastor Joe attended the Zoom Presbytery Meeting on November 11. Our Commissioner, Dixie Jenkins, was unable to attend due to computer issues.

The December calendar was reviewed and updated.

Julie Brown, Acting Clerk of Session

### ***A NOTE FROM ECCLESIAL—OUR RESIDENT CHURCH MOUSE***

Greetings! As we are heading into the Advent Season, it's a joy to look back over the last month in the life of our church. Our Veteran's were honored during a Sunday service by Pastor Joe and our children. All of the Veteran's stood up and the children saluted them. It was touching to see. The following week, the children collected pantry items to donate to the FISH Food Pantry and the Fairborn City Schools Transitional Living Program. The generosity of our congregation never ceases to amaze my family and I. We were in awe of all the food that was donated. The annual Hanging of the Greens was completed for the Advent Season. Our church is beautiful every day, but even more so during this time of year. Seeing everyone come together and work hard to make it a warm and inviting destination is heartwarming. We particularly enjoyed the snacks that came along with the occasion. Early in the month, we had a group of **10** attend a volunteer work session at Matthew 25 Ministries. After lunch at the facility, these volunteers provided 2 hours of their time to this extremely worthwhile mission. The next trip there will be in January 2024. We look forward to the coming month and all the beauty and celebration of Baby Jesus' birth. ~*Ecclesial Mouse*



### **Christmas Eve Services**

We will have 2 services on Sunday Dec 24th, Christmas Eve. There will be the usual service at 10:15am and a Candlelight Service at 4:00pm. Please join us to celebrate this wonderful, joyous time.



No Cornerstone Class Dec 27th.  
2024 classes start January 3rd.



### **Church Women's Christmas Luncheon**

It will be held at 2pm Saturday December 9th at:  
Cherry House Cafe  
1241 Meadow Bridge Dr.  
Beavercreek OH  
937-320-6200

If you plan to attend please email Judy Myers or call her at 937-878-1230. If you want to carpool, let her know and meet at the church at 1:30pm. Parking is limited. If you wish to donate to the Baby Jesus Pantry for FISH, please leave diapers, wipes, or baby food at church on any Sunday. If you would like to share any funny Christmas Stories, bring them with you to share.





**Angel Tree Mission—Gifts due by Dec. 3rd**

We got names from the Lions Club to sponsor 4 families this Christmas. If you'd like to provide a gift, please take a tag from the tree, purchase your gift, attach the tag to the wrapped gift and return it to church by December 3rd. If you would like to make a monetary donation for the Deacons to purchase gifts, please make the check out to First Presbyterian Church with "Family Christmas Mission" written on the envelope. Please see Maryann for more information. Thank you for bringing joy to these families during this holiday season.

**Christmas Card Crusade****Cards due by Dec. 3rd and Packing on Dec. 4th**

Hi there all Christmas card elves!! It's time again to meet and put the cards together for our senior living facility residents. Please set aside Dec 4, 10:00, to get together in the Board Room. Please return signed cards by Dec 3. Let Linda Hartsock know if you can help. Lunch provided!!

**Christmas Cards for the Congregation  
Merry Christmas Church Family!**

We have boxes in the Lower Narthex where you can leave Christmas cards for people in the congregation. This lets you send cards to the people you see at church without using stamps. The boxes will be labeled for the letter of the last name of the recipient. Please check the boxes each Sunday for the cards left for you.

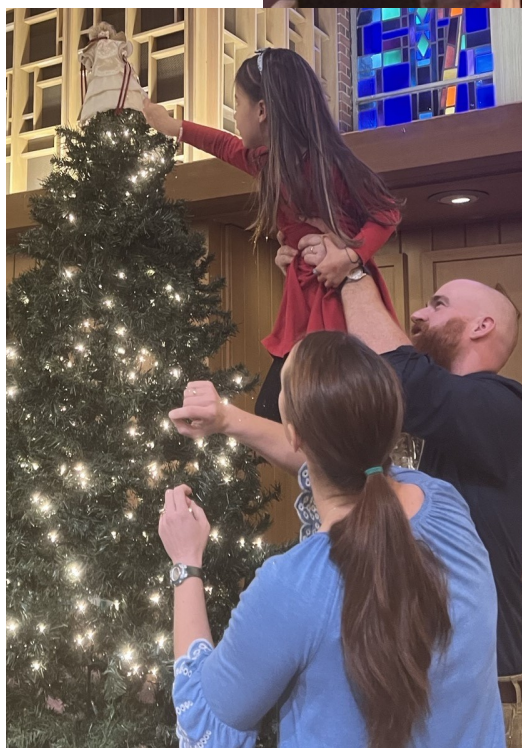
**Ugly Christmas Sweater and Sunday Fun Day  
December 17th**

Please wear your Ugly Christmas Sweater and join us for our 2nd Annual Ugly Christmas Sweater Day during our Sunday Fun Day immediately after worship on December 17th. We will serve Chicken Bruschetta Bake, green beans, and dinner rolls for lunch. Please bring a batch of your favorite Christmas cookies to share for dessert.

Rena Leatherman will show us how to ring the bells and lead us in a Christmas carol sing. There will also be door prizes. Please invite your friends and neighbors to join the fun!

**Hanging of the Greens**

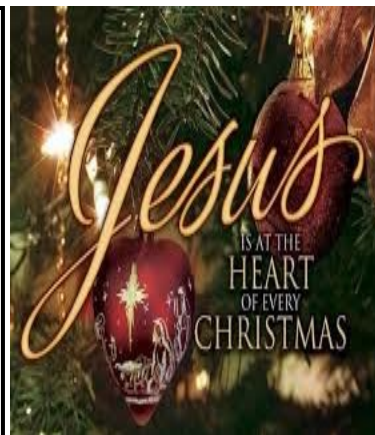
Thank you everyone who helped decorate the sanctuary for Advent. Thank you Shelda for leading the effort. Thank you Julie for providing sandwiches for our lunch.





## Happy Birthday!

<b>Dec 8</b>	<b>Cindy Bowen</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Janet Swaim</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>Carolyn McMillan</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>Carol Murphy</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>Bill McMillan</b>



Bristen at the Fairborn School Pantry was very happy to receive these food items for the students. Thanks Linda Hartsock for leading this mission.

Dear First Presbyterian Church,  
Thank you for your gift of \$121 from your Global Peace and Witness offering to Family Promise of Greene County, OH. We are very grateful to count you among the community who believe that every child deserves a home! With your support, families are able to grow and succeed, finding the bigger promise of healing from the trauma of homelessness. Thank you again for your financial support which helps our families as they build toward a better future.

With Deep Gratitude,  
Deanna McCrary, Director  
Family Promise of Greene County, OH



## Reception for Montessori Christmas Program

You are invited to the Montessori School's Christmas program at 6pm on Friday Dec 22nd. We will be hosting a reception for them immediately after the program in the Lounge. If you can donate cookies or help serve our guests, please let Diane know. The excitement of these little ones will definitely put you in the holiday spirit!



## Christmas Poinsettia Order Form



Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
-- Form and payment due December 13

In memory of ☐

In honor of ☐

Celebrating ☐

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**Given By:**

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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 (either service) on Christmas Eve

\_\_\_\_ I/We do not wish to take my/our poinsettia(s) home after worship (either service) on Christmas Eve



# December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>3</b> 10:15 am Worship with Communion 	<b>4</b> 10:00 am Christmas Card Crusade — Board Room	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 2:00 pm Cornerstone Class —Lounge	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 2:00 pm Ladies Christ- mas Luncheon— Cherry House Cafe
<b>10</b> 10:15 am Worship	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 2:00 pm Cornerstone Class —Lounge	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 10:15 am Worship Followed by Sunday Fun Day— Fellowship Hall	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 2:00 pm Cornerstone Class —Lounge	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 6:00 pm Montessori Christmas Pro- gram and Re- ception	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 10:15 am Worship 4:00 pm Candlelight Service	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> No Cornerstone Class	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 10:15 am Worship						

**SCHOOL PANTRY NEEDS**

A shopping list is provided for your use. Any items collected will be divided between the Fairborn School Pantry and the Wright State 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](mailto: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](mailto: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, Dixie Jenkins, Troy Oliver, Kathleen Seewer,  
David Sellers, Kim Sellers, Roland Sommer, and Diane Sondergelt

Articles for next month's *Lifeline* need to be in the office by December 27.

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.