

December 2025

# LIFELINE

We volunteered at Matthew 25 Ministries on Nov. 17. We marked out the barcodes of hand sanitizer packets that would be distributed to victims and volunteers in disaster recovery areas.



## November 2025 Highlights

Maryann decorated the Communion Table on Nov. 16th as we gave thanks for our many blessings. The children collected food items during worship. The congregation was very generous in sharing their blessings with FISH and our Little Free Pantry. And, finally, the children joined Pastor Joe in a prayer for the givers and receivers of this food.



See more highlights on pages 4 and 5.





## CLERK'S CORNER

### November 16, 2025 Session Recap

Pastor Joe opened with prayer and thanked Kim for providing lunch. The Clerk confirmed a quorum was present. We also had two guests.

The guests, PMV Stated Clerk, Lynn Bova, and COM liaison Jay Peterson were here to discuss and answer questions related to Pastor Joe's retirement and the steps we need to discuss to move forward after his departure. Until his departure, our focus should be to **celebrate** Pastor Joe and the leadership and care he has provided the last five years. After his departure, the congregation needs to allow itself time to grieve. Session watched the final Boundary training video, *Protecting Children, Youth and Vulnerable Adults*.

### Session approved/accepted:

- the October meeting minutes.
- the current membership roll total of 80. The clerk reported that Session records were approved without exception on November 1.
- the financial report for the period 01/01/25 – 10/31/25. Total expenses YTD in 2025 were \$179,742.91 versus income of \$154,943.67 for a net loss of **\$-24,799.24**.
- the transfer of \$40,000 from the Davis Fund to checking to pay for the air handler and all necessary items to complete the removal and installation.
- January 25, 2026 for the Annual Congregational to receive the 2025 Annual report.
- the next Session meeting to be held on January 18, 2026, following worship. Kathleen will provide lunch.

### Information received:

#### Committee Reports:

CLS: The next **Sunday Fun Day** is scheduled for **December 14**, following worship. Wear your Ugly Christmas Sweater. More information as the date approaches.

#### Operations:

Property: Kirks Carpet Cleaning has been selected to clean the carpets in the lounge and Narthex. Art is working to find a date for this to be done.

Nominations: The Elder representative (chair) and the Deacon representative to the Members-at-Large committee will be chosen in January.

#### Presbytery Commissioner Report:

Linda reported on the November 8 meeting. All motions were approved. Motions include:

- adoption of the Consent Agenda. (Consideration of action items, if any, pulled from consent agenda; proposed GA overtures)
- approve the overtures and send them to General Assembly for consideration.
- approve the 2026 budget including the Terms of Call for the Executive Presbyter Terry Kukuk.
- approve the Committee nominated slate of committee members and GA Commissioners.

For specific information on what was included in this November meeting, go to <https://miamipresbytery.org/presbytery-of-the-miami-valley-documents/#packets>.

Honey Creek Church will be closing at the end of November. We had a direct affiliation with them in the past sharing a pastor.

Kathleen Seewer  
2025 Clerk of Session

## A NOTE FROM ECCLESIAL—OUR RESIDENT CHURCH MOUSE

Happy Holidays to everyone. Thanksgiving is behind us for another year, and the joy of Advent and the birth of Baby Jesus is ahead of us. We had a busy November in the life of our church. We continued our Cornerstone class on Advent, Hope Circle is continuing their book study (taking December off to celebrate the season with the ladies luncheon). A group of ten went to Blue Ash to volunteer their time at Matthew 25 Ministries. A collaborative Thanksgiving service was held with a group of other Miami Valley Presbytery churches. The weaving of the communion table mats, the baking of bread for communion, and the worship service delivered by Pastor Joe was well attended and enjoyed by all. The hanging of the greens in the building was completed - the fellowship and fun involved created a beautiful setting as we celebrate this season. We hope you take the time to reflect on what this season means to all of you. We look forward to enjoying it with you! ~Ecclesial



### Stewardship - The will of the Lord be Done

Our pledge drive for 2026 started with a letter that had the phrase “the will of the Lord be done”. This was a phrase we heard in our Cornerstone class when we studied the travels of Paul in the book of Acts. Paul was walking great distances preaching and teaching, and his message that Jesus was the Messiah was not well received. Many actually wanted him killed for this message. Paul’s friends begged him to change his mind on one particular destination, but to no avail. Paul was on a mission from God and in the end his friends just said “The will of the Lord be done.”

I wish that I was always as certain of God’s will as Paul had been. I wish it were as clear as addition and subtraction. I feel pretty clear on the outcomes that are pleasing to God, but struggle with the steps needed to get there. But I try, and thankfully I do not have to be perfect, and I am forgiven when I get it completely wrong. I am as sure as I can be (without math involved) that our church is performing good works that are pleasing to God, and that I am called to support our church. There are many ways to support our church, and financial support is critical.

For 2026 we received 26 pledge cards that totaled \$77,000.

For 2025 we received 31 pledge cards that totaled \$98,000.

For 2024 we received 36 pledge cards that totaled \$113,000.

I am asking that you please do what you can to help reverse this trend in financial support. If you haven’t submitted a pledge card, please do so. A few more cards will get us close to where we have been in the past. Any amount is helpful.

Thank you!

Troy Oliver, FPC Treasurer



### Farewell Pastor Joe

As we wish Pastor Joe all the best in his retirement, we will be planning for what comes next for First Presbyterian Church of Fairborn. There is already pulpit supply in place for the month of January and Session will arrange for pulpit supply until we have a more permanent pastoral commitment. A group consisting of Troy Oliver, Jan Smith, Julie Brown, and Diane Sondergelt was formed for the purpose of working on an updated job description and researching the types of pastoral contracts that may work for our church. Please feel free to talk with them about any questions or recommendations you have. We have been assigned a liaison from the Presbytery. His name is Jay Peterson. He attended our Session meeting last week so that we could meet him, and we look forward to his help and guidance in finding our next Pastor. We will have much more to share in January, but for now, it will be business as usual with Pastor Joe through the end of the year, with the addition of expressing our appreciation for his service to us for the past 5 plus years. We will help him celebrate his much deserved retirement with an Open House on Sunday Dec. 28th from 2—4pm in the Fellowship Hall. More on that to come as well. We will miss you Pastor Joe!



### Christmas Eve Service

**Wednesday, December 24th**

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 4:00pm. Please join us to celebrate this wonderful, joyous time.



### Save the Date— Sunday Dec. 14th

#### Ugly Christmas Sweater Day

Join us for our Sunday Fun Day, Dec. 14th, with lunch following worship. We will serve Presbyterian chicken, rice, green beans, rolls, and pie. Wear your Ugly Christmas Sweater for our contest! We will have a prize in each of 3 categories: “Ugliest”, “Most Original”, and “Best Homemade Decorations”. Please let Julie, Linda, or Diane know if you plan to attend.



### Christmas Cards for Our Church Family

There are bins on the tables in the Lower Narthex where you can leave Christmas cards for people in the congregation. Please check the bins regularly for cards for you.





Here are a few of the many helping hands that worked hard at our Hanging of the Greens on Nov. 23rd. Thank you for making our church so beautiful for the Advent season.







A collaborative Thanksgiving worship service with several churches from the Miami Valley Presbytery was held at our church on Sunday Nov. 23rd. Participants wove a cloth for the communion table, made bread for communion, and held discussion groups. The day ended with Pastor Joe leading communion by intinction.







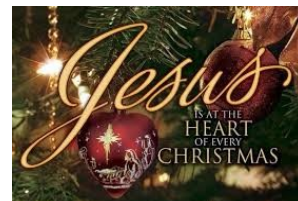
## Happy Birthday!

**Dec 8**     **Cindy Bowen**  
**24**     **Carolyn McMillan**  
**25**     **Carol Murphy**  
**31**     **Bill McMillan**

## Christmas Card Crusade

**Dec. 15th**

Our Christmas Card Crusade is on again this year where we take signed cards to Senior Living Facilities. Please sign as many Christmas cards as you can but do not address them or seal the envelope. Leave them in the basket in the Lounge by **Dec. 14th**. We will package 2 or 3 cards with a ribbon and candy cane for the staff to hand out to the residents. Join us at 9:30am on Mon. **Dec. 15th** in the Board Room to package the cards. Please see Linda Hartsock for more info.



## All Church Ladies Christmas Luncheon

**Monday Dec. 8th**

The annual All Church Ladies Christmas Luncheon will be held Monday, **December 8** at 11:30am in Fellowship Hall. All ladies are invited to the Christmas luncheon of chicken divan, roasted potatoes, salad, rolls, and dessert. We will have games and prizes. Come and get in the Christmas spirit. Please let Julie, Linda, or Diane know if you plan to attend.



## Retirement Open House for Pastor Joe

We will have an Open House on Sunday Dec. 28th from 2:00 - 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall to wish Pastor Joe well as he retires. Watch the Midweek Update and Sunday bulletins for more info.



## Christmas Poinsettia Order Form



Enclosed is my cash/check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

-- Form and payment due **December 14**

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 on Sunday Dec 21st

\_\_\_\_ I/We wish to take my/our poinsettia(s) home after worship on Christmas Eve

\_\_\_\_ I/We do not wish to take my/our poinsettia(s) home



# December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 2:00 pm Cornerstone Class—Lounge	4	5	6
7 10:15 am Worship with Communion	8 11:30 am Ladies Christmas Luncheon - Fellowship Hall	9	10 2:00 pm Cornerstone Class—Lounge	11	12	13
14 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Sunday Fun Day	15 9:30 am Christmas Card Crusade- Board Room	16	17 2:00 pm Cornerstone Class—Lounge	18	19	20
21 10:15 am Worship	22	23 Lifeline Articles Due	24 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 	25 Merry Christmas 	26	27
28 10:15 am Worship 2:00 pm Retirement Open House	29	30	31 No Cornerstone Class			



**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](mailto:firstpresbyterianfairborn@gmail.com)**

Office Hours: Wednesday and Thursday, 10 am—2 pm  
(closed Monday, Tuesday, 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, 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 December 23rd.

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.