

First Presbyterian Church
211 Garfield Ave, Box 226
London, OH 43140



Chimes



Dear Church Family,

October 1, 2022, marked the beginning of my second year at this church. My first year seemed to go by amazingly quickly, and I'm already well into my second year. Many of you see me mostly or entirely on Sunday mornings as one of your three pastors, which I am. Yet the focus of my ministry is on our Presbyterian Child Center, which pays my entire salary. At the PCC I spend most of my time assisting with the administration of the center, sharing the task with our new PCC administrator Abbey Stonerock. As I learned even before taking the position, the PCC is not a small childcare center. When it gets back to its full capacity, the PCC will return to being a \$1,000,000 per year business. Running the center well is a bigger job than one person can manage.

Yet my role is much more than working with others to run a childcare center. For over 50 years, the PCC has been the largest mission of this church. The church even moved to its current location so that it would have more room for its childcare ministry. To say that the PCC has been very important to the ministry and mission of this church would be an understatement. Many people, including some who are still here at the church, have poured years of their lives and tremendous amounts of energy into building the center into the largest provider of childcare in the London community. Throughout the years the congregation, while not involved in the day-to-day operation of the center, continued to support the center by providing and enhancing a facility for the center to use. Even during difficult times when closing the center might have seemed like a better choice, the congregation strongly supported continuing the ministry of the PCC.

Over the years something changed, though. Somehow the PCC and the church drifted apart. The ties between the PCC and the church weakened, and the PCC began to operate less as a mission of the church and more as an independent childcare center. As with many relationships that slowly drift apart, such a gradual change doesn't set off any alarms. No crisis provokes people to see the problem clearly and drives them to fix the relationship with urgency. Not, at least, until the church and the PCC drifted far enough apart that the distance between them finally came into focus. But even then, identifying the problem was relatively easy; fixing the problem was a much more difficult challenge.

It's easy to require more oversight of PCC operations by the session. Yet, we all know that providing more oversight isn't the same as mending a relationship. Besides, the session doesn't want the task of running a million dollar business nor is it capable of running its daily operations. That is more than a full-time job and not the job for a committee. The same goes for the church's pastor. Pastor Désirée doesn't have time to be the church's pastor and to address all the problems at the PCC (even though that is exactly what she was trying to do before I began working for the PCC). Actually, until Abbey began taking on the responsibilities of the PCC administrator, Pastor Désirée had to remain heavily involved in the daily operations of the PCC.

The idea that set us on a path of mending the relationship between the PCC and the church was to combine a pastoral role with an administrative role, which is where I came in. A very important part of my ministry at the PCC is being the connection with the church in the daily operations of the PCC. Even though I spend most of my time supporting the operations of the PCC, my role is also a ministry, which fits very well with the PCC being a mission of the church.

Another idea that has helped tremendously in mending the relationship between the PCC and the church was to have a leadership team make many of the decisions involving PCC operations rather than an individual. The leadership team consists of Abbey, Pastor Désirée, Pastor Steve, and me. Making decisions as a team has many advantages and helps keep the PCC and the church moving in the same direction. Pastor Désirée remains involved in PCC operations, but less than she had been. Of course, the session continues to be involved with the PCC, which includes making major policy decisions.

So far, I have been working almost entirely on administration because we have had a number of urgent issues that have required and continue to require my attention. Getting the PCC on a solid financial footing is one of the major issues. Other projects are in the works, such as technology enhancements to our network and a new phone system for the PCC and the church. My plan has always been and will continue to be to focus some of my time on more overtly ministerial activities at the PCC. For now, you will continue to see me leading worship (except during Devin's baseball season) and preaching occasionally because worship is so important for keeping me grounded in my role as a pastor of the church.

And by the way, I love serving as the pastor of the PCC. It has its joys and frustrations like any job, yet I couldn't imagine doing something that I love more.

Blessings,
Pastor Mark





PCC NEWS



Hello, Everyone!

The month of November was a fun month for the kids at the PCC. The weather slowly started cooling down, but the kids were able to play outside as much as possible.

When Veteran's Day came, the classes received a visit from Ms. Stella's grandfather, who is a veteran. He shared lots of interesting stories and facts about his time in the armed services. Ms. Stella's sister is currently in the Army. She did a Zoom call with the kids ... Giving them a chance to ask even more questions.

We celebrated Thanksgiving on November 17 at the PCC. Ms. Amy and Ms. Val provided a wonderful Thanksgiving feast for the kids that day. The teachers also got to share in the Thanksgiving feast, along with everyone's favorite potluck dishes that were brought in to share.

We were closed for November 24 & 25, allowing the staff time to unwind and be with their families during the beginning of the holiday season.

Next on the agenda will be fun events that will get the kids all revved up for Christmas. There will be a Christmas Program on Dec. 2 at 7:00 pm. The theme will be "Twas the Night Before Christmas". All are invited. Santa will pay a visit on December 8, and the kids will have their Christmas parties on December 16. Have a wonderful Christmas ... Abbey



PRAYER LINE

All requests to be submitted to Shelley Jones at shelley.j.jones8@gmail.com or call 614-425-7570.

IMPORTANT: Due to privacy issues, please make sure any prayer request is with consent of the person concerned.

Let the pastor know when her presence is needed.

If you wish to have prayer concerns lifted during the worship service, please email the church office.

PRAYER REQUESTS FROM PASTOR ABOU OF THE REFORMED NATIONAL CHURCH OF THE SAHEL (RNCS)

Our church in Guinea Conakry lost the building that they were renting.

Fortunately, a friend has allowed us to construct a makeshift temporary worship center on their plot. We ran into some issues with the chainsaw and the bamboo. We are trying to cover this with some plastic.

Join us in praying for this situation we find ourselves in ... May we continue to find working solutions, and a new permanent location for our church in Guinea Conakry.



There will be two services on Christmas Eve, The first service will be held at 4:00 pm. There will be lessons and carols, but no choir.

The second service will be at 7:30 pm with lessons and carols, along with the choir and instruments.

If you ordered a poinsettia to take home, you may pick it up after the 7:30 service.

Christmas Day falls on a Sunday. Please plan to join in our regular worship service on that wonderful morning.

Christmas Blessings to you and your family.

The Legend of the Candy Cane

Many years ago, a candy maker wanted to make a candy at Christmas time that would serve as a witness to his Christian faith. He wanted to incorporate several symbols for the birth, ministry and death of Jesus. He began with a stick of pure white hard candy;

- * White to symbolize the Virgin Birth and the sinless nature of Jesus;*
- * Hard to symbolize the solid rock, the foundation of the church;*
- * Firmness to represent the promise of God.*

The candy maker made the candy in the form of a "J" to represent the name of Jesus, who came to earth as our savior. He thought it could also represent the staff of the Good Shepherd, with which he reached down into the ditches of the world to lift out the fallen lambs who, like all sheep, have gone astray.

Thinking that the candy was somewhat plain, the candy maker stained it with red stripes. He used three small stripes to show the stripes of the scourging Jesus received, by which we are healed. The large red stripe was for the blood shed by Christ on the cross so that we could have the promise of eternal life.

Unfortunately, the candy became known as a candy cane—a meaningless decoration seen at Christmas time. But the true meaning is still there for those who have eyes to see and ears to hear.

EASY CHICKEN CASSEROLE, Serves 12

- 1 bag egg noodles (12 oz or so)
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 2 cups cooked shredded chicken
- Approximately 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese

Preheat oven to 350 deg. Cook noodles. Heat soups together on stove top with a bit of milk to thin down a bit. Add noodles and chicken. Put in a 9X13 disposable casserole pan and sprinkle some cheddar cheese over the top.

Bake for 35-40 minutes.

Note: The soup can be both cream of chicken or both cream of mushroom or one can of each.



GREEN BEAN CASSEROLE, Serves 12

- 2 cans condensed cream of mushroom soup
- 2 tsp soy sauce
- ¼ tsp black pepper
- 8 cups (4 cans-14.5 oz each) green beans, drained
- 1 cup milk
- 2-2/3 cups French fried onion rings

Stir soup, milk, soy sauce, black pepper, beans and 1-1/3 cup onions in a 13X9X2" disposable pan.

Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes or until bean mixture is hot and bubbling. Stir the bean mixture and sprinkle with the remaining onions. Bake add'l. 5 minutes or until the onions are golden brown.

WHAT'S HAPPENING? ...

IMPORTANT DATES

- **The Welcome Table Meal will be on December 8.**
- **The Deacons & Session will have a joint meeting & potluck on Saturday, December 17.**
- **The next blood pressure screening will be on Sunday, December 18.**
- **There will be two services on Christmas Eve ... 4:00 & 7:30 PM.**
- **Church office will be closed on Dec. 23 & Dec. 26, for Christmas.**

WELCOME TABLE MEAL

The next meal will be on December 8. Welcome Table usually feeds 50-60 people. Portions should feed 8-12 people. It is best if a disposable pan is used. All donations need to be dropped off at the St. Paul AME Church on Center St. around 4:30 PM as they start serving at 5:00 PM.

- Easy Chicken Casserole (recipe enclosed)
- Green Bean Casserole (recipe enclosed)
- Any kind of dinner rolls
- Any dessert

Contact Dolly McDonley with any questions at 740-852-7553. Thank you!

HELP HOUSE

Thanksgiving is the perfect time to say THANK YOU to the faithful volunteers that helped provide the Help House meal on November 21st. We served 150 meals to the hungry in our community thanks to you. Thanks also to all who support the Hunger Fund through monetary donations.

A big thank you to the following volunteers: Joe Blaho, Melissa Canney, Prudy Goodyear, Diane Hankins, Ruthanne Johnson, Peggy Link, Joyce Lloyd, Dolly McDonley, Mary Peart, Desiree Youngblood and Mindful Mothers.

Also, Thank You to all who have supported this important mission throughout 2022. Please watch the Chimes and church announcements this Spring for information on how you can help in 2023.

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

We still need FOUR volunteers to sign up to be liturgist in 2023. ALSO, we are looking for anyone who would like to deliver one of the Christmas Poinsettias to one of our shut-ins after Christmas. You will find the sign up sheets in the Narthex. Thank you.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

During November at the PCC, we have had lessons on: Jesus feeds the 5000, Lazarus, fruits of the spirit and The Good Shepherd. Some of the activities included: sheep tag, scavenger hunts, searching for the lost sheep, fruits of the spirit tree, educational activity sheets and a fruit relay.

Sunday School has been learning about: how to pray, Moses, and the burning bush. We have been incorporating worship music as well!

As always, if you would like to be involved with Christian Education at the PCC and/or the church, please reach out to me. We would love to have you! - Cody Smith



Mark your calendars

Partners in Education (PIE) Leadership Training Day!

Our PIE Training Day will be held at the Worthington Presbyterian Church on Saturday, January 21, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

There is something for everyone, with workshops on:

- Church Leadership Training.
- Generational Theory and the Church.
- Exploring Spiritual Direction.
- Re-Inspiring Connections.
- Vital Congregations.
- Justice Tourism.

PLUS, information on how our churches are living into Matthew 25 **AND** a keynote speaker on Vital Congregations. The cost is \$15 which includes lunch. You can register at <https://psvonline.org/events/partners-in-education-pie-event/>

Generation to Generation Fund

The Generation to Generation Fund (the Fund) is an endowment fund for our church that was established only about two years ago, yet its capital base is already about \$25,000. Its purpose is to provide a continuing source of income for special ministries and projects at the church as well as for the church's benevolences. Yet unlike a memorial fund with specific restrictions on how the income from the fund is to be used, the Fund is managed by a commission in accordance with bylaws that govern the Fund. This arrangement provides enough flexibility for the Fund to adapt to the changing needs of the church. It avoids the situation of having a memorial fund whose income is restricted to supporting the church's library, which no longer exists.

This year the Generation to Generation Fund made its first grant from its investment income to a project at the church. At the end of 2021 the Fund had accumulated a total of \$1,800 in investment income, and up to one third of that amount (\$600) could be disbursed during 2022. The grant was used to help fund the out-of-budget work on the trees in the PCC playground. Unfortunately, because the value of the Fund's investment account has gone down this year, the Fund will most likely not be awarding any grants next year. Even so, an endowment fund is a very long-term investment, making short-term ups and downs in its investments nothing to be concerned about. The commission is confident that the current investment strategy remains sound.

The Fund has received several donations instead of or in addition to poinsettia orders this year. It also received other donations throughout 2022. Please consider donating to the Fund with gift above your donations that support the church's operations. On your birthday, you might give a dollar for every year that the Lord has blessed you with. Your gift might be in honor or memory of a special person or occasion. Your gifts to the Fund will benefit the church now and will continue to benefit the church for future generations.

DECEMBER FUN

Do you like to shop for the different? The unusual? Well, check out some of these spots...

Visit the Charley Harper Gift Shop at the Grange Insurance Audubon Center in Columbus (614-545-5475 / grange.audubon.org). Although the Charley Harper 100th Birthday Year Celebration Exhibition ended on Nov. 27, the Gift Shop is now open through Dec. 31. Harper merchandise is a perfect holiday gift for someone.

Gifts of the Craftsmen at the Ohio Craft Museum in Columbus (ohiocraft.org). The annual Gifts of the Craftsmen holiday exhibition and sale is open now through Dec. 23. You will find jewelry, functional pottery, art glass, wood cutting boards, whimsical puppets and animals, glass ornaments and more. Check the website for hours.

Winterfair Columbus will be happening Dec. 2-4 at the Multipurpose Building at the Ohio State Fairgrounds. Friday & Saturday 10 AM—7 PM, and Sunday 11 AM—4 PM. Meet the artists who create unique jewelry, glass, paintings, photographs, ceramics and more. Indulge your senses while you shop for those hard to please on your list at the Gourmet Marketplace, featuring finely crafted soaps, lotions, chocolates, dips and more. Tickets are \$7 each, but it is well worth it.

Once you are done shopping, it's time to relax and enjoy the sights of the season. You don't have to go far to find extraordinary light displays in central Ohio.

Once Christmas is over, take a moment to relax at the Columbus Museum of Art and see the exhibition of Maurice Sendak, one of the most celebrated and original artists of our time. Highlights include original work for Sendak's most famous books: "Where the Wild Things Are", "In the Night Kitchen", and "Outside Over There".

DECEMBER FUN FACTS

If born between Dec. 1-21, you are a Sagittarius

If born between Dec. 22-31, you are a Capricorn.

The first day of Winter will be on December 21, 2022

December's traditional birthstone is turquoise...a symbol of good fortune and success.

December's birth flowers are the holly and the paperwhite Narcissus which is associated with good wishes, hope and wealth.

Some December Weather Folklore ...

- If December is rainy, mild, and unsettled, the winter will not be harsh.
- The nearer the New Moon is to Christmas Day, the harder the winter.
- If there's thunder during Christmas week, the winter will be anything but meek.
- A bright Christmas foretells that hens will lay well.
- A dark Christmas foretells that cows will give much milk.

"Jingle bells" was composed in 1857, and not for Christmas – it was meant to be a Thanksgiving song!

Common decorations on a Christmas tree each have their specific meanings. ...

- * Candles – the light of the world,
- * The Star at the top is a reminder of the first Christmas night an
- * Candy canes are to represent the Shepherd's cane.

The first artificial Christmas tree was made in Germany, fashioned out of goose feathers that are dyed green!

The term Yuletide comes from a Norse tradition of cutting and burning a tree to bring in the Winter Solstice. This was to last through 12 days – later known as the 12 days of Christmas.



*The key to a happy marriage is giving as much as taking;
 For always sharing a dream in the making;
 For talking things through and working problems out;
 For having a friendship that's never in doubt;
 And for the many ways two hearts discover
 That through life's journey, they can count on each other.*

*David & Ruth Kennedy 12-11
 John & Nancy Anders 12-26
 Connie & T.J. Dwyer 12-30*



Richard Newberry 12-3
 Deb Blaho 12-5
 Cheryl Clemmons 12-7
 Cherie Watters 12-8
 Virginia Murray 12-10
 Debbie Cochran 12-12
 Gloria Miller 12-13
 Marjorie Hopkins 12-13

Curt Ramkissoon 12/14
 Judy Wessel 12/14
 Leland Dodge 12/15
 Ken Morlock 12/18
 Stephanie Huddleston 12/18
 Nancy Anders 12/18
 Shelley Bailey Jones 12/19
 Aubrey Miller 12/20

Jeff Baltzer 12/23
 Mark E. Johnson 12/24
 Barbara Cordle 12-24
 Ben Blaho 12-27
 Gordon Johnson 12-27
 Nancy Barck 12-29
 Kebeey Farrell 12/30
 Janet Newberry 12-30

December born are down-to-Earth & friendly, and they believe that honesty is the best policy. They can be motivators and have a hidden trove of talents. They prefer to stay organized, and to plan everything out. December born have a strong compassion for others. Even during a difficult situation, they don't lose their hope and prepare themselves to face the circumstances that they are in. You can expect them to give their best opinion. A December born has a strong faith and prefers to be in a long term commitment. They are free spirits and love their freedom & their country. A December born is a complicated soul, polite and soft-spoken, sensitive, humorous, generous and loyal.

DECEMBER 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27 1st Sunday of Advent ● 10am Worship	28 Cherie Off	29	30 ● 1pm PCC Leadership Meeting ● 6pm PCC Committee Meeting	Dec 1 ● 6pm Worship Committee Meeting ● 7pm Choir Rehearsal	2	3
4	5 2nd Sunday of Advent ● 9am Sunday School ● 10am Worship / Communion ● 11am Deacon Meeting	6 Organ Tuning	7 ● 1pm PCC Leadership Meeting ● 4pm Stewardship Commission	8 ● 4:15pm Mission Committee mee ● 4:30pm Welcome Table meal ● 7pm Choir Rehearsal	9	10
11 3rd Sunday of Advent ● 9am Sunday School ● 10am Worship	12 Cherie Off ● 11am PCC Leadership Meeting	13	14 ● 1pm PCC Leadership Meeting ● 4:30pm Session Meeting	15 ● 11am Session Review ● 7pm Choir Rehearsal	16	17 ● 12pm Deacon & Session Joint M
18 4th Sunday of Advent ● 9am Sunday School ● 10am Worship	19 Pastor Desiree Off Closed for the Holiday	20	21 ● 1pm PCC Leadership Meeting	22 ● 7pm Choir Rehearsal	23 Closed for the Holiday	24 ● 4pm Christmas Eve Service ● 7:30pm Christmas Eve Service
25 ● 10am Worship	26 Pastor Desiree Off Closed for the Holiday	27	28 ● 1pm PCC Leadership Meeting ● 6pm PCC Committee Meeting	29 ● 7pm Choir Rehearsal	30	31

The Chimes

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED