



CHIMES



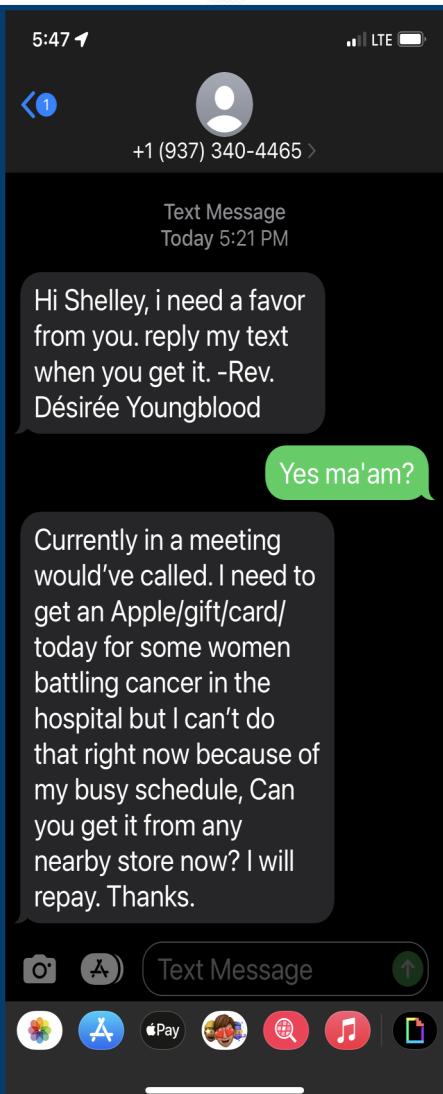
Dear Church Family,

Over the Thanksgiving Holiday, someone pretending to be me texted Shelley Bailey. Here is a screenshot of the conversation:

Thankfully, Shelley was suspicious of this message and contacted me. She then let the prayer list members know about it so that no one would fall for it. I sent out a message warning people, too.

I find it sad that a scammer would use the idea of women battling cancer to get money out of a caring church member, but there seems to be no limit to their depravity. They know that as Christians, we serve a higher calling and would likely help people in need. Even though I have been duped when helping someone who I thought was in need, I always prefer to err on the side of doing the right thing, which is helping others. I am sure that most of you feel that way, too.

Yet, we must also stay alert to the world around us, which is full of scammers. Jesus warns his disciples in Matthew 10:16, "See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise



as serpents and innocent as doves." Unfortunately, we live in a world of scammers and wolves, which is why we are called to a better way. So, go out and help others, but be wise.

As your pastor, I am not going to say that I will never ask for money to help others. Yet, I am never going to send you a text or email asking you to buy a gift card and send it somewhere as a favor to me for whatever reason. If I am asking for help for others, you will know that it is me asking—the request and any handling of funds (or gift cards)—will be obviously associated with the church. At another church we did ask for gift cards to help in a particular situation, but we didn't ask people to send the gift cards anywhere. Instead, we asked them to bring the gift cards to the church.

If I do ask for donations to help with a special need in our community, I will ask you to give the money directly to the church. When you give money directly to the church, for instance by writing a check, you can be confident that it is being handled carefully. Financial controls are in place to account for all the funds that the church receives and to track how the funds are spent. Appropriate approvals are necessary for dispersing funds, and the Stewardship Commission and the session carefully watch the church's finances. Any requests for donations in the form of gift cards or other cash equivalents need to be viewed with a great deal of suspicion, especially if you receive them by text or email. If you want to check if a request is legitimate, you can always contact the sender (by another method at a known number or email address). If you get a suspicious request that appears to have come from me, call the church or me personally and ask.

Yet, even as you are wise as serpents, remain innocent as doves. If we become jaded by the world of scammers and wolves, we lose the joy in giving. This is the season where we express that joy the most. For God gave his only Son that we might have eternal life. There is great joy in that! Come, Lord Jesus.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Désirée





PCC NEWS

We hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with their families. The children and staff at the PCC had a delicious Thanksgiving meal prepared by Mrs. Amy and Mrs. Val on November 17.

The preschool children have been working hard to get ready for the annual PCC Christmas Program which will be held on December 10. We are also going to be having our annual PCC Tree Lighting on December 8. Each child in the center gets to make a special ornament to place on the PCC Christmas tree for the occasion. They will also be having their Christmas parties on December 17.

The renovations are almost complete here at the PCC. The last of the new floors were finished on November 24, 2021 and we are just waiting for the walls to be touched up with paint and the counter to be reinstalled. Everyone loves the changes that have been made throughout the center.

December Fun Facts

Those born through December 21 are Sagittarius, while those born after December 22 are Capricorns.

The winter solstice in the Northern Hemisphere is on December 21, 2021. It is also the shortest day of the year.

"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
- Candy Canes are to represent the Shepherd's cane.

This history of Christmas trees goes back to the symbolic use of evergreens in ancient Egypt and Rome and continues with the German tradition of candlelit Christmas trees first brought to America in the 1800s. Europeans used small trees about 4 ft high, while Americans liked trees to go from floor to ceiling.

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

In 1647, Oliver Cromwell, English Puritan leader, banned the festivities of Christmas for being seen as immoral. Anyone caught celebrating was arrested. The ban was lifted in 1660.

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer was first recorded by Gene Autry in 1949, and hit #1 on the charts the week of Christmas.

December's traditional birthstone is turquoise. It is considered a symbol of good fortune and success. Zircon and tanzanite are also considered to be December birthstones.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

David & Ruth Kennedy

12/11

Bob & Nancy Dexter

12/22

John & Nancy Anders

12/26

T.J. & Connie Dwyer

12/30

May love and laughter light your days, and warm your heart and home.

May good and faithful friends be yours, wherever you may roam.

May peace and plenty bless your world with joy that long endures.

May all life's passing seasons bring the best to you and yours.

- Irish Marriage Prayer



May you live a long life full of gladness and health,
With a pocket full of gold as the least of your wealth.

May the dreams you hold dearest, be those which come true,
The kindness you spread, keep returning to you
- Irish Birthday Blessing

Jason Hunt	12/3	Stephanie Huddleston	12/18
Richard Newberry	12/3	Nancy Anders	12/18
Deb Blaho	12/5	Shelley Bailey	12/19
Cherie Watters	12/8	Aubrey Miller	12/20
Marshall Jacob	12/9	Jeff Baltzer	12/23
Robert LeBeau	12/9	Mark E. Johnson	12/24
Virginia Murray	12/10	Barbara Cordle	12/24
Debbie Cochran	12/12	Ben Blaho	12/27
Holly Murry	12/13	Gordon Johnson	12/27
Gloria Miller	12/13	Nancy Barck	12/29
Marjorie Hopkins	12/13	Kelcey Farrell	12/30
Curt Ramkisson	12/14	Chris Neely	12/30
Judy Wessel	12/14	Janet Newberry	12/30
Leland Dodge	12/15	Noah Neely	12/31
Ted Slanker	12/17	Steve Murry	12/31
Ken Morlock	12/18		

WHAT'S HAPPENING ...

The church office will be closed on the following dates ...

- Monday, December 27, in observance of Christmas.
- Friday, December 31, for New Year's Eve.

Session has called a congregational meeting in the sanctuary immediately following worship on December 5 for the purpose of electing new church officers and Nominating Committee members.

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of candidates:

Session:

- * Melissa Canney (Class of 2023, Christian Education Committee Chair)
- * Dot Morlock (Class of 2024, Worship Committee Chair)
- * Hope Smith (Class of 2024, Personnel/Administration Chair)
- * Gina Wells (Class of 2024, Stewardship Commission Chair, Generation to Generation Fund Commission member)

Deacons:

- * Prudy Goodyear (Class of 2023)
- * Joyce Lloyd (Class of 2024)
- * Rhonda Miller (Class of 2024, Moderator)
- * Gailyn Whipple (Class of 2024)

Nominating Committee:

- * Debbie Cochran
- * Carolyn Garver
- * Marjorie Hopkins
- * Steve Watters

CURRENT MASK MANDATE

The Church's mask mandate remains in place for 2-years-old and older while the numbers are still up. Only those with breathing issues are exempt from this mask mandate. While the number of Covid-19 cases has gone down, it needs to be ten or fewer per week. At that time the previous rules, which allow vaccinated persons to be unmasked while working or volunteering in the building, will resume. The worship guidelines remain unchanged, and the choir is the only group with permission to rehearse unmasked while in the building.

New Course Study for Flock of Ages

The Flock of Ages Sunday School class began a new study on November 28th with a video series called "Advent" by Derwin Gray. Who exactly is Jesus? What kind of God would come to earth as a human?

As Christmas approaches, the season of Advent offers us a chance to reflect on our savior, his purpose, and the surprising ways he invited people near to him. Join pastor Derwin Gray in this five-session Advent study as he unveils King Jesus—the God-man who defied expectations, the King of all creation who humbled himself to serve and die, the friend to sinners who wants to lift us up.

The Flock of Ages, currently facilitated by Paul Oswalt, is a class geared toward adults of any age (hence the name). It attempts to present scripture in a life application context. Videos are generally 15-20 minutes with discussion following. It's not unheard of for one session to spread out over two or three weeks' worth of discussion.

It is not too late to join us for this new and exciting video series.

BLOOD PRESSURE Screening



The December 12 Blood Drive has been cancelled due to staffing issues.

The next scheduled date is May 15, 2022. More details will follow when we get closer to May.



CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 19



When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we share our love with the leaders of our Church — past, present and future — who point us to God.



The Christmas Joy Offering reflects that God is with us, through the generous gifts that support church leaders among us, retired, present and future, who have pointed us to God. Even as we support our current and former church leaders through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, God is calling new leaders for our Church and world, through the ministry of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color—offering students the means for a brighter future and enhanced opportunities to use their talents and skills to serve God, the Church and the world for years to come. This offering will be taken on Sunday, December 19, 2021.

Ways to give:

- Through your congregation
- Donate by credit card online at pcusa.org/christmasjoy
- Text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999 to give or visit pcusa.org/christmasjoy

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

This year, we will be celebrating two services on Christmas Eve.

4:00 PM — no choir

CAROLS AND LESSONS

7:30 PM —

CAROLS AND LESSONS

CHOIR AND INSTRUMENTS



If you ordered a poinsettia and plan to pick it up after the service, you may do so after the 7:30 service.

PRAYER LINE

All requests to be submitted to Shelley Bailey at sjbailey19@gmail.com or 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)

Happy news for Pastor Abou's son who just graduated high school. Pastor Abou hopes that his son will follow in his footsteps and become a pastor.

Prayers are still needed for Sang Paul Mendy, a church worker who was involved in an accident last month. He is still in the hospital recovering.

Pastor Abou asks for prayers in the planning of the new church plant area which is scheduled for next year.

FPC London answered the prayers of the Reformed Church of the Sahel by paying the overdue school fees that were keeping some of the orphans out of school. They are grateful for our support.

THE LEGEND OF THE POINSETTIA

- Poinsettias are a true holiday tradition. But just how did this seasonal plant become associated with Christmas?
- In addition to Christmas trees, poinsettias have long been used to decorate the holiday season. Also known by its Spanish name of *Flores de Noche Buena*, or "flower of the holy night" and the Latin name of *Euphorbia pulcherrima*, the poinsettia's beauty is almost as intriguing as some of the legends that surround it.
- Some say it's because the scarlet petal-like bracts represent the star of Bethlehem. Others believe it's more magical and involves a young Mexican girl named Pepita. The legend goes like this:
- Pepita wanted more than anything to present to the Christ Child a special gift on Christmas Eve, but she had no money. Crying as she walked to church, she saw an angel who instructed her to gather weeds from the roadside and present them to the Christ Child.
- Pepita took the angel's advice and gathered a bouquet of weeds to take to the church. Upon entering the church, she placed the weeds at the feet of the Christ Child, and suddenly, her humble weeds burst into brilliant red blooms.
- Another story attributes poinsettia's popularity to Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first United States Ambassador to Mexico. Ambassador Poinsett was so attracted to these crimson-leaved native Mexican plants that he transplanted some to his greenhouses in South Carolina. There, he grew and propagated them, sharing cuttings and plants with many horticultural friends. The date of his death, December 12th, marks National Poinsettia Day.



Brief Highlights from the November 16, 2021 Presbytery Meeting

A highlight of the recent Presbytery Meeting was the installation of Commissioned Ruling Elder Dr. Bob Gustafson as the new Moderator for the Presbytery of Scioto Valley.

Many words of gratitude go to outgoing Moderator Kae Merold for her gracious and expert leadership as the Moderator of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley.

Other highlights of this Presbytery Meeting were the election of new members to the Presbytery Commissions and the election of PSV Commissioners to the 2022 General Assembly.

The new budget for 2022 was passed, which included an increase in per capita to \$40 per member. New meeting dates were approved for the 2022 Presbytery Meetings.

225th General Assembly

The 225th General Assembly (GA) will be held in the summer of 2022. Our presbytery has elected two Minister Commissioners to the 225th General Assembly: The Reverend Dr. Mark Parsons, First Presbyterian Church, Gallipolis, and the Reverend Ron Johnson, First Presbyterian Church, Portsmouth.

The PC(USA)'s 225th General Assembly will take place June 18 - July 9, 2022, as a Hybrid Assembly. Committee sessions will be in Louisville, KY, and Plenary sessions will be online.

SAVE THE DATE!

"PIE" ... Partners in Education

In-person: SATURDAY, Jan 8th, 2022 9:30am-3pm

Worthington Presbyterian Church

\$15/person {covers lunch}

AND

Online: Tuesday, Jan. 11th, 7pm on ZOOM {free}

SCHEDULE:

- ◆ 9:30 - 10:00am --- Arrival and Coffee
- ◆ 10:00 - 10:30am --- Gathering in Sanctuary
- ◆ 10:40 - 12:10pm --- Workshops
- ◆ 12:10 - 1:10pm --- Lunch and Fellowship
- ◆ 1:15 - 3:00pm --- Keynote and Worship

Workshops:

- ◆ Elder Training (new Elders and long- time serving Elders)
- ◆ Deacon Panel (big church and small congregations)
- ◆ Clerk Training
- ◆ Vital Congregations
- ◆ Matthew 25
- ◆ Youth Ministry Panel

Keynote: Vital Congregations - What's next?

The purpose of the Vital Congregations Initiative is to work alongside leaders of existing congregations continually assessing, discerning and living into faithful actions that increase vitality through intentional spiritual practices that take them deeper into following Jesus Christ, so that their own lives are changed, congregations are transformed, and the mission of God spreads throughout particular communities and the world.

PIE is sponsored by CNO (Committee for Nurture and Outreach)

LEGEND OF THE CANDY CANE



Look at the Candy Cane,
What do you see?
Stripes that are Red
Like the blood shed for me.
White for my Savior
Who is sinless and pure.
“J” is for Jesus,
My Lord that’s for sure!
Turn it around,
And a Staff you will see
Jesus my Shepherd
Was born for me.
~ Author Unknown

“...by His stripes we are healed.”
Isaiah 53:5

‘TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

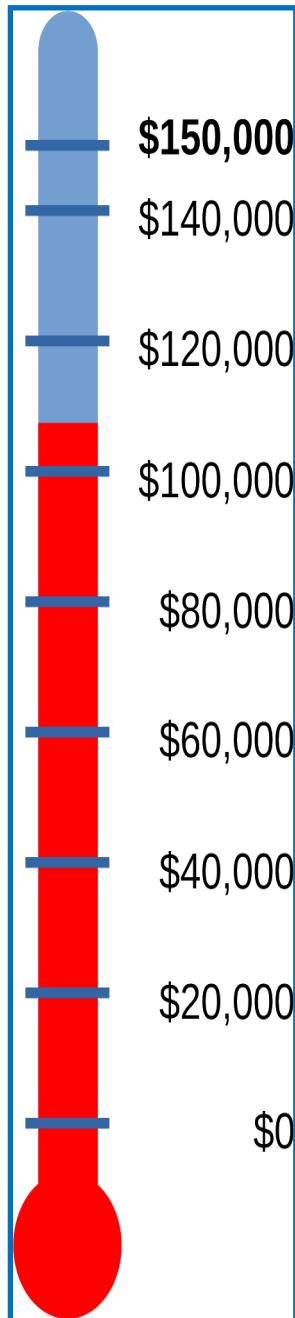
By Clement C. Moore

‘Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads.
And mamma in her kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled down for a long winter’s nap.
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the luster of mid-day to objects below.
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer.
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name.
“Now Dasher! Now, Dancer! Now, Prancer and Vixen!
On, Comet! On, Cupid! On, Donner and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall!
Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!”
As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of Toys, and St. Nicholas too.

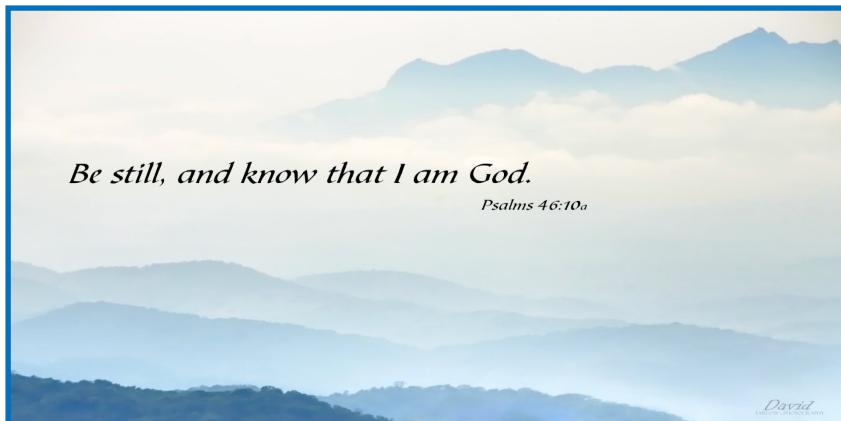




CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



\$107,110.25



DECEMBER 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	Dec 1	2	3	4
● 10am Worship - 1st Sunday of Advent ● 11am Nominating Committee		● 5pm Stewardship Commission ● 6pm Worship Committee Meeting ● 7pm Choir Rehearsal	● 4:15pm Mission Committee ● 6pm Worship Committee Meeting ● 7pm Choir Rehearsal		● Organ Tuning	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
● 10am Communion ● 10am Worship - 2nd Sunday of Advent ● 11am Deacon Meeting	● 5pm New Officer Training ● 6pm PCC Committee Meeting ● 7pm Session Meeting	● 6pm PCC Committee Meeting ● 7pm Session Meeting	● 11am Session Review ● 7pm Choir Rehearsal			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
● 10am Worship - 3rd Sunday of Advent ● 11am Blood Pressure Screening	● 11am PCC Leadership Meeting	● 5pm Christian Education Zoom Meeting ● 6pm Joint Session/Deacon Meet	● 7pm Choir Rehearsal			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
● 10am Worship - 4th Sunday of Advent			● 7pm Choir Rehearsal		● Office Closed for Holiday	
					● 4pm Christmas Eve Service - Candlelight ● 7:30pm Christmas Eve Service - Caroling	
26	27	28	29	30	31	Jan 1
● Pastor Desires on Vacation					● Closed for Holiday	

The Chimes

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED