

January 2022

PRESBYTIDINGS

Our mission is to be an extension of God's hands, helping and nurturing all of God's people. We worship together as brothers and sisters of the First Presbyterian Church, joined by the word of Jesus and the limitless love of God.

419-238-3670

110 West Crawford Street

church@vwpresby.org

News from the Pastor

First of all, Vicki and I appreciate all of the kind thoughts and prayers about our son, Chip. He is still in Dupont Hospital, Fort Wayne with a serious kidney infection and sepsis. He is receiving antibiotics and undergoing dialysis. More tests are forthcoming. We are hopeful that he might still be home for Christmas, depending on the results. Please continue the prayers for him and his new wife, Jodie, - as well as for Vicki and I and the rest of his family.

The other major concern upon my heart is the situation with our fairly new Custodian, Zeb. I want to protect his privacy, but I can tell you that he was let-go due to a serious violation of personnel policies. It was a very difficult decision to make because we all liked Zeb and appreciated the work he was doing. I had the advice of the Personnel Committee and representatives of the Session. I hope this does not become an issue of gossip and speculation in the congregation or in the community. Please remember Zeb and his family, as well as the Personnel Committee as we seek a replacement.

I enjoy serving you and hope that you all have a good New Year. May you and yours receive many blessings from God. I am praying that we are finally able to escape the horrible Covid pandemic this year.

Peace and blessings, Pastor Tom

Crawford House

The Session is happy to report that we have received an offer to purchase and remodel the house the church owns on Crawford St. from our own Adam Ries. Adam has experience with the extensive rehab that will be required, and he intends that it will ultimately become his own residence. The Session has approved his offer of \$30,500, which was higher than the banks' appraised amount.

The congregation needs to approve everything at the Annual Congregational Meeting on Jan. 23. The Presbytery has approved the sale, pending our approval. The funds will have the same restriction that the proceeds from the manse had; viz., to be used for the pastor's housing allowance, and disposition of the Crawford St property.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be conducted on Sunday, January 23, 2022, immediately following worship. We will hear reports from the pastor and the various boards and committees concerning activities this year and plans for next year. The reports will be available a week before the meeting so you can read them and come prepared with questions and comments.

Reports of the committees and boards are due in the office Monday, January 10, 2022, so they can be ready for distribution to the congregation in booklet form the following Sunday, January 16, 2022.

We strongly urge everyone to continue to wear masks and honor safe distances. One of the core values that the congregation has adopted is to provide a safe place for everyone. We wish to honor everyone's comfort and safety as the Pandemic continues.

Communion

Communion is scheduled to be served the 1st Sunday of each month. The next communion is January 2, 2022.

Fred and Dianna Early would like to thank the congregation members and Deacons for their prayers and calls during our recent illness. You may have thought your gesture was small, but to us it was big. Each of you are a blessing.

“I thank God for you.” II Timothy 1:3

Life Line Screening

The nation’s leading provider of preventive screenings will offer affordable, non-invasive, and painless health screenings at First Presbyterian Church on Thursday, January 27, 2022. A package of five screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered. These 5 vital screenings are offered for only \$139 and take 60-90 minutes to complete. Register by calling toll free 1-888-653-6441, text the word "circle" to 797979 or online at <https://lisa.social/HSC>.

~Addresses~

-If you have an email address or a new home address, please submit it to secretary@vwpresby.org.

Have a Facebook account?

Be sure to “Like.”

[First Presbyterian Church of Van Wert, Ohio](#) on
Facebook!

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

~Laurie Purmort
~Vern Pontsler
~Helen Jewett
~Chip Steensma

~Cheryl Griffith
~Ed Conover
~Roger Neville
~Sharyn Cline & Family

-To keep our list current, names will be listed for six weeks. If there is a request that needs added, please call or email the church office.



★ Lt. Colonel Eric Doctor, Air Force, Colorado Springs, CO.
(son-in-law to Louie & Diana Crow)

★ Captain Ashley Mohr, US Army, stationed in Colorado
(daughter of Jim & Rhonda Mohr)

★ Chaplain Matthew Purmort, United States Navy
(nephew of Laurie Purmort)

★ Philip Schwartz
(nephew of Jean Ringwald)

-If you have a family member serving in the military, please submit their names to the church office.

January Birthdays

02-Kaiven Welch
809 S. Washington St. VWO

07-Lucy Muntzinger
1044 Chippewa Dr. VWO

13-Nick White
12793 Edgewood Dr. VWO

14-Kim Carr
714 Perry St. VWO

16-Ethan Crosby
1472 St. Rt. 114
Payne, OH. 45880

*Address Needed

17-Alexandra Paige Crow
12664 Middle Point Wetzel Rd.
Delphos, OH. 45833

25-Doug Parrish
18245 Rd. 108
Oakwood, OH. 45873

28-Jennifer Manson
426 Dickinson Ave. VWO

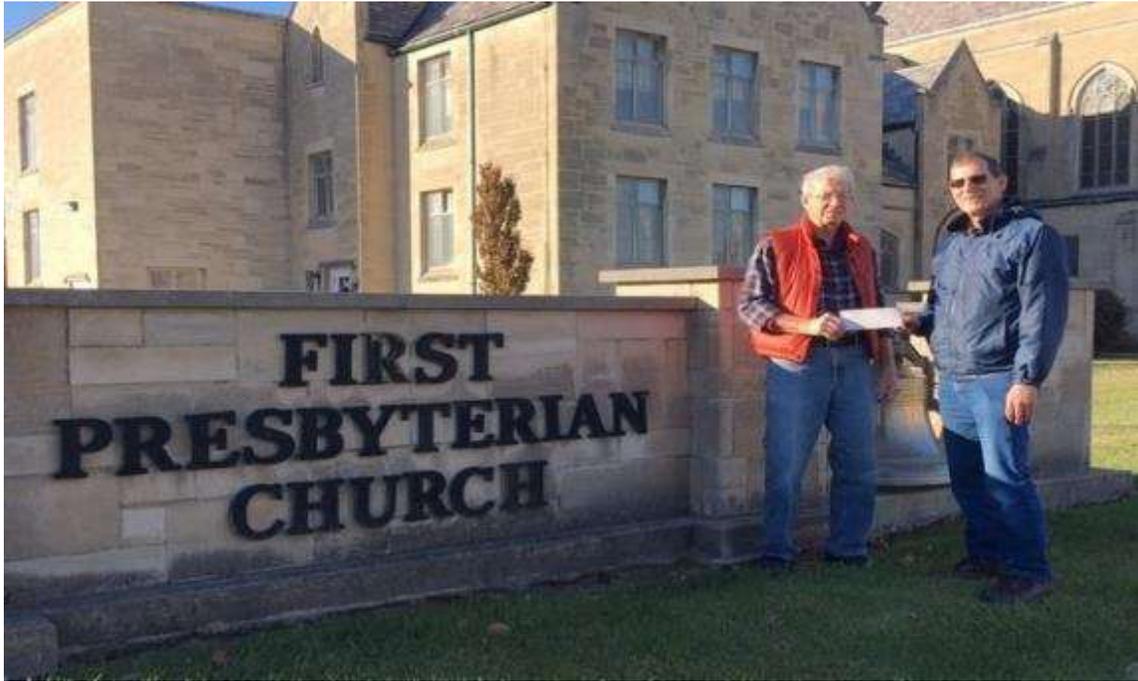
30-*Evan Purmort

31-Mike Ragan
7975 Kreisler Rd
Ohio City, OH. 45874

ANNIVERSARIES

09- Fred & Dianna Early
134 Boyd Ave. VWO

MISSION NEWS.....



Pictured: Louie Crow of First Presbyterian Church presenting a check to Terry Dietsch of Real Prayer Inc.

The First Presbyterian Church has donated \$1,000. to locally based Real Prayer Inc; who's internet evangelism booklet was downloaded or viewed online 115,000 times so far this year compared to 28,500 times last year.

The booklet is in four languages distributed within 100 countries. In October, printed copies of their "[Understanding God more clearly](#)" booklet was shared during an interdenominational event at the Van Wert County Fairgrounds.

With online distribution normally occurring for a dime or two a piece, the First Presbyterian Church donation is expected to reach thousands. For more on this evangelism including their booklets: <https://realprayer.org/vw/>

The Mission Committee donated \$500 to the YWCA for their summer youth food program.



**Pictured: Jayne Smith
Mission Committee
member from First
Presbyterian Church of Van
Wert, Ohio, and Betsy
Hamman from the YWCA.**

DEACON NEWS

Deacons will meet in January, a date is yet to be set, immediately after worship. Our meetings are direct and to the points of concern:

- If you are interested in helping with the ushering and would like your name placed on the sub list, please let any of the members of Deacons know.
- Deacons will be hosting a light breakfast on Sunday, December 26th after worship in the Fellowship Hall.
- Should you know of a brother or sister in Christ that needs a card sent to them, please let Karen Koch or any of the other Deacons.

Deacons: Mary Dietsch, Lisa Knoll, Karen Koch, Michelle White, Barb Everidge, Dianna Early and Christine Heizman as session representative.

November 24, 2021, Serving Day

Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen Mission

125 S. Central Ave, Lima, Ohio

We served 93 noon meals to the walk-in clients on Wednesday, November 24, 2021

Volunteers from Van Wert were Angela Crosby, Chad Crosby, Emma Crosby, Ella Crosby, Evan Crosby, Louie Crow, and Fred Early, 5 other volunteers also helped serve.

The noon meal serving time is 11:30AM – 1:00PM

We meet at our church parking lot at 10:15 AM to travel to Lima.

A Scripture lesson and prayer were shared before the meal.

The lunch served included: Donuts, Tossed Salad, Bread, BBQ Chicken, Hot Dogs, Vegetable Soup, Beverage.

During the serving we gave and received expressions of encouragement, blessings, and thank you's.

Bible study is offered at 1:00 – 1:45PM every Wednesday

The evening meal for families is served from 5:00 -6:00. Attendance continues to be 50 – 80 people.

After serving at the soup kitchen, we enjoyed fellowship and lunch at Lu Lu's Restaurant on the way back to Van Wert.

We encourage members of our Van Wert Presbyterian Church to enjoy serving with us in the coming months.

Our next serving day is Wednesday, December 22, 2021. The signup sheet for December is posted in the church south hallway.

Submitted by Fred Early

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We meet at our church parking lot at 10:15 AM to travel to Lima.

The Scripture lesson before the meal was from Romans 15: 4. “For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope”.

The lunch served included: Fried Chicken, Tossed Salad, Bread, Green Beans with bacon, cupcake, apple pie, Beverage. Louie Crow deep fried the breaded chicken legs and breasts to perfection. Folks asked for seconds.

During the serving we gave and received expressions of encouragement, blessings, and many “Merry Christmas’s”.

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After serving at the soup kitchen, we enjoyed fellowship and lunch at Lu Lu’s Restaurant on the way back to Van Wert.

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Our next serving day is Wednesday, January 26, 2022. The signup sheet for is posted in the church south hallway.

Submitted by Fred Early

SCOUTING ARTICLE

Pack 35 has successfully re-chartered and now has seven members with several other boys considering membership. They have done a great job keeping the program alive after the covid pandemic did not make the re-charter process possible last year. The Pack just completed a Polar Bear campout at the Church on December 10-11 and are planning a fun year of activities. They are continuing to look for additional members, both boys and adults – if interested please contact me. They meet Mondays at 6:30 at the Church.

Troop 35 has successfully re-chartered, I believe this is the 98th year that our Presbyterian Church has sponsored the Troop. They continue to be quite busy with outside activities with a Bushwhack campout at Clifton Gorge on Nov 5 and the annual Hocking Hills outing Nov 19-22 where they worked with Shane Early on service projects. Unfortunately the Polar Bear campout in a local woods on Dec 11 and 12 had to be cancelled due to high winds. Activities coming up in the next three months include the Klondike Derby, a rustic cabin outing, and Junior Leader Training. They have a young man, Liam Shartzler, who is finishing up his Eagle Rank. If additional youth/adults are interested in the program, please contact me. They meet Tuesday at 7:00 at the Church.

Submitted by Dave Blair – Charter Organizational Rep



Live Broadcast or Re-broadcast Of First Presbyterian Church Services Van Wert, Ohio

(Use your computer, tablet, or smart phone)

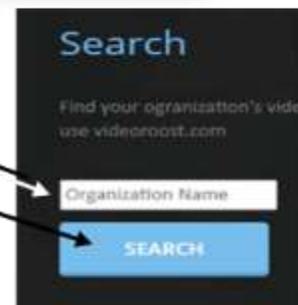
#1 You can watch a re-broadcast of the Sunday Service. There are 59 people signed up and receiving an e-mail message Sunday afternoon when that morning's service is ready for re-broadcast. You can watch it any day, or any time you wish.

If you are not receiving an e-mail and you, a friend, or a family member would like to receive a reminder & direct link, please contact the church to be added to the list.

#2 When our new church web page is finished, you can just click on a link and go live at 10:00 am and enjoy the service from home. Or there is a link to watch any of the re-broadcasts of the past 6 months of services. When the new web page is ready, we will post it in a future Presby. Tidings.

#3 You can watch the Sunday 10:00 am service live or watch the re-broadcast now by following the steps to the link:

1. go to www.videoroost.com
2. click on search member video
3. type in presbyterian
4. Click on search
5. click on our church's name
6. Choose
 - a. On Sunday at 10:00 am click of live stream
 - b. Or click on one of the previous services to a re-broadcast



watch



Submitted By: Chris Heizman



The Staff enjoyed a special treat at Willow Bend Country Club. Pictured in bottom left is Harriet Schaadt and Jessica Feasby. Top right is Pastor Tom Steensma and Leslie Wilkin. Sharyn Cline was present also.





1st Presby's women's Bible study group embraced "Celebrating the Savior" with an advent study and service "blessing project" wherein gift bags were prepared for church family members that have not been able to be with us in the sanctuary. The "blessing bags" were delivered by the WBS and church volunteers.

Pictured are: Sue Heidlebaugh, Sharyn Cline, Sally Hangartner, Karen Gilliland, and Jean Ringwald. Thanks to all!



*"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas,"
says 1st Presby Jr. Church!*



Pictures feature our future church! It all begins here: *"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."*

Proverbs 22:6

It is evident by their smiles that the Bakers, Proffitts, and Creekmores are pressing into scriptural instruction. We are blessed to have these little o



JANUARY

<u>S</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>S</u>
						<u>1</u> New Years Day
<u>2</u>	<u>3</u> *Office Closed* Cub Scouts 6:30-7:30pm AA 8PM	<u>4</u> Staff Meeting 10:30 Boy Scouts 7-8:30pm	<u>5</u> WBS 10:30am Scout Comm. 7:30-8:30pm	<u>6</u> JAM 3:30-5pm Girl Scouts in Parking Lot AA 8PM	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>9</u> Session after Worship	<u>10</u> Budgets Due Cub Scouts 6:30-7:30pm AA 8PM	<u>11</u> Staff Meeting 10:30 Boy Scouts 7-8:30pm	<u>12</u> WBS 10:30am	<u>13</u> JAM 3:30-5pm AA 8PM	<u>14</u> Girl Scouts 6-8pm	<u>15</u>
<u>16</u> Girl Scouts 3-5pm	<u>17</u> MLK Day*Office Closed* Cub Scouts 6:30-7:30pm AA 8PM	<u>18</u> Staff Meeting 10:30 Boy Scouts 7-8:30pm	<u>19</u> WBS 10:30am	<u>20</u> JAM 3:30-5pm AA 8PM	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>23</u> Congregational Meeting	<u>24</u> Cub Scouts 6:30-7:30pm AA 8PM	<u>25</u> Staff Meeting 10:30 Boy Scouts 7-8:30pm	<u>26</u> WBS 10:30am	<u>27</u> JAM 3:30-5pm AA 8PM	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>
<u>30</u> Girl Scouts 3-5pm	<u>31</u> Cub Scouts 6:30-7:30pm AA 8PM					