

# THE TRUMPET



## **Firelands Presbyterian Church**

2626 East Harbor Road

Port Clinton, Ohio 43452

Phone 419-734-6211

Fax 419-734-5411

[www.firelandschurch.org](http://www.firelandschurch.org)

Rev. Reberta Bella, Pastor

Dave Moore, Clerk of Session

Susan Larcey & Kay McIntosh,  
Musicians

Karen Salzgeber, Treasurer

Krystal Hilton  
Administrative Assistant

December



## **Table of Contents**

Pastor's

Column.....2,3

Session Report.....3

Mission Committee Report.....4

Music Committee.....5

Readers, Communion Assistants

Birthdays & Anniversaries.....6

& Ushers.....6

Ongoing Prayer Concerns.....7

Lectionary.....7

Announcements.....8-9

Calendar.....Last page

## Pastor's Column

Is there a star on top of your Christmas tree? I was in a beautifully decorated home the other day with four Christmas trees and not one of them had a star. I tried to do that one year – we couldn't find the star, so I thought we'd replace it with a big bow – but that move was not approved. For many people a star atop the tree is a must.

Stars play an important role in the nativity story. A star is usually a part of most manger scenes. The star which appeared to the wise men led them to Bethlehem and to Jesus. This parallels the truth that Jesus, the Light of the World, came to lead us to a deeper, intimate relationship with God. The gospel of John identifies Jesus as the "true light that gives light to everyone," and he came to us at Christmas. This light shines in the darkness – then, now forever – and "the darkness did not overcome it."

I love this verse from John's gospel, especially its apparent grammatical error. We want this verse to say "has not" (some translations do) or "will not" overcome; but instead it is "did not" – past tense, done deal, victory won. The lights of Christmas serve as good reminders. We celebrate the coming of divine light into our dark, sinful world. We celebrate the birth of the One who is the Light of the World. It is no wonder that our decorations glitter, sparkle and shine, and that we insist on putting a star on top of the tree.

It is no surprise that for many people the weeks following Christmas can be rather depressing. The celebration is over, the decorations are gone, family has all gone home. Christmas lights that lit up our streets and roadways for weeks are either gone or are swaying in the breeze, unlit. Lawn ornaments are all deflated and we can feel a bit deflated, too. The Light still shines in the darkness, but the beautiful reminders are gone. Or are they?

On a clear night, if we get out, away from the streetlights and lighted signs of the city, we can see thousands (probably more) of stars beautifully set in the night sky, a gorgeous reminder of the divine light that is always with us. The Light still shines in the darkness – and in the daytime, too. There are, if we pay attention, glimpses of light, grace, beauty, and goodness everywhere we look: the sun glistening on the snow, an eagle in flight, water lapping peacefully on the shore or amazing ice formations stacked up on the water's edge.

We see people going out of their way to be kind, gracious, compassionate, and respectful. It might be a card in the mail, an unexpected compliment, someone holding a door, a ripple of laughter in a conversation. Those of us who know Jesus carry his light within us. We share it all the time, sometimes purposely, often unconsciously, adding a little grace and light to people's day. Jesus said that we are light of the world – a tall task if you think about it – and he encouraged us to shine. "Who me?" we might say. Oh yes – YOU.

This congregation has a warm, lovely light within that shines in worship, mission, pastoral care, and even fellowship. It shines in the darkness for those who struggle physically, spiritually, and emotionally. It shines for sisters, brothers, and the community around us. At Christmas and year-round Fireland folk are stars in the night sky of a dark world. I have been blessed to share in this light and I am so grateful; and I am confident that the Spirit will continue to burn brightly in and among you all. Keep on shining, my friends. Keep on shining. Have wonderful Christmas and a fantastic New Year.

With Love,

*Bobbie*

Pastor Bobbie



**Firelands Church Session Meeting  
November 11, 2025**

- 1. The Treasurer's Report for November and the additional October 2025 Financial Reports were approved as presented this evening subject to financial review.**
- 2. The Deacon's Report was read and approved by session.**
- 3. Deb Flora, the Nominating Committee Chair, made a motion that Ed be elected to serve on the nominating committee, as an Elder representing Session, through 2028. The motion passed.**
- 4. Session reviewed the contract offered to our new pastor; Ed made a motion to approve the contract, the motion carried. He has already accepted the contract. The applicant and the contract will next be reviewed by the Presbytery Leadership Commission (on 11/20); nothing is final until that time.**

## FPC Mission Committee Report –November 2025

The Mission Committee will be distributing the last organizational donations from the 2025 Mission budget. Donations will be made to: Bistro 163, Oak House (Polly's Place), Salvation Army, and Dougbe River School (Liberia). Other organizations we have supported in 2025 are:

Walk in My Shoes, Fresh Bread, Ottawa County Family Advocacy Center, Maumee Calley Presbytery Mission Programs, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Stein Hospice – Camp Good Grief, Strength for the Journey, Sharon Kandell – Missionary to Ethiopia, Sudan, Living Water Project in Haiti, Lighthouse Sober Living, and Imagination Library. We have developed a temporary distribution for 2026, which will be finalized once our 2026 budget is set.

Our plan to have Connie Roe, Executive Director of Ottawa County Family Advocacy Center (OCFAC), speak at the church on Nov. 9th, had to be postponed due to family illness – we will let you know when he is rescheduled, your gifts of food and other items for the OCFAC's Free Shed are greatly appreciated and are helping with the increased need in the community.

On December 15th at 3pm at the church our sub-committee will be meeting with Debi Heike, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity in Ottawa County, and with Ward 1 Port Clinton Councilwoman Beth Gillman, to discuss housing issues in Ottawa County in an effort to discover where we can use our resources to be of help. We met with Port Clinton Ward 2 Councilman Richard Morgan in November, discussing primarily the issue of short-term housing issues that limit affordable housing in Port Clinton and other areas in the County. There are over 200 such homes in Port Clinton, nearly 15% of the housing stock in the city.

If you are looking to give holiday gifts to people most in need, that requires no wrapping, check out the Presbyterian Giving Catalogue, "GIVE with a PURPOSE" on the sign-up area in the narthex.





## Music Committee

### Choir updates for Advent.

Thank you to the women's ensemble who sang on Sunday, November 30, 2025. Janet Gray-Moore announced the anthem "Joy of Knowing Jesus" composed by her aunt, Joan Heiser, and then she joined Linda Holcomb, Carol Riznikove and Shirley Carlson in sharing this original piece.

All singers are welcome to join us for the remaining Advent season. We will be rehearsing on Fridays: December 5, 12, and 19 at 3:30. On Sunday, Dec. 7, the Sometimes Serendipity Singers will be sharing our traditional favorite, "How Far is it to Bethlehem?" The choir will be singing on Sundays December 14 and 21 as well.

**Advent wreath readers and candle lighters:** Nov. 30 Linda Holcomb and Susan Rogers  
Dec. 7 Dave & Sally Wahlers Dec. 14 Pat and Bill Sharp, Dec 21 Dave and Janet Moore,  
Christmas Eve, Linda Holcomb and Karen Coffin. Thanks to all!

Special thanks to **Sally and Dave Wahlers** who gathered a team of decorators to bring the spirit of Advent to our sanctuary and narthex this week. Thanks to all who have ordered poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary. The deadline for these orders will be Sunday Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>.

The **Firelands Folk** will play for a fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity on Sunday afternoon December 7<sup>th</sup> at Christ Community Church in Sandusky. The event is called the Nativity Fest. Our folk group is scheduled to play Christmas music from 2:00 to 3:00 PM. The address of this event is 2401 Columbus Avenue in Sandusky.

Please come to the **special free music event** on Sunday Dec. 21, 2025 at 3:30 at Port Clinton High School Performing Arts Center. The Musical Arts Series will present the Burning River Brass Spectacular, "Christmas Around the World!" as their gift to the community with the help of generous sponsors: the Fred Haney Family, the Harry Stensen Memorial Trust Fund, Diane Warnke Hawk and Hal Hawk/Crowne Battery.

The **musicians for December** will be Susan Larcey piano, Sometimes Serendipity Singers, Kay McIntosh, Director.

**Readers for December will be:** December 7 Janet Gray-Moore, December 14 Ed Carlson, December 21 Ernie McCullough, December 28 Susan Rogers.

Communion Servers for December will be: December 7 Marilyn Umlauf and Wes Bella, December 14 John and Kay McIntosh, December 21 Karen and Jay Viery, December 28 Janet Gray-Moore and Shirley Carlson

Ed Carlson will be our supply pastor for Sunday, December 28, 2025.

# Happy Birthday

## BIRTHDAYS

Alberta Schmidt	2
Bob Elliot	6
Jay Mann	8
Kaye Elliot	8
Vicki Wheatley	12
Diana Mitchell	14
Nic Stouffer	21
Bob Butcher	23
Anita Fisher	25
Teresa Jeremy-Hudson	25
Dawn Dubbert	28
David Dapper	30

## ANNIVERSARIES

Don & Kristin Williams	4
Dennis & Jeanette Walls	16
Ed Bettendorf & Marta Vielhaber	26
John & Kay McIntosh	28

Readers &  
Communion Assistant &  
Ushers

### December 7

- Reader- Janet Gray-Moore
- Communion Assistant & Usher - Marilyn Umlauf & Wes Bella

### December 14

- Reader- Ed Carlson
- Communion Assistant & Usher- John & Kay McIntosh

### December 21

- Reader- Ernie McCullough
- Communion Assistant & Usher- Kay & Jay Viery

### December 28

- Reader- Susan Rogers
- Communion Assistant & Usher- Janet Gray-Moore & Shirley Carlson

Happy  
Anniversary

## Ongoing Prayer Concerns

## Revised Common Lectionary

### **For those receiving medical treatment or therapy, or undergoing medical tests:**

Mason Fenton, Karen Dietz, Joyce Dellasantina, Anne, Bob, Tom, Wade, JoAnn McIntosh, Rob & Cindy Constien, Garrett Holcomb, Vince Decker, Lois Harris, Simon Edwards, Deb, Danny, Kevin Reffitt, Janet Miller, John McLaughlin, Kenny Ambrozy, Jerry Boroff, John Shuman, Susie, Judy, Former Pastor Mark & Jill Cooper, Gene Bailey, Carrie, Daisy, Nancy, Chris, Eric & Fiona Pott and

### **For those facing the infirmities of age:**

Connie Brand, and Joan Brydon

### **For those seeking freedom, security, and**

**hope:** Bobby, Justin, Sara, Val, and GRANDLOVE Families

### **For those in the service of our country:**

SMGT Jeff Bundy, Brant Crandall, USA; Cole Daniel, USCG; Matthew Devries, USAF; Major Jason Dewald USMC, Stu Gliwa, USMC; Aaron Haynes, USA; Andrew Hogue, USA, Ken Lewis USA Army Chaplain, Ted Livingstine, USMC, Majors Kurt & Lynsey Salzgeber USA Army.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent: December 7**

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

### **Third Sunday of Advent: December 14**

Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalm 146:5-10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent: December 21**

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

### **First Sunday after Christmas: December 28<sup>th</sup>**

Isaiah 63:7-9

Psalm 148

Hebrews 2:10-18

Matthew 2:13-23



## **Sharing Christ's Love This Holiday Season**

As the holiday season approaches, our church family once again has the opportunity to reach out and bless our community through acts of kindness and generosity. During November and early December, we will be supporting several important outreach efforts.

\*Volunteer to ring the Salvation Army bell on December 8 at the Friendship Kitchen Convenience Store (1810 East Perry Street, Port Clinton). There will be a sign up sheet with times on the back table in mid-November.

\*The mitten tree will be set up in the church lobby. Bring in new mittens, gloves, hats or scarves to hang on the tree. All items will be donated to the Salvation Army and Bataan School in Port Clinton.

\*You can donate new winter coats to families in need. There will be a wooden rack in the church lobby for all coats, both children and adult sizes. All coats will be donated to the Salvation Army.

\*The Salvation Army toy collection box will be placed in the church lobby for your donation of new, unwrapped toys. Gift cards for older children are also appreciated. Just place them in the envelope attached to the box (suggested amount \$25).

**ALL DONATIONS WILL GO TO THE SALVATION ARMY ON DECEMBER 8!**

There will be a Port Clinton Community Christmas pageant on Sunday, December 14 at 2:00pm. "He Is The Gift" will feature both adult and children's choirs, a bell choir, and audience sing along. The concert, under the direction of Greg Fox, will be presented at Trinity United Methodist Church and includes free admission. Several musicians from our church are participating!

## Feeding the Hungry

Last week our mission committee voted to focus this November on helping to provide food for the Free Shed at the Family Advocacy Center! As we consider those who are food insecure in this season of Thanksgiving, we want to do all we can to help. Some of us might not realize that November first began the loss of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits because of the government shutdown.

(Formerly food stamps)

The Free Shed provides food to those who do not have access to the weekly or monthly food pantries in Ottawa County.

Shopping Suggestions for shelf stable items (NO GLASS CONTAINERS)

### Proteins:

Canned Meats  
Canned or packets of fish  
Nut/Seed Butter  
Shelf Stable Cheeses  
Jerky  
Protein Bars  
Assorted mixed nuts  
Fruits & Vegetables:  
Applesauce  
Dried Fruit  
Canned Fruit  
Fruit strips or gummies  
Canned Vegetables  
Pizza Sauce  
Baby Food  
Soups, Stocks & Broth  
Soups (boxed or canned)

### Grains & Carbs:

Pasta  
Rice  
Beans (canned or dried)  
Shelf stable pizza crust  
Tortillas  
Cereal & Granola  
Trail Mix  
Crackers  
Rice Cakes  
Pretzels  
Popcorn  
Pudding or Jello cups  
Boxed Entrees:  
Mac & Cheese  
Canned Chili  
Ready Meals  
Broth or Stock

### Milks & Beverages:

Shelf stable milk  
Powdered or Condensed milk  
Water Bottles  
Jugs of Water  
Bottles of juice  
Non-Food Items:  
Deodorant  
Toothpaste & toothbrush  
Shampoo & conditioner  
Toilet Paper  
Feminine hygiene products  
Cleaning supplies  
All pantry items must be:  
Shelf stable (non-perishable)  
Sealed  
Able to withstand high & low  
Temperatures





**OFFICE HOURS  
TUES & THURS  
10:30am - 2:30am**





Sunday, December 21, 2025 at 3:30pm

The Cleveland Burning River Brass Christmas Spectacular –

“Christmas around the World”

This is our sponsor’s “Gift to the Community”

The Earl E. Warnke, Memorial, Free, concert.

Free will donations will be accepted.

Port Clinton HS Performing Arts Center, 821 S Jefferson St, Port

Clinton, Ohio.

Sponsored by: The Harry Stensen Memorial Trust Foundation

Title Sponsors:

Diane (Warnke) Hawk and Hal Hawk / Crown Battery

The Fred Hany Family

This concert is free and open to everyone.

Free ticket reservations are no longer required.