

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



Chimes



Dear Church Family,

At the end of last year, I had conversations with many of you about how crazy 2023 was. It seems that we all were busier than ever. I know that I feel like I am constantly running from one thing to the next and then falling into bed exhausted every night, yet with a massive to-do list that is nowhere near completion. That's life, isn't it? I am not sure that we will ever accomplish everything on our to-do lists. What really matters, though, is that we accomplish the things that are really important to us.

As the new year starts, I don't want it to be like last year. I have been thinking about new year's resolutions, but honestly, I never keep them. Do you? Every year, I plan to lose weight. Ha, that has never happened! This year, I want to do something different. I want to work on being intentional about what I do each day. I don't know about you, but I am sick of life happening to me. (And I should take the advice that I am always giving Devin about how we control our lives, not outside forces.)

This year, I intend to spend a little time every day making sure that I am doing things that are important to me. I am constantly reordering my to-do list at work, but because I am always running ragged, I don't do that with my personal to-do list. I never feel like I have time to do that. Yet, if we don't set aside time to be intentional about our days, we end up wasting even more time.

I don't know about you, but I need more balance in my life. I can say that and believe it until I am blue in the face, but nothing will change unless I spend time each day being intentional about my plans for the day, week, month, and year.

I struggle a lot because I know that my priorities should be God and family and then work. My life becomes complicated because my number three priority is all tangled up with my number one priority, leaving less time than necessary or desirable for my number two priority. This year, I hope to find balance in all areas of my life by being intentional about how I spend each day.

What are your plans for 2024?

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Désirée



PCC NEWS

We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year! December was a very busy month for PCC! We held a very successful bake sale the first week of December! Thank you so much for your support during our sale!

Our Christmas Program was on December 8. The children did a fantastic job and we had a wonderful turnout! Thank you to all who came and watched the program!

Christmas Spirit week followed during the week of December 11, where the children and teachers wore different things based on Christmas! Our Christmas parties were held on December 15. The children had a great time and enjoyed a special lunch, along with the teachers! PCC was closed December 22 & 25 for Christmas, allowing the staff to enjoy a long weekend with their families during the holiday.

December has come to an end, and we look forward to the new year! The PCC will be closed Monday, January 1, for New Year's Day! In January the teachers will be getting back in the routine of lessons and gearing up for future events for the children.

We are very excited for what the new year will bring! We hope you can find a moment to stop by and see us. Our door is always open. The children would love to see you!

Happy New Year!

~ Abbey



WHAT'S HAPPENING? ...

IMPORTANT DATES

December 25-January 6: Pastors Désirée & Mark are on vacation
January 1: Church office will be closed for New Year's Day
January 7: Deacons meeting, after the worship service
January 15: Office will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Day
January 17: Session meeting
January 28: Congregational Meeting, with a potluck following

Men's Group 2024

A men's group is finally coming to fruition, starting on Thursday, January 11, 2024. Men of the FPC, you are invited to Pastor Steve's home for the first meeting ... located at 4050 State Route 187, London. We will begin at 9:00 AM with breakfast. You can contact Pastor Steve at 614-971-6090 with any questions

Our goal is to develop a closer relationship to God, build relationships with other men and provide opportunities to reach out and lead men to Christ. This first meeting will be about our goals for the year, how often/where to meet, and to share your thoughts and ideas on what you would like to see happen.

Presbytery of Scioto Valley Meeting Schedule for 2024 The Presbytery will meet on the following dates (locations TBA)

February 20	August 20
May 21	November 19

The church will be looking for an Elder Commissioner to represent the church for each of these meetings. If you are interested, please let Pastor Désirée know.

THANK YOU!

The Christian Education committee would like to thank those church members who participated as a Prayer Pal this fall. Members agreed to be matched up with a fellow member and committed to pray for one another on a weekly basis through the end of December. We pray that this was not only a blessing for you and your Prayer Pal but that it deepened your faith in God and connection to our church family.



2024 LITURGISTS AND FLOWER CHART

We are looking for liturgists for 2024. Six spots have been filled, but we still need six more. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. If you would like to give it a try, just sign your name beside the month you are available. We can always use an alternate or two.



Also, the new flower chart is up. If there is a Sunday that you would like to bring in flowers, sign your name. Flowers can come from any source. But, if you order from London Florist, they will deliver for you.

Snow Emergencies

Winter has arrived, and with it will come some snowy days. If the county should reach a Level 2 or 3, and it is on a Sunday, remember that the church will be closed, BUT, worship service will still go on, with Zoom. So, keep your email handy that has your Zoom connection letter and worship material so that you can still 'attend'.

2024 HELP HOUSE and WELCOME TABLE MEALS

If you are planning to help with any Help House Meals or Welcome Table meals, mark your calendar. Here are the dates...

Help House		Welcome Table	
April 15	August 19	April 18	October 10
May 20	October 21	June 13	December 5
July 15	November 18		

Announcements will go out about 3-4 weeks before each meal. Thank you for your continued support.

MUSIC PROGRAM

Our church gratefully acknowledges a memorial gift made in memory of Mary Miller for the church's music program in the amount of \$5,000 by Weldon Miller. The church will set aside \$2,000 of this gift to form the Mary Miller Memorial (interest only to the Music Fund) and the remainder will support music program expenses for the foreseeable future.

Sisters in the Lord

Saturday, January 13, 2024

1-3:00 PM

Please join us at the Crossroads Community Church, located at 2262 State Route 56 (next to Bluebird Retirement) for the next gathering.

All women are invited. Be prepared to PRAY, EAT LUNCH, SING, and PRAISE GOD.

Any questions, see Rhonda Miller or Joyce Lloyd. Hope to see you there!

STORY TIME AT THE PCC

Are you finding yourself a little bored? Have a bit of free time on your hands, and you just don't know what to do with it? Do you like to read? Especially to little ones? If so, do we have an opportunity for you!

We have a member or two who comes in from time to time to spend time with the kids at the PCC doing projects, playing music/singing, and reading. This would be a great opportunity for you to get involved. Children love to hear a good book read to them and they are very appreciative of the time and attention.

You don't have to do a long term commitment. Whatever your schedule would allow would work great. If you have 15 minutes to share, consider coming to the PCC and read a story to the children.

Let Abbey, the PCC administrator, know when you would like to come out and she can confirm the time.

Let us know if you are interested.



RECYCLING OF INK JET CARTRIDGES

Since 2003, this program has raised more than \$2,400 for our Pipe Organ Fund. Unfortunately, the recycling firm to which we sent our ink jet cartridges for recycling has stopped their program, so the church will no longer be collecting ink jet cartridges.

PIE Leadership Training Day (Partners In Education) For Clerks, Elders, Deacons, Pastors & Educators

Saturday, January 20, 2024 from 9:00am – 2:30pm

Covenant Presbyterian Church

2070 Ridgecliff Rd.

Columbus, OH (Upper Arlington)

Cost \$15, including lunch

Schedule

9:00: Check-in

9:15: Welcome, Announcements

9:30-10:15: Keynote, Rev. Chip Hardwick
(in person and livestreamed)

10:30-11:45: Workshop One

12-12:45pm: Lunch

12:45-2pm: Workshop Two

2:10-2:30pm: Closing Worship
(in person and livestreamed)

Keynote:

Reaching Outside of Ourselves – As Synod Executive, Chip has the wonderful opportunity to observe, worship and engage with 1000's of PCUSA churches in Ohio, Michigan, Illinois and Indiana. Chip will share what he is learning, what he is noticing and help churches in our Presbytery partner with others in engaging in our local communities. Led by the Rev. Charles "Chip" Hardwick, Executive for the Synod of the Covenant.

To register, follow this link:

<https://psvonline.org/event/pie-2024-partners-in-education-training-day/>

The following is a list of the current church officers

2024 Cindy Newman cnewma1@columbus.rr.com Clerk of Session

**2024 Session members
Committees & Chairs**

<u>Class</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Committee Chair</u>
2024 Dot Morlock	dmorlock@stanleyus.com	Worship
2024 Hope Smith	hopemiller1994@gmail.com	Admin/Personnel
2024 Gina Wells	ginawells323@gmail.com	Stewardship
2025 Pam Dennewitz	pdennewitz@aol.com	Property Chair
2025 Cindy Newman	cnewma1@columbus.rr.com	Nominating Chair
2025 Paul Oswalt	poswalt11@twc.com	Christian Ed Chair
2026 Brenda Engle	bcengle2@gmail.com	Mission Chair
2026 Steve Watters	swatters3053@outlook.com	Membership Chair

2024 Deacons

<u>Class</u>	<u>Contact</u>
2024 Joyce Lloyd	tjlloyd196@me.com
2024 Rhonda Miller	rhonda.m@att.net
2024 Gailyn Whipple	whipplegailyn@gmail.com
2025 Crystal Schrock	dairyfarmer1996@gmail.com
2025 Ken Morlock	kmorlock@capitalresin.com
2025 Ruth Kennedy	ruthken1@yahoo.com
2026 Tona Avery	tonavery@sbcglobal.net
2026 Emmett Schrock	dairyfarmer1996@gmail.com

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)**

Pastor Abou and his flock thank God for every day, and appreciate our prayers and support.

As we move into the new year, please continue to keep Pastor Abou and his church in your prayers. Pray for growth, protection, and peace for their members.



A BIT ABOUT ME ... MEET THE SMITHS

Hope and Cody Smith are one of our young families. Most of you are familiar with Lettie, Hope & Cody's delightful daughter. She became a big sister this year, to her brother, Deacon. Rounding out the family are their pets: Walker (a pit bull), Mia (a collie shepherd mix), and Thor (he's a cat, even though he acts like he is a dog). They also have eight chickens who lay all different colored eggs. They delight in the joys and privileges of living in the country!

Cody has a 1992 fox body Mustang that he and his dad completely built from the ground up. Cody likes taking the car to the racetrack. Speed is his thing! He started

up his own business within the past year or so ... a detailing business called Cammed Detailing. So, if your are thinking about having your vehicle detailed, consider giving Cammed Detailing a try. Pastor Désirée highly recommends Cody's business.

Hope has been a part of our church since she was a baby. (Her mom is Rhonda Miller.) She is a Service Coordinator at Madison County Board of Developmental Disabilities. She loves to bake, and lately has really gotten into making sourdough bread.

Lettie loves to play, especially doctor. She enjoys baking with her mommy and is a very good helper. Deacon is all about smiles and snuggles. He is growing fast. He has started rolling over and trying to crawl.

As a family, the Smith's love to be outside (at least during spring, summer, and fall). They love picking apples from their apple trees, gardening, riding 4-wheelers, playing on the swing-set, playing with the dogs and hanging out with the chickens. They have plans to get more chickens in 2024, getting a few goats, and whatever else catches their fancy. They are also making plans to expand their fruit trees and the garden.

So, if you have not had a chance to get to know the family, stop by and say hi the next Sunday you see them. The whole family is a delight.

January birthstone: Red Garnet, which represents balance.
January's birth flowers are the carnation (love & remembrance) and the snowdrop (celebration).

The month of January is named after Janus, the Roman god that has two heads, one to look backward and one to look forward towards the New Year.

JANUARY FUN BITS

Weather Folklore for January

Fog in January brings a wet spring.

A favorable January brings us a good year.

If grass grows in January, it will grow badly the whole year.

A summerish January, a winterish spring.

January's Full Moon (on **Thursday, January 25**) is called the Wolf Moon. The Saxon word for the month is "Wulf-monath" or wolf month.

1789- First US Presidential Election held.

1863- Lincoln signs the Emancipation Proclamation.

1914- Henry Ford introduces his assembly line.

1959- Alaska entered the Union as the 49th state

1967- First Super Bowl held.

ELLIS ISLAND OPENED ON JANUARY 1, 1892. THE OPENING ALLOWED FOR THE IMMIGRATION OF OVER 20 MILLION PEOPLE.

January is here,
With eyes that keenly glow—
A frost-mailed warrior striding
A shadowy steed of snow.
—Edgar Fawcett,
American poet (1847–1904)

The first New Year's ball drop in New York City started in 1908.

Snow Myths And Odd Facts

Do large snowflakes mean it's only a passing flurry? not necessarily. A classic bit of weather lore states "Big Snow, Little Snow. Little Snow, Big Snow." *Farmers' Almanac* Editor Peter Geiger explains: "The smaller the snowflake, the colder the conditions and the more powerful the system—which leads to a large amount of accumulations. So small snowflakes mean greater accumulations. Big snowflakes have lots of moisture and either melt or cling together upon contact and do not build up during the storm. So if you see big wet snowflakes there should be less snow accumulating from this storm."

A yodel won't cause an avalanche. While several things can trigger an avalanche, noise isn't one of them. Weight, such as a sudden flood of snow, sudden high wind speeds, or even the footsteps of a skier can prompt a sudden cascade, but loud noises, such as yodeling, won't have much effect.

Snowflakes grow on their way down. On their descent to earth through humid air, more water vapor freezes onto the surface of the crystal, enlarging their hexagonal pattern.

Snowflakes travel up to 9 miles per hour. Depending on the environmental conditions, snowflakes can fall to Earth from 1-9 mph. It takes one snowflake roughly an hour to reach the ground.

It can be 100 degrees warmer inside an igloo! Snow is a great insulator. It's made of 90-95 percent trapped air which prevents the transfer of heat. Warmed entirely by body heat, an igloo can be 100 degrees warmer than the outside environment. This is why animals will dig deep holes in the snow for hibernation.

There are 35 types of snowflakes. The air temperature determines a snowflake's shape.

Hundreds of Names. It has been said that the Inuits have roughly 50 words for snow, however that pales in the comparison to the Scots, who have a recorded 421 terms for the white stuff, including 'skovin' (a large snowflake), 'spitters' (small drops of driving snow), and 'flindrikin' (a slight shower).

World's Largest Snowflake. The largest snowflake on record measured 15 inches in diameter and 8 inches thick and fell in Fort Keogh, Montana, in 1887. Local ranchers described the flakes as "larger than milk pans."

Greatest Depth Ever Recorded. Tamarack, California holds the U.S. record for the greatest snow depth ever recorded. A total of 452 inches, or 37.5 feet, was recorded on March 11, 1911.

World-record Snowfall In 60 Minutes. Copenhagen, NY, holds the record for most snowfall in one hour, recording 12 inches on December 2, 1966.

Most Snowfall 24-Hours. Silver Lake, Colorado sets the record on April 14-15 in 1921, recording a total of 75.8 inches of snow in one day.

Most Snow Angels In One Location. Bismark, North Dakota, holds the record for the most snow angels in one place simultaneously. 9,000 people took to the snow on the state Capital grounds, waving their arms to land the world record on February 17, 2007.

Largest Snowball Fight. On January 12, 2013, 5,834 snow fighters exchanged "snow fire" in Seattle, Washington to create the largest snowball fight in the world.



Jim + Melissa Canney
January I

Rod + Ginger Kronk
January II

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."



JANIS HAMRICK	1/4
KYLE CLEMMONS	1/6
SUE MILLER	1/10
JACE JOHNSON	1/12
MARK A. JOHNSON	1/14
DAVID HUME	1/16
JAMES CANNEY	1/18
AMAYA SIDDIQI	1/19
CARY BENNETT	1/21
CHRIS BLAHO	1/23
JAMIE SCHROCK	1/27
SYLVIA BLAYNEY	1/29
STEVE WATTERS	1/30
PEGGY LINK	1/31

THOSE BORN JANUARY 1-19 ARE CAPRICORNS, THE MOST ENERGETIC AND HARDWORKING OF THE ZODIAC SIGNS. IF BORN JANUARY 20-31, YOU ARE AQUARIUS. ORIGINALITY DOMINATES ALL ASPECTS OF YOUR LIFE.

IN GENERAL, JANUARY BORN CHILDREN ARE KIND AND GENEROUS. THEY PREFER TO HELP AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS.

THEY KNOW HOW TO STAY CALM IN A CRISIS, AND REMAIN OPTIMISTIC EVEN DURING DARK TIMES. JANUARY BORN HAVE A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR AND CAN LIGHTEN UP THE MOOD OF THOSE AROUND THEM.

THOSE BORN IN JANUARY ARE INDEPENDENT AND BOLD. THEY PREFER SOLVING PROBLEMS ON THEIR OWN, NOT WISHING TO BURDEN OTHERS WITH A PROBLEM.

THEY ARE SELF MOTIVATED, AND HAVE A STRONG MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL STRENGTH. THEY ARE BORN LEADERS AND UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF TEAMWORK.

A JANUARY BABY IS ABLE TO ADAPT TO ANY SITUATION, BUT WILL NOT TOLERATE THOSE WHO ARE MEAN OR REFUSE TO HELP OTHERS.

JANUARY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31	Jan 1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>Pastors Desiree and Mark on Vacation</p> <p>New Year's Day-Closed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Sunday School 10am Communion 10am Worship 11am Deacon Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11am PCC Leadership Meeting 1pm Donations Training 4:30pm C.E. Zoom Meeting 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1pm PCC Leadership Meeting 4pm Stewardship Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:15pm Mission Committee mee 6pm Worship Committee Meeting 7pm Choir Rehearsal 		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<p>Blood Pressure Screen, after wors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 	<p>MLK Jr. Day-Closed</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1pm PCC Leadership Meeting 4:30pm Session Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11am Session Review 7pm Choir Rehearsal 		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1pm PCC Leadership Meeting 5pm Generation to Generation Fu 6pm PCC Committee Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am LLAMA 7pm Choir Rehearsal 		
28	29	30	31	Feb 1	2	3
<p>Congregational Mtg / Potluck</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1pm PCC Leadership Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Worship Committee Meeting 7pm Choir Rehearsal 		

The Chimes

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED