

faith

in action

NOVEMBER 2023
NEWSLETTER
Edition 265



**We are a Community,
seeking to be in stride with Christ.**

Pastor's Corner

At session meeting, I wondered out loud if there was a patron saint of coats- this is our 36th year of Coats for Christmas. Pam replied that St Martin is venerated all over Germany for that. St Martin of Tours was a 4th century evangelist and Bishop of Tours (by popular "election" of the townspeople) c 371 CE, so very early in the history of the established Christian Church.

He was born in what is now Hungary, grew up in what is now Italy and died in Tours, France in 397. His feast day is Nov. 11. Martin Luther, born November 10 and baptized November 11, 1483 was named for him, as was the custom. So there is a Reformation connection.

The story goes that as a soldier, Martin of Tours came across a poor man barely clothed. Martin cut his own coat in half with his sword and shared the other half with the poor man. He had been introduced to the Christian faith, and as he went through catechumen (education in the faith), he determined he could no longer be a soldier, thus becoming the first conscientious objector. The army released him from service. He is the patron saint of the poor, soldiers, conscientious objectors, tailors (coat makers) and



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Pastor's Corner (cont)

winemakers. So he can be the patron of our Coats for Christmas! (ref Catholic.org/saints)

This is our season of giving thanks- in our worship, our feasting and our giving. It is **stewardship** season wherein we consider our pledges, promises for **giving** to the church for next year. It is **All Saints** season when we remember and **thank** God those of our number who have joined the communion of saints in the past year, we will celebrate Nov. 5 at worship. It is **Thank Offering** time; our Presbyterian Women and Friends organize worship around local mission projects to which we give a special offering (PW& F will add to the gift. It is **Coats for Christmas** season; the community joins us in **sharing** what we have with those who need a hand up in our community to stay warm this winter. It is **Thanksgiving** time- a time to remember family and friends and all we are grateful to have in our lives. Many of us are able to celebrate Thanksgiving with at least some of our family or friends.

Thanks and Giving go hand in hand. We praise and thank God for all we have been given and in return we seek to give what we can to others because we are thankful.

In the Lord, I'll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice. Look to God, do not be afraid. Lift up your voices, the Lord is near. Give thanks with a grateful heart this season and all seasons.

Pastor Ann

Worship Notes:



Coats for Christmas

We are well into our Coats for Christmas drive. Please bring any donations you have to the church by Nov. 12. There are barrels at the front door and the main entrance.

We are blessed with partners this year- grateful to State Bank GIVES and St Mary's and St John Catholic Churches Volunteer team who helped us put up the coat racks; they plan to help us with clean up too!

The Catholic volunteer group and Citizens in Action are helping us sort and launder coats. Mercury Cleaners once again is doing the needed dry cleaning.

FINAL SET UP WILL BE FRIDAY EVENING NOV 17- time to be announced. This will involve taking down tables, moving the men's coat racks into place, setting up the hats, scarves, gloves, etc. So we will need some strong arms to help us that evening

We will have some help from others for distribution day. This has always been a community project in terms of donations, now we have some community partners for the future. Can you believe this is year 36!

Watch for a sign- up list to volunteer for distribution. **We will be open from 9 am – 7 pm on Saturday November 18 and noon – 3 pm on Sunday.** We will need folks available Sunday afternoon for clean up too. We have our friend from Napoleon who will collect the remaining coats for Cherry Street Mission.

Worship Notes (cont):

WeKirk Food Drive begins November 1 when the children and leaders will take around an invitation to our neighbors to participate in a food drive to go to St John Lutheran Church food pantry. You can contribute too. Bring non-perishable goods to the church and put them in the grocery cart or in the Craft Room. The Conference Room will have the Holiday Bazaar on- going.

THANK OFFERING SUNDAY is November 12.

Join us for worship at 10 am; our special speakers will share with us some local ministries in which they are engaged- at St John United Church of Christ, Zion's Lutheran Church and St Mary's Catholic Church.

Our Thank Offering this year will be split among these church projects; they have become our partners in ministry for Tools for Schools and Coats for Christmas. PW & F will add to the gift you bring. We are thankful for ministry partners like these and want to celebrate the work they do in Jesus' name.

Plan to stay for coffee hour to visit with them and to enjoy the PW&F holiday bazaar which will be open until Christmas in the conference room! Some holiday goodies and the Rada Knives display – we have an ample supply for shopping. If you have something to contribute, bring it to the church. Proceeds benefits the work of PW & F.

Presbyterian Women and Friends meets MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13 for Bible Study based on Luke 8: 43-48, led by Pastor Ann.

*For all the saints who from their labors rest, who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia!*

*Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might; thou, Lord, their captain in the
well-fought fight; thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light, Alleluia!*

On Sunday Nov. 5, we will celebrate beloved ones from our congregation who have fought the good fight, finished the race and kept the faith. This year, we lost to death church members Tim Hutchinson, Vic Dunlap, Nancy Jehanyar and Floyd Culver. We also will remember Judy Ann Rochester whom Pastor Ann baptized in December 2022 before her death in January 2023. There are others you carry in your heart.

We will have a time of remembrance for those we have lost, who we now celebrate as part of the communion of saints. Please plan to be at worship.

Looking ahead to **Christmas- Christmas Eve** is the 4th Sunday of Advent.

At 10 am: We will have an informal service in the sanctuary annex with brunch! Bring a goodie to share (maybe from the bounty you are gathering for the holiday) and we will sing, light the advent wreath and pray together.

At 7 pm: We will gather for our traditional Christmas Eve service of carols and candlelight.

November Birthdays

07 ~ Elaine McBride
13 ~ Jennifer Kingau
18 ~ Adam Bates
20 ~ Ruth Garner

November Anniversaries

13 ~ Nicholas & Jenna Dewitt Bishop
25 ~ Paul & Linda Brose

Thank you to **Marsha Karr** for sponsoring
the **November** newsletter. This enables us to print the newsletter in color.

Highlights of the Session Meeting October, 2023 ~ Your Session at work

Ann shared Ideas from the workshop she attended with author Tod Bolsinger who spoke about his book *Canoeing the mountains, Christian Leadership in Uncharted Waters*.

Floyd Culver passed to the church eternal on today, October 24, 2023. The sympathies of the congregation go out to Ann and their family.

The Mexican scholarship drive is such an enduring example of this congregation loving others. This year \$4125 was sent to support several students. Thank you to all for your generous donations. There are several people interested in traveling to Mexico this summer with the Bryan church. Details are still coming together.

A meeting of the congregation is called for Dec. 3, 2023 to elect officers, act on the pastor's terms of call, review the budget for 2024.

The discussion of what is next for us continues. Beth Sigg, Curtis Richards and others will join a planning committee with St John UCC on Sunday Oct 29 at 5 pm at St John. Ann will invite others from the congregation via announcement. We will also need a new clerk of session and bank signatories.

Ann will be on vacation Thanksgiving week, visiting family in Tulsa.

Charlie and Rich will put away the produce stand and the playground.

Ann is forming a steering committee for Tools for Schools that will meet in January '24 and already have three people from FPC, Amanda Vogelsong from State Bank GIVES and Ann will ask one each from St. Mary, St. John UCC and Zions. There is a new gift from the Eagles. Joel recommended submitting a request to Johns Manville asap, since they are in the budgeting process. Pam will follow up on this.

Coats for Christmas is going strong! Please consider taking a bag of coats to launder if you can, and look for the sign up sheet for distribution days November 18 and 19.

A cleaning group (Kristal, Ann, Marsha, Sandy D, Pam R) did work on Tuesday Oct 3 in the craft room and WeKirk room to clean up around windows so work on ceiling tiles and blinds can happen this fall.

The air hiss in the WeKirk thermostat has been repaired. Curtis may tackle the pneumatic cylinder on the elevator door. He has the paint and a primer that will eliminate the mold for the craft room.

Highlights of the Session Meeting October, 2023 ~ Your Session at work

There are some minor repairs needed in two restrooms. (batteries for the sinks, a light that is out). There is also a light in Fellowship Hall that needs to be replaced. Charlie has asked the renters about changing the furnace filters.

There is a full schedule of volunteers to provide dinner to WeKirk & group this fall. Thanks to all who are participating.

There was a good crowd for the Auglaize Village worship service with St John UCC at the Johnny Appleseed Festival on Sunday, Oct 8. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship and a potluck afterward.

Upcoming events:

November 5th – All Saints Sunday remembering Tim Hutchinson, Vic Dunlap, Nancy Jehanyar and Floyd Culver, also Judy Rochester whom we baptized just weeks before her death in January.

November 12th – PW&F Thankoffering program & coffee hour

November 26th – Nooma video because Pastor Ann out of town. We need a volunteer to lead this.

December 24th – 10 am Brunch with advent carols and prayers

7 pm Traditional Christmas Eve service

The Advent theme is *How Does a Weary World Rejoice?* provided by A Sanctified Art.

The New Wineskins band is enjoying practicing together again. Charlie would like to play in December and also volunteered to do special music.

The new office assistant Stacie Wagner began Oct 1 and will continue her work at Northwest Realty. If you are here in the evening and she is here, please announce yourself.

The stewardship letter has been sent out. Pledges are coming in. The budget committee will meet on November 8 after dinner. Marsha will present costs that are fixed and required as the committee plans for next year.

The nominating committee is working. Please say YES if you are asked to serve. This is a wonderful way to be in touch with the work of your church and to make heartfelt connections with others who are also doing that work.

Christmas dinner will be December 10 after worship with a program by WeKirk.

Potential topics for programs for the 4th Wednesday are a fraud specialist from the police and the Nooma videos and discussion.

Information from Presbytery, Sept 19, 3 pm at Tecumseh

1. All church officers will need to do boundary training. This will be made available to us through Presbytery and the Synod online. There will also be modules about various topics of importance to leaders. (child, sex abuse, money, relational boundaries, how we talk to each other, social media, church bullies, committee roles, clerk roles, when to recuse oneself from discussion etc.)

2. The per capita for the new year was set at \$39.10. Our per capita will remain at \$40.00.






3. The Synod is providing a worship service for Christmas Eve morning, as a gift to the churches.

4. There was an awesome Call to Worship song using kid's bells that are affordable and really engaging.

Tecumseh spoke about their gratitude to all and MVP and had people read names of those who donated hymnals in the pews--living proof of the power of God.

The next meeting of the MVP will be November 14 at 10 am in Findlay, OH.

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>All Saints Day</i>	2 <i>Coat sorting 10:00 am</i>	3	4 <i>Daylight savings ends</i> <i>Fall back one hour at bedtime</i>
5 <i>All Saints Sunday</i> <i>Worship 10:00 am</i> <i>Holy Communion</i>	6 <i>Coat sorting 10:00 am</i> <i>AA 12 noon</i>	7 	8 <i>Church Dinner 5:30 pm and Conversation</i>	9	10 <i>Coat sorting 10:00 am</i>	11 
12 <i>Worship 10:00 am</i> <i>Thank Offering Sunday with Coffee Hour</i>	13 <i>Coat sorting 10:00 am</i> <i>AA 12 noon</i> <i>PW&F 12:30pm</i>	14 <i>Presbytery at Findlay</i>	15	16	17 <i>Floyd Culver Memorial Service 11:00 am</i>	18 <i>Coats for Xmas 9am-7pm</i> 
19 <i>Worship 10:00 am</i> <i>Holy Communion</i> <i>Coats for Xmas 12pm-3pm</i> 	20 <i>AA 12 noon</i>	21	22	23 	24	25
26 <i>Worship 10:00 am</i>	27 <i>AA 12 noon</i>	28 <i>Session 7pm</i>	29 <i>Pizza & Program</i> <i>Christmas decorations</i>	30		

Food Drive - WeKirk Collection



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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE