



December-January, 2024-2025 Newsletter

222 Schoolhouse Lane, Columbus, OH 43228

614-878-4623 [wpc222@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wpc222@sbcglobal.net)

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

Dear Friends,

Hope, peace, joy and love are the themes for the lighting of our Advent wreath candles. My prayer for Westminster is one of hope. I pray for an attitude of optimism. I hope for 2025 to become a year when important decisions are made about how we navigate the future of our church. How do we continue to grow our mission to serve Christ? How do we care for our building and continue to have it used for our mission? How will we provide for worship and pastoral care? These are all decisions that I plan to assist our elders and deacons and the whole congregation make as I continue with you through the end of June. We don't know how long these decisions will take, but I believe it is vital to make them while we still have choices.

As I said in my sermon on November 24<sup>th</sup>, there are congregations in our Presbytery who are running out of members. We still have 36 members almost all of whom are active in some way. There are congregations whose buildings are falling apart because of lack of funds for maintenance and repair. We are blessed with a Property Committee whose volunteers get the job done and research to get the best price when we have to pay for a job.

There are congregations who appear to be worshipping "until we run out of money." There are congregations who are "small, but mighty." Those are the words of Rev. Emily Corzine, Presbyter for Congregational Life and Transitions. She is assisting us as we look at our options. Thank you, Emily. Praise the Lord for your work. Even with fewer people and not many dollars, there are congregations who are faithfully doing outreach in Jesus' name to their neighbors. Westminster continues to have significant impact on our neighbors through our outreach programs. Your elders will be exploring a new idea to bring together our neighbors to serve the children at the school and get to know each other better.

Peace, joy and love will be the other candles as we hear the stories of John the Baptist, Mary and Joseph through my sermons. Familiar stories to be applied to our lives this month.

Come, join the **peace** of our worship each Sunday; the **joy** of our Live Nativity, harp concert and Christmas Eve candlelight service; and the **love** we share as we care for one another and as we pray for our mutual concerns and thanksgivings.

Merry Christmas. Happy New Year. Invite others to join us in our hope, peace, joy and love.

*In Christ, Pastor Jon*



**Our Christmas Joy Offering** will be summarized in Minutes for Mission on December 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Your offerings will be received during worship on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Westminster Presbyterian was one of many congregations in the Presbytery of Scioto Valley who donated **1,378 coats** that went to 75 of Columbus City Schools. Thank you for caring. Thank you for being obedient to the Matthew 25 mandate from Jesus to clothe those who are in need.

**Gift Catalogue** - Looking for a gift for the person who has everything? A thoughtful option is a donation in their name through the Presbyterian Gift Catalogue. For the teacher in your life, you can give the gift of Supplies for Displaced Students for \$30. Or you can give a fishing net for \$15 in honor of the avid fisher. Yet another option is a Kitchen Kit available for \$25. Check out these and other gift options at <https://presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org/>.

### **Lincoln Village Youth and Community Garden**

Congratulations to our Master Gardeners Karen, Sabine and Deb and The Lincoln Village Youth and Community Garden for receiving the Outstanding Community Service Award for the State of Ohio. A \$100 prize is part of the Award and it will be used to maintain and improve the Garden.

Karen Middendorf is working with Meghan Hastings to prepare grant requests from the Kid's Garden and the Columbus Foundation. She will also check for other grants. An interesting (and sad) fact we learned as part of the grant process is that seventy percent of the Prairie Lincoln students qualify for reduced cost or free lunches.

The Fall Afterschool Program finished on November 20<sup>th</sup> with a reception for the students, teachers and family members. The twenty students prepared salsa, pizza and beet cake for their families and teachers. Session met that same night and those attending in person could smell the wonderful salsa all the way up in the Pastor's office.

The Spring Afterschool Program will start February 26<sup>th</sup>. The sign-up mailing will first go out in early February to the students currently attending and the students on the waiting list. One of Galloway's members has a grandson that attends Prairie Lincoln and he was on the waiting list for the Fall Program so he will be first in line to sign up for the Spring Program.

Blessings, Lynne and Jim

## **Report from the Deacons**

We had twelve "trunks" participating in the Trunk or Treat and 56 children and former children partook in the fun, ice cream and candy. We had a beautiful day on Wednesday the 30<sup>th</sup> and we were thankful we moved it from the 31<sup>st</sup> when the weather was awful in the afternoon.

The luncheon on November 3<sup>rd</sup> after the All-Saint's Day Service was well attended, the food was delicious, and comradery was exceptional. Thank you to everyone that made this a success.

Six people attended our 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month Luncheon at Tres Potrillos. Darleen and Laurie joined us from Galloway. We are going back to York Steak House in December and January. Please plan on joining us at 11:30. Reservations are not required.

Halloween and Thanksgiving ecards were sent in October and November. Please check for them in your inbox, junk and spam folders.

Marsha Ross was elected unanimously by the Congregation to join the Deacons. Welcome Marsha.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Live Nativity**

Stop by and hear the Christmas Story on Friday December 6<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 P.M.

### **Christmas Harp Concert**

Join us on Tuesday December 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.

as Abigail Batchelor plays Christmas selections on the Harp. Light refreshments will be served

### **Christmas Eve Service**

Our Christmas Eve Service is at 3 P.M. on December 24<sup>th</sup>. Get the true meaning of the Season and still be home in time for supper and all those last-minute preparations.

### **NO Christmas Day Service**

Thank you to everyone who continues to act as our "unofficial" Deacons. We can't be successful without you.

Blessings,

Carol, Joyce, Marsha and Jim

Welcome to our newest member, **Michael Yalley**, who shares his biography with us.

Born on October 14, 1988, in Accra, the capital city of Ghana, I hold the distinction of being the first child born at the newly established Opoku Ware Hospital. I am the middle child of three, born to my parents, Samuel Pee Yalley and Mercy Yalley. My elder brother, Samuel Yalley, is an IT director at Dollywood Amusement Park in Tennessee, owned by the legendary Dolly Parton. My younger brother, Jesse Yalley, is a software engineer and manager at Apps and Mobile, a renowned software development company in Ghana.

Growing up in Ghana provided me with unforgettable memories, especially having a father who was actively involved in politics, serving as the Deputy Minister for Science and Technology during my formative years. My brothers and I were fortunate to access quality education, which laid a strong foundation for our futures.

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## **Education**

My early education began at Alpha Beta Nursery School, after which I attended Christian Home School for a few years. When it was time for kindergarten, I enrolled at St. Bernadette Catholic School, where I spent nine years, from kindergarten to junior high school. After completing junior high, I furthered my education at Mfantsipim Senior High School in Cape Coast, a Methodist boarding school known for shaping young minds. At Mfantsipim, I pursued Visual Arts, a creative field where I studied courses such as pottery, graphic design, general knowledge in arts, mathematics, economics, English, and science. After high school, I enrolled at Valley View University, a Seventh-day Adventist institution, where I spent two years pursuing a bachelor's degree in Computer Science. During this time, I began working at the Social Security and National Insurance Trust (SSNIT) as a data entry clerk.

While at SSNIT, I also studied Computer Hardware and Networking at IPMC Ghana, which led to my promotion to the IT department, where I worked as a support technician. My role involved installing computers, repairing phones and printers, and solving various technical issues.

After some time, my father encouraged me to gain business experience by interning at his gas filling station, Kaneshie Odorkor Goil. There, I learned the technical and business aspects of running a gas station, including managing fuel deliveries and monitoring inventory.

In 2014, after my father was appointed Ghana's Ambassador to India, he suggested I further my IT education in India. I enrolled at Acharya Bangalore Business School, where I earned a bachelor's degree in Computer Applications (BCA).

Living in India was a transformative experience. Though I lived far from my father, who was based in Delhi, I connected with diverse international students from Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. During my studies, I earned certifications in Digital Management (A+ grade) and Event Planning and Management. Additionally, I served as Vice President of the Ghana Students Association (GHANSAI) and Public Relations Officer for the Federation of International Students in Bangalore (FISA-B).

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## **Achievements**

In 2017, I moved to the United States to explore new opportunities. The past seven years have been a journey of growth, shaping me into the person I am today. I have worked in the logistics industry, learning about manufacturing, distribution, and supply chain management. I earned Google certifications in Project Management and Supply Chain Management and have gained proficiency in operating various warehouse machinery, including stand-up forklifts, tuggers, electric pallet jacks, and sit-down forklifts.

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## **Hobbies and Aspirations**

I love outdoor adventures, traveling, swimming, and spending time by the ocean. Helping others and brainstorming innovative solutions are also passions of mine. I run a podcast, *Applauze Radio*, available on YouTube, Facebook, TikTok, and Instagram. Currently, I am working on business concepts such as an AI-powered picture frame to comfort families who have lost loved ones. I also dream of designing futuristic concept cars to compete with Tesla, creating advanced logistics machines, and owning a fleet of logistics trucks to contribute to the U.S. economy. Additionally, I hope to attend piloting school someday.

In summary, my journey has been one of continuous learning and growth. If you'd like to know more, feel free to ask—I'm always happy to share!

## **Property**

Last month's story reflected on the church's backflow preventer issues. That story will continue on the next newsletter since we still don't have resolution yet as we are looking for a lower price for the repair, so instead we will reflect on the parking lots maintenance. The parking lot resealing is a very expensive endeavor and also very time consuming and a lot of work if we try to do it ourselves. The church used to do it ourselves, but that was when we had many hands and younger bodies. We found a gentlemen that does smaller jobs who resides in Texas and comes to Columbus every year for a period to do just that. We have contracted with him for about 2 decades. He unfortunately is now no longer available when we try to contact him so we assume he may have closed his business. We now have to go back to the drawing board to find someone. We have reached out to a few companies but, as I said, not cheap and a local individual who does this work did not respond (If you know anyone who can do side jobs like this at a reasonable rate for a church, please let us know) We have been able to get both lots sealed as low as \$1500 in the past., but the last time we had it done it was around \$3500. We don't know what it costs now but with the higher prices for contract work I don't think we'll see that low of a price again. We had a bid to mill and re-lay our back parking lot as you may have noticed it is starting to crumble a bit. One of our estimates provided an alternative to sealing that lot every 2-3 years and instead save the money that could be used to seal it for a new parking lot instead. That price would be

around \$27,000. For one lot at about \$1500 (this is the bargain price) to not seal it to save the month for the replacement it would take 36 years to get it done. We could always take out the old parking lot and just put in a lawn at about \$11,000. Anyway, I digress. We will not seal the back parking lot any longer and just make repairs where we can for the time being and when it gets real bad make a decision then on how to handle it. I guess that really concludes our story. As always thank you to all who contribute time, talent, and treasure to help keep our church functioning.

The Property Committee

### **Current assistance request – Live Nativity**

It's that time of the year again for the Live Nativity. We are having it on Friday December 6 from 2-4. We chose this time, so when the kids get out of school they can come over and see the Nativity. We also want to pass out flyers telling of all of our activities at Church during the Holiday season.

Now your part will be to sign up to play one of our characters. Since it's earlier in the day it will be warmer...haha....well work with me at least it will be daylight hours. We will post the sign-up sheet in November, if you want a certain part let me know! And after we are all cleaned up we will meet in the kitchen for dinner.

Thanks,

~ Karen, Jim and Linda Witten

### **Galloway Presbyterian events**

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Advent Bible study, 11:00 a.m. (Please call 614-878-5015 if interested in this)

**December 10<sup>th</sup>** - Join us for a special *See Ya Tuesday* event, 5:30 p.m. at the church. Pizza will be provided. Folks may sign up for sides, salads, desserts. And you may bring a sweet treat to offer for the ***Cake Walk!!***

**December 11<sup>th</sup>** – Ladies meet for lunch at 12:30 p.m. at the Bob Evans in Georgesville Square.

**December 20<sup>th</sup>** – Holiday Concert with the Blue Jays. 6:30 p.m.

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Eve Service at 4:00 p.m.

*Dec*

## **WHAT'S BEST IN A YEAR**

**WINTER** with snow; Christmas; the aroma of pine and fir branches; logs stacked by a blazing fireplace; sweaters; seeing your breath outside; cocoa with marshmallows; flannel pajamas and soft comforters; roast beef dinners; February holidays; birds at a feeder; a stack of new books; homemade vegetable soup; being outside.

**SPRING** with gentle rains; the world turning green; baby ducks and geese; a bird nest in the gutter; violets, tulips and lilies of the valley; Lent and Easter; coloring eggs; smelling new mown grass; dogwood trees in bloom; baked ham dinner with family; more hours of daylight; homemade corn chowder; being outside

**SUMMER** with corn on the cob and homegrown tomatoes; baseball; farmers' markets; picnics and grilling out; morning coffee on the patio; evening devotions on the patio; lightening bugs; white slacks w soft shirts; corndogs at a fair; air conditioning; quick cooling thunderstorms; pots or baskets of colorful flowers; being outside.

**FALL** with pumpkins and pumpkin hunts; cider; apple picking; weiner roasts; trees of all colors; rustling leaves; Halloween; pots of chili; pecan pie; squirrels getting acorns; Thanksgiving; warm days and cool nights; denim jeans with a fleece jacket; Jack Frost marking your window; driving through the Hocking Hills ; more pumpkins; being outside.

The best of the best is sharing these with those near and dear to you and giving thanks to the Creator of all. It is God who gives us a time and place in His creation. Enjoy to the max!

**Carolyn Moore**

12/24

## FROM THE NOOK

An elf took me shopping. I was searching for a copy of **The New Yorker** magazine. It is one of the finest pieces of periodical literature available today and you do not have to be a Manhattanite to enjoy it. Short stories, essays, poetry and articles about unusual, yet interesting topics await in each issue. And then there are the cartoons—numerous and always funny. This is a great Christmas gift—just roll it up, tie with a bow and stuff into a Christmas stocking. If there is room, add a small bag of nuts or caramels, or stuff a unique ceramic mug filled with a small package of flavored coffee in the toe.

It is fun to go to a store like Barnes and Noble and delve into their Newsstand. There are magazines for every topic, so take extra money. You'll find one for yourself for sure. You can order online, but it's not as much fun.

Carolyn Moore



## SHOE

By Diane Lynn Trout

Have you ever wondered about all the single shoes you see on the highways? I noticed two on the way home from work. One was a men's white athletic shoe and the other was a women's black flat dress shoe.

I drove from Ohio to West Virginia last month and I saw five single shoes beside the road. One was a child's tennis shoe, one men's work boot, one cowboy boot, one rubber boot and one men's black leather shoe.

What is going on? I have noticed this for years but for some reason it is getting to be an obsession with me. How does this happen?

These are some of the different scenarios:

- 1: Child in back seat gets bored and tosses the shoe out.
- 2: Traveler sleeping with foot out the window and one shoe falls off.
- 3: A car load of good ol' boys having fun, one throws out his buddy's shoe.
- 4: Vacation van packed to the top and one shoe slips out.

I read this book about a man that stopped to pick up some boxes that fell off a truck. The boxes were tied together and were labeled Grandma's shoes. ~~When~~ he opened them, there is one right shoe in each box. GO FIGURE

I give up; I don't need to know about all these shoes. I will just consider them a fixture of the American highways.

*Used as Opening Prayer for Session May 14, 2014*

PRAYER FOR ELDER DEACON RETREAT AUG. 11. 2013

Prayer posturing position

God of yesterday .....

God of today

We come before you as vessels, waiting to be filled with your word to us.

God of wind and rain, God of the moon and the stars

We celebrate this opportunity to come together , united in purpose for the betterment of your church.  
We acknowledge your presence with us here today and pray for your guidance and direction.

We pray today for Westminster Presbyterian church, its pastor and its congregation. We pray for our brothers and sisters at home and around the world. We pray for all of those who face challenges of today's world just like we do and who search for the elusive answers, just as we do. We pray for our PNC committee as they take on the duty of finding a new leader for our congregation and for all the church committees as they fulfill their missions with the church.

God of the planets and of the waters, our prayers never cease for peace between men and nations. Throughout history, we have come to know this wish seems to be fleeting and yet we pray and hope that someday the battles will end.

We pray for those who serve at home and around the world in the name of God and country, justice and equality. We pray for those who carry the scars of service in their hearts, minds and bodies.

We pray for the children and their future. We pray for the elderly and the oppressed. We pray for the hungry, the abused, the sick and for those who feel all hope is lost. May the comfort and understanding only YOU can provide wash over them.

Good shepherd, your flock lives in a time of challenge for the church. While we ask questions about the direction of the church, we know they have been asked time and time again, many times before throughout history. Loving Father God, in whose name we serve, open our hearts and minds to the possibilities that lie before us as we work together today in Christian faith and love. The path is open in front of us as we begin this journey. Let us follow you down that path with the hope to find the answers that would be pleasing to you as the church moves through this time and place in history. And now, let that journey begin.

Namaste' and Amen.

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As you can see, I wrote this prayer for presentation to Session in 2014. As I read through it, I realized the content is as pertinent today as it was 10 years ago. I guess it's true...the more things change, the more they stay the same. Let us enter this holy season with continued prayer for love, peace and understanding. Happy Holidays!

Linda Crumley

# December 2024

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Dec 2024 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>The Lord's Supper 10:30am - Hybrid</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7pm - SDA-Sanctuary</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>2pm-Live Nativity Actors arrive at at 1pm for costume fitting</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9am - SDA - 9 to 1 @ 5pm - SDA @ Sanctuary</p>
<p>8</p> <p>10am - Fellowship Time 10:30am - Hybrid</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7pm-Harp Concert Presenting: Abigail Bachelor</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7pm - SDA-Sanctuary</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9am - SDA - 9 to 1 @</p>
<p>15</p> <p>10:30am - Hybrid</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>4pm - Session (Hybrid) @ 7pm - SDA-Sanctuary</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9am - SDA - 9 to 1 @ 5pm - SDA @ Sanctuary</p>
<p>22</p> <p>10:30am - Hybrid</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>3pm-Christmas Eve Service</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7pm - SDA-Sanctuary</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9am - SDA - 9 to 1 @</p>
<p>29</p> <p>10:30am - Hybrid</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>4pm-New Year's Eve get together (food .games,fun) 1pm - Book Discussion</p>	<p>1</p> <p>7pm - SDA-Sanctuary</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9am - SDA - 9 to 1 @ 5pm - SDA @ Sanctuary</p>

# January 2025

Jan 2025 (Eastern Time - New York)

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 10:30am - Hybrid 10:30am - Hybrid The Lord's Supper 10:30am - Hybrid	30 6:30am - Fellowship Time 10:30am - Hybrid	31 4pm - New Year's Eve get together (food) (games, fun) 1pm - Book Discussion	1 7pm - SDA-Sanctuary 7pm - SDA-Sanctuary 4pm - Session (Hybrid) @ 7pm - SDA-Sanctuary	2 6:30am - Fellowship Time 10:30am - Hybrid	3 6:30am - Fellowship Time 10:30am - Hybrid	4 9am - SDA - 9 to 1 @ 5pm - SDA @ Sanctuary 9am - SDA - 9 to 1 @ 5pm - SDA @ Sanctuary
5 10am - Fellowship Time 10:30am - Hybrid	6 6:30am - Fellowship Time 10:30am - Hybrid	7 11:30am - Lunch Bunch 1pm - Book Discussion	8 7pm - SDA-Sanctuary	9 6:30am - Fellowship Time 10:30am - Hybrid	10 6:30am - Fellowship Time 10:30am - Hybrid	11 9am - SDA - 9 to 1 @ 5pm - SDA @ Sanctuary
12 10am - Fellowship Time 10:30am - Hybrid	13 6:30am - Fellowship Time 10:30am - Hybrid	14 11:30am - Lunch Bunch 1pm - Book Discussion	15 4pm - Session (Hybrid) @ 7pm - SDA-Sanctuary	16 6:30am - Fellowship Time 10:30am - Hybrid	17 6:30am - Fellowship Time 10:30am - Hybrid	18 9am - SDA - 9 to 1 @ 5pm - SDA @ Sanctuary
19 10:30am - Hybrid	20 11:30am - Lunch Bunch 1pm - Book Discussion	21 7pm - SDA-Sanctuary	22 7pm - SDA-Sanctuary	23 6:30am - Fellowship Time 10:30am - Hybrid	24 6:30am - Fellowship Time 10:30am - Hybrid	25 9am - SDA - 9 to 1 @ 5pm - SDA @ Sanctuary
26 10:30am - Hybrid	27 1pm - Book Discussion	28 7pm - SDA-Sanctuary	29 7pm - SDA-Sanctuary	30 6:30am - Fellowship Time 10:30am - Hybrid	31 6:30am - Fellowship Time 10:30am - Hybrid	1 9am - SDA - 9 to 1 @ 5pm - SDA @ Sanctuary