

THE MESSENGER

FIRESTONE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2024



"Fa-La-La"

Fa-la-la is a joyous refrain from Deck the Halls. The catchy tune can restore our Christmas spirit. I love reading between the lines of familiar scripture to discover emotions of Bible characters. The Holy Spirit guides as I perceive the great joy of shepherds. With a song in their hearts, they rushed to share the good news of the birth of the Savior. (Luke 2:15-17)



In stark contrast, Ebenezer Scrooge bellowed. 'Bah! Humbug!'

Ebenezer had more than a bad temper and indifference to needs of others; the fictional character had Christmas dementia. He forgot the message of Christmas. Scrooge walked in the steps of King Herod, a wicked man who saw no reason to rejoice at news of the birth of the King of the Jews.

Bah! Humbug! Herod was a troubled man. He falsely stated his desire to worship the (Christ) child; in reality he was planning the Deity's demise. (Matthew 2:3-16)

How will others characterize me this Christmas?

Do I have the sensitivity of the shepherds or selfishness of Scrooge?
My words will reveal what my heart holds.

Scrooge had a change of heart. Me? I pursue an attitude of praise and joy.

- 'Joy to the world' (Isaac Watts)
- "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
- For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:10-11 KJV)."

Article Source: FREE CHRISTIAN REPRINT ARTICLES <http://www.faithwriters.com-CHRISTIAN WRITERS>

FPPC FINANCIAL REPORT

Submitted by Sherry Priest, Treasurer

Our General Fund Income and Expense through October 31st is as follows:

	Contribution Income	Rental Income	Other Income	Total Income	Total Expense	Income Less Expense
Jan 31	\$3,838	\$6,055	\$101	\$9,994	\$5,283	\$4,710
Feb 29	\$6,002	\$3,900	\$328	\$10,230	\$5,678	\$4,551
Mar 31	\$4,130	\$0	\$300	\$4,430	\$4,979	(\$549)
Apr 30	\$4,096	\$0	(\$478)	\$4,096	\$4,645	(\$549)
May 31	\$4,344	\$4,100	\$1	\$8,444	\$3,986	\$4,458
Jun 30	\$9,484	\$0	\$766	\$10,250	\$6,968	\$3,282
Jul 31	\$1,310	\$0	\$72,876	\$74,186	\$3,779	\$70,408
Aug 31	\$2,192	\$0	\$859	\$3,051	\$1,658	\$1,394
Sep 30	\$1,907	(\$1300)	\$762	\$1,369	\$3,254	(\$1,884)
Oct 31	\$1,973		\$1	\$1,974	\$2,799	(\$825)
YTD	\$39,753	\$12,755	\$48,544	\$128,024	\$40,230	\$84,995

As of October 31st, we had \$229,444.24 the bank. Most of this money, or \$134,089.10 is in the General Fund.

Each year we collect Per Capita from each of our members. The Per Capita amount this year is \$32.50. That money is forwarded to the Presbytery for various uses. Please make a note with your contribution when you pay your Per Capita.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING 2024

Submitted by Kim Birk

Your gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering combine with gifts from thousands of congregations throughout our denomination to do our part to repair the world and to ensure our siblings have the tools they need to flourish. Your gifts prepare the way for the God we know in Jesus Christ, the child whose birth we celebrate.

We honor and celebrate leaders like retired pastors, church workers and their families who have faithfully guided and led us but who now find themselves in critical financial need. We honor and celebrate emerging leaders like students in schools and colleges equipping communities of color, who develop leadership skills as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the world God loves so much.

Jesus' example as a child born to be among us and lead us to eternal life provides a pattern for us to follow as we celebrate those who have led us in the past and will lead us into the future.

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received during Advent, December 1 until the end of the year.

When we all give a little, it adds up to a lot!

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Here's the December Sunday worship schedule for you to clip and save:

All services are at 10:30 AM, alternating between the Allenside Presbyterian and Firestone Park Presbyterian buildings. Allenside Presbyterian is located at 410 Rexford St. Services are also offered on Zoom.

- **December 1: Allenside**
- **December 8: Firestone Park**
- **December 15: Allenside**
- **December 22: Firestone Park**
- **December 24: CHRISTMAS EVE Service at Allenside**
- **December 29: Firestone Park**

To join our services by computer/tablet/smartphone, click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5118335841?pwd=Z3VFQktHYUINa1RoTEhGU2p2WTErdz09>

To join via phone:

Phone number: 1-646-558-8656 (this is a New York number– note it is not toll-free)

Meeting ID: 511 833 5841 (then key “#”), No participant ID (key “#”),

Password required: 4430144314 (then key “#”)

FIRESTONE PARK HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING

Submitted by Jona Rohrs

On Saturday December 7th, from 4 to 6 p.m. Donnie Kammer, Ward 7 councilman, will be hosting the annual Firestone Park Holiday Tree Lighting festival. For the past few years, the event was held at our church. The new owners of the building, Preston and Kurt, have agreed to partner with Donnie and continue this tradition. Both Donnie and Preston would like our church to continue to be an integral part of this Christmas celebration.

As in years past, our church will have a craft table for the kids. Sherry Priest will be organizing the craft., Donnie would like to have at least 2 people representing FPPC greet folks as they enter our building. Also, Donnie and his crew can use help with setup starting at 1:00 p.m. on Friday December 6th.

If you are available and would like to help, please let Jona Rohrs know as soon as possible. Thank you.

BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Submitted by Judy Abdallah

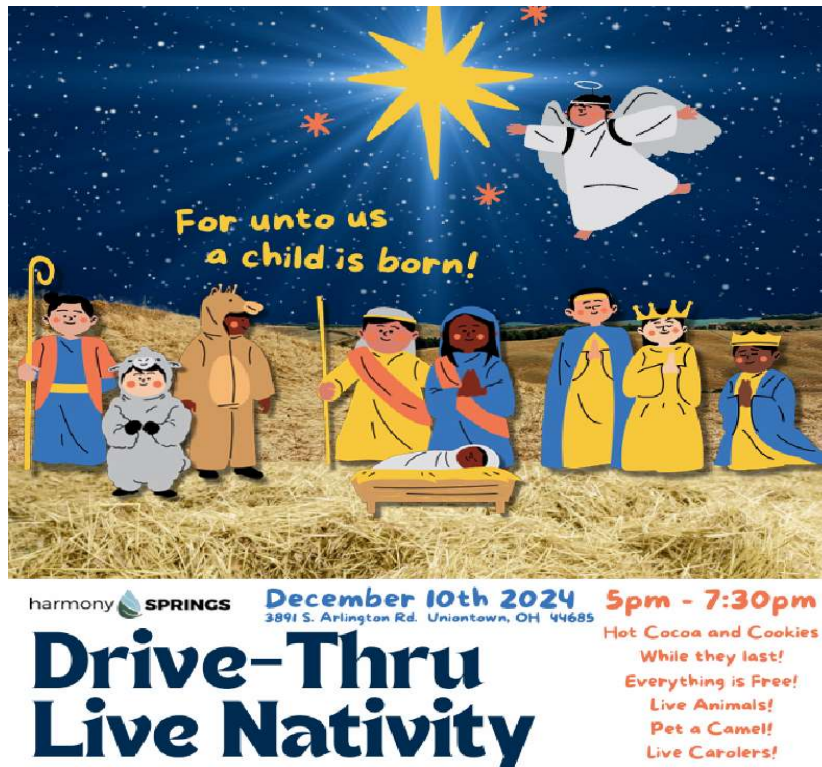
New Covenant Community Church is having a "Blue Christmas Worship Service" on December 20th at 5:00pm. Please see the below flyer below for more details.



LIVE NATIVITY EVENT

Submitted by Akron Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Harmony Springs Church is having a Drive-Thru Live Nativity event on December 10th. See attached flyer for more details.



CHRISTMAS RECEPTION
Submitted by Kari Phillips

Please join us for a Christmas Reception after worship on December 22 at FPPC. There is an optional ornament exchange. Please see the flyer below for more details.



Jingle &
MINGLE



FPPC
Christmas Reception

SUNDAY, DEC. 22, AFTER WORSHIP



ENJOY REFRESHMENTS AND PARTICIPATE IN
AN OPTIONAL ORNAMENT EXCHANGE!

TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ORNAMENT EXCHANGE,
BRING A WRAPPED PURCHASED OR HANDMADE
ORNAMENT WITH A MAXIMUM VALUE OF \$5.00.



LISA MACHAR, COMMISSIONED RULING ELDER

Submitted by Judy Abdallah

The joint FPPC/Allenside PNC Committee announces that Session voted to hire Lisa Machar as Commissioned Ruling Elder. Many thanks to the committee for successfully completing a long, arduous job. Please let them know of your appreciation. Please direct questions about her starting date or anything else to Kari Phillips or Jona Rohrs.

**The next newsletter will be the January edition. Deadline for submissions is December 15th.*