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Financial Update

October 2023

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD
Revenue:	\$627,162.93	\$643,981.54
Expenses:	\$584,675.69	\$675,079.62

Your generous support of FPC
Is deeply appreciated!



Scan to give. Deadline for 2023 contributions is December 31 in the office.

Upcoming Events

December 3: Advent 1
December 10: Advent 2
December 17: Advent 3
December 21: Longest Night Service, Sanctuary @ 6:30 p.m.
December 24: Advent 4
December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 8:00 p.m.
December 31: Christmas 1
January 5: Epiphany Potluck @ 5:30 p.m.

See all the coming events here.

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NEWS&VIEWS

a publication of First Presbyterian Church

Advent

First Presbyterian Church

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Our Vision:

Honoring our heritage,
we are a dynamic body
welcoming all to
Christ's spacious table,
illuminated to serve God
with imagination
and love.

Holy Disruption

We often think of advent as a time of serene contemplation, a snugly baby and a group of people gathering quietly around a manger. So then why doesn't the Gospel of Mark even have a record of Jesus' birth and nativity or a star to follow or singing angels?

This year as we make our way through the biblical story, as we turn the corner into advent, we invite you to consider an advent where the Holy comes to disrupt our convenient, efficient, clean and balanced lives with a gospel that is dynamic and fully present. The advent of Christ is a season we don't want to be caught sleeping through with

nostalgia—but rather be prepared with eyes, ears, hearts and minds that are open to receive a God of overwhelming love and grace, justice and peace.

Join us for a variety of activities this December to explore the “holy disruptions” in our world—both historically in the scriptures and in our current context. Let us welcome with imagination our incredible God in Christ who transforms our world and reconciles all things through him.

Rev. Jessica Commeret

December 3: Advent One

Worship: Our initial exploration of holy disruption will feature the voices of the prophets in an Advent Lessons and Carols service. The prophets offer so many diverse illustrations describing what the Messiah was to be, say and do. The prophets pointed the way. Let us join them on the journey as we too, prepare for Christ's coming.

2nd Hour: Advent Intergenerational Workshop—Join us for a fun time of fellowship, food, and celebrating all things Advent!

December 10: Advent Two

Worship: We continue to share God's story through the prophet Jeremiah in worship.

2nd Hour: Community conversation exploring the Gospel of Mark and its “missing” Christmas story. We will utilize the book “Holy Disruption” as a guide to our conversation and ask the question—if there's no nativity, then what is Mark trying to tell us? Children, youth and families are welcome to join Ms. Leslee in the Fellowship Hall (con't page 4)

Worship and Mission

Christmas Joy Offering - December 3-24

Every year, society expects us to celebrate the holiday season with more. This year, instead, let us come together to reclaim Advent and Christmas. As we excitedly await the birth of Christ, remember the reason for the season: the newborn Servant of All, the perfect gift.

Gifts to the **Christmas Joy Offering** help the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions provide critical financial assistance to eligible church workers and retired pastors and their families in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Christmas Joy Offering gifts also support the education and development of future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. These schools are dedicated to creating opportunities and environments for students built on a foundation of Christian values.



By generously supporting the Christmas Joy Offering, you share the hope of Christ by providing support to our church workers, racial ethnic young people, and their families.



Godly Play Christmas

On this Holiest of Days, come let the children lead you.....



Sunday, December 24, 9:30 a.m.

A peaceful, child-centered liturgy, for families of all kinds!

All children age 3-13 welcome, no rehearsal or reading necessary. Arrive by 9:00am



Christmas Eve

8:00 p.m.

December 24, 2023

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

First Presbyterian Church
2330 S. Main Street
Findlay, OH
www.findlayfpc.org



Service

Second Sunday Service

Our children and youth will begin a new monthly service-learning opportunity. Each month on the second Sunday, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall Kitchen to prepare a simple treat to bring to our guests at the Community Dinner! Following worship all children and youth in elementary through high school should come to the kitchen. We will prepare simple yet yummy treats for everyone at our dinner. December will be cookie decorating! Preschool children are welcome with parental presence too! There will not be Godly Play choir on these Sundays. The group will take our treats and then help serve or clean up (and eat too).

Mobile Food Pantry: Saturday, December 2

Join us for our final food pantry of the year! Sign up outside the office or you can call 419-423-2112. Please consider joining if you never have before. It is a joyful time serving our neighbors and trying to stay warm as we load up cars with food! We'll meet outside the Great Room at 7:30 a.m. and should be finished around 10 a.m.



**Sunday, December 10,
11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Great Room**

Menu: Chicken and stuffing casserole, green beans, fruit, cake and special cookies made by our children and youth!

Help is needed with ingredients and preparation.
Sign up outside the office!



Nursery School & Facilities

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

The four year old classes took a field trip on Monday, November 13th and Tuesday, November 14th to the Hancock Historical Museum to learn how things were done and worked a long time ago. We went inside a real log house where a family of 9 lived and worked. We learned how they made coffee, got their water, made candles, and all the chores they had to do (including how the youngest had to remove the chamber pot in the morning). Miss Heidi has come and shared another story from the Bible about sowing seeds. Mrs. Kathy taught us a new Thanksgiving song and started working on our Christmas songs for our upcoming performances. We have continued to work on mastering our cutting skills (and clearly Nolan is proud of himself!) and practice our name writing. These holidays and months are going to fly by!! The staff has been busy prepping and are ready for all the fun.



**I was glad when
they said
“Let us go to the
house
of the Lord!”
Psalm 122:1**

Facilities Update

Due to recent power surges, the chiller lost a few contactor coils and fuses that need to be replaced. A claim has been filed with our insurance company. Earl Mechanical will be repairing the hot water heater as it is not working currently. All exterior doors will be numbered for better communication with FFD and FPD in case of an emergency. The 2nd floor hallway and 2 classrooms of the '05 addition are being painted. A few new door closures were installed. Thank you to the donor who paid for the crack sealing and striping of the parking lot.
~Amy Heath, Facilities Manager

Faith & Fellowship

ONWARD & UPWARD
an older adult ministry @ FPC
Celebrate the Season!

Join us **Thursday, December 14 at 11 a.m.** for some special Christmas music and Caroling with Clint! We'll have a special holiday lunch that day so plan to join us. It's always a delightful time to fellowship with one another. Let us know if you'd like a ride (and as always sign-up outside the office so we can get a good count for lunch)!



Faith Practice Spotlight: Christmas Tree Blessing

In the middle of the hustle and bustle of Advent, take a moment to bless your Christmas tree with these words:
God who created all things, bless this tree as we decorate it and make it a joyful symbol for our home. May its branches remind us of the shelter and shade you provide for us and for many creatures. May its trunk remind us of your strength. May its lights bring us peace. May we remember your gift to us this season, the gift of baby Jesus, Amen.

After you pray, take a picture of your tree and post it to Social Media! www.facebook.com/findlayfpc and [@findlayfpc](https://www.instagram.com/findlayfpc) on Instagram.

Tag our church so we can all see pictures of each other's trees!



A Storied Faith: Holy Disruption of the Incarnation

kitchen to help make dessert for the community dinner!

Community Dinner, 11:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

December 17: Advent Three

Worship: We'll begin our journey in Mark 1, where there is no manger or angels, only John the Baptist, ushering in Christ's disruptive incarnation.

Join us for CAROLING! It's been a long while since we visited friends who are not able to join us on Sunday mornings. We'll divide into groups and scatter throughout town, visiting retirement communities and some homes to bring the gift of holiday music to others. Afterward, we stop back at church for hot chocolate and sweet treats!



Gather in Fellowship Hall following worship and we'll create caroling caravans and bring joy to as many friends as we can! Sign ups are needed—outside the office or scan the code.

December 21: Longest Night

This is an evening where we hold space for all the grief, pain, anger and fear in the world. On the longest and darkest night of the year, a dimly lit Sanctuary will be open from 6:30-7:30 p.m. for you to light a candle, rest in a pew to pray silently, offer written prayers or simply listen to beautiful music offered by Clint. Pastor Jessie will be available to pray alongside you or for you and others who may need prayer. Come as you are for a few minutes or for the entire time.

December 24: Advent Four/Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve Family Worship: Join us at 9:30 a.m. as we welcome Christ.

2nd hour: Coffee and Fellowship (and cookies if you bring them!)

8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Lessons and Carols

January 5: Epiphany Gathering

Join us Friday night January 5th at 5:30 p.m. for a potluck dinner and brief liturgy and reflection around a fire outside the building. We'll consider what it means to follow the star, the light of God that shines in the world and lights our path.

path. Epiphany is a powerful time when we consider what it means to listen and watch for God moving in our world today. If you've never joined us, please do. You won't want to miss this!

January 7, 2nd Hour Faith Formation Baptism of the Lord Join us following worship for a time of Intergenerational learning. We will explore the story of Jesus' baptism and reflect on our own Baptisms. 10:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.



Pictorial Directory Update:

Advent: A Season to Wait for Special Arrivals or What's in a Word?

As Christians, we wait for the coming of the Christ child.

In addition to this miracle of love, children begin to look for Santa's appearance at shopping malls.

Many of us are eager to celebrate Christmas with family and friends.

We look forward with anticipation and wonder for all that is to come.

As this season approaches, your church is also waiting for **YOU**. If we do not have your photo (and correct contact information) for the new church pictorial directory, please **email those photos to Brandi Clark or Stephanie Bryan**. (emails: jbclark2018@gmail.com; sbryan@findlayfpc.org)

Perhaps you can use this season as an opportunity for taking a picture of family around the dinner table, lighting an Advent candle, or decorating the Christmas tree. Maybe you have a tradition in this season of serving meals to those in need, donating to a toy drive, or providing a blanket or coat to keep someone warm this winter.

So, if we still do not have your photo,

what are you waiting for?



And it came to pass in those days...Luke 2:1A

Updates and More!



Welcome Leslee! Our new Director of Connectional Ministry, Leslee Kirkconnell, began her ministry with us November 1. She will be managing communications, our website and social media as well as planning Faith Formation events and programs for all ages. Her husband, Glenn will be joining her mid-December, along with their two parrots

(Victor, a white faced cockatiel and Kiwi, a Cinnamon Turquoise Green Cheek Conure). You have probably seen the 'jungle' in her office as her houseplants moved up in early October. Leslee looks forward to continuing to get to know her new church family and helping us all grow in faith. Her door is generally always open, so drop by and say hello!

2024 Officers (and a reminder that January 20 is our Leadership Retreat, so mark your calendars NOW! ☺)

Deacons

Amy Fisher
Mary Alice Patrickson
Dee Waaland
John Malacos
Denese Malacos
Meg Ramlow
Carol Smith
Kim Palmer
Shari Buis
Jim Baker

Elders

Susie Chesebro
Amy Fox
Diana Wagar
Debbie Crow
Dave Healy
Greg Kuhlman
Jessica Carper
Joe Niemeyer
Beverly Dowling
Brandi Clark

Please pray for your officers and staff!

Many many thanks to you for your generosity during our fall stewardship campaign. We give thanks for great stewardship and the faithful commitment of members! As of November 27th, we are close to reaching our goal, but are not quite there yet. The 2024 budget will be finalized in January so if you have not yet made a commitment, there is still time to do so. Pledge cards must be received in the church before December 31, 2023, to be counted in 2024.

We invite you to help us write the story of FPC in 2024. Come help us serve our congregation and the Findlay community through ministry and missional outreach. Come be an author of the story of our faith Community!

Yours in Christ,
Stewardship and Finance Committee

You can scan the code to make your 2024 pledge.



Year End Giving

All current year contributions are due in the church office by end-of-day December 31, 2023 to be counted toward your 2023 pledge.

PLEASE NOTE! Your staff WILL NEVER send an email requesting 'urgent' information or money, gift cards, etc! Phishing is common and often comes with 'urgent request' or 'I need your help urgently' subject lines. Look for mis-spelled words and verify the email address! You can always call the office and just ask too! Don't be fooled.

