

Calendar

- AI Anon:
Nov 2, 9, 16, 30
- Back Row Boys @ Iron Kettle:
Nov 1, 9am
- Bible Study, 10am in the Lounge:
Nov 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
- Christian Ed Meeting:
Nov 16, 7pm
- Community Engagement Meeting:
Nov 7, 7pm
- Deacons/Worship Meeting:
Nov 14, 7pm
- Men's Group @ Fox Run:
Nov 18, 9am
- Ms. Bridget's Sprouts:
10:30am: Nov 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 28, 29
6:30pm: No 14,
- PNC Meeting:
Nov 8, 7pm
- Session Meeting:
Nov 13, 6:30pm
- Water Keepers Presentation:
Nov 5, 11am after service

Ready for Our Closeup!



On Rally Day, photographer Suzanne Lewke came and captured our church and congregation so beautifully. These pictures will be used on our web site, social media and as needed. Thank you, Suzanne!



November Birthdays Happy Birthday Everyone!

Judith Beebe
Carl Beyer
Matt Bindig
Marielle Burt
Eleanor Byer

Julia Clark
Kylie Guppenberger
John Hamms
Luke Krieger
Michael Lowe Jr

Lee Metzger
Barrett More
Emily Seifert
Jackson Suckow
Sue Thornley



Community Engagement News



The Community Engagement team has a focus this next year on the following: **WATER, FOOD, SHELTER.** These needs are essential to us all and we would like to ask your help in ensuring that more people in this world are able to access these. Currently we are focusing on safe drinking water which is a basic human right. Clean water brings hope to children and their families leading to healthier lives and productive communities. November is our final month in our campaign to raise awareness and money to support Water=Life, which is a small local mission currently working with the organization of United Kenya Rising in the Kakamega community. The Sawyer water filter system has been a very affordable, successful way to get safe drinking water into family homes and schools. We can help by donating towards the purchase of these filters. Let us help more children receive the gift of clean, safe water. Please use the mission envelopes in the pews. Checks can be made out to First Presbyterian Church with memo Water=Life. Look for the water drops throughout the church or visit waterequalslife.org to learn more!

SAVE THE DATE: On November 5, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeepers has been invited to come and give a short presentation after the service so that we can learn more about the waterways of our area. How do we get our drinking water and how can we care for our waterways? *Submitted by Darcy Sowyrda*

Stewardship

We hope this year's 2024 Stewardship theme, "Energized By Faith, Prompted By Love, Inspired By Hope" inspires everyone's love for your church which needs everyone's support through their personal giving. Why are pledges important? We ask for your giving through annual pledges. Our annual pledges support what we do within FPCEA and beyond our doors which enable Session to forecast our budgets for 2024. We encourage annual pledges because making and keeping a promise to our faith is an important spiritual discipline that fosters faithfulness and mutual responsibility. EACH pledge makes a difference and works toward the building of our faith community. The total sum of pledges assists the church with establishing the annual budget 2024 from which we can pay our bills. As you know our bills include: salaries for our Pastor, the Office Administrator, the Music Director, the Treasurer and the Sexton; Contract Services; Office expenses; utility bills; building and maintenance costs; our church ministries and missions. Without your giving, these expenses and activities cannot be met. Let me repeat that again--- Without your giving, these expenses and activities cannot be met.

Annual Pledge totals for 2022 were approximately \$202,000. For 2023, our total dropped to \$187,401. Our total number of people pledging in 2022 was 82 and in 2023 it was 83. This means that our pledge dollars are decreasing while the number of people pledging is unchanged. This also means our pledge dollars are falling short of our budget needs.

A large majority of pledge dollars are contributed by people who are age 70 years or older and if our pledge dollars remain approximately the same as 2023's, our pledge dollars will be much less than our budget needs for 2024.

What does all this mean? I can go on and on, and no one here enjoys hearing the difficult reality of where this church stands in meeting its fiscal responsibilities. Please take some time to review these pledge facts while considering your pledge intentions for 2024 and highly consider increasing your pledge amount by an additional \$300-\$500. Your giving dollars to support OUR CHURCH is so important to sustaining what we enjoy each week at church service and the faithful support that OUR Church provides us with each day that we live.

One last note, incoming pledge dollars paid during 2023 are starting to run behind our expenses so as a reminder, it is very important fulfill your pledge payments to allow the church to pay for our ongoing expenses.

If anyone has any questions concerning this information or want more information about making a pledge, please don't hesitate to reach out to your Stewardship Committee. *Submitted by Mark Dechert*

Session Highlights

October 9

- Personnel hired a new sexton, Kevin Glover. Please welcome him!
- Community Engagement is supporting Water=Life through November.
- Consecration Sunday is 10/22 Please return your pledge cards!
- Our next communion date will be November 5th

Advent Calendars

There are a few advent calendars left for purchase! They are \$50, and are handmade by our own Presbyterian Women! The proceeds will go to selected charities this holiday season. Please contact Polly Boldt: 716-983-5875, Carol Griffis: 716-652-2547 or stop into the office!

Ms. Bridget's Sprouts

You have two chances each week to join Ms. Bridget and her friend Sprout this fall! Sprouts is designed to enhance your child's early growth & development and increase socialization. Get ready to learn and have fun each Tuesday & Wednesday at 10:30am! Ages 6m-5y. Please contact Bridget Pacholec to register at 716-982-2000.



Join us for worship Sundays at 10am, in person or on Facebook!

The sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of every month.