



Dear Church Family, CHALKING THE DOOR

A wonderful Epiphany tradition that is known as chalking the door originated in Europe in the Middle Ages. Either on the twelfth night (January 5), or on Epiphany (January 6) many Christians write on their doors or lintels with chalk as a blessing upon their homes and upon their church.



Buildingfaith.org describes this tradition...

“Chalking the Door” is a short liturgy for marking our homes with sacred symbols and asking God’s blessing upon those who live, work, or visit throughout the coming year. In this service, we mark our front or main entrance doors with chalk as a sign that we are inviting God’s presence into the places, relationships, and situations that we call home. This practice resonates with God’s instructions to the people of Israel in Deuteronomy 6. In verses 4 – 9, Moses says, “Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” Chalking the door is a tangible way to honor God in our lives. A common way of chalking the door is to write these symbols along the doorframe (updating the last two digits with each new year): 20 + C + M + B + 24. The first and last numbers comprise the four digits of the current year (2024, 2025, etc.). The letters “C,” “M,” and “B” come from the three traditional names for the unnamed Magi in Matthew 2: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar (also spelled “Balthazar”). Some also suggest that the letters can represent “Christus Mansionem Benedicat,” which means “May Christ bless this dwelling!” A cross is placed between each set of numbers and letters.



On FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2024, EPIPHANY EVE, we will have a brief Epiphany Service with candle lighting, Scripture, music, and chalking the church doors, along with some refreshments afterwards. A blessing kit will be available to take home to bless and chalk your home doors. Invite a friend...and see you on Friday!

Love being your pastor! Looking forward to a great 2024!

Love and Blessings in Jesus! Alice

Keep these folks and their caregivers in your prayers for healing and recovery from hospitalization or recent illness including Covid.

Dick Wilson
Betty Ferguson
Chris Hargis
Paul Gibson
Mark Bushong
Beth Gehle
John Watson



Upcoming Meetings

Board Meetings after worship:



Trustees—Sunday, January 14

Deacons— Sunday, January 21

Session—Sunday January 28

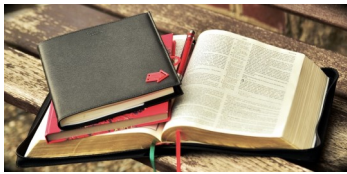


We extend our Christian love and sympathy to :

- The Wilson family for the passing of Dick's cousin, David Wilson

Please keep them all in your prayers during this most difficult time.

BIBLE STUDIES



Monday night Bible Study at 6:30 pm via Zoom. The group will continue their journey

through John. Please contact Rev. Alice for more information and the Zoom link.

MEN'S Study on Break until January. Stay tuned for announcement of upcoming dates.



Monthly Healing Services with the anointing of oil and laying on of hands will return again since we dis-

continued at the time of Covid. The healing service will be during our prayer time after the livestream. If you or someone you know needs this ministry, plan to be present on **the first Sunday of each month.** Remember you can stand in for someone who can't be here.

to Advent wreath lighters - Matt and Barb Holliday, Rihl Family, Carol Burkhart and Judy Brady, Heidi Beachy, Jim and Karon Kaufman

to the Manring Family for the Christmas Eve luminaries

to Ailene, Nacrina, Michele, and Janell for leading us in music

to those who helped decorate for Christmas...Carolyn Gibeaut, Donna Rihl, and Nancy Patterson

to those who helped with Gingerbread Bash (Lexi, Beth and John Rihl, Nancy McKelvey, Carol Burkhart Rosemary Anderson, Rev. Alice) and deacons for contribution

to Wise Men (Jim and Rick Kaufman, Matt Holliday) at Christmas under the Clock as well as booth workers, Janell and Blake Wilcox, Carol Burkhart, and Rev. Alice and deacons for contribution for crafts, and donations for candy

to all who contributed to hat and mitten tree

to Dave McCray, Jim Kaufman, and Brenda DeLeon for Christmas baskets and all who contributed

to all who contributed to poinsettias...and Carolyn and Gary who picked up and decorated

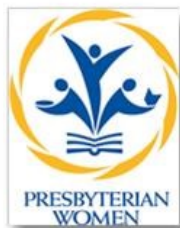
Bargain Bingo– Sunday January 14

From 3 pm to 5 pm (Note New Time)

We know some of you have been looking for local opportunities. Come join us for Bargain Bingo at the Presbyterian Church (231 E Main) on Sunday from 3 until 5 pm. The kiddos and some of you have Monday off so come out and enjoy your Sunday. The Bingo is FREE and we'll have a prize table for you lucky winners. Come on out and enjoy some good company and good fun! Snacks will be provided but you're welcome to bring along your favorite to share. Hope you to see you there!



BINGO op-
Plain City
January 14



The Women's Circle is also looking for PRIZES so if Santa brought you a gift out of love but not one you love, feel free to regift it to our bargain bingo prize collection. Or if you are looking to do some downsizing in the new year, useable items can be donated. We are also looking for daily need donations, like rolls of paper towels, dish soap, hand lotion, toilet paper, etc. Just drop off on the table by the office.



Annual Report time- If you have a report to be included in the Annual Report, please provide it to the office by January 21. That will give the office time to compile and get printed. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!!

CHRISTMAS BASKET PROGRAM 2023

We would like to express our gratitude for all the help we received this year! We were able to provide assistance to **109 families** which included **293 children and 259 adults.**

Unfortunately this will be the last year for this decades old community program! Reverend Chuck Stenner started this program and watched it grow in the number of families that were helped and in the number of volunteers that served. Over the years thousands of families and children's Christmases have been brighter because of the efforts of the Plain City churches, businesses and many individuals.



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!



The First Sunday of the month is donation Sunday so January 7th is the next fill up Sunday. But you can drop off in boxes on the way

to the sanctuary any time. What is needed? All packaged food in boxes, cans, or pouches. NOTHING that needs refrigeration! Also remember this is a small area to fill so small boxes are good. If you bring the food/items, we will get it in the pantry.

In need of : SOUPS, PEANUT BUTTER, TUNA, AND PASTA . This is being used more frequently so the need is there.

Church Treasurer Report for November 2023

The general fund balance for the end of November increased a good amount due to a number of large donations during the month, which is similar to past years. Expenses were basically as expected.

General Expenses Fund

Beginning Balance 11/01/2023	\$ 11,810.95
Income	33,160.44
Expenses	<u>(11,722.64)</u>
Ending Balance 11/30/2023	\$ 33,248.75

If there are any questions about the financial information of the Church, please let me know.

Best Regards,

Gary Gibeaut, Treasurer

REMEMBERING OUR SHUT-INS



Our Shut-ins

Being shut-in during the pandemic should have given us a better appreciation for those on our shut-in list. Please take a moment to remember our shut-ins. Drop them a card or give them a call!

- Bob and Suzanne Merkle– Dublin Retirement Village
- Chuck Stoker—Home
- Bryan Becker—Home
- Arlene Perkins, Paul and Donna Gibson– Walnut Crossing Assisted Living, Marysville
- Charlotte Lambka– Edgewater
- Jack Mercer– Bluebird Marysville

NURSERY



Calling all individuals who would enjoy volunteering in the

nursery on Sunday's during worship service.

As a volunteer, we ask that you arrive in the nursery no later than 9:45AM on your Sunday. If there are no "little ones" to care for, you may join worship service at 10:10AM. If you are willing to volunteer, try to secure a buddy, as we need 2 adults for every service. If you are unable to find a partner, I will pair you with another volunteer. Let Rev. Alice know if you would like to serve in this way and what Sunday that would be convenient for you. The Christian Education Committee thanks you for considering this request!



No Anniversaries this month

01/02	Jeff	Denhardt
01/04	Bryon	Smith
01/08	John	Bowen
01/11	Dave	McCray
01/14	Karon	Kaufman
01/14	Sharon	Newell
01/15	Bob	Beach
01/15	Barbara	George
01/16	Brenda	DeLeon
01/19	Travis	Manring
01/20	Judy	Brady
01/26	Eric	Manring
01/28	Pat	Myers
01/28	Beth	Rihl
01/29	Avery	Salyer
01/29	Donna	Gibson

HOSPITAL VISITATIONS -If you are in the hospital or a loved one is and want a visit... please call or text Rev. Alice

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SERVE THE CHURCH ? CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING FOR THE AV TEAM.

The AV Team needs **MORE** volunteers. Jim Kaufman Don McKelvey, and John Rihl have been our ever faithful camera men . They are need of some more volunteers to train. Please consider helping with this important service to the church family. Contact Jim if you are willing to learn and help.

LAY LITURGIST NEEDED

During Covid we had disbanded lay liturgists. Rev Alice would like to start having a lay liturgist again. She is putting together a schedule for lay liturgists for 2024. So far she has Leanne Manring, Michele Kopiec, and Barb Holliday who have expressed interest. (Hopefully, she didn't miss someone). If she did, please let her know. Or if you have been thinking about it and would like to do it...please respond here or text her at 740-391-2531 asap.



LIFEWISE-We stand amazed at what God is doing in our community. We are so thankful for the unity of the vision to reach the unchurched children in our community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There is a lot of movement in LifeWise Academy JA:

- *Student Enrollment is at: 288 Students
- *We are purchasing a GMC 15 passenger Shuttle Van (Used but in great shape)
- *Videotaping a day in LifeWise Academy JA - This will be used several ways.
- *Christmas Under The Clock - Huge success - passed out over 150 bags of ingredients to make Jesus a Birthday cake (even a candle was provided) to residents in Plain City.