

PEACE CONNECTION



Christmas Eve Services

Join us for Christmas Eve! Bring your friends, neighbors, and family! All are welcome!

- 3:00 pm Family Service for those with young children.
- 6:00 pm Praise Service. (Contemporary). This service will be have candlelight and communion.
- 9:00 pm Traditional Service, This service will be have candlelight and communion.



Love Inc

Please support Love Inc by signing up for a donation month!



Make checks out to Prince of Peace with Love Inc on the memo line... \$125. Sign up poster is by the welcome center.

Annual Christmas Toast

Join us for our 3rd annual Sisters In Spirit (SIS) and Buds & Suds Christmas Toast.

We will meet on Tuesday, December 30th at 5 PM to 9PM. We will toast around 6:30 PM.

We will meet at: Between the Bun 34445 Center Ridge Rd North Ridgeville, OH 44039. We look forward to celebrating with you all!



Friday December 19th
Pastor Charlie's Day Off

Saturday December 20th

Sunday December 21st
9 & 11 am In Person Worship
10:00 am Happy Birthday Jesus Party

Monday December 22nd
7:00 pm S.O.A.P - Bible Study

Tuesday December 23rd
6:15 pm CrossFire Rehearsal
7:00 pm Peace Pavilion Meeting

Wednesday December 24th
3:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service
6:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
9:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Thursday December 25th
Merry Christmas!

Friday December 26th
Pastor Charlie's Day Off

Saturday December 27th
10:00 am Combined Service

Sunday December 28th
10 am ONE Service, Christmas Lessons and Carols

Monday December 29th
7:00 pm SOAP Bible Study

Tuesday December 30th
1:30 pm Watercolor Class with Mel
6:15 pm CrossFire Rehearsal
7:00 pm Peace Pavilion Meeting

*Grow in Faith * Serve In Love *
Live In Peace*

Scranton Mitten Tree

Thank you so much for the generosity you have shown to the students of Scranton School! This year, we were able to deliver 50 gifts to students chosen through the Mitten Tree program.

On December 16th, the gifts were delivered along with much-needed winter items, including coats, hats, gloves and mittens, several pairs of socks and underwear, and scarves — including a beautifully handmade scarf. In addition, we were able to provide Principal Beadling with \$675 in gift cards to distribute to families most in need!

A special thank-you goes to Sue Stevens, James and Lisa Arrigo, Bob Thompson, and Pastor Charlie for their help with planning, organizing, and delivering the gifts this year.

Thank you all for serving the students of Scranton School and helping make their Christmas a truly joyful one.

Diane & Shawn Merhaut



Scranton Mitten Tree

The Comfort Quilters have had a very busy and productive year! A total of 218 were assembled and distributed to the following organizations:

- 2 quilts were donated for OMNI raffle baskets
- 79 patriotic themed quilts were taken to the Hospice of Western Reserve
- 37 quilts were given to Habitat to be placed in the new homes for the new owners
- 100 quilts were taken to Community West Foundation. These quilts will find their way to several shelters/organizations as needed.

The Quilters are grateful for all your donations such as fabric, thread, etc. Your monetary contributions allow us to purchase our supplies as needed. Thank you!



Peace Pavilion Estimated Cost at Completion Status as of November 25, 2025

We have completed the Peace Pavilion and have absorbed some additional landscape costs within our budget. Our only remaining spend is interest related to our financing.

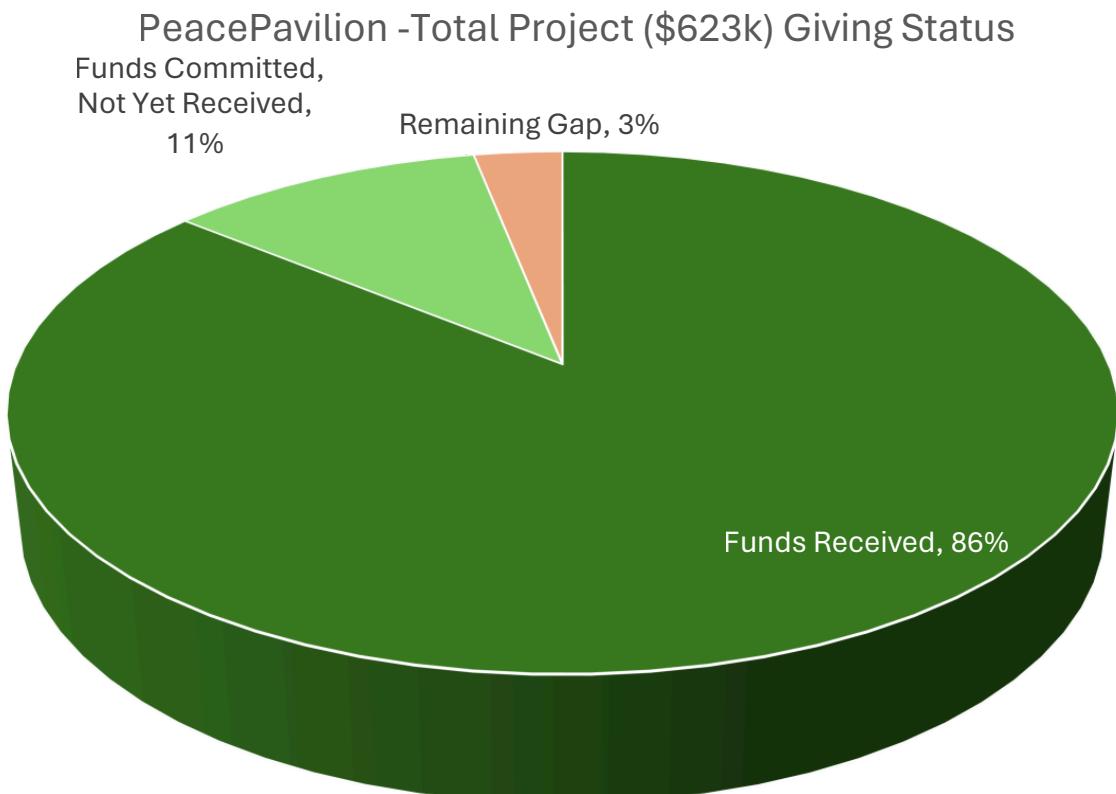
Sources of Funds (THANK YOU!)

- Giving to Date = \$489,888 *
- Future Pledges = \$69,434
- General Endowment Fund = \$20,000
- Ilene Hardy Memorial Fund = \$14,000
- Fund a Bench = \$8,800
- Altar Guild = \$3,240

TOTAL = \$605,362

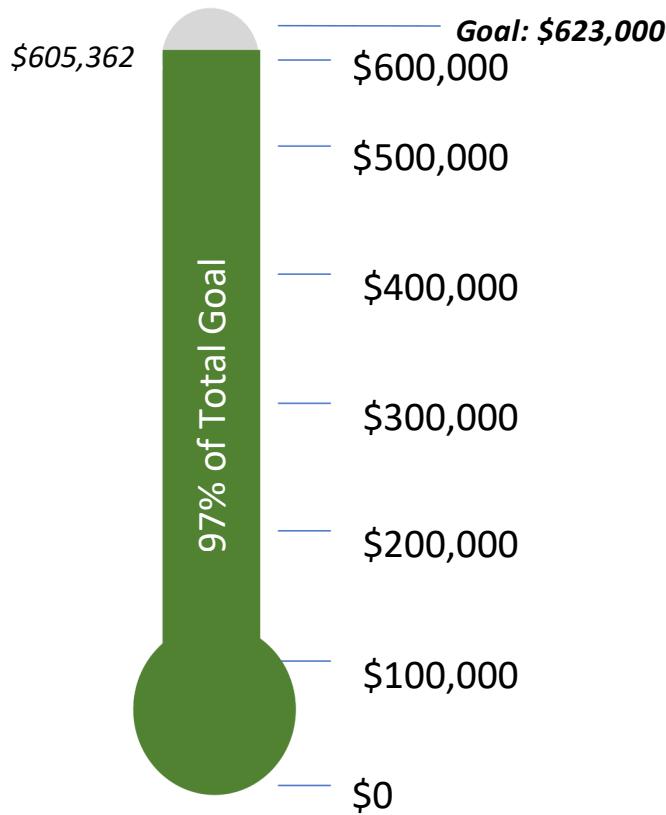
Gap = \$18,162

* Includes Anne Steinbrecher Memorial Fund, Mike Hosler Memorial Fund, and Direct Contributions to Finance Costs

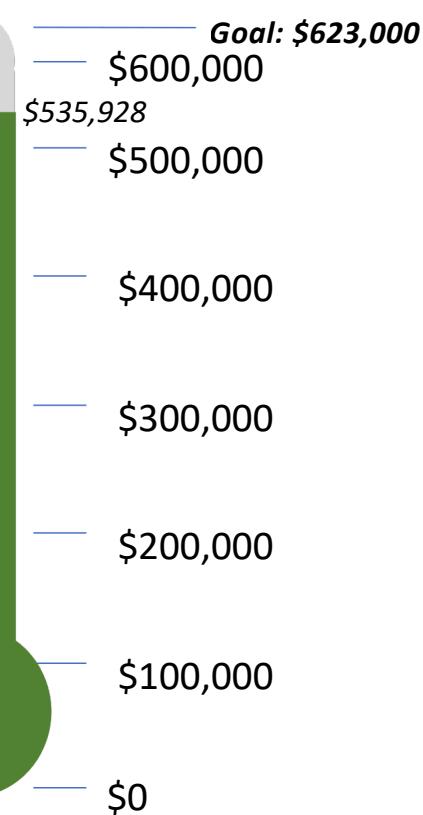


Peace Pavilion Capital Campaign Plus Status as of November 25, 2025

Total Commitment Status



Total Giving Status





Overview of the Phases of Transition

Key People Engaging

Phase 1: Saying Farewell Council/President, Synod, Celebration and Worship Teams

- Pastor announces resignation or retirement
- Bishop meets with Congregation Council
- Plan for transitional leadership
- Conclusion of Pastor's ministry

Phase 2: Congregational Health & Identity Transition Team, Synod, Council

- Discern Congregational Health, Sustainability, and Vitality
- Discern Mission & Vision: "Who are we - and what is God calling us to?"
- Identify staffing needed to engage the Mission & Vision

Phase 3: Entering the Call Process Call Committee, Synod, Council

- Form Call Committee (and pass along findings from Phase 2)
- Assistant to the Bishop meets with Congregation Council and Call Committee
- Preparation of Ministry Site Profile
- Interview preparation
- Receive & Interview candidates

Phase 4: Primary Candidate Pastor Candidate, Call Committee, Synod, Council

- Call Committee recommends candidate to the Congregation Council
- Congregation Council engages with recommended candidate & negotiates compensation
- Meet & Greet for candidate and congregation
- Congregation meeting with call vote

Phase 5: Welcoming & Celebrating

- Determine timeline for rostered minister's move and start date
- Facilitate rostered minister's move
- Schedule installation service with Conference Dean



Year End Giving

Smart Ways to Give Before Year-End

As we approach the end of the calendar year, you can take advantage of several tax-smart giving options. Your support helps us provide the ministries here at Prince of Peace.

1. Give from Your IRA (Qualified Charitable Distribution)

If you are 70½ or older, you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly from your IRA to Prince of Peace. A QCD counts toward your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). You pay no income tax on the amount transferred. You can give up to \$108,000 annually. Ask your IRA administrator to make the distribution directly to Prince of Peace and not directly to you.

2. Recommend a Grant from Your Donor-Advised Fund (DAF)

If you have a DAF through your financial institution or community foundation, you can recommend a grant to Prince of Peace. It's an easy, flexible way to support POP. You can make one-time or recurring gifts from your DAF. You may also name Prince of Peace as a beneficiary of your DAF to continue your legacy. Ask your fund advisor to direct your gift to Prince of Peace.

3. Gifts of Appreciated Stock

A gift of appreciated securities, such as stocks, bonds, or mutual funds, can provide meaningful support for POP's mission while offering significant tax benefits. You can avoid capital gains taxes on appreciated assets. You can deduct the fair market value of your gift. Prince of Peace receives the full value of your contribution. To make a gift of stock or securities or if you have any questions, contact Charlie Koch, Treasurer by email treasprinceofpeacewestlake@gmail.com or phone 440.478.9235.

Please consider making a year-end contribution today and help us to keep growing in faith, serving in love and living in peace.

-The Stewardship Committee



thanks
for your
support

Profile Story

This week's feature:

GLORIA MCCELLAN



Gloria is a returning member and was welcomed at the November 23 service! Gloria was born in Fairmont, WV. She grew up in Akron, Richfield and Bath, Ohio. Her one brother, Darrell, currently lives in Bath, Ohio. She attended Revere High School and Continuing Education Classes at local universities in Supervision, Marketing and Human Resources. Her job history includes working for BF Goodrich and subsidiaries. She held positions in Research, office manager, HR and Marketing.

Gloria met her husband during her senior year in high school. Jim and Gloria were married for 53 years before his death in 2018. They had 3 girls to offer their love to. Lynne passed away at 18 months. Daughter Lori passed at 49 in 2024. Her living daughter Michelle and her husband Scott spend time in Westlake, Avon, and Marblehead. Gloria has 6 wonderful grandchildren!

Jim and Gloria grew up Lutheran and after moving to Avon, they were looking for a church to join. Their dear friend Marge Kastner/Jaracz recommended Prince of Peace. A little later, her daughter Michelle and her family also joined. They attended the contemporary services. After her husband's death in 2018, Gloria moved to Venice, Florida and resided there a little over 4 years.

She used to be in Altar Guild, Comfort Quilters, and also helped out with meals to the homeless center in Cleveland. Since rejoining POP, Gloria is still deciding what areas she is best suited for. In her free time, her interests include gardening, decorating, beading, sewing and a little knitting. She also stays active exercising and spending time with friends and family.

Current members at POP may not be familiar with her career or activities in her former church. Our community will always be welcoming and fortunate to have Gloria in our midst! Right now, Gloria's main concentration is getting healthier and improving her balance through exercise. She would like to meet more people from Prince of Peace and do activities with Travel Quest and other groups. With so many choices here, I know Gloria will be able to grow and thrive!

By Tom Robinholt : Profile Reporter

PASTOR CHARLIE'S BLOG



Luke 1:46-55

46 Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

50 His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Did you ever get something you didn't want for Christmas? A poem called The Thank You Note, by Judith Viorst
I wanted small, pierced earrings (gold).

You gave me slippers (gray).

My mother said that she would scold

Unless I wrote to say

How much I liked them.

Not much.

Did you ever think that Mary is never asked, “And what do you want for Christmas?” No. Instead, she is told what God wants for Christmas, and how she, the handmaid of the Lord, is to be a part of this amazing, incredible, miraculous event. An angel spoke and a young woman believed. And in that point in time, the world was forever changed.

This baby grew to be a man, and preached a message of love, of forgiveness, of hope. He challenged the leaders of his day with a new kind of King, a King who serves, instead of demanding service. For his radical words and life, he was put to death on a cross. And three days later, on the first day of the week, this child, born in a manger, this preacher, this radical teacher, this one crucified, rose from the dead. He is victorious over sin and death. He is our savior. He is the Messiah, the Son of God, he is our Lord. He gives us life. Martin Luther said, “Jesus, our Savior, was born in a manger. Above the manger looms a cross where he gave his life that we might live in him and with him in eternity.”

Do we ever understand how incredible this event is? Prophets, priests and kings have been looking forward to it for generations. A whole people had longed for the coming of the day of the Lord. And how does it come? Incredibly, through the promise to a very ordinary girl, barely a teenager, in a very ordinary, out of the way place. How odd that God should choose this woman, this place, this time. But that is how God works. And it is the very surprise of it that makes us sing for joy this Christmas season.

So, what do you want for Christmas? Maybe the one we need to ask this question to is God. What does God want from us this Christmas? Is it time? Is it devotion? Is it our undivided attention? What does God want from you?

For remember, the gift that you really need this Christmas is already given. It is a child, born of a woman whose name was Mary. God came down to earth as a baby. Born for you and for me, to set us free from sin and all that separates us from God and one another. Hope for today, sure and certain hope forever. Merry Christmas.

Let us Pray. Almighty God, thank you for your servants who willingly and faithfully receive your call and carry it out. May we be open to your gifts and your guidance. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer LIST

Sunday, December 21st, 2025

Prayer Request - Long Term

(All prayer requests made after Thursday at Noon will be posted the following week)

Pam Rotella

Al Tielke

Angela Missig (Daughter of Gloria Starr)

Laura K (Friend of Deb Gibbons)

Bill Sweeny (Friend of Kathy McCollum)

Paula Collister (Sister-in-law of Liz Grider)

Daniel Reisner (Friend of James and Lisa Arrigo)

Jan and Larry (Friends of Dan and Barb Fronczak)

Monica Doptis (Grandchild of Dan and Barb Fronczak)

Liz Jones (Daughter of Dan and Barb Fronczak)

Robert Sieving (Brother of Chuck Sieving)

Lisa Piscola (Friend of Jann Daniels)

Emily Saunders

Recent prayer requests received within the past 3 weeks:

December 7

Emily Saunders

Jenn Pitts (Daughter of Judy Kazak)

December 14

Christen (Daughter of Myrta Holden)

Aiden Wren

December 21

Rich Balch

Happy Birthday

Attendance at Prince of Peace

		Date	Online	In Person	Total
12/01 Jackson Pogachar	12/11 Jann Daniels	12/14/2025	47	120	167
12/01 Taylor Reisner	12/13 Ian Comnick	12/07/2025	21	171	192
12/01 Ruth Ann Whitbeck	12/13 Ruth Mortensen				
12/02 Charlie Koch	12/16 Joe Rowe	11/30/2025	63	163	226
12/02 Dolph Rolik	12/18 Bud Zanders	11/23/2025	33	203	236
12/05 Landon Beard	12/18 Justice Strieter				
12/06 Franklin Kraps	12/18 Matthew Roman				
12/07 Craig Juhn	12/20 Allison Peluso				
12/08 Brian Gilbert	12/21 Diane Schlegel				
12/08 Christie Wiedt	12/21 Matthew Wenham				
12/09 Marge Jaracz	12/23 Jim Dickey IV				
12/10 Laurel Covell	12/24 Uwe Susemihl				
12/10 Lora Robinholt	12/26 Owen Marple				
12/10 Monica Dragony	12/29 Roger Hauser				
	12/31 Amy Hrouda				
	12/31 Russ Bauknecht				



- 12/11 John & Judy Cuciak
- 12/15 Kirk & Kate Hartung
- 12/17 Dave & Carol Novotny
- 12/19 Diane & Walter Diekroger
- 12/28 Lowell & Jane Dillon
- 12/29 Marge & Jim Jaracz
- 12/30 Robert & Mary Mayer



Second Harvest

The requested items for December are:
Cereal, Applesauce & Canned Soups

Giving Data

Operating Giving Report	YTD	AVG/Week
Total Giving as of Nov. 30th, 2025:	\$453,798	\$9,454
% of Annual 2025 Budget Received to Date:	91%	
Remaining Giving to meet 2025 budget	\$45,202	\$11,300
We need \$45,000 in December to reach budget!		
<i>Please give abundantly & Cheerfully!</i>		
Total Expenses Incurred through 11/30/25:	\$468,173	\$9,753



Follow Us!

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Mark Givens, Church Council President
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Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9-3

28455 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake, Ohio 44145
440/871-5565 • www.princeofpeacewestlake.org

Sunday Worship Services
9:00 am & 11:00 am in person.
Livestream

Christian Education - Sundays 10-10:50 am

Adult supervised child care for children 5 and under is offered for both services and during

the Christian Education hour between services.