



PEACE CONNECTIONS
January 12, 2022

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

Ministry Leaders

Please note that copies of Annual Reports are due on **Friday, January 21, 2022**. Please send a digital copy to Megan: popw.officemanager@gmail.com

Prince of Peace Annual Meeting, Sunday, February 6, 2022

The Prince of Peace Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 6, 2022 at 10:10 am in the Fellowship Hall. Please plan to attend.



Pastor's Blog ~ 'Along the Way'

If you haven't yet read Pr Charlie's new blog, 'Along the Way', take a look on our website! This daily blog will provide an opportunity to join Pr. Charlie in reading scripture, sharing a reflection, and offering a short prayer.

Please feel free to share them with others, and your comments and insights are welcome. You can email Pr. Charlie at pccpopwestlake@gmail.com any time.

Using the Revised Common Lectionary, the week's devotions will look like this:

- Monday – Old Testament Lesson
- Tuesday – Psalm
- Wednesday – Song or Hymn or Video
- Thursday – Epistle Lesson
- Friday - Gospel Lesson
- Saturday – Song or Hymn or Video
- Sunday – An invitation to join us for worship



The blog is now available on our website. Check it out now! [Pastor's Blog](#)

Sunday Livestream Worship Services at 9 am & 11 am



On Sundays, you can worship with us online! Please visit our [website](#) where we will Livestream our Sunday Worship Services at 9:00 am and 11:00 am.



January

January 12-23, 2022

Wednesday, January 12
10:00 am Organ Practice
2:00 pm Book & Bible Studies/CR

Thursday, January 13
Sexton Day Off

Friday, January 14
Pr. Charlie Day Off

Saturday, January 15
2:00 pm Organ Practice

Sunday, January 16
9 & 11 am In Person Worship Service
10:10 am Christian Education
9 & 11:00 am [Livestream](#)
6:00 pm Council Meeting

Monday, January 17
10:00 am Staff Meeting/CR
1:00 pm Comfort Quilters/FH
2:00 pm Organ Practice
7 pm Bible Study - All are welcome!

Tuesday, January 18
12:00 pm POP Bridge Group
7:00 pm CrossFire Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 19
10:00 am Organ Practice
2:00 pm Book & Bible Studies/CR

Thursday, January 20
Sexton Day Off

Friday, January 21
Pr. Charlie Day Off

Saturday, January 22
2:00 pm Organ Practice

Sunday, January 23
9 & 11 am In Person Worship Service
10:00 am Gospel Study/CR
10:10 am Christian Education
9 & 11:00 am [Livestream](#)

Online Giving



Your generous online offering allows us to preach the gospel, make disciples, and support others in our community who need help. As a community, we are grateful for one another's loving support.

[ONLINE GIVING](#)

Second Harvest Food Bank



For the months of **January-March** requested items are Canned Beef Stew and Canned Vegetables. The collection containers are located as you enter the Education Wing. Thank you!

Women In Transition

There is a great need for umbrellas, along with new socks, gloves, toiletries, hygiene products and underwear.

Items can be dropped off at the donation station. Sorry, but we are not accepting other clothing donations at this time. Thank you! Questions, please contact Jan Filkill 440/871-6673.



**Young at Heart
Luncheon**

Young at Heart

Young at Heart will be temporarily suspended due to the rise in Covid cases. Thank you!

Questions, please see Kathy Kettler.

Contemporary Worship Music

If you are joining us this Sunday for the 9 am Contemporary service, below are the songs we will be singing. The music can be found on YouTube. See you then!

*When We Pray
Your Grace is Enough
New Wine
All the People Said Amen*



Pick Up Your 2022 Offering Envelopes

Giving Envelopes for 2022 are available for pick up. Every household will have a packet.

The giving envelopes will be arranged alphabetically based on last name. If you do not see a packet, please notify the office and one will be provided. Thank you.

Donations for the 2021 tax year must be given to the church no later than December 31, 2021.



Love, INC

Monthly Sponsors Needed! Consider becoming a Love INC sponsor for 2022.



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

Our congregation has found a helpful way to meet the needs of those who come to our door for assistance through Love, INC. This ministry is not funded through our budget rather it comes from those of you who have chosen to sponsor a month with \$125. Individuals or ministry groups are encouraged to prayerfully consider sponsoring. May God bless this cooperative effort as we work to transform lives In the Name of Christ.

To sign up for 2022, please send an email to popw.officemanager@gmail.com with Love Inc in the subject line.

Women In Transition

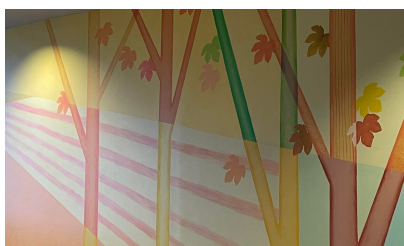
Chopping for Change

LMM has been awarded \$900,000 in federal funds for our Chopping for Change program! We're excited to continue to do this important work and to continue to reduce recidivism in our community. Special thank you to Senator Rob Portman for his work around the Second Chance Act.

[Read full article](#)



An innovative partnership between LMM, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, and the Cuyahoga County Office of Re-Entry, the "Chopping for Change" program provides significant work experience and training for women in the criminal justice system and that empowers them to re-join the labor force.



POP Nursery

Due to the increase of COVID cases in our area, the opening of the nursery will be delayed until further notice. We hope to provide this opportunity for families again soon.

Blood Pressure Screening Returns!

Blood pressure screenings will resume on **Sunday, February 13, 2022** by Prince of Peace member and registered nurse, Deb Gibbons. Blood Pressure Screenings are from 10-11:00 a.m.



Volunteer Registered Nurses Are Needed to assist with a monthly Blood Pressure Screening service. Screenings are held on the First Sunday each month (exception is a holiday weekend, moved to the following Sunday) from 10:00 am - 11:00 am. All equipment and materials are provided. Currently we have 3 RN's and would like to add additional RN's to our rotation. Please contact Christie Wiedt BSN, RN if you are interested. christiesbn@aol.com or 440-773-8669



Blood Drives are Back 2022

Join us as we help the support Red Cross donation drives. The first drive of 2022 will start on January 23rd 8am-2pm. Sign up online at redcrossblood.org



Get on Board and Follow Us!

Twitter@youth_of_pop ~ Facebook@poplutheranyouth
For more information, visit our website: www.princeofpeacewestlake.org/youth
email: poplutheranyouth@gmail.com

General Endowment Fund - Thank You!

A big THANK YOU from the Endowment Committee for your cash contributions to match our grants of up to \$2,500. These gifts allow us to share in the mission of these organizations during these continuing trying times.

Second Harvest Food Bank received \$2,645.05 from our members along with our grant for a total of \$5,145.05 being forwarded to them.

Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry (LMM) received \$2,350 plus the fair market value of the boots, socks, etc. meeting our matching grant for a total of \$4,850 in checks being forwarded to them.

Gifts made to our General Endowment Fund by our members enable us to make grants each year to worthwhile endeavors not in the church operating budget that are from 4% to 6% of the average of the funds last twelve quarters valuation.

In 2021 we committed grants of \$11,000. The Endowment Committee looks forward to making additional grants to help fulfill Christ's mission in 2022. Grant request forms can be found on the church website. Happy New Year!



Endowments



Altar Flowers

Thanks to all who donate flowers to grace our altar. There are openings to sponsor flowers in the upcoming weeks.

Sponsors may take the flowers home following the late service that day, otherwise, the staff will deliver the flowers when making visits to members.

Mitten Tree Thank You!

I would like to sincerely THANK YOU for the outpouring of love you have showed to the teachers and students of Scranton School!

An amazing amount of school supplies were collected this year! This helped both the students and the teachers (who would have had to spent their own money).

The socks, snacks and gift cards that were collected for God's Work Our Hands we're a huge hit. The socks and snacks were given directly to the teachers for their students. The Gift Cards and cash were given to the school for the "Caught Being Good" behavior incentive program. The teachers nominate students who were "caught" being Safe, Respectful or Responsible and they are entered into a weekly drawing.

The Mitten Tree blessed 54 children with amazing gifts! Without your generosity these kiddos would have received very little for Christmas. The children, and especially their parents were very thankful!

So many coats, hats mittens underwear and socks were donated this year. It truly warms my heart to see the children wearing the coats and beautiful hats donated (and made) by our POP family!

The five blankets made by our Sunday School children were given to two students who were suddenly homeless and to children who lost everything (including twin siblings) in a fire.

The \$900 from the Endowment Committee was split between 45 \$10 gift cards for our 8th graders (who were too old for a Toys for Tots gift) and six \$75 Walmart gift cards. The gift cards were then given to six "mitten tree" families to help them buy a nice Christmas dinner. An additional \$200 remaining from last year was used to purchase Giant Eagle gift cards for the family who lost their home in a fire.

As I affectionally tell my students, "pat yourselves on the back"! Your generosity has brought smiles to so many children and their families!

I am very proud to know you and to be a member of such a kind, caring church!

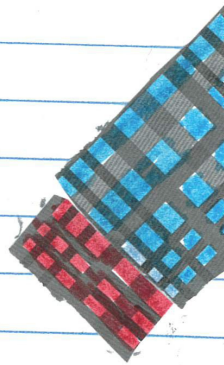
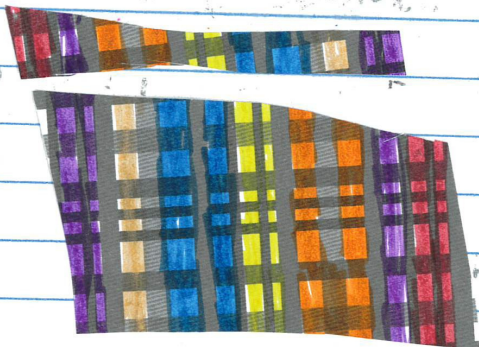
God Bless You, Diane Merhaut



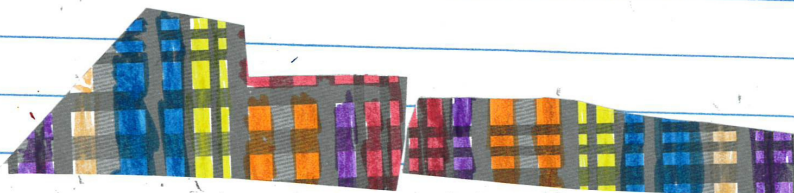
A Few Thank You's from Scranton PreK-8 School Students!

From: Zavier Scranton Room 212

Hi my name is Zavier, and I am 10 years old. Thank you for donating money to Scranton. You're really cool God bless you. I'm grateful for your help. All of my friends and teachers are really happy. Good luck Will come back to you, and I know it will. You will be in our prayers.



From: Scranton, To: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church.



A Few Thank You's from Scranton PreK-8 School Students!



Thank you
for your thoughtful
gifts!



Is God's Kingdom Hidden from You?

The more I learn, the more, it seems, I have yet to learn. Or something like that. I have heard that said in several different ways. Just when I thought I had my faith figured out, I realize I still have much more to learn, understand and appreciate.

I was speaking with a friend the other day, and he told me that he had just learned yet another faith lesson. He met a young single mother and her son, who were actually living out of her old car while she was waiting to start her new job in the next week. He is a Christian and he knew that he needed to help, so he gave the young woman \$50. She thanked him profusely, and as she was driving away, he thought to himself, "My wife and I have two empty bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs, and I should have offered their use until the young woman got back on her feet." He looked at me, then he added, "You know, I was blind to God's Kingdom."

I was shocked. I have never looked at God's Kingdom that way. I have always thought, as a Christian, that God's Kingdom was waiting for me. My friend explained to me that I was wrong. The Kingdom of God is here, now, all around us, but it is missed by most people and remains hidden. He went on to explain that it was hidden from him in that moment when he could have helped the young woman more than he did. He told me that we can experience the Kingdom of God right here and now by investing in the lives of other people. When we don't recognize those opportunities or take those opportunities to help others, the Kingdom of God remains hidden and we miss the joy that it brings.

Jesus told the disciples that the two greatest commandments are to love the lord with all your heart and mind and to love your neighbor as yourself. When we really do that, we can experience the Kingdom of God and its joy. Well, how should we start? We start by investing our time, the talents we have, and our treasures in helping others, in being active in our church, and by donating to the church and Christian charities. In Matthew 6:21 Jesus says, "*For where your treasure is, there your heart will also be.*"

Now, here is the key point, Jesus doesn't say where your heart is, there your treasure will be. He says it the other way around. Wow! I had just learned an important lesson. It all starts with a mindset of Stewardship. It is so easy to understand, but so hard to accept. We can all make 2022 a year where we grow in experiencing the Kingdom of God by investing in our souls, in our eternity. My friends, make stewardship a priority in 2022. Don't let the Kingdom of God remain hidden.

Dick Hardy
Profile Reporter



December 2021 Health and Safety Update

COVID-19 UPDATE

Dear Members and Friends of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church:

On December 9, our Health and Safety Team gathered once again together with council president and vice president Jim Dickey and Sally Balch. As has been our practice, we discussed the current issues surrounding the COVID19 Pandemic. It is a confusing and difficult time right now. Vaccinations are available for more and more, as well as boosters. At the same time, another surge and variant arise.

With all this, we hold out hope that things will get better in the new year. Let's continue what we are doing, and we will get through this together.

We share again that our two guiding principles at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church remain the same:

1. To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament, carrying out God's mission as God leads.
2. To be mindful of the health and safety of all.

We will continue with our guidelines as listed below.

In addition to that, we will move forward on these two things:

1. Starting January 9, the nursery will be opened once again during worship services. All nursery attendants will be fully vaccinated and masked. Sanitation of the area will be done after each service, hand sanitizer, wipes and other cleaning items will be available.
2. The adult choir will begin again in January. The choir will be required to sing with masks for now, and all choir members must be fully vaccinated to participate. Singing masks will be provided to all participants.

While this is not back to normal, these are steps in the right direction.

We will continue to monitor the CDC guidelines, and we plan to meet again in January review where things stand in our community.

So for right now, things remain the same. We continue to encourage the following:

- If you are able to do so, get vaccinated. We ask that all our volunteers and staff are vaccinated to ensure their health and well-being as well as those they serve. We encourage you to do the same.
- If a booster shot is recommended for you, consider that as another level of safety.
- Get a flu shot. Dave Covell suggests ANY time is a good time to get the flu shot. That being said, you may consider getting your shot in early November, as it will provide good defense against the flu during the holiday season and into the new year.
- Masks are recommended for the times we gather in close quarters with each other. That includes the sanctuary.
- If you are sick, stay home!
- Online options are available for worship and many of the education offerings to provide participation remotely.

Thank you for your diligence and care for your neighbor.

If you have any questions or comments, please let us know.

Health And Safety Team

- Judy Splawski, MD
- Cynthia Strieter, MD
- Dave Covell, Lorain County Health Commissioner
- Mark Givens, Church Council Member
- Pastor Charlie Woodward

Prayer Concerns

Please join us in praying for members and friends with recent needs: Betsy (daughter of John Cuciak), James Arrigo, Dr. Phil Blitz (father of Jann Daniels), Cathy Blitz (sister-in-law of Jann Daniels), Joanne Cacciatore (mother of Chrissy Cacciatore Frey), Family of Irma Cronenwett (mother of Julie Smith), William Franz (son of Susan and Paul Franz), Gibbons Family, Family of Mark Givens, Joan Link (friend of Lynne Knoll), Judith Santora (friend of Lia Staaf), Mark Sloan, Rich Woodward (brother of Pr. Charlie). **Also, we pray for chronic, long-term care needs:** Charlotte (gr. granddaughter of Jan Schoch), Paul (brother of Diane Merhaut), Ren (granddaughter of Linda Baumbach), Stephanie Bailey (niece of Mary Sue Claus), Cathy Blitz (sister-in-law of Jann Daniels), Tony Cacciatore, Don Chismar, Marcia Drysdale (friend of Jane Dillon), Matthew Gilbride, Denny Giza (friend of Ellie Sanow), Chris Henry (nephew of Lisa Arrigo), Dawn Higgins (neighbor of Fran Molnar), Gale Johnson (friend of Kathy Kettler), Deanne Lahner (niece of Mary Sue Claus), Pat Merhaut (step grandmother of Shawn Merhaut), Angela Missig (daughter of Gloria Starr), Bob Mociulewski and wife, Steve Park (cousin of Deb Gibbons), Jenn Pitts (daughter of Judy Kazak), Lois Reichert, Greg Rolitsky (friend of Mary Sue and Ron Claus), Pam Rotella. **Please notify the office of prayer concerns. These names will be shared with our prayer chain ministry & remain on our prayer list during Sunday worship for 3 weeks.**

Giving Report

Operating Giving through November 30, 2021	\$316,272
Percent of Annual Budget Received	90%
Remaining Goal	\$ 33,728

Attendance at Prince of Peace

Date	Online	In Person	Total
01/09/2022	56	99	155
01/02/2022	135	78	213
12/26/2021	111	39	150
12/24/2021	214	215	429

As of 12/19/21 we still need \$15,000 to reach our goal.

January 16, 2022 Sunday Readings:

First Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10
 Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
 Gospel Reading: John 2:1-11

Happy Birthday

01/12 Isaiah Comnick
 01/13 Jessica Carimi
 01/14 Pierce Gleespen
 01/17 Michelle Goggin
 01/17 James Lehman
 01/19 Emma Andrus
 01/19 Don Miller
 01/21 Beth Comnick
 01/23 Jane Wyant

Prince of Peace Staff

Pastor Charlie Woodward
 pcpopwestlake@gmail.com

James & Lisa Arrigo, Sextons
 jamespopwestlake@gmail.com

Beverly Braun, Christian Education Coordinator
 christianeducation.pop@gmail.com

Ian Faleer, Chancel Choir Director
 ifaleer@gmail.com

Megan Harber, Church Administrator
 popw.officemanage@gmail.com

Mary Humer, Marketing/Communications Manager
 princeofpeacewestlake@gmail.com

Hilary Lucas, Youth Director
 poplutheranyouth@gmail.com

Cindy Strieter, Contemporary Music Director
 redguitar626@gmail.com

Ben Ubienski, Sound Technician

Ruth Williams, Organist
 mrsruthwilliams@yahoo.com

James Dickey, IV, Church Council President
 jmdickeyiv@gmail.com

Office Hours

Monday and Friday 10 am-3 pm; Sunday 8:30-11:30 am

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 am

Child Care - Currently suspended due to Covid.

