



January 24th, 2025

## PEACE CONNECTION

Friday January 24th  
Pastor Charlie's Day Off  
12:30 pm Young at Heart Lunch

Saturday January 25th  
2:00 pm Organ Practice

Sunday January 26th  
Red Cross Blood Drive 8:00 am to 3:30 pm  
In Person Worship 9 & 11 am  
10:00 am Christian Education  
10:00 am New Member Class

Monday January 27th  
10:00 am Staff Meeting  
2:00 pm Organ Practice  
7:00 pm SOAP Bible Study

Tuesday January 28th  
6:15 pm CrossFire Rehearsal

Wednesday January 29th  
2:00 pm Book & Bible Study with Pastor Charlie

Thursday January 30th  
Sexton's Day Off  
11:00 am FLO  
3:00 pm Organ Practice  
7:30 pm Choir Practice

Friday January 31st  
Pastor Charlie's Day Off

Saturday February 1st  
2:00 pm Organ Practice

Sunday February 2nd  
9 & 11 In Person Worship  
10:00 am Blood Pressure Screening  
10:00 am Christian Education  
10:00 am New Member Class

Monday February 3rd  
10:00 am Staff Meeting  
1:00 pm Comfort Quilters  
2:00 pm Organ Practice  
7:00 pm SOAP Bible Study

Tuesday February 4th  
1:30 pm Watercolor Class with Mel  
6:15 pm CrossFire Rehearsal

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

### Hope for a Cure with Claire

I'm thrilled to announce my participation in The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Student Visionaries of the Year campaign. This 7-week philanthropic competition empowers high school leaders to make a real difference in the fight against cancer. This is a cause close to my heart; blood cancer, especially leukemia, is the most prevalent form of cancer diagnosed in children and young adults. Sadly, I've experienced this loss firsthand, losing my paternal grandmother, Bonnie, in 2016 at the age of 67, and my maternal grandmother in 2023, just 13 days after her diagnosis and her 79th birthday. My team's fundraising goal is \$50,000, running from January 17th to March 8th. I'm personally committed to raising \$5,000 towards this important cause. I can't do it alone – I need your support! To learn more and please consider donating through my personal fundraising page: <https://bit.ly/clairehopes4acureLLS>

- Claire Wenham

### Greece Presentation

Come and hear the stories and see the sites from our trip to Greece. We will have two offerings:

The first on Wednesday, January 29th from Noon to 2 pm in the Fellowship Hall. a potluck lunch and presentation (bring a dish and/or a salad or dessert to share)

The second will be on Wednesday, January 29th at 7 pm - 8:30 pm - Presentation only - in the sanctuary!

### New Member Classes

New member classes January 26 and February 2 at 9 am in the charter room.

Sign Up!

New Members will be recognized on Sunday, February 9 at both services.

# Save the DATE(S)

On February 2nd Susie Asadorian, Chapter President of Sleep in Heavenly Peace Cuyahoga West will be at both services to speak to us about their organization. She, and members of her team, will tell us about this wonderful organization and explain how POP can help them give children in need a wonderful, cozy night's sleep.

During February and March (and possibly ongoing) we will be collecting new childrens' twin bedding sets, pillows and of course funds for this project. This should be a very meaningful Lenten project.

June 7th is the date Prince of Peace is scheduled to go to the SHP's warehouse (Brook Park) to build the beds. This is a project for the WHOLE family! According to Susie "a build should be in the neighborhood of 30-40 people, although a little less or more is fine. Kids are welcome, but only children 12 and up are permitted to use sanders and drills."

If you haven't had a chance to please watch these YouTube links about SHP.

[https://youtu.be/7boDpFH\\_tRc?si=T8lOv1JQ6uAStSjZ](https://youtu.be/7boDpFH_tRc?si=T8lOv1JQ6uAStSjZ)

<https://youtu.be/KcbLNOQEnUQ?si=4fEkF1BHomBULpfY>

If you have any questions, please call Diane Merhaut.



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Questions? Contact Dale & Ruth Mortensen  
[d.r.mortensen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:d.r.mortensen@sbcglobal.net) 440-734-6312

*Meals and side dishes will be catered by local Honeybaked Ham and Ruby Tuesday Restaurants. Registration is \$100 per couple. Pre-registration is required to secure your room and meal reservations – don't miss out!*



January 27, 2025

Dear Members of Prince of Peace,  
You are invited to our annual congregational meeting scheduled for

**Sunday, February 9th from 10:15 am – 10:50 am in the Sanctuary.**

During the meeting, we will

- Review 2024.
- Preview 2025.
- Elect council and endowment committee members.
- Have an open discussion.

The 2024 annual report will be available for review on our website ([www.princeofpeacewestlake.org](http://www.princeofpeacewestlake.org)) by Monday, February 3rd. Please contact the church office if you require a hard copy or want one emailed to you.

On behalf of the Church Council, I would like to thank everyone for your continued support of Prince of Peace. We are in a good financial position and have wonderful opportunities to continue to share the Good News and expand our mission. We look forward to 2025 and beyond with exciting opportunities to Grow in Faith, Serve with Love, and Live in Peace.

Happy New Year!

Dave Covell  
Council President  
Email: [thecovells@gmail.com](mailto:thecovells@gmail.com)

**Grow in Faith, Serve with Love, Live in Peace**

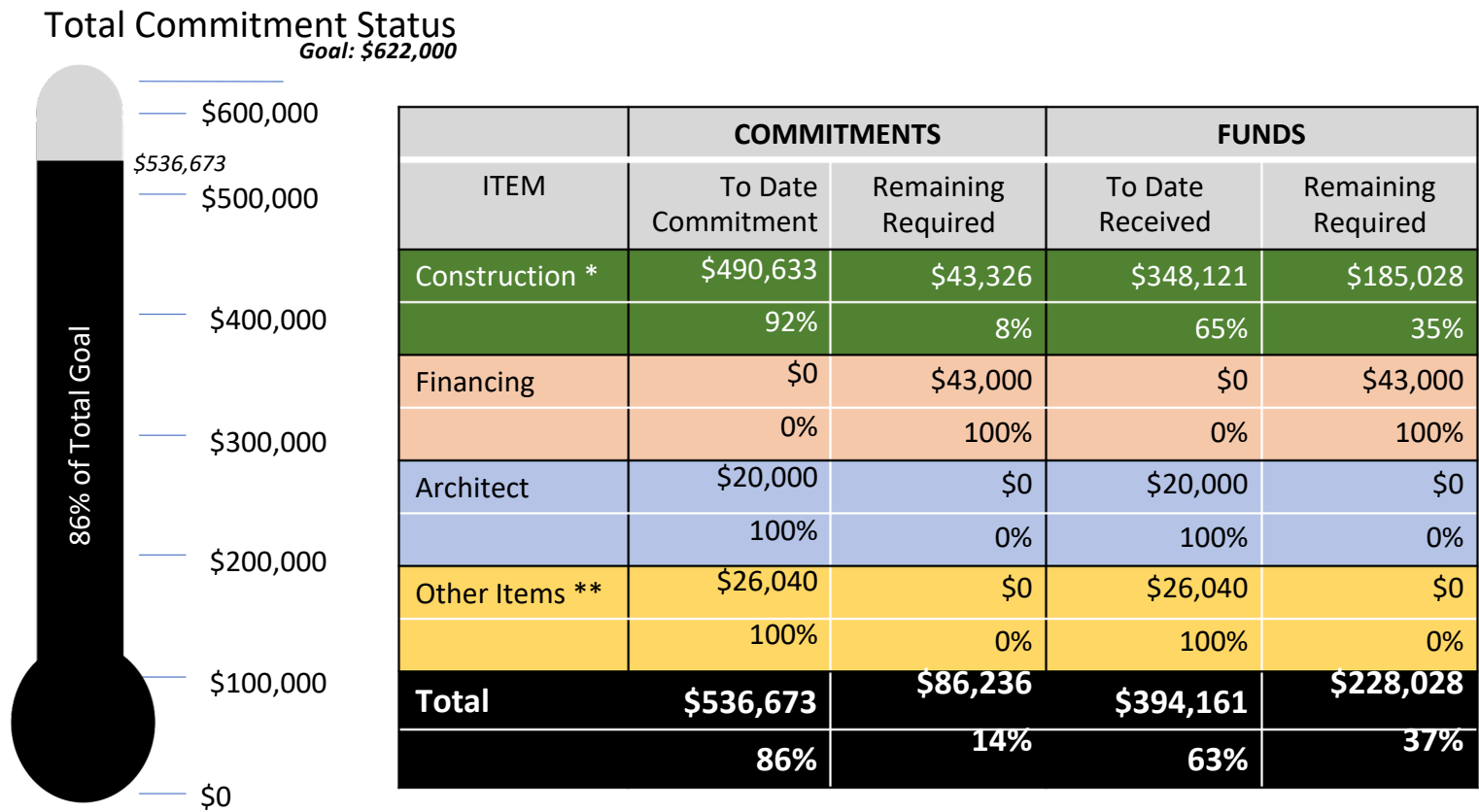
Peace Pavilion Capital Campaign Plus  
Status as of January 2, 2025

Architect = \$20,000

Construction Cost\* = \$533,149

Financing Cost = \$43,000

Other Items \* = \$26,040



Note: Commitment Status includes “silent” commitments

\* Includes change orders. \*\* Other items include \$14,000 for Worship & Music (funding by W&M / Ilene Hardy Memorial Fund), \$8,800 for Benches (“fund a bench”), \$3,240 for Outdoor Altar (funded by Altar Guild). Additional landscaping option being developed and additional funding from base landscaping not included.

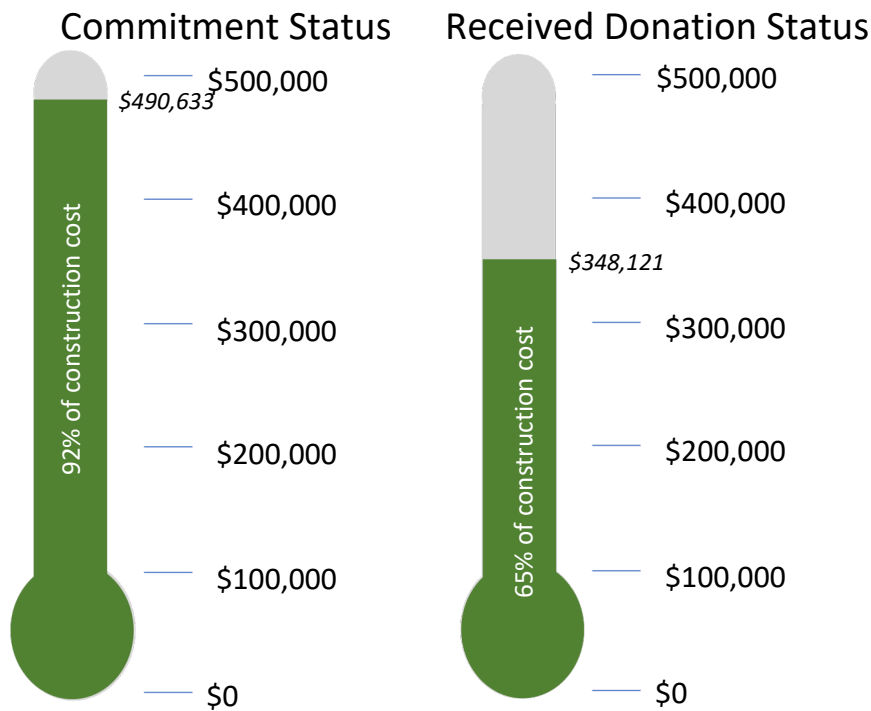
Thank you to all who have donated their time, talents, and treasure to the Peace Pavilion in 2024! We are humbled and grateful for your generosity and commitment to the ministry and mission of Prince of Peace. We are happy to report that we have received commitments for 92% of the construction cost and 86% of the total project costs. We have received donations for 65% of the total construction cost through the end of 2024. Our Peace Pavilion will be ready for Spring and we are eagerly planning our dedication worship. In 2025, our focus will be on the utilization of our new facility as well as continuing to raise remaining funds including our financing and landscaping costs. More work to do, but THANK YOU for your contributions to date and consideration in the future.



# Peace Pavilion Capital Campaign – Construction Cost Only

## Status as of January 2, 2025

Construction Cost\* = \$533,149



Note: Commitment Status includes “silent” commitments

\* Includes change orders.

Donor Level	3 Year Commitment	Number of Pledged Donors
Buckeye	\$50,000+	2
Oak	\$25,000 - \$50,000	5
Maple	\$10,000 - \$25,000	7
Rose	\$5,000 - \$10,000	10
Tulip	\$3,000 - \$5,000	8
Daisy	\$1,000 - \$3,000	25





**FRIDAY MARCH 7TH  
GAME STARTS @ 7PM**

**Rocket Mortgage Field House**

Sign up by January 1st  
for a chance to sit on  
the bench during  
player practice and  
meet players!

**1-2-3 NIGHT**

\$1 Sodas

\$2 Hot Dogs

\$3 LaBatt Blue Beers

***ALL CONGREGATION MEMBERS WELCOME***

***SIGN UP SHEET IN FRONT OF CHRISTIAN ED OFFICE***

\*Get your water bottle activity sticker at the game!





*Matthew 8:28-9:1*

*Jesus Heals the Gadarene Demoniacs*

28 When he came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demoniacs coming out of the tombs met him. They were so fierce that no one could pass that way. 29 Suddenly they shouted, "What have you to do with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" 30 Now a large herd of swine was feeding at some distance from them. 31 The demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us into the herd of swine." 32 And he said to them, "Go!" So they came out and entered the swine; and suddenly, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and perished in the water. 33 The swineherds ran off, and on going into the town, they told the whole story about what had happened to the demoniacs. 34 Then the whole town came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood.

9:1 And after getting into a boat he crossed the sea and came to his own town.

*This, of course, is the first reference in scripture to deviled ham! (Insert rim shot here!).*

*Did you know that it is considered bad luck to mention pigs on a boat? That is what I have heard. And its origin is based on this lesson.*

*Okay, enough trivia and jokes for the day. A note about today's lesson.*

*Jesus is crossing over the Sea of Galilee to the country of the Gadarenes, which means that he's not just crossing the sea, he's also crossing boundaries. Because the country of the Gadarenes is the land of Gentiles, and no self-respecting Jewish rabbi would be taking his band of followers there.*

*Once on land, he is encountered — many would say "accosted" — by a man possessed by an unclean spirit. On top of that, this young man no longer abides among the living in the local town but rather dwells among the dead in the tombs. Tombs, we should note, are another place considered ritually unclean. All of which means that Jesus, the Jewish itinerant rabbi proclaiming the coming kingdom of God, goes to an unclean land to meet a man possessed by an unclean spirit living in an unclean place.*

*This is, in short, the very last place Jesus should be.*

*Which, when you think about it, is where God usually shows up. At our moments of profound doubt, grief, loss, and defeat. And — and this is the one that often surprises us — among those who may to this point have little interest in, let alone a relationship with, God.*

*Note that after this encounter, Jesus sails back home again. Which may mean that the whole trek across a stormy sea and turbulent run in with townspeople distraught by their loss of livestock and frightened by the power of this rabbi was all in order to meet this unclean man possessed by an unclean spirit living in an unclean and forsaken environment.*

*So what does this mean? Simply this - there is absolutely nowhere God is not willing to go to reach and free and sustain and heal those who are broken and despairing. There is no place on earth that is God-forsaken. Moreover, and more importantly, there is no person that is God-forsaken. Unclean. Outcast. Abandoned. Unpopular. Incarcerated. Unbeliever. No one is left out.*

*If you ever think you are beyond God's reach, God's embrace, God's love, think again.*

*Psalms 139:7-12 (The Message)*

7-12 *Is there anyplace I can go to avoid your Spirit?*

*to be out of your sight?*

*If I climb to the sky, you're there!*

*If I go underground, you're there!*

*If I flew on morning's wings*

*to the far western horizon,*

*You'd find me in a minute—*

*you're already there waiting!*

*Then I said to myself, "Oh, he even sees me in the dark!"*

*At night I'm immersed in the light!"*

*It's a fact: darkness isn't dark to you;*

*night and day, darkness and light, they're all the same to you.*

*One more reassurance - John 3:16-17*

*Jesus said, 16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.*

*17 "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*

*Let us pray: Almighty God, your love knows no bounds. Thank you for your love for all you have made. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen*

# Profile Story

# CHRISTOPHER SMITH



Christopher was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was raised generally in Philly and its surrounding suburbs. He has experienced South Philly and surrounding suburbs of upper Darby, Lansdowne and Cheltenham. Christopher attended Cheltenham high school. He is continuing his education at Cleveland State University majoring in Electrical Engineering.

He has 1 brother and 1 sister. Christopher met his spouse while they were attending Marietta College. His job history includes being a Naval Reservist. Their mission is maintaining the freedom of the seas both at home and abroad. We owe Christopher and all those who serve a Big Thank You for the sacrifices they make to keep our country safe!

He has experience in other areas working as a retail clothing branch manager, personal banker, and most recently working in the electrical engineering field to develop his technical abilities. Christopher joined Prince of Peace in 2024, after moving to Ohio and finding it close to his vicinity.

Christopher has hobbies and interests to enjoy in his free time. Boxing and fitness in general provide a foundation for health. He also loves to go to music venues with his wife, occasionally. Something that people may not know about him is that Christopher was baptized in 2023 right before moving to Ohio. This conscious decision to follow Christ signifies a personal commitment to his Faith!

I'm glad to have met Christopher and look forward to seeing him at services. Please be prepared for a firm handshake during the Sharing of The Peace, you can feel his enthusiasm and dedication shine through!

By Tom Robinholt : Profile Reporter





**Sunday, January 26, 2024**

**Prayer Request - Long Term**

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

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Patty Doran	Sister-in-law of Chuck Sieving
Dawn Higgins	Neighbor of Fran Molnar
Jayne Kramic	Friend of Kathy McCollum
Angela Missig	Daughter of Gloria Starr
Jenn Pitts	Daughter of Judy Kazak
Pam Rotella	
Bill Sweeny	
Robert Sieving	Friend of Kathy McCollum
Al Tielke	Brother of Chuck Sieving
Chris Sikora	
Kathy and Tim Needham	
Cynthia Flores	
Ron Peckham	
Monica Doptis	Dan and Barb Fronczak's grandchild
Beverly Newman	Friend of Jane and Lowell Dillon

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**Recent prayer requests received within the past 3 weeks:**

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January 12	Elayna Gros Darell Doossis (Mike Piskunoff's friend)
January 19	Monica Doptis (Barb & Dan Fronczak's grandchild) Ramune Balog Dorner (Diane Merhaut's friend) Angela Missig (Gloria Starr's daughter)
January 26	

## Happy Birthday

11/3 Ashley Alspach  
1/3 Chris Hallowell  
1/3 Noah Katrinczak  
1/5 Jan Filkill  
1/6 James Braun Sr.  
1/7 Jordyn Jagels  
1/8 Mara Lipschutz  
1/10 Audrey Swanson  
1/10 Tony Perez  
1/11 Alex Babinski  
1/12 Isaiah Comnick  
1/13 Jessica Carimi  
1/14 Pierce Gleespen  
1/17 James Lehman  
1/17 Michelle Goggin  
1/19 Emma Andrus

1/19 Don Miler  
1/21 Beth Comnick  
1/21 Marie Witt  
1/23 Jane Wyant  
1/25 Darlene Roman  
1/25 Michael Pietraroia  
1/26 Barb Fronczak  
1/27 Dave Novotny  
1/27 Suzann Creech\   
1/27 PhilSprague  
1/28 Patty Beard  
1/29 Molly Fortuna  
1/29 Nicholas Hrouda  
1/31 Jim Heimbuch

<u>Date</u>	<u>Online</u>	<u>In Person</u>	<u>Total</u>
01/19/2025	57	178	235
01/12/2025	29	137	166
01/05/2025	48	110	158
12/29/2024	25	100	125



1/3 Jeff & Amy Babinski

## Prince of Peace Staff

Pastor Charlie Woodward  
pcpopwestlake@gmail.com

James & Lisa Arrigo, Sextons  
jamespopwestlake@gmail.com

Brandon Bilek, Sound Technician  
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Beverly Braun, Christian Education Coordinator  
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Hailey Desmond, Marketing/Communications  
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Ian Faleer, Contemporary Music Director  
& Chancel Choir Director  
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Wendy Hansen, Office Administrator  
princeofpeacewestlake@gmail.com

Hilary Lucas, Youth Director  
poplutheranyouth@gmail.com



Ruth Williams, Organist  
mrsruthwilliams@yahoo.com

Dave Covell, Church Council President  
thecovells@gmail.com

### 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.

## Second Harvest

The requested items for January are:

Canned Beef Stew, Beans, Fruits & Vegetables

## Giving Data

<u>Operating Giving Report</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>AVG/Week</u>
Total Giving as of Dec. 31st, 2024:	\$506,754	\$9,745.27
% of Annual 2024 Budget Received to Date:	104%	
Total ministry expenses incurred in 2024	\$485,476	\$9,336.07
<b>Projected Surplus for 2024:</b>	<b>\$21,278</b>	

*Thank you for your abundant giving in 2024!!*



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