



December 20th, 2024

# PEACE CONNECTION

Friday December 20th  
Pastor Charlie's Day Off

Saturday December 21st  
2:00 pm Organ Practice

Sunday December 22nd  
9 & 11 am In Person Worship  
10:00 am Happy Birthday Jesus Party  
10:00 am Christian Education

Monday December 23rd  
10:00 am Staff Meeting  
2:00 pm Organ Practice  
7:00 pm SOAP Bible Study

Tuesday December 24th  
3:00 pm Children's Service  
6:00 pm Contemporary Service  
9:00 pm Traditional Service

Wednesday December 25th  
Merry Christmas!

Thursday December 26th  
Sexton's Day Off  
3:00 pm Organ Practice

Friday December 27th  
Pastor Charlie's Day Off

Saturday December 28th  
2:00 pm Organ Practice

Sunday December 29th  
**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY!**  
9 & 11 am Worship

Monday December 30th  
10:00 am Staff Meeting  
2:00 pm Organ Practice  
7:00 pm SOAP Bible Study

Tuesday December 31st  
Happy New Years Eve!

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



## Christmas Cheers

Join us for our 2nd annual Sisters In Spirit (SIS) and Buds and Suds Christmas Toast. Friday, December 27th 5 PM - 9PM. Toast around 6:30 PM.

We will meet at:  
Between the Bun  
34445 Center Ridge Rd  
North Ridgeville, OH 44039

## Young at Heart

Please join us on Friday, January 24th at 12:30 pm. We will be enjoying good food and fellowship at BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse, located at 25779 Brookpark Rd. in North Olmsted. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the lower lobby. Questions, contact Kathy Kettler at (440)734-6511.

## Please join us!

**December 22**

- Happy Birthday Jesus Party between services – Sunday School

Join us on December 24th, for our Christmas Eve Services! All are welcome!

- Children's Service 3 pm
- Contemporary Service 6 pm
- Traditional Service 9 pm



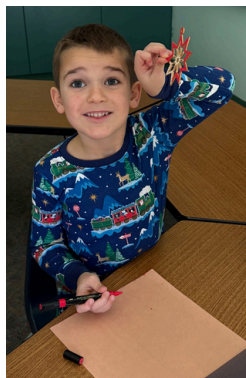


# Christmas Pageant



We love seeing our PoP youth and CE tell the Christmas story!

## Parents Day Out!



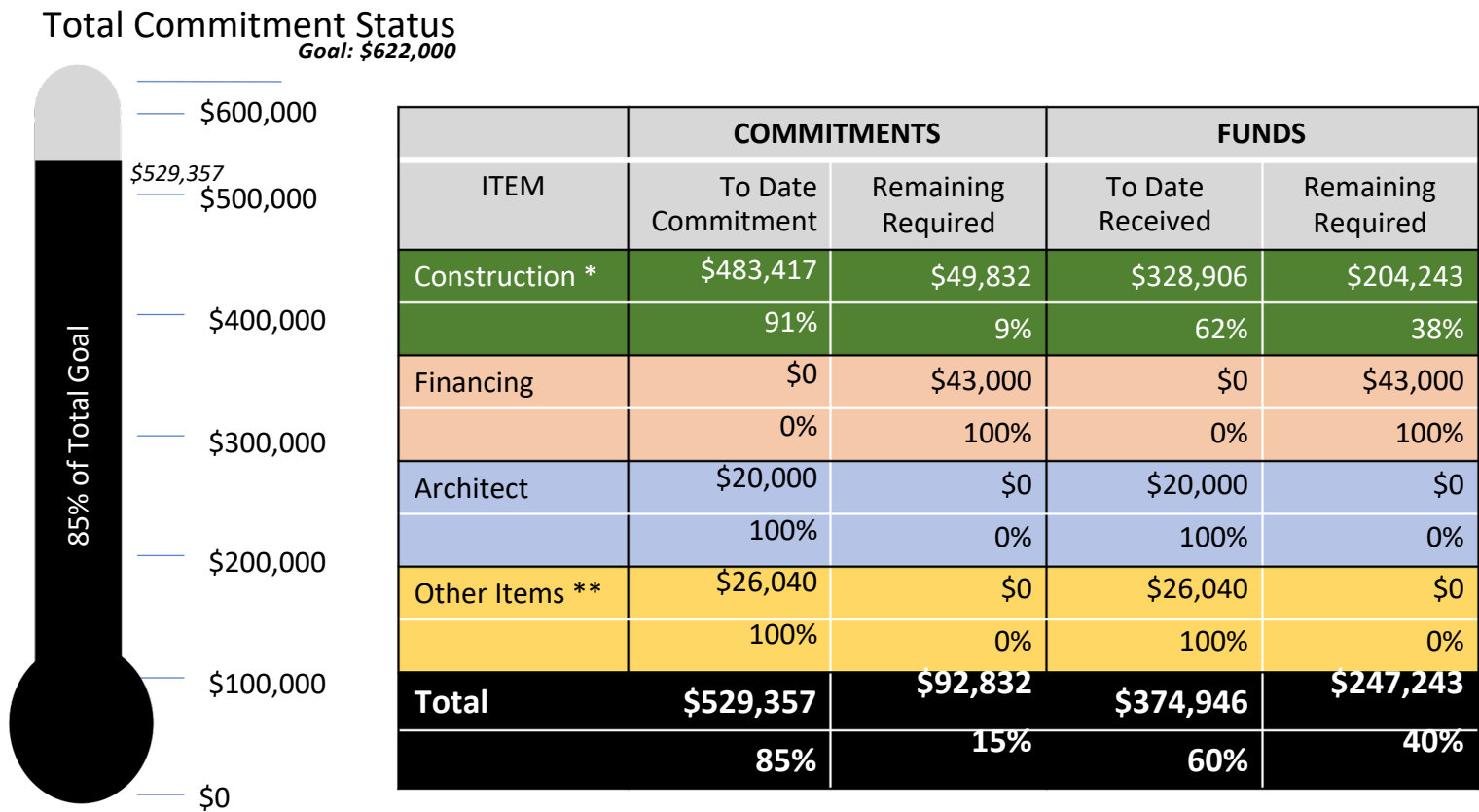
Peace Pavilion Capital Campaign Plus  
Status as of November 19, 2024

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.

Peace Pavilion Highlights:

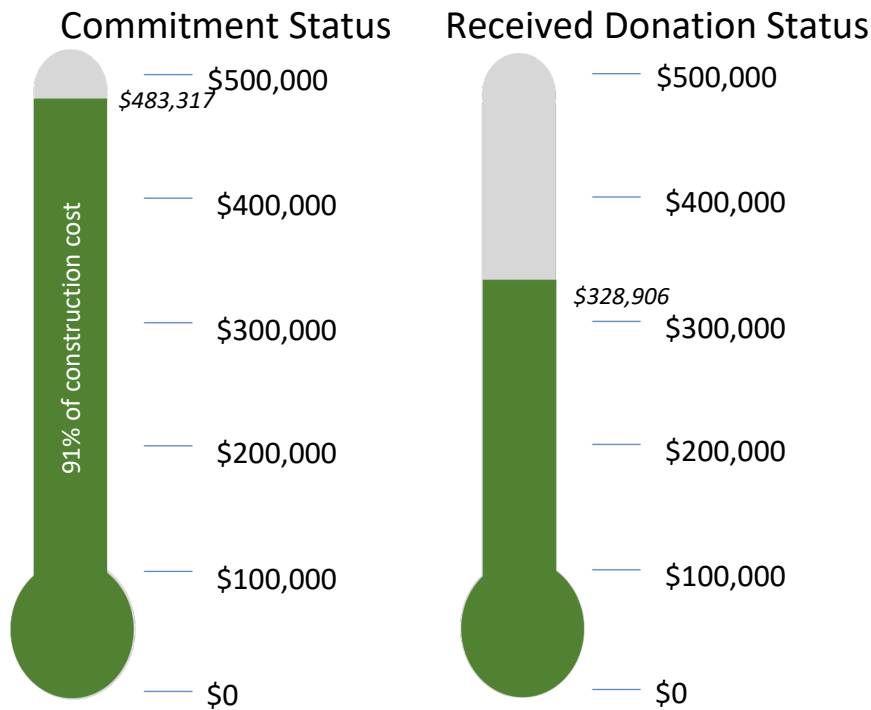
- We have commitments for 91% of the construction cost of the project and have received 62% of the funds for construction.
- When adding in ancillary items such as architect, financing, benches, audio/visual, etc. We have commitments for 85% of the total project (not including landscaping) and have received 60% of the funds.
- We had one family "step up" their commitment from Maple to Oak in October.
- We have about \$18,500 of remaining 2024 commitments expected to be received by the end of the year or about 3.5% more toward construction cost goal.
- We will need to recast our loan upon completion of construction and final payment. The more cash we get in by the end of the year the better to reduce our overall financing charge (currently estimated at \$43,000).
- Landscaping design is coming along well and we will have further opportunities for donations in the future.



# Peace Pavilion Capital Campaign – Construction Cost Only

## Status as of November 19, 2024

Construction Cost\* = \$533,149

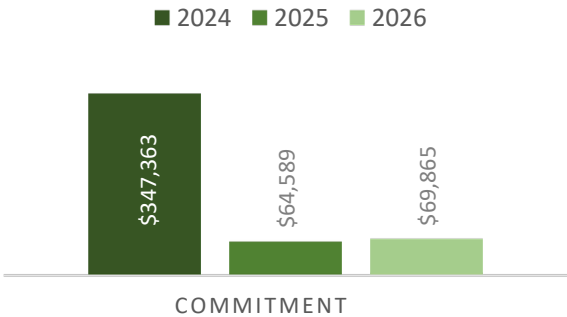


Note: Commitment Status includes “silent” commitments

\* 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	9
Tulip	\$3,000 - \$5,000	9
Daisy	\$1,000 - \$3,000	22

### COMMITMENT BY YEAR



Thank you for  
going above  
& beyond.

## CHURCH WIDE ACTIVITY

# Pocket Jesus

Take a Pocket Jesus home to remind you that Jesus is always with you.

AND take another to share or hide for someone else to find later!

Text Hilary your pictures of where you hid Pocket Jesus to be used in a future service!



Send pics to  
Hilary: 216-258-1639

Prince of Peace Youth and Congregational

# Activity Sticker Bottles

## HOW IT WORKS:

**Step 1:** Buy a bottle for \$10  
(supports youth group activities)

**Step 2:** Join us for activities and service projects

**Step 3:** Earn a sticker for attending



Collect all the stickers!

# Soup and Sandwich Luncheon

Sunday Jan. 12th  
12:15pm  
Fellowship Hall



Join us for your choice of Chicken Noodle, Beef Barley, or Tomato soup with a Grilled Cheese sandwich



Free will offering supports future Christian Education events



## 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!



# PASTOR CHARLIE'S BLOG



Psalms 80:1-7

Prayer for Israel's Restoration

To the leader: on Lilies, a Covenant. Of Asaph. A Psalm.

1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

2 before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

3 Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

4 O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.

6 You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Charlemagne ruled as King over much of the Roman Empire in the ninth century. When he died, his funeral procession came to the cathedral. They were shocked to find the gate barred by the bishop. "Who comes?" shouted the bishop.

The heralds answered, "Charlemagne, Lord and King of the Holy Roman Empire!" Answering for God, the bishop replied, "Him I know not! Who comes? The bishop asked again"

The heralds, a bit shaken, answered, "Charles the Great, a good and honest man of the earth!"

Again the bishop answered, "Him I know not. Who comes?"

Now completely crushed, the heralds say, "Charles, a lowly sinner, who begs the gift of Christ." "Him I know," the bishop replied. "Enter! Receive Christ's gift of life!"

It is only when in humility we see ourselves as nothing that God can create something out of nothing. When we stop and think that God in Christ loves us by coming to earth to bring us back to God, we cannot but be overwhelmed with gratitude.

Our humble God comes to humble people like the shepherds who know they are outcasts – they were regularly reminded of it. Time and time again, God lifts up the lowly to do God's will.

- The great prophet, Isaiah, confessed, "I am a man of unclean lips."
- The great Christian, Paul, confessed that he was "chief of sinners."
- In 1979 a Roman Catholic nun, Mother Teresa, was given the Nobel Peace Prize. She accepted the prize with the comment, "I am unworthy."

We hear it in Mary's song as she sings about how God lifts up the lowly. The message is good news for all. God's desire is to restore us to the right relationship – children of God, created and totally dependent on God for life itself, who are created to love and worship God, love and serve each other.

Once we stop trying to do God's job and live as God created us to live, there is healing and wholeness that come. That is the purpose – to restore a right relationship between us and God. And the good news is that this is God's doing! Not ours!

Maybe we shouldn't be surprised that the lowly shepherds, a back-woods carpenter and his teenage bride to be are the ones who hear the good news.

Let us Pray. Almighty God, you send your Son to bring us back to you. Your son comes not to condemn but set us free. Re-create us to be what and who you want us to be. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.



## PROFILE STORY *Lia Noukas Staag*

Lia was born in Tallinn, Estonia. She lived in Estonia until she was 11 years old. The Soviet Union invaded her country, denounced her father who was an Estonian Police Officer as an enemy of the state and sentenced him to Siberia. Her father hid at her grandmother's farm for two months until the Germans occupied Estonia from 1941-1944. In 1944, the Soviet Union then invaded Estonia again. Lia's family tried to flee to Sweden on a fishing boat but the German military seized their boat and forced them onto a ship to Germany with other Estonians. During and after World War II, they lived in various refugee camps in Germany for the next four years.

They ended up in the French Occupation zone in Trier. Her mother obtained permission for the family to move to an Estonian camp in Kleinneubach in the American zone, where Estonian refugees had established schools. In 1948, Congress approved the Displaced Persons Act to allow refugees to enter the U.S. At age 16, a Lutheran Church in Lucky, Ohio sponsored the family and lent them money to come to the United States. They lived in Genoa, a small farming community at the time. Lia is grateful to that church and to the people who helped them along the way.

Early in life, her schooling was interrupted often due to the war. After immigrating to The United States, Lia attended and graduated from Genoa High School; Bowling Green State University and also Western Reserve University (now Case). She majored in history as an undergraduate then earned a Master's Degree in Library Science. She met her husband, Bud, in a medieval history class in college!

Lia has had a career that spans many skills. She has worked as a babysitter, an elevator operator, a sales clerk for a bakery, library assistant at Cleveland Public Library, and spent most of her working life as a middle school librarian /media specialist in the Lakewood Public School System. Lia has two adult daughters, Monica and Norma. Monica and her partner, Glen, live in Massachusetts. Norma and her husband live in Idaho.

She was a member of Faith Lutheran Church in Lakewood for many years. The church began to lose members. Several POP members who were friends from College Club West, invited her to a tea. Lia fell in love with POP and joined about 16 years ago. She volunteers as a greeter, attends Bible Study, and is involved with Sisters in Spirit.

Her energy is put to good use in her hobbies and interests. Reading has been her lifelong passion. She enjoys meeting people of all ages and sending them cards. She participates in College Club West; the Rocky River Historical Society; American Nationalities Movement; the Cleveland Museum of Art; and the Rocky River Senior Center. Lia enjoys attending concerts and plays. She has traveled to all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and 22 countries! Until recently, she went to the Chautauqua Institute every summer to attend lectures and cultural activities.

Something that people may not know about Lia is that she played in Bridge tournaments for many years and is a Silver Life Master in Duplicate Bridge! During many services and events at our church, you will always notice Lia engaging with many in our congregation. She has a Big and Loving Heart for people! Lia always seeks to Give God the Glory!



**Sunday, December 22, 2024**

**Prayer Request - Long Term**

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

Ren	Granddaughter of Linda Baumbach
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
Lois Reichert	
Pam Rotella	
Bill Sweeny	Friend of Kathy McCollum
Robert Sieving	Brother of Chuck Sieving
Al Tielke	
Chris Sikora	
Claudette Plavan	
Hilary Mason	
Kathy and Tim Needham	
Cynthia Flores	
Ron Peckham	
Monica Doptis	Dan and Barb Fronczak's grandchild
Beverly Newman	Friend of Jane and Lowell Dillon

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

December 8	Audrey Swanson (mother of Rusty Blakeslee) Emily Saunders, David Saunders, and Jan Saunders
December 15	Lorraine Leavens (sister-in-law of Doug Leavens) Family of Donald Moll (brother of Carol Novotny)
December 22	Ryn (Julia Vorobej's fiancé) Kaitlin Varro and baby Lilly (daughter of Joanne Burns) Keith Wisniewski (Mike Piskunoff's friend) Lia Staaf (loss of her friend) Tommy and Alexis Vlasek and their baby (Mary Olah's nephew & niece) Sally (Judy Cuciak's friend) Family of Joyce Wood Joanne Burn's daughter



## Happy Birthday

12/01 Jackson Pogachar	12/11 Jann Daniels
12/01 Taylor Reisner	12/13 Ian Cornick
12/01 Ruth Ann Whitbeck	12/13 Ruth Mortensen
12/02 Charlie Koch	12/16 Joe Rowe
12/02 Dolph Rolik	12/18 Bud Zanders
12/05 Landon Beard	12/18 Justice Strieter
12/06 Franklin Krap	12/18 Matthew Roman
12/07 Craig Juhn	12/21 Diane Schlegel
12/07 Nolan Gleespen	12/21 Matthew Wenham
12/08 Christie Wiedt	12/23 Jim Dickey IV
12/09 Marge Jaracz	12/24 Uwe Susemihl
12/10 Laurel Covell	12/25 Matthew Alspach
12/10 Lora Robinholt	12/29 Roger Hauser
12/10 Monica Dragony	12/30 Mike Gleespen
12/11 Sara Burdette	12/31 Amy Hrouda
	12/31 Russ Bauknecht

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

12/11 John & Judy Cuciak  
 12/12 Don & Diane Miller  
 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  
 Cereal, Applesauce & Canned Soups



## Giving Data

Operating Giving Report	YTD	AVG/Week
Total Giving as of Nov. 30th, 2024:	\$432,010	\$9,191.70
% of Annual 2024 Budget Received to Date: 89%		
<b><i>We need to average \$50,000 per month to reach budget! Please give abundantly &amp; cheerfully</i></b>		
Remaining Giving to Meet 2024 Budget:	\$53,990	\$10,798
Total Expenses incurred through 11/30/24	\$440,164	\$9,365.19
<b><i>Deficit for 2024 as of 11/30/2024 = \$8,154</i></b>		



Follow Us!

Date	Online	In Person	Total
12/15/2024	24	165	189
12/08/2024	33	185	218
12/01/2024	45	152	197
11/24/2024	39	170	209

## Prince of Peace Staff

Pastor Charlie Woodward  
 pcpopwestlake@gmail.com

James & Lisa Arrigo, Sextons  
 jamespopwestlake@gmail.com

Brandon Bilek, Sound Technician  
 brandonbpop@gmail.com

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

Hailey Desmond, Marketing/Communications  
 princeofpeacecommunication@gmail.com

Ian Faleer, Contemporary Music Director  
 & Chancel Choir Director  
 ifaleer@gmail.com

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.