

A light will enter the darkness

Please join us December 24 at 10 am for the 4th Sunday of advent, worship will be led by Traditional Worship Team.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

3 PM – Family Service
6 PM – Praise
9 PM – Traditional



December 22nd, 2023

PEACE CONNECTION

Friday December 22nd
Pastor Charlie's Day Off
12:15 pm Young at Heart

Saturday December 23rd
2:00 pm Organ Practice

Sunday December 24th
10:00 am Christmas Program led by
the Traditional Worship Team
3:00 pm Family Christmas Candlelight
Service
6:00 pm Praise Band Christmas
Candlelight Service
9:00 pm Traditional Christmas
Candlelight Service

Monday December 25th
Merry Christmas!

Tuesday December 26th
6:15 pm CrossFire Rehearsal

Wednesday December 27th

Thursday December 28th
Sexton's Day Off
3:00 pm Organ Practice
7:30 pm Choir Practice

Friday December 29th
Pastor Charlie's Day Off

Saturday December 30th
2:00 pm Organ Practice

Sunday December 31st
10:00 am It's Still Christmas Worship
10:00 am Christian Education

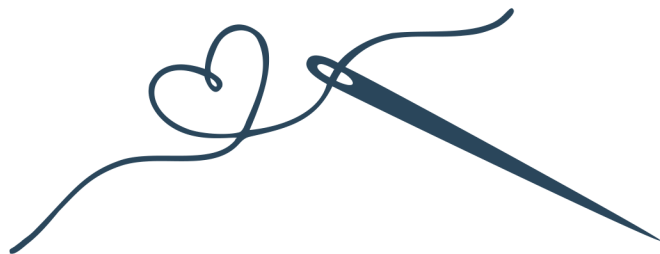
Monday January 1st
Happy New Year!

Tuesday January 2nd
6:15 pm CrossFire Rehearsal

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

Comfort Quilters

The Comfort Quilters are taking a holiday break. We will resume quilting on January 15th. Come and join us!



SIS (Sisters in Spirit) and Buds-n-Suds Christmas toast

Please join us to celebrate the season with POP friends! Thursday December 28, arrive anytime after 5:00pm, with a 6:30 toast, and 8:00 stay to watch the Browns game if you'd like!

Bullfrog's Sports Cafe
33137 Center Ridge Rd
North Ridgeville 44039



Join us on a trip to Greece!

This 11 day trip includes a 3-day cruise to the Greek Isles and Turkey. We will visit Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, Santorini, Patmos and more. We will follow the footsteps of Paul and experience the places where the Christian Church came to life.

October 1-11, 2024.

Spots are limited and are filling up fast, so SIGN UP NOW!

Contact Pastor Charlie for more information at pcpopwestlake@gmail.com or text/call at 937-344-1229

BEST OF GREECE & THE GREEK ISLES
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL

11 DAYS: OCTOBER 1 - 11, 2024

**VISITING: ATHENS * CORINTH * MYKONOS * EPHESUS * PATMOS
CRETE * SANTORINI * DELPHI * KALAMBAKA * THESSALONIKI**



Hosted by
PASTOR CHARLIE WOODWARD

\$4599 FROM CLEVELAND*
*Air/land tour price is \$4079 plus \$520 gov't taxes/airline surcharges

For More Information, Please Contact
Pastor Charlie Woodward
Tel: (937) 344-1229 (Text or Call)
Email: pcpopwestlake@gmail.com

SPACE IS LIMITED! SIGN UP TODAY!!!





Merry Christmas

The children's performance!



Connie & Alden McGee

NEW MEMBER PROFILE

Alden was born in Winston-Salem, NC and grew up in Worthington, OH with one sister who has passed away. After high school, he attended Ohio State University and Franklin University. He majored in Surveying/Engineering. He earned a Professional Registration in 1970 from the Ohio Board of Registration for Engineers and Surveyors. Alden began working for Stricklen-Belsheim and Associates Consulting Engineers as "The Print Boy". After several years he bought the firm. Later, at the age of 60, Moody-Nolan Architects and Engineers made him an offer he could not refuse, "If you work for 5 years as Director of Engineering they would buy his firm and he could retire". He was heavily involved with The Professional Land Surveyors of Ohio, The American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, and The American Society of Professional Surveyors. Other areas he was involved in were the Industry Advisory Board for The Ohio State University, Columbus State Community College and the Muskingum Area Technical College.

Connie was born in Kingston, Pennsylvania (outside of Scranton). She grew up with a sister Carol who was 7 years her senior, and passed away some years ago. The family moved several times until her high school years, including Lansdowne, PA (outside of Philadelphia). At 3 years of age they moved to Avon Lake, OH. At age 5 they moved to Rosedale Park, Michigan (outside of Detroit), and at 12 they moved to Drexel Hill, PA (again, outside of Philadelphia). Their final move took the family to Worthington, Oh (outside of Columbus) when she was 15. Connie studied 2 years at Ohio Wesleyan University and 2 years at Ohio State University. She focused on a Geography Major and earned her degree in 1961. Upon graduation, she began her career working for the Columbus Public Library for 6 years. Connie retired to become a stay at home wife and mom in her first marriage. Her daughter, Tracy was born in 1969 and her son Joey was born in 1971. Tracy never married and passed away in 2015. Joey lives in Avon Lake with wife Gwen. They both teach in the Avon Lake School System. They have 3 daughters, Libby (25) who lives in Bay Village working as a Social Worker. Mallory (23) lives in Chicago and is getting her masters from Loyola University. And Courtney (21) is a junior at Ohio State University.

Alden also has children from a previous marriage. John (age 60) is a retired firefighter married to Karen with a granddaughter Kayla (13). Joel (57), is a professional surveyor married to wife Jane with a grandson Cameron(25). Elizabeth (54) works as a teacher and is married to Shawn with granddaughters Heidi (21), Lexi (21) and grandson Xander (16). Both Connie and Alden are proud grandparents of this blended family, sharing their Love!

In 1997, Connie and Alden went to their 40th high school reunion at Worthington High not knowing what it would hold for them. They had not dated during the time they were in school together, but this meeting would be the opportunity that would join them in marriage. In 1999 they tied the knot and are still going strong. This coming May of 2024, they will celebrate their 25th anniversary! As they had been attending a few other Lutheran Churches in the area over the last few years, they had not found a church home. They do travel to Florida in the winter and return to their current Avon home each year in the spring. After a visit to Prince of Peace, they were happy to discover the warm and welcoming congregation. They also discovered Pastor Charlie had served at a church in Westerville, OH close to Worthington, OH where they lived for 25 years. The sermons are always something they look forward to. Connie and Alden officially became members in October after attending for nearly 2 years!

They are checking out various activities to participate in. Connie's main interests in her free time is being with family, and the joy of reading. She enjoys organizing their home. She considers herself shy, but is learning members' names along the way. Alden has participated in the POP Golf Outing to benefit the National Youth Gathering. The team he played on won the first place trophy, he says it was beginners luck! His other hobbies include cars, he has owned 7 Corvettes over the years after being involved in the Central Ohio Corvette Club. Golf and home remodeling also keep him busy. Something people may not know is that he used to be very shy. You can meet them weekly as they attend the 11 am service. Worship is the cornerstone of the relationship they have with God. Remember, they will be getting tanned in the Sunshine State over the winter. Just look for an infectious smile they both carry everywhere!

By Tom Robinholt : Profile Reporter

PASTOR
CHARLIE'S
BLOG



Gospel: Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

A story you may have heard before, shared by radio personality Paul Harvey many years ago.

This man is not a scrooge. In fact, he was a kind, and quite decent, mostly good man. Honest in his dealings and generous to his family, he was commonly received as a man of good values.

But, he could never bring himself to believe the story of Christ. The incarnation, the God born a man by virgin birth... It just didn't make sense to him, and he was too honest a man to feign devotion to a story he could not accept. The story of Jesus, God coming to Earth as a man, simply didn't add up in his mind.

And so one Christmas, feeling his pretense of devotion had thoroughly run its course, he told his wife he would not be going with the family to Church.

"I'm sorry to upset you," he explained, "but I would simply feel like a hypocrite." He told her that he would stay at home, and wait for them to return from church. Shortly after the family had left a snowstorm moved into the area. Settling in his chair with a cup of coffee, the man began to relax for the evening.

Before too long, the soft white noise of the steady snow was interrupted by a loud thud. Then another, and another. At first the man concluded someone must have been throwing snowballs against his living room window, but upon peering out from behind the blinds his yard appeared quite empty.

Reluctantly venturing outside, he found a flock of birds huddled miserably in the falling snow, just beneath his living room window. Having been caught in the storm the desperate birds were trying in vain to fly through the large landscape window.

Being the decent man that he was, he knew he couldn't leave the stranded birds to freeze in the night storm, and resolved to find a solution. It was just then that he thought of the barn where his children stabled their pony. It would be warm, sheltered, and safe... If he could get the birds into it.

Quickly he put on a jacket and boots and began trekking through the snow to the barn. He opened the doors wide and turned on the light; but the birds did not fly in.

Thinking that food might entice them, he hurried back to the house and retrieved some bread crumbs. Sprinkling the crumbs in the snow, the man made a trail to the warmly lit doorway of the stable.

But still, the birds vainly fought the cold beneath his living room window.

He tried catching them. He tried shooing them into the barn by waving his arms and walking around them. But nothing worked. As he approached, they scattered in almost every direction, and as soon as he retreated back they resumed their hopeless attempts to fly through his living room window.

PASTOR
CHARLIE'S
BLOG



The man realized that the birds were simply too afraid of him. To them, after all, he was a giant and terrifying creature. 'If only I could think of some way to let them know that they can trust me – that I'm not trying to hurt them. But how?'

Any move he made simply confused, and frightened them. "If only I could let them know I want them to be safe," he said allowed. "If only I could be a bird, and mingle with them and speak their language, I could let them know that I mean them no harm. I could show them the way to the safe warm barn, but..." realization seemed to wash over him, "but I guess I would have to be one of them; so that they could see, and hear, and understand."

At that moment the church bells began to ring through the dense cold. He stood there listening to the bells, Adeste Fidelis – O Come All Ye Faithful. Listening to the bells pealing the glad tidings of Christmas. And he sank to his knees in the snow.

God comes to us to be God with us, God with you, wherever you are. Emmanuel, God with us.

I believe there are two words we need to hear. It isn't Merry Christmas, or Happy Holidays. No. The words are this – FOR YOU!

The message of the angels to the shepherds is a message for you and me. For unto YOU is born a savior, who is Christ the Lord. If you leave with anything tonight, I hope it is this good news. God's gift of love is FOR YOU!

This is a gift given in pure love, with no strings attached, simply because God loves us.

Let us pray: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel! We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen



Women In Transition

We are accepting donations of women's toiletries, sanitary products, and umbrellas. The need is great. Please bring them to the donation station. Questions, please contact Jan Filkill, 440-871-6673.

One Step Up (West Haven)

Donations of youth-teen clothing of all sizes. Jeans, shorts, t-shirts, sweatshirts, and hoodies. Please bring them to the donation stations



Second Harvest

For November and December the requested items are cereal and Canned soup.



Giving Data

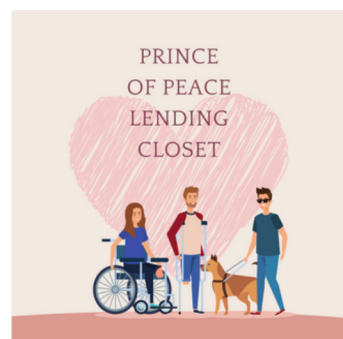
<u>Operating Giving Report</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>AVG/Week</u>
Total Giving as of Nov. 30th, 2023:	\$410,597	\$8,554.10
% of Annual 2023 Budget Received to Date:	92%	
Remaining Giving Required to Meet 2023 Budget:	\$35,903	\$8,975.75
Remaining Giving Required to Meet 2023 Stretch Goal (i.e. Cover Cost Budget):	\$53,903	\$13,475.75



Lending Closet

Are you in need of some crutches? A shower chair? Walker? Cane?

Please click on the logo on the right hand side of the page or check the website for our updated lending closet list!



Coffee with the Pastor

Coffee with the Pastor will be held the second Sunday of every month at 10 am.

We will meet in the Education Wing Second Cup of Coffee Room. Come for conversation, questions and fellowship. Bring your coffee and donut and join us.



Prayer LIST

Sunday, December 24, 2023

In Memory Of

Christina Billings
Hildegard Solo
Jim McDonough

Prayer Request - Long Term

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

Ren	Granddaughter of Linda Baumbach
Stephanie Bailey	Niece of Mary Sue Claus
Don Chismar	
Patty Doran	Sister-in-law of Chuck Sieving
Marcia Drysdale	Friend of Jane Dillon
Dawn Higgins	Neighbor of Fran Molnar
Jayne Kramic	Friend Kathy and Dave McCollum
Deanne Lahner	Niece of Mary Sue Claus & Roseann Fekete
Donna Kucera and family	
Angela Missig	Daughter of Gloria Starr
Jenn Pitts	Daughter of Judy Kazak
Eric and Nicole Quinn	Friends of Matt Wenham
Lois Reichert	
Pam Rotella	
Bill Sweeny	
Robert Sieving	Friend of Kathy and Dave McCollum
Al Tielke	Brother of Chuck Sieving

Recent prayer requests received within the past 3 weeks:

December 10	Ron Filkill Cheryl Morrison (Mike Weber's sister) Timothy Balch (Richard Balch's Brother)
December 17	Shirley Faleer (Ian Faleer's mother) Joan Gruber (Kathy Kettler's cousin) Christina Billings (Linda Colcord's daughter)
December 24	Family of Christina Billings Family of Hildegard Sabo Family of Jim McDonough Emily Saunders



Happy Birthday

Date	Online	In Person	Total
12/10/2023	29	161	190
12/03/2023	40	178	218
11/26/2023	46	162	208
11/19/2023	16	187	203
Thanksgiving Service		100	

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

Prince of Peace Staff

Pastor Charlie Woodward
pcpopwestlake@gmail.com

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Brandon Bilek, Sound Technician
brandonpop@gmail.com

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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



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

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.

