

Presbyterian Press



January 2024



DID YOU KNOW?

The snowman is like a frozen Forrest Gump—look to many of history’s cultural benchmarks, and there you’ll find a forebear of Frosty. It was a snowman who appeared on some of the first postcards, starred in some of the initial silent movies, and was the subject of a couple of the earliest photos, dating all the way back to the 1800s. More was discovered about one of humanity’s earliest forms of folk art during several years of research around the world.

For example, snowmen were a phenomenon in the Middle Ages, built with great skill and thought. At a time of limited means of expression, snow was like free art supplies dropped from the sky. It was a popular activity for couples to stroll through town to view the temporary works of chilly art. Some were created by famous artists, including a 19-year-old Michelangelo, who in 1494 was commissioned by the ruler of Florence, Italy, to sculpt a snowman in his mansion’s courtyard.

The Miracle of 1511 took place during six weeks of subzero temperatures called the Winter of Death. The city of Brussels was covered in snowmen—a spectacular tableaux that told stories on every street corner. Some were political in nature, angry swipes at the church and government. For the people of Brussels, this was their Woodstock, a defining moment of artistic freedom. At least until spring arrived, by which time the Belgians were dealing with damaging floods.

Snowmen also played a part in one of the bloodiest events in early American history, the Schenectady Massacre of 1690. At the time, Fort Schenectady, in what is now upstate New York, was a remote Dutch settlement under constant threat of attack. But the soldiers guarding the gates, which were frozen open, left a pair of snowmen at their post to protect the town when they left to get out of a blizzard. Unknown to them, a contingent of 210 French Canadian soldiers and Native Americans were approaching. Having traveled over three weeks in knee-deep, slushy snow, they were unfazed by the snowmen and invaded the fort, killing 60 villagers.

If you fear the heyday of the snowman has passed, don’t worry: some explosive snowman history is still being made today. Every year since 1818, the people of Zurich, Switzerland, celebrate the beginning of spring by blowing up a snowman. On the third Monday of April, the holiday Sechseläuten is kicked off when a cotton snowman called the Böögg is stuffed with dynamite and paraded through town by bakers, blacksmiths, and other tradesmen who throw bread and sausages to the crowds. The parade ends with the Böögg being placed on a 40-foot pile of scrap wood. After the bells of the Church of St. Peter have chimed six times, representing the passing of winter, the pile is lit. When the snowman explodes, winter is considered officially over—the shorter the combustion, the longer summer is said to be.





A NOTE FROM SESSION!!

Session Hi-lights

Session met on Thursday December 21st 2023.

The nominating committee was asked to reconvene to see if elders could be found to fill the 3 vacant positions for a 1yr, 2yr & 3 yr. term.

Most of the committee assignments were completed for the year.

The Interview Committee for a temporary pastor has met a couple times with one candidate. During the meeting session members were informed by our moderator & our COM liaison about another candidate. That person's information was forwarded to the committee so to set up an interview. The list of skills & characteristics for the temporary and permanent pastor and some positive things going on with the church was reviewed and added to.

Pulpit supply will be filled for January.

Our congregational meeting was scheduled for January 28th. There have been some additional updates to our by-laws that will need approval from the congregation. The church 2024 budget will be presented. Any elders recommended to serve on session will also be presented.

Thank you to Art Lloyd for installing the new flooring in the back entrance way.

November Dinner at the Prez had 20 adult guests. That program will be on hold until March 2024. Christmas food boxes and gifts were distributed on December 16th.

Our communion scheduled was established for the year, serving every other month. New Advent banners were purchased.

There will be an undecorating for the church on Sunday January 7th following the church service. Help is appreciated.

Coffee Hours will be the 1st Sundays of the month. Looking for groups to take a month. January & February are filled.

Next session meeting is January 18th at 6:00pm



The Church is looking for a caring, compassionate person to attend our nursery on Sunday mornings.

If you would be interested in more information, please fill out an application in the Church Office.

Monday – Thursday 1:00 – 4:00pm



GOOD NEWS!

The Bellefontaine Intermediate School robotics team recently entered into their first-ever competition. This amazing group of fifth graders, including **Griffin Burkhardt**, earned the Prestigious Judges award!



Coached by **Lauren Burkhardt**, "The Bacon Bots" finished in 26th place out of 41 teams after many days of building their bot and creating a series of different skills through autonomous programming. In addition, they kept an engineering notebook encompassing their entire process of building and solving problems.

The team was interviewed about their undertaking and their notebook reviewed by a team of professionals. Their skills linked with their positive attitude were catalysts for their selection of the Prestigious Judges Award.

These two little moppets were recently named as "Student of the Week" at the Bellefontaine Elementary School!! Congratulations to

TILLY JERVIS and REED KENNEDY!

Keep up the great work!!

We are PROUD OF YOU!!



What would Christmas have been without the Post Office? **Lauren Burkhardt** and her teacher friends spent the day with the preschoolers learning how things work and how important our mail system is!



Before the big Christmas Parade, our Church Growth and Member Care Committee hosted the annual "Tour of Churches"!!

Beth Powers, chair of the CGMC displayed the greeting and offer of cookies, hot chocolate and a tour of our beautiful church, fully decorated and waiting for Season of Advent!

Many thanks to everyone who participated whether it was donating the cookies, hot chocolate, or leading a tour to show off our stunning sanctuary!!



I think **Charlotte Burkhardt** has the right idea!! TREATS!!





Here's our **Pat Orli** doing what she does best! As a volunteer of the Logan County History Center, Pat can usually be found setting up displays, or maybe even giving a tour of the many rooms which hold all kinds of artifacts pertaining to Logan County!

Did you know that we once had a thriving train depot and roundhouse? The wonderful days of the steam engines, that crisscrossed the United States! Trains carried passengers and actually had the red cabooses as their last car!

You can find out about that and so much more with a visit to the Logan County History Center!! I'm sure Pat would love to see you!!



'Twas The Night
Before Christmas



Another round of applause
for our youngest members
who put on a wonderful
Christmas Pageant!!




What can be said about this guy? Well, a "true public servant" comes to mind! Not only had he been a Sheriff's Deputy for thirty years, before his retirement, he was also a twenty-five year volunteer firefighter with the Richland Township Fire Department, having retired as Assistant Chief in 2006. In addition to being an EMT with the BMRT Ambulance District in Belle Center for 12 years, he continues to be a Richland Township Trustee with his service spanning decades. His next endeavor will come soon as he has tossed his hat into the ring to run for Logan County Commissioner in the March 2024 primary election. With his lovely wife Patricia, five children and eight grandchildren behind him, **Greg Fitzpatrick** is bound to be a success!!

As we have just finished the Season of Advent, we should still be basking in the warmth of family love. The Stahler/Wunderle/Burkhardt/Jervis families are no exception. As Ben prepares to leave the Mayor's Office, he offered a final viewing of the Mayor's Art Show. Unbeknownst to him, a surprise was presented in the form of tribute to the family's "Mimi" and Ben's beautiful mother, Wanda Stahler. Paintings by **Charlotte Burkhardt**, **Dori and Tilly Jervis**, and **Ella Wunderle** were displayed showing their renditions of one of Wanda's favorite subjects, Rainy Days.



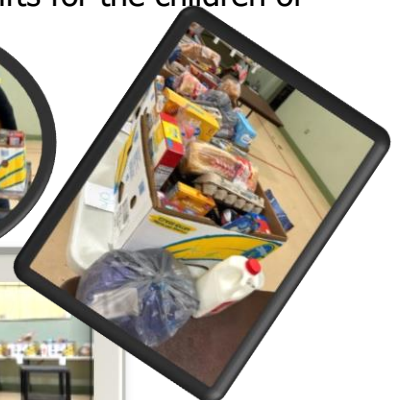
Our Great-Mimi was a beautiful painter. Her favorite things to paint were flowers, Florida, and especially Rainy Day ladies. We think she is still painting them in heaven! We painted our own Rainy Days in honor of our Great-Mimi and as a special surprise for our Papa's last Mayor's Art Show. We love you!

These "Rainy Day" Paintings were made by Mayor Ben's grand daughters Dori & Tilly Jervis, Charlotte Burkhardt, and his great-niece Ella Wunderle in honor of the late, GREAT Wanda Stahler, the mother of Mayor Ben and long time BCS Art Teacher.





The **Mission Committee** has had another successful year of providing food baskets in conjunction with the Lutheran Community Services! A very grateful thank you to everyone who came out on December 16, to help fill the 30 baskets and then helped with taking them to people's cars!! We also had hats, coats, gloves and scarves available to those who needed them. Thank you to the congregation for your donation of those items to keep people warm!! A special thank you to those who took a tag from the sharing tree to purchase gifts for the children of these families!





THANK YOU'S!



Our hats off to **Betty Lloyd** who decorated a room of the Logan County History Center in the name of our church!

Thank you Betty for your endless grace and talent at decorating and representing the church in such fine fashion!

Dear Deacons, We are enjoying the pretty Christmas arrangement for Nate! Wish you all a Very Blessed Christmas. P.S. Thanks to Phyllis
Love, Nate and Becky Weber

What a pleasant surprise to receive a holly floral piece at my door before Christmas. Thanks to the busy Presby Elves, it has brought many smiles. ~Marge Hines

Dear Deacon Friends, Thank you for your contribution to Kirkmont! We sincerely appreciate you! Be of good courage and know that you are loved! ~Kirkmont Staff and Board of Directors

First UPC Deacons, Thank you for thinking of Betty Kindell with your kind words and prayers and the beautiful holiday arrangement. She is healing well and your prayers are helping her. She is getting stronger because of your love and kindness. Warmly, Kim Peters (Betty's daughter-in-law)

To all the kind and caring members of the Board of Deacons, Thank you so much for the Christmas flowers. They are so pretty. All of you are so thoughtful, I am most blessed. May God bless all of you. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all! In Christian love, Anne Heinlen

The Deardurff Family would like to thank the Deacons and the Mission Committee for their assistance at this trying time!



Thank you to everyone who attended our Cantata Service, December 17! It was so wonderful to have the music fill the sanctuary and see the enjoyment on your faces!!

A special thank you to **Mike LeVan**, who served as one of the narrators!

It was a wonderful experience to have the Methodist choir with us and to work with their director, Mike Suman.



Our Christmas Eve Service was a success! Not only did we have 180 people in attendance, and what a joy to see the church so full, the service was led by Caroline Eader assisted by Beth Powers!

The tableau of "Bethlehem Speaks" was a new and interesting version of the Nativity. Thanks to **Kaitey Chervenak, Courtney Chervenak, Ben Sailors, Jordan Butler, Holly VanBuskirk** and **Ben Stahler** who told the story from a different point of view!!



THOSE NEEDING OUR SPECIAL PRAYERS...

Jadyn Plaucher
Nancy Scouten
Shirley Ritter
Tina Deardurff
Sherri Ullom

Layla Deardurff
Carl Wunderle
Kris Sutterfield
Ralph Morrison
Karen Baker Primavera

Betty Kindell
Mark Brienza
Rose Gunkle
The Albanos

Cameron Deardurff
Vicki Shafer
The Amidons
Kathy Jo Putt



WITH US IN SPIRIT

Sue Albano 1409 Whispering Pines Lane Belleft. 43311
Lois Ashworth 209 E. Glen Belleft. 43311
Janet Brunke 4888 Co. Rd. #55 Belleft. 43311
Bob Carter 6559 US Rt 68 S Memory Unit W. Liberty 43357
Joyce Core 2450 Co. Rd. 118 Rushsylvania 43347
Bud & Mona Eichholtz 1328 Omaha Belleft. 43311
Anne Heinlen 741 E. Sandusky Ave. Belleft. 43311
Talma Heydinger 709 Iroquois Rd. Belleft. 43311
Marcella Neeld 541 Center St. Belleft. 43311
Nate Weber 608 Newford Dr. Belleft. 43311



**Send them a card to say
HELLO!!**



CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY!

January 3: Greg Fitzpatrick
January 5: Cherise Brinkman
January 9: Sue Albano
January 10: Belva Lantz, TJ Forsythe

January 13: Bonnie Conley
January 18: Amy McIntyre
January 30: Zoe Jervis
January 31: Holly Core, Tilly Jervis



CELEBRATING A WEDDING ANNIVERSARY!

January 20: Mark and Amy McIntyre January 21: Lois and Gary McKenzie

We don't want to miss anyone's birthday or wedding anniversary!! If we have missed yours, please contact the Church Office 1stupc@bellefontainepres.com



COMMITTEE CALENDAR!

With the New Year comes new Elders, some of whom will be taking over committee assignments. If you would like to join a committee, please contact the following Elders or plan to attend their next meeting!!

Class of 2024

Beth Powers, Church Growth
Sara Stahler, Christian Education
Brandon Standley

Class of 2025

Anne Brienza, Worship
Vicky Shields, Mission
Nancy Wisse

Class of 2026

Karen Brady, Property
Carla Murdock, Finance
Bill Wical



ANNUAL REPORT submissions are due into the Church office no later than Monday January 8. If you do not have your summary in by that date, it will not be included in the yearly Annual Report.



Our Daily Bread Bakers deliver desserts to Our Daily Bread on the 3rd Monday of each month between the hours of 8:30 am and 6:00 pm.

January 15, 2024

Bridget Hawkins Natasha Kennedy
Mary Jane Lane Betty Lloyd



Our monthly coffee hour get-together will be moving back to the first Sunday of each month! You can have your committee, Sunday School class, musical group or book club sign up to serve a Sunday during the year by contacting Holly in the Church office. Call 937-592-6611 or email at secretary@bellefontainepres.com! Open dates include March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 1, October 6, November 3!



All committees are hoping to add new members to their groups!! If you would like to help serve within the Church, there are many choices!!

The **Mission Committee**, chaired by **Vicky Shields** is responsible for the yearly Cruise-In and The Sharing Tree which helps with the homeless, items needed for the schools and Christmas food baskets and gifts for families in need.

The **Church Growth and Member Care Committee**, chaired by **Beth Powers** is our link to First Fridays in downtown Bellefontaine! Along with those events, these volunteers sponsor the Winter Carnival and look for other recreational ideas to bring church members together!

The **Worship Committee**, chaired by **Anne Brienza** takes on the many, many tasks that happen during the year including Lent into Easter, Advent into Christmas, and other holy days for us to show our devotion to God.

The **Christian Education Committee**, chaired by **Sara Stahler** is the very heart of our Sunday School program! For either children or adults, this group creates many ways to learn about the life of Christ!

The Stewardship and Finance Committee, chaired by **Carla Murdock**, is essential in the life of the church by keeping our financial status in order. You may have no idea what goes into running a building this size and these are the people who can explain it all to you!!

The Property Committee, currently under the watchful eye of Clerk of Session **Karen Brady**, is entrusted with anything and everything that happens with this big, beautiful building that houses our church family. If you are a handyman, this would be the place for you!!

Not only are our committees looking for members, you may also consider becoming a **Deacon** or an **Elder!!** For these groups, you must be a member of the church. If you might be interested in lending your voice, please contact Karen Brady, Clerk of Session.

As we continue to rebuild our congregation, our lives within the church and our devotion to God, please consider joining a committee and adding in your skills to make us even better!!



LOOKING AHEAD!

We will have the annual **Congregational Meeting**, Sunday January 28 during the **Worship Service!**



Our Daily Bread Bakers deliver desserts to Our Daily Bread on the 3rd Monday of each month between the hours of 8:30 am and 6:00 pm.

February 19, 2024

Katie Amidon Tara Bair
Karen Brady Anne Brienza





MEETING IN JANUARY!

The **CE Committee** meeting time is to be determined.

The **Stewardship and Finance Committee** meets Monday January 8, 12:00pm in the Library.

The **Church Growth and Member Care Committee** meeting time is to be determined.

The **Deacons** meet Tuesday January 9, 5:00pm in the Library.

The **Mission Committee** will not meet in January.

The **Worship Committee** meets Tuesday January 9, 7:00pm in the Library.

The **Session** meets Thursday January 18, 6:00pm in the Library.

The **PWA Leadership** meets Sunday January 14, 12:00pm immediately following the Worship Service.

The **Book Club** meets Tuesday January 16, 6:30pm, in the Chapel Lounge.

The **Property Committee** meeting is to be determined.



SERVING IN JANUARY!

Deacons On Call: Pam Ark, Michelle Suman

Welcome Team: Mike Brady, Julie Pulfer, Andy Pulfer, Mac Smith

Worship Leaders:

January 7: Sara Stahler

January 14: Nancy Wisse

January 21: Holly VanBuskirk

January 28: Beth Powers

Church Open and Close:

January 7: Karen Brady

January 14: Karen Brady

January 21: Sara Stahler

January 28: Sara Stahler

Church Elder On-Call:

January 7: Beth Powers

January 14: Sara Stahler

January 21: Brandon Standley

January 28: Anne Brienza



FINANCIAL FOCUS

December 3, 2023

On-Line Attendance: 15

Sunday School Attendance: 43

Worship Attendance: 71

Received To Date: \$179,539.33

Sunday School Offering: \$50.00

Weekly Giving: \$4,211.71

-\$26,663.38

Needed Weekly: \$41.50

Needed Weekly: \$4,174.00

Needed To Date: \$206,202.71

December 10, 2023

On-Line Attendance: 33

Sunday School Attendance: 30

Worship Attendance: 110

Received To Date: \$182,592.04

Sunday School Offering: \$36.50

Weekly Giving: \$3,052.71

-\$27,784.67

Needed Weekly: \$41.50

Needed Weekly: \$4,174.00

Needed To Date: \$210,376.71

December 17, 2023

On-Line Attendance: 22

Sunday School Attendance: 32

Worship Attendance: 120

Received To Date: \$185,356.75

Sunday School Offering: \$26.00

Weekly Giving: \$2,764.71

-\$29,193.96

Needed Weekly: \$41.50

Needed Weekly: \$4,174.00

Needed To Date: \$214,550.71

December 24, 2023

On-Line Attendance: 35

Sunday School Attendance: 0

Worship Attendance: 180

Received To Date: \$191,916.46

Sunday School Offering: \$0

Weekly Giving: \$6,559.00

-\$26,193.96

Needed Weekly: \$41.50

Needed Weekly: \$4,174.00

Needed To Date: \$218,724.71

December 31, 2023

On-Line Attendance: 12

Sunday School Attendance: 21

Worship Attendance: 61

Received To Date: \$194,802.46

Sunday School Offering: \$48.00

Weekly Giving: \$2,886.00

-\$28,096.25

Needed Weekly: \$41.50

Needed Weekly: \$4,174.00

Needed To Date: \$222,898.71



FROM THE PRESBYTERY

Save the Date

Women's Spiritual Nurture Retreat

April 12-14, 2024

Retreat Focus:
**"Women at the Well:
 Dropping Our Labels to Live as God Intended"**

Friday evening - Sunday Worship
**Kirkmont Center,
 Zanesfield, OH**

Registration begins Jan 2024
 at kirkmontcenter.org
 For more information and questions email
info@kirkmontcenter.org



Name: _____ Date: _____

DIRECTIONS:
 Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

- BLIZZARD
- COLD
- DRIFT
- FLURRY
- FROSTY
- FROZEN
- ICE CRYSTAL
- ICE SKATE
- ICEBERG

It's Snow Time

Word Search

Q	X	Z	J	E	X	Z	V	D	M	W	H	J	D	H	A	H	S	I	J	D
V	F	B	T	A	X	G	B	E	P	K	T	V	Z	B	D	H	N	A	W	L
Y	Z	B	G	R	S	N	O	W	B	A	N	K	A	N	G	P	O	X	E	I
E	K	A	I	W	V	P	Y	P	W	Z	C	V	S	X	K	P	W	K	B	G
G	T	M	J	Z	T	H	L	G	L	Y	B	L	V	Q	G	M	N	N	L	
E	R	T	F	E	X	B	T	R	O	Q	E	Z	B	G	J	Q	A	Y	O	O
U	O	A	F	O	Z	O	D	A	U	W	T	M	N	O	I	K	N	E	W	O
N	F	Y	L	I	E	R	H	X	E	K	A	N	E	V	C	U	T	V	B	D
B	W	H	I	A	R	F	H	Y	T	N	K	V	Z	L	C	I	V	B	A	Y
V	O	U	R	U	L	D	D	E	Z	L	S	S	O	B	H	D	P	L	L	H
B	N	L	K	X	T	W	Y	U	C	N	E	A	R	W	M	R	H	B	L	K
T	S	N	O	W	B	O	A	R	D	N	C	M	F	V	U	A	S	L	E	D
I	I	C	E	C	R	Y	S	T	A	L	I	B	D	U	Q	Z	L	Y	R	H
C	Q	T	H	E	S	L	G	D	A	Y	C	D	A	B	Z	D	F	E	L	
K	Z	G	Z	W	J	Y	S	P	A	C	K	R	E	F	E	I	S	W	D	W
Y	S	H	O	V	E	L	U	K	S	C	M	T	E	B	S	L	W	B	W	E
I	V	S	B	T	M	R	B	R	F	X	C	D	I	P	E	B	C	W	O	J
L	K	B	B	M	K	V	Z	N	F	T	L	A	G	T	P	R	X	I	P	W
I	Y	R	R	U	L	F	E	O	J	O	B	T	X	P	H	I	G	D	C	G
B	Y	J	Y	J	Q	R	H	C	R	F	Y	F	Q	L	O	L	M	B	I	
V	C	F	M	H	N	O	V	X	U	Z	Y	D	K	D	F	K	S	I	P	

ICICLE	SLIPPERY
IGLOO	SNOW FORT
MELT	SNOWBALL
PACK	SNOWBANK
FLOW	SNOWBOARD
POWDER	SNOWMAN
SHOVEL	STICKY
SKI	SUB-ZERO
SLED	WHITE

© 2020 puzzles-to-print.com



Each month, the **Board of Deacons** encourages you to help meet the needs of our 1st UPC family through your donation to our **2-Cents-of-Compassion Offering**. Your donation will support the Deacons in their effort to support those members of our church who are in need. Donate 2 cents (or more) for every compassionate thought you have had in the last month and place it in the "2 Cents of Compassion" envelope included in Sunday's bulletin.

Our Lord Jesus said, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice."

DINNER AT THE PRES! There will be no Dinner at the Pres until March 2024. The Mission Committee would like to thank everyone who has volunteered with this program since we started back up! Our Daily Bread will continue to need our help with serving on certain days of each month. Four or five volunteers are needed. If you are available to help, please contact Evelyn at 937-592-6325!



God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.

Through the **Community Cash Program**, shop at Community Market (2 locations, North Main St. and East Sandusky Ave.), bring in your receipts and place them in the Donation Centers outside the sanctuary (Narthex) or in the Fellowship Hall. A portion of your sale will support 1st UPC's Sharing Fund, providing assistance to our church families as needed.



"Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered."

Use your Kroger Reward Card and support Youth Mission Trips!

To make an automatic donation with your Kroger Plus Card, go to krogercommunityrewards.com. Log in or set up a new account. Our "NPO" (non-profit organization) ID number is **HD313** and is listed as First (not 1st) United Presbyterian Church. Each year, 1st UPC folks who have named 1st UPC as their charity contribute \$800-\$1000 a year to support our youth mission trips. It only takes a little on your part – but it sure helps our community a lot!



"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap if we do not give up."

