

December 2025 – January 2026

# The Disciple

Faith Presbyterian Church Newsletter

5555 Chambersburg Rd. Huber Heights, Ohio 45424

faithchurchpcusa.org



*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it (John 1:5.)*

Every night when I take Lily out for her last walk, I carry a flashlight. Together we look for bunnies, racoons, possums and yes, even skunks! We have seen all of these critters on our nightly strolls. They all have one thing in common. They shy away from the light. I don't want Lily coming face to face with any of them, so this is a good thing. Many of God's critters prefer to come out at night. Maybe they feel safer in the dark, when they can hide themselves easier from predators. Unlike those critters, we need not shy away from the light.

The Advent devotional this year is called *"Draw Near: Lighting the Advent Path with Hope, Peace, Joy and Love."* What paths in our lives need lighting as 2025 comes to a close? It has been a challenging year for many people. We pray for God's light to shine on our world, our country, cities and of course our families and ourselves. A light shining in the darkness is good news, but it can also be challenging. What is God calling us to do? Maybe God is calling us to do something that will make us uncomfortable. For example, reaching out to an estranged family member, or letting go of something we know isn't good for us in the long run, or taking on a task that we know will lead us in a new, unknown, perhaps scary direction.

But God's call can also be exciting. Your Mission & Outreach Committee is looking forward to a new opportunity to volunteer at the City Thrift Store this winter. And we tried something new last month by helping pack meals for Honduras and Ukraine at Sulfur Grove Church. There was such a diverse group of people there- all ages and from several different churches and even a high school sports team and a ROTC group. It was an uplifting morning!

In all of these circumstances, we can benefit from God's gifts of hope, peace, joy and love. Yes, these are familiar themes that come to us every Advent. But we aren't the same people that we were last year, or ten years ago. We have been given new gifts and new experiences. And so we can reflect on and receive God's hope, peace, joy and love in a new way. What new idea/direction/inspiration will God reveal to you, and to Faith Church, this Advent?

The reflection and prayer come from this year's devotional, written by Terry M. Ott.

For reflection: What essentials do you need for this year's Advent journey?

Prayer: God of hope, light our path. As we begin again, meet us with comfort, courage and grace. Amen. May your Advent and Christmas celebrations be filled with Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Pastor Julia

## **Mission & Outreach**

### **Donations Needed:**

- We are accepting donations for women's toiletries at St. Vincents.
- Old eye glasses are given to the Lion's Club who send them to those in need.
- FISH is always in need of boxed cereal, canned green beans and canned corn.
- Clean prescription bottles with labels removed are also donated.

### **Volunteer Opportunities:**

During the winter months, we will be asking 4-6 members to donate their time to City Thrift, a store that sells clothing, furniture, household items, appliances and electronics to those in need. We may volunteer anytime from 9AM -2PM, Monday through Friday.

**Christmas Joy Offering:** For retired pastors and students in Presbyterian colleges

**Christmas Eve Offering:** Donations to FISH

**Adopt A Family:** through Kelley Britt, we will be adopting 3 families this year, supplying gifts and food.

## **Worship and Nurture Committee**

Meetings will be December 3rd & January 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM at the church. Everyone is welcome to join us. We continue to worship in person and on Zoom for those unable to attend, at: [faithchurch5555@gmail.com](mailto:faithchurch5555@gmail.com).



Coffee Hour continues with good food and lots of good conversation. If you wish to contribute with goodies or monetary, sign up on the bulletin board.

We continue to make blankets to give to Caterpillars to Butterflies (for autistic children) and St Vincent De Paul. We are always grateful for donations of money or material to continue our work. Come and join us – We are a support group where some people sew, some tie blankets and some just come to talk. The group meets at the church on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 AM.



Presbyterian Women meet each month with a lesson taught by a member of the group. They meet the fourth Thursday of the month at 11 AM, except December when the group will meet on December 18<sup>th</sup>.



Sweet Communion Book Club will meet on December 17<sup>th</sup> at **1:00 PM**— December's pick is The Frozen River, a historical mystery by Ariel Lawhorn. The book is a fictionalized account of the real-life diary entries of Martha Ballard, an 18th-century midwife. In 1789 Maine, when the Kennebec River freezes, entombing a man in the ice, Martha Ballard is summoned to examine the body and determine cause of death. As a midwife and healer, she is privy to much of what goes on behind closed doors in Hallowell. Her diary is a record of every birth and death, crime and debacle that unfolds in the close-knit community. Beginning in 2026, our group's name will change to **Faith, Hope and Good Books**. Watch the bulletin for the 2026 picks. Book club will meet on January 20 at 1:00 PM.



Our Advent study will be emailed to everyone weekly during Advent. Please join us Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM for conversation and Bible Study.

In 2026, Bible Study will start again on January 4th with lessons that help us examine our faith. Come join us on Sundays at 9:30 AM.



The Deacons would like to invite you to Christmas Eve Open House on December 24 at 6:00-6:45PM. We hope you will join us for fellowship and punch and cookies. The Christmas Eve service will follow at 7:00PM.

If you would like to provide some cookies for the Christmas Eve Open House you may bring them in on December 24th between 10 AM and 12 PM or in the evening before the Open House. Thank you.

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## January

Welcome to the New Year 2026! We wish you all a safe and happy start to the New Year.

Please stay safe and keep in contact with us, we care about every member.

Cyndi Adams, Chris TenBroeke, Naomi Henry and Sami Adams.



## **PRESCHOOL HAPPENINGS THIS MONTH!**

Our preschoolers have had an exciting and adventure-filled couple of months! We kicked things off with a special visit from our librarian, who shared stories that sparked imaginations and filled our room with laughter. The children also enjoyed a fun and educational field trip to the fire station, where firefighters showed us their gear and trucks up close. We welcomed a police officer for a safety visit as well, giving our little learners a chance to ask questions and learn about community helpers.

Another highlight was our field trip to Great Life Farms, where the children explored fall activities and learned about life on the farm. We celebrated the season with a cheerful Harvest Party, complete with crafts and seasonal treats. Pastor Julia also spent time with our classes, sharing songs and stories that encouraged kindness and friendship.

We enjoyed picture day, where everyone looked their best—and a joyful Thanksgiving Feast to celebrate gratitude and togetherness. What a wonderful start to the year of learning, exploring, and building community!

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### **Session Notes**

Oct-Nov. 2025

Session continues to meet via Zoom. Pastor Julia continues to care for those not able to be with us on Sunday, including with visitations and communion. She also continues to attend PMV and UCC meetings. She is again leading preschool chapels, assisting with mission projects, and continuing her Spiritual Direction class. She officiated at one memorial service.

Session is currently looking for someone to maintain the web site as it has not been updated since last spring. We will review the content posted to assure that it represents Faith and is attractive and inviting to those who visit the site.

Session members have been viewing and discussing boundary training. This will include reviewing existing policies, e.g. sexual misconduct and child protection, and adding needed additional policies covering harassment and family leave.

Continued participation is encouraged in the Collaborative Congregation events to strengthen the ties between the small churches of the Presbytery. The next event will be in February at College Hill Church.

## Administration Committee

Chairperson: Keith Williams  
Financial Secretary: Don Niece  
Treasurer: Diane Grycz  
Support: Paul Brown  
Support: Greg Hughes  
Support: Harry Tompkins  
Rev Julia Williamson

### Meeting Notes/Updates

1. We are looking for someone to manage and keep the website updated.
2. New copier 60-month lease signed and new copier delivered.
3. Fire extinguishers passed annual inspection.
4. Repairs made to drainage system in the garden to address water coming into the parlor. Most of the drainage system mapped and added to the plant drawings.
5. We are staying with the Huber Heights Electric aggregation program.
6. Thank you for your gifts of money and talents!
7. Pledge cards have been distributed. If you do not have one, please see anyone on the Admin committee. Please be prayerful about your pledge for 2026.

Financial Report: We are slightly ahead of plan for YTD income.

	October 31	2025	YTD
Income	\$6,891		\$117,919
Expense	\$9,718		\$96,198

Total Assets: \$69,825

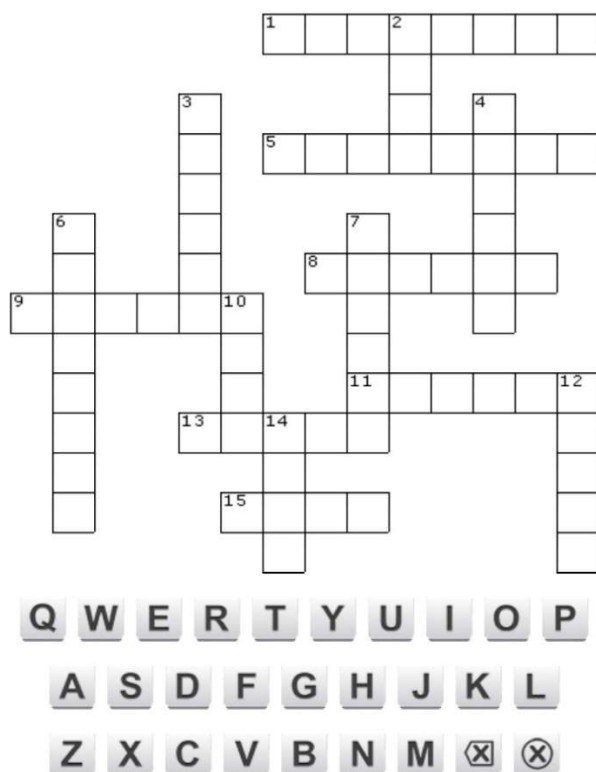
Financial Balances on 10/31/25	TOTAL
General Fund	15,289.61
General Money Market Fund	23,993.67
CD Matures 12/12/25	30,542.22
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>69,825.50</b>





# Members' Corner

## Christmas Crossword



### ACROSS

1 O come, all ye

—

5 Gifts

8 \_\_\_ get  
togethers

9 \_\_\_ night, holy  
night ...

11 Tree decorations

13 We celebrate  
His birth

15 Present  
decorations

### DOWN

2 What Santa  
brings

3 Used to tie a

present

4 Heavenly beings

6 Dasher,  
Dancer, etc.

7 Christmas  
songs

10 Place for lights  
and ornaments

12 Jolly old St. Nick

14 Makes a white  
Christmas

Book Review: Susie Tompkins

### My Friends by Fredrik Backman

This novel is about 4 friends in a seaside town whose powerful bond helps them through difficult home lives.

The teen friends form a fierce loyalty that lays the groundwork for a heartfelt story about ART and Human Connection. Twenty-five years later, their bond changes the life of a young artist, names Louisa. The story unfolds in the past and the present; the past focusing on the teens' summer of shared good and bad times, and the present, where Louisa experiences a time of friendship, art, grief and trust. A central theme to the novel is the way art can capture a moment in time and have a lasting impact.

I believe this book is the best of Backman. I could hardly put it down. It touches your heart and explains to the reader what kindness, trust and love can mean to a friendship.

## 2025-2026 Special Happenings at Faith

### December Highlights at a Glance

**Every Sunday-** 9:30 AM Early Bird Bible Study - 10:30 AM Worship/ Fellowship Time

**Every other Monday & Tuesday-** Girl Scouts

**Every Tuesday-** 4:15 Tutoring

**Every Wednesday-** 10:30 AM Blankets

5:30 PM Scouting America

Weds, Dec. 3 10:00 AM- Worship & Nurture

Thurs, Dec. 4- Noon, Lunch Bunch

6:00 PM- Mission & Outreach

7:00 PM- Admin Committee

### **Sunday, December 7- Second Sunday of Advent**

9:30 AM- Advent Study

Thurs, Dec. 11- 7:00 PM- Session Meeting

### **Sunday, December 14- Third Sunday of Advent**

9:30 AM- Advent Study

Weds, Dec. 17 1 PM- Sweet Communion Book Group

Thurs, Dec. 18 11 AM-PW Bible Study

### **Sunday, December 21- Fourth Sunday of Advent**

9:30 AM- Advent Study

Weds, Dec. 24- 6 PM Open House & Cookie Reception

7 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Thurs, Dec. 25 **Merry Christmas!**

Sunday, Dec. 28- Synod of the Covenant Worship Service

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**Every Wednesday-** 10:30 AM Blankets

5:30 PM Scouting America

Weds, Jan. 7- 10:00 AM Worship & Nurture

Thurs, Jan. 8- Noon Lunch Bunch

6 PM- Mission & Outreach

7 PM- Admin Committee

Thurs, Jan 15- 7 PM Session

Weds, Jan. 21- 1 PM Faith, Hope and Good Books

Thurs, Jan. 22 11 AM- PW Bible Study

## December Birthdays:

17 Jan Rader  
24 Paul Brown  
26 Doris Harmsworth  
27 Kelly Mayhew



## January Birthdays

3 Chris Adams  
7 Susie Tompkins  
11 Michael Grycz  
George O'Bryan  
21 Linda Niece  
25 Duane Skare  
31 Deborah Moore

*Your service to Christ and the Faith Family is very much appreciated. Without each volunteer we would not be able to perform even the most basic functions, and we on the Worship Committee are extremely grateful for your donation of your time and gifts.*

December				
	Worship Leaders	Children's Message	Greeters	Ushers
	<b>Communion Servers:</b> Keith Williams, Paul Brown, Cyndi Adams, Sami Adams			
7	Keith Williams	Mary	Cyndi Adams	Diane Grycz
14	Samantha Adams	Jenny	Maria Biemly	Pamela & Greg
21	Pamela Matheson Jon	Jeanne	Vaughn Beams	Jan Beams
28	Harry Tompkins	Sami	Greg & Pamela	Chris Adams
Standby Nursery: Chris Ten Broeke, Sami Adams or Cyndi Adams				
January				
	Worship Leaders	Children's Message	Greeters	Ushers
	<b>Communion servers:</b> Cyndi Adams, Mary Skare, Keith Williams, Diane Grycz			
4	Cyndi Adams	Mary	Maria Beimly	Chris Adams
11	Keith Williams	Jenny		Chris TenBroeke
18	Nat Davis	Jeanne	Greg & Pamela	Greg Hughes
25	Samantha Adams	Sami	Bev Brown	Jan Beams
Standby Nursery: Chris TenBroeke, Sami Adams or Cyndi Adams				



**A BIG  
Thanks!**

A Big Thank You to Nat and Jenny Davis for refinishing and repairing Faith's beautiful antique table. Be sure to admire it when you come into the sanctuary!





On the first Sunday of the month, the Worship and Nurture committee place flower arrangements on the chancel in memory / honor of loved ones.

If you would like to provide a flower arrangement in memory / honor of a loved one, the arrangements cost \$18 for one or \$36 for two. Make checks payable to Faith Presbyterian Church and return with the form below to Samantha Adams.

Your Gift will be recognized in the bulletin, unless you ask otherwise. Please check if you would like to pick up the arrangement(s) after worship, otherwise arrangements will be delivered to someone in need of a little cheer.

### Memorial Flower Gift

Please accept my donation of \$18\_\_\_\_\_ \$36\_\_\_\_\_ for the Memorial Flowers fund.

In Memory / Honor of\_\_\_\_\_

Given By:\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to pick up the arrangement\_\_\_\_\_