

# The PresbyRecord

A community beacon of faith, love and hope.

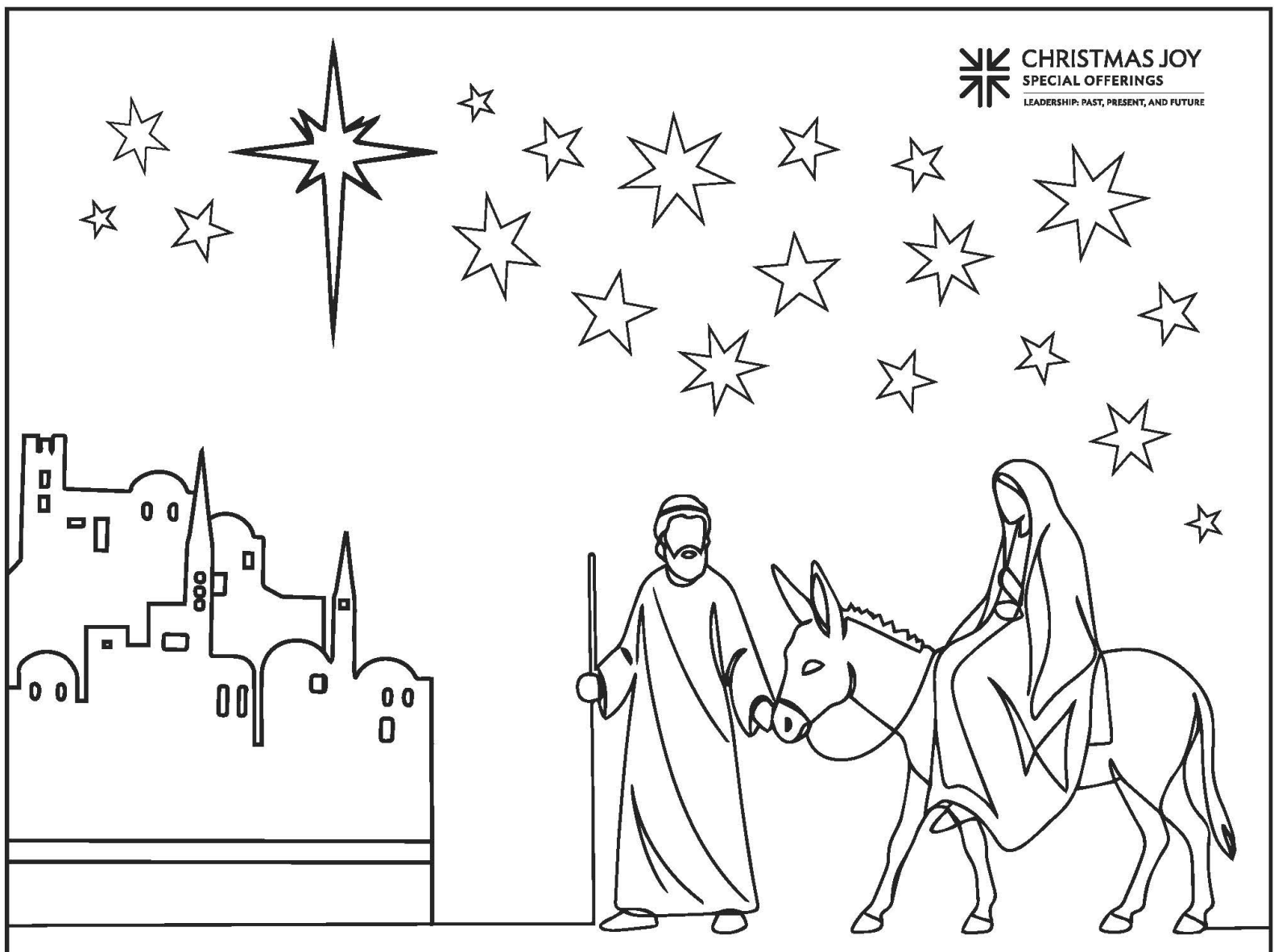
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December 2025

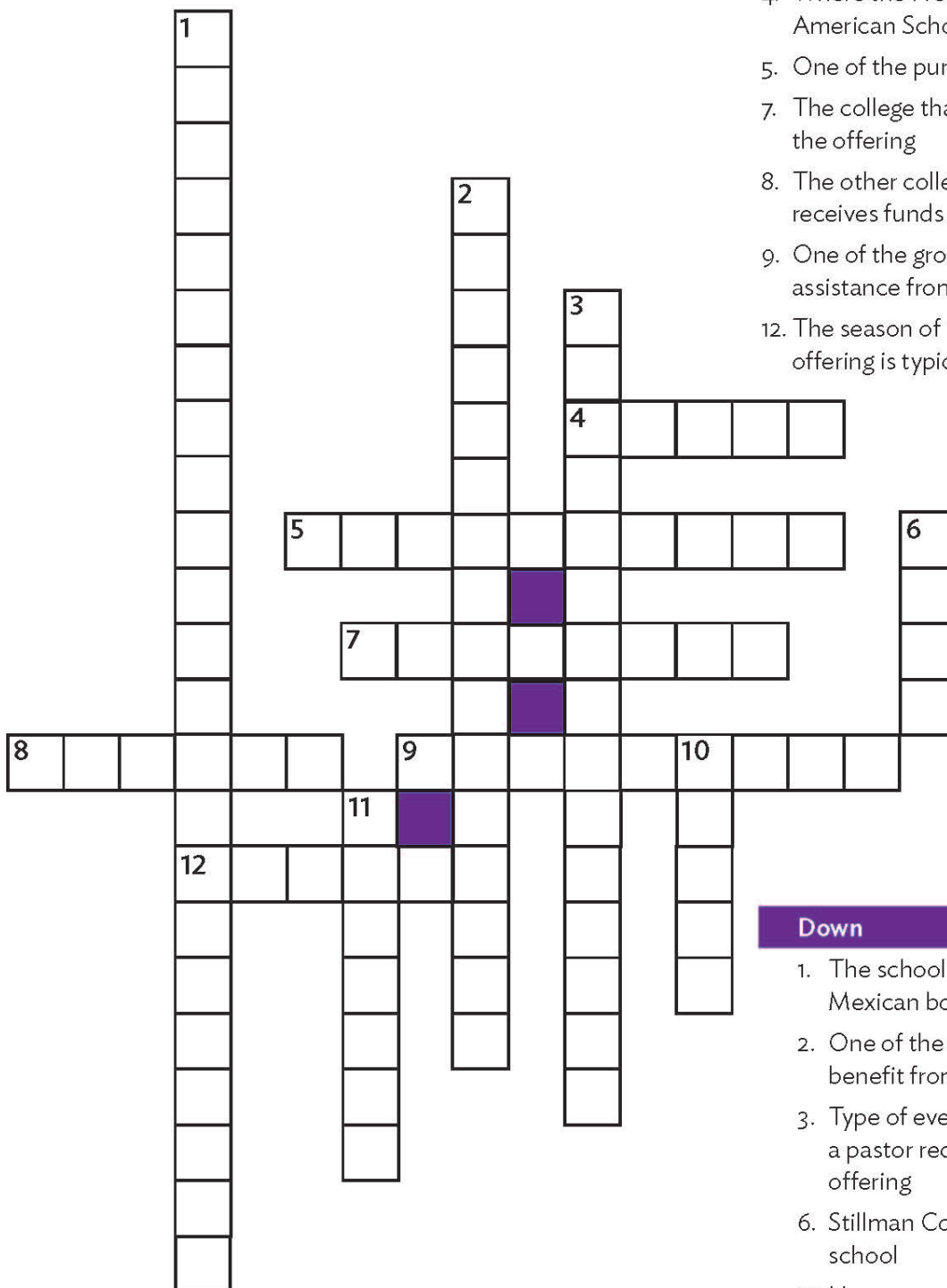


## CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



## Christmas Joy Offering Crossword



### Across

4. Where the Presbyterian Pan American School is located
5. One of the purposes of the offering
7. The college that receives funds from the offering
8. The other college prep school that receives funds from the offering
9. One of the groups that can receive assistance from the offering
12. The season of the church that the offering is typically received in

### Down

1. The school originally built for Mexican boys
2. One of the groups of people who benefit from the offering
3. Type of event that could result in a pastor receiving funds from the offering
6. Stillman College is an \_\_\_\_\_ school
10. How many schools or colleges receive funds from the offering
11. A type of assistance



**CHRISTMAS JOY**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
LEADERSHIP, PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

ACROSS: 4: TEXAS, 5: LEADERSHIP, 7: STILLMAN, 8: MENAUL, 9: MINISTERS, 12: ADVENT  
DOWN: 1: PRESBYTERIAN PAN AMERICAN, 2: RETIRED MINISTERS, 3: NATURAL DISASTER, 6: HBCU, 10: THREE, 11: MEDICAL



“Advent is a season of anticipation, when the Church leans into the mystery of waiting. We wait for light to pierce the darkness. We wait for hope to be rekindled. We wait for joy to be born anew. We watch for a couple searching for shelter, for shepherds hastening toward the Bethlehem manger. We look for a sky ablaze with angels. We strain to hear the song that declares: a Savior is born.”

~ Rev. Dr. José R. Irizarry

### Wednesday Nights During Advent!

On the first Wednesday, December 3, we are having an Advent Fair for the whole congregation. Details below!

Join us for Youth Group and adult Bible study following dinner on Wednesdays, the 10th and the 17th. The adults will be Unwrapping Christmas with discussion of the following scriptures: Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 2:8-20, and Matthew 2:1-15.

Join us Wednesday, December 3 for dinner and an Intergenerational Advent Fair. There are fun and inspirational activities for all ages. The theme is What do you fear? Insisting on hope this Advent, from A Sanctified Art. Activities include angel collages, luminaries of hope, courage mirrors and candle holders, circle of protection screens, paper chains, nativity bracelets and key chains, star lanterns, and more!

Each activity station will connect you to part of the Christmas story. You may do as many as time allows, and take others home for later. Devotional cards for each station support the scripture reading for the activity and may be taken home for reflection.

We will have pizza and salad for dinner.

PLUS! Check your email throughout Advent for daily breath prayers to use throughout your days of waiting, reflection, and preparation for Christmas. These are a gift to you from First Presbyterian Church and A Sanctified Art. Learn more about this artist collective at [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org).

## Communion Servers

**December 7th:** Kathleen Jordan - Set Up  
Kathy Harrah - Server  
Jennifer Burgess - Server

**December 24th:** Jack Rogers - Set Up  
Buck Ivey - Server  
Kristi Sutphin - Server

## Liturgists

December 7th	Valerie Wade
December 14th	Kristi Sutphin
December 21st	Kathleen Jordan
December 24th	Raven Lanham
December 28th	Buck Ivey
January 4th	Valerie Wade
January 11th	Adam Greathouse
January 18th	Raven Lanham
January 25th	Holly Greathouse

## In Care Facilities:

**Ann McCormick**, Apt.106, English Meadows, 5  
Bexley Dr, Scott Depot, WV 25560

**Sadie Ashworth**, 5 Rolling Meadows Dr., Room  
118, Scott Depot, WV 25560

**Cel Jones**, Meadowbrook Acres Rehab, Room  
A-13, 2149 Greenbrier Street, Charleston, WV  
25311 Phone 304 344-4268

## Prayer Concerns

### **Prayer Concerns – Congregation Members:**

Mark Curtis	Mike Merguc
Kensie McComas	Alex Dayfield
Ellie Malcomb	Mike Harshbarger
Carolyn Reed	

## Military

**Captain Allie Curtis**, US. Army (United States)  
**Hunter Parsons** U.S. Navy (Virginia)  
**Mickey Swartz**, Aircrew Flight Equipment  
Technician, U.S. Air Force (Eugene, Oregon)  
**Lieutenant Jack Wiles**, U.S. Air Force  
**PFC Joseph Sutphin**, US Army

## December Birthdays

1 – Eva Louise Greathouse  
3 – Julie Hartman, Sadie Ashworth  
7 – Bill Hoyle  
8 – Jack Wiles, Landon Hamler  
9 – Mary Jo Swartz, Linda Slappe  
10 – Grace Peyton  
12 – Jeff Maddy  
13 – Kris Dunlap, Braxton Hoylman  
14 – Robert Maddy  
16 – Eleanor Reeves  
17 – Michael Duvall  
18 – Kirk King  
19 – Allie Curtis  
21 – Donna Merguc, Katie Lee Holstein  
25 – Jason Manley  
27 – Holly Turley, Patrick Jones, Brucie Kessler, Beth Dunlap  
29 – Dewitt Bowman  
30 – Cathy Holstein  
31 – Jackson Jones

## December Anniversaries

Sally and Randy Noble  
Tricia and Bill Holstein

December 23, 1972  
December 20, 2003

**Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family  
of Brucie Harshbarger Kessler who passed away  
on Thanksgiving Day following a battle with  
cancer. Please keep the Harshbarger and Kessler  
families in your prayers**

## Prayer Concerns - Family and Friends

**Ashley Nestman**, Lymphoma (Connie Ivey)

**Victoria Reynolds** (Wanda Bowman)

**Flo Rogers** (Jack's wife & Raven's mom) health complications

**Jason Haught**, complications from spinal surgery (Vickie Haught's son, Jack Rogers' nephew)

**Brett and Linda Foster**, glioblastoma (Laurie's nephew and his wife)

**Kate Lichtenfels**, cancer (Kathryn Maddy's niece)

**Jason Turley**, major health concerns (Laurey's son and Holly's brother)

**Matt Waldie**, lung cancer (Kathleen Jordan's friend)

**Mark Cunningham**, brain cancer (Abbie Burch's brother)

**Mary Jo Swartz**, health problems (Kathi Curtis)

**Annette Burns**, liver issues (Ann McCormick)

**Sharon Peterson's parents**, Decision-making for long term care

## Highlights of November Stated Session Minutes

Meeting was opened with prayer by the Moderator.  
Received a report from Jennifer Burgess re the November Presbytery meeting.  
Received a letter from Friends of Bluestone regarding the future of the camp, how it will be financed, and asking for support.  
Discussed 2025 committee responsibilities and members.  
Received approval from Presbytery to allow Gabriel Gorby to preach the second Tuesday of January, February, and March.  
Will review church membership rolls to keep accurate attendance.  
Officer Nominating Committee will meet to nominate 2026 Elders and a Trustee.  
Teays Valley Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church will meet January 5th.  
A Stewardship Letter will be drafted and mailed to the congregation soon.  
Jack Rogers will speak at the November 23 worship service to update the congregation on the pastor search.  
Moderator gave an overview of the financial situation of the church.  
Meeting was closed with prayer by the Moderator.

## Littles Story Time Team

by Donna Merguc, Coordinator

We just celebrated Thanksgiving with our Littles. We read thanksgiving books all month, prepared some awesome crafts and sang and danced to some enjoyable Thanksgiving songs. The children do love to dance to the music..just look at the Littles' pictures and videos that Andi posts on facebook for us. We invited all the Littles and their families to our Thanksgiving Feast. We must say we are thankful for these children and their families.

Friday, November 21 was a bittersweet day for the Littles' family as we wished Shiori, Haru, and Hinanta a fond farewell. In December they will be returning to Japan where husband and father will continue his work. We were blessed to have them in the Littles' program for three years where we learned to love them. We wish them the very best in their new adventures and will miss them dearly each Friday. We also had two first-time visitors, Georgia and Lenora join us this week.

I am so grateful and thankful for every volunteer who supports the Littles Program. These volunteers offer their time and talents and make this program what it is today.

Thank you Mike Merguc for assembling the puzzle picture of Mary and Joseph for the Nursery and hanging it too. It looks very nice and we will enjoy it for years to come. ~Grateful, Donna

Thank you Judy Coffman for the Play Sets for the Nursery Kitchen. The Littles and Nursery children will definitely enjoy playing with all the kitchen food and utensils. Eva has already set the table with all the goodies. Thank you for thinking of us.

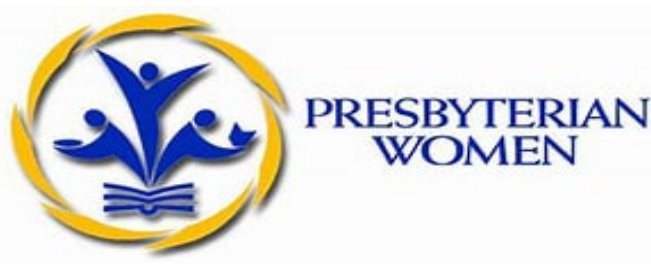
## Facilities Committee

### Facility & Worship

6:00pm 11-4-25

- Zoom meeting was set up by Holly with "Solar Holler". The zoom failed due to a mishap at "Solar Holler". We may reschedule
- Meeting continued with Mike Merguc.
  - Snow removal for this winter is set up with Andy.
  - Looking for budget sheet to be filled out
  - Kitchen door is not being locked, we need an announcement.
  - Furnace filters have been changed
  - New wax has been ordered and received.
- Advent procedures were discussed.
  - Start Nov. 30th
- Completed Tasks
  - New mens room light over sink.
  - New exterior stairwell light fixture and bulb replacement.
  - New carpet at kitchen door.
  - Cement repair on front steps.





Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to:  
nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,  
support the mission of the church worldwide, work for justice and peace, and build an inclusive, caring  
community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise  
of God's kingdom.

The monthly **Women's Lunch Gathering** is on Friday, December 19, at Shucker's. We gather at 11:45 am.  
Please RSVP to Kathryn at (304)539-2573 so we can reserve a table. All are welcome to join the fun. See  
you there!

### 2025-2026 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

**Horizons Bible Study 2025-2026 Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Christ**, by the Rev. Dr.  
Rhaskell D. Hunter. In this Bible study, we will explore resilience in times of crisis and finding Christian  
joy in a chaotic world.

We will also seek to rediscover our identity in Jesus Christ. We have two times you may join a Bible study,  
either in person or on zoom. Everyone is welcome to join the discussion whether you read the lesson or  
not.

This month we begin looking to the scriptures to find our joy! We take a look with fresh eyes at the  
famous (or infamous) Prodigal Son parable. By revisioning this parable, we find our joy in the reality that  
God offers us grace and love, not because of what we do or have done, but because of who we are ~  
beloved children of God.

**Daytime Bible study** meets Wednesday, December 10 at 12:00 noon in person for table fellowship. Bring  
your own brown bag lunch. At 12:35 pm we begin the Bible study and conclude promptly at 1:30 pm.

**Evening Zoom Bible study** meets on Tuesday, December 9 at 7:00 pm. The zoom will open at 6:45 for  
early birds to fellowship.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85861031680?pwd=Nw4SR3  
CIr969qxLdwY9avWaru3wiai.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85861031680?pwd=Nw4SR3CIr969qxLdwY9avWaru3wiai.1)

Meeting ID: 858 6103 1680

Passcode: 406332

## *Christmas Food Baskets*

Tick tock, tick tock, tick tock....the clock and calendar are rapidly approaching Christmas and one of our favorite days of the year. Although there is a lot of work and sometimes worry, I love working on our Christmas Food Basket Program!

Of course, the food donations and work to pull it all together require your faithful contributions. We are continuing to collect canned and boxed food items, and the process is progressing successfully through ongoing contributions. The list of items we need is noted in the Announcements flyer you receive every week which includes an update of our progress.

In the meantime, we can start collecting your monetary donations in any amount your heart and budget guide you. We try to hold the cost of each family's basket to \$70 but in the past two years the cost has crept to about \$100. We usually prepare for 48 families with two extra for last-minute situations. You can donate with a check by mail, depositing a check or cash in the offering plate in an envelope or through the online portal. **Please make the check payable to First Presbyterian Church and designate it for the Christmas Food Basket Program**, regardless of how you donate.

We welcome hands on help, too, with the pick-up of the food from Kroger, packing of the "baskets", onsite distribution at the Church and delivery to those who cannot come to the Church for pickup. First Presby is known for our generosity, and our less fortunate neighbors are counting on you! Please contact me by calling or texting 304-421-3780 if you have questions or want to participate in any of those mentioned activities.

Blessings to all!

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### **From the Staff Committee**

This year, as always, we are offering an opportunity for the congregation to show appreciation to our hardworking staff. If you would like to contribute to a Love Gift for the staff, please be sure to annotate your check or pew envelope "Love Gift."

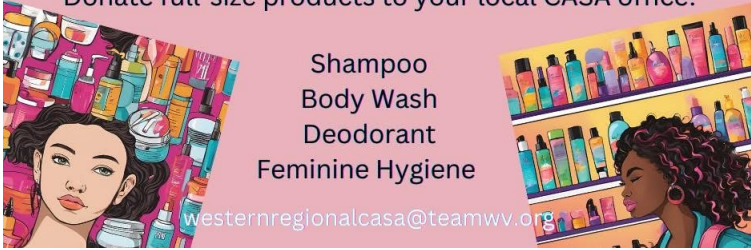


# Hygiene Drive for Children in Foster Care

Donate full-size products to your local CASA office!

Shampoo  
Body Wash  
Deodorant  
Feminine Hygiene

[westernregionalcasa@teamwv.org](mailto:westernregionalcasa@teamwv.org)



## Blessing Bag Needs

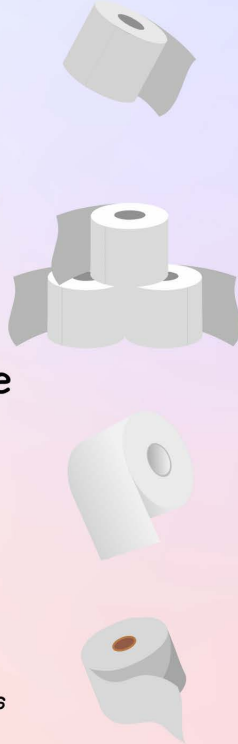
Socks – for men  
and women

Toilet Paper

Every donation  
helps bring  
comfort and  
care to someone  
in our  
community.

Thank you!

Please leave all donations  
on the stage



# Family Bible Study and Dinner

**Dinner 5:45-6:30**  
**Bible Study 6:30-7:30**

**Classes for all ages!**

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**  
**AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ST. ALBANS**  
201 Kanawha Terrace  
304-727-2241

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**  
**BEGINS SEPT. 10TH 2025**

Learn about God through stories, science, crafts and more!

Every time a hand reaches out to help... that is Christmas.

Every time a person chooses peace... that is Christmas.

Every time we forget our differences and remember the love that connects us... that is Christmas.

### Choral Music Opportunity

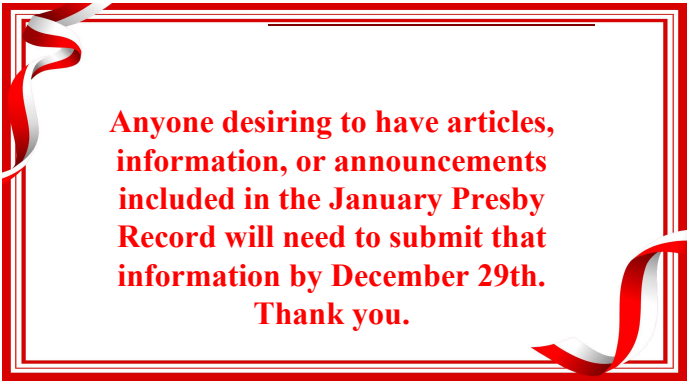
St. Albans Festival Choir has begun rehearsals for the SAMA's Community Christmas Celebration on Friday, December 12 at 7:00pm.

Rehearsals are on **Monday** evenings at **6:30** in the sanctuary of **Highlawn Baptist Church** (2304 Jefferson Avenue).





First Presbyterian Church  
201 Kanawha Terrace  
St. Albans, WV 25177



**Trustees**

Class of 2025: Buck Ivey  
Class of 2026: Holly Greathouse  
Class of 2027: Dewitt Bowman

**Officers**

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Dave Harvey (1)	Kathleen Jordan (2)	Jennifer Burgess (1)
Adam Greathouse (1)	Valerie Wade (2)	Kathy Harrah (1)
Buck Ivey (1)	Kristi Sutphin (1)	Jack Rogers (2)

**Church Staff**

Ministers.....	Every Member of the Congregation
Pastor .....	
Administrative Assistant.....	Raven Lanham
Custodian .....	Jennifer Gil & Mike Merguc
Musician.....	N. David Stern
Treasurer .....	Buck Ivey
Tech Team .....	Dave&Wendy Harvey, Betty King, Logan Roberts

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