

The Chimes

January 2025

WE ARE HERE TO SERVE — NOT TO BE SERVED

WORSHIP



A WORD FROM PASTOR JIM

Happy New Year!

I share this "New Year's" prayer with you once again this year as we stand on the threshold of the year ahead - 2025. We offer to God all of our joys and sorrows of the past year and open ourselves to the possibilities and promises that await us in the year ahead.

Gracious God, we take time now to remember the struggles we've faced, mistakes we've made and loved ones we've lost. In every year, we experience heartache. This one was no different. We thank you for your presence with us through it all and, in remembering Lord, may we find a seed of hope hidden in yesterday.

Lord, we also remember the many ways we were blessed. Moments when we found unexpected strength; times when we saw God's Spirit at work around us; and the outpouring of your great grace, mercy and love that kept us going all this time. We give you thanks for your tender mercy and continue to ask that you would grant us your peace.

Prepare us Lord for the New Year. Lift us up and place in our hearts, a renewed desire to know and worship you more. Grant us your abundant grace. Shower us with your healing love and your deep sustaining joy. Meet us this year with your loving and comforting presence in all the challenges and losses we will also face.

May your eternal kingdom reign in our hearts and in our lives. May the New Year show us once again your eternal mercy and glory.

We sing your praises with great joy!

In Jesus name.

Amen.

Grace and peace to you this New year!

Jim

STAY CONNECTED



Perrysburg First Church



419-874-1911



perrysburgfirst.church



@perrysburgfirstchurch

2025 BUDGET BREAKDOWN

| | |
|--|--|
| Total budget approved for 2025 | \$386,389 (\$7,435 increase from 2024) |
| Salaries, payroll taxes, etc. | 66.5% |
| Apportionments (our contribution to support the conference expenses) | 9.8% |
| Building (utilities, inspections, insurance, etc.) | 14.8% |
| Office/treasurer expenses | 2.8% |
| Program Ministries | 6% |

2025 COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Ad Council

- Ad Council Chairperson- Amanda Graven
- Finance & Stewardship- John Barker
- Lay Member to Annual Conference- TBD
- PSPRC Chairperson- Darrell Gill
- Treasurer- Irma Wolf
- Trustees Representative- Tracey Bowers
- Seasonal Design & Décor- Vicki Vath
- Family Ministry- Pastor Jodi Packard
- Prime Timers- Tolanda Kronfield
- Missions & Social Justice- Barb Sanford
- At-Large Member- Melissa McGurk
- At-Large Member- Ed Wolf
- Ad Council Secretary- Terri Gill
- Pastor Jim Jennings

Finance Ministry Team

- Chairperson- John Barker
- Finance Secretary- Brittany Gilpin
- Ad Council Chairperson- Amanda Graven
- Trustees Representative- Tracey Bowers
- PSPRC Chairperson- Darrell Gill
- Treasurer- Irma Wolf
- At-Large Member- Betsy Blume
- At-Large Member- Melissa McGurk
- Pastor Jim Jennings

PSPRC

- Chairperson- Darrell Gill
- Theresa Dhondt
- Del Vath
- Doug Stanley
- Rob Costell
- Connie Stallter
- Kerrie Long
- Pastor Jim Jennings

Trustees

- Chairperson- Tracey Bowers
- Terri Gill
- George Minkkinen
- Scott Price
- Bill Dhondt
- Pastor Jim Jennings

INFORMATION

DID YOU KNOW?








Did you know that we currently have around 45 children & youth who “regularly attend” Sunday Worship and/or our Wednesday night Team Kid & youth programs? That is amazing! While all these children are not usually in attendance all on the same day, on a typical Sunday we do average around 18 children (not including youth) upstairs in children’s church and the nursery. That works out to be just under 20% of our average weekend worship attendance. How does that measure up to other churches and what does that tell us about our church health you may be wondering? Glad you asked! The experts who study and write about church health suggest, in a healthy church, the children’s ministry should be around 18-25% of the total church attendance. I for one am encouraged by this! Pastor Jodi and all the volunteers who serve in our children & youth ministry are doing such vital work pouring the love of Jesus into the lives of our younger congregation. Praise God that he has blessed us with so many younger members and that he isn’t done yet! We still have so much room to grow and that is our desire and believe God’s desire for us as a church!

~ Pastor Jim

BYKOTA BREAK

BYKOTA Sunday School Class will NOT meet during the month of January. Class will resume February 2, at 9 a.m.

JANUARY PRAYER CALENDAR

|  January 2025 PRAYER FOCUS | | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| 1 New Beginnings 2 Corinthians 5:17 | 2 Tolerance Psalm 103:8 | 3 Peace not Panic Isaiah 30:15 | 4 Prepare Matthew 3:2 | 5 Trustworthy 1 Corinthians 4:2 | 6 Unexpected Isaiah 55:8 | 7 Fruitfulness John 15:5 | | | | |
| 8 Light John 8:12 | 9 Compassion Matthew 5:44 | 10 Faithfulness Lamentations 3:22-23 | 11 Blessing Nehemiah | 12 Guidance Proverbs 16:9 | 13 Comfort Isaiah 55:8 | 14 Chosen 1 Peter 2:9 | | | | |
| 15 Service Luke 22:27 | 16 Purpose Psalm 57:2 | 17 Light John 8:12 | 18 Power Romans 8:31 | 19 Rest Psalm 23:2 | 20 Treasure 2 Corinthians 4:7 | 21 Fear Not John 14:27 | | | | |
| 22 Possibilities Matthew 19:26 | 23 Relationship Jeremiah 29:13 | 24 Creation Genesis 1:31 | 25 Righteousness Matthew 5:6 | 26 Pathway Psalm 5:8 | 27 Barriers Ephesians 2:14 | 28 Healing Mark 2:11 | | | | |
| 29 Consolation Psalm 73:26 | 30 Child Like Mark 10:16 | 31 Assurance Hebrews 11:1 |  2025  | | | | | | | |

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Team Kid/Youth resumes January 8th from 6pm-7:30pm.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT AND THANK YOU

With 45-50 children and youth in our family ministry, did you know that it takes at least 7 adult volunteers each Sunday for our children’s ministry to operate and be in compliance with our Safe Sanctuaries policy? Each week, 52 weeks a year, we have dedicated adults that give their time to love and nurture the future. They are raising up the next generation in faith. I want to give a heartfelt thank you to all who contribute to this very important ministry:

Dan Packard, Sally Hatfield, George Minkinen, Amanda Costell, Madelyn Rexer, Lynn Stefforia, Anna Costell, Nikki Artiaga, Cheri Carr, Amanda Graven, Ashley Roth, Charli Sarver, Libby Graven, Doug Stanley, Del Vath, Bonnie Bennion, Rich Bensman, Kay Smith, Irma Wolf, Melissa McGurk, Carley McGurk, Logan McGurk, Kerri Long, Aurora Marble, Laura Bensman, and Jeremy Hatfield, and anyone I may have missed!

A great big thank you to all the participants and helpers for this year’s Christmas Pageant! We are so very blessed to have such wonderful talent and willingness to participate! We even had three preschool families join us for the pageant! Thank you to all who helped with the Breakfast with Santa! We had over 100 people attend the breakfast.

Thank you to the women’s Thursday morning bible study for all the birthday and holiday cards they are sending to our preschoolers! Thank you to each and every one of you! You are a blessing beyond measure! The list looks long, but the demand is great, so if you are interested in being a part of the volunteer team for the family ministry here at Perrysburg First Church, please contact me.
Pastor Jodi

RIVERSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Thank you to all who contributed to this year’s Christmas mission of donations of hygiene products for Riverside Elementary School’s Community Closet. Thank you to those who donated Christmas gifts to provide Christmas for four Riverside families. Thank you to our mission’s team for purchasing Christmas gift cards for all of the staff at Riverside and providing cookies (especially those who baked them all!) and cocoa for the students on their last day of school before Christmas vacation. Thank you for sharing the love of Christ with others.

OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor

Jim Jennings

Pastor of Family Ministry

Jodi Packard

Administrative Assistant

Brittany Gilpin

Treasurer

Irma Wolf

Music Director

Tim Cloeter

Multimedia Coordinator

Dax Rice

Prime Timers

Tolanda Kronfield

Preschool Director

Sharron Waclawski
419-874-9318

TROOP 198

EAGLE SCOUT

Congratulations to Troop 198's Mr. Nathan Gibbs, who has achieved the highest rank advancement of Eagle Scout. Mr. Gibbs has put years of work into this achievement. He can now proudly wear the Eagle Scout patch, neckerchief, and metal. Mr. Nathan Gibbs completed all requirements for Eagle rank on November 18, 2024. Over the years, the requirements include earning merit badges, serving in leadership roles, participating in scoutmaster conferences, as well as completing an Eagle Scout service project. For his Eagle Scout service project, while in a leadership role, lacrosse nets were built at Woodland field. Mr. Gibbs stated "I chose my project because lacrosse has always been something very important to me. Ever since I was a kid, I would be at the Woodland fields for games, practices, and simply for fun. The biggest problem anyone would always face is losing their balls in the woods. After a missed shot, missed pass, or missed groundball. Kids just hanging out play lacrosse would often be cut short due to losing their balls in the woods. On the other hand, if one cared to venture into the woods, it would lead to plants being trampled and people being covered in burs. That's why the nets were made, to stop people from losing balls in the woods for the betterment of the lacrosse community." Please join us in congratulating Mr. Gibbs on this achievement.



MISSIONS

Your Missions Team is so very thankful for the support of our church family as we worked throughout 2024!

Our three signature mission projects have been so well supported. Our bed build was very successful as we built 55 beds and provided twin linens throughout the year. We have maintained the Riverside School Community Closet keeping it full of needed hygiene and cleaning products. We adopted some Riverside families for Christmas providing gifts for those that would have gone without. And finally, our Adopt A Child was so well funded that all the children at the school in Kenya have the tuition provided and enough left that we were able to fund a much-needed computer lab.

Thank You, Perrysburg First for all you do to enable your mission team to help so many others!!

SERVE

PERRYSBURG FIRST AND PCU

The churches of PCU are asked to contribute specific items to the food bank each month. **For the month of January, we are asked to donate pasta.** For February, donations of shampoo would be appreciated. If you wish to give a monetary donation, you may do so by visiting: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YQZA/home>. Thank you for your continued support of PCU!

Donations may be made online at www.perrysburgfirst.church under 'Give'.

The submission deadline for the next Chimes newsletter is on/around the 25th of the month.

Perrysburg First Church
200 W. Second St.
Perrysburg, OH 43551
office@perrysburgfirst.church

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 9 am - 2 pm

Office: 419-874-1911
office@perrysburgfirst.church

There is always a chance we could be out of the office, so we encourage you to call ahead before stopping by.