

# TOWER TIDINGS



**Come and Worship!**

Christmas Eve in the Sanctuary &  
Livestreamed at 3pm, 6pm & 9pm  
Plus Caroling by Candlelight on the Green at 7:30pm



**WORTHINGTON  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*Brought to you by Jesus...to make a difference*

[www.wpcnow.org](http://www.wpcnow.org)



## From Pastor Julia



### Dear Friends,

In November I had the pleasure of seeing the Broadway show *Hadestown* at the Ohio Theatre. Even with careful pandemic precautions in place, there was plenty of excitement in the air. The management expressed their gladness to see their “longest-ever intermission” come to an end. The show itself was very good, yet my favorite part came at the end, after the bows. The cast members spread out in a line across the front of the stage and sang a song without any microphones. It was just human voices and a guitar, filling that vast hall, and it was breath-taking.

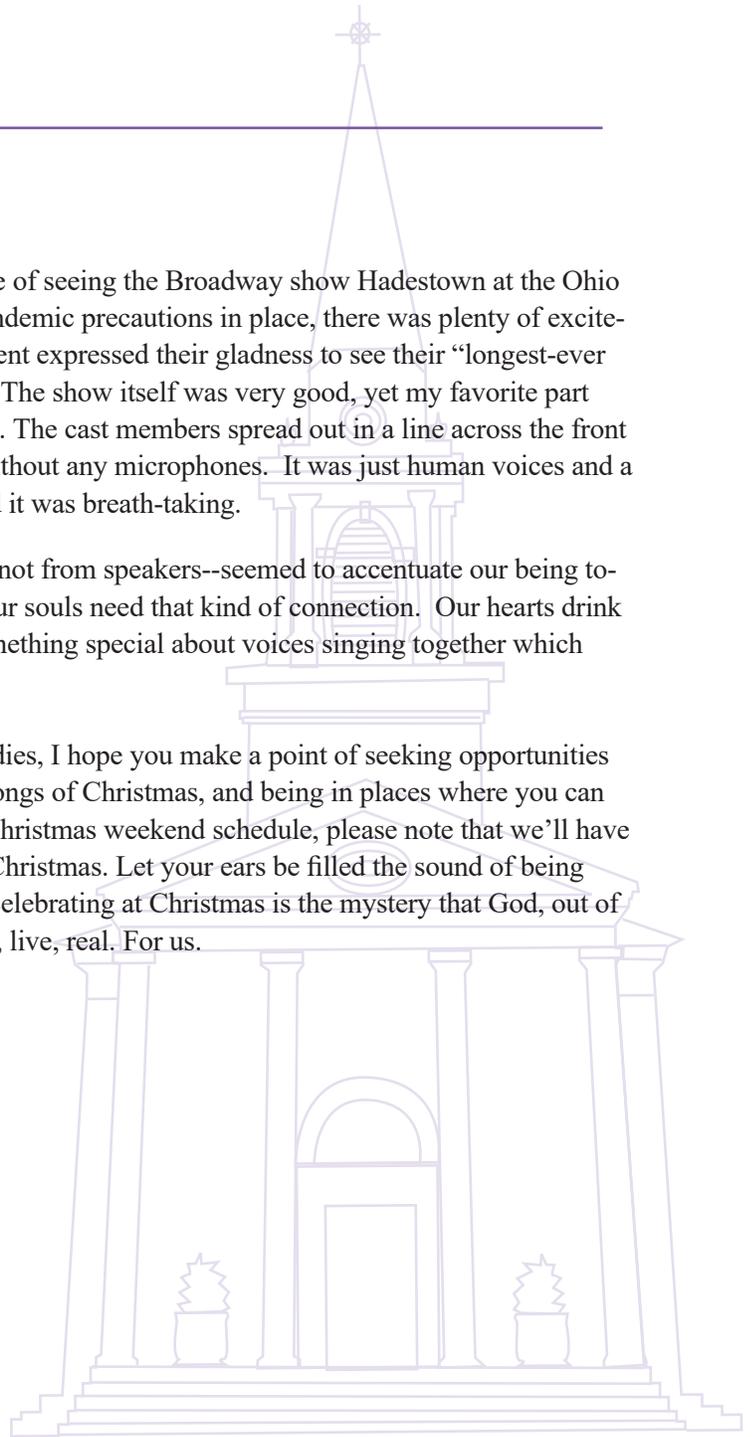
Hearing those voices directly--not from speakers--seemed to accentuate our being together, in-person, live, real. Our souls need that kind of connection. Our hearts drink it up thirstily. And there is something special about voices singing together which quenches that thirst.

Even as we continue to exercise caution for the sake of our bodies, I hope you make a point of seeking opportunities this Christmas to quench the thirst in your souls. Singing the songs of Christmas, and being in places where you can sing with others (or at least listen to others) can do so. In our Christmas weekend schedule, please note that we’ll have both indoor and outdoor possibilities for singing the songs of Christmas. Let your ears be filled the sound of being together, in-person, live, real. After all, the main thing we are celebrating at Christmas is the mystery that God, out of great love and mercy, chose to become human, to be in person, live, real. For us.

May your Christmas season be generously blessed with love.

Yours, in Christ’s friendship,

Julia Wharff Piermont  
Senior Pastor



## Life in the Church

We celebrated three baptisms this month! Eva Leitnaker, daughter of Megan and Brandt Leitnaker (*far right*) and Cole and Beckett Quickel, sons of Kate and Jordan Quickel.



## WPC Deacons on the Road

This deacons' gathering had it all: three hymns, prayer, a blessing, and warm fellowship. Neighbors might have mistaken it for a party or a church service. It was both.

The deacons gathered in 96-year-old Tom Forsha's garage to give him a fond farewell before he departed to spend the winter with his son. Later, Tom wrote, "That was a fantastic evening. I enjoyed it very much. You have a wonderful group of deacons and I love each of you.... What a great church we have!"

His son adds, "Each of you have become part of our extended family and for that I am truly thankful. On our trip home, dad talked about the get together held in his garage. He was truly touched by so many people celebrating Veteran's Day by singing hymns on such a gloomy evening. It really brightened up his day."

Together we are the body of Christ. We are blessed to get to share his love.



Harry Pukay-Martin (left) and Tom Forsha (right).



## WPC Carolers on the Village Green

WPC members gathered on the Village Green ahead of the Worthington Christmas tree lighting to show their Christmas spirit. A festive time was had by all.



## Mission

### Thanksgiving Dinners

This project was started by Marylou Posey while teaching at Whetstone High School. It has been continued by the Mission Ministry. WPC members provided and assembled food boxes for a Thanksgiving meal for 250 families (upper right). Most dinners were delivered to families with children in Worthington Schools. We also delivered meals to families at Salem Elementary and Hamilton Elementary in Columbus.

Community Volunteers from Sunday Sangha, friends, and Salem Elementary School staff participated in the distribution and delivery of 25 Thanksgiving meal boxes and created a card for WPC (middle right).

Families at Hamilton Stem Academy (K-6) were able to give 20 turkeys and all the fixings in time for Thanksgiving (right).



## Charitable Pharmacy of Central Ohio Update

WPC has been supporting the Charitable Pharmacy of Central Ohio (CPCO) for several years now with “hands-on” volunteers as well as financial support. Mark Senff, Richard Birnie, Sheri Holcomb, Bill Elliott and a few of their friends have been sorting unused medications supplied from area nursing homes (*upper right*).

The Charitable Pharmacy supplies prescription medications and pharmaceutical services at no charge to residents of Franklin County who are living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. They may be uninsured or underinsured. They can qualify for support for a 12-month period and beyond. Continuity is especially important for medications to be effective. These patients will meet one-on-one with a pharmacist or advance pharmacy intern whenever they

pick up their medications. Between March of 2020 and June of 2021, 797 new patients were qualified for the program.

In August of this year a new pharmacy was opened in the south Linden area, at 1464 Cleveland Ave (*bottom right*). This new pharmacy provides services similar to the Livingston Avenue facility with offices staffed by trained counselors, dietitians, and social workers to address health and medication issues. The pharmacy shares a new building with the “Farmacy” supported by the Mid-Ohio Food Collective to provide fresh produce and information on healthy nutrition and food preparation. A proper diet is essential to good health and medication outcomes so this accessible pharmacy/“farmacy” is a great blessing to CPCO patients.



## COMPASS Awarded \$1 million Grant

Together with millions of Americans nationwide, our community continues to be challenged by the health and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. COMPASS (Congregational Outreach Ministries Program and Social Services) has been a light in the darkness for many people struggling with evictions or in need of assistance with utilities. COMPASS is a “Not for Profit” organization managed by Broad Street Presbyterian Church (BSPC) in partnership with multiple churches in the area including Worthington Presbyterian Church.

COMPASS provides financial and educational support for families at risk of being evicted or having their utilities turned off due to late payments. Unlike many “Not for Profits,” COMPASS prides

itself in providing a “hand-up” instead of a “hand-out.” COMPASS will provide money to the landlord or utility on behalf of the individual in need; however, they also provide “life skills” training such as money management, resume building, interviewing skills, and nutrition. The intent of the program is to help families with their short-term financial needs while also helping them get their lives on track for longer term success.

In years past, COMPASS has helped 450 families last year. With COVID-19 ravaging central Ohio, the needs of our community have increased dramatically. COMPASS has searched for creative ways to meet that increased need and was recently awarded a grant of \$1 million from the City of Columbus and the Federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program to help families directly impacted by COVID-19. The grant is part of \$12.2 million being distributed to 26 community organizations through the



city’s Stable Housing Initiative. Through this grant, COMPASS estimates it will provide help to 40% more families in the year ahead.

WPC is proud to have partnered with COMPASS for over two decades via financial assistance and through Board of Directors service. Scott Jacobs (a WPC member and elder) is on the board now. Our congregation’s engagement in mission outreach through time, talent, and treasure makes programs like COMPASS possible. It is one important way we are responding to God’s call to help God’s children in need.



# Preschool



WPPS heard that our local resource pantry had bare shelves for the Thanksgiving Holiday so we came together to do a canned food drive. We collected items for the Worthington Resource Pantry the week before Thanksgiving and had a great turn out. The kids loved dropping off the goods in the boxes each day. We were able to donate 216 pounds of food just in time for families in need to pick up their holiday meal items!

## Trunk or Treat

WPC held its first “Trunk or Treat” in cooperation with our Preschool and their families along with our church families. It was a huge success!





## Children's Ministry (Crib - 6th Grade)



### Club 456

Club 456 is a fellowship group for 4th – 5th – 6th grade kids. We play games, do service/ outreach projects, eat and have a lot of fun. At our November gathering, we tied blankets

(left), put 25 hygiene kits together for Faith Mission, made up 25 dry bean soup mix kits for NNEMAP, made 22 lunches for folks at Open Shelter and helped organize Advent Porch Drop-off kits.



### Advent Workshop

The celebrated the first Sunday of Advent with the annual “Advent Workshop.”

The children were able to rotate to several stations: cookie decorating (and eating!), snowman clip, mini-Christmas tree, star ornament and Nativity in a Box (left).



### Choir Plus

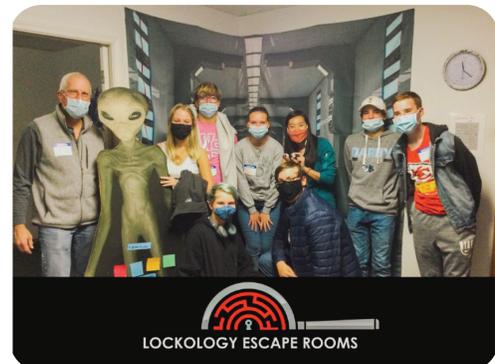
Choir Plus is our mid-week elementary age program for kids. We meet on Thursday nights from 5-7 pm. The kids learn worship songs in choir and learn Bible stories (and we always eat a yummy dinner). Our Christian Education time includes interactive lessons such as yoga, sign language and art (below).



## Youth Ministry (7th - 12th Grades)

We have had a ton of fun with exciting games and meaningful service these past few months!

We started November with a trip to Lockology in Powell. There, we had to split up into three different escape rooms that included Aliens, King Arthur's Excalibur, and a secret invention of Edison's! All three teams just managed to escape with only a couple of minutes left on the clock! in our lives we are thankful for.



Later that month, we also helped set up more than 200 Thanksgiving boxes that our congregation used to help serve a hearty Thanksgiving meal to families around Columbus, and also decorated some cookies for the people in our lives we are thankful for (right).

In December, we continued our Season of Service with some Christmas Gift shopping for others with Sponsor-A-Family, and will go do some Christmas Caroling at Wesley Glenn in the middle of the month. We ended end our year with a Christmas party on December 19th and will have some time off before we relaunch our Youth Ministry on January 9th at an indoor ropes course at PlayColumbus!

If your youth are ever interested in participating, let our Director for Youth Ministries, Nick Robison, know at [nrobison@worthingtonpresbyterian.com](mailto:nrobison@worthingtonpresbyterian.com).



# Generosity

## Generosity Update

Thank you for the Faithful, Hopeful, Loving way you have pledged. The total amount of pledges received for 2022 as of Dec. 9 is \$1.1 million. Remember, it is never too late to submit your annual pledge for 2022. Visit [www.wpcnow.org/pledging](http://www.wpcnow.org/pledging) to find out more information on submitting a pledge. If you would like to fulfill your 2022 pledge before the end of this year (i.e. give it before 12/31/2021), please note “2022 Pledge” on the memo line of your check.

Below are pictures from Dedication Sunday when we came together to celebrate the congregation’s generosity.





**WORTHINGTON**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

773 High Street  
Worthington, OH 43085



## Upcoming Events

### “PIE” Partners in Education

Jan 8, 2022, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. at WPC



Our annual Presbytery Leadership Training Day “Partners in Education” (PIE) will be offered Live on Saturday, January 8, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at WPC (cost \$15 for lunch). Masks Required for this event. Let us help you train your church leaders.

Topics for the workshops include elder and deacon training, discussion of legal issues in the church, a youth ministry roundtable, information of Matthew 25, and a conversation about Vital Congregations for churches in transition. IN ADDITION we have two great keynotes - Michael Wilkos from United Way on “Poverty in Central Ohio,” and Carlton Johnson from the PC(USA) Mission Agency on “Vital Congregations - What’s Next?” Both keynotes will be recorded for later viewing on our YouTube channel.

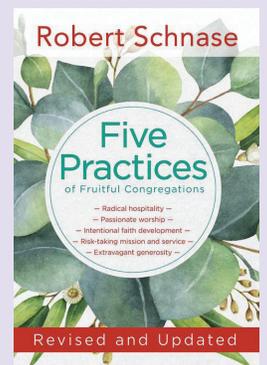
Visit [www.wpcnow.org](http://www.wpcnow.org) for more information.

## ADULT EDUCATION

### Five Practices for Fruitful Congregations - a 5-week series!

Begins Jan 9, 2022, 9 a.m. in Room 222 and Zoom

New to WPC? Come learn about our vision of who we are called to be as a church (a copy of the book is available at the church office).



If you’ve read the book before, this series is a chance to look at how we’re doing and how we can be even more fruitful in serving and following our Lord. A great way for us to start the new year together!