



Condit Courier

December 2023

Presbytery Installs Minister



All Elders of the church lay hands on Pastor Sam and pray

Reverend Samuel Monte was officially installed by the Presbytery of Scioto Valley, serving central and southern Ohio, on Sunday, November 19th at a special afternoon Installation Service. Installation services are conducted by each Presbytery and they encourage all members to participate so new pastoral colleagues within the Presbytery feel fully welcomed to that region. Pastor Sam, having started his ministry at Condit in September, is serving as the 45th minister of Condit Presbyterian Church since it was founded as First Trenton Presbyterian Church in 1836. A sizeable crowd attended his service and all were invited for a cake and punch reception following the installation. Reverend Kathy Nice, Pastor Malcom, Reverend Emily Corzine and Pastor Deb Bergman all participated in the installation service. Former GAP minister, Pastor Wayne Morrison, was also in attendance. Condit extends many thanks to the Presbytery for arranging this meaningful worship service and for all who made the trip to officially unite Pastor Sam to Condit Presbyterian Church and the Presbytery of Scioto Valley.



Rev. Samuel Monte (L), is installed by Rev. Emily Corzine (C) and Pastor Deb Bergman (R)

A reception immediately followed the Service of Installation in the fellowship hall. Pastor Sam had the honor of cutting the cake as Nemo looked on.



Honoring Veterans

Eight members of Women's Circle met in Centerburg at the home of Beverly Saksa at the end of October for a sewing mission project. Nine pillowcases were sewn to donate in honor of the long term "shut in" veterans residing at Country View. Beverly delivered the pillowcases to Country View the first week of November so the recipients would have them in use before Veteran's Day. Women's Circle is planning to sew spring pillowcases for all long term "shut ins" before Easter and possibly add another sewing project for next Christmas. Thanks to all who donated time on a Saturday to help with this project and brighten the room of a military veteran. Special thanks to Beverly for organizing this event and opening her home for such a worthy cause.



Women Circle display patriotic pillowcases sewn for veterans of Country View

The Reason for the Season

When I was a child, I thought like a child. I reasoned like a child. This means that, in terms of Christmas movies, I identified with Ralphie from A Christmas Story. How could I not? He looked at Christmas with the wonder that only a child can. A time of the year where magic and love abound is possible to a child. Now that I am a man (and I haven't yet seen the nostalgia grab that is the new sequel) I find I identify more and more with Clark Griswold from Christmas Vacation.

More and more, all Clark wants is to have the perfect Christmas for his family. I get that on a spiritual level. The perfect tree needs found. More lights than are humanly needed need to be put up. We have to do everything we can to make sure we have the hap-happiest Christmas since Bing Crosby tap danced with Danny Kaye!

Doing so burns us out. We do this knowingly. What should be the happiest, most joyful time for us is nothing but a ball of stress and anxiety. We do this to ourselves every year without fail. I wonder what would happen if we focused our attentions on something different. Instead of worrying about sleeping arrangements and who gets the neck saved for them from the turkey, if we realigned our focus to a small babe born in a manger.

"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9: 6 reminds us exactly what the purpose for all of our work is for. It is all meant to glorify God. That is what we are called to do. Christmas is meant to focus on the gift of Jesus to humanity. The savior comes to redeem our sins and give us the love of God made flesh.

The glitz and glamor of the season matter only as much as it does to us. What should matter is the fact that we are celebrating the birth of our savior. We can do that

as we so choose, but we can never lose sight of what is the most important part of this season.

What are some ways you can realign yourself this advent season? How can we work separately and together to keep Christ at the center of Christmas time? How can we bring everything this season together to glorify God? I encourage you all to think and pray on this. Discuss this with your fellow members and work towards a Christ centered community this Advent season.

Christmas Blessings,

Pastor Sam

(330) 207-7038

pastorsamuel85@gmail.com

Office Hours Monday-Thursday 9:30-2:00

Visitation usually on Wednesdays

Remember in Prayer

Bill Walker & Shgila Micholgs
Friends & Family of Sue Overturf
The Mucci Family
Janz Cockerll
Mary Jo Wilson
Joann Ippolito
Clayton Davey
Shelli Evans
Max & Peggy Sheets
Bill McKwon's mother




December Happenings

Advent Study Group

Submitted by Pam Sheets

Condit will offer a weekly Advent book study group for adults beginning **December 4th**. The book used will be "The Carols of Christmas, Volume #2," written by Alan Vermilye, which explores the history of four Christmas carols and provides six days of daily devotions that reflect verses from each hymn. The group will meet at **6:00 on Monday evenings Dec. 4, 11, and 18** at the church. Pastor Sam and Adam will be taking turns facilitating this discussion. The books have been ordered and will be distributed before Nov. 27th. The group should read week one starting on Nov. 27th and be prepared to discuss at the first meeting on December 4th. It is not too late to join us!



THIS HOLIDAY SEASON GIVE THE BEST
Give Blood
Save a Life!  **American Red Cross**
12-6 Friday, December 8
Condit Presbyterian Church
corner of Hartford Road and Rt. 605
[Give Blood@ConditChurch.org](mailto:GiveBlood@ConditChurch.org)

There will be a Congregational Meeting after worship on December 10th to elect church officers.



Condit Christmas

The annual Condit Christmas celebration will be on **December 10th at 6:00 p.m.** and Adam Garner is looking for volunteers! Anyone who would like to perform a piece of literature, music or visual arts should contact Adam. He will provide any assistance you need in performing your art. Refreshments will be served in the fellowship hall following the program.



Holiday Choir & Hand Bell Choir

The choir is rehearsing music for Advent and Christmas services. Practices are **every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.** The hand bell choir will be practicing **after church Dec 10th and Dec 17th** for one performance in December. Please see Adam if you would like to participate in one or both of the choirs.



Food & Fun

Food and Fun occurs on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. In December that is **December 13th and December 27th**. Come to the fellowship hall from **5:00-7:00 p.m.** for a homemade dinner. Plan to bring a friend. Feel free to stay and play a game after you eat.



Women's Circle

Country View again hosted the Women's Circle meeting on November 15th. Mary Ann Counts led the in-depth discussion covering the first half of Chapter 4 of *The Pilgrim's Progress*. The next meeting, **December 20th at noon**, will be a Christmas celebration at the home of Mary Kingseed. A pot luck luncheon will be shared. Mary lives in Greyland Estates off of S.R. 605. Her address is 1490 Orvin Circle, Sunbury.

The Bible study portion of Women's Circle will resume at the **January 17th** meeting. Chapter 4 and the first half of Chapter 5 will be completed at that session. (Workbook pages 61-67) All women are always welcome to attend.



Christmas Eve

A special worship service to honor the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, will be held **December 24th at 7:00 p.m.** Please plan to attend this candlelight event.



December Birthdays

1 Holly Fuller
4 Hayden Agnew
13 Megan Gilbert
18 Bob Westbrook
19 Pat Monroe
20 Bill Ravage
21 Jim Irwin
25 Alma Jones
28 Kate Skene
29 Kaitlin White

December Anniversaries

17 Jeff & Terri Groszclow
18 Richard & Janice Howenstein
26 Dave & Melissa Vermillion



Directory Update

It is time to update the church directory. A form to make revisions to the Directory is available in the narthex. Please make necessary changes and return to Donna Mucci or Polly Horn by the end of December.

Looking Ahead To January



Training for Church Elders

Partners in Education (P.I.E.)

Leadership Training for: Clerks, Elders, Deacons, Educators & more!

Saturday January 20, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Covenant Presbyterian Church
2070 Ridge Cliff Road
Columbus, OH 43221



Wands for Wildlife
Recycle mascara wands to be used to remove eggs and larva from fur and feathers.

Wash wands in warm soapy water to remove any mascara. Dry.

Donate clean wands to Sheila Micholes by January 30 at

Condit Presbyterian Church
15102 Hartford Road
Sunbury, Ohio 43074



As one life ends...

The congregation of Condit said goodbye to long time church member Sue Overturf on November 11. Sue passed away unexpectedly on October 26 while visiting Florida. Funeral services were conducted at Condit with Pastor Sam Monte officiating. An Elder of Session and choir member, Sue and her strong musical talents will be greatly missed.

....Another begins



Welcome to the world Becks Austin Thacker!

Becks was born at 10:38 a.m. on November 11th, weighing 8 pounds 14 ounces and was 21 inches long. Becks is the first child of Jared & Slone Thacker. Proud grandparents are Larry & Sandy Thacker. Congratulations to the Thacker family as we rejoice and welcome their new addition.

Getting to Know You...

Mary Kingseed

by Jennie Kavage

Mary Kingseed was new to the area and knew no one when she stepped into Condit Presbyterian last spring but Sheila Micholes greeted her warmly and showed her around so that she felt welcomed immediately—a feeling amplified by the friendliness of the other church members she met that day.

Mary had moved from Galion to Greyland Estates off County Road 605 to live with her daughter and son-in-law, Lisa and Brad Reed, on an icy winter day at the end of January. The spacious house open to the morning sun has a special suite for Mary including kitchen and patio. She was so ready to be there she arrived a day ahead of family and furniture, spending the first night on the floor.

An Ohio native, Mary's family lived in Upper Arlington with stints in London, OH, and Missouri while her dad was in the Navy. They moved to Louisville, KY, when she was in second grade and then back to Upper Arlington when she was a sophomore. After graduation from Upper Arlington High School she was off to The Ohio State University to study child development, preschool and kindergarten.

As fate would have it, friends "fixed her up" a date with OSU agriculture student Al Kingseed. After her sophomore year, they married. Their first home was in one of the brick residences, mostly inhabited by college students (and cockroaches, Mary would say) on King Avenue. Rent was only \$90 a month but gas heat from a "big old" converted coal furnace was \$100. She remembers how proud she was to have cooked her first Thanksgiving turkey but where was the dressing, Al asked, and the giblets? Oops, still in the bag. Still in the turkey.

Lisa was born the next year and soon they moved to their first house on Woodstock Road. Brent came next and Mark completed the family after they



moved to Galion. Mary's father and brother were working at American Steel Grave Vault Co. in Galion, a company started by her grandfather. When her brother, Bill, joined the U.S. Air Force they asked Al to join the company.

The last time Mary saw Bill he was home from Vietnam for a few weeks before going back for his second tour and proud of receiving his captain's wings. Two weeks later the family was notified Capt. William (Bill) Unckrich flying a C-123 cargo plane had given his life for his country Oct. 10, 1969.

During the years her children were in school Mary was an elementary school librarian, helped with reading and at the middle school library. She was secretary for the family vault company, for Community Counseling Services in Bucyrus, for Fairview Cemetery in Galion and activities director for a local nursing home.

The Kingseeds, along with other families and friends, enjoyed snowmobiling in Michigan in the winter. She says she nearly froze to death but she told herself she could do it and she did. When she was 60

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The quarterly Faith Filled Women meeting was held November 10th at The Bridge. As women of Condit were responsible for providing the program, Marianne Westbrook invited Cornerstone of Hope to share about their 5013c nonprofit organization. Matt Grant, Donor Relations Officer, spoke briefly about Cornerstone of Hope and then introduced Jen Bechtel, Assistant Coordinator from Cornerstone's fellow program, Mid-Ohio Traumatic Loss Response Team, to speak about their work in Delaware, Morrow, Marion, and Crawford counties.

Cornerstone of Hope is a comprehensive bereavement center located in Westerville. It operates with the philosophy that no one should grieve alone and offers grief counseling, support groups, memorial events and spiritual care for adults, youth, couples/families, as well as group and community response programs. The goal is to help others manage grief and come out with a renewed sense of purpose, thus the slogan "Grief with Hope."

In 2022 Cornerstone of Hope founded the Mid-Ohio Traumatic Loss Response Team, which offers free postvention support for suicide and overdose loss survivors. They offer 10 week support groups led by professionally trained facilitators and connect recent traumatic loss survivors with past survivors for emotional support. Mid-Ohio is currently seeking volunteers to help in this field with the hopes of offering Grief Share and Companionship Programs in all four of the above listed counties.

Condit's own Marianne Westbrook has recently completed training with the Mid-Ohio Traumatic Loss Response Team and is currently volunteering with them. If you are interested in joining the team as a volunteer please contact Marianne for guidance.

Lunch was offered after the meeting with a time for fellowship and discussion. The next meeting will be

March 8, 2024, at the Olive Green Church of Christ at 11 am. All women of any denomination are welcome to participate and bring a friend.



Marianne Westbrook, Jen Bechtel and Matt Grant

Mission Update



Operation Christmas Child

Thirty one shoeboxes were filled and donated from Condit to Samaritan's Purse global mission project. Marianne Westbrook delivered the boxes to a drop-off location where they will be shipped out for further processing and eventually delivered abroad. Thank you to all who donated their time and resources to this life changing mission.



The **Community Euchre! Game Night** will not take place on December 30th due to the holidays. The monthly game night will resume in January. Please spread the word to those who regularly attend and may not read the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

October 2023 Financials

Submitted by Ken Bartlett

Our regular offering is approximately 74% of its ten-month budget amount (**\$79,544.00** of **\$107,301.02**; **\$27,757.02** in arrears). Total receipts are **\$98,768.68** of the ten-month budget amount of **\$127,371.85**, **\$28,603.17** in arrears.

Insurance, real estate taxes, and per capita are fully paid for the year. As the budget was prepared as though a full-time pastor was in place for the entire year, the net savings year-to-date for our pastoral leadership is **\$44,115.48** through October. Total expenses were **\$76,615.78** against a ten-month budget of **\$127,371.85**, resulting in outflows less than budget by **\$50,756.07**.

October net is **\$1,289.82** in the black, and the year-to-date net is **\$22,152.90** in the black after nine months.

Receipts are **\$14,533.27** more than a year ago, while expenses are **\$16,469.28** less than a year ago. This results in the net being **\$31,002.55** better than a year ago. This is mainly attributable to our previous pastoral situation.

Investments as a whole were down in October and are now up 1.5% year-to-date. Investments total **\$230,280.69**. Total funds available are **\$271,545.98** as of the end of October, **\$21,140.02** higher than the beginning of the year.

The equity market returns have been fueled by the Magnificent 7 stocks (MAMA ANT acronym – Microsoft, Amazon, Meta, Apple, Alphabet, Nvidia and Tesla), while dividend stocks have been out-of-favor. The 2023 new investments were split between safer short-term bond funds and higher dividend-paying funds, so we have not received those MAMA ANT returns.

The trustees are on to the next project – trying to figure out and resolve the basement flooding issue. Enrollment with the Board of Pensions has been completed and the catch-up billing occurred at the beginning of November.

Kingseed, Continued from page 5

a neighbor invited her to try community theater. She found acting “a lot of fun. You can be a completely different character than who you are,” she says.

For many years Al and his buddies cooked roast beef in a pit for the annual Pickle Run Festival on Labor Day Weekend. Mary helped at the food stand. After they sold the grave vault company in 2004 they worked at Phil's deli, hosting a Friday cookout in front of the store May through October.

Mary and Al had sold their house and bought a Fifth Wheel. Foxfire Campground in nearby Nevada was their home base but in winters they headed to Texas campgrounds where they worked as activity directors, at one point providing 35 activities and weekend entertainment for 400 campers. Eventually they traded the camping lifestyle for a Galion condo but Mary says she still misses camping where “you meet so many nice people.”

Al passed in 2018 after a six-year battle with lung cancer and later Parkinson's disease. When Lisa and Brad began to plan their “dream home,” Mary planned with them. When her condo sold sooner than expected she lived first with her son and then her longtime neighbor asked her to come stay with her. This friend, whose health was declining, asked Mary if she would take Minnie her Chihuahua should she die. Already fond of Minnie, Mary agreed and enjoys the daily walks around her new neighborhood with her little companion.

Condit's newest member, Mary has not hesitated to get involved--in the choir, Women's Circle, the exercise class and now the new bell choir, something she's never done before. Music Director Adam Garner told her to just watch him. When he points, she rings her bell.

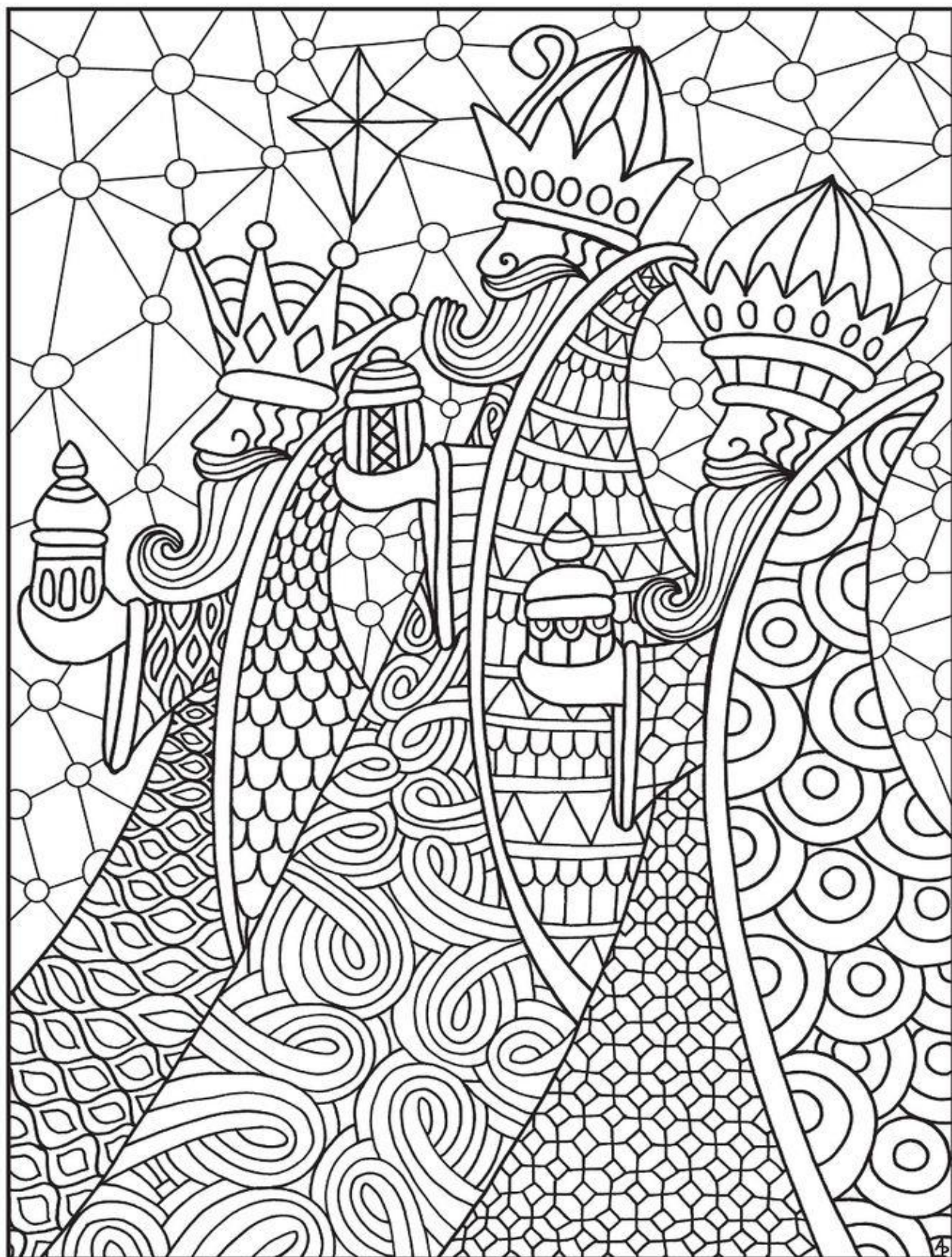
Grandmother to six, Mary was looking forward to her whole family being together for Thanksgiving and maybe for Christmas. Also, she says, she feels “so blessed to have found a loving caring family at Condit and looks forward to sharing Christ's love to all.”



December 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Worship 10:00 Communion	4 Advent Book Study 6:00	5 Fitness Club 6:00	6 Choir 6:00	7 Fitness Club 6:00	8 Blood Drive noon-6:00	9
10 Worship & Congregational Meeting 10:00 Bell Choir Condit Christmas 6:00	11 Advent Book Study 6:00	12 Fitness Club 6:00	13 Food & Fun 5:00-7:00 Choir 6:00	14 Fitness Club 5:30 Session & Trustees 6:30	15	16
17 Worship 10:00 Bell Choir	18 Advent Book Study 6:00	19 Fitness Club 6:00	20 Women's Circle @ noon Choir 6:00	21 Fitness Club 6:00	22	23
24 Worship 10:00 Christmas Eve 7:00	25  Christmas	26 Fitness Club 6:00	27 Food & Fun 5:00-7:00 Choir 6:00	28 Fitness Club 6:00	28	30 No Euchre!
31 Worship 10:00				<i>December Flowers-</i> <i>Doug & Karen Kerns</i> <i>December Ushers-</i> <i>Doug & Sheri Linnabary</i>		



Condit Presbyterian Church Newsletter
 15102 Hartford Road
 Sunbury, Ohio 43074

SESSION

Class of 2025

Grant Bartlett Sheila Micholes

Class of 2024

Doug Kerns Mick Sheets

Sandy Thacker

Class of 2023

Georgann Whitney Judy Watts

Marianne Westbrook

Rev. Samuel Monte

Music Director Adam Garner

Treasurer Ken Bartlett

Financial Secretary Doug Kerns

Clerk of Session Chip Welch

Church Phone Number: 740-965-2911

Website: <http://ConditChurch.org>

TRUSTEES

Class of 2025

Bob Westbrook George Justice

Class of 2024

Allison Skinner Kenneth Bartlett

Class of 2023

John Whitney Molly Blevins

Church Directory

Donna and Laura Mucci Minister

Custodian Lynette Meliorre

Newsletter Editor Melissa Vermillion

Website, Streaming Bob Westbrook

Ushers/Greeters Georgann Whitney

Acolytes Bill and Teresa Gorsuch

All Contact Info in Church Directory

available in the church