

October–December 2024

FIRST WEST

Love God and Love Others



A Message from our Minister...

You've heard the ole' adage: "When it Rains, It Pours." You know what I mean—when one area of your life goes haywire—other areas seem to fall apart. Storms in life are bound to happen. Each generation faces a multitude of challenges—some of which are self-created, while others, are out of our control. In the midst of the ebb and flow of life—how do we find an anchor point? How do we guard our minds from getting swept away while battling life's storms?

If you are looking for encouragement and stability, you are not alone. We all need reassurance and hope to keep moving forward. The good news is this: help is available. When facing storms, the Bible encourages us: 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

First Westminister
Presbyterian Church
235 North Fourth Street
Steubenville, OH 43952
740-282-4591
firstwestpc@gmail.com

Minister

Rev. Jason Elliott

Administrative Assistants

Cathy Cipriani

Paula Paugh

Children's Ministry Director

Glory Dami

Custodians

Jinny Simeral

Jeff Lynch

Organist

Denise Truax

Elementary Youth

Cherie Ramsey

14 Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. 15 As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. 16 With all of these, [c] take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. “Stand Firm and put on the whole armor of God” (Ephesians 6:10-17). Use the “sword of the Spirit” to battle the storms you encounter. Let the Word of God give you strength. In the Old Testament, the Psalmist reminds us—“Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth” (Psalm 124:8).

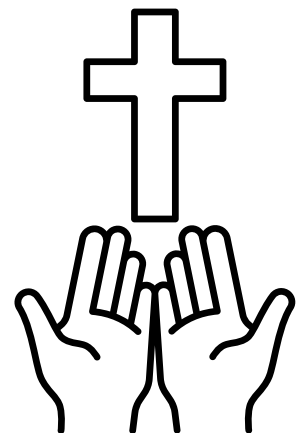
And when we look in the pages of the Bible in the New Testament, the Apostle Paul knew what it meant to face storms. For crying out loud, the Apostle Paul was put in prison, beaten and even faced what he called a “thorn in the flesh” while sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. His attitude was galvanized in the teaching “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13). He even once said “suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us” (Romans 5:3-5).

The bottom line is this: “If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Is it raining at your house? If it is, Stand Firm. Do not let the storm knock you down. God is with you and may He give you the tenacity and strength to keep swinging your sword. Keep your eyes on Jesus.

keep Going for the Lord,

Rev. Jason Elliott



Love God and Love Others



The 2024 First West Picnic was an outstanding success! We want to thank the village of Mingo Jct. for their awesome hospitality and the beautiful venue at Aracoma Park. We also want to thank all the volunteers who worked so hard to provide delicious food and all the amenities for a fantastic celebration. We are so blessed at First West—Love God and Love Others!

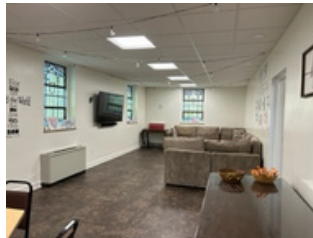


The 2024 Hot Rod Saturday at First West was a “rip-roaring” success! Praise God for the gorgeous weather and all the beautiful cars, trucks, and vans! We welcomed 140 cruisers and their families to enjoy an awesome afternoon at the church. A special thank you to the City of Steubenville for closing 4th street from North St. to Washington St. to accommodate all the vehicles. We want to thank our community outreach team for providing top-notch hospitality, great food and plenty of meaningful relationship building. Everywhere you looked, people were smiling, sharing stories, and having a great time! We look forward to next year’s Hot Rod Saturday!





Wow! We are so blessed! On Sunday September 15, 2024, we celebrated the confirmation of 19 youth at First West. Each member of the confirmation class wrote and shared their statement of faith in front of the congregation; they each did an amazing job—we are so proud of them! Praise God—5 of the youth were baptized—it was an amazing day!



During the worship service, the newly renovated Christian Education Wing was dedicated. All the volunteers and contractors who worked on the project were recognized for their commitment to furthering the gospel of Jesus Christ for many future generations. Thank you for all your hard work—you are all a blessing! Children, teachers, school staff and administrators were part of a back pack blessing. After a prayer of blessing and protection, they each received a tag to place on their backpack or in their classroom or office which reminded the “Jesus Loves You.” We are so thankful for the dedication of all of our area schools in providing quality education and a safe learning environment for our children. God bless you all! We also want to thank everyone for making the Shine Your Light Festival such a blessing. The food, pumpkins, games and decorations were enjoyed by all. Thank you to our awesome team!

EDGE BASKETBALL

Drill for Skill

COMPETITION
EDGE SPORTS
 CHARACTER

EDGE Basketball is excited to announce a new format for youth basketball development. The Drill for Skill sessions are open to Steubenville City Schools students or members of First Westminster Presbyterian Church. 6 different skill groups will meet once a week. Varsity Coaches Mike Haney and Angelita Forte serve as basketball directors.

The 6 week program will focus on:

- *Christian Core Values*
- *Ball Handling*
- *Passing*
- *Shooting*
- *Rebounding*
- *Defense*
- *Working as a team*
- *Games will be played*

Boys and Girls Skill Groups:
 Grades 1-2
 Grades 3-4
 Grades 5-6



Registration Online Only

September 20th -October 14th

\$65 registration fee (includes jersey)



FIRST WEST

www.EdgeSportsOV.com

Register Early!
 Limited Spots in each group!

"Building Character through Competitive Sports."

28th Annual Presbyterian Open Golf Outing

The 2024 POGO was a great success as we celebrated 28 years of providing an excellent time of fellowship for area churches. We would like to thank all the golfers and sponsors who made this year's scramble a great celebration. Two First Westminster Teams and one team from Mingo First Presbyterian tied for the top spots at 12 under par. We want to thank Spring Hills Golf Club and Pro Dan Stacey for his hospitality and help. We also want to thank all the volunteers from First West who made the delicious food! Funds raised from the outing were given to the Cancer Dietary Initiative and the Edge Golf Junior Academy. See you next year!



COMPETITION
EDGE SPORTS
CHARACTER

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOXES

Through this project, Samaritan's Purse partners with the local church worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples of the nations. Shoeboxes are here if you would like to participate. Instructions and suggested items to pack are included in the box. Samaritan's Purse/Operation Christmas Child is asking for \$10 per box for shipping. If you would like to help with the mailing, you may make your check to the church with "Operation Christmas Child" in the memo. Then we will mail one check for the mailing to Samaritan's Purse. You can also donate the \$10 online at samaritanspurse.org or mail to Samaritan's Purse, PO Box 3000, Boone, NC 28607-9956. National collection day for the filled boxes is the third week of November.

Hanging of the Greens

In a few short weeks we will be preparing the church for the Christmas Season! The Advent season allows us to prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus. Please join us on Sunday November 24th after Sunday morning worship to decorate the sanctuary!
Christmas Cantata/ Christmas Party Celebration

Christmas Cantata

Please join us for the 2024 First West Christmas Cantata on December 8, 2024 at 10:45am. The kids will bless us with an awesome program which will bring a bunch of Christmas cheer! Please plan on staying after the cantata for our First West Christmas Party. We will enjoy great food, games and maybe even a visit from ole' St. Nick.

Christmas Eve

We will celebrate our candlelight Christmas Eve service at 7pm this year. We look forward to celebrating with you and your family.



Badge Buddies

First West Elders Annie Johnston and Megan Presley had a vision of “Building Bridges between Law Enforcement and Youth.” The duo developed a First West community outreach program called “Badge Buddies.”

The goal of this program is to partner with school systems to foster four core values of trust, respect, education and communication between 3rd grade students and police officers. The Steubenville Police, Wintersville Police, and Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department are fully committed to participating in this program.

The mission program will be hosted once a month beginning this year with East Elementary in Steubenville. The 8-month program will focus on one core value every two months. During an hour gym class, the kids will receive a 5-minute core value character lesson and then participate in an activity with police officers to reinforce the core values. The key emphasis is allowing youth and police officers to build relationships. At the end of studying each core value, the kids and police officers will receive badge coins specifically designed to represent each of the core values. Last month the program launched at East Elementary. The kids, police officers and school officials all had a great time! We want to thank everyone for coming together to make an outstanding difference!



235 NORTH FOURTH STREET
P.O. BOX 580
STEUBENVILLE, OHIO 43952

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 41
Steubenville, Ohio
43952

Our Fall 2024 New Members Classes are scheduled for October 13, 20 and 27 from 9:30–10:15 before worship in the fellowship hall. The classes will inform new members on the history, mission and ministry of First West. We will enjoy good food (breakfast will be available), great fellowship and lots of opportunities to grow. We look forward to welcoming you and your family—please bring your kids!

If you have any questions, please call the church
740-282-4591

FIRST WEST
Love God and Love Others