

September 27, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of Peakland,

The Stewardship Team has begun its work on the budget for 2022. In the envelope you received today you should find:

- The 2021-22 PBC Opportunities Booklet with Sign-Up Page at end of booklet
- Your 2022 Financial Pledge Card
- A return envelope for your Pledge Card and Opportunities Sign-Up Page

Please take the time to prayerfully consider your pledges of investment in the work of Peakland Baptist Church, fill out both the Pledge Card and the Sign-Up Page and return them to the church office by **Monday, October 25th**. You can mail cards or bring them by the church office.

As we have continued to work through the realities of the COVID pandemic, our church has proved itself to be flexible and nimble. We have had pre-recorded services and in-person worship, as well as outdoor worship; we have had masks and no masks and some masks. Through it all, you have continued to give faithfully and to be part of the ongoing work of making church community together. Thank you for your faithfulness!

During this time of uncertainty, it is vitally important that we continue to cover our maintenance, salaries, increasing technology needs, and other operating expenses with our gifts while also supporting our mission and community support activities. This will allow us to use the earnings from our savings as needed towards funding our goals and dreams for the church. As we continue to move forward together and explore new opportunities to serve God and each other in this highly dynamic environment, we ask that you look into your hearts and pledge generously so that we can pursue the future that God is calling us to build!

We ask the following of you:

MAKE A PLEDGE- This is important in helping the team predict our income for 2022.

DO IT PROMPTLY- Please return your pledge to the church office by **Monday, October 25. SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24TH** will be our **Investment Sunday**, during which we will prayerfully offer our investments of time, talent and financial support for the "concerns of God" in the world.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE- Be as supportive of our church as you can be. *Please note that we have asked Teams to provide their thoughts on what can be done to maximize the effectiveness of our limited resources in this mostly virtual and uncertain environment. --- Can you be part of making this happen?*

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to call on any member of the team if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Victor Angell, Team Leader
Amy Ray, Treasurer
Georgeann Snead

Ed Burnette, Assistant Treasure
Farshid Shahrokhi

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Bible Study

Our Wednesday Bible Study meets weekly via Zoom to discuss and unpack scripture. We have chosen to study the books of James and Hebrews to follow along with the lectionary texts for the fall.

Join us via Zoom at:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87046006745?pwd=NU11dHpSdHFhdk8yOWgwK1V0L2RSUT09>
Meeting ID: 870 4600 6745
Passcode: 423040
Dial: +1 301 715 8592

ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL—DEC. 5

Since the publication of our Opportunities Booklet, I had the chance to talk with some colleagues at the different communities of faith around town. Several were very interested in partnering with us on an

Arts and Crafts Holiday Festival to raise money for Interfaith Outreach Association.

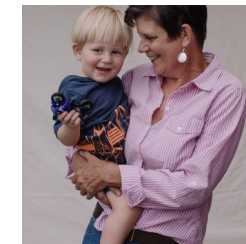
You may be aware of the burden that IOA carried last year, when they had more than one million dollars in state and federal grants. This year, their burden is again growing large, but the grant money is not as present.

We can have fun, hang out with friends, shop for really special holiday gifts and help support the work of IOA to help people in need in Lynchburg. Here is how you can participate:

1. Do you make stuff? Then, spend the fall making the stuff!
2. Let Martha know what stuff you're making.
3. Before Thanksgiving, bring the stuff you made to the church if it is non-perishable.
4. After Thanksgiving, bring perishable goods to the church.
5. Come to the Festival, tentatively scheduled from 1-5pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church, and buy stuff!
6. Want to help organize? Tell Martha!
7. Have a great fall with very positive goals!



Welcome Leslie Willman!



Welcome Leslie Willman (pictured here with one of her favorite people) Our church has been very fortunate in being able to welcome **Leslie Willman**, one of our long-time members, as our new Office Administrator. Leslie has come onto our staff to cover some vital needs of our church:

- ⇒ Managing the running of our building and property, including grounds, buildings, Memorial Garden and Columbarium.
- ⇒ Managing the running of our office by creating organized systems
- ⇒ Maintaining the flow of communication so that our systems work together.

Leslie has extraordinary gifts for organizing and is excited at the prospect of helping the church systems run smoothly. In addition, Leslie is a well-loved and trusted member of our community who has proven, in so many ways, how much she loves each of you and how much she loves this church. Martha Kearsse will continue doing desktop publishing, so if there are misspelled words or improperly placed semi-colons, don't call Leslie!

We are currently working to establish regular office hours for Leslie around her other life duties. For now, someone should be available in the office every day, Monday-Friday, between the hours of 10 and 2. Thank you for stepping into this role, Leslie!

PBC Opportunities Booklet

This week, you should receive the PBC Opportunities Booklet for 2021-22. In it, you will find:

- Fall Activities
- Opportunities for engagement in Bible study, spiritual formations and programs
- Opportunities for participation in church leadership
- Opportunities to invest in getting to know each other better and creating safe community

October is the season of investment, of thinking through what we each have, in terms of time, talent and finances, and assessing for ourselves what we will be able to share with the larger church community over the coming year.

One big change is our **Care Groups**—many of you indicated that you are willing to invest more time to get to know each other better. The **Care Groups** are a chance to do so. We also hope that you will each take a look at the open leadership positions for 2022 and prayerfully consider your choice for filling those positions. Leadership in a church is a matter of each person taking our turn.

We are not asking for anyone to step into a position that will make their life miserable. We are working on the belief that if each of us picks up a part that works for us, we will have all the help we need. Over the last three years, we have worked very hard to get our leadership to its leanest, most efficient point. During the pandemic, we have all tried very hard not to create systems that weigh each other down. Your leadership invites you to invest in yourself and your church community at the level that works for you.

CHURCH-WIDE BONFIRE WITH PUMPKIN CARVING AND S'MORES P.3

Priority Survey Results

We are still accepting responses to our Priority Survey in order to help us fine-tune the proposals we want to make to the church for programs and investments of time and money in 2022. So far, we have had 27 responses and have gained these responses:

Sanctuary options:

Over 60% favor some improvements in the sanctuary; 30% would like to discuss purchasing a grand piano

Annex: 48% say that repairs to the annex are their preference

Building: Around 70% agree that between events for the church and co-working space, they favor finding ways to use our building

Grounds: Around 70% agree that we should do some things with our grounds, including repairing and upgrading the playground (44.4%) and possibly making a walking path in our woods (29%)

Time Commitment: 55% say they are willing to commit more time—2-3 hours/month—to getting to know each other better

Funds: 48% say they need more information before offering an opinion about the use of our funds

Missions: 52% say that creating inclusive welcoming community is a missions priority

We would love to have more responses to the survey—by December’s church-wide business meeting, the CC would like to be able to offer proposals in the areas that have the most support.

If you have not yet completed the survey, you can do so online at:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=4R14wXm3CEWi-NrkqnFf0muZo-gLzeJRCsHxZ2ovmHBJUOFkwU1YwUDJERjdRV0xWMExEQkNVVUxTM4u>

THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE RESPONDED SO FAR!

The **Searchers** Class have returned to a Zoom meeting at 9:45am on Sundays. Contact Parks Sneed or Deborah Raessler if you would like to join them.

The **Formations** Class is currently not meeting while worship remains virtual.

The **Forum** Class is checking in with each other regularly.



October Birthdays

Happy Birthday TO YOU IN OCTOBER

- 2 Mackenzie Woody
- 4 Fran Christie
- 5 Nancy Cardwell
- 8 Louise Riley
- 10 Meredith Clapp
- 12 Penny Barden
- 13 Woods Cook
- 13 Nancy Sale
- 14 Elizabeth Cook
- 15 Gus Hermosa
- 18 Debbie Burton
- 19 Dona Duval
- 20 Jackie Asbury
- 23 Sam Cardwell
- 27 Trey Moon
- 31 Mary Lee Bell

October Events:

- 3—Communion—Online Service
- 3—Congregational Council Meeting*
- 17—Pink Sunday—Cancer Support Sunday
- 17—Virtual Business Meeting*
- 23—Saunders Farm Field Trip (if possible)
- 30—Bonfire—7:30pm—Parsonage Lawn
- *Maybe rescheduled if necessary

November Events:

- 7—All Saints’ Day—Communion
- 8-12—Rivermont Pantry

Bonfire, S’mores, Pumpkin Carving
October 30th

7:30pm—The Witching Hour

Parsonage Lawn

Supplied:

Drinks

S’mores Supplies

Pumpkins

Carving Tools

Bring:

Wicked Skills

Hunger for Chocolate

Some lawn chairs to sit on

Costumes welcomed, but optional

DON'T GHOST US!

Virtual Business Meeting:

Retaining Wall

On **October 17th at 12:15pm**, we will hold a virtual business meeting to vote on whether or not to go forward with the suggested repairs to the retaining wall on our lower parking lot. Jim Ray, as chair of our Facilities Team, got several bids about repairing the wall; the most reliable contractors advised that simply replacing the concrete blocks would lead to further problems and that a more extensive repair would be needed. Jim offered this report to the CC:

The Facilities Team believes that the stacked block solution (offered by a reliable contractor) is a better solution for several reasons:

1. The existing wall has weep holes that were placed too high on the wall to be effective and are too small...
2. The tree planters, while beautiful, are a landscaping nightmare...
3. If we move forward with the original plan to replace the wall cap and install a trench, we may only be delaying the inevitable failure of the wall.

The current quote to do the work is \$14,500, which would require a vote from the congregation.

At our **October 17th** meeting, we will also vote on a proposal that would change our voting policies to allow votes to happen in ways other than in-person voting.

Please plan to be with us for our October Business meeting!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84767054324?pwd=U25XTFdZVndwclJodDYwTnY2Mi9xdz09>

Meeting ID: 847 6705 4324

Passcode: 520307

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