Eastern Area Churches
of the
Cincinnati Presbytery

THE VINE

Eastern Area Church *News*! Sept./Oct., 2026

SEPTEMBER IS CROP-WALK TIME!

I have always loved September. My soul just seems to follow the rhythm of the school year. As the air begins its reluctantly slow cool-down, the stores are filling up with sweaters and jackets, coats and boots, backpacks and school supplies ready to fill our every need and desire. This begins the lovely season of Fall.

And while we are fulfilling our needs, let us remember our brothers and sisters around the globe who live in circumstances that we cannot imagine. They are hungry. There is very little to eat. They must walk, often several miles, just to get water that is sometimes not even safe to drink. The effort to sustain life for their family and themselves is all-consuming.

Church World Services is a conglomerate of churches from many denominations that has made it their mission to help as many of these needy people as possible ever since the end of WW2. And the Presbyterian Church (USA) is one of its active denominations.

Here in the Eastern Area of the Cincinnati Presbytery we have made this our main mission focus for as long as I have been with you. (That's 24 years now!)

I would ask each of you who have more than you need to consider prayerfully donating as much as you are able to this worthy cause.

Don't you wish we could feed every hungry person on this planet? I wonder how many people it would take to reach them all, and how many dollars it would take to fund such an effort? Our collection is a step in the right direction. Jesus said, "Whatever you do for the least of these, you do for me." This is something I want to do for Jesus.

This year we are foregoing the CROP-Walk Picnic at Adams Lake. We understand that the older we get, as life changes take place, it becomes more difficult to gather the crowd. So, we will have a **"Virtual CROP Walk"** much like we did during the Pandemic. The Crop materials will be distributed as soon as they arrive. Each church will gather the donations and get them to me by the end of September.

And any of you who are younger or more able-bodied, I invite you to organize you own church's "Walk" right in your own neighborhood. I am sending out some helpful pieces that John Martin composed to help you talk about it in your worship services.

Make checks payable to Church World Services or "CWS"
Churches and/or individual donors send all donations by September 30th to:

Barbara Jean Havens
6261 Lusanne Terrace
Cincinnati, Ohio 45230





This Photo by Unknown Author is

In His Love,
Barbara Jean



Happy Halloween !



From: Linda Watson

We are once again asking for donations of snack-sized soft candy, Halloween cards and snack bags to be given out to the residents in our area nursing homes. Please - no hard candies as these may cause a choking hazard.

Cards may be store-bought or handmade - get the youth, adults and seniors involved in your congregation! Dollar Tree is a useful resource for all your donations.

Last year we were able to visit two nursing homes because of your generous donations! We plan to hand out the treats and cards on Halloween since it falls on Saturday this year. We would love to have you join in the fun! The nursing homes and times are yet to be determined. We will let your pastors know soon.

This is wonderful way to bring a smile to many, to remind them that they are not forgotten, and that God loves them. Bless you for your help!

News from Cherry Fork...

From Brenda Shupert & Norine Behm

Come one, Come all!
It's time to get ready for Fall!

We've tentatively scheduled our annual Fall gathering & hayride for Oct. 3rd at the Leonard Farm.

Success! A big thank-you goes out to everyone who helped make our Annual Ice Cream Supper happen on August 15th! A lot of folks came to enjoy the 15 gallons of ice cream (plus other goodies). It wouldn't have been a success without you!

Our Ice Cream Supper is a fundraising effort put on every year by our Women's Ministry. The proceeds are used to support missions near and far. And though we are a small group, every year we are blessed to be a blessing to many through the support of our church and community.

On August 2nd we had a wonderful service to celebrate America's 250 years! Matt Leonard, Stephanie Shupert and our own Bell Choir provided special music. It was a special blessing for all!

Our very-fitting Unison Prayer of Confession for that day was: *Our Father, as Americans we pledge to be one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Yet we find ourselves deeply divided. We find liberty and justice for some wrongfully delayed. May they be delayed no more. Jesus, we seek Your light and life. Let freedom ring for one and all. Forgive our failings, write a new story in our lives and in our land. May equality, opportunity, justice and dignity flourish in our land. May friendship, hope and service begin with us. May Your peace be with us and flow through us. We need Your redeeming love! In the name of Christ. Amen*

We STILL Need Posters!

"A picture is worth a thousand words"

The Eastern Area Churches are interested in what ***your*** church is doing for "Outreach"! We are challenging each congregation to make a **poster** featuring pictures of the things you do to reach outside of yourselves to spread the Word and the Love of God.

"Hide it under a bushel – No! I'm going to let it shine!"

We would like to show these posters off for you in many ways: In Newsletters, at gatherings, and perhaps even an Outreach Fair! There are many possibilities!

Share your activities and ministries, no matter how large or small a presentation, and send them by email to barbarajeanhavens.eac@gmail.com or call or text her at 513-218-4396 to arrange to get them to her.

Thank you! ***We look forward to seeing some fun, unique and creative posters!***

Mowrystown News

From Deb Tissott

Summer at the Mowrystown Presbyterian Church was busy, busy! It included weekly Bible Study, refreshing the landscaping around the church, collecting items for the Bright Local School Back-to-School Bash, and the continuation of collecting items for Operation Christmas Child.

And summer wouldn't be complete at Mowrystown PC without our Annual "Making-Of-The-Ice-Cream" for our Annual Ice Cream Supper! This year, we made 175 gallons of ice cream with five flavors and our helpers ranged in age from 3 to 87! It was a little disappointing the weather didn't cooperate this year but the church basement provided a nice, dry substitute for the lawn. We collected school items and other items needed for the school.

Our youth are currently working on their 4-H projects, getting them ready for our county fair in September. Our Euchre will also resume in September.

(Pictured: Landscapers at work; Ice Cream Making Day & Annual Ice Cream Supper)



How's Your ❤ ?

From: Rev. Mike Hughes

The following was taken from Facebook, attributed to James Bell and it was shared on multiple sites during the span of about a week. I've done some editing to the original post, without changing the theme. God's timing is often like this: this was shared during a time when all of us at Seaman Presbyterian were studying about our hearts – and this is about our hearts.

James Bell:

The longer I Pastor the more I am convinced that one of the great mistakes of modern Christianity is that we keep arguing about traditional church versus contemporary church. I think the deeper divide is discipleship versus consumerism. You can build a consumer church with a worship band, stage lights, coffee, and skinny jeans, and you can build one with hymnals, pews, choirs, suits, and a King James Bible. Consumerism is a posture of the heart.

Consumerism asks:

Do I like the music?

Do I like the preaching?

Are there programs for my children?

Do people dress the way I think they should?

Does this church share my politics?

Does this church make me comfortable?

Discipleship asks an entirely different set of questions:

God, what do you want me to do?

Where can I serve?

Who can I love?

Where do I need to grow?

What preferences do I need to surrender?

How can I help carry the burdens of this community?

Where is Jesus asking me to die to myself?

The problem was never organs versus guitars. The problem is that we have spent decades teaching Christians to evaluate churches as consumers rather than belong to them as disciples. And that problem originates in our hearts.
How's your heart?

Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!

Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

Rom. 12:9-18 NLT



EAC Leadership Team 2026-2027

Moderator/Treasurer	Rev. Mike Hughes
Vice Moderator	Linda Watson
Secretary	Sue Fulton
Past Moderator	John Martin
Member	Rev. Mike Brazelle
Member	CP Norine Behm
Member	Rev. Dr. Ruth Dunn
Honorary Lifetime Member	CP Barbara Jean Havens
Coordinator	

Mark Your Calendars!

Sept. 7 - Labor Day

Sept. 30 - CROP Walk donations due

Oct. 4 - World Communion Day

Oct. 12 - Columbus Day

NEXT TIME!

Articles & Photos due for Nov./Dec., 2026 edition:
Wed., Oct. 21st
Tell us your Fall activities & Christmas event plans!