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**TOLEDO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** JAN/FEB 2026

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# THE GLEANER

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## Happy New Year!

Mission Statement 2016: "We are called by God to offer hope and new life through Jesus Christ and to serve our community as a visible expression of God's love"

## Happy New Year, 2026!

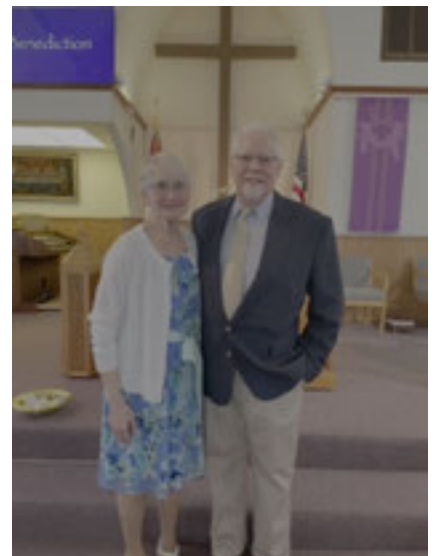
I hope that all of your reading this, whether in print or online have had a great start to your new year. The old one certainly went by quickly enough.

For me and Karen, it's a year of new beginnings.

Much of the past year was taken up with caring for my father, Richard, 175 miles away. He passed away on Dec. 2nd. So now we're "on our own" so to speak, as now neither of us has a living parent. We are now the patriarch and matriarch of our extended family, which is kind of scary in a way, but it simply is the way it is: It's a part of life.

In the life of Toledo Presbyterian Church there are also new beginnings, as we wrapped up our gallop through the Book of Hebrews at Thanksgiving, and now that Advent and Christmas are over, we're embarking on a new sermon series, looking at each of the many parables that Jesus used in his earthly ministry. There are about 35-40, depending on which material one uses, so it should be a lot of fun as we explore these together over the next 10 months.

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Our Thursday men's and women's studies are also starting new material, the "I Believe" book and video series, from Max Lucado's ministry in Austin, TX. This should be a lot of fun as we read through passages in the Bible that tell us what we should believe, and we learn WHY we should believe it. Men meet at 9:00am and the ladies at 11:00am. In addition, our adult Sunday School on Sunday mornings at 9:15am is starting a through-the-Bible in 52 week study authored by the late Dr. John MacArthur. I'm looking forward to both of these studies. They will each require a bit of reading, but we would love to have new members for each of these classes. Books and study guides are being provided free of charge by the church.

One last thing: If you're reading this and do not have a church home to call your own, we would love to have you join us for worship, Bible study and fellowship. TPC is a very friendly church, more like extended family, and we all love and care for one another. You are welcome to join us!

While there is much going on around the globe right now, my prayer is that God will richly bless each of you in the New Year of 2026, that our heavenly Father will hold you tight in his love, and that as we walk with Jesus together, we can each experience the hope and joy of the Kingdom of God, which is now here, yet is still to come. God grant each of you Peace in the powerful Name of Jesus, which is above all names.

**Amen.** Pastor Tony

***A reminder: There will be a memorial service for Pastor Tony's dad, Richard, held at TPC on January 10th at 12; luncheon to follow, catered by Bonanza BBQ. The family would love to have you attend.***

*One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple. Psalms 27:4*



Praise the  
Lord!

## Treasurer's Report December 2025

You will have a chance to see written reports with rows and columns of numbers at the Congregational Meeting coming up on the 25th of January. For now, you can be assured that we will end the year 2025 with a solid, positive net income. We are nearly ready to move the church finances from our old QuickBooks Desktop (kept on an old, unreliable laptop) to the online version of QB on a newer laptop computer that will be dedicated to the church books and kept at the church. You should also be aware, if you aren't already, we're getting ready to spend another chunk of money. This time we'll be paying for a programmable, electronic reader board to be installed on the southeast corner of the parking lot, where our old, wooden sign has been for decades now. That sign, by the way, was made by former member Art Reynolds and restored by Don Davidson ten years ago. at least a third of the cost has already been donated specifically for the project with the balance coming from savings and a memorial fund. After the dust settles, we'll still be in good financial condition. Yours in Christ, Tom

**Additional Thank you's.** These are not complete I am sure, but I wanted to remember to thank Kathy for finding musicians and for filling in as needed. And additionally, for her work with the Red Cross Blood Drives that our church has sponsored for so many years. Also a thank you goes to the volunteers who assist in this worthy project. *TPC has few hands, but gets so much done.* And I also want to thank Karen who is always cheerful, offers assistance as needed and keeps our church clean. Thanks to her we can have on all our social media posts that we have a children's Sunday School from 10:30-11:30 each Sunday. Tony and Karen are so supportive of all of us no matter what we need. Thank you Pastor Tony, who works many more hours than he should, and we all know he doesn't ask for the reimbursements he is entitled to. Along with teaching through Bible Studies and sermons, us we are truly blessed by you. TPC

*A Prayer for new opportunities.*

*Today's a new day, a chance for a new start. Yesterday is gone and with it, any regrets, mistakes, or failures I may have experienced. It's a good day to be glad and give thanks, and I do, Lord. Thank you for today, a new opportunity to love, give, and be all that you want me to be.*

*Rebecca Barlow Jordan*

From November 2025  
This past year TPC packed, dedicated  
and shipped all these plus more on  
line. An effort once more spearheaded  
By Sandy B. She's been doing the  
Operation Christmas Child longer than  
I have been a member, shopping for  
items for each year's boxes during  
summer months and probably earlier.  
Thank you and God bless her for all  
the children's lives she has touched  
from her leadership. And thank you to  
all who helped packed these and  
order more on line. TPC



And.... We took this opportunity  
to have a potluck with Karen in  
the kitchen; and others I can't  
recall. CA



Above right, Paulli B. retiring from keeping the Elders on track for each Sunday and more. Always there to help with whatever was needed. We are going to miss you Paulli. Also pictured Karen in the middle and on the right Diane, a powerful trio getting things done.

## Operation Christmas Child

The following is excerpts from Prayer Point, a quarterly publication from Samaritan's Purse, titled "Shoebox Gifts Bring Hope to Romania".

Prejudice and discrimination have forced the Roma people to live as impoverished exiles on the outskirts of towns throughout Romania. In one city, they have settled in the dump, known as "the place of the rat", where they look for anything to salvage or sell.

Pastor Frank, pastor of a church overlooking the garbage pile felt led by God to reach the Roma-especially the children. He does this through Operation Christmas Child outreach events. Before the shoebox gifts are handed out, children participate in worship songs and hear a Gospel presentation. "Our vision is to give hope where there is no hope and people are discouraged and don't know how to continue life. We want to bring the hope of Jesus Christ," reports the pastor.

Since 1993, more than seven million Romanians have heard the Gospel through Operation Christmas Child

A young pastor (37 years old). Recounts his experience of receiving a shoebox when he was 10 years old. It showed him how much Jesus loves me, he stated, and now he organizes OCC events as well at his church as well as new church plants in nearby Roma communities.

Izabella remembers living under the hardships of the communist era when their family of 4 were given 4 eggs per month and Christians were so severely persecuted that Bibles were hidden under floor boards. Izabella received a shoebox when she was 12 years old. She now works for OCC. She shares her powerful testimony with packers and churches in Romania.

In 2025, about 200,000 Romanian children participated in The Greatest Journey. Nearly 8,000 have come to faith in Jesus Christ and the seed has been planted in all the hearts of those children who attended.

We praise God that through OCC and The Greatest Journey, lives continue to be transformed by the power of the Gospel as it spreads across Romania.

Please keep this people group in your prayers. In His service, Sandy





## Building and Ground Report



This year was full of great memories and anticipation of the future for our church. We started the year with a project that started early in 2024 with repairs to the bell tower. As talked about last year, our bell tower louvers were failing due mostly to age and so we started the journey of repair by removing the decayed louvers to preserve the in place framing and ordered new metal louvers which we picked up from the

manufacture in Redding California. Jen graciously allowed us to store them in her shop until the weather broke enough that we could start installing them. With help from many hands we installed them all without incident between mid April and the first part of May. Another aspect of this project was to get the bell ringing again. This was achieved however the system that has been in place for so many years is also failing and so the repairs done are temporary. But...they work and our bell rings out...most of the time... and is a clear message to the community that we are open to all.

Our next exciting project that has been discussed for a few years is to install a new signage board. Our current sign is beyond repair, needing to be replaced with a sign that lets our community know that we are here and alive with the word of God. A committee was formed and through working with our current session we are happy to report that this project is well under way. A local company ESCO Signs is our contractor. Upgrades and repairs will be required electrically so that power supply to the sign sufficient enough to power the signage upgrade. Our prayer is that this new electronic message center along with our church name and logo will be visible to the community and will help to reach out to passersby including from the Main Street of Toledo. Our manse continues to thrive with the tenants that have lived in it since it was established. The tenants love living there and do an excellent job keeping us informed of any and all issues that may come up that may require repair.

The property landscaping continues to be kept up by Lunas Landscaping, a local company that we have used over the past few years. They come in and do an excellent job keeping us looking well manicured with fill in work done by volunteers in our church.

Our elevator continues to work and remain available for those that have trouble navigating the stairs down to the Fellowship Hall. There is a continuous maintenance inspection done by us weekly to insure that the system is safe, and functioning with state required permits and yearly inspections with a certified company.

Another project that is in the wings and waiting is an order of gravel that will be used to keep our parking area looking clean and safe along with a repainting of the parking lines and handicap parking areas.

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### *Building and Grounds continued*

We have several new projects that we have been talking about. Revitalizing our back entrance in to the sanctuary, some new exterior lighting, possible new upgrades to the lighting in the Fellowship Hall, further painting of the Fellowship Hall walls and even possibly some upgrades to our restrooms. Keeping us safe...warm in the winter and cool in the summer with maintenance and repairs to our heating and cooling system is also a necessity and is done yearly in the early spring months. We have been blessed with a budget team that works with all aspects of life in our church and understand that keeping our church well maintained is key to unexpected costs. God is great and has blessed us with a beautiful place to worship. Thank you God for all that you do for us and the guidance that you provide. Greg and Gary

### **Birthdays**

Marie 1/1  
Anjelica 1/9  
Andrew 1/9  
Rob P 1/15  
Linda G 1/24  
Laura Lee 1/25  
Pauli B 1/26  
Jen B 1/31  
Margaret W 2/6  
Sammie P 2/20  
Robert K 2/24

### **Anniversaries**

Mike and Sandi 1/20  
None in February



### **Social Media Stats for December 2025**

Facebook had 4,634 views which is a 46% increase during December according to the stats Meta keeps. We currently have 187 followers. Engagements for the same time period is up 34% with photos and services leading the way. We now have 106 followers on Instagram. We post at least twice every day on Facebook and once on Instagram. So as always, thank you Kathy, Tony, Tana and Becky for all your help. *Tana has lovingly offered to help by taking over the morning devotionals including hymn. A huge help to me.* Thanks again, Tana, Kathy and Tony for your posts. Chris

**OCC Update** An additional thank you goes to Karen and Christine for taking on this important ministry work for 2026.

## **OUTREACH 2025**

Hello and Happy New Year family, friends, visitors and members from Outreach! In January I leave session and wanted to extend a big thank you for all the support over the years in getting us "out there" to the community. It truly is a village effort.

Since I started efforts included the following: We started with bright blue shirts to match our big roof, supported the Farmers Market and began a close relationship with them, backed the Senior Center in their efforts to grow, helped out with the cheese sandwich making and hand out during Cheese Days as well as beginning a "Picnic in the Park" tradition after service on Sunday as part of the Lions Club Cheese Days BBQ. We created a cookbook with the farmers market and are still selling them today. Karen and others ran vendor tables at local events and helped sell most of our cookbooks. In addition we started running ads in local papers, did a couple of newspaper interviews, hosted fundraisers and bake sales for building projects, made posters and eventually a beautiful metal sign making our hours and gatherings available to all. The Praise and Pray newsletter has gone out weekly (I think I missed one week when I was ill) and expanded to include community events and news. Momma asked me to take that over in 2019 after she had done it for years. I can't believe it's been 6 years already!

I will continue to coordinate the cheese days activities (sandwiches, watermelon, picnic and cheese board as well as other help when needed), as well as continue with Praise and Pray as long as I'm needed. Please support the new position elder as you have me while I held it. It takes more than just one person to bring us back to full, it takes all of us. Invite your family, ask your friends, make or share a Facebook post from the church page; find a way to show people what a wonderful home for their faith journey they'll find within our walls and the loving church family that awaits them.

It's been wonderful. Thank you all.

In Christ,  
Diane Geister  
Outreach Coordinator

*A minister wound up the services one morning by saying, "next Sunday I am going to preach on the subject of liars. And in this connection, as a preparation for my discourse, I would like you all to read the seventeenth chapter of Mark." On the following Sunday, the preacher rose to begin, and said, "Now, then, all of you who have done as I requested and read the seventeenth chapter of Mark, please raise your hands." Nearly every hand in the congregation went up. Then said the preacher, "You are the people I want to talk to. There is no seventeenth chapter of Mark."*



## **Gleaner Yearend 2025 from Paulli**

John 15:5 Jesus is quoted as saying “I am the vine, you (Disciples) are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” Branches do not grow from working harder. They obtain nutrient from the vine. The growth we long for can only come from letting go of self reliance in exchange for resting in and finding nourishment in Christ.

Holy Father God, I pray that we can surrender our self-reliance and rest in you more fully in 2026. May 2026 be a year of intimate relationship; full of joy, peace, and abundant love, in Jesus’ Mighty Name. Amen

### **Worship**

After six years of planning weekly worship services, the first four supporting my husband Ernie, I am turning this task over to Elder Meske. I would like to thank all who helped Ernie and I over the years. A special thanks to Tom and Kathy Hill who helped Ernie understand his role during Covid and after Pastor Joel left us. Without Ernie’s leadership we would have had a difficult time reopening the church. It has been a privilege to serve our congregation.

### **Mission**

Although I will no longer be a part of Session I am continuing my participation in Toledo Neighbors and the Winlock Foodbank. Our congregation continues to financially support these two worthwhile organizations.

### **Toledo Neighbors Program**

Toledo Neighbors has had another good year supporting our community and helping with food insecurity. A number of organizations had food drives and toy drives for Neighbors this Holiday Season. On December 20th, we had Santa visit and were able to provide gifts for 57 young children and teens. We were able to offer shoppers specialized items to enhance their holiday meal (canned pumpkin, cake mixes, stuffing mix...) thanks to the generosity of our community. The industrial kitchen is taking shape. The sink has been installed. Shelving is being built and installed in the storage area. Classes are being scheduled with a goal of 2 per month. The first class in 2026 will be on mushrooms. Our instructor is the owner of Raven Wind Farms. Participants will learn about different kinds of mushrooms and will be able to take a mushroom log home. Classes will continue to be at no cost and community involvement will be encouraged.

Saturdays between 11 and 12:30 is food distribution with community food available, coordinated by Rebecca. Volunteers are always welcome. Sandi Meske joined us in December. Please consider coming down and checking out Toledo Neighbors.

### **Winlock/Vader Foodbank and Rowdy Rooster Thrift Store and Coffeeshop**

Rylee and her Volunteers continue to serve our neighbors in Vader and Winlock. Each week they prepare backpacks for school children that live with food insecurity in their homes. The thrift store continues to have free clothing give aways once per month. Food distribution happens Tuesday through Friday on the back deck and pantry shopping happens 3 Wednesday per month. Hot meals are also given out during the Wednesday food distributions. I encourage you to stop by the CoffeeShop and say hello. There are always delicious baked items for purchase and interesting community members to talk to. Paulli

Thank you, Paulli and Ernie for all you accomplished. TPC