



The Chimes

January / February 2025

204 Years Strong
doing Christ's ministry

Cranston Memorial Presbyterian Church



SCENES FROM CHRISTMAS AT CRANSTON!

The Giving Tree was a great success—several of the tags were transformed into gifts for children in our neighborhood!

Santa and Mrs. Claus (and the elf!) came to worship and stayed for Coffee Hour!

Our December 7 Christmas program featured the magnificent Cincinnatus String Quartet from the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music and the award-winning "Fermata Nowhere" a cappella choir from New Richmond High School. Separately then together they filled the church with lovely melodies, leaving our hearts aglow with holiday cheer.



Special thanks to Renaissance New Richmond for making this event possible!

(thanks to Greg Roberts, Bob Lees, and Sidnie Reed for these pictures!)



Sunday Worship at
10:45 am

- January 5—Becky Bosarge (Communion)
- January 12—David Annett
- January 19—Chris Torrey
- January 26—David Annett
- February 2—David Annett (Communion)
- February 9—(To Be Announced)
- February 16—David Annett
- February 23—Chris Torrey

January / February Birthdays!

- January 4** — Cooper Abbott
 - 14—June McClure
 - 17—Ezra Spoonamore
 - 21—Micheall Reed
- February 2** — Donna Bianchi
 - 5—Tom Nelson
 - 13—Bob Lees
 - 13—Paul Campbell
 - 14—Jim Price
 - 18—Elizabeth Hill
 - 19—Jamie Kidd
 - 23—Greg Roberts
 - 23—Theresa Roberts

(No Anniversaries to list!)

Let Jackie Nelson know if we can add your name(s) to the lists!



THANK YOU!

We thank you for your ongoing support of Cranston Memorial Church through offerings and donations.

Ruth Saylor, Church Treasurer, reminds everyone that she will provide giving statements for 2024 for those who ask for them. They are often not needed for tax purposes but will be provided to those who ask.

The CHIMES interview features the Rev. Becky Bosarge. We are glad to welcome Becky to our pulpit and thank her for her responses to our questions:

Who is most responsible for your being active in the church at this time? My family belonged to a small, rural Methodist church. The people of this congregation were so much a part of our lives and we of theirs. I can tell you about the homemade egg noodles Suzi made for the church potlucks; how I learned to sing alto from Marilyn; about the young woman with Down Syndrome who wore the finish off a pew in the spot where she kept the rhythm of the hymns with her hand; about Richard who enthusiastically led a weekly hymn sing between Sunday school and worship. It wasn't a perfect place, of course, but God was real there in our singing, praying, laughing, and caring.

How have you grown in your faith?: I could tell you about the time in my early 20s when something so awful happened to someone I loved that it caused me to begin a 4-yr journey of letting go of some of the images of God I had been taught and learning to embrace some new ones. I could tell you about how, in the process of grieving the loss of my mother, I found my way to the mystics and contemplatives of our faith. But I will tell you about a moment in a seminar at Bellarmine University. I was with my cohort in the Master of Arts in Spirituality program, we were reading and discussing *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson. This book describes so profoundly the beauty in our human lives, the sacred nature of our existence. At some point as we were discussing this idea and its implications for ministry and living, one of the professors gently and warmly looked at me and said, "Becky, that is your vocation." This moment still resonates as a moment of clarity and guidance for my experience of God, my ministry, and how I see myself as a friend of God and God's world.

What is God doing in your life?: These days, God is refreshing my spirit with time to enjoy grandkids, the woods in my backyard, and Lake Michigan; energizing me with time to be creative; surprising me continually with opportunities to be in spiritual community with others, to do the work I'm called to do; and God is growing my sense of peace with all of that. I haven't taken the most direct or maybe typical route to ministry (or life!) and that is a blessing and a challenge sometimes, but God is showing me the way, including through all of you at Cranston!



MISSIONS

A tithe from our offerings goes to Missions, including our support of the House of Peace.

The YWCA, Greater Cincinnati House of Peace (located in Batavia) is the only intimate partner violence shelter in Clermont county and also serves Adams and Brown counties. The house can accommodate approximately 16 people. Their 24 hour crisis hotline offers assistance, advocacy and other supportive services for all victims/survivors, and their families, of domestic violence and sexual assault. More:

<https://ywcacincinnati.org/our-work>

Come to church on Sunday morning at 10:45 am every week and get involved with our ministry!

- ✓ Youth Programs
- ✓ Serve as Liturgist
- ✓ Help us expand outreach!

Come to Coffee Hour after church and share in our Fellowship time each week!

Speak to Pastor David about getting our emails!

Cranston Memorial Presbyterian Church



Why the CHIMES?

The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) suggests that the Church is faithful to the mission of Christ as it **"Proclaims and hears the Word of God, . . . Administers and receives the Sacraments, . . . and Nurtures a covenant community of disciples of Christ."**

It's that third one which the CHIMES especially seeks to serve. Good communication is important to nurture. Learning more about one another, making clear the invitations to get involved, and celebrating what God is doing in our congregation is the reason for this humble newsletter.

Michael Findlan's sudden passing nearly two years ago led to Chris Torrey volunteering to be the Interim Editor. If anyone is willing to join in the task of publishing the CHIMES, please let Chris know.