



First Presby Press



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Rev. Dr. Doug Rehberg



Out of Sight, Man! Out of Sight!

I hope you are enjoying our study of the Book of Exodus every Sunday morning. I also hope that you are taking advantage of each week's sermon preview that gives you a little bit more information and context than you get on Sunday morning alone.

I once had a friend named Vance who played the piano alongside Jimmy Sapienza and the Pittsburgh jazz band, "Five Guys Named Mo." As you may know, all the guys in the band were terrific musicians, and some were blind.

Vance used to say that many times he'd be downtown and invariably see a member of the band on the street. When he'd see one of them, he'd cross the street and say, "Hey Jimmy, how are you doing?" Jimmy would always look in his direction and say, "Out of sight, man! Out of sight!"

There's a lot in the Bible that's out of sight. Like the Red Sea crossing. That's out of sight, man, out of sight! Like water flowing from a rock that followed the nation of Israel in the desert. That's out of sight, man, out of sight! But you know what else is out of sight in the Book of Exodus as the people of God live in the wilderness of Sinai? It's what Moses receives from God on his third trip up the mountain. You find it in Exodus 24.

Now, when most think of Sinai they think of the Ten Commandments and the Law of God. But, to the writer of Exodus, there's something more important that Moses receives on the mountain than the law. In fact, it occupies 20 times as much space as the Ten Commandments. Someone has said, "Today, the pyramids of Egypt and the catacombs of Rome are never failing objects of interest. The same is true of the abbeys of England and the Taj Mahal of India. But what is neglected is the Tabernacle of God."

When I was at Princeton, we were required to read tomes on the authorship of the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible). We were required to spend countless hours examining the vagaries of higher criticism. You say, "What's that?" It doesn't matter. But what does matter a great deal got no attention. You know how much time we were forced to spend gleaning from the fruitful fields of the tabernacle? Zero. And that's odd because God, in all His wisdom, spends 25% of the story of redemption on the design and building of His Tabernacle.

You say, "How could Princeton render such a disservice?" Because for them, the Tabernacle was out of sight. We don't want that to happen at First Presby. That's why, as we continue our study of the Book of Exodus, over the seven Sundays of Lent, we are going to dig into the Tabernacle and the seven pieces of furniture in it. Why? Because each piece speaks of the power and work of Jesus Christ. Not only fascinating, it's illuminating! Please make every effort to be with us as we dig in.



*Well this happened so we had to postpone the
Carpenter's Apprentice fundraising event*

**We might actually be
thawed by MARCH 1st**



**A Fundraiser Benefitting
The Carpenter's Apprentice**

March 1, 2026 | 11:30 am - 3:00pm
First Presby Irwin, 617 Main Street, Irwin, PA
LUNCH | RAFFLE | GAMES | PRIZES



[Link to Signup Genius](#)

Use the QR code or click the link above to see how you can help make this year's January Thaw a successful event!

It's time again for the Carpenter's Apprentice fundraiser to help fund the next "Spring Fix-Up" weekend. Last year's event was such a smashing success, we thought it would be fun to smash a car this year in tribute... yes, you read that right... this year, you will be able to purchase an opportunity to take a swing at a car!! There will also be a display of The Carpenter's Apprentice team's handy work and testimonials from those served during the "Fall Fix-Up" weekend. We will have spaghetti and meatballs, rolls, salad, and dessert. There will be face painting and several different chances to win a prize including a basket raffle, 50/50, and "Guess How Many" games. There will be silent auction for a golf package and a set of cornhole boards. You may even be fortunate enough to win the grand prize from Iceburgh's Bistro: 1 FREE salad each month for the next YEAR!! [Tickets are still available!](#)

Sunday Fun-day!

Upcoming Youth Activities

Come one come all for some wintertime fun on Sunday, February 8 from 3-5 PM at Boyce Park. We will meet at the church at 2PM and all travel together as a group. [Purchase your tickets ahead of time online](#) to be sure you have a spot! Cost is \$31/child.

Then on Sunday, February 22 from 2-4 PM we will go [ice skating at Kirk Nevin Arena](#). Again, we will meet at the church at 1 PM and all travel to the rink together as a group. Admission \$6, Skate Rental \$3.

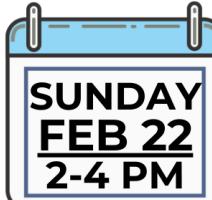
Snow Tubing





**SUNDAY
FEB 8
3-5 PM**

2 Youth Fellowship events coming up!!
RSVP to heather@firstpresbyirwin.org
call or text: 404-414-6794



**SUNDAY
FEB 22
2-4 PM**

Ice Skating
at
Kirk Nevin Arena





REFUEL

2026 KICK OFF RALLIES



Youth Fellowship went as a group to a more contemporary worship service at Calvary Irwin last month! It was good for the kids to experience something different! The night started with a Rock-Paper-Scissors Battle, then worship with contemporary music led by a youth band, and a great message that walked through Psalm 23 line by line.

You're Invited!



OG
Confirmand
Reunion PARTY!

February 7, 2026
3-5pm

GAMES
SNACKS
FELLOWSHIP
PIZZA

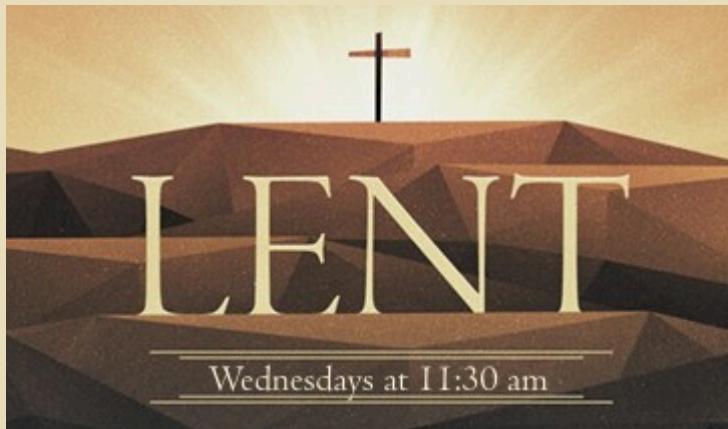
the details

IN THE SOCIAL HALL
FIRST PRESBY IRWIN
617 MAIN STREET, IRWIN

Please join us for a fun afternoon!
Reunite with your fellow
confirmation graduates
and get to know the current class members.

RSVP TO HEATHER BY FEB 3
CALL OR TEXT 404-414-6794
OR EMAIL
HEATHER@FIRSTPRESBYIRWIN.ORG

Norwin Community Mid-Week Services 2026



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Sunday, February 22nd is the first Sunday of Lent and Communion Sunday at First Presby. This year, it will also be a meeting of the congregation in which the 2025 Annual Report will be made available to all.

Unlike previous years, we will assemble an annual report in the style of our devotional guides. Included in the report will be financial facts and figures from the end of December 2025, along with the 2026 Budget and accompanying priorities.

The meeting will be held, along with a light lunch, immediately following the 10:30 service and will include a brief survey of the Annual Report document and a high-level presentation of where we stand financially. As you may have heard, it's all good news!

Please make every effort to make it a full morning with us!!

GriefShare will begin again -
Monday, March 9, 2026 at 6:30 PM

No matter what the circumstances, grief is a painful, confusing process. A GriefShare group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. At this 13-week support group program, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way. No matter how long it's been, this is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling.

We meet Mondays March 9 through June 8 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM in Room 108. If you have any questions or want to register, please contact us at 724-863-5910 x113.

"Lenten Characters"

New Hope Presbyterian Church, 12727 Lincoln Way
Every Wednesday during Lent
beginning Ash Wednesday 2/18

11:30am Hymn Sing
12:00pm Meditation
12:30pm Lunch available

New Hope is a fully accessible facility.

Pancake Dinner



Shrove Tuesday
February 17th
4pm - 7pm





1000 Bible Questions in Rhymes, Puzzles, Quizzes & Games

by Mildred Olive Honors

NAME BANK: Abraham, Belshazzar, Boaz, Daniel, David, Elijah, Jacob, Jeremiah, Jesus, John the Baptist, Joseph, Joshua, Judah, Luke, Methuselah, Moses, Naanam, Noah, Saul

1. He built a boat when the world was new, and led in the animals, two by two.
2. He killed a giant with a stone and won a kingdom of his own.
3. This one man's descendants God promised should be like the stars in the sky or the sands of the sea.
4. He stood alone in the lions' cave, and praised Jehovah, strong to save.
5. Mysterious writing on the wall foretold his kingdom's certain fall.
6. He stilled a storm on Galilee, and said to Matthew, "Follow me."
7. When his mood was black and his voice was sharp, young David could soothe him with his harp.
8. A man of wealth and power and pride; sweet Ruth of Moab was his bride.
9. He was not a prophet, a king, nor a sage—he simply lived to a very great age.
10. He gave a message to Pharaoh's waiter and received the answer two years later.
11. When Moses died, he led the band over the river to Canaan's land.
12. He dipped in the river – one-two-three-and found it a cure for his leprosy.
13. He proved to the people on Carmel's height that the God he served was the God of might.
14. He told the captives to "carry on" by the waters of pagan Babylon.
15. He buried the body in Egypt's sand; and held back the sea by the rod in his hand.
16. In Benjamin's place a slave he would be, but the viceroy of Egypt set them free.
17. At the ford of the Jordan his voice rang clear, "Repent, for the Kingdom now is here."
18. He worked seven years and won the wrong wife; he traveled to Egypt the last of his life.



The third Sunday of every month is Cookie Hour!

Stop in the Brenzia Room after services for coffee, cookies and fellowship!

You are welcome to donate any month, just drop your cookies off in the kitchen on your way into service or sign up for a specific month (or months).

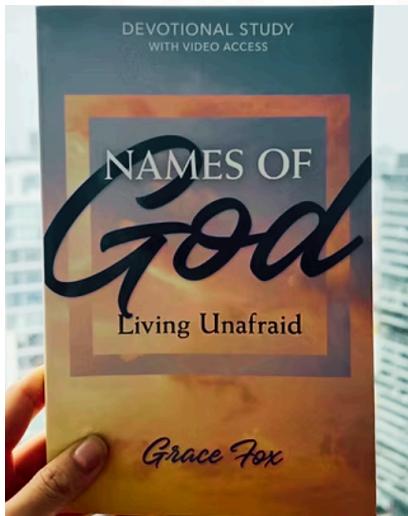


SIGN UP
HERE



Answer Key: 1. Noah, 2. David, 3. Abraham, 4. Daniel, 5 Belshazzar, 6. Jesus, 7. Saul, 8. Boaz, 9. Methuselah, 10. Joseph, 11. Joshua, 12. Naaman, 13. Elijah, 14. Jeremiah, 15. Moses, 16. Judah, 17. John the Baptist, 18. Jacob

February Event Highlights



Women's Study Group

"Names of God: Living Unafraid"
Tuesday, February 3rd
6:30 PM

Join us as we begin our new study! We can anchor ourselves in the truth of who God is. The more we understand God's character as revealed through his names in Scripture, the more we're able to trust him.

[This is a new start date, pushed back due to weather conditions.](#)

The Brick Squad

FREE Community Lego Build
Saturday, February 28
1:00 - 2:00PM

In The Downstairs Social Hall
 ALL ages are welcome!

Theme: Create, Build, Inspire!

Join us for a fun afternoon of building... We provide the Legos!

February Events

- 2/1 Boy Scout Sunday: Cheapest Lunch
- 2/2 Evangelism Mtg
- Worship Committee Mtg
- 2/3 M-Team Mtg
- 2/7 Confirmation Class Reunion
- 2/8 Youth Fellowship Snow Tubing
- 2/9 Christian Ed Mtg
- 2/10 Fellowship Mtg
- Finance & Stewardship Mtg
- 2/12 D-Team Mtg
- 2/14 Care Team Mtg
- HME Distribution
- 2/17 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
- 2/22 Congregational Meeting
- Deacons Meeting
- Youth Fellowship Ice Skating
- 2/24 Fellowship & Communion at Redstone
- 2/27 Movie Night
- 2/28 The Brick Squad: Lego Build
- Set up for January Thaw



Visit [our website](#) for the most up-to-date calendar information!



MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, February 27th 6:30pm

"The Upside"
 Stars: Kevin Hart, Bryan Cranston and Nicole Kidman
 Based on a true story. This film not only provides a comedic take on serious themes but also highlights the transformative power of friendship across different social backgrounds.









February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Boy Scout Sunday 8:15am Worship Service 9:15am Jumpstart & Refresh 10:30am Confirmation Class 10:30am Worship Service, Kids' Worship, Child Care 11:30am Cheapest Lunch hosted by Troop 284 6:30pm Youth Fellowship (6-8th & 9-12th grades)	2 9:00am Counters 1:00pm Worship Committee 6:30pm Evangelism	3 1:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm M Team Meeting 6:30pm Boy & Cub Scouts 6:30pm Working Women's Study Group	4 7:30am Norwin Men's Prayer Fellowship 10:00am Food Pantry Open 1:00pm "The Chosen" Series 5:30pm Youth Choir 6:00pm TOPS 6:00pm Youth Club (K-5th) 7:00pm Chancel Choir	5 7:00pm Bell Choir	6 10:00am Food Pantry Open 1:00pm Knit-Wit(nesses) for the Lord	7 3:00pm Confirmation Class Reunion 4:00pm Beverly's Pittsburgh Fundraiser
8 8:15am Worship Service 9:15am Jumpstart & Refresh 10:30am Confirmation Class 10:30am Worship Service, Kid's Worship, Child Care, Bell Choir 11:30am Fellowship: Coffee & Munchkins 2:00pm Youth Fellowship - SNOW TUBING	9 9:00am Counters 6:30pm Christian Ed Meeting 6:30pm Scouts PLC	10 1:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Boy & Cub Scouts 6:30pm Fellowship 6:30pm Stewardship & Finance 6:30pm Working Women's Study Group	11 7:30am Norwin Men's Prayer Fellowship 10:00am Food Pantry Open 1:00pm "The Chosen" Series 5:30pm Youth Choir 6:00pm TOPS 6:00pm Youth Club (K-5th) 7:00pm Chancel Choir	12 6:30pm D Team Meeting 7:00pm Bell Choir	13 10:00am Food Pantry Open 1:00pm Knit-Wit(nesses) for the Lord	14 Valentine's Day 8:30am Care Team Meeting 9:00am HME Distribution
15 Transfiguration Sunday 8:15am Worship Service 9:15am Jumpstart & Refresh 10:30am Worship Service, Childrens' Sermon, Youth Choir, Child Care 11:30am Fellowship: Cookie Hour 6:30pm Youth Fellowship (6-8th & 9-12th grades)	16 Presidents' Day 9:00am Counters	17 1:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Circle 1 4:00pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 6:30pm Boy & Cub Scouts 6:30pm Working Women's Study Group	18 7:30am Norwin Men's Prayer Fellowship 10:00am Food Pantry Open 1:00pm "The Chosen" Series 5:30pm Youth Choir 6:00pm TOPS 6:00pm Youth Club (K-5th) 7:00pm Chancel Choir	19 5:30pm Session 7:00pm Bell Choir	20 10:00am Food Pantry Open for the Lord 7:00pm Kylie Klass Baby Shower Set up 7:00pm Pack 284 Lock In indoor camping in the Social Hall	21 10:00am Kylie Klass Baby Shower
22 First Sunday of Lent 8:15am Worship Service, Communion 9:15am Jumpstart & Refresh 10:30am Worship Service, Communion, Kid's Worship, Child Care 11:30am Congregational Meeting 1:30pm Deacons Meeting 2:00pm Youth Fellowship - ICE SKATING	23 March NL Articles Due 9:00am Counters	24 1:00am Circle 3 1:00am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Fellowship & Communion at Redstone 6:30pm Boy & Cub Scouts 6:30pm Working Women's Study Group	25 7:30am Norwin Men's Prayer Fellowship 10:00am Food Pantry Open 1:00pm "The Chosen" Series 5:00pm HME Distribution 5:30pm Youth Choir 6:00pm TOPS 6:00pm Youth Club (K-5th) 7:00pm Chancel Choir	26 7:00pm Bell Choir	27 10:00am Food Pantry Open for the Lord 6:30pm Movie Night: The Upside	28 Pick Up For The Blessing Board Set up for January Thaw 1:00pm The Brick Squad - Logo Build

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:15am Worship Service 9:15am Jumpstart & Refresh 10:30am Confirmation Class 10:30am Worship Service, Kids' Worship, Child Care 11:30am Cheapest Lunch hosted by the Youth Groups 11:30am JANUARY THAW benefiting Carpenter's Apprentice 6:30pm Youth Fellowship (6-8th & 9-12th grades)	2 9:00am Counters 1:00pm Worship Committee 6:30pm Evangelism 6:30pm GriefShare	3 1:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm M Team Meeting 6:30pm Boy & Cub Scouts 6:30pm Working Women's Study Group 5:30pm Youth Choir 6:00pm TOEs 6:00pm Youth Club (K-5th) 7:00pm Chancel Choir	4 7:30am Norwin Men's Prayer Fellowship 10:00am Food Pantry Open 1:00pm "The Chosen" Series 5:30pm Youth Choir 6:00pm TOEs 6:00pm Youth Club (K-5th) 7:00pm Chancel Choir	5 7:00pm Bell Choir	6 World Day of Prayer 10:00am Food Pantry Open for the Lord	7 8:00am Disney Theme Event
8 Daylight-Saving Time Begins 8:15am Worship Service 9:15am Jumpstart & Refresh 10:30am Confirmation Class 10:30am Worship Service, Kids' Worship, Child Care 11:30am Fellowship: Cookie Hour 6:30pm Youth Fellowship (6-8th & 9-12th grades)	9 9:00am Counters 6:00pm Mission 6:30pm Christian Ed 6:30pm GriefShare 6:30pm Scouts PLC Meeting	10 1:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Boy & Cub Scouts 6:30pm Fellowship 6:30pm Stewardship & Finance 6:00pm TOEs 6:00pm Youth Club (K-5th) 7:00pm Chancel Choir	11 7:30am Norwin Men's Prayer Fellowship 10:00am Food Pantry Open 5:30pm Youth Choir 6:00pm TOEs 6:00pm Youth Club (K-5th) 7:00pm Chancel Choir	12 6:30pm D Team Meeting 7:00pm Bell Choir	13 10:00am Food Pantry Open for the Lord	14 9:00am HME Distribution 1:00pm Pack 284 Blue & Gold Banquet
15 8:15am Worship Service 9:15am Jumpstart & Refresh 10:30am Worship Service, Childrens' Sermon, Youth Choir, Child Care 11:30am Fellowship: Cookie Hour 1:00pm Youth Fellowship (6-8th & 9-12th grades) - BOWLING PARTY	16 9:00am Counters 6:30pm GriefShare	17 St. Patrick's Day 1:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Circle 1 6:30pm Boy & Cub Scouts	18 7:30am Norwin Men's Prayer Fellowship 10:00am Food Pantry Open 5:30pm Youth Choir 6:00pm TOEs 6:00pm Youth Club (K-5th) 7:00pm Chancel Choir	19 5:30pm Session 7:00pm Bell Choir	20 First Day of Spring 10:00am Food Pantry Open for the Lord	21 9:00am Easter Egg Hunt
22 8:15am Worship Service 9:15am Jumpstart & Refresh 10:30am Worship Service, Kids' Worship, Child Care, Bell Choir 11:30am Deacons Meeting 6:30pm Youth Fellowship (6-8th & 9-12th grades)	23 9:00am Counters 6:30pm GriefShare	24 April NL Articles Due 10:00am Circle 3 11:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Presbytery Meeting 6:30pm Boy & Cub Scouts	25 7:30am Norwin Men's Prayer Fellowship 10:00am Food Pantry Open 5:00pm HME Distribution 5:30pm Youth Choir 6:00pm TOEs 6:00pm Youth Club (K-5th) 7:00pm Chancel Choir	26 7:00pm Bell Choir	Craft Show Set Up 10:00am Food Pantry Open for the Lord	27 Pick Up For The Blessing Board 8:00am Craft Show 1:00pm The Brick Squad - Lego Build
29 Palm Sunday 8:15am Worship Service 9:15am Jumpstart & Refresh 10:30am Worship Service, Kids' Worship, Child Care 6:30pm Youth Fellowship (6-8th & 9-12th grades)	30 9:00am Counters 6:30pm GriefShare	31 1:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Boy & Cub Scouts	1 7:30am Norwin Men's Prayer Fellowship 10:00am Food Pantry Open 5:30pm Youth Choir 6:00pm TOEs 6:00pm Youth Club (K-5th) 7:00pm Chancel Choir	2 Maundy Thursday 5:00pm Seder (Passover Meal)	3 Good Friday 10:00am Food Pantry Open for the Lord	4

Prayer Requests

Marge Anke, John Anker, Jan Antos, Jan Batchelor, Jacqueline Chandler, Betty Comer, Lanny R. Conley, Tom & Susie Dibiaso, Ron DiClaudio, Scott Diffenderfer, John Duncan, Selma Duncan, Jim Floyd, Betsy Frye, Gerry, Bob Hahn, Megen Harmon, June Hart, Richard Himler, Hudson, Inna & family, Becky Jadlocki, Joey, Emma & Ashley Jordan, Joy Kalina, Larry & Sharon Kramer, Bill Martin, JoAnn Martz, Kate McCorkle, Dan McCready, JoAnn McKnight, Bob Magill, Katey Miller, J. Alan Minteer, Isobel Nelson, Owen, Bryce Matthew Patrick, Howard Pence, Eliana Presseau and Family, Marge Ryan, Sara, Connie Steck Schade, Shirley Schmidtke, Carol Smalley, John Smith, Bev Sowash, Addie Spehar, Larry Stamford, Juanita Stromer, Tom & Carol, Bob Vaughn, Dane Wakeman, Bernice Walker, Stella Waltemire, Ian Welch, Mary Louise Whitehead, and Jeff Youell

Praise and Thank You

All God's People!

Our Service Personnel

Staff Sgt. Zachary Coleman, SFC James Davis, Vaughn Estepp, Sgt. Luke Frye, Sgt. GY Sgt. Chris Keba, 2nd LT Andy Marlin, CDR Timothy Minor, Sgt. Noah Rady, Dominic Duke, Jeff Cmar and Connor Ramage

Church Outreach Programs

Carpenter's Apprentice, The Blessing Board, Church Food Pantry, College Outreach project. Prayers for the volunteers and the families supported by these programs.

If the person you placed on the prayer list has been **removed** or moved to **Praise and Thank You** in error, please contact either Taska Smola at tsmola@verizon.net or Ginny Pellis at Ginny@firstpresbyirwin.org with updated information. Thank you.



Hand Quilted Treasurers

Have you walked through Room 108 recently? Maybe you attended a meeting. If you haven't, do yourself a favor and take a walk down (or elevator ride) to see the hand quilted treasures beautifying our space. Swapped out seasonally, Diane Johnston shares her passion for quilting with us all.

PS: Apologies to Diane, my photography skills do them no justice.



All Stars



The "Be" Attitudes



Double Irish Chain

Welcome to our New Members

David Neel
Beth McAtee
Terri Ritz

The following new members were received into the life of our church, February 1, 2026



To all the volunteers who have been involved in our ministries that reach out into our church and community: Food Pantry, The Care Team,

Carpenters Apprentice, The Blessing Board, The Prayer Team, Sunday School, Youth Club, Youth Fellowship, the Deacons and to those who always seem to be ready to help when something needs to be done around the church. **You are all APPRECIATED!!!**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF IRWIN

617 MAIN STREET

IRWIN, PA 15642

www.firstpresbyirwin.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

February 2026

NEWSLETTER



CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Douglas Rehberg	Minister x115
Rev. Sam Strohm	Ministry Associate
Daniel Miller	Business Manager x114
Karen Crissman	Administrative Assistant x110
Ginny Pellis	Receptionist/Secretary x113
Heather Duckett	Children's Ministry Leader x116
Kyle Dynys	Youth Ministry Leader
Katie Redmond	Childcare Supervisor
Judy Baker	Youth Choir Director
Diane Johnston	Bell Choir Director
Sue Gray	Custodial Supervisor