

## **MISSION AT EVERY MEETING**

Slifers Presbyterian Church is actively participating in three local ministries. Two food pantry initiatives support the local communities of Farmersville/Germantown and New Lebanon and the Valley View and Dixie School Districts.

CAMP (Community Action Mission Project) is located in Farmersville and supports families in the Valley View and New Lebanon School District. They serve over 50 families per month. Each family shops in a grocery style environment once each month for meat, dairy, vegetables, canned goods, laundry items and toiletries. The families have the freedom to choose what their families need. While much of the stock comes from the Dayton area Food Bank, the staff accepts local fresh produce from area gardens and will shop locally for items. Any monetary donations are used for items not readily available through the food bank or for clients requiring financial assistance with electricity or gas. CAMP is largely staffed with volunteers from area churches. Slifers' pastor and congregation played a large role in establishing this essential mission as it has grown from a small closet in the Masonic Temple to its current larger facility in Farmersville. Slifers supports the CAMP project with financial gifts as well as gifts of time and food donations.

The Village Food Pantry began serving the New Lebanon community in September 2019. Numbers of those in need have more than doubled since the first few months of operation pre-pandemic. This food pantry is open ever Wednesday for residents in New Lebanon and the surrounding communities. Each family may visit once per month although they do not turn anyone away who needs food. They see approximately 55-60 families/month. The pantry is stocked by generous donations from local businesses and local churches. Slifers continues our mission to feed those in the community with monthly gifts of food and supplies.

Of special interest is the observation by our food pantry leadership that approximately 60% of their clientele is 50 years old or older and they are seeing an increased number of retired people.

The third mission, conceived by our 2020 task force is a "Disaster Bucket Ministry." These buckets are filled by generous donations from our congregation and community with items frequently requested by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Buckets contain 15 items that are essential for the "clean up" process such as sponges, all-purpose cleaners, rubber gloves, masks, clothesline/pins, and wipes. The buckets, once filled then, may be dispatched locally for fires and other local disasters, or given to PDA for their distribution in clean up efforts after disasters such as the most recent floods in Eastern Kentucky.