

## **Matthew 25 Grant 2023 : Entry # 2292**

### **Matthew 25 Grant Application**

#### **Church/Institution Name**

First Presbyterian Church

#### **Address**

211 Schmitt  
Waverly, Ohio 45690  
United States  
[Map It](#)

#### **Telephone**

(740) 947-2905

#### **Email**

[pat.mikelson@gmail.com](mailto:pat.mikelson@gmail.com)

#### **Person responsible for administering the grant**

Patricia Mikelson

#### **Phone Number of Administer**

(614) 330-9634

#### **Pastor/Executive Director**

Jane Johnson

#### **Clerk of Session/Board Chair**

Elaine Zingg

#### **Associated Presbytery**

Scioto Valley

#### **Presbytery Leader Who Will Write Letter of Endorsement**

## Matthew 25 Grant 2023 : Entry # 2292

Kathy Nice, Transitional General Presbyter

### Presbytery Leader's Email

[generalpresbyter@psvonline.org](mailto:generalpresbyter@psvonline.org)

### Matthew 25 objective addressed

- Eradicating systemic poverty

### First Time Application?

No

### Date(s) of prior application(s).

2022

### Request for continuing grant?

Yes

### Date(s) of Prior Grant(s) Received

2022


### A complete application includes the following pieces

#### Upload Files Here

- [7\\_2023.09.15-FPC-Matthew-25-grant-final-for-letterhead.docx](#)
- [7\\_2023.09.15-FPC-Matthew-25-grant-final-for-letterhead1.docx](#)
- [6\\_HOPE-180-Program-Summary.docx](#)
- [5\\_Pike-County-Map.png](#)
- [4\\_OHIO-DRIVERS-LICENSE-REQUIREMENTS-FOR-UNDER-AGE-18.docx](#)
- [3\\_2023-synod-grant-pastor-endorsement-1.docx](#)
- [2\\_2023-PETEDUNNLETTER.docx](#)
- [1-2023.09.27.NEW-SYNOD-M25-GRANT-FINAL.docx](#)

## Matthew 25 Grant 2023 : Entry # 2292

### eSignature

 I affirm that the above information is accurate and submitted to the Synod of the Covenant for the purpose of determining my eligibility for the Matthew 25 Grant.

### 1Point List ID

28

### Notes



#### **Admin Notification (ID: 5f242b4655939)**

added September 27, 2023 at 7:39 pm

WordPress successfully passed the notification email to the sending server.

## **APPLICATION FOR 2023 SYNOD OF THE COVENANT MATTHEW 25 GRANT**

**First Presbyterian Church (FPC) Waverly, Ohio requests a grant for \$2,370 to expand the existing Matthew 25 funded Drivers Education Project for 16–17-year-olds who attend the Western SD High School HOPE180 afterschool program, located in rural Pike County, one of the poorest school districts in Ohio.**

### **DESCRIPTION OF PIKE COUNTY COMMUNITY**

First Presbyterian Church (FPC), located in town of Waverly, the county seat of Pike County, Ohio. Pike County, with a total population 27,089, is located in the poor, rural Southern Appalachian region, 96% Caucasian. FPC is a small senior congregation, active in social outreach throughout Pike County. In 1962, it was one of five Presbyterian congregations that founded Bristol Village, a unique retirement community, from which grew National Church Residences, now serving seniors in 340 retirement locations throughout the U.S. About 80% of FPC's congregation reside in Bristol Village.

There are four school districts in Pike County, all of which are Title One schools, providing their students with free breakfast and lunch. Western School District, located 30 minutes from First Presbyterian, is the most rural and has the highest poverty rate of these school districts. Waverly is the governmental and shopping center for the residents of Pike County.

### **DESCRIPTION OF WESTERN SCHOOL DISTRICT**

*FROM PETE DUNN, Federal Programs Coordinator and Director, HOPE180 After School Program.*

*The Western School District serves students in a very rural and geographically isolated region in Southern Appalachia Ohio (Latham, Pike County). This is an area of extreme generational poverty with many barriers to student success and well-being. The barriers that students face include family trauma stemming from drugs, alcohol, neglect, and abuse. In addition to the poverty and trauma, the students are also the furthest from systems of support. With the exception of the services provided through the school, these students would be abandoned. Food Supports, Medical Care, Internet (and cell service), Social/Emotional/Behavioral Supports, Mentorship Programs, Clothing and Hygiene supplies are made available through the school system and without the school, these resources would be out of reach. There are no traffic lights, fast food restaurants, or industry within 30-40 miles, let alone a hospital, mental health facility, community center, or assistance provider. The populations in most need of support are the furthest from those supports. And transportation is a major issue.*

Food insecurity is real for the kids living in this area. Many experience no food in the house over a weekend. Because of drug addiction and absenteeism of their parents, many kids live with grandparents or others. Trust relationships between children and adults are unformed or breached and abuse and trauma are common.

**TIMEFRAME FOR PROJECT: school year OCTOBER 2023- JUNE 2024.**

**GOAL OF THE PROJECT:**

To provide these students, especially after graduation, the opportunity to access employment and needed supports, their transportation barrier must be overcome. **The goal of the HOPE180 program is to assist 30 at-risk kids per year to become well-trained responsible drivers and successfully pass their driver's licenses at age 16 – 17 (during their junior or senior high school year).** In Ohio to obtain a driver's license prior to age 18, a teen must complete a licensed 24 hour on-line or in-class driver's ed program and then 8 hours of driving time accompanied by an adult. Western school district does not provide a drivers ed course for teens.

The HOPE180 afterschool drivers ed program consists of two components:

- ONLINE licensed Drivers Ed program – 24 hours
- AAA staffed Drivers Ed program provides actual driving experience.

**MATTHEW 25 BACKGROUND:**

At the beginning of 2020, FPC committed to become a Matthew 25 congregation. As COVID kept people in their homes, the FPC Mission Committee formed an active group of six congregants to study the characteristics and needs of Pike County. Meeting by phone conference and Zoom, the group determined that the greatest need in Pike County was eradicating structural poverty. They decided to create an annual Matthew 25 grant to award a \$1000 grant to a project whose goal was to have a sustaining impact on children and youth of Pike County. The grant is meant to support programs that address both the needs of individuals and/or systemic issues of poverty or racism that negatively impact young people.

The grant letter and application form were sent to 45 non-profit and school entities in Pike County. In 2020 four applications were received. **In Sept 2021 nine applications. In 2022 eleven applications were received.**

**The 2021 \$1000 Grant was awarded to Western School District HOPE180, to initiate a drivers ed program for 16 – 17 age teens. Pete Dunn, director of Federal Programs at Western, personally manages the HOPE180 afterschool program. The grant was supplemented by a \$4,000 anonymous gift from FPC congregational members. This provided total FPC funding of \$5000.**

**In October 2022 FPC was awarded a Synod of the Covenant Matthew25 grant for \$2500 for The Western SC Drivers Ed program.**

**In Nov 2022 a new Evelyn Baker Memorial Fund was created to support FPC's Matthew25 programs. Evelyn was FPC's Matthew 25 leader and visionary. This fund is separate from the annual funding for our Matthew25 Grant. in 2022 The**

**HOPE180 drivers ed program received \$2,100 from the Baker Memorial Fund and FPC congregational gifts. FPC commits at least \$2,370 financial support for the 2023-2024 school year HOPE180 drivers ed program,**



Pat and John Mikelson, volunteers from FPC, Pete Dunn, HOPE180 Director, Paul Young, HOPE180 program evaluator.

## **PROGRESS TO DATE**

**This program has been highly successful. Over the past two years Pete Dunn was able to raise additional funds to help 68 students (about 30 students per year) take online and in person drivers ed programs with the goal of successfully obtaining their drivers permit and permanent drivers license To date 40 students have completed the entire process, have received their drivers license and most are successfully employed.**

*FROM PETE DUNN: Some examples: Landon Fletcher, a 16-year-old student from a family from a student of poverty, working at Williams Hardware, earning money to better his life. Cheyenne Seymour, a 17-year-old girl who is overcoming extreme trauma, working at Dairy Queen in Waverly. Seth Nance (17) Andrew Nance (16), Anthony Main (16), three brothers from a very large and dysfunctional blended family of nine, all employed at three different locations in Piketon and Waverly. These are just a few of the stories of lives impacted because of the HOPE 180 Driving Program.*

## **WHY THIS PROJECT IS NEEDED AND LONG-TERM BENEFITS**

*FROM PETE DUNN: If we want to provide our students, especially after graduation, the opportunity to access employment and these needed supports, then we must assist them in overcoming the transportation barrier. Obtaining a valid Ohio Driver's License is one of those needs. The cost and distance to AAA driving center are insurmountable barriers to them, without our assistance. Through the HOPE 180 Driving Program, we cover the cost and bring AAA driving instructors to the school. Our population is too small for any of the federal or state level grants that require you to serve thousands. Most teens live with adults who do not have resource or interest or ability to help their 16 -17-year-olds obtain a driver's license. Therefore, most teens in this isolated rural area do not attempt to obtain a driver's license until after age 18. At that point they have had no instruction and many fail to achieve this goal. This precludes them from seeking employment and many default to the generational poverty existence they have always known.*

The benefits are many. These teens gain in independence, the ability to find employment and mature in life and work-skills. These accomplishments can provide them and their families with much needed additional income. Most importantly, through their own efforts and control, they build realistic hope and expand their life and economic options for a more successful future. Other very important benefits include gaining the confidence that comes from working hard to achieve a worthwhile goal, the growth in trust and support of knowledgeable and helpful adults, becoming safe and responsible drivers, and learning basic car maintenance. It opens jobs and careers as truck driver school or attending post high school courses.

Most teens who join this program have access to a car through a parent, grandparent, or other adult especially if the teen can help provide for its maintenance and gas. Pike County Community Action can assist with first-year insurance.

## **A statement as to how the project relates back to the mission and vision statements and strategic plans of the organization.**

The creation of its annual Matthew 25 grant to award a \$1000 grant to a project whose goal was to have a sustaining impact on children and youth of Pike County. The grant is meant to support programs that address both the needs of individuals and/or systemic issues of poverty or racism that negatively impact young people. As our grant information letter states:

*We offer this grant out of a sense of obedience to a higher calling. Loving our neighbor, no matter what the challenge, is prompted by God's amazing grace and takes us beyond the boundaries of our congregation. We hope that this grant may just be a beginning of our attempts to reach out to the most vulnerable in our midst. Matthew 25:40 "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers (or sisters), you did it unto me.*

This grant is funded by the McCluggage Endowment, which is for “helping the youth of Pike County.” In addition, through other budgeted mission funds, PCUSA offerings for local missions, and other congregational donations, the church has assisted several other worthy local projects the work towards long term positive outcomes for children and youth living in poverty. As well as the HOPE180 after-school program described in this grant, these include County wide library summer reading and craft programs for kids, the Waverly SD COPE program, which works directly with teens and families to ensure HS graduation, a school-based lunchtime 4-H program for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders who cannot afford 4-H, and programs to improve the life-long abilities of special ed children.

**The FPC Matthew 25 annual \$1000 Grant recipients:**

- 2020 COPE program at Waverly
- 2021 Western SD HOPE180 Drivers Ed Program
- 2022 Bridgehaven homeless shelter supportive services for families with children

In addition, FPC congregants volunteer at the local food pantry, HOPE180 afterschool program, WAVERLY SD COPE program and the WAVERLY SD 4H program.

**HOPE180 Mission and Vision statement:**

The Western Local School District **HOPE180** is an after-school program that operates from 3-5 PM Monday through Thursday when school is in session. The **HOPE180** Program is primarily supported through **21st CCLC** program which provides opportunities for children who come from economically disadvantaged families and attend low-performing schools to receive academic supports. The goals of the **21<sup>st</sup> CCLC** are to (1) deliver high-quality, evidence-based programs that lead to increased school attendance, increased academic performance, and decreased adverse behaviors and disciplinary actions; (2) expose students to positive social environments that help create positive and pro-social behavioral changes in students; (3) target students' academic needs and offer supports that benefit their classroom performance; (4) engage family members to promote family involvement and family literacy; and (5) establish and maintain relationships with community-based organizations for mutual benefit and ongoing partnerships. The Middle and High School Focused Grant (like **HOPE180**) must also focus on college and career readiness and/or drop-out prevention strategies.

**Pete Dunn**, the Federal Programs Coordinator of Western SD, actively directs the HOPE180 program, He is on-site during HOPE180 afterschool hours. Pete is also the pastor of Daileyville Baptist Church. He views his mission as a Christian servant, meeting these teens where they are, and helping them develop trusting relationships and confidence.



## **EVALUATION PLAN AND BENCHMARKS FOR SUCCESS**

Benchmarks for success are:

Number of students who begin the on-line driver's ed program

Number of students who successfully complete the on-line driver's ed program

Number of students who begin the AAA Behind the Wheel Program

Number of students who successfully complete the AAA Behind the Wheel Program

Number of students who obtain their Ohio driver's license for 16-17- year-olds.

This data is maintained by the Western School District, per student.

Additional outcome information would include descriptions of how this program has impacted the lives of individual students.

The HOPE180 multi-year program includes annual evaluation by Dr. Paul Young, a professional program evaluator.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

Letter from Pete Dunn, Director, HOPE180 and the Drivers Education Program

Letter of affirmation from Jane Johnson, FPC Pastor

Ohio Driver License Requirements

Pike County Map

HOPE180 Summary Description

2023 First Presbyterian Matthew 25 Grant letter

2023 First Presbyterian Matthew 25 application

## **PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THIS GRANT, ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Pete Dunn**, Director, HOPE180 afterschool program, is responsible for the day-to-day program and activities of HOPE180. As such he is responsible for implementing the Driver's Ed program, including selection of the teens eligible for this program, monitoring and reporting the progress throughout the grant period.

Pete Dunn. Director HOPE180

Western School District

7959 State Route 124 Latham, OH 45646

District Office: 740-493-3113

pete.dunn@westernlocalschools.com

**Patricia Mikelson**, Moderator, FPC Mission and Evangelism Committee. Pat is responsible for transmittal of the status updates at 6 months post award of the grant and

the formal evaluation of the project is due within one month following completion of the project. Pat is an on-site volunteer with HOPE180 and is the FPC contact with Pete Dunn about this project.

Patricia Mikelson  
Moderator, FCP Mission and Evangelism Committee  
336 Robin Rd.  
Waverly, Ohio 45690  
[pat.mikelson@gmail.com](mailto:pat.mikelson@gmail.com)  
614.330-9634

## **PROJECT SITE**

Western Local School District is a small school district serving grades K-12 in rural Appalachia. Its current facility, a brand new ultra-modern building, opened on February 14, 1998. This campus includes which includes elementary schools, the high school and district offices.

Western High School and District Offices:  
7959 State Route 124  
Latham, Ohio 45646

## **PROPOSED GRANT BUDGET:**

**The Total Amount of the grant requested: \$2,370**

### **Proposed Program Budget:**

The only costs funded through this proposed grant are the costs of Driver's Ed programs required by the state of Ohio for 16- and 17-year students. These consists of two components successfully completed by each student: in this succession:

- ONLINE licensed Drivers Ed program–
- AAA staffed Drivers Ed program provides actual driving experience.

### **BUDGET FOR THE TOTAL PROGRAM: GRANT REQUEST FOR \$2,370**

The goal of this program for the school year October 2023 – May 2024 is to fund the cost of this Drivers Ed program through obtainment of a drivers license for 30 students, All students are 16–17-year-old participants in Western High School's HOPE180 afterschool program. They are selected for the Driver's Ed program by The Director, Pete Dunn. **The proposed grant is requesting funding for 5 students for (1) AAA Behind the Wheel Course plus (2) On-line Driver's Ed course as well as the Behind the Wheel Course.**

**For cost for one student is:**

**\$99/student On-line Driver's Ed Course**

**\$375/student AAA Behind the Wheel Course**

**\$474 TOTAL cost per student**

**Total Cost for 30 students:  $\$474 \times 30 = \$14,220$  TOTAL**

**PROPOSED FUNDING:**

**First Presbyterian Waverly Congregation 5 Students x \$474 = \$2,370**

**Synod Matthew 25 Grant 5 students x \$474 = \$2,370**

Additional funding raised from within the community 20 students x \$474 = \$9,480

**TOTAL FUNDING \$14,220**

**FUTURE OF THIS PROGRAM:**

Because this program has so many long-term benefits for these students, Pete Dunn is pursuing future options to make this program more affordable, efficient and effective. He personally has become a certified driving instructor and has enrolled Western HS into an orientation training on operating a school-based driver's education program. This would lower the cost per student, provide better instruction and more timely and targeted training. PLEASE REFER TO ATTACHED LETTER FROM PETE DUNN.

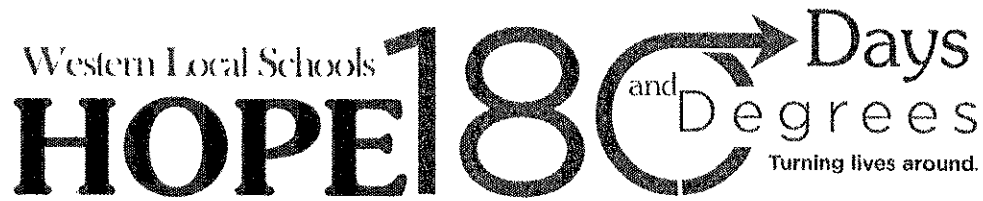
The **HOPE180 afterschool** Program is primarily supported through multi-year **21st CCLC** program which provides opportunities for children who come from economically disadvantaged families and attend low-performing schools to receive academic supports. The personnel and student transportation are funded through this the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program.

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for this Matthew 25 grant.

## **OHIO DRIVERS LICENSE REQUIREMENTS FOR UNDER AGE 18**

**Prior to a minor obtaining their probationary driver license, the following requirements must be met:**

1. Driver must complete a driver education class at a licensed driver training school, which includes 24 hours of classroom or online instruction and 8 hours of driving time.
  - To find a driver training school visit: [Approved Driving Schools](#).
  - A Driver Education Certificate must be provided at time of Driving and Skills testing.
2. Driver must complete 50 hours of driving, with at least 10 hours of night driving, in addition to the driver education requirements.
  - Download the [BMV5791 Fifty-Hour Affidavit](#)
3. Driver must hold the a temporary instruction permit identification card (TIPIC) for at least six months.
4. Driver must pass the Driving and Skills tests.
  - To schedule a road test visit: [BMV Online Services](#)
  - Visit [Driving and Skills Testing](#) for additional instructions about the tests
  - Make sure to bring your TIPIC, a vehicle in good condition, and your Driver Education Certificate, to your driving and skills test appointment.



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## Program Summary

The Western Local School District **HOPE180** is an after-school program that operates from 3-6 PM Monday through Thursday when school is in session. The **HOPE180** Program is primarily supported through **The Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC)** program which provides opportunities for children who come from economically disadvantaged families and attend low-performing schools to receive academic supports.

The goals of the **21<sup>st</sup> CCLC** are to (1) deliver high-quality, evidence-based programs that lead to increased school attendance, increased academic performance, and decreased adverse behaviors and disciplinary actions; (2) expose students to positive social environments that help create positive and pro-social behavioral changes in students; (3) target students' academic needs and offer supports that benefit their classroom performance; (4) engage family members to promote family involvement and family literacy; and (5) establish and maintain relationships with community-based organizations for mutual benefit and ongoing partnerships. The Middle and High School Focused Grant (like **HOPE180**) must also focus on college and career readiness and/or drop-out prevention strategies.

The grant requires us to target and serve economically disadvantaged student populations. Our District is situated in a very rural, geographically isolated, Appalachian region of Western Pike County Ohio, spread out with only 39 people per square mile (compared to 2500 per square mile in Franklin County). Our district is even divided by a rural and primitive Mennonite Community. According to the ODE Similar District Report (2014-2017 3 yr. Average), the median income for our district is \$25,826, with a Poverty Rate of 98%. Additionally, less than 2% of our population have a college degree and only about 13% have a professional occupation. These numbers are extreme when compared to state averages and other districts. Even our neighboring and closest district (Paint Valley) has a median income more than \$10,000 higher, and only a 55% poverty rate, 16% with college degrees, and 32% with professional occupations. The Limited opportunities, limited exposure, limited resources, and limited support systems in the district create a very limited culture. There are a lot of needs: physical, social, emotional,

and educational. There are currently 382 students being served in Western High School grades 7-12, over 100 are participating in our after-school programs. Most of these students are from poverty, and many have been exposed to trauma. Evidence supports the power of positive student-mentor relationships to mitigate the effects of trauma and poverty. When caring adults serve as mentors, supports, and role models for students, the students are able to form the necessary bonding and attachment, which was often neglected in childhood, address the inner "hurts", and overcome the social-emotional issues that have become barriers to their development. For our staff, building relationships and meeting the physical, emotional, social, and educational needs of our students are the primary goals. We have partnered with Southern Ohio Medical Center, Scioto-Paint Valley Mental Health, and Integrated Services to help us meet the physical and emotional/behavioral needs that are beyond our abilities. We communicate with classroom teachers and use diagnostic measures to determine students' educational needs in Math and Literacy.

In addition, we expose students to visual, instrumental, and culinary arts. We offer physical education activities, and computer gaming. We play board games with them and take them on field trips. We feed them, help them with homework, and often help them take care of personal hygiene needs. We help them develop resumes, obtain a driver's license, and prepare for interviews. We are trying to provide complete wrap-around services to help support our students. So what will you see if you drop in to our programs one evening? You will see caring adults working with students in the kitchen. You will see our staff playing soccer or volleyball with the kids. You will see teens and adults doing a puzzle or playing UNO. You will see student engaged in competitive gaming, being coached by a professional instructor. You might see laughter. You might see tears. You will see one very diverse and dysfunctional family helping each other to be a little bit better each day.

#### Program Specifics:

- 120 students enrolled, about 60 stay any given night
- 10 Certified Instructors
- 10 Non-Certified Staff (including 4 Bus Drivers)
- 30 Weeks (over 350 Hours) of Programming (September-May)
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant provides \$125,000 in funding per year

September 15, 2023

The First Presbyterian Church of Waverly is offering a its annual Matthew 25 grant for projects that will have a sustaining impact on children and youth of Pike County. The grant is meant to support programs that address both the needs of individuals and/or systemic issues of poverty or racism that negatively impact young people.

We offer this grant out of a sense of obedience to a higher calling. Loving our neighbor, no matter what the challenge, is prompted by God's amazing grace and takes us beyond the boundaries of our congregation. We hope that this grant may just be a beginning of our attempts to reach out to the most vulnerable in our midst.

Matthew 25:40 ***"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers (or sisters), you did it unto me."***

The grant is open to any tax-exempt charitable organization, public school, library, or public agency serving children and youth in our area. **In 2022 the grant will be \$1,000.** Projects eligible for this grant may include one or more of the following:

- **Advocacy** – changing systems that disadvantage young people.
- **Collaboration** – programs that pull together resources to broaden support or increase the number of children served.
- **Direct services that result in sustained improvement in**
  - learning and reading success
  - economic skills and employment opportunities
  - mental and physical health
  - respect and understanding among diverse groups in individuals
  - social, family and relationship skills
- **Seed money to increase financial resources for the above purposes**, e.g., matching funds and/or grant writing (for non-profits without grant writing staff)

To apply for this grant, please mail the grant application by Friday, November 17, 2023 to Patricia Mikelson, 336 Robin Rd., Waverly, Ohio, 45690. For questions, call Patricia Mikelson at 614-330-9634 or email [pat.mikelson@gmail.com](mailto:pat.mikelson@gmail.com). Grant must be submitted by mail.

# Western Local School District

7959 State Route 124  
P.O. Box 130  
Latham, Ohio 45646-0130  
(740) 493-3113  
[www.westernlocalschools.com](http://www.westernlocalschools.com)



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September 19, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

The HOPE180 After-School Program is an extension of the Western Local School District. The desire and purpose of the HOPE180 programming is to connect with At-Risk students, through the formation of positive relationships with adult mentors, connectedness to the school community in a close peer-support network, and provide real supports to address the many barriers to their success.

One of the barriers facing our students is the inaccessibility of Drivers Education Programs. The barriers are connected to poverty, unreliable transportation, and geography (distance from service providers). Through our partnership with the First Presbyterian Church in Waverly, within the last 2 years, we were able to address these barriers for 68 students.

In my role as Programming Director for the HOPE180 After-School Services and as Grants Coordinator for Western Local School District, I am assigned with the supervision of the HOPE180 Drivers Education Course. This includes connecting with parents/guardians, registering and enrolling students, ensuring proper documentation and certification for Behind-the-Wheel Training, and student/family support through the process. Through this grant with the First Presbyterian Church, we have been able to partner with AAA Chillicothe to provide On-Site Drivers Ed Training at no cost for our At-Risk Students.

Many of the students that have completed the program are now actively employed, filling the in-demand job opportunities. The list of employers of these students include Dairy Queen (Waverly), Williams Hardware (both Piketon and Latham Stores), West-Side Diner (Latham), McDonalds (Waverly), Wendy's (Waverly), Pizza Hut (Waverly), as well as some local lumber, construction, excavating, and landscaping companies. Interviews with students confirm their appreciation and dependence upon this program, stating that they would not be able to make it without this program.

We are currently pursuing other means to make this program more affordable, efficient, and effective. I have become a certified driving instructor and have enrolled our school into an orientation training on operating a school-based driver's education program. There are some more hurdles to overcome, training supervisors, insurance verification, and documentation and reporting guidelines that we will have to work



out with the Department of Public Safety. But we see these steps as helping us to provide the best opportunities for our students. With a school-based program, we will be able to lower costs (AAA currently is \$450/student, totaling over \$30,000 thus far), provide better instruction (in-person, teacher-led, classroom based, instruction: instead of independent-on-line lessons), and secure more timely and targeted behind the wheel training (there is often an extended wait period through AAA).

Western appreciates our partners as we work to provide greater opportunities for the underserved, and promote greater citizenship in our communities.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter J. Dunn".

Peter J. Dunn,  
HOPE 180 Programming Director  
Grants Coordinator  
Western Local School District

EST.



1842

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF WAVERLY

September 26, 2023

PASTORAL ENDORSEMENT FOR SYNOD MATTHEW 25 GRANT APPLICATION

To Whom it May Concern:

In 2020 our congregation, First Presbyterian Church, Waverly, embraced the Matthew 25 initiative. We are committed to community programs that focus on eradicating systemic poverty in Pike County, Ohio. One such program is the Drivers Ed Program for 16-17-yr-olds at Western High School. The church's contributions enabled the Western High School HOPE180 afterschool program.

We initiated this program through financial support. In addition, members of our congregation also volunteer for the HOPE180 after-school activities. Pete Dunn, the director of this program, has met with our congregation and gives us regular updates about the impact it is making in the lives of the students involved.

We endorse this grant application and believe that it helps remove barriers that keep these teens in poverty and enables them, through their own efforts, to improve all aspects of their lives.

Sincerely,

*Jane B. Johnson*

Rev. Jane B. Johnson, Pastor



## The Presbytery of Scioto Valley

4131 North High Street, Suite B, Columbus, OH 43214-3081

614-847-0565 • 800-244-7207 • Fax: 614-847-4359

[www.psvonline.org](http://www.psvonline.org)

September 28, 2023

Grants  
Synod of the Covenant

Dear Grant Readers,

The Presbytery of Scioto Valley has one application for Matthew 25 grant funding. This application comes from Waverly First Presbyterian, which was a grant recipient previously.

This grant application continues funding for the Hope180 program in the poorest school district in Pike County, where Waverly is the county seat. This program tries to break systemic poverty by providing the capability of transportation to employment. So far, over 60 young people have been trained to drive through this program, preventing those young people from being unable to work and provide for their families.

I encourage a grant to be offered to Waverly First Presbyterian's connection with the Hope180 program!

In Christ,

The Rev. Kathy Nice, Transitional General Presbyter  
([generalpresbyter@psvonline.org](mailto:generalpresbyter@psvonline.org))  
Mobile phone: 614-507-2626

***"Inspire, Strengthen, And Challenge Congregations for Christ's Mission"***

*February 18, 2020*