

**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

65 North Third Street  
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Church E-mail: [firstpresofc@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresofc@gmail.com)

Web Address:

[www.1stpresnewark.com](http://www.1stpresnewark.com)

Reinita Thacker, Commissioned Pastor  
Dallas Dryburgh, Congregational Care Pastor  
Tara Lewellen, Music Coordinator  
Hope Labutis, Secretary/Treasurer  
Gary Collins, Maintenance

Office hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs 9:00-2:00pm



**April 2025**

## CHURCH ELDER INFORMATION

**Thank you, Session, for your faithful service to FPC.**

**Clerk of Session** – Priscilla Hare

**Class of 2027:**

Karen Fish - Evangelism & Outreach  
Greg Angeletti - Property

**Class of 2026:**

Keith Hare - Finance  
Chris Rainey - Worship

**Class of 2025:**

Sarah Bowles – Church Life  
Becky Mahon – Personnel

## PASTOR REINITA'S INFORMATION



Contact Information for Pastor Reinita Thacker:  
Home (740) 366-4039  
Cell (614) 530-1779  
Please feel free to contact Pastor Reinita for any pastoral needs that may arise. Thank you.

## WORSHIP



**Communion will be served the first Sunday of the month, April 6<sup>th</sup>.**

We will celebrate Palm Sunday on April 13<sup>th</sup>.



Join us for a **Maundy Thursday** service on April 17 at noon in the

sanctuary. Communion will be served.

Easter Sunday is on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Join us to celebrate our Risen Lord!

Rev. Rick Nutt will be preaching on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.

## PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Please keep praying for the PNC as we seek to find the right candidate to be our next pastor. Blessings,  
-Sarah Bowles  
PNC Chairperson

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

### April Birthdays



Priscilla Hare 4/12

Chris Bowles 4/16

Barb Jobses 4/28

Carolyn Durr 4/30

### April Anniversaries

Forrest and Thelma Smythe 4/8

David and Kay Kittel 4/16

Chris and Sarah Bowles 4/16

## SCRIP

The next Scrip order is **April 6<sup>th</sup>**. Please consider ordering gift cards from our Scrip program. Remember that the funds generated are used for church needs. Thank you to all who order on a regular basis. See Gaye Gibson to order.



## Y-HEALTHY BACKPACK PROGRAM

FPC is still actively participating in food packing and food delivery at the facility on Swans Rd. If you are interested in participating in a Community Packing Party please sign up at the link below:

<https://signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/10C084FABA922A0F9C61-50942615-ymca>



## CHURCH LIFE



### Welcome to Session!

Elders Karen Fish and Greg Angeletti were installed by Pastor Dallas Dryburgh on Sunday, March 9th. Welcome and thank you for serving to the Class of 2027!

(Photo submitted by Ed Jobs.)



Six of us attended and enjoyed the day at PIE (Partners in Education) Leadership training on March 1st at Covenant Presbyterian. The group who attended this day included: Sarah Bowles, Emily Hare, Becky Mahon, Linda Smith, Charla Dryburgh, and Pastor Reinita Thacker. We all left having learned something new.



The Church Mice are always up for a challenge. In this photo, Gaye Gibson is literally cleaning the fridge inside and out. We are so thankful for our Church Mice and their willingness to serve with a happy heart. (Photo submitted by Sandy Noland.)

## MAKE ME A BLESSING

Thank you for your continued donations to the Blessings Box.



Feeding the Community

We are seeking donations of: nuts and trail mix, oatmeal packets, tuna or chicken in pouches, pop tarts, crackers, ready-to-eat soup, and granola bars. Please

remember that canned goods are best with pop top lids.

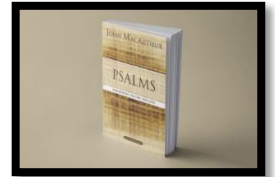
## CANDLEWICK COMMONS



On Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, we had our dinner and fellowship time at Candlewick. We served 12 with sloppy joes, tater tots, coleslaw, and brownies.

## GOOD MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Good Morning Bible Study **meets Thursday mornings from 10-12** in the Gold Circle Room. Join Linda Smith and friends as they continue their study of Psalms and have prayer time together.



## CHILDREN'S SERMONS

We are using a service called Sermon4Kids for our children's sermons now. We also have the chair up at the front of the sanctuary to make it easier to sit and get up. If you are interested on "hosting" the children's sermon, let Becky or Hope know. We can let you know the object lesson. The lesson and handouts are on the front pew each week. Hope can also provide information during office hours.

## NALOXBOX TRAINING OPPORTUNITY



In partnership with the Licking County Health Department, our church will be offered training on

Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 10 am on how to access and use a Naloxbox.

A Naloxbox is a small, easily accessible container that contains naloxone, a life-saving medication that can reverse opioid overdoses. The primary goal of the Naloxbox is to ensure immediate access to naloxone in emergency situations, offering an extra layer of protection for your congregation, the members of the meetings you serve, and the broader community. It is a simple yet highly effective measure that could help save lives during critical moments.

## EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH

### MINUTE FOR MISSIONS



### Forgiveness

Greetings everyone from our last night in Hesed for the present. Many thanks to all of you who have been praying for us. Our health is good and Laura got her exit visa with a couple of days to spare :- ) whew, so all is well.

But we learned a surprising part of the culture here this past week. Forgiveness is not part of their culture. After hearing this, I checked with several people, all saying the same, that this is true and the people here in their religion do not think it necessary to apologize and ask people or one of their idols for forgiveness. I had been asked to preach this morning at the church we attend before we left, and the Lord began rearranging my topic to preach on forgiveness. So I shared some Scripture and especially the Prodigal Son. Consequentially, not forgiving people here in Hesed, separates members of families just as in the parable and they no longer speak to each other. Forgiveness is not culturally accepted in Hesed. The message I preached was well received this morning and the congregation was attentive. But it also was quiet when I finished, which is the way it should be when you are thinking about something very important. Forgiveness is at the center of Christianity, but in no way part of the culture in Hesed. I think this will be something I begin to think more about and speak on when we return in August.

Tomorrow we fly from Hesed to Rwanda to be with David and his wife Vicki and our grandchildren and we will be teaching two TTWs for their literacy

programs. One in Rwanda and another in Zambia. After that we fly to Chicago to be with our son Daniel and his wife Nikki and two more of our grandchildren. Then we may be off from Chicago to the Philippines to teach a TTW for an old friend of mine who also has been a missionary for 35 years or so. After that we will fly to DFW in Texas, and on to our home in Waco just an hour and a half from DFW.

There is more to tell but I am tired and need to go to bed. Mainly I just wanted to let you know that all is well and say thank you. Pray for our time with David and the TTW in Rwanda on the 10th and then the one in Zambia beginning on March 17. Blessings to all of you in the name of Jesus, who loves us, and forgives us, and welcomes us to eternal life.

For Him,

Rick and Laura

### PROPERTY REPORT

#### FPC March 2025 Property Report:



- One of the vacuums was repaired for \$49.95.
  - Robert Stokes found some minor issues on the roof and repaired them. The cost of this was \$325.00.
  - The property committee and members of the session had a joint planning meeting Sunday 3/16/25 after church to start the process of formulating a proposal of major building repairs to send to Session to vote on before presenting it to the congregation. The next planning meeting will be 4/27/25 with a representative from Bros. Masonry.
- Linda L. Smith  
Property Committee



## LENTEN OFFERING:

### FROM THE EVANGELISM & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

As a part of the reformed faith, our church celebrates the seasons of the liturgical calendar. As we turn to the month of March, the Lenten season appears. Lent is likely the most important season of the whole liturgical year as we commemorate the passion and death of Jesus and is a season of prayer, fasting and the giving of extra time, talent and financial resources.

As our church has done for at least 75 years, the Session has approved the receiving of a Lenten offering. This offering has been referred to as the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, which is somewhat misleading since we have not given our offering through the PCUSA for many years. We have chosen to give half of the offering to the local Salvation Army and the other half to another appropriate international organization, World Vision. In order to be clear on the destination of these funds, the offering will now be designated as the Lenten Offering.

World Vision International is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families and communities, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, or gender, to reach their full potential by tracking the causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision serves the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. They provide access to sustainable clean water, food, healthcare, safe living space and education as part of their care to children around the world. They also assist with disaster survivors and refugees around the world.

Newark Salvation Army is an evangelical part of the Christian church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its mission is to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

The Corps in Newark and Licking county is focused on alleviating poverty. The center provides meals each day through a soup kitchen, a choice food pantry, community dinners and summer feeding programs for children. Other programs include programs for the homeless, adult education, job service programs, senior and elderly assistance, programs for teens and children, clothing distribution and worship services.

Envelopes for this special offering will be available at the doors of the sanctuary starting Ash Wednesday, March 5 through Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025. The offering will be dedicated on Palm Sunday. The church received \$910.39 for this offering in 2024.

And God is able to make it up to you by giving you everything you need and more, so that there will not only be enough for your own needs, but plenty left over to give joyfully to others. It is as the scripture says, "The godly man gives generously to the poor. His good deeds will be an honor to him forever". II Corinthians 9:8-9

## FINANCE REPORT

As of Wednesday, March 26, 2025, the checking account balance is \$9,094.56

The SCRIP account balance is: \$1,971.91.

The Savings account has a balance of \$16,302.01. This includes \$14,800 designated for upcoming major building repairs.

-Keith Hare, FPC Finance Chairman

## SHRED-IT DAY 2025



**Free Shred-It Day at TrueCore on Deo Drive, April 12 between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m.** Need help hauling boxes or

do you have more than five and need someone to drop of your additional? Talk to Hope in the office or Priscilla. Lighten the load at home. Free up space for the things you still need. Protect your personal information. Shred!

## HYMN STORY: HE LIVES

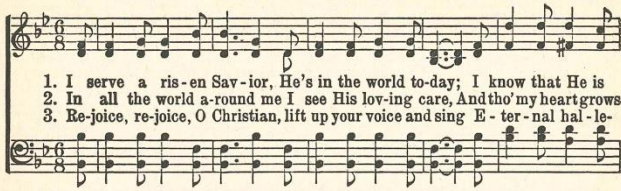
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HE LIVES

A. H. A.

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Rev. A. H. Ackley



1. I serve a ris-en Sav-ior, He's in the world to-day; I know that He is  
2. In all the world a-round me I see His lov-ing care, And tho' my heart grows  
3. Re-joice, re-joice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing E - ter - nal hal - le -

The year is 1932, and radio is the great means of communication. Pastor Alfred Ackley is getting ready to go to his church in Escondido, California. It's Easter morning and he turns on his radio as he shaves. The voice of a liberal preacher from New York City comes on the radio:

"Good morning friends. It is Easter Sunday morning. It really doesn't make any difference to me if Christ arose or not.....all that matters is that His truth is marching on."

"That's a lie!!" Alfred shouts as he hears the broadcast. Mrs. Ackley hears her husband shouting from the bathroom and asks him, "Why are you shouting?"

"Did you hear what that good for nothing preacher said on the radio? This is the second time this week that I have heard comments like this. I was witnessing to a Jewish college student telling him about Jesus and he asked me, 'Why should I worship a dead Jew?' And now this liberal preacher said that it didn't matter to him that Jesus arose. That's just the point. He is not dead. He is alive."

Mrs. Ackley reminds her husband, "Alfred, you must get ready for church or we will be late."

As Alfred arrives at the church, he is fired up and ready to preach. This preacher is riled by what he heard on the radio. He can hardly wait for the congregational singing to be done. He can hardly wait for the announcements to be made. Now he is sitting on the edge of his seat, ready to run to the pulpit to preach his sermon.

This morning he preaches a sermon on the resurrection of Jesus Christ like no one had ever heard before. Those brave enough to

come back on Sunday night hear another sermon on the resurrection.

After church Sunday night, Mrs. Ackley is in the kitchen preparing some food for Alfred and herself. She hears footsteps pacing in the living room. Looking around the corner from the kitchen she sees her husband pacing back and forth. "What's wrong now?" She inquires.

Alfred replies, "I still haven't said all that I want to say about the resurrection."

Mrs. Ackley says, "Listen here Alfred, why don't you do what you do best? Why don't you write a song about the resurrection and that way long after you are gone, the song can tell the story."

Alfred was an accomplished preacher and song writer, and he immediately went to his study in his home. He read Mark 16:6, "And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him."

A thrill fills Alfred's soul, and he begins to write. On and on he writes until all of the stanzas are complete. Moving to the piano, he writes the music. When he finishes, he has written the hymn which we know as He Lives.

Anyone who reads the words to this hymn, having heard the story of how it was written, can see the passion of Alfred Ackley on that Easter night in 1932.

Notice the last line of his hymn: You ask me how I know He lives; He lives within my heart.

***\*Alfred Ackley was a talented musician as well as a pastor. When he was younger, his father had diligently trained him in the area of music. Little did he know his hymn would soon become one of the most favorite sung Easter hymns.\****

Taken from:

(<https://enjoyingthejourney.org/hymn-history-he-lives/>)

