

**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

65 North Third Street
Newark, OH 43055-5522
740-345-1480

Church E-mail: firstpresofc@gmail.com
Web Address: www.1stpresnewark.com

Tara Lewellen, Music Coordinator

Jesse Ryals, Provisional Pastor

Hope Labutis, Secretary

Sheri Bogardus, Treasurer

Gary Collins, Maintenance

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



March – 2024

PASTOR JESSE'S INFORMATION

Jesse's contact information is:

Cell (740) 507-5727 call or text

Jesse.ryals@gmail.com

Text or email is preferred

CHURCH ELDER INFORMATION

Clerk of Session - Marilyn Johnston

Class of 2026:

Keith Hare - Finance

Chris Rainey - Worship

Class of 2025:

Sarah Bowles – Church Life

Becky Mahon – Personnel

Class of 2024:

Linda Smith – Property

Karen Fish – Evangelism & Outreach

CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION

Make sure to check the bulletin board outside of the church office to catch up on all the "news for you." This is the spot where you will find invitations to local events, correspondence, and our monthly calendars.



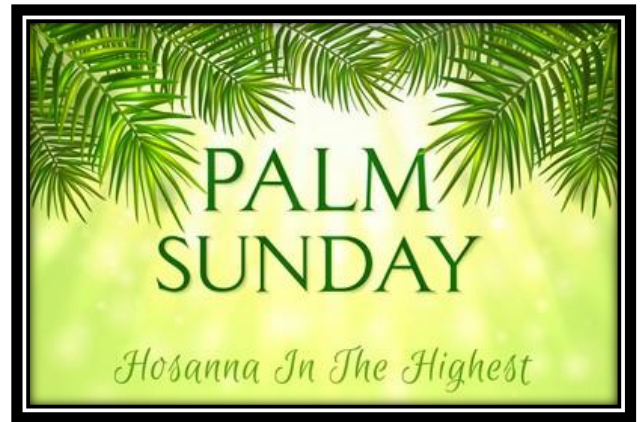
Lost & Found Alert: If you are missing glasses or sunglasses, they are in the church work room for pickup.

WORSHIP

We will be serving Communion on Sunday, March 3.



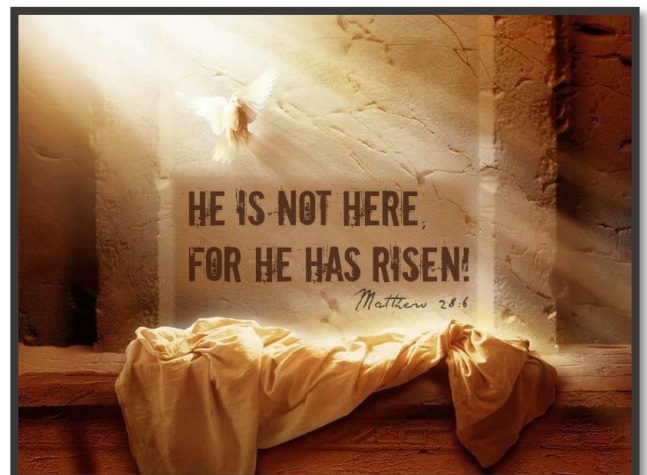
Palm Sunday will be celebrated on March 24th.



We will be hosting a special Maundy Thursday service on Thursday, March 28th at noon. Please join us for Communion and remembering Christ's sacrifice.



**Join us for Easter Sunday, March 31st.
Invite a friend, family member, or neighbor.**



He is risen indeed!

SCRIP

The next Scrip order is March 3rd. 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.

If you are interested in Scrip cards, please see Gaye Gibson.



EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH MINUTE FOR MISSIONS

We served dinner at Candlewick Commons on Tuesday January 30th to 23 residents. It was a fun time of music and fellowship. Our next dinner will be in March.



LICKING COUNTY
COC
COALITION OF CARE

Celebrating
20 YEARS
of Love in Action

The Licking County Coalition of Care is
Celebrating 20 YEARS of Love In Action!
Twenty years of keeping families together!
Twenty years of empowering people in crisis!
Twenty years of equipping households with the

knowledge and resources to break the cycle of generational poverty! Twenty years of providing HOPE when things seem impossible! The Licking County Coalition of Care stands as a source of stability for our community by remaining steadfast in our mission to serve as the hands and feet of Christ in the midst of a down-turning economy and uncertain economic future.

Poverty is real and right here in our own backyard. In Licking County, nearly nineteen thousand people live at or below the poverty line. That is nearly 10% of our county's total population struggling with the effects of poverty. Even with jobs, most families must live paycheck to paycheck. They sometimes need help to cope when unexpected problems arise, and we need your help to assist them when they are in danger of suffering the loss of the basics.

Your contributions have helped make it possible for the COC to fulfill our mission and put God's love into action by responding to the unmet spiritual and physical needs of people in crisis. These services are available to all who need assistance. In its 20 years of service to our neighbors, YOUR generosity has made it possible to touch the lives of over 28,000 people by ensuring that the Coalition of Care is here to offer support to those who's world has been turned upside down.

There are over 2,000 references in the Bible directing us to help those in need, with the most quoted on this subject being from the book of Matthew. This interpretation of Matthew 25 by one of our volunteers says it best!

"And the King will say to those at his right hand...For I was cold, and you helped me pay my gas bill. And I was in the dark and you got my electric turned back on. I was thirsty and you helped restore my water service. I was being evicted and you helped pay my rent. And when I was confused and discouraged you helped me see how to balance my budget and regain my self-respect." "Then we answered

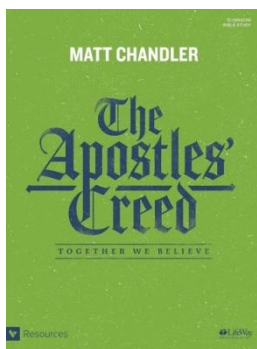
Him, 'Lord when did we see you cold and help you with your gas bill or in the dark and restore your electric? And when did we see you thirsty and help get your water turned back on or keep you from being evicted? And when did we help you learn to balance your budget and regain your self-respect?' And the King replied, 'Truly I tell you whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did unto me.'

LOVE IN ACTION continues to be the COC's "boots on the ground" in fulfilling the mission outlined in Scripture.

Your gift to the Coalition of Care is extremely important because it offers immediate resources that are directed to the current needs of those in crisis, along with valuable coaching that directs them to other available resources. Our extensive relationships with landlords, utility companies, and partnering agencies ensured the good stewardship of funds. Thank you for your help!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our 12 session study for Sunday School is on the Apostle's Creed by Matt Chandler. This is facilitated by Priscilla Hare. Please join us on Sunday mornings in person or over Zoom!



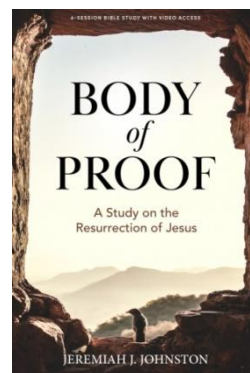
The Apostles' Creed was born from the apostles' teachings. It contains essential doctrines and beliefs that summarize the gospel and the foundation of our faith. The scriptural truths contained in the creed enable us to build our Christian lives on good theology, with the knowledge that our faith is rooted in truth and a rich history.



We will begin the study, Body of Proof by apologist Dr. Jeremiah Johnston, Sunday, April 7.

Culture is doing its best to convince the world there is nothing special about Jesus. And many Christians never get beyond a Sunday school understanding of their own faith. As a result, Christianity's most important historical fact—the resurrection—is often the most misunderstood, relegated to Easter and funeral services, creating a powerless Christianity.

The single most important fact of the Christian faith is that Jesus isn't dead. He was resurrected on a Sunday morning two thousand years ago. That one weekend included His execution, an earthquake, daytime darkness, an uprising, and a miracle unlike any the world had ever seen.



Those events and the days that followed changed everything about the world and form the center of our faith. Yet outside of a few days each year, we don't spend a lot of time contemplating the resurrection itself.

In this four-session Bible study, we'll look back on that incredible weekend and see why the resurrection of Jesus gives us hope and confidence today.

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Session has given the PNC the go ahead to begin our search again. We jumped into reviewing our Ministry Discernment Profile to see if there is anything we need to change. Our next steps will be to finalize those changes, get our profile approved by Session and Presbytery, then get our updated profile published to the CLC website to receive candidates.

Please keep the committee in your prayers.

- Sarah Bowles, PNC Chairperson

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

March Birthdays

Becky Mahon 3/16

Karen Fish 3/29



CHURCH LIFE

Our annual meeting was held on Sunday February 4th. We enjoyed a time of fellowship together with a delicious soup supper all while getting the business of the church done.



On February 14, we had an Ash Wednesday service. We received ashes and walked away with a



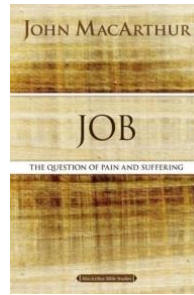
sense of remembrance of Christ's sacrifice. We

each left the service with a nail as a tangible reminder to pray during this Lenten season.



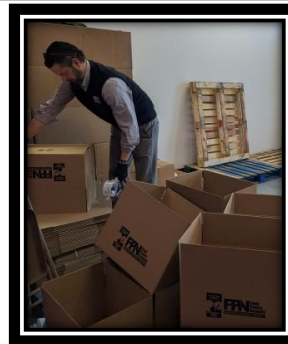
On February 18th, E&O hosted a brunch in honor of the Mahon family's visit. We enjoyed breakfast casseroles and fellowship while learning more about the Mahon's ministry.

GOOD MORNING BIBLE STUDY



The Good Morning Bible Study will resume their meetings in March! Join them Thursday mornings from 10-12 in the Gold Circle Room as they continue their study of The Word in the Book of Job. Please see Linda Smith for any questions. This Bible Study is open to all and we'd love to have you join us in fellowship and prayer!

HEALTHY BACKPACK PROGRAM



On February 13th, First Federal came and

packed food for the Y-Healthy Backpack Program. They



were a fantastic group and we had a lot of fun.

PROPERTY REPORT

The Session has authorized me to submit a property report to the FPC newsletter each month to keep the congregation informed of the repairs and expenses of our church building.

- The end of January we discovered a leak in the bathroom sink in the 3rd floor nursery. Due to the fact that the pipes and hardware were in very poor condition, we replaced the pipes and sink. The cost of this was **\$859.58**.
- We paid Brian Jaccoud **\$1040.00** for six applications of salt on the parking lot and alley for the month of January.
- We bought paint to cover areas where we had mold previously treated. The cost for this was **\$137.76**.
- The toilet seat in the upstairs women's restroom was replaced at a cost of **\$26.99**.
- The fellowship hall will be professionally cleaned and the floors buffed for the memorial service for Ann Howard.
- We are in the process of converting the "Quilt Room" into a Sunday school classroom. It needs some rehab on the walls and floor.
- Some other areas of flooring will be stripped and waxed.

In Christ's Love,
Linda L Smith
FPC Property Chairman

FINANCE REPORT

Church Account Balances:

As of Tuesday, February 20, 2024, the balance in the church checking account is \$7,151.61.

In January, we borrowed from the line of credit for about \$950. We were able to pay off that balance on February 10.

In addition to the checking account, the church has the following accounts:

SCRIP Program: \$1,172.80
Women's Ministry: \$1,267.84
Savings: \$500.00

CHILDREN'S CHURCH



Learning about God with Ms. Becky is fun! The Bowles boys are intently listening on a recent Sunday morning. "Train up a child in the way he should go..."

(Photo submitted by Linda Smith – who had a great view!)

SENTIMENTS TO SHARE

Lent

Why do some people give things up from Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday?



Millions of people around the world give up something during Lent as a sign of sacrifice

and to test their self-discipline.

Christians believe that this is to represent Jesus Christ's sacrifice when he went into the desert to pray and fast for the 40 days before dying on the cross.

In the New Testament, while Jesus was in the desert, Satan tempted him to turn away from God and worship him instead. Jesus refused and resisted temptation, which is why people might choose to sacrifice something during Lent. In this way, we can learn to be more like Christ and practice the fruit of self-control.

YOU'RE INVITED...

Second Presbyterian Church
42 E. Church St. Newark, OH 43055
Presents

GOSPEL HYMN SING
BENEFITTING
OPERATION FEED
SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024
2:00 PM
<https://spcnwark.org/operationfeedconcert/>

Piano/Organ Duets Performed by
Rick Black and Ann Marie Robinson
Sing a long with a blend of Gospel,
Classical and Traditional music.