

**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

Rev. Diane Flynn, Transitional Pastor
Hope Labutis, Secretary/Treasurer
Gary Collins, Maintenance

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



April 2026

CHURCH ELDER INFORMATION

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

Clerk of Session – Priscilla Hare

Class of 2028:

Becky Mahon
Ed Jobes

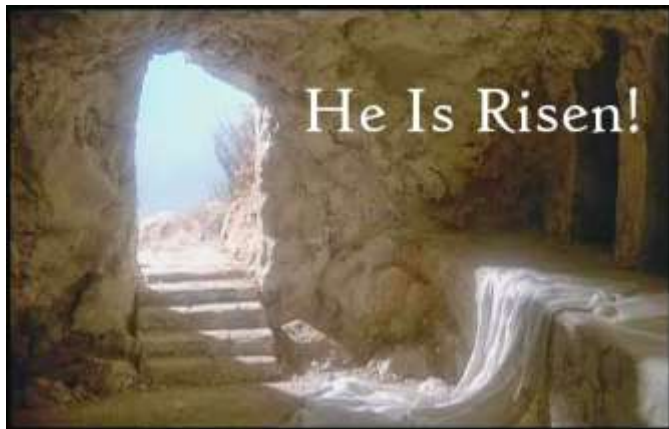
Class of 2027:

Karen Fish
Linda Smith

Class of 2026:

Keith Hare
Chris Rainey

WORSHIP



April 5 is Easter Sunday and Communion will be served. Rev. Flynn is preaching and Ann Marie Robinson will be our guest pianist.

SCRIP



The next Scrip order is **April 5**. 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>

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

April Birthdays

Priscilla Hare 4/12

Chris Bowles 4/16

Barb Jobes 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

MAKE ME A BLESSING



The most requested food items for the blessings box include: nuts and trail mix, tuna or chicken in pouches, pop tarts, crackers, ready-to-eat soup/pasta, and granola bars. Please remember that canned goods are best with pop top lids.

If it is easier for you to purchase a gift card, please mark it for the Blessings Box and Hope will do the shopping for you and haul in the groceries. Thank you for your help!

A NOTE FROM OUR NEW TRANSITIONAL PASTOR, REVEREND DIANE FLYNN



Hi, everyone! My name is Diane Flynn, and I am truly honored to serve alongside you in God's work at First Pres. Church, Newark. I am a lifelong Presbyterian,

having grown up in Hickory, PA—a small rural community near Pittsburgh. As a child, instead of nursery rhymes, I found myself singing the old hymns I learned in church and at home, often alongside my father.

God's call to ministry came later in life than it does for many. After graduating from Fort Cherry High School, I earned a dual bachelor's degree in Elementary and Early Childhood Education from California University of Pennsylvania, a Master's degree in Human Resources Management from St. Francis University, and ultimately a Master of Divinity from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

In December 1987, I married Shawn Flynn, and we made our home in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. We shared 21 wonderful years of marriage before his untimely passing on December 26, 2008, following a tractor-trailer accident.

In 2012, I relocated to Pittsburgh. Before entering ordained ministry, I spent 15 years working in human resources. Throughout that time, I remained deeply involved in church life at Canonsburg U.P., where I served as a ruling elder and chaired several committees at both the congregational and presbytery levels, including Personnel, Pulpit Nominating, Strategic Planning, and New Church Development.

After graduating from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 2017, I was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament, serving congregations within the Pittsburgh and Kiskiminetas Presbyteries. Most recently, I had the privilege of serving as Transitional Pastor at First Pres. Church in Marysville, Ohio.

When I have the chance, I enjoy music—I sing alto—spending time with my large extended family, and travel with my faithful four-legged companion, Seamus.



Through all of life's twists and turns, God has shown me that anyone can be called into servant ministry, regardless of their circumstances. As we are reminded in Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." I look forward to discovering those plans together as we walk in faith and serve God side by side.

Blessings,

Rev. Diane Flynn

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS



Tara Lewellen's last Sunday with us was March 29th as our Music Coordinator and Organist. We are so thankful for her 4 years of faithful service to us through music ministry. May God be with Tara and Dale as they

begin a new opportunity to serve Him.

"...for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" – Joshua 1:9

HAPPY PLATINUM ANNIVERSARY

The 70th anniversary is traditionally known as the Platinum Anniversary, representing 70 years of marriage. It symbolizes endurance, strength, and rarity.



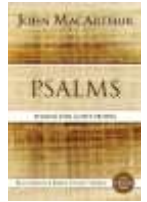
Forrest and Thelma Smythe are celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary on Wednesday, April 8th.

Forrest and Thelma were married in 1956. We are blessed to join them in celebrating their legacy of love and commitment!



GOOD MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Good Morning Bible Study meets on Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. in the Gold Circle Room. Join Linda Smith and friends as they continue their study in Psalms. Everyone is welcome!



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Our Adult Bible Study meets at 9:15 on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. Join us in person or over Zoom! Together we will draw closer to the Lord as a community of believers. Stay after for a time of Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall!

CANDLEWICK COMMONS



On Tuesday, March 10th, we served dinner to our neighbors at Candlewick. 20 residents shared this meal and fellowship with us.

Ann Marie Robinson played the keyboard for us and the residents enjoyed a sing-a-long.



To sign up for this important ministry, please see Sandy Noland. We are

blessed to be a blessing!

SHRED DAY

There is a community shred day April 11th at True Core Credit Union. Limit of 5 boxes per household. If you have any shredding to do, add this to your calendar. :)



GARAGE SALE!

**Y-Healthy Kids Network –
Presbyterian Church Partnership
Garage Sale
at Second Presbyterian Church**



The Presbyterian Church Partnership is hosting a county-wide Garage Sale on Saturday, April 18, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at Second Presbyterian Church in Newark to support YHKN food packs for students in Licking County. Donations may be dropped off after March 14 (Monday–Thursday) at the Church Street office entrance, with a special drop-off day on Friday, April 17 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. The address is 42 East Church Street, Newark, Ohio.

Please contribute quality items that will sell well—especially jewelry and collectibles—and deliver them directly to the Newark church.

Invite neighbors to participate and help make a difference for local students.

Our FPC Session has approved the use of our Fellowship Hall IF donations exceed the gymnasium space constraints at Second Pres. Please contact the church office if you can help during set up or on the sale date. There will be a sign-up sheet on the front pew within the next few weeks.

PROPERTY REPORT

FPC March 2026 Property Report:



The recent high winds peeled a few shingles off of the Chapel and

Robert Stokes has replaced them. There is some copper flashing work that Robert Stokes will do as soon as we get some hot dry weather. We had some more downspouts stolen and Robert Stokes is replacing them. We are still working with DB Organ to get the organ working it may be after Easter that it gets done.

-The Property Committee

FINANCE REPORT



As of Wednesday, March 25, 2026, the account balances are:

Checking: \$5,669.61
Savings: \$10,332.52
SCRIP: \$2,613.31

-Keith Hare, FPC Finance Chair

EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH

MINUTE FOR MISSIONS

And so...

... the beat goes on. Sometimes we understand things clearly... and sometimes not. And so it is that we greet you this morning from our home in Waco, Tx. Our visas for Pakistan had expired last week and the immigration arm of the Pakistani government would not let us extend the visas and stay. This news was given without any explanation. We were right in the middle of Laura and my conducting a Teacher Training Workshop (TTW) when Pow.

And so we called our son David to book us a new flight home. The airlines were in the midst of being closed down in Dubai which was where we were scheduled to pass through. David was able to get us a flight through Riyadh in Saudi Arabia for a good and normal price, whereas the flights going through Istanbul were 3 times the normal cost of similar flights going to the same locations.

And so the beat goes on, as we old timers once heard the radio playing the popular song of Sonny and Cher with the title The Beat Goes on, in 1967. Coming back to Waco was about as disappointing as I have ever known. It is a nice little city and I like it, but I didn't want to be here. I wanted to be in Pakistan where I had just come from. I wasn't singing the blues, I was black. I didn't want to be here. This is not where I was supposed to be. And then this morning, our second since arriving back, I received an email from our literacy leader in India wondering if we could come to a TTW in the state of Uttar Pradesh whose pastors were asking for literacy classes to be begun there. And where might this be? Varanasi, the birthplace of Hinduism. Hum. And so the Lord Jesus Christ knows just how to bring me out of the

dark. We are working on the date which looks like it will be right after Easter. Oh, and yes, we have 5 year visas for India.

Some other very good news is that the same leader who notified us about the prospects of Varanasi, also let us know that they had 30 new Bible Studies going on in his state with people who had attended our literacy classes. So we are seeing the fruit of this strategy as people who were our students are attending Bible studies, coming to the Lord, and getting baptized. People who were illiterate just a few months ago are enjoying a new life on earth and eternally with Jesus.

And so in spite of all the chaos stirred up around us though the media, which in my mind is the false prophet in Revelation, may we all keep our eyes fixed of Jesus, spending time with Him every day in prayer.

For Him, Rick and Laura

March 13, 2026



EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

April Shopping List for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes



For those of you who like to purchase items for shoeboxes, post-Easter sales are the perfect opportunity to stock up on toys, small plush animals, and even school supplies at a fraction of the usual cost. Favorite places to shop for these bargains are Hobby Lobby, Walmart and dollar stores. By planning ahead and purchasing throughout the year, you can maximize your budget and pack even more impactful boxes, helping to ensure that more children receive thoughtful and well-filled boxes this coming season.