

**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

65 North Third Street
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Church E-mail: firstpresofc@gmail.com

Web Address:

www.1stpreshnewark.com

Dallas Dryburgh, Congregational Care Pastor

Tara Lewellen, Music Coordinator

Hope Labutis, Secretary

Sheri Bogardus, Treasurer

Gary Collins, Maintenance

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



December 2024

CHURCH ELDER INFORMATION

Clerk of Session – Priscilla Hare

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

WORSHIP

We will be serving Communion on Sunday, December 1st. This is also The First Sunday of Advent.



Our Christmas Eve service will be held on Tuesday, December 24th at 5:00 pm.

Join us in this beautifully planned service that reminds us of the true meaning of Christmas.



SCRIP



The next Scrip order is **December 1st**. 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.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE



December Birthdays

Sarah Bowles	12/2
Steve Keck	12/3
TJ Detrick	12/4
Ed Jobes	12/9
Tim Cain	12/10
Diane Higgins	12/13
Sharon Wills	12/17
Kim Dershem	12/31

December Anniversaries

Gary & Mona Clark 12/14

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE
for these
upcoming
events!



- 12/5 Sights & Sounds – 6-8:30 pm
- 12/7 DNA Wonderland Walk - 1-4 pm
- 12/10 Candlewick Commons Dinner – 4 pm
- 12/22 Congregational Christmas Dinner

EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH

MINUTE FOR MISSIONS



OPERATION-CHRISTMAS-CHILD-PACKING PARTY-2024

We always feel good about the results of our Operation Christmas Child-Packing

Parties, but this year's succeeded all our expectations. We packed over 200 boxes!



Being few-in-number has never deterred us, but we are so thankful to have been joined by members of Hanover Presbyterian as well as other friends and family.

We are very thankful to so many for this success.

Our congregation has been so generous in supplying toys, hygiene items, and school/art supplies throughout the year. Thanks to Donna for providing us with so many dresses and burrito babies. It was a good feeling to actually deplete some of our stores.



Thanks to Gaye, who faithfully feeds us delicious sustenance year after year. Many thanks to those who provided the much-needed shipping funds for our boxes. We are thankful to Carolyn for providing us with beautifully wrapped shoeboxes to fill.

Now that our boxes have been filled and blessed, we ask that you please remember in prayer those children who will receive our boxes. We pray that each child will feel the love of Christ through their box. Each of them will hear the gospel message when they receive the box, as well as receive the opportunity to join a discipleship program to learn more about Christ. Of course, our ultimate prayer is that each child will accept Jesus into their hearts as Lord and Savior in their lives.



The shoeboxes will now be loaded into vehicles to deliver to the collection sites. Thanks to Rick and Linda for graciously offering their trucks for transportation. Once at our collection site, Spring Hills-Baptist Church, we will receive

help with unloading our boxes to add to the "mountain" of boxes from other churches. It is an awesome sight!

The Collection Team then pray with us over our boxes. There can never be too much prayer for these boxes and the children receiving them.



So, again, thanks to all of you for all you do and continue doing. We pray God's richest blessings upon you!

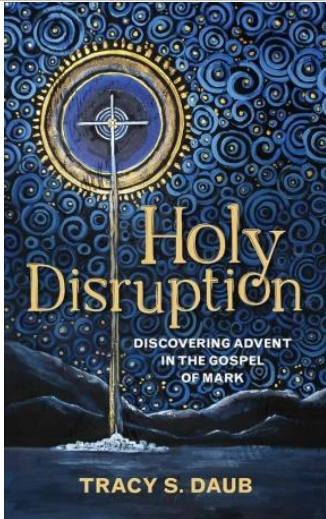
PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

This month, and many of the months, we have had a really promising candidate turn us down for the possibility of further conversation which can be frustrating and disheartening. In the wise words of Ed Jobes, "We have had a chance to meet a fantastic person who would have possibly been a comfortable positive fit for our pulpit and to lead our congregation. However we were not the best fit for them and that is equally as important. God has us in His hands."

God still has our First Presbyterian Church in His hands. He is still providing us with biblical messages from the pulpit; He is still guiding our Session Elders; He is still with us in our missioning. So, the search continues. Continue to keep us in your prayers.

-Sarah Bowles
PNC Chairperson

ADULT BIBLE CLASS



Where's the baby? The Gospel of Mark doesn't have a nativity story—so where's the Advent message? It's in every aspect of Jesus' life, to his death and beyond.

The Incarnation—God come to earth in human form to be baptized, teach, heal, eat, and die—is what

we celebrate at Christmas, and Mark shows us just how radical and celebration-worthy it is!

Holy Disruption presents a fresh understanding of the holiness of Christmas grounded, not in a conventional cozy Christmas message, but through Mark's disquieting gospel which invites its readers to experience God's disruptive but transformative love for us and our world.

This new Adult Bible Class taught by Pricilla Hare begins 11/24 and runs through the Advent season. Please join us!

Adult Bible Class Scripture Reading Guide:

To immerse yourself even more deeply on the Gospel of Mark during Advent, follow this reading guide to work your way through the Gospel's sixteen chapters in just a few minutes per day.



Week 1 (Days 1-5) *Begin week of 11/24

Mark 1:1-28; 1:29-45; 2:1-28; 3:1-35; 4:1-34

Week 2 (Days 6-10)

Mark 4:35-5:20; 5:21-43; 6:1-29; 6:30-56; 7:1-23

Week 3 (Days 11-15)

Mark 7:24-8:10; 8:11-9:1; 9:2-29; 9:30-50; 10:1-31

Week 4 (Days 16-20)

Mark 10:32-52; 11:1-33; 12:1-27; 12:28-44; 13:1-37

Week 5 (Days 21-24)

Mark 14:1-25; 14:26-52; 14:53-15:20; 15:21-16:8

Y-HEALTHY BACKPACK PROGRAM

The program is 100% moved to its new warehouse location on Swans Rd. First Pres is still actively participating in food packing and food delivery. 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



Our youngest candy passer-outers this year on the Square. It truly is better to give than receive!



Praise report: Tina and Greg Angeletti were able to give out 1000 New Testaments on Friday, October 25th at the Trick or Treat on the Square. Our church group gave out 1000 treat bags plus 600 of any leftovers that they could find. What a blessing to our community!



Cornerstone Members who attended the special service and reception -

Back Row, Standing: Kim Frick, Kay Kittel, Louise Whitis, Carol Floyd, Rose Gibson.

Front Row, Seated: Chris Rainey, Jim Pfeiffer, Ed Jobes, Kim Dershem, Dwight Gibson.

Not pictured but in attendance: Gaye Gibson.



The Church Life Committee hosted a lovely reception for our Cornerstone (50+ year) Members on Sunday,

November 3rd. We had 11 of these long-term members in attendance. Thank you all for giving of your time and talents to serve us all here at FPC.



Please make plans to join us for our annual congregational Christmas dinner on Sunday, December 22nd after the worship service.



PROPERTY REPORT



FPC November 2024 Property Report:

- Toilets in both the basement men's and women's restrooms were repaired.
 - The elevator was inspected and passed.
 - The boilers were pre inspected by Houston Plumbing in preparation for the state inspection on November 19th.
 - The back flow valve was inspected by Houston Plumbing and the report sent to the City of Newark.
 - The fire extinguishers have been inspected and some were recharged.
 - The organ was tuned.
- Linda L Smith, FPC Property Chairman

FINANCE REPORT

As of Wednesday, November 20, the balance in the church checking account is \$14,126.91

The line of credit balance (what we owe) is zero.

The other account balances are:

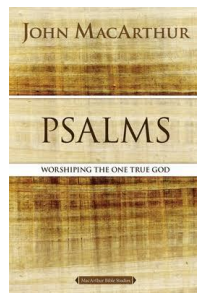
SCRIP: \$1,651.31

Savings Account: \$1,502.07

-Keith Hare, FPC Finance Chairman

GOOD MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Good Morning Bible meets on Thursday mornings from 10-12 in the Gold Circle Room as they continue their study of The Word in the Book of Psalms. 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!



The last Bible study for the fall season will be Thursday December 12th. We will start this ministry back up again in March 2025. Stay safe and warm this winter!

MAKE ME A BLESSING

As the temperatures get colder, it is a good time to think of our community members that we serve at the Blessings Box. Items that would be helpful include:



- Warm Socks
- Gloves and Hats
- Hand Warmers
- Blankets
- Manual Can Openers

The most requested food items include: nuts and trail mix, oatmeal packets, tuna or chicken in pouches, pop tarts, crackers, and granola bars.

We are running low on our supply of plastic silverware. If you order take out and do not use the plasticware, please drop it off in the donations box. Thank you for your help!

A MESSAGE FROM A VISITOR

"I commend you at First Presbyterian Church for the work you have done, and are doing, to free rooms in the church of clutter and to have them "at the ready" for some new opportunity. I have seen many churches. In so many places the rooms are like museums of the past, full of objects and supplies that are no longer being used, and contain dusty piles of fading, worn items. But you, on the other hand, are tackling that project with an eye to the future. Bravo for you! It gives the sense that you are preparing for whatever the Holy Spirit might be bringing your way."



A NOTE FROM HOPE

Church Family - Have a very Merry Christmas celebrating the Baby who changed the world – and still changes us today! I am privileged to serve you here at FPC. God has a plan for each of us! Blessings to you and yours... - Hope Labutis, Church Secretary

