

**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
Hope Labutis, Secretary/Treasurer
Gary Collins, Maintenance

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



December 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

WORSHIP

Pulpit Supply Pastors for December

December 7: Liz Tietz, CRE

Second Sunday of Advent; Communion

December 14: Liz Tietz, CRE

Third Sunday of Advent

December 21: Liz Tietz, CRE

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24: Liz Tietz, CRE

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service; 5 p.m.

December 28: Elder Linda Smith

Join Us at
Advent Worship



SCRIP

Scrip is
fundraising
while
you **shop!**

The next Scrip order is **December 7th**. 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

December

Birthdays

Sarah Bowles 12/2

Steve Keck 12/3

Ed Jobs 12/9

Diane Higgins 12/13

Sharon Wills 12/17

Kim Dershem 12/31



December Anniversary

Gary & Mona Clark 12/14

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT



Please mark your calendars for our annual congregational meeting on **Sunday, February 1, 2026**.

EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH
MINUTE FOR MISSIONS



In 2024, nearly 300 families applied for Habitat-MidOhio homeownership — four times more than two years ago. Yet rising costs and limited funding make it harder to meet that need. Discover how we're bridging the gap and what it will take to keep affordable

homeownership within reach for Central Ohio families.



Find deals, do good, and give back! The Habitat MidOhio ReStores are stocked with amazing new donations, festive holiday finds, and unique treasures you won't find anywhere else. Plus, learn how your year-end donations — or even a home deconstruction — can help build more affordable homes.

ReStore Newark Location & Hours

1660 N 21st St, Newark | Mon–Wed 9 a.m.–5 p.m. | Thu–Sat 9 a.m.–7 p.m.



Way to go, FPC!

With your help, we packed 124 boxes for Operation Christmas Child this year. Let's remember to pray for the recipients of these boxes – that they will be open to the gospel of Jesus Christ and that the boxes will bring them joy.

CHURCH LIFE

Church Family
Christmas Dinner

Join us on Sunday, December 14th after Worship for a time of fellowship, sharing and celebration! This is a potluck style dinner, so bring your favorite dish to share with your church family. You are a blessing to us here at FPC.

MAKE ME A BLESSING

Thank you for your continued donations to the Blessings Box. As the weather turns colder, please remember those in need with ready-to-eat soups, instant oatmeal packets, protein bars, and heavy socks. We welcome sweats and coats, hats and gloves for the box as well.

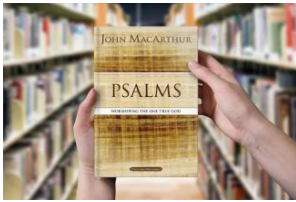
Thank you for blessing our community in this practical way.

ATTENTION SESSION



All annual reports from Session are due to the church office by **Sunday, January 11**. Thank you!

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.

The Bible Study will take their winter break after the meeting on Thursday, December 11th and will resume in March.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Jesus' arrival on earth changed the course of history forever. Not only for those who lived in the first century, but for those of us in the twenty-first century as well. The miracle and marvel of the Advent season demonstrates that we are precious to Him. He's not a distant God. He is Emmanuel, God with us. That includes wherever you are, right now.



Throughout the Old Testament, we find descriptions, allusions, prophecies, and even foreshadowing of the long-anticipated Messiah. The Messiah is Jesus, whose purpose and promise was not limited by His

humanity. In this Bible study, you will learn that it's not your behavior that earns the kindness of a holy God; it's the presence of Jesus coming to Earth to be with you, always.

Join Christine Caine and Lisa Harper this Advent season for a four-session video Bible study like no other. Your hope and spirit will be revived as you recapture the wonder of Jesus' obvious love for you. You'll discover that Advent is not only a season of waiting and preparation, but also, it's a season of action to share the hope of Jesus with everyone.

Join us in person or over Zoom this Advent season. Stay after for a time of Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall!

PROPERTY REPORT

FPC November 2025 Property Report:

Houston Plumbing has gotten the boiler started and replaced a required part as well as repaired a leaking toilet in the upstairs of the annex. The leak caused some of the ceiling in the first floor of the annex to fall. Houston also repaired the prep sink in the kitchen. We have not yet received the total bill.

The exterior work on the front facade and the back of the chapel depends on the weather. This work may not be completed until spring.

The big downspout at the side corner by the alley has been replaced due to the original one being stolen. The two downspouts on the back of the Chapel were replaced due to the originals being split and running water over the foundation. Downspout total \$575.00

We are planning to weather strip the exterior Chapel doors. The front exterior doors have been weather stripped. Please pull a little harder to make sure they close tightly.

The entry buzzer operated from the office is in process of being contracted to be replaced.

Brian Jaccaud has been again contracted for snow removal at the church. Pray for little or no snow.

If there is a level 2 snow emergency declared in Licking County all church activities will be cancelled.

-The Property Committee

FINANCE REPORT

As of Tuesday, November 25, the account balances are:

Checking:
\$8,008.63

Savings: \$10,327.01.

SCRIP: \$2,398.80



-Keith Hare, FPC Finance Chair

CHRISTMAS CAROLS: STORIES OF YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS CLASSICS

By Judy Hilovsky, Copy Editor and Copywriter, Museum of the Bible (Excerpts taken by church office.)



“He who sings prays twice!”
— St. Augustine

There are nearly 10,000 songs about or for Christmas (9,274 songs to be exact). Since the average song runs approximately 3.5 minutes, it means you would have to sing Christmas songs 24/7 from December 1 to December 24 to sing them all. Bring a throat lozenge.

The earliest carols were written and sung in Latin, making it difficult for many to understand them and, therefore, less popular. However, in 1223, when St. Francis of Assisi began his Nativity plays in Italy, songs and canticles sung in the language of the people watching told the story of Jesus’s birth. This helped the new carols spread throughout Europe.

Not everybody has thought well of carols. In the United Kingdom, Oliver Cromwell outlawed the public singing of carols in 1644. He banned Christmas celebrations, too. Most continued singing carols in secret, so these songs survived. In 1660, the restoration of the British monarchy abolished all legislation enacted from 1642 to 1660, so Christmas was once again celebrated with feasts, festivities, and carols.

Unlike retail stores today, which start playing Christmas music in November, carols were intended to be sung from Advent—the period observed the first of the four Sundays before Christmas—until Christmas Day. Christmas’s conclusion is marked by the feast of Epiphany (usually January 6), the day when Christians celebrate the revelation of baby Jesus and when carols often stopped.

Let’s look at the history of a few of the most popular carols through the years.

In 1851, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” appeared in *Medieval Hymns and Sequences* with Neale’s notation: “This Advent hymn is little more than a versification of some of the Christmas antiphons commonly called the O’s.” If you think “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” sounds like a Gregorian chant, you’re right. Each antiphon starts with the exclamation “O” and is chanted as part of the Liturgy of the Hours by Roman Catholic and Anglican communities around the world as Christmas approaches.

The lyrics of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” go back to at least the twelfth century, and the melody as far back as the fifteenth century. Although the song is

sung in many languages, the same melody is used everywhere; the tune was first put to the lyrics when it was translated into English.

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” is another one of the “O” songs. Although probably composed by Cistercian monks in the Middle Ages, it was an exiled English Catholic that produced the English version. Since practicing the Catholic faith in England from 1588 to 1829 was illegal, John Wade escaped to France. Known for his calligraphy, he was a successful musical copyist and penned “O Come, All Ye Faithful” in 1751. It is not known if he wrote the song, but he usually gets the credit.

In 1847, a French parish priest asked a local poet to write a Christmas carol, which quickly spread throughout France. The hauntingly beautiful “O, Holy Night” was an instant hit, but the French church soon banned it when they discovered the author was a socialist and the composer Jewish. But people continued to sing it, and in 1871, on Christmas Eve during the Franco-Prussian War, a French soldier ran out of his trench unarmed and began to sing this carol. Silence fell and when he was finished, a German soldier came out and sang a favorite German carol. A Christmas ceasefire followed.

Wondering if any American songs are near the top of the list? “Away in a Manger,” written around 1885, was probably composed by German Lutherans in Pennsylvania. Indeed, most sources note the hymn first appeared with two stanzas in the *Little Children’s Book for Schools and Families*, a Sunday school collection published in 1885 by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in North America.

“The Little Drummer Boy” is another American original—maybe. Written in 1940 by a schoolteacher, Katherine Kennicott Davis, she noted on her manuscript, “Czech carol freely transcribed by K.K.D.,” but did not specify the carol. The song is similar in story to a twelfth-century legend, “The Juggler of Notre Dame.” In the story, the old, poor juggler had no gift for Jesus so he went to church on Christmas night, and in front of the statue of Mary holding baby Jesus, he juggled the best he’d ever juggled, and when he was finished, Jesus was smiling.

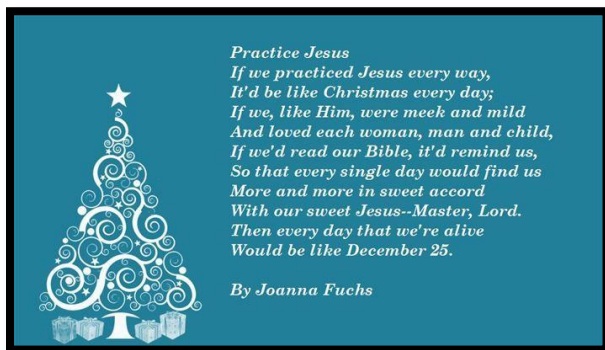
All these carols and more show the Bible’s influence in their lyrics, and they remind us of its impact every time they’re sung. As you sing your favorite Christmas carols this season, remember the event that started it all, captured in the first Christmas carol, when the angel announced the birth of Jesus and the heavenly host sang: “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sights & Sounds of Christmas 6:00-8:30, 12/4
- Winter Wonderland (Downtown Newark Association) 1:00-4:00, 12/6



- Last Good Morning Bible Study for 2025, 12/11
- Congregational Potluck Christmas Dinner, 12/14
- PCP Meeting at Pataskala First Presbyterian 3:00, 12/16
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:00, 12/24



A RECIPE TO SHARE

Eula Montgomery's Pecan Pound Cake

- 1 ½ cups softened butter
- 3 ¾ cups confectioners' sugar
- 1 tbsp. vanilla extract
- 6 eggs
- 2 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 cup flaked coconut
- 2/3 cup chopped pecans, toasted

Cream together butter, sugar, vanilla. Add one egg at a time, beating well after each egg. Combine flour and salt...stir into creamed mixture just until combined. Add coconut and pecans. Pour into a greased and floured 10 inch tube pan; spread evenly. Bake at 325 degrees for 60-65 minutes or until cake tests done. Cool in pan for 10 minutes and remove to wire rack to cool completely. Makes 12-16 servings.



MERRY CHRISTMAS, CHURCH!

FPC Family: It is our great joy and privilege to have served you in 2025. God bless you, each and every one...

Hope Labutis, Secretary/Treasurer
Tara Lewellen, Music Coordinator
Gary Collins - Maintenance

