

**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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

Web Address:

www.1stpresnewark.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



January 2025

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

The Worship Committee would like to wish the congregation a "Happy, Healthy and Blessed New Year!" Committee members include: Carolyn Durr, Karen Fish, Carol Floyd, Gaye Gibson, Ed Jobes, Tara Lewellen, and Elder Chris Rainey.

We will be serving Communion on Sunday, January 5th.



FPC WEATHER POLICY

If Licking County is a Level 2, church will be cancelled. If you don't feel safe on the roads, please stay home.



ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT



The annual meeting of the First Presbyterian Church, Newark, will be held the first Sunday of February following worship.

Please make plans to join us **February 2nd** and stay for a potluck luncheon afterwards.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE



January Birthdays

Joyce Carlyle 1/4

Tara Lewellen 1/9

Cathy Cain 1/10

Kenita Keck 1/12

Keith Hare 1/14

Skyler Butts 1/27

January Anniversaries

Jeff & Diane Dodson 1/6

SCRIP



The next Scrip order is **January 5th**. 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.

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The holiday season has slowed the number of pastor profiles we are receiving but we have hope looking to 2025 for a new influx of profiles. Our church is continuing to persevere thanks to the Session's leadership and the Congregation's commitment.

Thank you, from the PNC, for your continued prayers and support through this long process. I continued to be lifted up by the support of the other members on the PNC as well as the congregation.

Thank you,
-Sarah Bowles
PNC Chairperson

ADULT BIBLE CLASS



How do we as Christians proclaim God's name in all the earth in the midst of false gospels?

Learn from the Apostle Paul as he communicated the Good News of Christ to Philippi, a Roman colony

that worshipped false gods. In this fifteenth volume of the That The World May Know series, take a tour through the land of the Bible and discover how to live in your present-day Philippi or Delphi—a dechristianized Western world—in a way that keeps your citizenship in God's Kingdom.

Join renowned teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan as he guides you through the land of the Bible. In each lesson, Vander Laan illuminates the historical, geographical, and cultural context of the sacred Scriptures.

Filmed on location in the Middle East and elsewhere, the That the World May Know film series will transform your understanding of God and challenge you to be a true follower of Jesus.

This new Adult Bible Class starts in January, 2025. Please join us in person or over Zoom!

CHURCH LIFE



Emily Hare and Jo Dewese went to see The Messiah at MVNU this holiday season. It is so fun to be able to do life together as a church family!

When asked what their favorite parts were, Jo replied: "I really love it there towards the end, when they are singing the Hallelujah Chorus and the director turns toward us and has us stand." {Me too, Jo! This is my favorite part every year.} The tradition of standing for the "Hallelujah" chorus in Handel's Messiah is based on the idea that King George II stood up during the chorus's first performance in London in 1743.

Looks like Becky is getting some snuggles on a chilly Sunday morning in early December. (Photo submitted by Sarah Bowles.)



Keith, with grandsons, Evan and Elias light the Advent candles on the second week of Advent.



"O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!"



Our annual congregational dinner was well-attended and full of food and fellowship. So good to see the smiling faces!



The Whitis sisters (Carol, Lois, and Louise) are lighting the Advent candles on the fourth week of Advent: Love.

"Sisters, Sisters. There were never such devoted sisters!"



FINANCE REPORT

As of Monday, December 23, the checking account balance is \$19,684.07.

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

The SCRIP account balance is: \$1,286.75

The Savings account has a balance of \$9,600.08. We have received \$8,100 designated for upcoming major building repairs. We are accumulating these funds in the savings account.

Sheri Bogardus is retiring as treasurer at the end of December. Several session members will be doing parts of the treasurer's job while we review the best way to proceed.

-Keith Hare, FPC Finance Chairman

PROPERTY REPORT



FPC
December
2024
Property
Report:

November and December are our inspection months. The boiler passed inspection by both the State inspectors and Houston Plumbing. The organ had its fall tuning. The elevator was inspected and passed. The roof was inspected and a small leak was found and will be repaired as soon as weather conditions permit. Two toilets and a urinal were repaired.

The Property Committee and the Session will be studying estimates in January for repair to the exterior of the church. We have many places that the mortar joints are in need of repair. The bell tower and the southwest corner of the Chapel need some serious work. Greg Angeletti has interviewed several contractors that specialize in this type of work.

- Linda L Smith, FPC Property Chairman

A NOTE FROM ...

A lovely thank you note was received from the Keck family for the Gideon Bibles that were purchased in memory of Tom Keck. Please see the bulletin board outside of the church office to view it.

We have a wide variety of Christmas greetings on the office bulletin board for you to take a look at!

EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH MINUTE FOR MISSIONS



As we count our blessings, we remember each of you. We appreciate and rely on your faithfulness and partnership in Kingdom work. We thank God for you and your generosity through your prayers, volunteerism and financial gifts. As we near the close of 2024, I wish to reflect on some of the stats of God's accomplishments through LCJM. As of the date of writing this article on 11/26/24, we have distributed 356 bibles, baptized 90 inmates and most importantly, have witnessed 121 individuals receive Christ as their Lord and Savior!!!

Please consider attending our annual business meeting on January 21st starting at 6:45am (Yes, it's early!) to hear more about how God is continuing to work in our midst. We will also be announcing the details of an exciting event that we will be hosting in June 2025. We will meet at Heath Church of Christ, 1331 Chapel Way, Heath, OH.

May you also prayerfully consider continuing or starting to be a financial partner with our ministry. We have experienced a significant decrease in our contributions this year (due to the transition of Vertical 196) and really need your help.

May God bless you as you chase after Him!!!
SCOTT HAYES, PASTOR/CHAPLAIN

NATIVITIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

One of my very favorite things to do is to enjoy the Nativity scenes that we have in the FPC Sanctuary at Christmastime. Come, on a journey with me, as we explore a few of my favorites from around the world...



This Nativity is from the county of Indonesia located in Southeast Asia. This wooden set is special because you can remove the baby from His manger and it is the perfect size for children.



This handmade Nativity was purchased in Poland by Keith Hare on one of his work trips. I love the tail on the star and that the crèche is asymmetrical.



This Nativity is from the country of Peru. Take note of the authentic details on the roof, including the pottery, and the hand painted stones on the street.



This Nativity is probably the most unique. It reminds me of the song "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." This was also made in the country of Peru, located in South America.

GOOD MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Good Morning Bible study celebrated the end of their fall classes with a lunch out together at Red Oak Pub. This group will start meeting again the first Thursday of March. All are welcome and encouraged to attend as they continue their study in Psalms.



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, Hats, Scarves
- 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, ready-to-eat soup, and granola bars. Please remember that canned goods are best with pop top lids. 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!

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

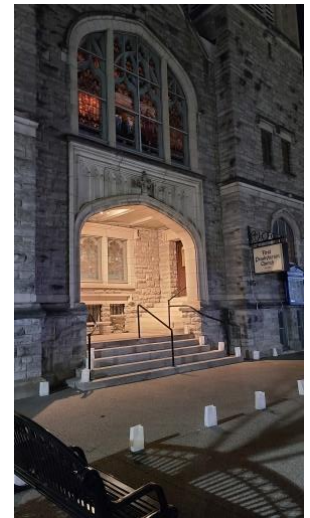
link below:

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

SIGHTS & SOUNDS 2024



On December 5th, our church was beautifully lit up for Sights & Sounds, an annual fundraiser for the Food Pantry Network. Folks bundled up to visit area churches and see their décor and hear some festive music. Our very own Tara Lewellen and a guest cellist, Claire Wierzbicki, delighted all with "Star in the East" and "Still, Still, Still." We, at FPC, are proud to partner in this annual tradition.



SENTIMENTS TO SHARE



Prayers for a healthy and happy 2025 to you and yours! – Hope, Church Secretary