

**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

Reinita Thacker, Commissioned Pastor
Dallas Dryburgh, Congregational Care Pastor
Tara Lewellen, Music Coordinator
Hope Labutis, Secretary/Treasurer
Gary Collins, Maintenance

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



March 2025

CHURCH ELDER INFORMATION

Please note your Session members and respective roles. Welcome to the class of 2027! Thank you for your 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

PASTOR REINITA'S INFORMATION



Contact Information for Pastor

Reinita Thacker:

Home (740) 366-4039

Cell (614) 530-1779

Please feel free to contact Pastor Reinita for any pastoral needs that may arise. Thank you.

WORSHIP



Communion will be served the first Sunday of the month, March 2nd.

The Worship Committee is planning a **Maundy Thursday** noon service on April 17 in the sanctuary. Linda Smith will be speaking on March 23. Dale & Tara Lewellen will be leading a Hymn Sing on Litany of Lenten Music on March 30.



PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

As we move towards spring time and the end of the school year the number of profiles that cross our paths always seems to pick up. Here's hoping the right person for our Church is in this round of profiles.

Keep your prayers hopeful and keep doing the work of the church.

Blessings,
-Sarah Bowles
PNC Chairperson

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

March Birthdays

Becky Mahon 3/16

Karen Fish 3/29

March Anniversaries

There are no anniversaries in March.



SCRIP

The next Scrip order is **March 2nd**. 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>

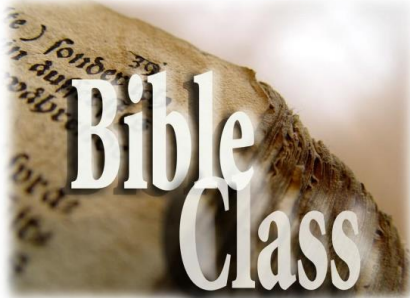
SPRING PLANTING CAMPAIGN



Order your **Wilson's Gift Cards** for spring planting season via the insert in the sanctuary. We get back \$5 from each gift card purchased and your support is greatly appreciated! Campaign

dates for 2025 are 1/19-3/23. See Sandy Noland with any questions.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS

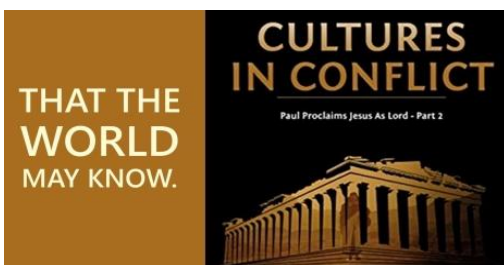


How do you live in a culture where the worldview conflicts with Christianity? Learn from the Apostle Paul as he presents his

beliefs to the most powerful court in Athens and settles among the Greco-Romans of Corinth—cultures that valued wealth and class, worship of multiple gods, and decadent pleasures above all else.

In this 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 Athens or Corinth—a dechristianized Western world—in a way that keeps your faith strong and glorifies God. 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.

Please join us in person or over Zoom Sunday mornings at 9:15!



CHURCH LIFE



Come one - come all - to a church potluck after service on March 30th after our hymn sing! Stay tuned for more details. See Sarah Bowles with any questions.



Pastor Reinita's grandson Uriah and Eli are working together on a word search during Sunday service. Our new Children's Bulletins are helpful tools for kids to

continue learning after the Children's Message.

"Two are better than one..."

- Ecclesiastes 4:9

EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH

MINUTE FOR MISSIONS

Starting Strong Apartment Supplies Collection:



We, at FPC, are collecting cleaning, paper, hygiene, household, and laundry supplies for welcome kits. (See the entire list of suggested items in the sanctuary.) Place your donations in the laundry basket in the sanctuary. We are delivering supplies April 1st, but will continue collection throughout the year. If you are out shopping and find a great bargain, consider blessing local foster youth in this way.

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." - Hebrews 13:16

MAKE ME A BLESSING

Thank you for your outpouring of winter items for our neighbors who we serve at the Blessings Box. As you do your spring cleaning this season, items that would be helpful include:



**Feeding the
Community**

- Warm Socks
- Sweatshirts/Sweatpants
- Jackets/Windbreakers
- Rain Coats/Ponchos/Umbrellas

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.

"Little is much when God is in it!"

PROPERTY REPORT

FPC February 2025 Property Report:

As announced at the annual meeting, Rick Buehler has been invited to join the property

committee and he has accepted the invitation to serve on the property committee.



The property committee is working with Houston Plumbing and Columbia Gas of Ohio to determine

the cause of the low gas pressure that prevents the boiler from being reliable when the thermostat calls for heat.

- The Property Committee

FINANCE REPORT

As of Wednesday, February 19, 2025, the checking account balance is \$19,080.92. This includes \$6,700.00 designated for capital improvements that has not yet been moved to the savings account.

The SCRIP account balance is: \$1,908.99.

The Savings account has a balance of \$9,601.23. This includes \$8,100 designated for upcoming major building repairs.

The line of credit balance (what we owe) is zero. Note that the line of credit has been an unsecured loan. PNB is eliminating their unsecured loans so our line of credit has now been closed.

-Keith Hare, FPC Finance Chairman

PERSONNEL REPORT

We have signed Reinita Thacker as our Commissioned Pastor. Reinita will be preaching 3 Sundays per month.



We have also signed a contract with Hope Labutis to be our Treasurer as well our Secretary.

We appreciate all the work these two ladies do to keep us functioning.

- Becky Mahon, FPC Personnel Elder

LENTEN OFFERING: FROM THE EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

As a part of the reformed faith, our church celebrates the seasons of the liturgical calendar. As we turn to the month of March, the Lenten season appears. Lent is likely the most important season of the whole liturgical year as we commemorate the passion and death of Jesus and is a season of prayer, fasting and the giving of extra time, talent and financial resources.

As our church has done for at least 75 years, the Session has approved the receiving of a Lenten offering. This offering has been referred to as the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, which is somewhat misleading since we have not given our offering through the PCUSA for many years. We have chosen to give half of the offering to the local Salvation Army and the other half to another appropriate international organization, World Vision. In order to be clear on the destination of these funds, the offering will now be designated as the Lenten Offering.

World Vision International is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families and communities, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, or gender, to reach their full potential by tracking the causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision serves the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. They provide access to sustainable clean water, food, healthcare, safe living space and education as part of their care to children around the world. They also assist with disaster survivors and refugees around the world.

Newark Salvation Army is an evangelical part of the Christian church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its mission is to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

The Corps in Newark and Licking county is focused on alleviating poverty. The center provides meals each day through a soup kitchen, a choice food pantry, community dinners and summer feeding programs for children. Other programs include programs for the homeless, adult education, job service programs, senior and elderly assistance, programs for teens and children, clothing distribution and worship services.

Envelopes for this special offering will be available at the doors of the sanctuary starting Ash Wednesday, March 5 through Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025. The offering will be dedicated on Palm Sunday. The church received \$910.39 for this offering in 2024.

And God is able to make it up to you by giving you everything you need and more, so that there will not only be enough for your own needs, but plenty left over to give joyfully to others. It is as the scripture says, "The godly man gives generously to the poor. His good deeds will be an honor to him forever".
II Corinthians 9:8-9

LENTEN REFLECTIONS

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.

SHRED-IT DAY 2025



Trapped inside? Use these cold days to go through old papers and records and dispose of them safely. Small bag of shredding we can do in the church office? Hope has a nice shredder. If you have a bunch, start filling a box (or five) now to take to the **Free Shred-It Day at TrueCore on Deo Drive, April 12 between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m.** Need help hauling boxes or do you have more than five and need someone to drop of your additional? Talk to Hope in the office or Priscilla. Lighten the load at home. Free up space for the things you still need. Protect your personal information. Shred!

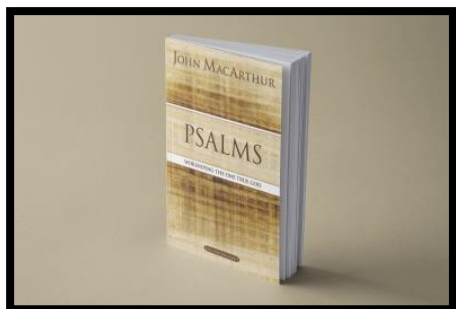
GOOD MORNING BIBLE STUDY



The Good Morning Bible Study **resumes March 6th at 10:00 a.m.** in the Gold Circle Room. Join

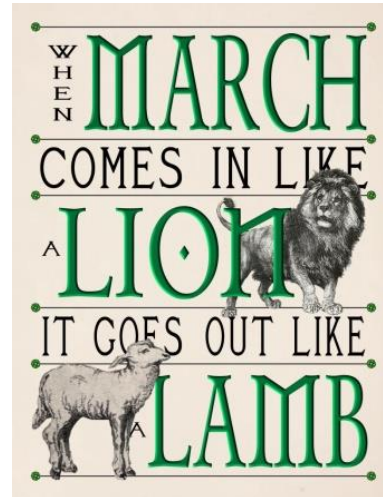
Linda Smith and friends as they continue their study of Psalms and have prayer time together.

“Throughout the ages, Psalms has retained its original and primary purpose: to engender the fitting praise



and worship of God. The essential idea of Psalms is living real life in the real world. Without denying the pain of life, the people of God are to live joyfully and dependently on the person and promises of God.” – John MacArthur

SENTIMENTS TO SHARE



Can you believe we are already to spring??? Time is a constant reminder to me that although the seasons (and seasons of our lives) change continually, God never does. Who He is today is the same as He has

always been and will forever be! May this Truth comfort you today as it does me.

Blessings,
Hope (Church Secretary)



A Prayer Before Reading the News

(written by Rabbi Irwin Keller in early 2016)

Elohai neshamah shenatata bi tehorah hi
My God, the soul you have placed in me is pure and vulnerable. I am afraid that looking at today's news will be painful. Encircle me in a robe of light so that I can witness the wounds of the world without being wounded myself. Let me learn what I need to know in order to be of my greatest use, without being overwhelmed by despair. I feel your protective light now as I open myself to the world's suffering and the world's joys. Amen



(Submitted by Priscilla Hare)