

**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

65 North Third Street  
Newark, OH 43055-5522  
740-345-1480

Church E-mail: [firstpresofc@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresofc@gmail.com)

Web Address:

[www.1stpresnewark.com](http://www.1stpresnewark.com)

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

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



**October 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 October

- Oct. 5 Liz Tietz, CRE  
(Worldwide Communion Sunday)
- Oct. 12 Missionary Paul Knudson  
SIM-USA
- Oct. 19 Our church will be attending the "Kirkin of the Tartan" service at Second Presbyterian Church. Service begins at 10 am.
- Oct. 26 Pastor Ricci Arthur

## SCRIP

**Scrip** is fundraising while you **shop!**

The next Scrip order is **October 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.

## 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



### October Birthdays

Dave Kittel 10/2  
Emily Hare 10/4  
Elias Bowles 10/18  
Jean Nichols 1/19

### October Anniversaries

Greg & Tina Angeletti 10/22  
Bob & Deb Blamer 10/25  
Jay & Wendy Hartman 10/27



# EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH

## MINUTE FOR MISSIONS



Paul and Christy Knudson have served as missionaries in Bolivia since 2000. Over the past 25 years they have served in a number of



ministries including theological education, discipleship, leadership and elementary education. Currently, Paul is the country director for SIM Bolivia and

Christy is developing a special needs/disability ministry. Christy is the daughter of Rev. Leonard Phelps, pastor of First Presbyterian from 1981-1989.



***Paul will be bringing the message to us here at FPC on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Make plans to join us for this special service and for brunch afterwards.***

### Wants/Needs for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

- Pump/needles for inflating soccer balls
- Barbie dolls or similar—We have clothes for this size doll
- Wash cloths
- Pencil boxes
- School scissors, small pencil sharpeners
- Crayons, colored markers, colored pencils
- Rulers—folding or short to fit shoebox
- Coloring books
- Yo-yos
- Nail clippers
- Tools—hammers, screwdrivers, tape measures
- Flashlights, solar or battery
- Checkers
- Puzzles (Rubik's cubes, for example)
- Combs, especially wide tooth
- Socks for boys, all ages, 2-14 years



### MAKE ME A BLESSING

— the —  
BLESSING  
— BOX —

FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for your continued donations to the Blessings Box. As the weather turns crisp, please remember those in need with ready-to-eat soups, instant oatmeal packets, protein bars, and heavy socks. As you transition to your cold weather clothing, we welcome sweatshirts and jackets for the box as well.

Thank you for blessing our community in this practical way.

## CHURCH LIFE



We will be participating in the Downtown Newark Association's Safe Trick-Or-Treat on the square on October 31st. Our goal for this project is to provide 1500 treats for kids. The projected cost of this event is \$400. Please contact Sarah Bowles to volunteer or with any questions.

## FINANCE REPORT



As of Tuesday, September 23, the account balances are:

Checking: \$21,498.04

We have paid for the main roof replacement and re-sealing the annex roof. The replacement of the flat roof over the choir room is complete and we will pay that invoice (\$14,375) the week of September 29 by transferring money from the savings account. The stone work on the front of the building will start soon. We will pull money from the invested funds to when we start receiving invoices for that work.

Savings: \$16,321.92 – This includes \$14,800 that has been designated for capital improvements.

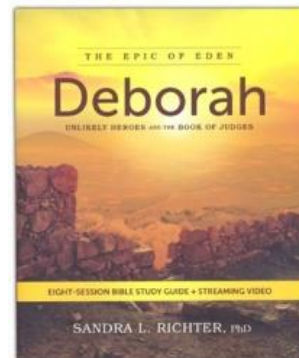
SCRIP: \$2,292.94

-Keith Hare, FPC Finance Chair

## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Adult Bible Class meets on Sundays at 9:15. We are studying Deborah: Unlikely Heroes and the Book of Judges with Sandra L Richter, PhD.

The Book of Judges narrates one of the most chaotic and morally dark eras of Israel's story. Into this morally-ambiguous time comes one of the most unlikely leaders of the biblical text—the prophet Deborah. Also a wife, mother, priest, and judge, Deborah responds to her call and transforms chaos into order by leading Israel in one of the most pivotal victories of her time.

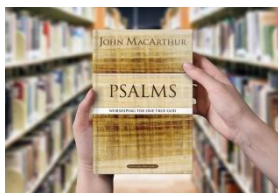


A scholar and a professor, Dr. Richter brings the era of the Judges to life, illustrating the real people and places of the book by means of archaeology, historical geography, culture, and the hard facts of warfare in the ancient world. Prepare to be challenged, as we ask ourselves the same questions God asked Deborah and Barak:

1. What territory can you see from where you are standing that belongs to the Kingdom of God but is not in the hands of God's people?
2. Is it worth fighting for?
3. Are you willing to step out in faith and trust God for the victory?

Let's do some deep diving into the Word together. Please join us!

## 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.

## IN LOVING MEMORY

Tracee Barr, daughter of Dave and Kay Kittel and mother of Nick Barr, went Home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. We are thankful that she is fully healed and whole.

Tracee was the true definition of a prayer warrior, praying faithfully for her family and friends, including the residents where she lived. We are thankful for the life of Tracee and look forward to a great reunion someday.



## A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT: GRACE

"I can never be holy enough, strong enough, religious enough, or self-disciplined enough to not need the grace of God."

~Ruth Chou Simons

Ephesians 2:8-9 ~ "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast."



Marvelous, infinite,  
matchless grace,  
Freely bestowed on all  
who believe!  
You that are longing to  
see His face,  
Will you this moment  
His grace receive?

Grace, grace, God's grace,  
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within!  
Grace, grace, God's grace,  
Grace that is greater than all our sin!

~Grace Greater than Our Sin, Hymn #344

## PROPERTY REPORT

# Thank You, Lord for a new roof!

### **FPC September 2025 Property Report:**

The new gray asphalt shingle roof is finished.

Final cost \$84,405.00

The annex roof has been cleaned and sealed.

Cost \$3,500.00

The big flat roof where the commercial AC units are will be finished this week.

Cost \$14,375.00

Brothers Masonry has started on the front porch arch this week and then the rest of the front facade in October. If the front doors are blocked due to this work, please use the handicap entrance or the alley doors.

We have contacted Rumpke trash disposal about getting a lock on the dumpster.

I have called Ohio Security to come check out the buzzer and intercom system the office uses to let people in. It is not working at the moment.

-The Property Committee



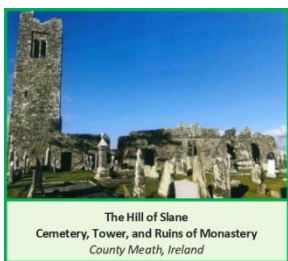
## HYMN STORY: BE THOU MY VISION

"Be Thou My Vision" is one of the most loved songs of all times. The medieval melody brings images of rolling hills and Scottish highlands, causing people to cry when they hear it, and millions more to request it for their own funerals. But very few people know the story behind the song.

In fact, the history of "Be Thou My Vision" is as ancient and mysterious as the haunting hymn itself. A quick look in a hymnal offers little help. Ambiguous entries like "Irish Melody" and "Anonymous" appear where the name of the composer and lyricist typically belong. So what is the true story behind this legendary hymn? Where did it come from? And if it's so old, how did it survive to the 21st century?

The story behind "Be Thou My Vision" begins with St. Patrick. When he was just 16 years old, pirates kidnapped Patrick and sold him into slavery in Ireland. This caused him to enter adulthood knowing the Gaelic language and Irish customs. He also became a Christian during this time. Years later, he managed to escape and return home to his family in England. While most would've stayed home forever, Patrick chose to go back to Ireland and become a missionary!

What does all this have to do with "Be Thou My Vision"? On Easter Sunday in 433, the local Irish king issued a decree in observation of a pagan Druid festival that prohibited anyone from lighting a flame or candle. Patrick, refusing to honor anyone but Christ, stood against the king.



The Hill of Slane  
Cemetery, Tower, and Ruins of Monastery  
County Meath, Ireland

That morning, Patrick risked his life by climbing to the tallest hill in the area and lighting a huge fire. As the ancient Irish people woke up, they could all see Patrick's defiance of the king. He could not hide his light. Patrick wanted to show the world that God's light shines in darkness, and that only He deserves praise.

Years later, an unknown composer wrote a melody in honor of Patrick's heroism. Called, "Slane," the now-forgotten composer named it

after the hill where Patrick shined his light: Slane Hill. People still recognize the tune today. While the story behind the melody is legendary, the history behind the lyrics is much more obscure. Tradition tells us that an Irish poet from the 6th century named St. Dallán Forgaill wrote a Gaelic poem entitled "Rop tú mo Baile", in honor of St. Patrick.

Sadly, the oldest existing copy of Forgaill's poem comes from the 14th century, which included no indication of its author. Because no other historical evidence connects Forgaill to the poem, it's impossible to verify the actual origin of the lyrics to "Be Thou My Vision". As a result, most hymnals attribute the song to "Anonymous." As the years passed, "Slane", and "Rop tú mo Baile" fell into obscurity. Their authors, once known, faded away into the fogs of time.

Be thou  
MY VISION,  
Oh Lord  
OF MY HEART

But in 1905, Mary Byrne, a 25-year-old university student, discovered the 14th century copy of "Rop tú mo Baile" and translated it into English for the very first time.

It that moment, the now-hallowed lyrics, "Be thou my vision ... oh Lord of my heart" sprang from the forgotten pages of time and into the modern world. Later in 1912, an Irish woman named Eleanor Hull set the words to music. The melody she set it to was none other than "Slane," the medieval tune written in honor of St. Patrick. The hymn became famous overnight and **appeared in its first hymnal in 1919**. In 2019, the world celebrated the 100th anniversary of the modern version of "Be Thou My Vision".

"Be Thou My Vision" is the song of new life. It's the song of the new life of St. Patrick, who shined his light for Christ. It's the song of the new life in Ireland, where dead paganism gave way to centuries of vibrant faith. It's the song of new life in the singer's heart, where God shines His forgiveness in a sinful soul. And it is the song of new life for the hymn itself, which millions now enjoy again after centuries of obscurity.

Read more:

<https://bonnercountydailybee.com/news/2021/oct/01/story-behind-be-thou-my-vision/>