

# THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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740-345-1480

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Church E-mail: firstpresofc@gmail.com  
Web Address: www.1stpresnewark.com

Rev. Steven Brand, Pastor  
Ann Robinson, Organist  
Barb Jobes, Treasurer  
Gary Collins, Custodian  
Sheri Bogardus, Secretary  
Vacant, Choir Director



## December Newsletter

### Upcoming Dates:

- Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> – First Sunday in Advent.
- Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> – Trip to See Handel's Messiah at MVNU.
- Dec 6<sup>th</sup> – Sights & Sounds of Christmas - 6 pm.
- Dec 13<sup>th</sup> – Candlewick Commons Dinner – 4 pm.
- Dec 15<sup>th</sup> - Lighthouse Harmony Concert - 3 pm.
- Dec 16<sup>th</sup> – Angie Klinker Leading Worship.
- Dec 16<sup>th</sup> – All Church Christmas Dinner – After Worship.
- Dec 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Service – 7pm.

## From Behind the Stained Glass

What is the meaning of Christmas? If we listen to the people all around us, we will hear a wide variety of responses. Listen to the people talking at holiday gatherings, listen to the songs of the season or the Christmas specials on TV and see what they think Christmas is all about. Just yesterday Katelynn told me that the meaning of Christmas is spirit. Then I asked her to explain and she said that Christmas was spirit and family and friends and love. I think that that is a pretty good answer for a 4 year old. Of course I wish she had said something about Jesus, but she knows that Christmas is Jesus' birthday and that is the main reason for Christmas. I found a few more quotes on the true meaning of Christmas.

"Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childhood days, recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth, and transport the traveler back to his own fireside and quiet home!" – Charles Dickens

"Christmas is a season for kindling the fire for hospitality in the hall, the genial flame of charity in the heart." – Washington Irving

"Christmas is the spirit of giving without a thought of getting. It is happiness because we see joy in people. It is forgetting self and finding time for others. It is discarding the meaningless and stressing the true values." – Thomas S. Monson

"The best way to spread Christmas Cheer is singing loud for all to hear." – Elf

"Our hearts grow tender with childhood memories and love of kindred, and we are better throughout the year for having, in spirit, become a child again at Christmastime." – Laura Ingalls Wilder

The true meaning of Christmas seems to be something about: hospitality, charity, consideration of others, love or having a childlike spirit. Those are all really good things. They stand in stark contrast to the commercialism and greed that plague the holiday season. Yet, I don't think any of them really get at the meaning of Christmas.

You might say that the meaning of Christmas is the birth of Jesus. We celebrate Christmas as a way of marking the birth of our savior. It is Jesus' birthday celebration. I would say that the birth of Jesus is the reason for Christmas, but not the meaning. Christmas is the beginning of reconciliation between God and man. This is the meaning of Christmas. For reconciliation to occur we needed Jesus.

Jesus was born into a manger that first Christmas so that he could live the life God requires of us. He was born to fulfill the Law of Moses. He would go on to live that life, to die on Good Friday, to defeat the gates of hell, to resurrect on Easter, to ascend into Heaven, to take our very humanity up and into communion with the God of this universe, and to remain as our high priest at the judgement seat of God. None of this could have happened without Christmas.

Jesus was all about hospitality, charity, consideration of others, love and maintaining the innocence of children. Christians should strive to live with those ideals every day. But Jesus didn't come in order to remind us to be better people. He came to bring reconciliation. He came to bring humanity into unity with God. He came to bring salvation.

The true meaning of Christmas is confusing because of how we celebrate it. We celebrate it like we would a birthday. What if we celebrated Christmas like it was a grand season of reconciliation? Christmas can be a season in which we try to mend fences between our family, friends, coworkers, enemies, or groups of people who are on the outside of society. An apology to a friend, a long overdue visit with a relative, a gesture of kindness to someone you don't get along with, a phone call to someone who is estranged from you. These are all ways to celebrate Christmas. Think of someone you need to reconcile with and take some steps to work towards a better relationship this holiday season.

Merry Christmas,

Rev Steven Brand

## WORSHIP

### December Sermons

Dec 2 – Signs in the Sky – Luke 21:25-36  
Dec 9 – Historical Events - Luke 3:1-6  
Dec 16 – The Christmas Viper – Luke 3:7-18  
Dec 23 – Mary & Elizabeth – Luke 1  
Dec 30 – Jesus at Temple – Luke 2:25-40



### *Peanut Free Worship, Sunday School & Coffee Hour*

Session has moved to make Worship, Sunday School & Coffee Hour Peanut, and Tree Nut Free. This is because of several individuals who have intolerances and allergies to nuts. A nut allergy is very serious and can easily lead to extreme reactions that can kill. 1% of people have a nut allergy. The number of people with nut allergies doubled between 1997-2002. We need to keep allergies from being a barrier. We can go two hours without nuts, so that other people can feel safe worshipping the Lord. Read labels carefully. Packaged items will say on them if they contain nuts or are made in a factory that processes nuts. Let's work to make sure that we aren't bringing anything with us to worship, to Sunday School or to Coffee Hour that contains or may contain nuts.



**Coffee Hour** - Make sure to join us each Sunday at 10:15 a.m. for some refreshments and fellowship prior to worship. There is a sign-up sheet in

the Sanctuary, if you would like to bring the snacks. Please remember NO PEANUTS.



### **Gluten Free Communion Available**

We now have gluten free communion wafers available for anyone who wants them. They

## CHURCH LIFE



### Sights and Sounds of Christmas

A guided Musical Walking Tour of  
Newark's Downtown Churches

**Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

6-8:30pm

Tickets are \$5 and are available at:

Explore Licking County,  
The Licking County Chamber of Commerce,  
Doubletree by Hilton  
and all participating churches.

\*Second Presbyterian Church

Trinity AME church

Trinity Episcopal Church

First Presbyterian Church

Plymouth Church

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

\*First United Methodist Church

\*St. Francis Catholic Church

**\*Tour begins at 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbyterian Church**

**\*Shuttle service and parking at  
First United Methodist**

**\*Tour ends with refreshments at St. Francis**



### **Handel's Messiah December 2, 7:00**

51<sup>st</sup> Annual performance of Handel's Messiah at  
MVNU, \$5 ea. Or \$20 per family

If you are interested in attending, contact the church office so we can coordinate a group. Priscilla Hare will assist with transportation if that is helpful. We would want to leave from Newark by 6:00pm.

<https://www.mvnu.edu/news/mvnu-presents-annual-messiah-performance>

*Heath Church of Christ sent an invitation to join them on Dec. 5th & 6th for Journey to Bethlehem - 6:00-8:00 pm at 1331 Chapel Way, Heath, OH.*

Families will experience Bethlehem as it may have been at the time of Jesus. Christmas cookies and music in the fireside room following your visit to Bethlehem.

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**You are Invited to: Christmas Songs by Carson Elementary Choir**, directed by Ann Robinson at Christ United Methodist, **Dec 5<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am** followed by cookies and punch. RSVP by Nov. 30th to Suzanne Sears 740-644-2953.

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## *Congregational Christmas Dinner, Sunday, 12/16*

### *Following worship*

You'll want to bring the entire *Family*  
for *Food, Fellowship and Fun*

#### *Menu*

*Sirloin Beef Roast*  
*Holiday Mashed Potatoes with Mushroom Gravy*  
*(gluten free)*  
*Sweet Potato Casserole*  
*Corn Custard*  
*Cranberry Salad*  
*Coffee, Iced Tea and Holiday Punch*  
*Christmas Dessert Bar*

New this year is the Christmas Dessert Bar – special treats provided by the congregation!

Do you have a special treat that you make for Christmas dinner with friends and family?

*For those interested*, we'd like you to make/bake one of your special Christmas desserts or holiday breads and bring it to our Christmas dinner to share with our church family and friends. There are two guidelines: There are no peanuts or nuts in the dessert item and it be a special homemade treat. Some examples would be sweet breads, cookies (drop, bar, shaped...), candy, mousse, cake, pie, custard, popcorn treats, tortes, pudding, etc. etc.

RSVP: [firstpresofc@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresofc@gmail.com)

**Reminder: FOR SAFETY, SESSION VOTED TO MAKE ALL CHURCH FUNCTIONS PEANUT AND TREE NUT FREE**



## YOUTH

### Camp Akita Winter Youth Retreat



*Lift Every Voice*

Presbytery of Scioto Valley



WINTER YOUTH  
RETREAT

The retreat is February 22-24, 2019 and is open to all youth from 6th-12th grade. Mark your calendars now. Scholarships for the \$90 registration fee are available if needed, please see Pastor Steve for details.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

**Good Morning Bible Study** – The Good Morning Bible Study meets every Thursday in the morning from 10:00 a.m. to noon in the Golden Circle Room. The class is open to all people and is going to be doing a self-study of the Scriptures. They are beginning with a study of Exodus. See Linda Smith for details.

### ALPHA

The fifth offering of Alpha wrapped up with the Celebration Dinner on November 15th. We had a wonderful turnout despite the weather that day (rain/wind/sleet/snow showers). We had a total of 43 that included 21 guests (13 from outside the church).

After a fabulous meal featuring 1st Pres' fabulous Ham Loaf, we honored our participants, shared the highpoints of this Alpha course, and watched one of the videos. We had a wonderful evening together!

The next Alpha will begin mid-February. We are always looking for hosts, helpers and assistance in the kitchen with the meal. Please also consider attending and bringing someone with you. Alpha is for everyone – for those who have questions, who want to know more about the Christian faith, and for those wanting a refresher on the basics of the faith. If you would like to know more about Alpha, please contact Peggy (740-407-7217) or Kim (740-877-0346) or go to [www.alphausa.org](http://www.alphausa.org).

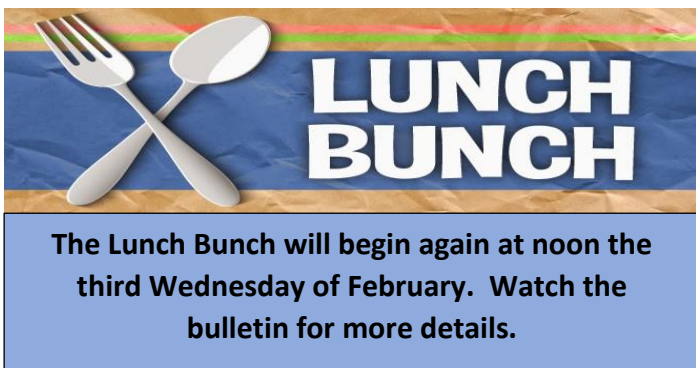


### Adult Sunday School



The Adult Sunday School class begins a 4-week DVD-based Advent study on Sunday, December 9th. "The Gift of the Nutcracker" is based on the Christmas classic ballet and looks at it in a new way – through the lens of faith. This study will help us understand God's greatest gift of the Christ Child and of the kingdom Christ came to build. Much like Clara, we are all caught in an

Advent season, pondering a most extraordinary gift. Just like the parables that Jesus told, using common every day events, we will find an amazing correlation between the Nutcracker and the events of God coming to earth as a babe to provide the way of salvation. Please join us in the Journey Room at 9:15.



## YHEALTHY KIDS- Backpack

### The Y-Heathy Kids Network Back Pack Program Involvement Opportunities

#### Food Delivery (We Really Could Use Some Help) –

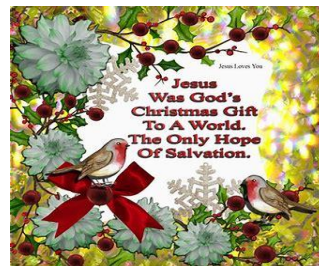
The Presbyterian Partnership is also tasked with taking these prepacked boxes to the Newark and Heath Schools every other Wednesday. We hope to be able to deliver to all 15 schools eventually, but want to start with a more manageable number. There are eight schools that we will be delivering to. 1<sup>st</sup> Pres is delivering to six schools, every other Thursday at 9:00am. You do not have to have a vehicle capable of delivery. To sign up for delivering or if you have any questions see Rev Steve.

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE



**Prayer Chain Updates** – Please send all requests to Tracee Barr at [hippieluv12@yahoo.com](mailto:hippieluv12@yahoo.com). Please state whether requests are for Prayer Chain Only or should also be distributed to the church for the bulletin.

Had a great time with the Mahon's on November 4<sup>th</sup>! All enjoyed their time here & shared in the blessings. It is always nice to meet and mingle with the missionaries we support. 😊

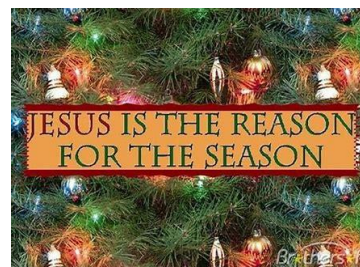


### What a Great Time of Year!

What a great time of year to be missionaries! An opportunity handed to us all, to tell others why Jesus is the reason for our festive season! There are many places with peoples who are unfamiliar with the Kingdom of God our Father. They are not aware of the love & peace that Jesus brings into the lives of those who trust in Him. They are also not bothered by the hustle, bustle & worry of buying gifts and getting decorations hung. Let us not be confused by the secular world's traditions but adhere to what the Scriptures teach us; love God with all our might, and love others as ourselves! Give thanks to God for sending His Son Jesus to redeem us from our sins. Remember to share with those in need both near and far. Never forget, that the best gift to give is the gift of the gospel of Christ!

Love in His Kingdom for a joyous holiday season of sharing and giving thanks,

Tracee Barr.



Here is a word from Bevan & Laura Stein:

### FACE TO FACE

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:1*

The word was with God or "face-to-face with God."



When people describe what we do here in Slovakia, I want them to say that we are the real presence of Christ in their midst. I want them to say that we show them who Jesus is with our lives. I want them to say that the light of the Gospel is so evident and attractive in us that it is irresistible. I want them to say that we inspire them to believe, hope, and to trust in Christ. I want them to say that they see in us a reflection of the face of God. I want some to be convicted, and others to be comforted just by talking with us or being around us. I want everyone to feel as I do when I have spent time in the presence of Jesus through prayer, Bible study, or worship.

I would say that ours is a presence ministry. We don't always talk about God, but when we do, we want it to be so real and so powerful that it leaves a lasting impression. For that to happen, we must first be filled with the presence of God ourselves and have spent long hours meditating and being immersed in God's Word. The people of Slovakia certainly don't need more religion. They need more Jesus; more of the presence of God, more knowledge of the Holy, more being face-to-face with God. We pray for wisdom for how we can use every means, every moment, every conversation possible, to draw people to Jesus.

We use preaching, hippo therapy, children's programs and camps, motorcycles and horses, a beautiful ranch and an organization called, "The Father's Heart" to create opportunities. It is humbling to hear so many describing how they have been changed by our ministry. Glory to God and thanks to you for your prayers and gifts for 22 years without which it would only be a dream.

By: Bevan Stein

## EVANGELISM & OUTREACH



### CANDLEWICK COMMONS

Thank you to everyone who has made our outreach to Candlewick Commons successful this year. Our neighbors are a delightful group of wonderful people, who enjoy our visits and the food we prepare for them. Our next visit will be our Christmas visit on

**Thursday, December 13 at 4:00 P.M.**



We plan to serve ham loaf, potatoes, vegetables, gelatin salad and pie.

As a part of that Christmas visit, we would again like to bring a gift to each resident. We gave them **\$10 gift cards to Subway** last year, and they really appreciated it. We would like to give them that same gift this year. If you would like to help make that possible, would you please give your donation to Sandy Noland, Debbie Blamer or Gaye Gibson. We will be ordering the gift cards from Script on December 2, 2018. Thank you for being generous last year, and we hope we can count on you again this year.

**We will also have a sign-up sheet around December 1 to donate pies for the dessert.** You may also contact Gaye Gibson at 740-344-3933 or email [lgayegibson@gmail.com](mailto:lgayegibson@gmail.com). Thanks for helping us bless our neighbor during the holy Christmas season.

## Father Factor

The Father Factor, a parenting skills, resource and support group finished their ninth session on November 1. Please see the thank you notes to the congregation below.

The next session of the Father Factor class will be on **Thursdays from January 24 through March 14**. If you'd like to help out by providing a snack or treat, just sign up on the sheet at the back of the church (available early January). You can provide cookies, brownies, fruit or whatever you'd like. Please have the treat at the church in the Journey Room by 5:45pm on your chosen night along with any paper products needed. Contact Kim Dershem if you have questions at 740-345-6624 or email her [kdershem@windstream.net](mailto:kdershem@windstream.net).

Thank you for taking on this opportunity to bless men who seek to be better fathers.

## Abundant Thanks from the men:

*Thank you to Rev. Steve and all of First Presbyterian Church for teaching us all the power of kindness.*

**Thank you Marcus for your time, talent and endless passion. We appreciate our partners and partnerships in Licking County and we look forward to another successful cohort in the winter 2019!**

**Jeff Kramer**  
Program Manager Father Factor  
Serving: Franklin, Delaware, Union, Licking, Marion

**Tonight was the final Father Factor class (8<sup>th</sup> of 8) for the 9<sup>th</sup> cohort. 14 men plus facilitator Marcus Steele, Action for Children Program Manager Jeff Kramer, and myself attended – for a total of 17! The camaraderie, instruction and motivation provided to the Father Factor attendees has far reaching, positive outcomes sometimes hard to articulate or quantify which nonetheless exist and are of great benefit to the lives these men touch – especially their children.**

**Icing on the cake: 12 men received Certificate(s) of Completion**

**Another constant is the unwavering support 1st Presbyterian Church provides each and every week with not only food but a kind word or smiling face.**

**A last reason to celebrate - we hope to have our 10<sup>th</sup> Father Factor class in late January 2019, with Jeff Kramer's support and Marcus Steele's expression of interest in facilitating once again!**

**Sam Britton**  
Licking County CSEA  
Social Program Developer

*Thank you for all of  
your kindness, support,  
encouragement and  
wonderful homemade  
treats! We appreciate  
all of you.*

*Father Factor Newark*

*Jeff Kramer Marcus Steele  
Sharon & Wayne  
Philip & Lisa  
Much Thanks! Sam Britton*

## FYI



**Kroger Rewards:** Did you know you can link your Kroger Rewards card to 1st Presbyterian Church? Kroger Community Rewards donates money to your favorite charity every time you use your Kroger card. All you must do is go online to Kroger.com. Go to the community section of the drop-down menu, and click on Kroger Community Rewards. Then you sign in with your Kroger Card ID and click on enroll. Search for First Presbyterian Church 84451 and enroll. Doing this does not affect your regular Kroger Rewards or Gas Points. The more folks we have registered the more money Kroger donates to our church.

## SCRIP

As you think about buying gifts for Christmas, many times gift cards seem to be a great idea. First Presbyterian sells gift cards from numerous retailers, restaurants, grocery stores, gas stations, etc. (even those not in our local area). We make a profit on each card sold and those profits help us purchase non-budgeted items around the church. A recent purchase was (much needed) new chairs for the library.

Gift card orders are taken on the first Sunday of each month in the library before and after Worship. For the month of December, orders will be taken on the first and second Sundays (December 2 and 9). Orders can be picked up the following Sunday.

A list of retailers can be found at:  
<https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/Shop/Product/Browse#?saved>

Click on either "Alphabetical List" or "Category List". Printed lists are also available in the Library.

Please see Peggy, Priscilla, Louise or Lois if you have questions.



## In the Rearview Mirror:

Heritage Sunday we remembered our church members who have crossed over to be with our Lord and Savior, those who have been members of this particular church for 50+ years, those who have joined this



crowd of witnesses recently, and, really, everyone in between. We are blessed by a great church family with a bright future of service! Special thanks go out to Lorraine Cox for the lovely cake.



2018

*Poinsettias*



Veteran's Sunday: Special thank you for those who have served in our country's military! About 45 members gathered for a potluck after church. Lots of lively conversations ensued! Come join in next year!

## PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Property Committee will be working on reducing stored items in the annex. There are previously used Sunday School and VBS materials that we would like to offer to anyone that is interested. We will be disposing of old VHS tapes and other items. Please contact Rose Gibson or Jo Deweese to view what is available if you have an interest.

## PERSONNEL

**Choir Director Needed** - The Church is in need of a new Choir Director. A full job description is available on the church's website. Please share this with anyone who might be interested.

**Church Organist Needed** as of December 30, 2018. Please share this with anyone who might be interested.

**Coming in January!**  
**Card Party Lunch**  
**Jan 13, 2019**  
**followig the worship service.**  
**Mark your calendars!**

In **HONOR** of \_\_\_\_\_

In **MEMORY** of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of plants \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$9 each

Total \$\$ enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**Order deadline: Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 – Please call the Church Office (740-345-1480)**

### December Birthdays

Scott Holman	Dec 1
Sarah Bowles	Dec 2
Matt Cain	Dec 2
John Denune	Dec 2
Steve Keck	Dec 3
Tim Detrick	Dec 4
Andrew Frick	Dec 4
Ron Noland	Dec 4
Ed Jobes	Dec 9
Blake Brand	Dec 10
Tim Cain	Dec 10
Bryce Woods	Dec 10
Keegan Hare	Dec 13
Diane Higgins	Dec 13
Amy Goins	Dec 17
Sharon Wills	Dec 17
Cindi Parkinson	Dec 18
Pat Mattern	Dec 19
Finley Drake	Dec 22
James Filmore	Dec 27
Barbara Garman	Dec 27
Ashley Frick	Dec 30
Kim Dershem	Dec 31

### December Anniversaries

Gary and Mona Clark
12/14
Gary and Debbie Collins
12/20

