



# December



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:15a –Adult SS 10:15a –Coffee Hour 10:45a –Worship <b>1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent</b>	2 6-8p-Father Factor 	3 12-1p- SPARK Free Lunch	4 7-8p- Choir Practice	5 10a-GM Bible Study <b>6p-Sights &amp; Sounds</b> 7p-Women's AA	6 	7 <b>9-11am Y-Healthy Kids Packing Party!</b>
8 9:15a –Adult SS 10:15a –Coffee Hour 10:45a –Worship <b>7p-Handel's Messiah at MVNU</b>	9 6-8p-Father Factor	10 12-1p- SPARK Free Lunch 5:30p-E&O Meeting	11 7-8p- Choir Practice	12 10a-GM Bible Study <b>4p-Candlewick Commons Dinner</b> 7p-Women's AA	13	14 
15 9:15a –Adult SS 10:15a –Coffee Hour 10:45a –Worship <b>Noon-Christmas Dinner</b>	16 6-8p-Father Factor 	17 12-1p- SPARK Free Lunch	18 7-8p- Choir Practice	19 7p-Women's AA	20	21
22 9:15a –Adult SS 10:15a –Coffee Hour 10:45a –Worship- <b>Special Choir Performance</b>	23 6-8p-Father Factor	24 <b>7p-Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</b>	25 	26 7p-Women's AA	27	28 
29 9:15a –Adult SS 10:15a –Coffee Hour 10:45a –Worship	30	31	1 	2 7p-Women's AA	3	4



# JANUARY



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:15a –Adult SS 10:15a –Coffee Hour 10:45a –Worship	30	31	1 	2 7p-Women's AA	3	4
5 9:15a –Adult SS 10:15a –Coffee Hour 10:45a –Worship <b>After Worship- Un-Decorating w/Soup Lunch</b>	6 	7 12-1p- SPARK Free Lunch	8 7-8p- Choir Practice	9 7p-Women's AA	10 	11 <b>9:30-3p- Elder Training @ Worthington Presbyterian Church</b>
12 9:15a –Adult SS 10:15a –Coffee Hour 10:45a –Worship	13	14 12-1p- SPARK Free Lunch 5:30p-E&O Meeting	15 7-8p- Choir Practice	16 7p-Women's AA	17	18
19 9:15a –Adult SS 10:15a –Coffee Hour 10:45a –Worship <b>After Worship- Congregational Meeting</b>	20 	21 12-1p- SPARK Free Lunch 6p-CE Meeting	22 7-8p- Choir Practice	23 7p-Women's AA	24 	25
26 9:15a –Adult SS 10:15a –Coffee Hour 10:45a –Worship	27	28 12-1p- SPARK Free Lunch	29 7-8p- Choir Practice	30 7p-Women's AA	31	1

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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740-345-1480

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Web Address: www.1stpreshnewark.com  
Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 9-2pm

Rev. Steven Brand, Pastor  
Emily Hare, Treasurer  
Gary Collins, Custodian  
Sheri Bogardus, Secretary  
Thom Ogilvie, Choir Director



## December at a Glance

Dec 1 – 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent – Communion  
Dec 5 – 6:30pm Sights & Sounds of Christmas  
Dec 7 – 9-11am Y Healthy Kids Packing Party  
Dec 8 – 7:00pm Handel's Messiah at MNU \$5.00  
Dec 12 – 4:00pm Candlewick Commons Dinner  
Dec 15 – Congregational Christmas Dinner, After Service  
Dec 22 – Special Christmas Cantata Lite, In Worship  
Dec 24 – 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

## SERMONS

### Sermon Series: The Theology of Christmas! This



Christmas season we will be looking at the theology of Christmas by comparing the Nicene Creed to the story of the birth of Jesus. This is part of a larger study that will pick back up at Easter and again at Pentecost. Each time looking at the deep theology of the Nicene Creed in reference to the stories of Scripture.

A creed is a statement of the shared beliefs of community in the form of a fixed formula summarizing core tenets. A creed, in Christianity, is at it's core, a statement of the major truths of our faith.

The Nicene Creed was written in 324ad and revised in 381ad by the first and second council of Nicaea. The council was called by Constantine who was the emporer of Rome and wanted to seek the theological unity of the Christian Church throughout the known world. The council was made up of bishops. The Nicene Creed is the most widley accepted creed. It is affirmed by our denomination, the Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic and most Prodestant churches world wide.

### December Sermons

Dec 1 – Theology of Christmas: The One and Only  
Dec 8 – Theology of Christmas: True God  
Dec 15 – Theology of Christmas: For Us  
Dec 22 – Theology of Christmas: For Our Salvation  
Dec 29 - Theology of Christmas: Truly Human

### January Sermons

Jan 5 – Paying a Ransom for You - Jeremiah 31:7-14  
Jan 12 – The Baptism of Jesus – Matthew 3:3-17  
Jan 19 – Beginning to Follow - John 1:29-42  
Jan 26 – Fishers of Men – Matthew 4:12-23

**Did You Know that Most Sermons are Available Online?** Past sermons are available on our church's YouTube Channel. You can find our channel by searching YouTube for First Presbyterian Church of Newark Ohio. Or by following the link from our church website.

## IN THE REVIEW



**Veterans** were recognized on November 10. Pictures, mementoes of related service members were displayed and a good crowd packed in to share in a potluck. Thank you for all who have served our country and also for all who served our congregation for lunch. Great conversations shared!

**Church Decorating/Luminaria** A huge thank you to the twenty or so of you who were able participate! Can you believe it is the season of Advent already?!? Take a moment to reflect on our many blessings, greatest of which is God's plan of salvation for us in the coming of His Son, Jesus, our Messiah! Reminder: Let us all be watching, ready and waiting. He IS coming back!

### Alpha



The last Alpha meeting we enjoyed  
John DeNune's delicious pizza!!  
Thank you John! We appreciate you!





## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sights and Sounds of Christmas

A Guided Musical Walking Tour of Newark's  
Downtown Churches

Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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 Second Presbyterian

#### Sights & Sounds of Christmas – Dec 5, 6-8:30p –

Mark your calendars for this fun event. The evening begins at Second Presbyterian and then travels to seven other churches (including our own church), ending at the Catholic Church for a cookie and punch reception. Each church is decorated for the season and each church has a mini-concert of Christmas music. This is a great way to kick off Advent and see all of the downtown churches ready for Christmas.

#### December 5 – Sights and Sounds of Newark

**Christmas Walk** –Still Needed: 1 Sanctuary Host, someone to man the handicap entrance, a couple Luminaria set/teardown people.

Reminder to our cookie contributors to have your cookies to the church by December 4, the day before the walk. If you have any questions or can assist with the above, please see or call Priscilla Hare.

December 15 – **Congregational Christmas Dinner** after service. Please plan to stay! The meal is being provided by Deborah and Gary Collins in conjunction with our Church Life Committee. See you there!

December 22 – **Special Christmas Music** during morning worship service

December 24 – **Christmas Eve Service**

#### Dates to put on your calendar:

January 5 – **Pack it Up!** Following the service we will be taking down our decorations. If you have loaned us your nativity, thank you! This will be the day to reclaim it. If you can stay and help with taking the decorations down, that would be great. **We will be serving soup.**

January 11 – **Reminder to Elders** still serving and for those coming on to serve this coming year, Elder Training will be held in Worthington Presbyterian Church starting at 9:00 a.m. Great information, helps, and learning provided. Don't miss it!



### CANDLEWICK COMMONS

Please join us for our Christmas celebration meal at Candlewick Commons on December 12 at 4:00 P.M. We will be sharing a meal of: chicken Kiev, scalloped potatoes, gelatin salad, vegetable and pie with our neighbors. We will also be delivering the gift cards that you have so generously given.

If you would be willing to provide a pie for this outreach, please sign up on the sheet in the sanctuary or notify Gaye Gibson at 740-344-3933 or at [lgayegibson@gmail.com](mailto:lgayegibson@gmail.com).

Thank you for sharing with these very special people this year and for the past eight years. We pray that these folks will experience the love of Christ as we minister to them.



## CHURCH LIFE



As we enter into this holiday season, please remember our missionaries both near & far. Pray for their protection, health & endurance, as they spread the good news of Jesus Christ to those who live in the darkness; giving thanks & all glory to God our Father!

Love in His Kingdom,  
Tracee Barr.

## Y – HEALTHY KIDS BACKPACK PROGRAM

### How Can You Take Part?

-Would you like to take part in a program that provides a weekend worth of food, every weekend of the school year, to over 500 kids in our county who would likely go hungry?

-Would you like to take part in a program that is a partnership of churches, the Licking County Food Pantry, the Licking County YMCA, local schools and business leaders?

### Here is How:

**In School Preparation** – On Thursdays, the food gets taken out of the boxes. The bags get put into the kid's backpacks and other items are added. This job takes about 45 minutes to complete but most schools have their teachers doing this. The teachers already do so much. If you would like to help with this final stage, speak with Sally Henry ([tomsallyh@windstream.net](mailto:tomsallyh@windstream.net)). She is a member of 2nd Pres and is coordinating this part of the program).

**Food Delivery** – The Presbyterian Partnership is also tasked with taking these prepacked boxes to the Newark and Heath Schools every other Wednesday. There are seven schools that we will be delivering to. We need people who would be willing to help load the boxes onto a truck and unload the boxes at the schools. Deliveries start in the middle of September. See Rev Steve if you have any questions.



**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.

### SCRIP



Christmas shopping is in full swing. If you're wondering what to buy for someone, how about a gift card? 1<sup>st</sup> Pres sells gift cards at face value and we make a profit from each card sold.

Whether you buy gift cards to give as presents to family and friends, or use them to buy your gifts, we have over 760 top brands to pick from! Please stop by the Library before or after Worship on December 1 or 8 to place your order. Your order can be picked up the following Sunday.



### Gluten Free Communion Available

We now have gluten free communion wafers available for anyone who wants them. They are in the communion cup trays.



No lunch bunch in December, so the next Lunch Bunch will be in February. Watch for details closer to the time.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**Good Morning Bible Study** will complete their study of 1 Samuel on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. Please watch for details as they resume in the Spring.

### ALPHA

Our seventh offering of Alpha wrapped up on November 21<sup>st</sup>. Our last evening may have been the best of the entire 12 weeks. Everyone commented on how much they enjoyed the course, and four guests expressed interest in participating in the next Alpha! One guest said she intends to read her Bible more and is very interested in coming to Bible Study and Sunday School!

In the seven sessions of Alpha, 97 people attended - some came to more than one session (44% from 1<sup>st</sup> Pres, 56% from outside the church). The support from this congregation was amazing with about 50 people helping in various roles.

Alpha will not be meeting this winter, but we are considering the possibility of resuming this fall (2020). Please continue to keep Alpha and our guests in your prayers.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

### ***Who Needs Christmas?***

The narrative of Jesus' birth is miraculous especially when you look at all the events in the Old Testament leading up to this point in time.

It was only "when the set time had fully come" that God sent Jesus into the world "that we might receive adoption to sonship" (Galatians 4:4-5). God sent Jesus to do what laws and regulations, judges and prophets, and exile and punishment could not accomplish. He sent Jesus not merely to deliver us from the penalty and consequences of our sin, but to actually break the power of the enemy and free us from our slavery to sin.

Through Christmas, we are reminded that even when it seems God is silent, he is always working. God sent Jesus not simply to be the Savior of the world but to be the Savior in our world. Through Christmas, we are reminded that God always keeps his promises to us.

Please join us Sundays, beginning today, December 1<sup>st</sup> in the Journey Room at 9:15 for this 4-week DVD-based study.

## EVANGELISM & OUTREACH

*From the Evangelism and Outreach Committee:*

*We would like to thank the congregation for being so willing to help and donate to each and every activity or mission event that has been presented in 2019. You are so generous with time, energy and funds. Bless you as you reach the community and the world for Christ our Lord.*





## FROM THE OFFICE

**Office Hours** are Tuesday – Thursday from 9-2pm. Sheri, the church's secretary, will regularly be there during those times.

**Church Emails** – Every Wednesday, a church wide email is sent out with announcements, prayer requests, volunteer schedules and other information. Please send your email to [firstpresofc@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresofc@gmail.com) if you are not receiving these emails.

**No Email?** – We are compiling a list of individuals with no email that would like to be called if important information arises. This would include: church cancelations, event changes, important events, or serious events. Please call the church office to be placed on this list.

**Prayer Chain** – The prayer chain is an email list that updates everyone on new prayer requests as they come in. If you would like to be added to the prayer chain email Kim Dershem at [kdershem@windstream.net](mailto:kdershem@windstream.net).

**Pictures** – Please remember to take pictures of church events as they happen. Send them to the church office email if you take a picture you wish to share. [firstpresofc@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresofc@gmail.com)



### Protect Yourself from Scams

Recently, several individuals at church have been contacted by people pretending to be me (Rev Steve). They are asking for you to buy an emergency gift card for someone who is deathly ill. They promise that you will be paid back as soon as I get out of this huge meeting. Please know that this is a scam. Here are a few ways to protect yourself from similar scams.

1. Only use links on websites or phone numbers that you know. If someone calls or emails pretending to be your bank or a friend; politely hang up and then call the phone number you know belongs to your bank or friend.

2. Don't provide your credit card number, bank account information, or other personal information to anyone over the phone, unless you are 100% sure you are dealing with the correct person or entity.

3. Never give out gift card or prepaid credit card information over the phone or email.

4. Never trust someone who is asking you to provide information or financing for a promised return.

5. Do not trust individuals who are pressuring you into immediate action. Often scammers threaten jail or fines if payments aren't made immediately. Or they pretend to be a charity and say that people need your help right now and tomorrow will be too late.



**We want to Welcome Janet Simross, who will be playing the organ for us on the following dates:**

**Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Sight and Sounds**

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### Happy December Birthday!

**John Denune 12/2**

**TJ Detrick 12/4**

**Blake Brand 12/10**

**Diane Higgins 12/13**

**Sharon Wills 12/17**

**Pat Mattern 12/19**

**Finley Drake 12/22**

**Noah Brand 12/23**

### Happy December Anniversary!

**Gary and Mona Clark 12/14**