

**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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

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

Tara Lewellen, Music Coordinator

Jesse Ryals, Provisional Pastor

Hope Labutis, Secretary

Sheri Bogardus, Treasurer

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



DEC – 2023

PASTOR JESSE's INFORMATION

Jesse's contact information is:
Cell (740) 507-5727 call or text
Jesse.ryals@gmail.com
Text or email is preferred

CHURCH ELDER INFORMATION

Class of 2025:

Marilyn Johnston -Clerk- 2nd term
Sarah Bowles -1st term

Class of 2024:

Linda Smith - 2nd term
Karen Fish - 1st term

Class of 2023:

Sandy Noland - 2nd term
Priscilla Hare -2nd term

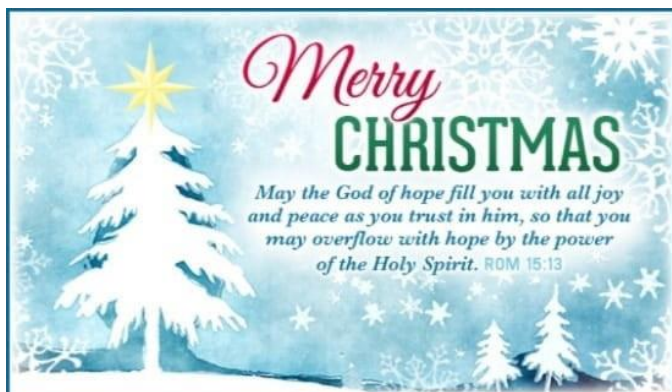
CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION

Update: Sheri Bogardus, Treasurer, has a new email address. If you need to contact her, you can reach her at: firstprestreas2@gmail.com

The email address firstpresofc@gmail.com will connect you to the church office (Church Secretary, Hope Labutis.) If you send something to the office that should be handled by the Treasurer, be assured it will be forwarded promptly.

Please note our weekly prayer request emails will be returning to Wednesday.

Dear Church, My prayer for you is that the Prince of Peace will reign in your heart and your home this Christmas season. Here's to a happy and healthy new year! – Hope



WORSHIP

We will be serving Communion on
Sunday, December 3.



PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Dear church family,
November was chaotic and full of sickness for my house. I promise a better informative update in January's newsletter.
Happy Holidays,
-Sarah

SCRIP

Please don't forget that December 3 will be the last Scrip card order before Christmas. I hope you will consider ordering gift cards from our Scrip program. There are 25 restaurant vendors offering \$10 cards. They would make good stocking stuffers and thank you gifts. Your orders will be returned on December 10.

Remember that the funds generated are used for church needs. The fund just provided \$2000 for fixing the roof. Thank you to all who order on a regular basis.

If you are interested, see Gaye Gibson.

EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH MINUTE FOR MISSIONS OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Our packing party was a BIG SUCCESS! Thanks to all who donated and came to pack boxes for children around the world. They will learn the LOVE of JESUS because of this outreach.



Our church secretary, Hope Labutis, traveled to serve at the Charlotte (NC) Processing Center the week of November 27th. She along with her daughter, Reagan, served with a team from Granville Christian Academy. While there, they packed boxes to be delivered to 170 Countries. The work is laborious, but fun and Hope always returns with lots of ideas of what to pack in her future projects.

Hope said that on Tuesday they made 400 sandwiches for the homeless, went to Billy Graham Library and worked a 5 hour shift at the Processing Center. Wednesday the plans are to work with a homeless shelter in the morning and then a 1-6 hr. shift packing more boxes. They are having so much fun with all of Reagan's classmates.



Wednesday, Hope said they were packing boxes for Peru and Panama this week. They packed the **one millionth shoebox** at this location. Praise God!

They also went to the Center of Hope, a shelter for women and children, run by the Salvation Army. They donated 1,500 dollars' worth of supplies; like blankets, towels, socks & diapers.



SUNDAY SCHOOL



In December, there will be no Sunday School on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve.

The other 3 weeks of the month we will be facilitating a class on Christmas Traditions. Topics to be covered include: Advent Wreath, Carols and Songs, and Chrismons.

Come and learn about our holiday traditions surrounding the birth of Christ!

CONGREGATIONAL CARE



December Birthdays

Sarah Bowles 12/2

Steve Keck 12/3

TJ Detrick 12/4

Ed Jobs 12/9

Tim Cain 12/10

Keegan Hare 12/13

Diane Higgins 12/13

Sharon Wills 12/17

Kim Dershem 12/31

December Anniversaries

Gary & Mona Clark 12/14

CHURCH LIFE

Thank you to all who attended our joint potluck with Rooted Fellowship on November 12th. It was wonderful having the Fellowship Hall filled and an opportunity to make new friends, adults and kids. We want to especially thank all those who quietly stepped in to assist Lorraine, facilitate the squad, and divert children in play. What could have been scary for the kids or, honestly, any of us, was handled calmly. We are pleased to report that Lorraine is improved.

Decorating party on Sunday, Nov 26th

Thank you to Rooted Fellowship for providing us lunch and to all who participated in making bows, hanging greens, decorating and cleaning up. Everyone chipped in to make it an easier job. Everything looks beautiful!!





December 7 – SIGHTS & SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS guided musical walking tour– We are once again participating in the Sights and Sounds of Christmas Walking Tour. The event is from 6:00pm-8:30pm with

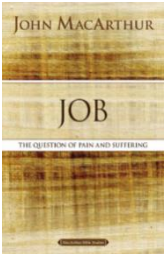
refreshments afterwards at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church.

The proceeds benefit the Licking County Food Pantry. The ticket cost is \$5.00 and can be purchased at the shuttle point or at the tour start, 2nd Presbyterian Church.

December 10 – CHRISTMAS DINNER following church service. Please mark your calendar!

GOOD MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The ladies are continuing the book of Job in the Good Morning Bible Study that meets in the Gold Circle Room on Thursdays at 10:00-12:00.



Please feel free to come be a part of this Bible study where you will find prayer and fellowship too. This group will be taking their annual winter break during January & February. They will resume meeting in March 2024.

Why do the righteous suffer?

Although a direct answer to this question seems important, the book of Job does not set forth such a response. Job never learned the reasons for his suffering. In fact, when God finally confronted Job, he could only put his hand over his mouth and say nothing. His silence underscores the importance of trusting God's purposes in the midst of suffering, because suffering—like all other human experiences—is directed by perfect divine wisdom.

LOOKING BACK

CELEBRATING WHO WE ARE AND WHAT GOD HAS DONE



You are never too young to hide God's Word in your heart!

Here's a photo of Evan Bowles from 2020 Drive-In Church – Let the little children come to Jesus! (Submitted by Priscilla Hare)

In the spirit of the season, we present you with this festive throwback photo from Christmas 1938. This original photograph is

located in our church library.



***If you have a historical (or fun) photo memory that you would like to include in an upcoming newsletter, please email Hope in the church office. We would love to celebrate our rich history and be reminded what the Lord has done!



ADVENT

In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. The church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait in Holy Spirit for Christ's coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love; and remembering the promises of God with prayer.

