

**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

Jesse Ryals, Provisional Pastor

Hope Labutis, Secretary

Sheri Bogardus, Treasurer

Gary Collins, Maintenance

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



**JANUARY**

**January – 2024**

## PASTOR JESSE'S INFORMATION

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

## CHURCH ELDER INFORMATION

### Class of 2025:

Marilyn Johnston -Clerk- 2<sup>nd</sup> term  
Sarah Bowles -1<sup>st</sup> term

### Class of 2024:

Linda Smith - 2<sup>nd</sup> term  
Karen Fish - 1<sup>st</sup> term

### Class of 2023:

Sandy Noland - 2<sup>nd</sup> term  
Priscilla Hare -2<sup>nd</sup> term

## CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION

Gary Collins is back in service doing our church maintenance. He does such a good job at keeping things working around our church! Welcome home, Gary!



Thank you church, for your generous Christmas gift. I am so thankful for the blessing of partnering with you in ministry. For those of you who have asked, my son Grant is home from Bulgaria and is slowly acclimating back to Ohio time. – Hope

Dear Church, It is a privilege and joy to serve here. Thank you so much for your kindness to me every day and in the Christmas gifts and cards I received. I love you all. - Sheri

This is the time of the year when we are seeing more activity at the blessings box. If you feel led to make a donation to this outreach, some ideas to warm up folks include: hats, gloves, thick socks, hand warmers, and ready-to-serve canned soup. You can also make a monetary donation and earmark it for the blessings box if you so choose. Thank you for your support in this endeavor!



The blessings box looks so nice with a fresh coat of paint!



**Looking Back** - 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!

[Firstpresofc@gmail.com](mailto:Firstpresofc@gmail.com)

## WORSHIP

We will be serving Communion on Sunday, January 7.



## Lighting the Advent Candles of Hope and Peace was a fun event for the Bowles boys this year!



## PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

While we are still on hold for right now, I have some hope that we can get back to the pastor search soon. In the time we have been paused, I have gotten several updates from the site about changes and improvements they have made. Ideally all these changes will make the process better. We will see.

Happy Holidays,  
-Sarah Bowles

## SCRIP

The next Scrip order is January 7. Please consider ordering gift cards from our Scrip program. There are 25 restaurant vendors offering \$10 cards.

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

If you are interested in Scrip cards, please see Gaye Gibson.

## EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH MINUTE FOR MISSIONS

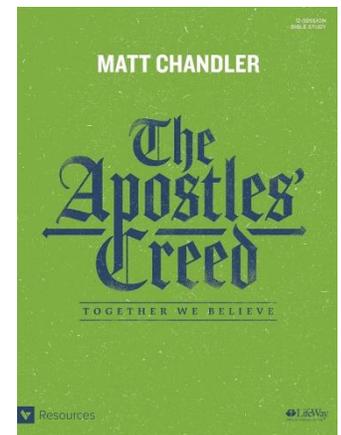
Gift and Treat Baskets were made and delivered to shut ins from our church by the E&O Committee. The treats and visits were both a beautiful Christmas blessing!



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our next 12 session study for Sunday School is on the Apostle's Creed by Matt Chandler.

The Apostles' Creed was born from the apostles' teachings. It contains essential doctrines and beliefs that summarize the gospel and the foundation of our faith. The scriptural truths contained in the creed enable us to build our Christian lives on good theology, with the knowledge that our faith is rooted in truth and a rich history.



The lines of the creed aren't mere words. They are the essence of what we confess and believe. Repeating the creed doesn't make disciples. Incantations don't transform us into better, more effective Christians. Creeds don't hold any authority apart from Scripture, but they do point outside themselves to the authoritative Word of God.

The Apostles' Creed was traditionally used as a public confession before baptism. This confession of faith, given as a recitation of the creed, was understood as an act of turning away from previous pagan beliefs and fully accepting apostolic teaching. This profession identified new believers with the community of Christians.

Not only was the sanctuary beautifully decorated for the holiday season, but so was the Fellowship Hall. Thank you decorators! One of Hope's favorite things are the seasonal banners that line the walls.

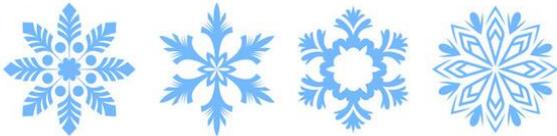
## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

### *January Birthdays*

- Joyce Carlyle 1/4
- Amanda Campbell 1/9
- Owen Hollingshead 1/9
- Tara Lewellen 1/9
- Cathy Cain 1/10
- Kenita Keck 1/12
- Keith Hare 1/14
- Brooklyn Hollingshead 1/16
- Andrea Lane 1/23
- Skyler Butts 1/27
- Lydia Fish 1/27

### *January Anniversaries*

- Jeff & Diane Dodson 1/6

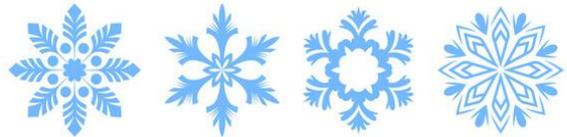


## CHURCH LIFE

**Saturday, December 2**, Dick Birtcher, Keith Hare, and Rick Buehler dusted off the popcorn cart and treated all comers to a bag of popcorn out front of Pugh's Designer Jewelers. Great job guys!



**The December 7 – SIGHTS & SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS** guided musical walking tour– was an amazing event! We had a full house at each showing! The proceeds from this festive night benefited the Licking County Food Pantry. A big thanks to Charla Dryburgh on piano and our own Tara Lewellen on organ.



A request was recently made by the **Look Up Center** that our church was able to generously fulfill. Sixteen children’s picture Bibles were donated to their preschool program as Christmas gifts for their students. Thank you to all of the church members who helped to make these gifts possible!



## GOOD MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Bible study celebrated together on December 14<sup>th</sup> with a special lunch. They are currently taking their winter break. Stay tuned for what’s coming in March.



Church Secretary Hope (and daughter, Reagan) dropping off the Bibles to the Look Up Center 12/1

## HEALTHY BACKPACK PROGRAM

We had a group of Presbyterian people (mostly Granville) come in and pack in the week leading up to Christmas. I don't have a final count yet because we ran out of boxes and packed into other miscellaneous containers, but it was more than 60 boxes (360 meals). A good time was had by all and they left the building in really good shape.



## SENTIMENTS TO SHARE

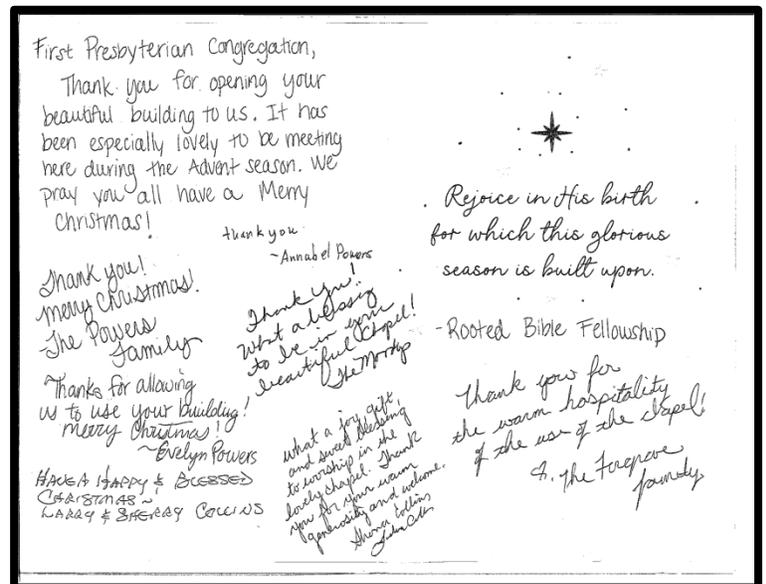
Things I'm Thankful for:

F - family, friends, football, and fruit  
 I - Isaiah, whose prophecies prove that Jesus is the Messiah  
 R - Ryals, Jesse - for his knowledge, humanity, and humor  
 S - sunshine and seasons, surf and sand  
 T - Tara's Music

P - pets!  
 R - rest and romance  
 E - empathy and excitement  
 S - sweets, salt, and songs

And of course, I am Thankful for my First Pres family!

Written by Louise Whitis



This is a lovely card we received from Rooted Fellowship for Christmas.

