

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<h1>February</h1> 						
 <p>Annual Reports Due!</p>			1 Noon NA 6:15p – Bells Practice 7:15p – Choir Practice	2 7p Women's AA Group 8p NA	3 	4
5 9:15-10:15 Sunday School 10:15-10:45-Coffee Hour 10:45 – Noon Worship Pick Up Annual Reports!	6 10a-Noon Watercolor 6:30p Alpha #2 7p – Women's Study	7 7a- DNA Mtg Noon SPARK 8p NA	8 Noon NA 7:15p – Choir Practice	9 7p Women's AA Group 8p NA	10	11 All Church Ice-Skate time TBD 
12 9:15-10:15 Sunday School 10:15-10:45-Coffee Hour 10:45 – Noon Worship Noon – Annual Congregational Meeting	13 10a-Noon Watercolor 6:30p Alpha #3 7p – Women's Bible Study	14 12p SPARK Free Lunch 5p.NARFE (E&O) 8p NA 	15 Noon NA 6:15p – Bells Practice 7:15p – Choir Practice	16 7p Women's AA Group 8p NA	17	18
19 9:15-10:15 Sunday School 10:15-10:45-Coffee Hour 10:45 – Noon Worship	20 10a-Noon Watercolor 6:30p Alpha #4 7p – Women's Study	21 Noon SPARK Free Lunch 8p. NA	22 Noon NA 7:15p – Choir Practice	23 7p Women's AA Group 8p NA	24 6:30p Grapevine Fellowship @ Buckeye Winery	25
26 9:15-10:15 Sunday School 10:15-10:45-Coffee Hour 10:45 – Noon Worship	27 10a-Noon Watercolor 6:30p Alpha #5 7p – Women's Study	28 Noon SPARK Free Lunch 6:30p Gideon's 8p. NA				

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Angie Klinker, Secretary
Ann Robinson, Organist
Barb Jobes, Treasurer
Gary Collins, Custodian
Zac Marquart, Choir Director



Behind the Stained Glass

With the New Year upon us there is bound to be lots of conversation about resolutions. I resolve this, or I promise to do better about that. The good thing about resolutions is that it shows that we are all still striving in one way or another to be better people. The Bible makes it very clear that we are all to be constantly working to sanctification. We must always strive to be more like Christ in our heart and mind. Romans 12:2 “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” As Christians we deny the view of the world that says: ‘This is just the way I am’ or even ‘This is just how God made me.’ You might naturally have a bad temper or a lazy attitude but these are things God commands we set aside by the grace of Christ.

The problem with New Year’s resolutions is that you only get one try, and if you fail you have to end up waiting for next year to try again. It is like going to the gym. In January and even the beginning of February the gym is jam packed with people, all of whom promised to lose weight or get in better shape. Come March most of those people are gone and it is easy to get on the treadmill again. The cycle starts all over again the next year, but never in the middle. One or two weeks of slacking off and the whole resolution is shot.

This is why people give up on change. This is why people say: ‘No one can change. A tiger doesn’t change its stripes’ or ‘Why bother, I will just give up anyway.’ The reason we do not change, or seldom do, is because we go about it in all the wrong ways. First, a New Year makes it no easier to change. Second, we should look to our times of slacking off as moments of weakness, not total failure. Third, change is only possible with change of leadership. If I resolve to lose my quick anger I need to understand that that quick anger is the product of whom I have in charge of my life. With me in control of my emotions I will be angry at the drop of the hat; so I can never control my emotions without first putting God in control.

When King Solomon died his son Jeroboam became king over Israel. The people came to Jeroboam and said that his father’s yoke was so heavy, his burden so hard that the people needed a break. Instead of giving them a break, Jeroboam said that he would make things even harder for Israel and would make their work tougher. The people rebelled and the kingdom divided because it was too much for the people to bear. In contrast, Jesus once told us that his burden was easy and his yoke is light. This is not because Jesus requires little from us, but it is because he has done much of the work for us. Whenever we work on our own, without Christ we are basically reinventing the wheel; we are blazing a trail right next to the clear highway Christ has given us. When we follow Christ, when we put him in the throne of our lives, he guides our steps down the path of holiness he created for us in his death and resurrection; not that things will be easy, but they will be possible.

In Christ,



Rev. Steven Brand

Worship

DECEMBER SERMONS

- 4- Preparation – Mark 1
- 11- See the World! – John 1
- 18- A Fulfilled Promise – Luke 1
- 25- Jesus is Born – Luke 2

JANUARY SERMONS

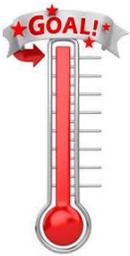
- 4- Announcing the Lord – Luke 2
- 11- What Is Important? – Matthew 15a
- 18- Where to Look – Matthew 15b
- 25- Guest Minister



Choir Rehearsal ~ Choir rehearsals are every Wednesday at 7:15p in the sanctuary. Please see

Zac or Kim Frick if you have any questions or are interested in taking part in the choir.

Bell Choir – Bell Choir practices the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month @ 6:15p in the old choir room. If you would like to play in the Bell choir please see Zac. The choir will play in service once a month as long as we have enough participants.



Update on Worship Media Fund - As a church we are seeking to update our worship technology. This new system will give us the ability to project videos, Power Point, pictures, words to songs and much more. We are happy to report that the media fund now has enough money to get

started on the project. We would like to thank you all for your support!



Anointing Service on January 29th ~

We are on the verge of a new season in the Church. It is a season of change as we pass through Advent and look to the New Year. This is also the season of wholeness as we now have the full revelation of God to humanity because of the birth of Christ, the Word made flesh, spiritual wholeness. As Christians, we often suffer from a lack of wholeness due to the stresses of the day, physical ailments, sin, or distraction. Biblically and historically, the Church has used the anointing with oil and the laying of hands as a way to bring us back to wholeness and as a way to mark times of extreme change. This is a powerful tool that we seldom use in today's Church. January 29th during worship we will have a service of anointing and laying on of hands.

Church Life



Make sure to join us each Sunday at 10:15am for some refreshments and fellowship prior to worship. There is a sign up sheet in the kitchen if you would like to bring the snacks. We

still have a few open Sundays this year.



On January 15th after the service, *Church Life* will be serving hot chocolate and cookies in fellowship hall. We hope you will join us!

GRAPEVINE FELLOWSHIP @ Buckeye Winery ~ The church will be meeting for a time of fun and fellowship @ Buckeye Winery on Friday, January 27th. Please plan to attend!

PASTOR STEVE'S THREE BEAN CHILI

I usually make this different every time, and I am not 100% sure what I actually put in the chili the day I placed 2nd in the soup contest.



- 1 Can Black Beans
- 1 Can Chili Beans w/sauce
- 1 Can Great Northern Beans
- 2 Cans Rotel Tomatoes
- 1lb Ground Turkey, Cooked
- 1 Beer (2 Cups of Chicken Broth "works")
- 1 Chopped Up Green Pepper
- 1 Can of Corn
- 1 Can of Tomato Paste
- 2 Cans Crushed Tomatoes
- 4 tablespoons of chili powder
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 2 teaspoons paprika
- 2 tablespoons ground cumin

Drain all of the cans except the Chili Beans and the Crushed Tomatoes. Cook the turkey then add everything into a crockpot, stir it up and let it cook for at least 4 hours.

Christian Education



GOOD MORNING STUDY: The Good Morning Bible Study meets every Thursday from 10:00am to Noon in the Golden Circle Room downstairs. The class is open to everyone and is going to be doing a self-study of some of Paul's smaller letters. See Linda Smith for details.

Alpha returns to 1st Pres!

January 30th at 6:30 p.m.

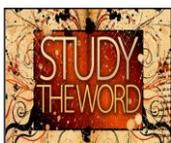
Alpha is a dinner | talk | and a discussion

All for the purpose of:

- *Creating a safe space for everyone to talk about the big questions of life.
- *Offering a place for you to bring someone who hasn't embraced the Christian faith.
- *Offering Christians a place to deepen their faith or find out more of what being a Christian truly means
- *Or perhaps you're not really sure about faith, your purpose in life, why you are here...and want some place to talk about it without being judged, or told what to think.

For more information email

1stpresnewarkALPHA@gmail.com, or go to
www.alphausa.org



Sunday Morning Adult Elective: The Reason for God. Why are Christians so hypocritical? Why does God allow suffering? Captured live and

unscripted, Pastor Timothy Keller meets with a group of people to address their doubts about Christianity. In this 6-session study, he uses literature, philosophy, real-life experiences, and the Bible to teach you how to respond when confronted with skeptics' objections to your beliefs. See Peggy Lieb for more details. Join us on Sunday mornings @ 9:15am in the Journey room.

Camp Akita Youth Retreat!



All youth from 6th-12th grades, listen up! The Presbytery Winter Youth Retreat is **January 20-22** at Camp Akita in Logan, Ohio. This retreat is becoming so popular that the Presbytery had to hold two separate retreats! During the retreat we will participate in worship, build relationships in small groups, hear from an engaging speaker, do crafts, play games, and enjoy the outdoors with hikes and pizza box sledding. We are going January 20-22 because Rev Steve is the director for that retreat. He will be the chaperon for the trip; we may need a female chaperon. See one of us for details or to RSVP. Registrations are due by January 8th. Any 6th-8th grade folks will be participating in the Confirmation Track which will bring you one step closer to church membership. If you don't know if you should go, ask Ken Keck.

Evangelism & Outreach

CANAL MARKET LIGHTING FRIDAY

November 25.



Thank you to all who came down in the cold to make and serve hot chocolate and cookies, and the popcorn cart folks for all the food given out and keeping up with the line of cold and hungry folks. Also thanks to those who offered prayer at the prayer tent during that cold evening. We did have a fabulous view of the fireworks, if there was time to look up. What a blessing!!!

CANDLEWICK COMMONS



Thank you to everyone who helped with our Christmas dinner at Candlewick Commons. 40 people celebrated together with a meal, singing, and gifts. We appreciate the pie donations, cooks, servers, socializers and clean-up crew members. We had a wonderful time of fellowship, a delicious dinner, time for carols and a gift. The residents loved all of the pies and a new pillow. A special thanks to Dee Barber for providing accompaniment for caroling and to Pastor Steve for leading the singing. This event is a blessing to the residents, but perhaps more to those who come to serve and socialize.

SALVATION ARMY RED KETTLE BELL RINGERS



Thank you to all who became Ding-a-Lings for an hour on Saturday, December 3rd to ring the bell at the Salvation Army Kettle in

front of the new Newark Kroger. We thank you and pray that you were blessed as you served this effort to bless others.

PLEASE WATCH FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS THIS YEAR AS WE REACH OUR WORLD AND OUR COMMUNITY WITH THE LOVE AND MESSAGE OF JESUS CHRIST!!

One Great Hour of Sharing - Wednesday, March 1st through Sunday, April 9th

Wilson Gift Card Fundraiser - February and March

Candlewick Commons Dinners - March, June, September and December

Bottles for Life - Mother's Day through Father's Day

Cards to Missionaries at Easter and Christmas

Salvation Army Red Kettle or Angel Tree

Operation Christmas Child - Watch for school supply and holiday sales for shoebox items, Sew, crochet, craft, little dresses, britches, scarves, dolls & other items

Shoebox Wrapping Party and Packing Party



SPARK Free Lunches

Tuesdays, Noon-1p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. SPARK Academy works with adults with developmental disabilities. Every

Tuesday students and staff from SPARK will be serving a free lunch and everyone is invited. The food is provided by Denison University. SPARK students serve the food, and do all of the set up and take down. For them this is a job that they get paid to do. It is also a time for community involvement and job training. They would like us to advertise the meal, to provide the space and the dishware. Most importantly, they would like us to come to the meals and to work alongside SPARK developing relationships. If you would like to volunteer, they arrive at 11:00 a.m. and stay till about 2:00 p.m.



Missions

"Living on the Promises"

God promised to send the Messiah, and He did! Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit, and it happened! As we begin this New Year, let us find

ourselves obedient to God, Standing firm on His promises. Our daily lives can be very difficult for many different reasons. We have all types of sufferings. The same goes for missionaries around the world. It is by God's grace that we all go forward into the unknown, but His promise is that His grace is sufficient for us! (2Cor. 12:9-10) May we all lift each other up in times of trouble, reminding one another of our Heavenly Father's love and promises. Please continue to give as you can and pray without ceasing!

Love in Christ,
Tracee Barr

P.S. Verses to pray on: Rom. 4:17 & John 8:31

Property



Bad Weather ~ It is that time of year again when bad weather and dangerous conditions happen on a regular basis. Officially it will take some really bad conditions for Worship to be canceled. However, please use your judgment. No one wants someone to get hurt or be in danger because of Church. If it is too cold or the roads or your driveway looks too slippery; stay inside. Even if you are staff, or have volunteered for a specific job for the day; stay inside if the weather makes you feel unsafe. Worship services will be automatically canceled if there is a level 3 Snow Emergency. All other church functions will be canceled during level 2 or 3 Snow Emergencies. This would include: the church office, all meetings, Bible studies and social events. Check www.ohgo.com for updates and real time traffic information.



NARFE Dinners are the second Tuesday of every month. These dinners serve as fundraisers for the committee that hosts. These dinners help to give needed support to our mission and witness as a church. Please consider helping with them. January (no meeting), February (E&O).

Annual Reports: If you are responsible for an annual report, they are due by February 1st! Please turn them in to Angie at your earliest convenience.



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 have to 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.

JAN. 8th ~ Congregational Meeting after worship for the election of church officers. There are three openings on Session for Ruling Elders. The Nominating Committee has nominated: Karen Birtcher (E&O), Rose Gibson (Church Life) & Keith Hare (B&F) to the 2019 Class of Session. Nominations will be taken from the floor. Any nominations must have the individuals' prior consent. Sincere thanks to Kim Dershem, Georgia Porter, Ron Sillin & Dee Weekly for your service on Session as your terms come to an end.

Congregational Care



Hello Friends and Family of First Pres! We strive to do our best in reaching out to those in our congregation. If you have any changes in your address, email, or phones, be sure to let us know. There are forms in the back of the church for anyone to make updates; or you may call the office @ 740-345-1480. Please know that prayer requests and updates can be given to the church with ANY needs as well.



Session

DECEMBER SESSION SUMMARY

A motion was made and approved by email to hold the election of officers at a congregational meeting following worship on Sunday, January 8, 2017.

A motion was made and approved by email to hold the next Alpha Course on Mondays from January 30 through April 10, 2017.



PASTOR'S REPORT:

Elders and elders-elect for 2017 are invited to attend the Partners in Education event at Hilliard Presbyterian Church on Saturday, January 7, 2017.

Rev. Brand will attend the Presbytery Youth Retreat at Camp Akita on Sunday, January 22, 2017. Elder Stephen Smith will fill the pulpit that Sunday.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 12, 2017 following a lunch provided by the elders. Annual reports are due by January 31, 2017.

Congregational Cooperation Committees from area Presbyterian churches are considering using the annex to store and prepare weekend food backpacks for school children. Funds are available for some updates that are needed. In preparation, a motion was made, seconded and carried to tear out the carpet in the annex.



Church Life Committee reported that cookies and hot chocolate will be served after worship on Sunday, January 15, 2017.

Evangelism and Outreach Committee reported that \$6,000.00 was withdrawn from the Mahon invested funds to make up the amount pledged for 2015 and 2016 that is above the budget amount.

Personnel Committee reported that memos of understanding are being prepared for employees.

Property Committee reported that a new snow removal contract has been signed at a rate \$30.00 lower for each removal. All outside lights have been replaced or updated.

Worship and Music Committee reported that Communion will be served on the following dates in 2017: Jan. 1; Feb. 5; Ash Wednesday, March 1; Maundy Thursday, April 13; May 7; Pentecost Sunday, June 4; July 2; Aug. 6; Sept. 3; Worldwide Communion, Oct. 1; Nov. 5 and Dec. 3.

The media fund now has enough money to get started on the new worship technology project. The next session meeting will be Thursday, January 19, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

January Birthdays

Jan. 4	Joyce Carlyle
Jan. 9	Amanda Campbell
Jan. 12	Kenita Keck
Jan. 14	Keith Hare
Jan. 20	Eula Montgomery
Jan. 21	Kara Carson
Jan. 26	Georgia Porter



January Anniversaries

Jan. 6	Jeff & Diane Dodson
Jan. 20	John & Carol Denison