THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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

Gary Collins, Custodian Tara Lewellen, Music Coordinator Jesse Ryals, Provisional Pastor Sheri Bogardus, Secretary/Treas.

• Office hours: Tues-Thurs 9:00-2:00pm (Sheri's hours are not changing for the summer)



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

WORSHIP

WE WILL BE SERVING COMMUNION ON SUNDAY, JULY 2ND.



PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

This month the CLC website that hosts the pastor search process migrated to a different server. As a part of that migration process they have updated their Forms for both Ministries and Ministry Seekers. For our purposes that means there are parts of the form we need to re-evaluate and get reapproved by both Session and the COM (Presbytery) Committee. Part of this form update they provided to us early, but they surprised everyone with additional changes.

This is really only slowing us down a little and will result in some great benefits. We still have candidates that we are reviewing in the old system while we update our forms. When we are finally in the new system, every candidate we look at will have just updated their form and will probably be those most seriously looking for a new call. Additionally, the new matching process will theoretically connect us with most compatible candidates.

The biggest downside I see is the updated name of the form. I have now spent the last 6 months calling our form the MIF (Ministry Information Form). The new acronym is MDP (Ministry Discernment Profile). I do not even know what the call seeker acronym is yet. Please do not expect the correct acronym from me anytime soon.

Prayers for Health for the committee members and their families. Prayers for safe travels as

some of us travel on vacation. And finally prayers for the pastor who is called to our church.

-Sarah PNC Chairperson

SCRIP

July 2nd is SCRIP Sunday. Please see Gaye Gibson in the library before and after the worship service if you would like to purchase gift cards from the SCRIP program.

OCC Sewing Kit Craft









Thank you to everyone that participated in the Operation Christmas Child Sewing Kit craft. Thank you to Diane Higgins for making the potholders for each of the little kits and all the ladies that showed up to put them together and then sew on the buttons to make them a little kit. Thank you to Deb Blamer for the idea and bringing all the supplies. It was a really fun time of fellowship for such a worthy mission project. Thanks again!!



Operation Christmas Child 2023

To make OCC shopping easier for church members this year, the E&O Committee will have monthly shopping list inserts in the Sunday bulletins. The lists will have suggested items to purchase, children clothing sizes and shopping hints. See Kenita Keck or Sandy Noland if you have any questions.



Blessings Box

The items for the blessings box are almost out. If you would like to contribute there is a box on the floor outside the Sanctuary door in the hallway heading to the offices. Donation suggestions are: protein bars, pop top canned items, protein drinks, crackers, small jars of peanut butter and then Ritz crackers. Thank you for supporting this ministry. You can also designate monies to be given to the Blessings Box; just mark that in the memo line or on your envelope.



Granville Presbyterian Church held a VBS and the children all came with a bag of food for the Blessings Box. Thank you to each and every child and teacher that gave to help those that are in need. Being the hands and feet of Jesus.



Candlewick Commons Dinner was

June 13th Dinner was picnic style. Thank you to all that helped fix the food and transport it over to Candlewick Commons and then stay, serve and fellowship with the residents. Thank you to Ann Marie Robinson for playing and singing for the residents. Everyone seemed to have a nice time of fellowship and food.









MINUTE FOR MISSIONS

The Father's Heart Ministries: A Ministry of International Messengers in Slovakia

Bevan and Laura Stein

Thank God Almighty, I'm Free at Last!

Dear Friends,

It has been 16 whole months since I last wrote to you! The last time I wrote, I asked for your prayers, trust, and faithfulness while I was enduring a prolonged legal battle with the Slovak environmental agency over something that occurred in 2017. If you recall, I announced on two separate occasions I had been exonerated of any wrong-doing, only to find that it was merely another skirmish in a long war. The things of which I was being accused, not having proper permits, was an obvious smoke screen for an apparent brazen attempt to wrestle our property from us, which they publicly admitted to on numerous occasions. I appealed to the U.S. Embassy for protection, to no avail. Fortunately, after five whole years, I can now finally, with confidence, inform you that the legal charges against me have all been dropped and the case officially closed. The police investigator even audaciously praised himself for uncovering a plot against me as an American, conveniently ignoring his own role in that plot for five years!

I was so bewildered by the threat of prison and astronomical fines that I couldn't even write a single prayer letter for 16 months! But now, I am glad to inform you that even during this "drought" we remained faithful and productive in ministry. IM has stood beside us through this ordeal as a faithful partner,

even while our support was way below normal, and normal is way below sufficient. So, understandably, IM now needs us to make support raising our top priority. Having seen God deliver us from our enemies, like God delivered Daniel in the lion's den, gives us faith that this too shall be overcome. I will be coming home in July to get started in support raising. We have a lot of good news to share with you and I'm excited to get started!

Father's Heart Ministries Explanation and Update

Father's Heart Slovakia is actually three ministries:

- Orphanage programs and children's camps
- Equine therapy for disabled children
- Biker evangelism to unchurched bikers

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Our children's programs continue in eastern Slovakia under our trained volunteers. There are far fewer orphanages now that the country is nearly completely converted to foster care. However, we continue to be in contact with the children who are in specialized orphanages that take care of those not placed in foster homes. Our team in Kosice still ministers faithfully. It primarily consists of outings, a large Christmas program, and one combined summer camp. The team is nearly fully funded by local donors for these events.

The equine ministry has been hampered by the legal investigation for the last five years; however, we have still managed at least a couple of camps for smaller groups despite the limitations because of Covid restrictions. Now that our building permits are being granted, this is an area that we are very excited about finally expanding. This ministry will enable large numbers of children to come for summer camps. We have already installed water and electricity and now we want to finally set up our Mongolian yurt. We are urgently asking for donations to enable us to quickly seize the open doors that have finally been opened to us in time for this summer. We have urgent needs for gifts for monthly operational expenses, infrastructure and building as well as children's camps. Our immediate goal is to raise \$15,000. If you can help with any part of this, it would be a huge answer to our prayers and a huge blessing to many children who have been anxiously waiting.

The last area of Father's Heart ministry is our biker ministry to unchurched bikers. These are not the hardcore "Hell's Angels" but they are not your average businessmen or hobbyist bikers, either. They are somewhere in between. It is a hostile environment for

the Gospel but one in which I have worked hard and gained their trust and confidence over the years. I am respected enough that they invite me to their events to pray for them, but they also enjoy trying to test me and provoke me in any way possible. Because of the trust I have gained, they often open their hearts to me.

Another area of ministry began the day the war broke out in Ukraine and continues indefinitely, not just until the war ends. This will be a new and permanent focus of ministry as we partner with those God has brought to us through the war in an ongoing effort to share the Gospel in a war-torn country. This is consistent with our vision to equip Slovak young adults into ministry and develop a strong missions focus within Slovak churches. We fund-raise and mobilize giving both at the individual level and the church level. To show how successful this has been, I will include for you some statistics. As of the end of May, I have taken 287,485 tons of food and hygiene supplies, traveled about 60,000 miles on 25 trips with large trucks, and delivered aid valued at \$1,019,246. I was asked by the Slovak Lutheran Church to be the national coordinator for humanitarian aid to Ukraine. Since then, ten other organizations have asked for my partnership. A tenth of the total aid I have taken has been paid for by U.S. donations. Ninety percent has come from international aid organizations, Slovak churches, and European donors. As a result, the Ukrainian Bible Society has given me an award titled, "The One Who Changes the World." I also received an award from the Slovak Ambassador to Ukraine. During this time of war, God has been putting Ukraine on people's hearts around the world and it was obvious to us that we were placed here by God long ago for such a time as this. This area of ministry is badly in need of funding now that other things have taken people's interest.

You would think that with all these things on our plate, we would be content. But God had another tear in his eyes that he wanted to share with me as well. This story began back in 1983. Those who have known me long enough can remember that I originally felt called to Africa and spent six months in what's now the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Fast forward 40 years. I was in the spirit in prayer and felt God re-ignite an old desire. To make a long story short, I found a pastor named James who is a Sudanese refugee in northern Uganda who has a history of planting churches and a heart for ministry to orphans and widows with his wife, Jacklin. Over several months, this has developed

into a real partnership. Our vision is to completely undertake to minister to the hundreds of orphans in one of 17 refugee camps. Together, we have planted a farm to feed them. We are working on plans to build an orphanage for them and a school. They need food now as they face starvation, so we have been digging deep into our personal funds to send every penny we can. It is amazing how far a dollar can go in Uganda and how thankful they are for every penny. Our personal ministry account at IM is now running such a deficit that any money that comes to us must first bring our account into good standing. Therefore, I can't say that anything given to Uganda will get to them unless our account is repaired. But when it is, we will create a new special account for Uganda where funds can be designated. For now, anyone who wishes to help us help them, please designate gifts to our account. We will just keep praying for a quick resolution to the deficit so that we can begin getting those funds to hungry little mouths as quickly as possible. Until then, we will keep trying to send our tithe to this ministry and pray that God multiplies it like he did the loaves and fishes.

The needs are truly great and we are being careful with every penny, so that whether it is for orphan children, disabled children, unchurched bikers, or widows and refugee children, your donation will go as far as possible to share God's love and the hope of the Gospel. If you would like to make a donation, please make your check payable to our sending agency: International Messengers; PO Box 618; Clear Lake, IA 50428. Please preference in the memo on check "XBS" for our personal support. Please do not write our names on the memo line of your check. For all other gifts, please include a separate note preferencing "ZFH" (Father's Heart Slovakia) + one of the ministries listed. We thank you with all our hearts! **By Bevan**



Our church sent a check to Heartbeats of Licking County for \$195.00 to be used at

our local pregnancy center. Thank you to all that gave to this worthy mission project.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE



July Anniversaries

Dwight and Rose Gibson 07/24 59 yrs

CHURCH LIFE

Good Morning Bible Study is in the Gold Circle room from 10:00am -12:00 on Thursday mornings. They began the study of Esther and Linda got to see the presentation of "Esther" at the Sights and Sounds Theater in Branson while she was on



her trip. She brought some things to share with the group. They had 10 in attendance for the first week of the study. Everyone is welcome to attend. It is a great time of Bible Study, prayer and fellowship.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 SCRIP orders 9:15 Adult SS in FH & Zoom 10:15-10:45 Coffee Fellowship - FH 11:00 Church – Sanctuary/Communion	3	4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4	5	6 10:00am Good Morning Bible Study- Gold Circle Rm	7	8
9 9:15 Adult SS in FH & Zoom 10:15-10:45 Coffee Fellowship - FH 11:00 Church – Sanctuary	10	11	12	13 10:00am Good Morning Bible Study- Gold Circle Rm	Baked steak dinner at Woods Ave Presbyterian Church. 4:30-6:30 dine in or take out	15
16 9:15 Adult SS in FH & Zoom 10:15-10:45 Coffee Fellowship - FH 11:00 Church – Sanctuary	17 VBS at Hanover 17-20 th 6:00pm-8:15 must register by July 1 online	18 6:00pm-8:15 VBS at Hanover	19 6:00pm-8:15 VBS at Hanover	20 10:00am Good Morning Bible Study- Gold Circle Rm 6:00pm-8:15 VBS at Hanover	21	22
23 9:15 Adult SS in FH & Zoom 10:15-10:45 Coffee Fellowship - FH 11:00 Church – Sanctuary	24	25	26	27 10:00am Good Morning Bible Study- Gold Circle Rm	28 Final Fridays Art History 4:00-7:00 On the Square	29
30 9:15 Adult SS in FH & Zoom 10:15-10:45 Coffee Fellowship - FH 11:00 Church – Sanctuary	31					



AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 SCRIP orders 9:15 Adult SS in FH & Zoom 10:15-10:45 Coffee Fellowship - FH 11:00 Church – Sanctuary/ Communion	7	8	9	10 10:00am Good Morning Bible Study- Gold Circle Rm	11	12
13 9:15 Adult SS in FH & Zoom 10:15-10:45 Coffee Fellowship - FH 11:00 Church – Sanctuary	14	15	16	17 10:00am Good Morning Bible Study- Gold Circle Rm SCHOOL STARTS	Back Tog	19 School
20 9:15 Adult SS in FH & Zoom 10:15-10:45 Coffee Fellowship - FH 11:00 Church – Sanctuary	21	22	23	24 10:00am Good Morning Bible Study- Gold Circle Rm	25 Final Friday STEM 4:00-7:00 on the Square	26
27 9:15 Adult SS in FH & Zoom 10:15-10:45 Coffee Fellowship - FH 11:00 Church – Sanctuary	28	29 3:00pm Hosting the PCP Meeting here in FH.	30	31 10:00am Good Morning Bible Study- Gold Circle Rn	1	1

