

**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)

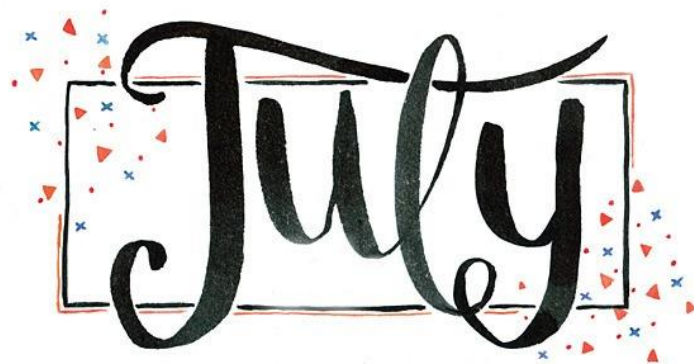
Reinita Thacker, Commissioned Pastor

Tara Lewellen, Music Coordinator

Hope Labutis, Secretary/Treasurer

Gary Collins, Maintenance

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



July 2025

## CHURCH ELDER INFORMATION

**Thank you, Session, for your faithful service to FPC.**

**Clerk of Session** – Priscilla Hare

**Class of 2027:**

Karen Fish - Evangelism & Outreach

Greg Angeletti - Property

**Class of 2026:**

Keith Hare - Finance

Chris Rainey - Worship

**Class of 2025:**

Sarah Bowles – Church Life

Becky Mahon – Personnel

## WORSHIP

### Pulpit Supply Pastors for July

July 6	Pastor Reinita (Communion Sunday)
July 13	Pastor Liz Tietz
July 20	Pastor Reinita
July 27	Pastor Reinita (Her last Sunday serving our church)

## SCRIP

**Scrip** is fundraising while you shop!

The next Scrip order is **July 6th**. Please consider ordering gift cards from our Scrip program. Remember that the funds generated are used for church needs. Thank you to all who order on a regular basis. See Gaye Gibson to order.

## Y-HEALTHY BACKPACK PROGRAM

FPC is still actively participating in food packing and food delivery at the facility on Swans Rd. If you are interested in participating in a Community Packing Party please sign up at the link below:

<https://signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/10C084FABA922A0F9C61-50942615-ymca>

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE



### July Birthdays

Bob Blamer 7/6

Kim Frick 7/7

Dan Spangler 7/11

Jay Hartman 7/19

Carol Floyd 7/21

Sandy Noland 7/21

Dick Birtcher 7/24

Wendy Hartman 7/29

### July Anniversary

Dwight & Rose Gibson 7/24

## MAKE ME A BLESSING



Thank you for your continued donations to the Blessings Box.

**We are in need of more bottled water and drink packets.** Ideas for other

donations include: nuts and trail mix, oatmeal packets, tuna or chicken in pouches, pop tarts, crackers, and granola bars. Please remember that canned goods are best with pop top lids. Thank you for blessing others!

## SEWING FOR A CAUSE



On Saturday, May 31st, we got together and had a sewing day for Heartbeats. At the end of our morning of work, we had

made **14 baby blankets and 8 bibs** for babies in our community. A big thanks to Hope and Reagan Labutis for brining many supplies and getting us coordinated.

Kim is sewing away on her machine.



I spy with my little eye – a Sewing Sandy!

Lauren sewed a few blankets, picked out fabric, and was a great clipper! She decided to model one of the bibs for us, just for fun! ☺



Reagan is always ready to help with a smile.

She spent a good part of the morning troubleshooting machines.

Gaye was the cutter and pinner of these cute baby bibs. Doesn't she look so proud?



Karen (our photographer of the day) and her granddaughter Lauren, Sandy, and Kim with a pile of finished projects. Thank you to the E&O Committee for hosting this sewing morning!





## EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH

### MINUTE FOR MISSIONS

#### Happy Christmas in July!



Members of the Evangelism and Outreach Committee are often asked by the congregation what items are most needed for our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes we pack each year.

**For our 2025 packing party, we are in need of school supplies, all kinds for ages 2 to 14.** These may include crayons, coloring books, small notepads, pencils, pens, pencil sharpeners, erasers, colored pencils, colored markers, rulers, glue sticks—to name a few. We will pack the boxes toward the end of October but we are bringing this to your attention now because July, August, and September are the very best months to find school supplies on sale. Walmart, Target, dollar stores, and grocery stores often have good prices on these items.

In the near future, the E & O Committee will inventory all the items that have been collected, thus far, for the 2025 shoebox packing. A list of most needed items will be put in the church bulletin.

Due to border customs issues in some countries, soap is no longer allowed in shoeboxes. Washcloths will still be packed in each box, however. As in previous years, toothpaste, candy or other foods, liquids, scary items, and items related to war (plastic army men, tanks, toy weapons) are not permitted in boxes. This is not a complete list. If you are unsure about whether or not to pack or donate an item, please ask anyone on the E & O Committee.

As always, many THANKS to our congregation for your continued generosity in funding and donating to this worthwhile ministry. Last year, more than 300 shoebox gifts were sent in Jesus' name to countries around the world. This couldn't have happened without you. God bless you!

## CHURCH LIFE

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, we celebrated the start of summer together with a church potluck! Fellowship and good food was enjoyed by all!



Break for Breakfast made its long-awaited return this summer in June! There is a sign-up sheet in the sanctuary for you to host. Let's enjoy a summer of food and fellowship together!



**Thank you to our hosts for the month of June: Priscilla Hare, the Bowles Boys, Becky Mahon, and Linda Smith/Jo Deweese.**



Evan and Eli are great hosts. Breakfast and big smiles – what more can you ask for?

## SUMMER UPDATE: ADULT BIBLE STUDY AND CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Bible Study and Children's Sunday School will both be taking a summer break as families travel and attend camps this season. We will resume when school is back in session. Stay tuned and have a safe and healthy summer!

### GOOD MORNING BIBLE STUDY

#### THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



The Good Morning Bible Study meets **Thursday mornings from 10-12** in the Gold Circle Room. Join Linda Smith and friends as they continue their study of Psalms and have prayer time together.

### IN SEARCH OF...



We have had a request from a friend of the church for a plate. If you have one collecting dust, and would be willing to pass it along to someone who would be interested, please contact the church office during business hours.

Thank you!

### CANDLEWICK COMMONS

On June 10th we returned to Candlewick Commons to serve dinner and fellowship with the residents. Sandy and Gaye are posing with a big bowl of macaroni salad for our friends to share!



## HYMN STORY: HIGHER GROUND

This hymn, penned by Johnson Oatman Jr. (1856-1922), has been a favorite with many

ASPIRATION AND CONSERVATION  
Higher Ground 549  
1 press on toward the goal to win the prize: Philippians 3:14

1. I'm pressing on the up-ward way, New heights I'm  
2. My heart has no de-sire to stay Where doubts a-  
3. I want to live a-bove the world, That 'Se-na's  
4. I want to scale the ut-most height, And catch a  
gain-ing ev-ery day, Still pray-ing as I'm on-ward  
me and those de-vot-ees, The same way dwell where these a-  
dwell at me are hurled, For faith has caught the pry-ing  
glenn of all-er bright, That still I'll pray, Still hear's I've  
bound, "Lord, plant my feet on high-er ground."  
bound, my prayer, my song, on high-er ground,  
bound, The song of saints on high-er ground,  
bound, "Lord, lead me on to high-er ground."  
Refrain  
Lord, lift me up and let me stand By faith on heav-en's ta-ble-land,  
A high-er plane than I have found- Lord, plant my feet on high-er ground.  
TEXT: Johnson Oatman, Jr.  
MUSIC: Charles H. Gabriel  
HIGHER GROUND  
Lil and William

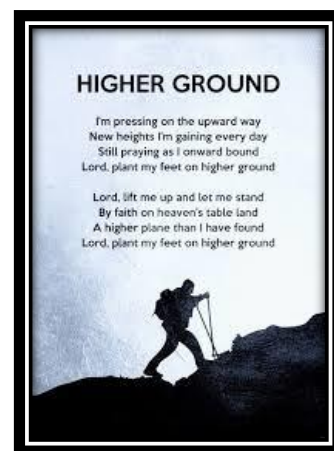
Christians since it was first published in 1898. Born near Medford, New Jersey, Oatman became a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church when he was nineteen years of age. His father was an excellent singer and it always delighted the son to sit by his side and hear him sing the

songs of the church. Soon he was licensed to preach and was ordained by his denomination, although he never actually pastored a church. In his early life, he was actively involved in the family's mercantile business, and, upon his father's death, entered the insurance business. In 1892, he started writing gospel songs, and, from then till his death, in 1922, he wrote

approximately 3,000 gospel hymn texts. It is reported that Oatman generally averaged four to five new texts each week, throughout this period of his life, **receiving no more than \$1.00 for each of his songs.** His texts were always in great demand by the leading gospel musicians of his day. 'Higher Ground' has been a favorite with many Christians since it was first published. It expresses so well this universal desire for a deeper spiritual life, continuing on a higher plane of fellowship with God, than we have ever before experienced.

Read more at:

<https://barryshymns.blogspot.com/2016/05/higher-ground.html>





## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

JUNE 22, 2025

Information was shared regarding the status of the building and work that needs to be done this year, (sanctuary roof, front façade, chapel wall, etc.), as well as an update of our current financial status. As a result of this meeting:

A motion was approved to allow the session to draw on the Fulk fund to pay for session approved building repairs with a new balance of \$200,000 that would require future congregational approval before dipping below.

A second motion was approved to place the Annex, 63 N. Third Street, on the market.

A copy of the meeting minutes, property report, financial report and letter shared from Sarah Bowles, Ruling Elder, will be available from the office if you are interested in more detail. Also, feel free to direct questions to the members of session. We will continue to accept contributions to the capital campaign in hopes of not needing to reduce the investment account below the original stated limit, and we hope the annex might find a buyer this time around.

Priscilla Hare, Clerk of Session

## A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT



"Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.

Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart."

2 Corinthians 3:4-5, 4:1

Amen.

## PROPERTY REPORT

### FPC June 2025 Property Report:

The estimate for the front facade repair is \$216,625.00. The estimate was approved and work will start after the contract is approved by session.



The work on the southwest corner of the chapel was approved and will start as soon as the weather permits. Estimated cost is \$7,350.00

The sanctuary roof replacement estimate is \$85,000.00 provided that we don't run into unseen damage. Hopefully that work will start in August.

The commercial refrigerator in the kitchen has been replaced. The cost was \$2,376.40. The cost was donated.

The sanctuary AC has been repaired and the cost of \$680.00 has been donated.

- The Property Committee

## FINANCE REPORT

As of Friday, June 20, 2025, the account balances are:

- Checking: \$9,556.21 – this includes \$5,500.00 that has been designated for capital improvements.
- Savings: \$16,311.96 – this includes \$14,800 that has been designated for capital improvements.
- The total 2024 and 2025 giving designated for capital improvements is \$20,300.00

-Keith Hare, FPC Finance Chairman