
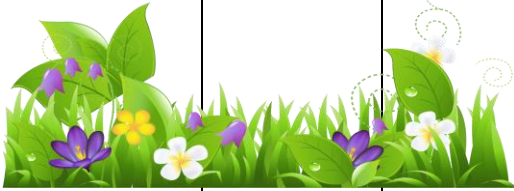




Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						
2	3 10a-Noon Watercolor 6:30p Alpha #10	4 5:30p E&O 6p Church Life	5 6:15p – Bells Practice 7:15p – Choir Practice	6 10a Good Morning Bible Study 6:30p NA 7p Women’s AA Group	7 	8
9 9:15-10:15 Sunday School 10:15-10:45- Coffee Hour 10:45 – Noon Worship – Palm Sunday	10 10a-Noon Watercolor 6:30p Alpha Celebration Dinner	11 Noon SPARK 5p.NARFE (CE) 8p NA	12 6:15p – Bells Practice 7:15p – Choir Practice	13 10a GM Bible Study 5:30p – Potluck Supper 6:30p – Maundy Thursday Cantata	14 Noon – 3p – Good Friday Tre Ora Service @ Christ United Methodist Church	15
16 6:30a – Easter Sunrise Service @ Hanover 9:15-10:15 Sunday School 10:15-10:45-Coffee Hour 10:45 – Noon Worship – Easter Sunday	17 10a-Noon Watercolor 	18 12p SPARK Free Lunch 8p NA	19 Noon - Lunch Bunch @ Red Lobster 6:15p – Bells Practice 7:15p – Choir	20 10a Good Morning Bible Study 6:30p NA 7p Women’s AA Group	21 	22
23 9:15-10:15 Sunday School 10:15-10:45- Coffee Hour 10:45 – Noon Worship	24 10a-Noon Watercolor	25 Noon SPARK Free Lunch 6:30p Gideon’s 8p NA	26 6:15p – Bells Practice 7:15p – Choir Practice	27 10a GM Bible Study 6:30p NA 6:30p Session 7p Women’s AA Group	28	29
30 9:15-10:15 Sunday School 10:15-10:45- Coffee Hour 10:45 – Noon Worship - Anointing Service	1 10a-Noon Watercolor	2 Noon SPARK Free Lunch 8p NA	3 6:15p – Bells Practice 7:15p – Choir Practice	4 10a Good Morning Bible Study 12:20p National Day of Prayer Service @ City Hall 7p Women’s AA Group	5 	6

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
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March

			<p>1 Noon Ash Wednesday Service @ 2nd</p> <p>7p Ash Wednesday Service in Chapel</p>	<p>2 10a Good Morning Bible Study</p> <p>6:30p NA</p> <p>7p Women's AA Group</p>		
<p>5 9:15-10:15 Sunday School</p> <p>10:15-10:45-Coffee Hour</p> <p>10:45 – Noon Worship</p>	<p>6 10a-Noon Watercolor</p> <p>6:30p Alpha #6</p>	<p>7 Noon SPARK Free Lunch</p> <p>5:30p – E&O</p> <p>6p – Church Life</p> <p>8p. NA</p>	<p>8 6:15p – Bells Practice</p> <p>7:15p – Choir Practice</p>	<p>9 10a GM Bible Study</p> <p>6:30p Alpha Team Meeting</p> <p>6:30p NA</p> <p>7p Women's AA Group</p>		
<p>12 9:15-10:15 Sunday School</p> <p>10:15-10:45-Coffee Hour</p> <p>10:45 – Noon Worship</p> <p>Noon - CE</p> <p>Daylight Saving Time Begins</p>	<p>13 10a-Noon Watercolor</p> <p>6:30p Alpha #7</p>	<p>14 Noon SPARK</p> <p>5p. NARFE (Church Lf)</p> <p>8p. NA</p>	<p>15 6:15p – Bells Practice</p> <p>7:15p – Choir Practice</p>	<p>16 10a Good Morning Bible Study</p> <p>4p. Candlewick Dinner</p> <p>6p B&F</p> <p>6:30p NA</p> <p>7p Women's AA Group</p>		
<p>19 9:15-10:15 Sunday School</p> <p>10:15-10:45-Coffee Hour</p> <p>10:45 – Noon Worship</p>	<p>20 10a-Noon Watercolor</p> <p>6:30p Alpha #8</p>	<p>21 Noon SPARK</p> <p>Free Lunch</p> <p>8p. NA</p>	<p>22 6:15p – Bells Practice</p> <p>7:15p – Choir Practice</p>	<p>23 9:30a NCS Organ Concert</p> <p>10a GM Bible Study</p> <p>6:30p NA</p> <p>6:30p Session</p> <p>7p Women's AA Group</p>		<p>25 Fellowship Hall RSVD</p> <p>Noon-4:30p</p>
<p>26 9:15-10:15 Sunday School</p> <p>10:15-10:45-Coffee Hour</p> <p>10:45 – Noon Worship</p>	<p>27 10a-Noon Watercolor</p> <p>6:30p Alpha #9</p>	<p>28 Noon SPARK</p> <p>Free Lunch</p> <p>6:30p Gideons</p> <p>8p. NA</p>	<p>29 6:15p – Bells Practice</p> <p>7:15p – Choir Practice</p>	<p>30 10a Good Morning Bible Study</p> <p>6:30p NA</p> <p>7p Women's AA Group</p>		

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Pastor's E-mail: firstnewark@gmail.com
Church E-mail: firstpresofc@gmail.com
Web Address: www.1stpreshnewark.com

Rev. Steven Brand, Pastor
Angie Klinker, Secretary
Ann Robinson, Organist
Barb Jobes, Treasurer
Gary Collins, Custodian
Zac Marquart, Choir Director

Lenten Activities

March 1: Noon- Ash Wed Service @ 2nd Pres
March 1: 7pm- Ash Wed Service in the Chapel
March 23: 10a- NCS Organ Concert!
April 9: Palm Sunday
April 13: 5:30-6:30p- Maundy Thursday Potluck Supper
April 13: 6:30p – Maundy Thursday Easter Cantata
April 14: Noon-3p- Good Friday- Tre Ora Service @ Christ United Methodist
April 16: 6:30a – Easter Sunrise Service @ Hanover Pres, Followed by Breakfast
April 16: Easter Sunday!



March

Behind the Stained Glass

Lent is upon us. We are in the 40-day window in which all Christians are encouraged to prepare for Easter Sunday. What does that even mean? There really aren't that many preparations to make for Easter. It takes all of Advent to get ready for Christmas, but Easter only needs a few days, a week tops. At our house, we buy some candy and go into the basement for the baskets. Throw in a trip to Kohl's for some dress clothes and 10 minutes decorating eggs and we are ready for Easter. So why all 40 days? Why is it so hard that we even get to take Sundays off?

In popular culture, Lent is a time to give something up. We give up a luxury of life for a few weeks. We give up chocolate or pop; we give up caffeine or make some other kind of small sacrifice. The idea goes that Jesus sacrificed for us and in our sacrificial act we come to better understand what he has done for us. Most of the time these sacrifices even serve a double purpose. They count for Lent and make us healthier. If giving up caffeine or chocolate or pop is that hard for you, you are drinking way too much of it. So, we get to do our Christianly duty and might even lose a pound or two. That all seems pretty weak to me.

Lent is a time to give up something, but not your favorite snack or a mild addiction. Lent is a time to give up a little more control to Jesus. In Lent we are preparing to witness and accept anew the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are preparing to witness and accept anew the Lordship of Christ. We do that by doing more of what he told us to do in our daily lives. Jesus revealed to us a lot about how he wants us to live in the Scriptures, but if I could boil it down to a few things, I would say that Jesus told us to live a life of understanding who we truly are and loving one another. We are broken people in need of a savior. God loves everyone and wants them to know the savior as well. If we can spend Lent coming to grips with who we really are... If we can spend Lent realizing that God wants us to love everyone... Then we would be ready for Easter Sunday!

Historically, Lent has been about preparing for Easter through **prayer, doing penance, repentance of sins, almsgiving, atonement, and self-denial**. **Prayer** helps us get ready for Easter when we are diligent in asking God for help. We need to spend the next 40 days asking for God to help us. Too often our prayers go un-prayed or they are only asking God to do stuff for us. Prayer for God's help admits that we can't do something on our own, but agrees to be an active part of the solution. **Penance** at its best, is doing something to make up for a wrong doing. Penance helps us get ready for Easter by showing us that we have taken an active role in wrongdoing, so we can take an active role in making it right. **Repentance** of sins helps us get ready for Easter by admitting to God that he knows best and what we are doing is keeping our relationship distant.

Almsgiving is giving to the needy. Jesus told us to share with those around us. Too often we let our money take the place of Jesus. We put our trust in our savings, we put our faith in the market, and we judge others by how much money they have. When we share our treasures, we prepare for Easter by putting our faith directly in charge of our false gods. **Atonement** means forgiveness. Only Jesus can forgive our sins, but we are to forgive the sins of those around us. When we forgive we say to God that Justice is in His hands and we reveal the love of God to others. Grudges only hide God's grace from those who hold them. **Self-denial** is denying ourselves something we have mistaken as a necessity. This isn't the same as doing without. Self-denial isn't giving up all our food, giving away all your money, living unsheltered, or giving up everything. John the Baptist says to give a cloak to those who don't have one, if you have two. Paul says don't share so that you have nothing, share so that there can be equality. Self-denial is saying that we have mistaken a luxury for a necessity; we have overestimated how much of something we need. My sinful self has told me to keep buying well past the point of need. My sinful self has told me to keep building bigger storehouses. Self-denial helps us get ready for Easter by keeping greed at bay.

The next two months I am going to be doing a sermon series about the radical preparation Lent is supposed to be. I am calling it 'Lent Out on a Limb'. The idea is that a life following Jesus is supposed to leave us feeling vulnerable. Following after Jesus is supposed to be so counter to the ways of this world that other people wonder what is wrong with us. I saw a quote once that says: 'Why not go out on a limb? That is where all the fruit is.' Safe discipleship leads to minimal reward. Discipleship that takes us out on the limb leads to amazing fruit. Join me this Lent for real, daring preparation.

In Christ,



Rev. Steven Brand

Worship

March Sermons

- 5- Lent Out on a Limb – Ask for Help
- 12- Lent Out on a Limb – Admit Mistakes
- 19- Lent Out on a Limb – Say You Are Sorry
- 26- Lent Out on a Limb – Share

April Sermons

- 2- Lent Out on a Limb – Reveal Weakness
- 9- Lent Out on a Limb – Do Without
- 16- Lent Out on a Limb – Mend Fences
- 23- Lent Out on a Limb – Keep Trying
- 30- Taking & Giving- Matthew 20



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.

Easter Choir – Over the season of Lent the choir will be doing several different services. If you would like to take part just over the Lenten season or for only the Maundy Thursday Cantata, please see Zac or come to choir rehearsal.

Bell Choir – Bell Choir practices every 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.



Maundy Thursday Easter Cantata and Potluck Dinner – At 5:30pm on April 13th come to a potluck supper in Fellowship Hall in celebration of Maundy Thursday. Sloppy Joes and Shredded Chicken will be provided. Bring a dish to share or a dessert to divide. At 6:30 the choir will be performing a special Maundy Thursday Cantata. The cantata is entitled: 'The Weeping Tree'. It tells the story of the crucifixion through the eyes of the tree cut down to become the cross. It is a very moving and symbolic piece about one of the darkest days in human history. The service will also have communion. Even this dark day was the beginning of new life in the blood of Jesus. Please remember that many churches do not have services on Maundy Thursday. This would be a great day to invite others.



Lenten Lunch Services- Second Presbyterian hosts weekly lunch services each Wednesday of Lent. Each week a different local congregation runs the event. There is a half hour worship service led by the pastor of the host congregation followed by lunch at a cost of \$7. Here is a list of host churches: March 8- Trinity Episcopal, March 15 – St. Paul's Lutheran, March 22- Trinity AME, March 29- 1st United Methodist & April 5 – Central Christian. First Presbyterian hosted on Ash Wednesday.



Easter Morning Sunrise Service – Join us at Hanover Presbyterian Church for a Presbyterian Community Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30am. The service will be outside weather permitting. This will be a good opportunity to worship with our Presbyterian brothers and sisters. Please join us. After the service we will all have breakfast together. Hanover is providing the drinks, location and flatware. The breakfast is a potluck. See Rev. Steve if you would like to bring a dish.

Ash Wednesday Service

March 1st @ 7:00pm
First Presbyterian Church
(In the Chapel)

FEATURING: HYMNS, COMMUNION,
IMPOSITION OF ASHES, AND PRAYER

Come worship with us on this
first day of Lent.



Community Good Friday Service ~ The Tre Ora service (literally 3 hours) is a Good Friday tradition. The service features 7 segments, each segment contains a hymn, a choral anthem, a prayer and a sermon based on the 7 last lines of Jesus from the cross. Each sermon is done by a different local pastor and there are three local choirs participating with music. You are free to come and go as you please, most do not stay the full 3 hours. Friday, April 14th from Noon - 3pm at Christ United Methodist Church.



Anointing Service on April 30th ~ We are on the verge of a new season in the Church. It is a season of change as we pass through Lent and look to spring. This is also the season of new life as we look around us at all of the new life growing in nature and the new life offered to us in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. 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. April 30th during worship we will have a service of anointing and laying on of hands.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE ~ May 4th at 12:20 on the Steps of City Hall. Join us as we pray for our country. The service includes music by the kids of Newark's Catholic Elementary schools, and prayers for different parts of our nation and city given by local pastors and officials.



Gluten Free Communion Available Now: We now have gluten free communion wafers available for anyone who wants them. They will be located in the communion cup trays.



NCS Organ Concert – Thursday March 23rd - All 4th grades from Newark City Schools will be descending on our church, First Pres!!! They will be listening to one

of the few pipe organs left in Licking County and Baroque composers such as Bach and Handel. First Pres folks are more than welcome to attend, but the sanctuary will be filled, so get a good seat early. Other music teachers in NCS will be performing as well. We will be in need of helpers at the door, seating the children in the balcony and floor area. Getting the kids to and from buses. Please let Rev Steve and/or Ann Robinson know if you can help. THE CONCERT BEGINS PROMPTLY at 9:30 a.m. and will conclude around 10:30 a.m.



Christian Education

Sunday Morning Adult Elective - *Easter Uncut* is the Lenten study for the Adult Sunday School class. Beginning March 5th, we will look at the final week of Christ's life through the eyes of the Apostle John as if we were reading pages from his diary. We will review the biblical account and consider its relevance to us today. Books are not required, but if you would be interested in purchasing one [\$4.00 - if able], see Peggy Lieb. Please join us in the Journey Room at 9:15 on Sundays.



Vacation Bible School will be July 10-15th here at 1st Presbyterian. More details to follow. We are looking for several volunteers who are willing to work with the pre-school kids. The last few years' pre-school aged children have made up half of our total attendance. This is a common phenomenon around the country. We want to take advantage of this by really pushing the pre-school aged children. They are the key to the future of VBS and a ripe part of God's harvest. Let's put priority where God is working. If you are willing to work with those kids see Rev. Steve, Diana Brand or Ed Jobs.

Extended Church, Nursery & Kids Activity Packs are available every Sunday. See Ed Jobs for details.

Missions

"The Importance of Not Waiting and The Power of Prayer"

How wonderful to see God working in & through so many lives! As we follow our call, we get to experience it each new day. We get to give thanks for

2017

Easter Flowers

In HONOR of: _____

In MEMORY of: _____

Given by: _____

Total number of plants: _____ @ \$8 each Total \$\$
enclosed: _____

Order deadline: March 26, 2017

Feel free to use the back of this form for additional flower dedications
If using this form, please include payment with order

Church Life

Fellowship Hour - 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.

Kate Blamer Bridal Shower: You are invited to attend a bridal shower for Kate Blamer, on Saturday, March 25, at 2:00 p.m in Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to Deb Blamer by March 15 at 740-344-2298 or dblamer@hotmail.com.

Lunch Bunch

Come to Red Lobster
Wednesday April 19th @ Noon
for food and fellowship.
Everyone is invited. Please
RSVP to Rose Gibson 587-2095
or Louise Whitis at
345-5426.



all our blessings and answered prayers. How awesome it is to simply look up at the sky on a clear night and admire His handiwork! That same God that wove together the fabric of the stars has also woven together our lives. He is ever present, always faithful, just, and true. That same God gave us Jesus! That same God loves us that much, and it is a privilege to pray to that same omnipotent God.

Have you ever pulled off the side of the road to use your cell phone or simply to adjust something in your vehicle? Have you ever just pulled over for a quick prayer? Maybe you're driving along thinking about all the things you need to do that day or in the near future, like visiting someone, or sending a card, calling them, or just praying for them; then you arrive at your destination and all those things on that to-do list are temporarily forgotten? We've all heard the expression, "don't put off till tomorrow what you can do today." We do not know what tomorrow will bring, or even if we will have a tomorrow. Only God knows these things and it is in Him that we place our "all" ...our praise, our trust, our fear, our requests...our lives!

We rest in the joy, peace, and hope of Jesus Christ. It is through Jesus we pray to our Father in Heaven. How blessed we are to live in a place where these things are our right to do openly, without the fear of being put to death for what we believe! We support many missionaries who are spreading the Gospel in areas that may not receive them so well. They may face persecutions, jail, even death, not to mention missing the comforts of home & family. We all need prayer, and we all need it daily! Those who are traveling, in harm's way, dealing with sickness, longing, persecution, or just have the need to feel refreshed in God's Spirit; need prayers daily.

We all need to know that, "Hey, there are people out there praying for me every single day!" For those we support, as well as for each other, it is vitally important that we pray fervently for one another. Please remember to pray for our missionaries and persecuted Christians around the globe this Easter season and all the year through. Please don't put it off! Give thanks and pray daily. It is not only our right, and our call, it is an opportunity to be closer to God. It is a privilege and our duty as Christians.

Love in the Kingdom,

Tracee Barr

News Updates:

Many thanks to all who helped with the shoe boxes for OCC! They were well received, even in the hard to reach places! For more info on them, go to the following website: <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/follow-your-box-lookup/>.

From David & Joy Miller:

This duo is busy spreading the Gospel through housing and hosting international students. Here is just one of the ways they do this... "In Mainland China, Christians are discriminated against in getting education, so there are fewer of them in universities, and official Marxist doctrine is strictly materialist. As a result, most Chinese university students think of Christianity as outdated, superstitious, and "unscientific," something like ancestor worship. For this reason, they're rather struck when well-educated people in the sciences say that they're Christians. When they find out that Joy's a Christian "but" has a doctorate in chemistry and works in pharmaceuticals, they often want to talk with her to see how this strange combination can exist. So periodically we host a Chinese couple, medical doctor and chemistry PhD, to come to give lectures on "Faith and Science" at MIT in Cambridge and in Worcester (Worcester Polytechnic, Clark University, Worcester State, and University of Massachusetts Medical School). More than half of the lectures are in Mandarin."

Heartbeats connecting with incarcerated women:

A special team of trained and experienced Client Consultants are now going into the local jail on a regular basis to connect with women who may need the hope, help and healing that Heartbeats can provide while they are incarcerated. Moms can earn points through their 'Earn While You Learn' program and learn valuable information about parenting in the process! Additionally, they can work one on one with participants to help them establish and achieve personal goals and greater development in areas of concern in their life. They have been blessed to connect with 15 women who were anxiously awaiting the first session! Pray for the team and this opportunity to share the love of Jesus!

Here are a few words from the Knudsons:

"Praise: We PRAISE the LORD for HIS provision for the school in granting us the license to run. HIS timing is always perfect and we have learned a lot in waiting

IN Him through it all! Praise the Lord that Joshua and Johanna B. (SIM International director) could come to Bolivia to visit and give us an update on what God is doing around the world- how exciting, encouraging and challenging!

Please pray for Paul's mom as she takes care of our kids while we travel to Greece for the Leadership seminar. Pray that we will be renewed and encouraged as well as encouraging others there."

Mahon's update:

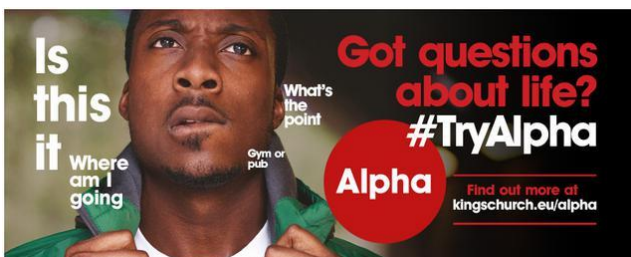
"Thank you so much for your prayers. The surgery went well last week to remove the pin and screw from my heel, so I am now in a walking boot and trying to get my atrophied muscles back. It will take a while, but the big praise is that everything inside is fully healed and I can put full weight on that heel again."

Evangelism & Outreach

Alpha- The second session of Alpha has begun and is off to a very good start. We have 15-17 people attending every week, with members of 1st Pres and their friends participating. Behind the scenes we have 7 committed prayer warriors lifting us up every Monday evening and 4 helping in the kitchen, as well as 8 leading table discussions. The meals are fabulous, the videos are very well done and the discussions around the table are filled with good conversation.

In the coming weeks we will be talking about prayer, the Bible, the role of the Holy Spirit, how God guides us and other topics. The highlight of Alpha is an all-day Saturday retreat which will be held at the Birtcher's home on March 18th. Please pray for Alpha, especially for our retreat. We will conclude on Monday, April 3rd with our Celebration Dinner which is open to the entire congregation, friends and family. It's a great way to see what Alpha is all about.

The next session of Alpha will be held this fall, beginning around Labor Day. If you would like to know more about Alpha, please contact Peggy Lieb or Kim Dershem.



Alpha @ 1st Presbyterian Church
65 N 3rd Street, Newark
Monday's Starting January 30th at 6:30 p.m.
Alpha is a dinner | talk | and a discussion

All for the purpose of Exploring Life in a safe, judgement free, encouraging space.

For more information email
1stpresnewarkALPHA@gmail.com
or go to www.alphausa.org

alphausa.org
#alphausa



One Great Hour of Sharing has a long history of doing good work in the name of Christ. It started in 1949 as an hour-long radio appeal aimed at raising the funds necessary to provide relief and reconstruction after World War II. It has evolved over the years varying from eight to twenty-nine participating denominations and is the most participated in offering of PC(USA).

Our church has received this offering since the beginning during the Lenten Season each year. It fits well into the historical practices of fasting, giving up food or other things and devoting ourselves to prayer, study and devotion to God as we contemplate all Jesus did for us on the cross during the season of Lent.

This year, One Great Hour of sharing is calling us to consider a new kind of fast, sharing bread instead of giving it up. Isaiah 58 calls us to loose the bonds of injustice, let the oppressed go free, invite the homeless into our homes and share bread with the hungry. When we do these things, Isaiah tells us that our light will shine, and we will be known as, "repairers of the breach, restorers of streets to live in". The offering will be equally divided among the local Salvation Army, World Vision and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. It will be collected between Wednesday, March 1 and Palm Sunday, April 9, 2017.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human caused disasters both in the United States and around the world. In 2016, OGHs provided grants for church fires, floods, hurricanes, refugee ministry, tornadoes and wildfires in the USA. It provided grants to countless countries outside the USA including Haiti, South Sudan, Syria, Lebanon, Malawi and the Philippines.

Our local Salvation Army extends a hand of compassion to the hungry, homeless and forgotten people of our county. Their programs include: a homeless shelter, help with long-term housing, daily nutritious meals, rehabilitation programs, clothing, programs for children and holiday assistance.

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families and communities, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion or gender to reach their full potential by tracking the causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision serves the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. They provide access to sustainable clean water, food, healthcare, safe living space and education for over 4.1 million children. They responded to 130 humanitarian crises and assisted more than 15.4 million disaster survivors. This organization also assisted more than 12.2 refugees.

You will find banks and sharing calendars and special offering envelopes in the sanctuary. May God bless you as you give to this very special offering!!

CANDLEWICK COMMONS

Once again this year we will be sharing a meal and fellowship with our neighbors at Candlewick Commons every three months. The dates are March 16, June 8, September 14 and December 14, 2017. It is a fun time for all, and everyone is invited to these outreaches.

On March 16 we will enjoy chicken, potatoes, vegetable, salad, dessert and drinks. We will have a sign-up sheet in the sanctuary to donate a dessert. We hope you can come to enjoy these very special people.

If you have questions, call Gaye Gibson at 740-344-3933 or email at lgayegibson@gmail.com.

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.

Congregational Care

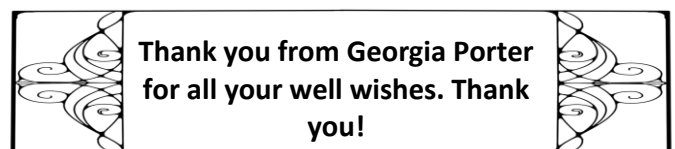
Hello Friends and Family of First Pres! We strive to do our best in reaching out to those in our congregation. If you have any changes in your address, email, or phones, be sure to let us know. There are forms in the back of the church for anyone to make updates; or you may call the office @ 740-345-1480.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

FYI

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. March (Church Life), April (Christian Ed).



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.



March Birthdays

March 1 – Joe Nichols
 March 6 – Erin Montgomery
 March 14 – Hannah Weekly
 March 16 – Becky Mahon
 March 21 – Calvin Brand
 March 21 – Seth Cain
 March 27 – Marilyn Stocker
 March 28- Brennen Bardsley
 March 29 – Karen Fish

Anniversaries

March 21- Brandon & Michelle Gilbert



Session

February Annual Congregational Meeting

Summary- During the Worship Service on Sunday, February 12, 2017, Elder Karen Birtcher was ordained and installed and Rose Gibson and Keith Hare were installed to the office of Elder for the class of 2019.

The annual meeting of the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church, Newark, Ohio convened in Fellowship Hall at 12:15 p.m., Sunday, February 12, 2017. The Rev. Steven B. Brand moderated the meeting

Rev. Brand presented his report stating that the word for 2017 is ENGAGED which means to occupy, attract or involve (someone's interest or attention). We need to be about engagement. We need to seek out ways to allow people to find meaning, use their gifts, build relationships, see positive change and work to the positive change for Newark that we all want.

Clerk Kimberly Dershem presented the following statistical report for 2016:

2016 CHURCH MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Communicant Membership	
January 1, 2016	146
Received – Profession of Faith	1
Losses – Deaths	1
Communicant Membership	
December 31, 2016	146

Received: Profession-Joshua L. Mitzel on July 24

Deaths- Elder Thomas R. Fish on July 1, 2016, burial at Stavanger Lutheran Cemetery, Seneca, Illinois

Baptisms- July 24, 2016
 Joshua Lynn Mitzel
 Katherine Zoe Mitzel
 Elijah Aaron Mitzel

Congregational Care Team Chair Ann Robinson presented the work of the Deacons that has been transferred to them. Following questions and discussion from the congregation, a motion was made, seconded and carried to change the by-laws



Organ Dedication and Hymn Festival

March 26
 at 2 pm

Come Celebrate the Restoration, Rebuilding and Enhancement of the Bunn-Minnick Pipe Organ at Second Presbyterian Church.



SCRIP CARDS

–VS–

FUEL POINTS



The Deal = Spend \$50 at Giant Eagle
 Get 10¢ off 1 Gallon of Gas
The Reward = \$1 per 10 Gallons of Gas
Savings = **2%**



The Deal = Spend \$100 at Kroger
 Get 10¢ off 1 Gallon of Gas
The Reward = \$1 per 10 Gallons of Gas
Savings = **1%**

–VS–



The Deal = Buy a gift cards for stores or restaurants that you go to anyway.
The Reward = The church gets a percentage of the sale anywhere from 1-12% with specials that go up to 25%.
Savings = Average of **4.3%!**

by eliminating section 3.15 entirely, officially closing the Deacon Board.



Treasurer Barbara Jobs reported that the 2016 budget was \$182,852 and the expenses were \$174,490.51. The treasurer's report included 2016 expenses, the profit/loss statement, specified funds, memorials and line of credit usage. In 2016, 12,352.19 was used from the line of credit. Barbara Jobs has been elected Treasurer by the Session for 2017.

Personnel Committee Elder Louise Whitis shared that Rev. Brand's financial package for 2017 will remain the same as 2016. A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the financial package.

A by-law change to the section 3.16 Nominating Committee 3.16 was proposed by Session, seconded and carried as follows:



There shall be a representative Nominating Committee consisting of **five** members. **This committee should be made up of men and women of different ages who reflect the diversity of the congregation.** These **five** members include: One Elder from the Session who will serve as Chair of the Committee, One member who will serve as Co-Chair of the Committee, **three other members of the congregation** and the Pastor, who serves ex-officio. (**Bold**=Wording that changed)

The following names were presented into nomination for the Nominating Committee for 2017: Louise Whitis, Chair; Georgia Porter, Co-Chair; Debbie Blamer; Timothy Detrick; Mary Jo Deweese; Lois Spangler & Rev. Steven Brand, Ex-officio.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to close nominations and unanimously elect the above slate.

Budget and Finance Committee Chair Keith Hare thanked James Johnson for serving as chair for nine years. Audits were completed in March for 2015. Audits for May and October of 2016 were also completed.

To meet 2016 expenses, \$10,952.49 of the invested funds was used. However the total amount of invested funds remains greater than it was at the beginning of 2016.

The 2017 budget of \$185,544 was presented. Items of note included that giving for 2016 saw an increase which also increased the mission budget; and the property budget was increased from \$11,000 to \$12,000. A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the budget as presented.

Christian Education and Scholarship Committee Chair Edward Jobs reported that the scholarship investments are not doing as well as in years past, so they will take on two NARFE Dinners to augment the funds presented in 2017.



ALPHA Course director Peggy Lieb reported that the first course held in the fall had a positive response with an average attendance of 13 and a support team of 15. The program was completely funded by donations.

Church Life Committee Chair Deitera Weekly reported that the committee had taken on the 50-Year Member Recognition from the former Deacon Board. The additions of the Lunch Bunch which meets in restaurants every other month and a Soup Competition were well received.

Evangelism and Outreach Committee Chair Kimberly Dershem reported that budgeted missionaries were again kept at the 2015 level of giving despite a reduction in general budget funding. To maintain the needed total of \$19,211, a withdrawal of \$6,000 was taken from the Mahon Bequest invested funds to cover the years 2015 and 2016.

In addition, the following written annual reports were reviewed and discussed: Church Officers and Staff; Christian Education, Family and Youth; Property; and Worship and Music.

A discussion was held on removal or relocation of memorial items. Rev. Brand reminded all that memorials serve their purpose and this does not take away from the memorial or what the honored have done. Other comments included: Everything in the church is given by someone even without a plaque. Keep the memorial as a memorial and don't worship the object. Make a memory tree with plaques for all donated items on it.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to suspend the ecclesiastical portion of the meeting in order to begin the meeting of the corporation. The clerk declared that a quorum was present. Rev. Brand declared the meeting of the corporation open.

Gary Deweese, 2017 Chair of the Property Committee, was nominated as President of the Corporation. A motion was made, seconded and carried to elect Gary Deweese as President of the Corporation.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to close the meeting of the corporation.

February Session Meeting

Elder Training was given by Treasurer Barbara Jobs regarding procedures for money and checks, invoices and receipts, check requests, monthly and quarterly reporting.

Clerk's Report

A motion was made and approved by email on January 31, 2017 to present the proposed by-law change to the congregation regarding section 3.15 Deacons. The proposal is to eliminate section 3.15 entirely, officially closing the Deacon Board.

A motion was made and approved by email on January 31, 2017 to present the proposed by-law change to the congregation regarding section 3.16 Nominating Committee. The proposal states: There shall be a representative Nominating Committee consisting of five members. This committee should be made up of men and women of different ages who reflect the diversity of the congregation. These five members include: One Elder from the Session who will serve as the Chair of the Committee, One member who will serve as Co-Chair of the Committee, three other members of the congregation and the Pastor, who serves ex-officio.

A motion was made and approved by email on January 31, 2017 to present the proposed 2017 budget to the congregation for a vote.

Pastor's Report

Following discussion, a motion was made, seconded and carried to use SCRIP funds to purchase 10 new library chairs. Louise Whitis will research 2-3 stores and report in March.

By consensus, Session approved that a list of memorials for the current year will be listed in the annual report.

Church Life Committee reported that there was good attendance at the Lunch Bunch in February.

Congregational Care Team reported that districts have been reduced, rearranged and refocused. New team directories are being prepared.

Evangelism and Outreach Committee reported that the Wilson Gift Card Fundraiser will continue through March. One Great Hour of Sharing begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1.

Personnel Committee reported that all memos of understanding have been signed by staff.

Property Committee reported that 2 new doors have been ordered for those damaged in break-in. The damages were not reported to the insurance company as the costs were less than the deductible of \$1,500.



Worship and Music Committee reported that gluten-free wafers will be available for communion services. Ash Wednesday service will be on March 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel.

Rev. Brand will lead the first Lenten service at Second Presbyterian on Ash Wednesday at noon followed by lunch prepared by the church members. On Maundy Thursday, April 13, there will be a carry-in dinner at 5:30 p.m. with sandwiches provided. The choir will lead the service in the sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. with the cantata, The Weeping Tree.

Tre Ora Good Friday Services will be held on April 14 from noon to 3:00 p.m. at Christ United Methodist Church.

Hanover Presbyterian has invited the church to attend their Easter Sunrise Service.

Rotary Park has been reserved for the area Presbyterian churches' outdoor service and picnic on September 17.



Budget and Finance Committee stated that reports have been held up as the bank lost the December 25, 2016 deposit until January and the break-in made it necessary to go through all envelopes and paper work that was disturbed. All reports will be sent by email.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the recommendation of the treasurer to the Budget and Finance Committee for a simplified method of reporting the specified funds.

Old Business

Rev. Brand designed and made a cross that now hangs in the hall outside the library.

The next meeting will be Thursday, March 23 at 6:30 p.m.

Paul, Christy, Abby, Caleb & Caitlyn Knudson SIM/MAE Cajon 736 Cochabamba, BOLIVIA	Mark, Jenny, Annika & Keila Hare Apdo 48 Barahona Dominican Republic West Indies
Phil and Ruth Saks 26314 Harriet Street Dearborn Heights, MI 48127	John and Gwen Haspels (Retired) 216 E. 6th Halstead, KS 67056
Mike, Nancy & Daniel Mahon Apartado 22 Pucallpa, Peru	Bevan and Laura Stein Socovce 8 038 43 Klastor pod Znievom Slovakia
Annette Mahon (through 2015-16 school year) Box L-2671 800 Martinsburg Rd. Mt. Vernon, Ohio 43050	Drs. Leroy and Marylou Peters Midwest Regional Representatives New Tribes Mission Representatives 8020 Brainard Woods Drive Centerville, Ohio 45458
Rick and Laura Leatherwood Kairos International 2626 Pine Ave. Waco, TX 76708	David and Joy Miller Boston Int.l Student Ministry 66 Bradlee Road Medford, MA 02156
Bob, Gabi, Luka & Filip Jakimovski S. Dobrev 2210 Probstip Republic of Macedonia Mob +389 71 396 187	Montana de Luz P. O. Box 410 Worthington, OH 43085 Postage Cost: Maximum envelope size: 11 ½ x 6 1/8 x ¼ US (1 oz or less) 49¢ International \$1.15

MISSIONARY EASTER CARD LIST

"An Opportunity to Extend God's Love to Our Missionaries"

The Evangelism and Outreach Committee is offering you the opportunity to touch the lives of the missionaries that we support. How about sending Easter Cards to our missionaries? Think about going beyond financial support and letting them know that we think about and pray for them in their work for the Lord. Sending a Easter card can be a great encouragement to them. **Mailing Directions**

- When you sign a card to a missionary, it would probably be nice to add First Presbyterian, Newark, OH below your name. That way the missionaries will be able to put your name with a place.
- **Costs for overseas mailings are below.** Probably the sooner you can get items in the mail the better chance of arrival close to Easter.

- **Montana de Luz-Special directions:** If you choose to send a card to Montana de Luz, please send a card for the whole group of children, the whole group of staff or just one general card for the whole group. These cards need to be mailed to the address below and will be taken down with the next team.

Wilson Gift Cards for Outreach

The Evangelism and Outreach Committee will be taking orders for Wilsons Garden Center Gift Cards between February 1 and March 31.

- * The cards will be sold by prepaid order by Sunday, March 26 and will be delivered on Sunday, April 2.
- * You can use the order form below or a form from the sign-up table. Make your check out to First Presbyterian Church with Wilson Gift Card in the memo line. Orders can be given to Debbie Blamer or dropped into the offering plate.
- *For each \$25.00 card purchased \$5.00 goes to the Evangelism & Outreach Committee.

Contact person: Debbie Blamer (344-2298), dblamer@hotmail.com

First Presbyterian Church-Wilson Gift Card Order Form

Name: _____

Phone _____

I would like to order _____

Wilson Gift Cards @ \$25.00 each.

I am enclosing \$ _____

(Total Enclosed)

Date Ordered: _____

Check Number: _____

