

**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

65 North Third Street  
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740-345-1480

Church E-mail: [firstpresofc@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresofc@gmail.com)

Web Address:

[www.1stpresnewark.com](http://www.1stpresnewark.com)

Jesse Ryals, Provisional Pastor  
Dallas Dryburgh, Congregational Care Pastor  
Tara Lewellen, Music Coordinator  
Hope Labutis, Secretary  
Sheri Bogardus, Treasurer  
Gary Collins, Maintenance

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



**May– 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

**Clerk of Session** – Priscilla Hare

**Class of 2026:**

Keith Hare - Finance  
Chris Rainey - Worship

**Class of 2025:**

Sarah Bowles – Church Life  
Becky Mahon – Personnel

**Class of 2024:**

Linda Smith – Property  
Karen Fish – Evangelism & Outreach

## CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION



**Hope will be out of the office May 9, 15, & 16** to prepare for her daughter, Reagan's,

graduation. Never fear - Sheri has graciously offered to cover the office those days. Thank you, Sheri!



Reagan Grace Tabutis

Granville Christian Academy

Class of 2024

## WORSHIP

This year's 2024 Worship Committee members include Carolyn Durr, Karen Fish, Ed Jobes, and Tara Lewellen.

Carol Floyd is Secretary, Gaye Gibson is Vice Chair, and Chris Rainey is Elder Chair.

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The church looked so lovely all dressed up for Easter Sunday with lilies and mums in honor and memory of our loved ones.  
(Photo by Chris Rainey)



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We will be serving Communion on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.



## EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH

### MINUTE FOR MISSIONS



Our Candlewick Commons dinner last month was well attended and a good time of sweet fellowship...

If you would like to help serving this community, please contact Sandy Noland.



We are pleased to partner with **Heartbeats** again this year for their **2024 Campaign: Reaching Her.**

Heartbeats and other pregnancy centers are vital to communities and serve not only as an extension of the church but as a representative of Christ Himself.

In 2022 1,905 times a client was given a Bible, a consultant prayed with a client, a spiritual discussion occurred, or the gospel was shared. 1 client rededicated their life to Christ and 2 clients accepted Christ as their Savior.

Through Reaching Her we will continue to meet every client's need! **From Mother's Day through Father's Day**, your church can participate and help us to Reach Her!

If you write a check, please indicate "Heartbeats" in the memo line. You can also give online at the following link:

<https://hbfl.us/events/reaching-her-heartbeats-2023-campaign/>

Please see Karen Fish or Sandy Noland with any questions.

You may have wondered why members of your congregation have been seen carrying mops, brooms, buckets, kitchenware, and even toilet paper to church with them on Sunday morning. No, the items are not for our missions in Slovakia, Haiti, South America or some other far-flung locale (not saying that would be a bad thing.) The ministry that we are partnering with is called Starting Strong. Let me tell you just a bit about it.

Starting Strong is a program of Fostering Further. Fostering Further is an organization whose goal is to create a healthy, supportive relationship between community members and those involved in foster care in central Ohio. Two of its objectives are to encourage emancipating youth and show foster kids they're loved and not forgotten.

Fostering Further has seen 18-year olds age out of foster care



and face struggles like homelessness, pregnancy, and incarceration. That's why Starting Strong was created—to offer resources to young people 18-24 who have emancipated from foster care.

There are thousands of foster children in central Ohio. At age 18, foster children "age-out" of the foster care system - time to leave their foster nest and start out as an adult on their own. Sounds scary, doesn't it? The Starting Strong program helps teenagers launch out on their own successfully. The teens are set up in a safe, well-equipped place to live while the program connects them with community services and to help them get a job, obtain a driver's license, and learn how to live independently.

So, where does First Presbyterian Church fit into all this? Our job is easy but meaningful—we provide the supplies—Apartment Kits—necessary for a young adult to set up housekeeping. How can you worry about a job or a class when you don't have a place to call home? Each spring, there will be a list of

needed items in the rear of the sanctuary. If you're interested, sign up to provide one or more items. It will support and encourage those who are aging out and it will make your heart happy!

For any questions or more information about these programs, contact Sarah Bowles or look on the website, [www.FosteringFurther.com](http://www.FosteringFurther.com). (Submitted by Kenita Keck.)

## May Birthdays

Gary Collins 5/3  
Hope Labutis 5/7  
Gary Clark 5/29

## May Anniversaries

Sheri & Bo Bogardus 5/3  
Lisa & TJ Detrick 5/17  
Ed & Barb Jobes 5/23

## PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We have reviewed all the candidates the system has given us so far. Unfortunately, the system still seems to be missing the chunk of pastor profiles who are open to a change but not actively looking. So we are in wait and see mode, waiting for profile matches or Self-Referrals.

Prayers that the right candidate finds our profile or starts looking for a change and is matched to us. In the meantime, have conversations about our pastor search. You never know who that word of mouth information might find.

- Sarah Bowles, PNC Chairperson

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE



## CHURCH LIFE



A new Church Life initiative is taking root in the fellowship hall. You might notice some bookshelves housed with books, games, and puzzles. Feel free to borrow a book, start a new puzzle with friends, or play a game during fellowship time or coffee hour ☺

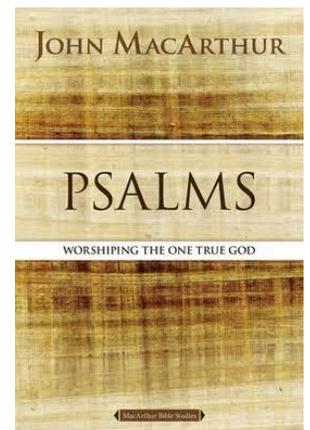
On Sunday April 28th we hosted an Apartment Kit packing



party and lunch. We were able to provide 5 full kits and donate additional items to fill their shelves for future kits to be built. THANK YOU to all who donated, packed, and prayed for these students.

## GOOD MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Good Morning Bible meets on Thursday mornings from 10-12 in the Gold Circle Room as they continue their study of The Word in the Book of Psalms. Please see Linda Smith for any questions. This Bible Study is open to all and we'd love to have you join us in fellowship and prayer!



## PROPERTY REPORT



### FPC May Property Report:

- We spent \$620 with DorMar to prepare our boiler/heating system for Columbia Gas of Ohio to come and adjust the gas pressure to keep all of our gas fired equipment working properly. This adjustment by Columbia Gas of Ohio should be finished by the end of April.
- Robert Stokes Roofing Inc., inspected the roof on an actively raining day and found six small nail hold leaks along the metal roof. These leaks will be repaired along with the replacement of the rubber roof and installation of drain cages. This work is to be done in the next month or so at the estimated cost of \$1200. We need a stretch of warm dry weather to complete this work.
- We have had a quiet month as of this report. Praise God!

Sincerely,  
Linda L Smith  
FPC Property Chairman

## FINANCE REPORT

### Church Account Balances:

As of Tuesday, April 23, 2024, the balance in the church checking account is \$11,541.09. This checking account balance does not yet reflect checks that have been written this week to pay various bills. The largest two checks are:

Per Capita	\$3,240.00
Insurance	\$1,061.22

Including the bills paid this week, our effective checking account balance is \$6,007.03.

The line of credit balance (what we owe) is zero.

The other account balances are:

SCRIP: \$1,274.53

Women's Ministry: \$1,267.84

Savings Account: \$1,500.00

The Savings Account change from last month is because session approved moving \$1,000 from checking to savings to preserve for later use some of the bequest we received in March.

## HEALTHY BACKPACK PROGRAM



We hosted a packing party Sunday, April 21 with Hanover Presbyterian Church. Thank you to our fellow Presbyterians for joining us in

this great community service.



These precious ones are serving the Lord with gladness!

## SCRIP

The next Scrip order is May 5th. 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.



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

## THANK YOU

We have had the blessing recently of some free labor here at the church. We have had a young gentleman helping us with some projects, including our lawn care, and a student working on some organizational tasks in our storage areas. Thank you both for serving the Lord here at First Presbyterian Church. We appreciate you.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Kid size clothing is needed for our 2024 OCC Packing Project.



May Suggested Shopping List

**Girls and Boys 2-4 yr. old (2T-4T sizes)**

- Socks
- Colored "tee-shirt" type shirts
- Underwear



Please Remember:

All clothing items need to be KID sizes

All purchased items must fit in a shoebox

Thank you for helping us with this important project! The OCC Box will be in the front of the Sanctuary for your donations.



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14



## NEW: EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM

The Session has approved the collection of emergency contact information in case of a medical emergency at church. Filling out this form is strictly voluntary. They will be kept securely in the church office only to be accessed in the case of a true medical emergency. If you so desire, please fill out a form and place it in the offering box OR mail it to the church office. Forms are available in the sanctuary throughout the month of May. If you have any questions, please see an Elder.



EMERGENCY CONTACTS

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Asking YOUR opinion: What kinds of studies have you loved in Sunday School in the past? What topics would you like to study? What questions would you like to explore answers for? See Sarah Bowles with any suggestions you might have for us.