






Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						
<b>9/30</b> 9:15-10:15a Sunday School 10:15-10:45a Coffee Hour 10:45-12 Worship	1 	2 11-Noon- SPARK Free Lunch 8p NA Mtg.	3 9a Y Kids Food Delivery	4 10-Noon GM Bible Study 6p Father Factor 6:30p NA 6:30p Alpha 7p Women's AA Group	5	6
7 9:15-10:15a Sunday School 10:15a Choir Meeting 10:15-10:45a Coffee Hour 10:45-Noon Worship	8 6:30p Alpha Training 	9 11-Noon- SPARK Free Lunch 5:30p E&O 8p NA Mtg.	10 7p Choir Practice	11 10-Noon GM Bible Study <b>10a Sorting Clothes            for Needy Bags</b> 6p Father Factor 6:30p NA 6:30p Alpha 7p Women's AA Group	12 <div> <b>Fellowship Hall            RSVD Collins</b> </div>	13
14 9:15-10:15a Sunday School 10:15-10:45a Coffee Hour 10:45-Noon Worship <b>2:30pm            Kristi &amp; Skyler's            Wedding</b>	15 	16 11-Noon- Spark Lunch 6p B&F 8p NA Mtg.	17 <b>Noon            Lunch            Bunch @            Nutcracker            in            Pataskala</b> 7p Choir Practice	18 9a Y Kids Food Delivery 10-Noon GM Bible Study 6p Father Factor 6:30p NA 6:30p Alpha 7p Women's AA Group	19 	20 <b>9am            Alpha            Retreat            at            Linda            Smith's            home</b>
21 9:15-10:15a Sunday School 10:15-10:45a Coffee Hour 10:45-Noon Worship <b>After Worship            candy wrapping</b>	22 	23 11-Noon- SPARK Free Lunch 6:30p Session 6:30p Gideon's 8p NA Mtg.	24 7p Choir Practice	25 10-Noon GM Bible Study <b>5:00-7:00p            Trick or Treat on the            Square</b> 6p Father Factor 6:30p NA 6:30p Alpha 7p Women's AA	26 	27
28 9:15-10:15a Sunday School 10:15-10:45a Coffee Hour 10:45-Noon Worship <b>4-8p            Shoebox            Wrapping</b> 	29	30 11-Noon- SPARK Free Lunch 8p NA Mtg.	31 7p Choir Practice 	1 9a Y Kids Food Delivery 10-Noon GM Bible Study 6p Father Factor 6:30p NA 6:30p Alpha 7p Women's AA Group	2	3

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
 <h1>NOVEMBER</h1>						
28 9:15-10:15a Sunday School 10:15-10:45a Coffee Hour 10:45-Noon Worship <b>4-8p</b> <b>Shoebox</b> <b>Wrapping</b> 	29	30 11-Noon- SPARK Free Lunch 8p NA Mtg.	31 7p Choir Practice 	1 9a Y Kids Food Delivery 10-Noon GM Bible Study 6p Father Factor 6:30p NA 6:30p Alpha 7p Women's AA Group	2 	3
<b>4 * Daylight</b> <b>savings ends</b> 9:15-10:30a <b>Missions</b> <b>Breakfast -</b> <b>Mahons</b> 10:45 –Noon Worship 	5	6 11-Noon- SPARK Free Lunch 5:30p E&O 8p NA Mtg.	7 7p Choir Practice	8 10-Noon GM Bible Study 6:30p NA 6:30 Alpha 7p Women's AA Group	9	10
<b>11 *Veteran's Day</b> 9:15-10:15a Sunday School 10:15-10:45a Coffee Hour 10:45 –Noon Worship After Worship Church Pot Luck 	12	13 11-Noon- SPARK Free Lunch 8p NA Mtg.	14 7p Choir Practice	15 9a Y Kids Food Delivery 10-Noon GM Bible Study 6:30p NA 6:30 Alpha Celebration 7p Women's AA Group	16 	17
18 9:15-10:15a Sunday School 10:15-10:45- Coffee Hour 10:45 –Noon Worship	19	20 11-Noon- SPARK Free Lunch 8p NA Mtg.	21 7p Choir Practice	22 	23	24
25 9:15-10:15a Sunday School 10:15-10:45- Coffee Hour 10:45 –Noon Worship After Worship Christmas Decoration	26 	27 11-Noon- SPARK Free Lunch 6:30p Gideon's 8p NA Mtg.	28 7p Choir Practice	29 9a Y Kids Food Delivery 10-Noon GM Bible Study 6:30p NA 7p Women's AA Group	30 	

# 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  
Ann Robinson, Organist  
Barb Jobes, Treasurer  
Gary Collins, Custodian  
Sheri Bogardus, Secretary  
Vacant, Choir Director

## Upcoming Dates:

Oct 11<sup>th</sup> – Sorting Clothes for Needy – 10am.  
Oct 14<sup>th</sup> – Kristi & Skyler's Wedding - 2:30pm.  
Oct 17<sup>th</sup> – Lunch Bunch @ the Nutcracker in Pataskala – Noon.  
Oct 20<sup>th</sup> – Alpha Retreat – 9-4pm.  
Oct 21<sup>st</sup> – Candy Packing Party – After Worship.  
Oct 28<sup>th</sup> – A Church History Celebration!  
Oct 28<sup>th</sup> – OCC Shoebox Packing Party – 2-4pm.  
Nov 4<sup>th</sup> – Mission Breakfast with the Mahon's – 9:15am.  
Nov 11<sup>th</sup> – Veteran's Sunday and Church Pot Luck.  
Nov 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Tree Decoration – After Worship.  
Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> – First Sunday in Advent.  
Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> – Trip to See Handel's Messiah at MVNU.  
Dec 6<sup>th</sup> – Sights & Sounds of Christmas.  
Dec 16<sup>th</sup> – Angie Klinker Leading Worship.  
Dec 16<sup>th</sup> – All Church Christmas Dinner – After Worship.  
Dec 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Service – 7pm.



## **Your Questions: Why Do People Argue About Small Things?**

When I was at Wickliffe Church we decided it was a good idea to repair the bathrooms. Part of this process was picking new paint colors. The guys that did most of the building maintenance did not want to make that decision. So, I thought I would do an informal poll. I brought a book of paint colors to coffee hour and started to ask people what colors they thought would be nice. No one dared to respond. The common reason went something like this: "Oh, I'm not picking paint colors. Everyone will complain about whatever color I pick." After this informal polling didn't work I tried asking people in more private situations what colors they thought were best. Still, no one would pick. Their reaction made me worried about picking colors. Would it really be that big of a deal? In the end, our organist, who was new and from Russia picked the paint colors. I thought the bathrooms ended up really nice, but many disagreed. Even those who wouldn't pick a color because they didn't want to hear the complaints, complained about the colors!

Why in the world do we do this? Why do we argue and fight, gossip and mock, belittle and judge each other over the smallest things? I did some research and the reasons tend to fit within two broad categories.

1. Arguing about small issues save us from having to deal with bigger issues.

*"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." – Matthew 7:3-5*

Many small arguments or petty complaints are covering up deeper issues. You might feel like your spouse is taking you for granted; but be afraid or unwilling to conquer that problem. This leaves us needing an outlet for our frustration. That outlet might take the form of an argument over the way your spouse loads the dishwasher. In meetings I sometimes see real discussions of serious matters become derailed by arguments over procedure or semantics. I believe that this happens when members of the meeting feel anxiety or anger over the issue at hand, but can't express that; and so they retreat into arguing something more comfortable.

When we have petty arguments or worry about things that are inconsequential, we are often avoiding the elephant in the room. When we find ourselves in this situation, we need to try to find out what is really going on. Is there a deeper issue? Am I the one that is being petty? Is something else happening in my life or theirs that is causing extra stress or anxiety? Have we had similar issues in the past?

2. Arguing about small issues creates emotional distance.

*"One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, 'Of all the commandments, which is the most important?' 'The most important one,' answered Jesus, 'is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." - Mark 12:28-3*

The idea here is that we are pushing people away for our own perceived safety. A loved one could be battling depression or addiction and so they work to create distance that helps them hide their addiction or depression from you. They do this physically, by staying away from family events, ignoring phone calls, ect... But they create distance emotionally by causing conflict that makes you less likely to make an effort and gives them an excuse to stay away. A spouse might be trying to hide something from you. They cannot create the same kind of physical distance and so they create emotional distance by constantly arguing. At church the issue is usually that we are trying to hide our true selves from each other. I don't



want you to see the problems I have and think less of me. So I work to keep the rest of the congregation at a comfortable distance. We can also have feelings of guilt or perceived judgement from others because we aren't the church member we think we should be and so we create excuses for ourselves through small arguments that become further proof as to why we don't do what we think we should.

Our small arguments and petty complaints serve to create emotional distance from those we disagree with or would otherwise feel obligated to help. When public debate turns into personal attacks we are attempting to create reasons we do not have to continue debate or hear another person out. When we assume that all homeless are drug addicts, or all drug addicts are scum, or all jobless are lazy, we give ourselves emotional distance that keeps us from feeling obligated to help. If I can make something all your fault, I don't have to help you. When we know that in reality, few things are that black and white.

As I often say; "A he should, she should, they should, or somebody should is often really an attempt to get out of an I should." It then becomes important to ask why we are trying to push someone away; or why are they trying to push me away?

In Christ,

Rev Steven Brand

## WORSHIP

### October Sermons

Oct. 7 – Communion – Is it all Black & White?  
Oct. 14 – Faith Questions-Why did God Choose a People?  
Oct. 21 – Faith Questions- Why Trust the Bible?  
Oct. 28 – Church History Celebration

### November Sermons

November 4 – Faith Questions-Why is God Harder on Women?  
November 11 – Veteran's Sunday  
November 18 – Faith Questions –What was Jesus Before His Birth?  
November 25–Guest Speaker

doubled between 1997-2002. We need to keep allergies from being a barrier. We can go two hours without nuts, so that other people can feel safe worshipping the Lord. Read labels carefully. Packaged items will say on them if they contain nuts or are made in a factory that processes nuts. Let's work to make sure that we aren't bringing anything with us to worship, to Sunday School or to Coffee Hour that contains or may contain nuts.



### Gluten Free Communion Available

We now have gluten free communion wafers available for anyone who wants them. They will be in the communion cup trays.



## *Peanut Free Worship, Sunday School & Coffee Hour*

Session has moved to make Worship, Sunday School & Coffee Hour Peanut, and Tree Nut Free. This is because of several individuals who have intolerances and allergies to nuts. A nut allergy is very serious and can easily lead to extreme reactions that can kill. 1% of people have a nut allergy. The number of people with nut allergies



## Daylight Savings Ends



## You Are Invited!

Open invitation for the congregation to the wedding of Kristina J. Butts (Angeletti) and Skyler Butts on October 14, 2018 2:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Reception will follow at the Grove by the River on Waterworks Rd.

They were married in a small chapel October 14, 2017 and now want to celebrate with a formal church wedding with friends and family and renewal of vows. Skyler and Kristi would like your presence.

## Sights and Sounds of Christmas

A Guided Musical Walking Tour of Newark's Downtown Churches

Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018

6-8:30pm

Tickets are \$5 and are available at Explore Licking County, the Licking County Chamber of Commerce, Doubletree by Hilton and all participating Churches.

Second Presbyterian Church

Trinity AME Church

Trinity Episcopal Church

First Presbyterian Church

Plymouth Church

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

First United Methodist Church

St Francis Catholic Church

\*Tour begins at Second Presbyterian

\*Tour ends with refreshments at St. Francis

\*Shuttle service and Parking at 1st United Methodist

## CHURCH LIFE



**Coffee Hour** - Make sure to join us each Sunday at 10:15 a.m. for some refreshments and fellowship prior to worship. There is a sign-up sheet in

the Sanctuary, if you would like to bring the snacks. Please remember NO PEANUTS. There are pastries in the freezer to use, if no one has brought snacks.



## Church Pot Luck.

*Sunday November 11<sup>th</sup> -*

*Bring your favorite dish to share and come after the morning worship service for some great fellowship and food.*

## A Celebration of Church History! Sunday October 28<sup>th</sup>

Join us as we thank God for the mission and whiteness He has blessed us with over the past 210 Years!

### This Will Feature:

- Bagpiper Gary Eaton
- A Reception in Fellowship Hall
- Historical Displays.
- Some of Your Favorite Memories.
- New Ministries that Excite Us about the Future.
- Recognition of 50 Year Members.
- Recognition of Our Newer Members.
- Remembrance of those Saints we lost over the past year.





*November 25<sup>th</sup>*  
*Church Christmas*  
*Decorating*



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



**Operation  
Christmas  
Child**

(Shoebox Ministry)  
**Packing Party**  
**October 28th, 2018**  
**4:00 PM – 8:00 PM**  
(or any time in between)

Everyone is invited to meet in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, evening, October 28th to pack Christmas boxes for children around the globe. Many items have been donated throughout the year for the shoebox gifts, but we are still in need of several items. If you are not packing a shoebox this year, please consider donating item(s) for the group packing party. Any of the following would be very helpful:

**Soap & Wash Cloths-** (We try to put one bar of soap into each box.) No liquid toiletries. A small burst bottle of liquid can ruin an entire carton of 15 gifts.

**New small TOYS-** !!! for any age (McDonald's toys are fine if still in the plastic). Balls, yoyos, water toys, small dolls or stuffed animals, flashlights—just about anything except military

items—no toy guns, grenades, army men, knives, etc. Again, no toys containing liquids—no bubbles, balls filled with glitter water, water globes, etc. No candy, gum, or other edible/drinkable items.

**New clothing items. New socks, any size.**

**Sandwich Bags** with sealable top for soap.

**AA Batteries** so we can provide a few extras for the battery operated items.

**School Supplies**—pens, pencils, small writing pads or journals.

**A Photo of Yourself or Your Family.** Imagine being on the receiving end. Wouldn't it be wonderful to put a face to those who packed the gift for you?

Shoe boxes—Extra shoeboxes never go to waste. If you wrap your own prior to the packing party, the bottom and top must be wrapped individually.

**Shipping Funds-** are ALWAYS appreciated. It is recommended that \$9.00 be sent for each box to help with shipping. If we fill as many boxes as last year, we will need approximately \$2,000.00 to cover the shipping for 2018. We will have a donation jar at the party if you wish to give. A dollar or two or your spare change adds up in a hurry. Or, just put your donation in a pew envelope and write "OCC" or "Shoebox" on it. Checks can be made to First Presbyterian Church with "OCC" or "Shoebox Ministry" in the memo space.

We will be tracking our boxes again this year to see where they are distributed. Last year, some of our boxes were delivered to children in various countries in Asia, Africa, and South America.

**Your time**—Come join us on October 28th 4:00 PM until 8:00(ish) PM. We'll have snacks around 6:00. If you can come for just an hour, that's fine; just come. We'll need folks to label boxes with shipping tags, write notes to children, etc. We'll also need some adults or teens to help little ones make age-appropriate selections for their boxes. Please come join us in this important (and fun) ministry. Bring a few goodies of your own or choose treasures from our First Pres "store" to fill a shoebox that will be delivered to a child with an introduction to the real gift, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

*"Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me." Mark 9:37a, NKJV*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### ALPHA

*The fifth offering of Alpha began Thursday evening, August 30<sup>th</sup>. We had 11 guests in attendance, an increase from our last session! In the following two weeks, attendance grew by 4-5 each week. We are enjoying lots of laughter, great food and discussion. Each week we discuss the Christian faith in a fun, relaxed, non-judgmental, respectful environment. We are looking forward to our all-day Saturday retreat on October 20<sup>th</sup>. We will gather at the home of Linda Smith. Please keep Alpha in your prayers! For more information email Peggy at [1stpresnewarkALPHA@gmail.com](mailto:1stpresnewarkALPHA@gmail.com), call Peggy (740-323-2353) or Kim (740-877-0346) or go to [www.alphausa.org](http://www.alphausa.org).*

You Are Invited:

### Alpha Celebration Dinner

Please come and celebrate with us as we wrap up our fourth offering of Alpha. Our "Celebration Dinner" will be held on Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup> and is open to the congregation, friends and family of our guests. This is an opportunity to see what Alpha is all about.

Alpha is a place in which we can explore life, ask questions and search for answers. No judgement, no demands that you conform to certain beliefs and no one will hunt you down (Unless you want us to!)

Previous guests and team members of Alpha are encouraged to attend and celebrate the journey of our current guests (even if you have come before!) Invitation cards are on the sign-up table in the back of the sanctuary. Please plan to come and feel free to bring someone with you.

Beginning at 6:30 we will have a meal, followed by information about Alpha and one of the

videos. We should finish no later than 8:30. Child care will be provided, if needed.

Please RSVP no later than Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup> to Peggy (740-323-2353) or Kim (740-345-6624) or email Peggy at [1stpresnewarkalpha@gmail.com](mailto:1stpresnewarkalpha@gmail.com) so we can plan. The next session of Alpha will be held in late January or early February.

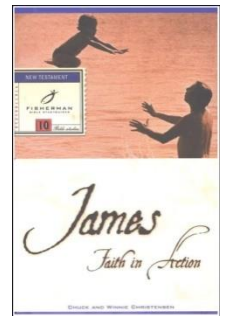
## MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

**Good Morning Bible Study** – The Good Morning Bible Study meets every Thursday in the morning from 10:00 a.m. to noon in the Golden Circle Room. The class is open to all people and is going to be doing a self-study of the Scriptures. They are beginning with a study of Exodus. See Linda Smith for details.



### Adult Elective

The Adult Sunday School class has just begun a study on the New Testament book of James. This has been referred to as "the most practical book in the Bible." It instructs Christians in how to live out the Christian faith. While the book of James is only five chapters long, it's packed with practical guidance that we can all benefit from. The study guide is available for \$6.00 [if able], please see Peggy if you would like a copy.



**Safe Trick or Treat on the Square** – Halloween is fast approaching. Newark's Trick or Treat is Thursday, **October 25<sup>th</sup> from 5-7pm**. 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian will be

passing out bags of candy and Scripture on the Square. Last year we passed out 1,000 bags of candy. We need bags of candy and smiling happy faces to help pass out the candy. A bin for candy donation is at the front of the sanctuary. We will be putting the bags together **October 21<sup>st</sup>** after worship in Fellowship Hall.





**Lunch Bunch will meet at the Nutcracker Family Restaurant in Pataskala on Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at 11:30 instead of noon. Everyone is invited. Please RSVP to Louise Whitis at 740-345-5426.**

## YHEALTHY KIDS- Backpack

### The Y-Heathy Kids Network Back Pack Program Involvement Opportunities

#### Food Delivery (We Really Could Use Some Help) –

The Presbyterian Partnership is also tasked with taking these prepacked boxes to the Newark and Heath Schools every other Wednesday. We hope to be able to deliver to all 15 schools eventually, but want to start with a more manageable number. There are eight schools that we will be delivering to. 1<sup>st</sup> Pres is delivering to six schools, every other Thursday at 9:00am. You do not have to have a vehicle capable of delivery. To sign up for delivering or if you have any questions see Rev Steve.

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Hello Friends and Family of First Pres! We strive to do our best in reaching out to those in our congregation. Please update our CCT of any address, phone number changes. If you are not sure of who your CCT person is, please contact Ann Robinson at 366-1579 (home) 614-557-7489 (cell/text) or annmarie0458@gmail.com. Without accurate information, it makes it difficult for our team members to be in touch with all of you.

Thank you.  
Ann Marie Robinson  
Chair, CCT

**Prayer Chain Updates** – Please send all requests to Tracee Barr at [hippieluv12@yahoo.com](mailto:hippieluv12@yahoo.com). Please state whether requests are for Prayer Chain Only or should also be distributed to the church for the bulletin.

## EVANGELISM & OUTREACH

*But whoever has the world's goods,  
and sees his brother in need, and  
closes his heart of compassion against  
him, how does the love of God remain  
in him? 1 John 3:17*

### CANDLEWICK COMMONS

*The Evangelism and Outreach Committee is planning an outreach to our neighbors at Candlewick Commons. The upcoming date is **December 13, 2018 at 4:00 P.M.***

*If you would be willing to donate a dessert, please sign the sign-up sheet on the table at the rear of the sanctuary or call Sandy Noland (740) 323-0169 or Email: [rsnoland@windstream.net](mailto:rsnoland@windstream.net).*



## Father Factor

The Father Factor, a parenting skills, resource and support group, has been meeting at the church for the last few years. The next session will run from **September 13 through November 1 from 6-8pm.** One session ran the same night as Alpha. We often had left over dessert items and were able to share with them. One night we even had pizza left over to give them. One of the guys made a beautiful card of thanks which they all signed. The group leaders told us how blessed the guys were by this simple act.

The Evangelism and Outreach Committee continued this simple blessing during the summer session and included a meal one night. Alpha will again be running during this Father Factor and will probably be able to provide snacks, however, if



you'd like to help out, just sign up on the sheet at the back of the church. You can provide cookies, brownies, fruit or whatever you'd like. Please have the treat at the church in the Journey Room by 5:45pm on your chosen night. Please be sure to put out whatever paper products are needed, too. Those can be found in the cupboard behind the folding door just past the ladies restroom. The leaders will be sure all is cleaned up.

Thank you for taking on this opportunity to bless men who seek to be better fathers.

## MISSIONS

**November 4<sup>th</sup>**



Mission Breakfast with the Mahon's  
9:15-10:15 am

### Mission Trip, Anyone?

Each year—usually at shoebox packing time—there are always a few people who voice an interest in a mission trip to an Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Processing Center. The Charlotte, North Carolina center is the largest and is within a day's drive for us to reach. Members of our congregation have helped at this center in the past and found it to be an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

The atmosphere is festive with Christmas music playing and people laughing as they make new friends and work together. The packing season begins the week before Thanksgiving and continues until December 15, 2018.

If you are interested, don't be concerned about "not knowing what to do" when you arrive. Each volunteer group receives an orientation with hands-on training to teach what one needs to know. Each day, the volunteer group is assigned to a particular task. These tasks may include checking boxes for contraband, filling partially full boxes, packing completed boxes into shipping containers, or reading barcodes with scanners prior to shipping.

In the past, we have stayed in a comfortable motel near the center, one that includes breakfast. We decide in advance how many 4 hour shifts we would like to work while in Charlotte, as well as, what dates are best for our group.

If you have an interest in this potential mission trip, please do not hesitate to let Sandy Noland or Kenita Keck know of your interest or any questions you may have. We need to have a tentative headcount to register our group very soon.

### What is Your Vision?

Through my hospitalization & recuperation, I have had a lot of TV time, & the one thing that I repeatedly have seen is things involving the word "vision." I did not put it together until yesterday when I heard an old hymn "Thou be my Vision." If I could have danced, I would have! I rejoiced in the moment, as this song was exactly what I have been feeling! We need to be sure our eyes, ears, hearts & minds are scope locked on Jesus! We must see things as He has taught us to see them, and trust in the Holy Spirit to direct, convict, & guide us in the proper directions. It is with this vision we should pray & conduct our daily lives.

When we focus on Christ our Savior, it enables us to shine in a dark and disturbed world. Be like the missionaries we support! Be a missionary here at home! Please pray for them, us, and Christ's church, both here and globally.

Love in His Kingdom,  
Tracee Barr.

### **Paul & Christy Knudson** **What are we doing now?**

We would appreciate your prayers as we seek God's leading for our future plans. The door is open to return to Bolivia to continue ministry in leadership development, at Carachipampa or maybe some new venture. There are also opportunities to serve with SIM outside of Bolivia. We are still praying about our next steps.

In order to return to the field we will need to build our support back up to 100%. We are currently at about 80%. The SIM fiscal year ends September 30. We would appreciate any extra or one-time gifts to help reduce our deficit.



Thank you for partnering with us during this past term and during our entire 18 years in Bolivia. We have returned to the US for a year of home assignment and are back in Wheaton, IL.

We look forward to visiting with friends and churches to catch up and to share about our ministry and lives in Bolivia. Please feel free to contact us so we can set up a time to get together. We are also looking for new churches that we could partner with. If you have any contacts or leads, please call us at the number below. Hope to see you soon.

## FYI



**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 must 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.

**SCRIP Cards** – Come to the library before or after each Worship service the first Sunday of each month to buy gift cards for all sorts of different stores and restaurants. Pick up your order the next Sunday. It is easy and there are volunteers in the library to help you with your purchase. Your purchase of SCRIP cards supports the programs and needs of First Pres.

### Corny Fellowship in Review

Whereas 6 doz. human ears did not consume all 6 doz. plus ears of corn served, an impressive 4.5 doz. cobs did disappear! Carolyn Durr won the candy corn game, with Deb Blamer and Diana Brand in a close second. Corn bags were tossed with the only known casualty being one of the cornhole boards. (Repairs to follow.) The cutest scarecrow was stuck, and corny jokes seemed to endlessly flow from the 'ears of corn,' (Katelyn tells them the best!). We discovered Linda Smith, Bob

Blamer, Emily Hare and others could share really corny groaners off the cuff. Barb Montgomery provided a hot corn dip that we are hoping will either be shared in this newsletter or the next. (Yums!) After delicious corn options along with desserts, fruits, salads, and hot dogs, our next fellowship activity should be corny aerobics! (Or chasing babies. The littlest attendees are going to be walking soon!)

Thanks to all who shared the fun with us! Special thanks to those who helped decorate the hall, provided food, played along and then made the cleanup easy! ... Louise Whitis, Carolyn Durr, Mark Faloon, Emily, Keith and Priscilla Hare, Becky Mahon, Barb Montgomery, Rose Novell, Lois and Dan Spangler

We love our church family! Having fun one event at a time!



**All Sorts of Fun @ This Year's Church Picnic**



## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Detrick, Lisa	October 1
Kittel, David	October 2
Hare, Emily	October 4
Fish, Ryan	October 7
Snider, Kathie	October 9
Noland-Waters, Tanya	October 11
Rodeniser, Lois	October 12
Deweese, Gary	October 14
Nichols, Jean	October 19
Barber, Dee	October 25

## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Rainey, Keith & Chris	October 19
Angeletti, Greg & Tina	October 22
Klinker, Timothy & Angie	October 22
Blamer, Bob & Deb	October 25
Harman, Jay & Wendy	October 27

## HR/ PERSONNEL



September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

Dear Family and Friends of First Presbyterian,

I am writing this letter to say that effective December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018 I am resigning my position as organist at First Presbyterian Church. My last Sunday will be Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

After long, arduous months of prayers, it is in the best interest of my health that I do so. I have had LONG discussions about my health with two health specialists.

In 2009, I was “called” to serve here. The Lord has blessed me through these nine years but, now it is time for me to take care of myself and be with my son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren. I plan on being an itinerant organist, serving where the Lord may lead.

I thank you for the privilege of serving our God through my music. I will lift First Presbyterian in prayer as you continue your search for a Music Director and Organist.

Ann Marie Robinson

## EMPLOYEE REVIEWS—2018

### Rev. Steven Brand

Keith Hare and Louise Whitis met with Pastor Steve on June 28, 2018. We had 9 surveys that congregation members had answered for us. (We handed out 10, but only got 9 back. I have those if anyone wants to look at them.) In the objective part of the survey, 14 out of 30 were rated 4 (out of 5) or better—half were 4.5 or better. 16 out of 30 were rated 3, with 11 of those 3.5 or better.

In the short answer responses, prevalent themes were appreciation for Steve's community involvement, awareness of improvement in sermons, and encouragement for programs like the “dare” program. A couple mentioned communication, specifically the lack of the newsletter and a slow response to some emails or messages. Most mentioned they were glad he is our minister, and one directed the personnel committee, “Don't let him leave!”

In our discussion with Steve, we talked about some issues—communication, visitation, dress—pretty much the same thing we always talk about, because someone always asks me to bring it up. I think most people really like Steve by now; they've gotten more comfortable with some things and realize it didn't have much to do with being a good minister.

Steve did say that he would like to work on “inter-accountability” this year, meaning that we need everybody to do what they say they're going to do. It's certainly something we need to improve on.

### Ann Robinson

Carolyn Durr and I met with Ann Robinson on July 1, 2018. We asked 2 congregation members to fill out reviews on Ann. Of course, she received straight 5's in all categories. Comments mentioned her musical talent, her caring heart, her willing spirit, her humor, her responsibility, her willingness to help with choir...the list goes on.

Ann did say that she will help get the choir started this fall if we don't have a director yet. She said her two goals for the year are to get the congregation more involved with choosing hymns, maybe with an insert in the bulletin

for giving suggestions. Her second goal is to use her phone to record shut-ins, like Lovona Parkhill, to show on the screens, maybe before church. This would help newer members get to know some of the people who are long-time members but no longer attend.

#### Gary Collins

Pastor Steve and I met with Gary Collins on July 12, 2018. We also had 2 members do review forms on Gary, and he also received straight 5's. Most of the comments were about his willingness to help anyone on any project. He always goes above and beyond.

Gary did agree that he needs to turn in time slips on a more regular basis—the goal right now is to turn them in at least once a month. He also needs to take vacation. He works too much and we can't afford to pay overtime, so he's racking up vacation days. Our hope is that we can use volunteers to do some of the "light" work, so that Gary can work on some of the bigger projects around the building.

As head of the personnel committee, I just want to say that we are truly blessed to have such talented and dedicated people working for our church.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Whitis

Personnel Chair



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**Accessability** – The door that is located on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street at street level has been given an automatic opener. The opener works by pushing the button on either side of the door. We have also designated 5 spots that are in front of the chapel for church use only. So these spots should almost always be open for your convenience.

