THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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www.1stpresnewark.com
Rev. Diane Flynn, Transitional Pastor
Hope Labutis, Secretary/Treasurer

Office hours: Tues & Thurs 9:00-2:00pm

August 2026

Church Elder Information

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

Clerk of Session – Priscilla Hare
Class of 2028:
Becky Mahon
Ed Jobes
Class of 2027:
Karen Fish
Class of 2026:
Keith Hare
Chris Rainey

Worship

Communion will be served on Sunday, August 2nd.

Please remember that our Sunday worship services will now be held in Fellowship Hall until further notice.

The Church Mice

The volunteers lovingly referred to as the Church Mice meet on Tuesdays mornings to clean and prep our church for the upcoming week. If you would like to help in this ministry, please contact Priscilla Hare.

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

August Birthdays

Thelma Smythe 8/6
Kristi Butts 8/14
Rev. Diane Flynn 8/22

There are no August anniversaries.

Make Me a Blessing

The most requested food items for the blessings box include: trail mix, tuna or chicken in pouches, pop tarts, crackers, canned pasta, and granola bars. Please remember that canned goods are best with pop top lids.

SCRIP

The next Scrip order is **August 2**. 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.

Liturgists for August

August 2 – Keith Hare
August 9- Carol Floyd
August 16 – Gaye Gibson
August 23 – Ed Jobes
August 30 – Emily Hare

New Wilmington Missions Conference

NEW WILMINGTON MISSION CONFERENCE

The Hare family, Bowles, and Becky Mahon attended the New Wilmington Missions Conference this year. Our very own Keith Hare was a Workshop presenter at the conference this year, speaking about the successful partnership between Presbytery of Scioto Valley and missionaries Mark and Jenny Hare. Way to go, Keith! Thank you for all you do for the Kingdom.

Evangelism and Outreach: Operation Christmas Child

August Wishlist for Shoeboxes

For August, our Operation Christmas Child team is collecting school supplies and small toys to bless children around the world. We are currently in need of larger pencil sharpeners, crayons, rulers, notepads, coloring books, rounded-edge scissors, colored markers, jump ropes, small shoe box–sized dolls, and other fun summer toys. Your gifts can help share God's love and bring joy to a child who may have never received a gift.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." — Matthew 19:14

Thank you for your continued generosity in helping us pack shoeboxes that bring hope, love, and the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Property Report

Plaster Collapse in the Sanctuary: On the afternoon of July 16, several sections of the plaster ceiling in the sanctuary collapsed over the chancel area, damaging the piano, lectern, and the back staircase. We are thankful that no one was in the sanctuary at the time and that no injuries occurred.
An insurance adjuster has been contacted and will be assessing the damage in the coming days. Once that assessment is complete, we will begin the process of planning and coordinating the necessary repairs.
We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through this unexpected situation. We will continue to keep the congregation informed as repairs progress.

Piano Tuning: The piano in the fellowship hall was tuned on July 21st.

A/C in the Sanctuary: The A/C issues in the sanctuary have been resolved. It was determined that several breakers in the fuse boxes on the roof of the C.E. building needed to be replaced due to potential storm damage. Dormar also found that an electrical wire in an air blower over the sanctuary was severed. All issues were resolved.

-The Property Committee

Finance Report

The account balances as of July 21, 2026 are:

Checking: $16,720.08
Savings: $2,915.93
SCRIP: $2,792.43

On June 15, we transferred $10,000 from invested funds to the checking account to ensure we have enough money to cover the next couple of payrolls.

-Keith Hare, FPC Finance Chair

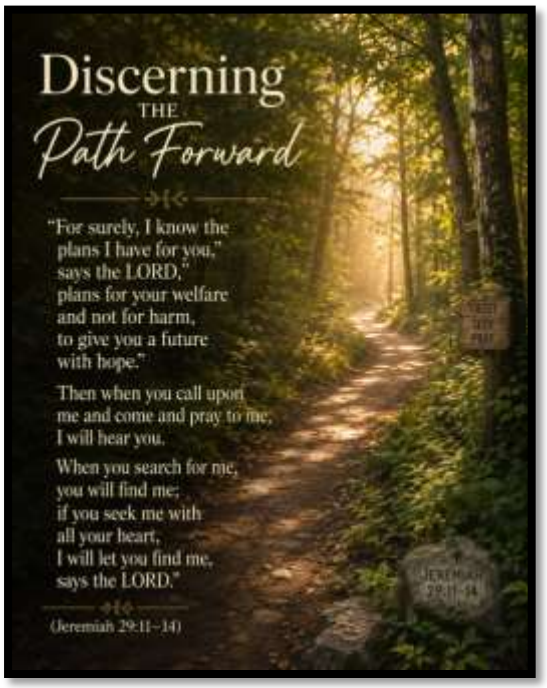
Property Committee Volunteers Needed

Due to unforeseen circumstances over the past several months, Session has found itself in need of additional volunteers to serve on the Property Committee. This committee plays a vital role in helping to care for and maintain our church building and grounds, ensuring that our facilities remain safe, welcoming, and functional for worship, ministry, and community use.

The work of the Property Committee includes identifying maintenance needs, assisting with building projects, coordinating repairs, and helping Session make informed decisions regarding the stewardship of our church property. All that is required is a willingness to serve, a love for the church, and a commitment to working together.

If you have a desire to help care for our church home, we would be grateful for your involvement. Even a small investment of time can make a significant difference. To learn more about serving on the Property Committee, please contact Pastor Diane at 412-997-0642 or email at newarkfpcpastor@gmail.com or speak with a member of Session.

Thank you for considering how God may be calling you to use your gifts in service to our congregation.



Personnel Update

The Personnel Committee wishes to inform the congregation that Gary Collins has resigned from his position as custodian. We are grateful for Gary's service to our church and thank him for the ways he has cared for our facilities during his time with us. We extend our sincere appreciation for his contributions and wish him God's blessings and every success in the future. Please join us in praying for Gary as he begins this new chapter in his life.

"Songs in the Key of Life"

-Ed Jobes

This was the title of a Grammy award winning album by Stevie Wonder in 1976. Music is a medium that transports the scriptures from words and notes on a page of paper and can plant them and their inspirations onto our hearts and provide our collective soul with comfort during times of stress or grief.

Summer is quickly moving towards fall and it is time to find your key and unlock your voice and join our church choir. The plan for this year is to sing every 2nd Sunday a selection from the hymnal and 4th Sunday an easy selection from our music library. Our rehearsal time would be following worship for 15-20 minutes. There is no audition and music reading is a plus but not required.

So come join us, make music, inspire, and be inspired. An organizational gathering will occur July 26th after worship, we may even rehearse, and we will rehearse beginning August 2nd. Our first Sunday to sing would be August 23rd.

Any questions email Ohjobes@gmail.com

FROM OUR PASTOR

When the Ceiling Fell

by Pastor Diane

When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. – Matthew 28:17

In the opening line of my sermon on July 19th, I said, "Life is filled with moments that leave us asking, "What now?" I had no idea how quickly I would be asking that same question myself.

Last Thursday afternoon, after meeting with one of our mission partners, I was gathering my things to leave the church when I heard a tremendous crash from the sanctuary. My first thought was that a vehicle had struck the building. Then I noticed what looked like white smoke drifting from a floor vent. When I opened the door to the chancel, I discovered that a large section of the sanctuary ceiling had collapsed onto the grand piano and the floor below.

Our first response was gratitude. By God's grace, no one was in the sanctuary, and no one was injured.

We have contacted our insurance company, and an adjuster will be assessing the damage. In the meantime, we will gather for worship in the fellowship hall while repairs are made and the sanctuary is determined to be safe for use.

The timing of this event made me reflect on Sunday's scripture from Matthew 28. When the risen Jesus appeared to his disciples, Matthew tells us, "When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted." The Greek word translated as doubted is better understood as wavered or hesitated. The disciples had not stopped believing in Jesus. They were overwhelmed by everything they had experienced. They worshiped—and they wavered.

That honest description reminds us that faith and uncertainty often exist together. Even faithful people sometimes wonder what comes next. Yet Jesus does not rebuke his disciples. Instead, he draws near, entrusts them with his mission, and gives them a promise: "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

That promise is just as true for us today. While we should be careful not to interpret every unexpected event as a direct message from God, we can be certain of this: Christ is with us.

Our identity has never rested in bricks, plaster, or stained glass. The church is God's people, gathered in the name of Jesus wherever we worship. Whether we meet in the sanctuary or the fellowship hall, Christ continues to call us to make disciples, love our neighbors, and bear witness to his grace.

As we move through this unexpected season, may we do what the first disciples did: worship, even when we waver, trusting that the risen Christ is faithfully leading us into the future.

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2026						1
2 SCRIP/ COMMUNION **Liturgist – Keith Hare** 11:00 Church – FH	3	4 10:00 Church Mice	5	6	7	8
9 **Liturgist – Carol Floyd** 11:00 Church – FH	10	11 10:00 Church Mice	12	13	14	15
16 **Liturgist –Gaye Gibson** 11:00 Church – FH	17	18 10:00 Church Mice	19	20	21	22
23/30 **Liturgist – Ed Jobes (23)** **Liturgist - Emily Hare (30)** 11:00 Church – FH	24	25 10:00 Church Mice	26	27	28	29