THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Church E-mail: firstpresofc@gmail.com
Web Address:
www.1stpresnewark.com
Tara Lewellen, Music Coordinator
Hope Labutis, Secretary/Treasurer
Gary Collins, Maintenance

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

January 2026

Church Elder Information

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

Clerk of Session – Priscilla Hare

Class of 2027:

Karen Fish - Evangelism & Outreach

Greg Angeletti - Property

Class of 2026:

Keith Hare - Finance

Chris Rainey - Worship

Class of 2025:

Sarah Bowles – Church Life

Becky Mahon – Personnel

Worship

Pulpit Supply Pastors for January

January 4: Liz Tietz, CRE

Epiphany Sunday/Communion

January 11: Liz Tietz, CRE

January 18: Pastor Ricci Arthur

January 25: Pastor Ricci Arthur

SCRIP

The next Scrip order is **January 4th.** Please consider ordering gift cards from our Scrip program. Remember that the funds generated are used for church needs. Thank you to all who order on a regular basis. See Gaye Gibson to order.

Y-Healthy Backpack Program

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

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

Congregational Care

January Birthdays

Joyce Carlyle 1/4

Tara Lewellen 1/9

Kenita Keck 1/12

Keith Hare 1/14

January Anniversary

Jeff & Diane Dodson 1/6

Meeting Announcement

Please mark your calendars for our annual congregational meeting on **Sunday, February 1, 2026**.

Evangelism and Outreach

Minute for Missions

Shoebox update: So far we have tracked some of our boxes as being delivered to Honduras and Panama – how fun to bring good news and great joy to the children who received them!

Hello prayer partners!

Thank you for your prayers! We wanted to let you know that we picked up our minivan from the third shop to evaluate the continuing transmission issues. Praise the Lord, this shop quickly identified the specific problem and replaced the part in question. The van is now working wonderfully well. We are SO grateful after more than five weeks without it. We are thankful to an MMS Aviation Training Staff colleague who loaned us a car for this entire period of time!

FOR CONTINUING PRAYER:

- For new financial support partners for us through the South America Mission. (We are still members of SAM, just "On loan" to MMS AVIATION). We have lost several supporters due to age and health issues, and some we have lost perhaps because they think Mike and I are no longer "missionaries" since we are in Ohio, not Peru. In many ways, Mike's work is having even more impact now than even when we were in Peru, because his work assures that missionary aircraft from ALL OVER THE WORLD are being repaired and returned to service in the Lord's work in many countries on several continents. Yes, we are still missionaries, as is everyone at MMS Aviation. If your church or group would be interested in a visit/presentation, please let us know.

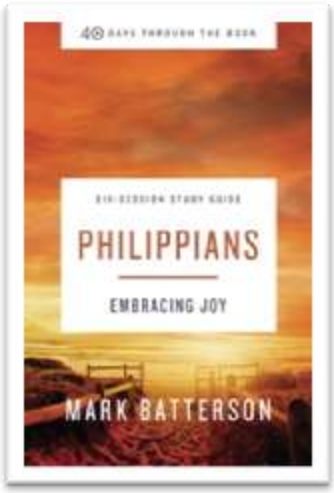
- FOR Joy Carrera as she and Bill transition to the U.S. Joy will be a Flight Instructor at Moody Aviation in Spokane, Washington beginning in 2026.

- FOR SAMAIR PERU-as they welcome a new team family and adapt to life without Joy. She cheerfully did any job that needed done at the hangar during her 12 years there. SAM ACADEMY also must adapt and make adjustments as well, as Bill served there as a teacher and administrator.

In Christ, your fellow servants,

Mike and Nancy Mahon

Adult Bible Study



In *40 Days Through the Book: Philippians* video Bible study, bestselling author and pastor Mark Batterson guides you through Paul's letters to the believer in Philippi and what it means for you today. In six-sessions, Batterson encourage will you to find joy through life's ups and downs because all things are possible through Christ.

Join us in person or over Zoom. Stay after for a time of Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall!

Attention Session

All annual reports from Session are due to the church office by **Sunday, January 11**. Thank you!

Good Morning Bible Study

The Good Morning Bible Study (plus Hope) is happy to say that they have completed another year deep in the Word of God. This group is a joy to have on Thursday mornings and they truly are intercessors for our church and our families.

They are taking a winter break until March 2026, but will continue to uplift us all in faithful prayer. Thank you, Linda, for your faithful leading of this group.

Sights & Sounds

On December 4th, we were one of the host churches for Sights & Sounds. Over $1200 was raised for the Food Pantry Network from this well-attended and beloved annual event.

It is such a blessing to see the church so full! Thank you to Ed Jobes for coordinating, Wendy Hartman for the festive music, and all the volunteers who greeted guests, baked cookies, or were lantern guides through the night.

Property Report

FPC December 2025 Property Report:

Houston Plumbing has finished the work on both boilers. We have not received the invoice as of this report. Gary has been checking the church building and the heat daily in this very cold weather.

Thanks to all who have contributed to the repair work this year.
Greg Angeletti and Rick Buehler have helped with writing the Bros. Masonry contract and keeping an eye on the progress of the work.
Thank you to Robert Stokes and crew for getting the new roof on in a timely manner.

Just pray that we can get the remaining outside work finished in the spring.

If there is a level 2 snow emergency declared in Licking County all church activities will be cancelled.

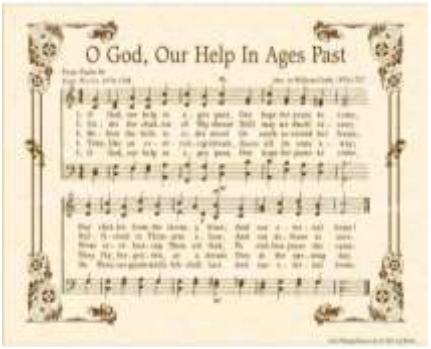
- Thank you from the Property Committee.

Finance Report

As of Wednesday, December 17, the account balances are:

Checking: $10,091.35
Savings: $10,328.55
SCRIP: $2,486.41

-Keith Hare, FPC Finance Chair

Hymn Story: O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Words: Isaac Watts, 1719.
Music: William Croft, 1708

“Lord, You have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.” Psalm 90:1

Christianity was facing a dark future in England when Queen Anne forced through Parliament the Schism Act designed to severely limit religious freedom. Against this black backdrop, Isaac Watts wrote the stately, reassuring hymn “O God Our Help In Ages Past.” How the words must have brought renewed courage and comfort to Christians in those days of fear and instability.
"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past" is a sacred hymn still sung at all festive occasions in England, considered one of the grandest in the English hymnody. It is a paraphrase of Psalm 90, a psalm of Moses, originally consisting of nine stanzas. Today, the hymn is usually limited to stanzas one, two, three, five and nine.
In 1738 John Wesley in his hymnal, Psalms and Hymns, changed the first line to the text from "Our God" to "O God." The hymn was originally part of The Psalms of David Imitated in the Language of the New Testament, published by Watts in 1719. In this book he paraphrased in Christian verse the entire psalter with the exception of twelve psalms which he felt were unsuited for Christian usage. This hymn ranks as one of the finest of Watts's more than 600 hymns.

Fun Fact: This hymn was sung at the funeral of former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in St. Paul’s Cathedral, London, 1965.

To learn more: https://pcpclittlelambs.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/09/hymn-history-o-god-our-help-in-ages-past.pdf

Upcoming Events

PRESBYTERY of SCIOTO VALLEY
SERVING CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN OHIO

PIE (Partners in Education) Event

Saturday, January 31, 2026, Covenant Presbyterian Church in Columbus
Registration at 9:00 am, ending by 2:30 p.m.

Keynote Speaker: DeEtte Decker
Vision Integration & Constituent Service Manager, Interim Unified Agency PC(USA)

- Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday February 8th
- Ash Wednesday, February 18th

Make Me a Blessing

Thank you for your continued donations to the Blessings Box. As the weather is bitter cold, please remember those in need with ready-to-eat soups, instant oatmeal packets, protein bars, and canned pasta. We welcome sweats and coats, hats and gloves, and socks for the box as well. Thank you for blessing our community in this practical way.

Candlewick Commons

The Candlewick Christmas dinner was hosted on December 12th. We were able to bless 20 residents with a meatloaf dinner and a small gift bag for each resident.

Thank you to this group of faithful ladies who cook and serve dinner for our neighbors throughout the year. Your faithfulness is appreciated.

A Special Visit

I had a special visit from the Malones one Thursday this fall. Michael grew up attending FPC and he and his lovely wife are missionaries in Africa back on furlough. I was able to take them on a tour, listen to their stories, and pray with them. Both Jo and Gaye were able to stop up for a chat. Michael remarked that the people of FPC introduced his family to the love of Jesus and changed the trajectory of his whole life. Their visit was a blessing and encouragement to me that what we are doing here at FPC eternally matters!

– Hope

"It was a blessing for us to be able to visit Newark 1st Pres, get to know you, and take some moments down memory lane to remember and thank God for his goodness."

– Michael Malone
Following Jesus to East Africa
Married to Kyja (she's the best!)
Children: Lily (11), Elliot (8), Violet (6)
Get our updates: www.malonesprayerteam.com