THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
65 North Third Street
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Church E-mail: firstpresofc@gmail.com
Web Address:
www.1stpresnewark.com
Rev. Diane Flynn, Transitional Pastor
Hope Labutis, Secretary/Treasurer
Gary Collins, Maintenance

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

June 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, June 7.

SCRIP

The next Scrip order is **June 7.** 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.

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.

Congregational Care

June Birthdays

Forrest Smythe 6/9

Ken Keck 6/11

James Peiffer 6/20

Linda Smith 6/22

Mona Clark 6/27

June Anniversaries

Dan & Lois Spangler 6/11

Keith & Priscilla Hare 6/18

Dick & Karen Birtcher 6/20

John & Kim Frick 6/20

Make Me a Blessing

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

Currently, we are in need of bottled water as the temperatures begin to warm up this spring.

If it is easier for you to purchase a gift card, please mark it for the Blessings Box and Hope will do the shopping for you and haul in the groceries. Thank you for your help!

Evangelism and Outreach: Operation Christmas Child

June Wishlist for Operation Christmas Child

Six more months until shoebox packing time! It will be here before we know it.

This month's suggestions are short and sweet. For boys: usually for the 10-14 age range, we could use some tools. For example, Dollar Tree usually has 2 types of screwdrivers for $1.25, retractable tape measures for $1.25 and small hammers for less than $2.00. Harbor Freight also has frequent specials. If you have an Amazon account, you can get 5 flathead and 5 Phillips screwdrivers that you can break apart into 5 gifts (come to $1.00 for each set.). It is called Amartisan 10 Pc. Screwdriver set.

For girls (all ages), we are collecting any hair accessories. Ribbons, bows and barrettes are favorites. Headbands and scrunchies are also popular. Often, these can be bought in sets and taken apart to fill more than one box.

As always, thank you and God bless you for your continuing generosity!

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

Evangelism and Outreach: Heartbeats

Mother's Day - May 10th through Father's Day - June 21st

Imagine a culture of life where abortion is no longer an option. Your partnership helps make that vision a reality by reaching women in vulnerable situations—connecting them with Heartbeats for support and truth before they turn to an abortion provider. We are pleased to partner with Heartbeats again this year for their 2026 Campaign: Subscribe to Life. If you write a check for this offering, please indicate "Heartbeats" in the memo line.

Heartbeats for Life
Hope...Help...Healing
hbfl.us

Good Morning Bible Study

The Good Morning Bible Study meets on Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. in the Gold Circle Room. Everyone is welcome for this time of fellowship, study, and prayer!

Summer Schedule

We are taking a summer break on these Sunday morning ministries. Stay tuned for updates on when they will start back up in the fall. For now, please plan to join us for Worship on Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

Finance Report

As of Thursday, May 28, 2026, the current bank account balances are:

Checking account: $27,006.40
Savings account: $2,915.06
SCRIP: $2,737.00

The savings account has been reduced because of two transfers from Savings to Checking:

- 05/12/2026 $4,920.00 for Pastor Flynn Moving Expenses. This is a one-time expense that was part of our contract with Pastor Flynn. This was paid out of the checking account directly to the moving company.
- 05/18/2026 $2,500.00 to checking for Payroll.

The checking account includes two large one-time contributions that arrived the week of May 24th:

- $10,000.00 designated for building work that session has already approved, including repair of the chapel wall and purchase of shingles so they are available when the contractor has time to replace the chapel roof.
- $11,500.14 that was an annual tithe was given through the Edward Jones investment account. The stock was sold and the proceeds transferred to the checking account.

To meet payroll and associated expenses, we now have a monthly cash requirement of about $7,600.

-Keith Hare, FPC Finance Chair

Property Report

FPC May 2026 Property Report:
Brothers Masonry is completely finished with the front facade of the church.
Robert Stokes is finishing up some small jobs and putting up the handicap entrance awning. That leaves finishing the back exterior wall of the chapel. Hopefully it will be finished soon.
DB organ will be in on June 18th to tune the organ and assess what it will take to repair the two tabs that are not working and give us an estimate.
Please avoid the west side chapel steps as they are crumbling.

-The Property Committee

Great is Thy Faithfulness

What does the Bible mean when it says Great Is Thy Faithfulness?

The phrase "Great is Thy faithfulness" comes from the Bible, specifically Lamentations 3:23. It is a declaration of God's unchanging reliability and constant presence in our lives. The term "faithfulness" here refers to God's steadfastness, His unwavering commitment to His promises, and His consistent character. This means that God is dependable and trustworthy, regardless of our circumstances.

Where did the song Great Is Thy Faithfulness come from?

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" is a Christian hymn that originated in the United States. The lyrics were written by Thomas O. Chisholm, a Methodist minister from Kentucky. He wrote the poem in 1923 about God's faithfulness over his lifetime. The music was composed by William M. Runyan, a friend of Chisholm, specifically for the poem. The hymn was later popularized by the Moody Bible Institute and Billy Graham's crusades.

https://hymncharts.com/2022/08/15/the-story-behind-great-is-thy-faithfulness/

A Message from our Pastor

Discerning the Path Forward

by Pastor Diane

Graduation season always recalls my high school guidance counselor, Mr. Edmonds, who visited each senior homeroom class to talk about life after graduation. He stressed the importance of choosing the "right" career path by saying, "You better know what you want to do when you graduate because you're going to be doing it the rest of your life." No pressure, right?

Some students were certain about their future. They knew whether they were headed to college, the military, or directly into the workforce. I, on the other hand, had absolutely no idea. I assumed I would go to college, but for what? The pressure I placed on myself to choose a path for the rest of my life felt overwhelming.

In case you are wondering, I entered college as a musical theater major and eventually graduated with dual bachelor's degrees in Elementary and Early Childhood Education. Later, I earned masters degrees in Human Resources Management and Divinity. Sorry, Mr. Edmonds, but the journey toward a lifelong calling is rarely a straight line.

Looking back, I realize how unsettling uncertainty can feel. We want clarity and control. We want to know exactly where we are headed and how everything will turn out. Yet life and faith seldom work that way. More often than not, God reveals the path one step at a time.

Not knowing God's plan for your life can be frustrating, even frightening. But perhaps the more important question is this: Are we listening for God to speak? Have we spent time in prayer, reflection, and quiet conversation with God, asking the deeper questions and patiently waiting for God's guidance? Communication, after all, is a two-way street.

As I continue to grow in faith, I find tremendous comfort in knowing that God already holds the future in his hands. What a relief that the burden of figuring everything out does not rest entirely on us. The prophet Jeremiah reminds us of this promise:

> "For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the LORD." (Jeremiah 29:11–14)

I believe this promise applies not only to individuals, but also to churches. Like people, congregations experience seasons of uncertainty, transition, and discernment. The path forward is not always obvious, and the future may not unfold in a straight line. Yet God is still leading, still speaking, and still calling his people toward hope and purpose.

That is why I am inviting both the session and the congregation into a season of intentional prayer and discernment for the future of First Presbyterian Church. We are calling this effort "The Gracious Discernment Project."

As a church family, we have an opportunity to prayerfully ask important questions about who God is calling us to be and where God is leading us next. Rather than rushing ahead with assumptions or simply doing things the way they have always been done, we are called to listen carefully for the voice of God through prayer, scripture, conversation, and shared vision.

This summer, I invite you to join the Session in discerning God's will for the future of our congregation. Most of us would agree that the mission of the church is to worship God, make disciples for Jesus Christ, and to serve others as Christ served. But faithfully living out that mission requires a shift in perspective. We must move from asking what the church can do for us to asking how we can use our gifts, talents, and faith to serve God and others. That is gracious discernment.

As we begin this journey together, I encourage you to participate with open hearts and faithful expectations. God is not finished with First Presbyterian Church yet. The same God who promises hope and a future is already preparing the path before us. May we seek him together and trust that, in his time, he will guide us forward.

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
2026	1	2 10:00 Church Mice	3	4 10:00 Good Morning Bible Study	5	6
7 **SCRIP/COMMUNION** **Liturgist –Keith Hare** 11:00 Worship	8	9 10:00 Church Mice	10	11 10:00 Good Morning Bible Study	12	13
14 **Liturgist – Carol Floyd** 11:00 Worship	15	16 10:00 Church Mice	17	18 10:00 Good Morning Bible Study	19	20
21 **Liturgist – Gaye Gibson** 11:00 Worship 	22	23 10:00 Church Mice	24	25 10:00 Good Morning Bible Study	26	27
28 **Liturgist – Ed Jobes** 11:00 Worship	29	30 10:00 Church Mice				