THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
65 North Third Street
Newark, OH 43055-5522
740-345-1480

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, Wed, Thurs 9:00-2:00pm

May 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
Linda Smith
Class of 2026:
Keith Hare
Chris Rainey

Worship

Our sanctuary looked so beautiful on Easter Sunday. Thank you to Becky Mahon for this photo.

Communion will be served on Sunday, May 3.

SCRIP

The next Scrip order is **May 3.** 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

May Birthdays

Gary Collins 5/3

Hope Labutis 5/7

Gary Clark 5/29

May Anniversaries

Ed and Barb Jobes 5/23

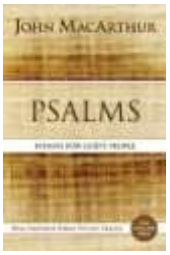
Make Me a Blessing

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!

The Church Mice

You may have heard us refer to the "Church Mice" who faithfully come on Tuesday mornings to clean our church. They work together as a team to clean the sanctuary, kitchen, bathrooms, and vacuum all of our carpeting. We are so thankful for their dedication to making our church clean and inviting for all. They meet on Tuesdays at 10:00 every week.
Thank you Gaye, Jo, Priscilla, and Sandy for all you do to keep God's House in working order. We appreciate you!

Good Morning Bible Study



The Good Morning Bible Study meets on Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. in the Gold Circle Room. Join Linda Smith and friends as they continue their study in Psalms.
Everyone is welcome!

Adult Bible Study/ Coffee Fellowship

Our Adult Bible Study meets at 9:15 on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. Join us in person or over Zoom! Together we will draw closer to the Lord as a community of believers. Stay after for a time of Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall! (To sign up to help with our Coffee Fellowship ministry, please see Sandy Noland.)

From the Potluck: A Recipe to Share

It has been reported that the slow cooker apple crumble was a huge hit at the potluck to welcome Rev. Flynn. For those of you who wanted the recipe, here's the link from Becky:

https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/177053/slow-cooker-apple-crisp/

Our Property Chair at Work

Look at Linda, our Property Chair, so high up in the air checking out the bell tower!

No worries friends, she came back down to the ground safely to continue her work for us here at FPC! ☺

Finance Report

As of April 22, 2026, our account balances are:

Checking: $102,495.13*
Savings: $10,333.83
SCRIP: $2,682.10

*The checking account balance includes $84,750.00 pulled from invested funds to pay the final invoice for Brothers Masonry for the work they have been doing on the church.
We also still owe the Presbyterian Board of Pensions for health insurance & retirement for Pastor Flynn.

-Keith Hare, FPC Finance Chair

Evangelism and Outreach

Operation Christmas Child

OCC Wish List for May 2026

As there are no big sales we know of this month, we are choosing to request a few items for shoeboxes that we can always use. The first is for **washcloths**. Often times, washcloths can be found in bundles of 8 to 15. Good stores for bundles are Kohl's, Walmart and, sometimes, Target.

Our second request is **for inexpensive T-shirts, both boys and girls**. The age ranges for these are 2-4, 6-10, and 10-14. You need not specify the age; we can do that while we are packing them. We can't pack anything with the Pokemon or Harry Potter logo or shirts depicting violence or war. Also, no camouflage patterns can be sent.

We thank you so much for your continued support for this ministry. As always, your prayers for the shoeboxes and the children who will receive them are always appreciated.

Property Report

FPC April 2026 Property Report:

The front masonry contract has been completed. The final invoice of $84,750.00 is in progress of being paid. There are some more small projects on the chapel that we have committed to finish.

-The Property Committee

Did You Know? Color Symbolism in the Church

A symbolism of color has grown up around the church calendar through the period of Christian history. This applies to hangings of all kinds on altars, pulpits, and lecterns. The colors apply also to certain vestments worn by the clergy. As they appear in churches, the changing colors point to the significance of the seasons in the Christian year.

WHITE signifies purity, joy, light, and glory; and is used on the great festival occasions such as Christmas and Easter,
RED signifies both the tongues of fire at Pentecost and the blood of martyrs.
VIOLET (or PURPLE) signifies penitence, humility, and suffering, and is used during Advent and Lent.
GREEN is the predominant color in nature; it directs attention to God the Father, the Creator.

National Day of Prayer

Our church has been invited to participate in the annual National Day of Prayer "Prayer around the Square" for Licking County. This event will be held at the Public Square in Newark, Ohio from 7 am to 7 pm on Thursday, May 7th. There will be 16 prayer stations posted around the Square. You are invited to participate any time during the day to make personal prayers of repentance and intercession for the sins of our communities and nation. This year's theme is "A Time to Repent" from the scripture Mark 1:14-15.

A Message from Pastor Diane

Outrageous Grace in an Age of Anger, by Pastor Diane

Matthew 5:21-24

It doesn't take much these days to feel angry. A quick glance at the news or a scroll through social media can raise our blood pressure before breakfast. Headlines are designed to provoke us into a response. What's harder is deciding what to do with that anger once it arrives.

Most of us know the internal tug-of-war. On our better days, we remember that even the people who frustrate us are still complicated, beloved children of God. On our worst days, we quietly wonder from which planet they descended and dismiss them altogether. And eventually, if we're honest, we realize something unsettling: just as we are judging others, we are likely being judged, too.

Human history shows how powerful—and dangerous—this impulse can be. Dehumanizing the "other" has long been an effective way to justify harm. Once someone is reduced to a label or a threat, compassion becomes optional.

It is into this deeply human reality that Christ speaks in the Sermon on the Mount. When Jesus addresses anger, he goes far beyond outward behavior. "You have heard it said, 'You shall not murder," he reminds his listeners. But then he presses deeper, naming anger, insults, and contempt as part of the same destructive continuum. Violence, he suggests, begins long before an act; it begins when we decide another person is no longer worthy of dignity or care.

Jesus' most startling instruction comes when he interrupts worship itself: if you remember that a relationship is broken, pause your offering and seek reconciliation first. Right relationship with God, he insists, cannot be separated from right relationship with one another. This isn't about legalism or moral perfection. It's about God's outrageous grace.

Reconciliation is difficult work. It requires humility, honesty, and courage. It does not mean ignoring injustice, excusing harm, or abandoning healthy boundaries. Scripture never calls us to false peace. Yet even as we name harm and seek accountability, we are reminded that every person belongs to God.

Grace does not wait for us to resolve every conflict before it shows up. Grace meets us in the middle of our mess and calls us toward something better. We will fail and get angry. And still, grace calls us back to God, to one another, and to the holy work of repair.

So, when the steam begins to rise, pause. Remember that you live by grace and that you, too, are someone else's "other." And listen to the gentle invitation: seek reconciliation, honor the humanity of the one before you, and then return together to worship.

2026

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Liturgist – OPEN SCRIP/COMMUNION 9:15 Adult Bible Study in FH & Zoom 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship	4	5 10:00 Church Mice	6	7 10:00 Good Morning Bible Study	8	9
10 Liturgist – Carol Floyd 9:15 Adult Bible Study in FH & Zoom 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship	11	12 10:00 Church Mice	13	14 10:00 Good Morning Bible Study	15	16
17 Liturgist – Gaye Gibson 9:15 Adult Bible Study in FH & Zoom 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship	18	19 10:00 Church Mice	20	21 10:00 Good Morning Bible Study	22	23
24/31 Liturgists – Ed Jobes/ Emily Hare 9:15 Adult Bible Study in FH & Zoom 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship	25 	26 10:00 Church Mice	27	28 10:00 Good Morning Bible Study	29	30