

**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

65 North Third Street
Newark, OH 43055-5522
740-345-1480

Church E-mail: firstpresofc@gmail.com

Web Address:

www.1stpreshnewark.com

Jesse Ryals, Provisional Pastor
Dallas Dryburgh, Congregational Care Pastor
Tara Lewellen, Music Coordinator
Hope Labutis, Secretary
Sheri Bogardus, Treasurer
Gary Collins, Maintenance

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



September— 2024

A NOTE FROM PASTOR JESSE

I wanted to take a moment and thank you all for the privilege of ministering to you for the last two years (and some change). I appreciate your encouragement and graciousness throughout, and see those as important aspects of your faith and character... aspects that are increasingly rare in our culture. Whether big or small in our eyes, I look forward to the work God is going to do in and through this church.

- Pastor Jesse Ryals

CHURCH ELDER INFORMATION

Clerk of Session – Priscilla Hare

Class of 2026:

Keith Hare - Finance

Chris Rainey - Worship

Class of 2025:

Sarah Bowles – Church Life

Becky Mahon – Personnel

Class of 2024:

Linda Smith – Property

Karen Fish – Evangelism & Outreach

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Pastor Jesse has let session know that his time at First Presbyterian is coming to an end. He is still willing to come to us occasionally when we have a vacancy. His last Sunday with First Presbyterian will be on September 15th, at Rotary Park, service will begin at 10:30.

With Pastor Jesse's departure, session has been working to find an interim solution while the Pastor Nominating Committee continues to search for a full time pastor for us. I am pleased to let you know that we have a six month contract in place with Reinita Thacker, a Presbyterian Commissioned Pastor (formerly Commissioned Ruling Elder). Reinita has visited our church several times. She will begin to minister to us on September 22. Please welcome her to our church family.

- Becky Mahon, Personnel

WORSHIP

We will be serving Communion on Sunday, September 1.



Presbyterians in the Park will be held **Sunday, Sept 15th at Rotary Park**, Sharon

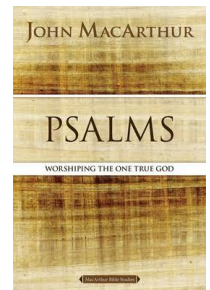
Valley Road, in Newark, OH. The service will begin at **10:30 a.m.** at the main shelter. Bring a lawn chair or picnic blanket. Please plan



to join us!

GOOD MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Good Morning Bible meets on Thursday mornings from 10-12 in the Gold Circle Room as they continue their study of The Word in the Book of Psalms. Please see Linda Smith for any questions. This Bible Study is open to all and we'd love to have you join us in fellowship and prayer!



SCRIP



The next Scrip order is **September 1**. 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. If you are interested in Scrip cards, please see Gaye Gibson.

EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH

MINUTE FOR MISSIONS

An update from Bevan and Laura Stein Ministries:



Through genuine compassion, we're making disciples across multiple ministries, spanning three countries on two continents.

- **Ministry to orphans in Slovak state-run orphanages and summer camps:**

Taking the gospel to kids in a former communist block country and into the very state-run



orphanages that used to be bastions of atheism off-limits to Christians, is an amazing opportunity and testimony that the gates of hell shall not withstand the

proclamation of the gospel. These kids are too young to remember or even know that for decades there were many kids like them who did not have the opportunity to hear the gospel presented to them. These do however, and have accepted Christ!

- **Motorcycle evangelism to unchurched Slovak bikers:**

When we arrived in 1996 there was no Christian ministry targeting unchurched bikers in Slovakia. I began the first such ministry in 2007. Since



then I have become the unofficial chaplain to up

to 1,100 bikers. They not only come to hear me preach and pray for them individually once a year, they also ask me to be with them in times of grief and joy. I have gained their trust through riding with them and going to all their biker events. I am the only pastor who has ever devoted himself to them and they are responding with open hearts and minds.

- **Hippotherapy on our own private**

Slovak ranch: In 2012 we bought 25 acres to expand our hippotherapy ministry. We have 8 horses which we use to share God's love to kids with emotional or psychological challenges. Many of the kids in orphanages benefit from the peacefulness of our ranch as well as the gentleness of our horses. Some have been healed of trauma and even physical problems that nothing else was able to help. We are so delighted to have our first building built and permits for 4 more buildings so we can offer multi-day retreats.

- **Humanitarian Aid to Ukraine:**

From the moment the war in Ukraine broke out we began raising funds and taking humanitarian aid. My first load was within 3 days. I got my commercial driver's license to be able to drive a big truck, even though I didn't own one. God provided an 18-ton truck and I became one of only a few who were taking supplies clear to



the front line. Within a short time I was asked to be the national coordinator of humanitarian aid to Ukraine for the Slovak Lutheran Church, a role I still fill today. I have made 27 trips carrying enough food to feed over 4 million people. I was awarded both by the Slovak Ambassador to Ukraine and by the Ukrainian Bible Society as the one who "changes the world." But for me, the best reward is seeing hope return to the eyes of the hopeless. My message to them is simple, "God sees and cares about you."

- **Sudanese orphan and widow refugees receive the bread of life:**

For decades war has raged in Sudan causing mass starvation and death. Millions have fled to Uganda with no shoes and only dressed in rags. Having never been to Uganda did not stop me from asking God what I could do? We started our own organization in northern Uganda called "Heavenly Father's Love Mission, Limited." We have 8 full-time African staff who help us feed, clothe, house and educate 178 refugee orphans and train just as many refugee widows in skills

like soap making, basket weaving, hair-dressing, sewing, to name a few. But the best thing is that we share God's love with them and lead them to Jesus. They are coming with hearts wide open to the gospel.

- **Evangelism and Discipleship in**

Ugandan Refugee Camps: Once a month, after many have made professions of faith and



been prepared for baptism, the pastors of three churches in the refugee camps take our

new converts to a local river for baptism. This week we baptized 11 and saw 7 more pray to accept Christ. Our Heavenly Father's Love Mission is making a tremendous difference in the lives of many people who were starving to death both physically and spiritually. Today, they march through the refugee camp inviting others to come to Christ and to come to church. And the churches are growing day-by-day in number and in power.

"Let your light shine before men so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



September Suggested

Shopping List

Operation Christmas Child – 2024

WOW Items for Boys and Girls

All Ages

- Stuffed Animals
- Craft Kits
- Jewelry
- Journals
- Sticker booklets
- Slinkys

- Etch-A-Sketch Toy
- Cars and Trucks
- Baby Dolls and Doll Clothes
- Nerf Balls
- Games (Checkers, Card Games, Etc.)
- Rubix Cubes
- Puzzles
- Play Figurines
- Soccer Balls and Pumps
- Purses or Smaller Backpacks
- Legos

**Thank you for helping to share
"good news and great joy!"**

**MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLERS:
YOU ARE INVITED!**

The Connect Ecumenical Youth Group is meeting 2024-2025 for school year! Meetings are the 1st Sunday of every month, September to May, from 6:30-8:00 at local host churches. Join us September 1st for our Fall Kickoff at Highwater Church. If you have any questions, please ask Sarah Bowles.

HAYRIDE | GAMES | BONFIRE | SMORES | FREINDS

September 1st
6:30-8pm


FALL KICKOFF



Middle and High Schoolers are invited to Connect Youth Group!

Highwater Church
1213 Dutch Lane Rd NW
Newark, OH 43055



CONGREGATIONAL CARE



September Birthdays

Jean Holman 9/4

Kay Kittel 9/4

Rose Novell 9/8

Gaye Gibson 9/13

Sheri Bogardus 9/13

Jim Rodeniser 9/21

Lorraine Cox 9/22

Jo Deweese 9/24

September Anniversaries

Steve & Kenita Keck 9/17

Mark & Hope Labutis 9/25

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

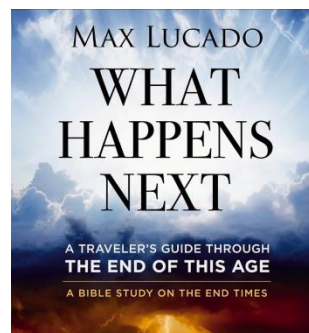
I do not recall that the expression "Change is good" is Biblical (Confirmed that it is NOT from the Bible). The Pastor Search Committee has for several months been involved with numerous changes to the computer based and denominational approval processes which has caused us to revise, rewrite, resubmit and wait for the newest version of the application process to start working again in providing church information and artificial intelligence to match up resumes which will allow us to receive potential candidate information. We have all gained great knowledge and frustration with computer enhancements.

Our denomination just completed their biannual General Assembly meeting and we wait to hear of any changes that have been approved at G.A. and await

ratification at Presbytery level that could affect the process. We are aware there are a lot of churches nationwide in the same predicament and while our Presbytery has provided us with useful updates it is going to be a test of patience for us to reach the goal of finding the best match of Pastor to our church. This process reminds me that like a car in deep snow, we creep forward slowly but we are moving forward.

- Submitted by Ed Jobes on behalf of the PNC

ADULT BIBLE CLASS



Do you view the events of the end of the age through the eyes of fear or through the eyes of faith and hope?

In this video Bible study, Max Lucado provides a wise and reassuring overview of what God's word has to say on the topic of end times—so that you can be prepared, not scared.

Why think about the end times at all? Why occupy your thoughts with the "not yet" when you have enough to deal with in the "right now"? The answer is simple: because Jesus focused on the end times. So, if Jesus made the end times a priority, it only makes sense that his followers would as well.

God has told us what to expect from the end times not to scare you but to prepare you. He is like a pilot on the intercom telling the passengers about impending turbulence. A good pilot keeps his travelers informed. Your good Father does the same!

This adult Bible class, facilitated by Ed Jobes, starts 9/22 and runs through October. Please join us! (This class will be available both in person and on Zoom.)

PROPERTY REPORT

FPC August Property Report:



There isn't much to report for this month. All current Property bills are paid to date.

- The first coat of blue paint is now on the signs out front and is looking good.
- We are in the process of getting estimates for a new roof for 2025 or 2026. This also will involve the repair of the mortar joints and the cleaning and sealing of the exterior.

To God be the Glory, He is helping us to keep our building in good repair.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda L Smith, FPC Property Chairman

FINANCE REPORT

Church Account Balances:

- As of Tuesday, August 27, the balance in the church checking account is \$9,175.40.
- The line of credit balance (what we owe) is zero.
- The other account balances are:
 - SCRIP: \$1,461.30
 - Women's Ministry: \$1,267.84
 - Savings Account: \$1,502.04

Keith Hare, FPC Finance Chairman

CHURCH LIFE



We have truly enjoyed the fellowship (and the yummy food) at Break for Breakfast this summer! We are looking forward to a fun fall season with our church family!

CHOCOLATE WALK 2024



As members of the Downtown Newark Association, First Presbyterian will reach out to 200 or more families by participating in the DNA Chocolate on Friday, September 27, 2024 from 4-7pm. The DNA will sell tickets at a cost of \$20.00 each. Each ticket holder will receive a Sweet Treat or activity at each DNA participant.

We will be making First Pres Famous Final Friday Fudge once again! Your help is needed to make this happen. Sign-up sheets are at the back of the sanctuary.

You can:

- 1- Donate ingredients (12oz bags semi-sweet chocolate chips, 10.5 oz bags miniature marshmallows, 12 oz. cans evaporated milk, 4 lb bags granulated sugar, 16 oz bags walnuts)
- 2- Help make fudge on Wednesday, September 25 from 9 am - noon
- 3- Package fudge on Thursday, September 26 beginning at 1pm
- 4- Distribute fudge on Friday, September 27 from 5 - 8pm

If you'd like to be part of donating, making, packaging or distributing our fudge, please sign up at the back of the sanctuary or contact Sandy Noland (rsjnloland@windstream.net) or Kim Dershem (kdershem@windstream.net).

