

First Church
88 N 5th Street P.O. Box 729
Newark, Ohio 43058

www.firstchurchnewark.org

In person Sundays 9:00 am and 11:00 am
Live Stream – Sundays 9 am and 11 am

First Church STAFF:

Barbara Salyers, Lead Pastor
Peter Borhauer, Associate Pastor
Carl Robinson, Pastor Emeritus
Every Member of First Church
Terry Swisher, Facility Manager
Nick Smith, Facility Assistant
Vicki Miller, Secretary/Treasurer
Jan Hendren, Financial/Attendance Sec
Kayla Jones, Lay Leader
Nancy Higgins, COG Preschool Director

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 168
Newark, Ohio 43058

Return Service Requested

Michael Belt, Minister of Music
Mike Tomesek, Organist
Cathy Carpenter, Pianist
Karen Cost, Handbell Director

Praise Team –
Laura McPeek, Helen Gorter, Belinda
Paisley, Kirk Paisley
Technology-
Mark McPeek, Kayla Jones, Alan Miller,
Cheryl Wartenbee



THE PIONEER

Newsletter for First United Methodist Church –April 2024-Volume 24 Issue 4

Barbara Salyers, Lead Pastor – Peter Borhauer, Associate Pastor

Mission Statement- To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



As winter and world awakens with beautiful colors, fragrant blooms, and the joyful songs of birds, we find ourselves immersed in the beauty of spring. This season, bursting with newness and renewal, offers us the time to reflect on the parallel between nature’s rebirth and the spiritual significance of new life in Christ.

Spring serves as a reminder that change is not only unavoidable but also essential for growth. Just as the trees of winter burst forth with tender green leaves and delicate blossoms, so too can our hearts experience a transformation when touched by the love and grace of Christ. In the redeeming love Christ, we find the courage to shed the weight of past burdens and embrace the promise of new beginnings.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ stands as the perfect symbol of new life. Through His sacrificial love, death was conquered, and the promise of eternal life was born. As we celebrate Easter, we are invited to join the victory over death, to let go of fear and doubt, and to embrace the abundant life that Christ offers. It is through our relationship with Christ that we are empowered to break free from the constraints of our old selves and embrace the fullness of who we were created to be.

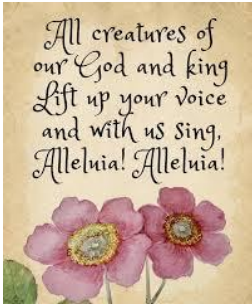
Also, spring can bring to us a spirit of gratitude and awe. As we see and experience at the wonders of creation, from the delicate making of a flower to the awesome expanse of the sky, we are reminded of the boundless love and creativity of our Creator. In the midst of life’s challenges and uncertainties of his world, the promise of spring offers hope. It reminds us that no matter how bleak our circumstances or the world may seem, there is always the potential for new beginnings. As we walk in faith, we can trust that God is continually working all things together for our good.

This Spring, let us embrace the invitation to new life in Christ. Let us allow His love to penetrate the depths of our being, renewing us from the inside out. As we witness the wonders of creation unfolding around us, may we be reminded of the transformative power of God’s love and the boundless possibilities that await those who dare to believe. Amen.

Blessings,

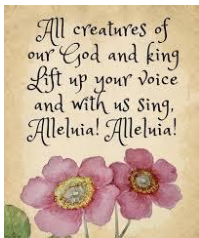
Pastor Barb

Our hymn focus is “All Creatures of Our God and King” is an English Christian hymn by William Henry Draper based on a poem by St Francis of Assisi. It was written for a children’s festival



(continue inside cover)

Hymn continued....



celebration and later published in the 1919 Public School Hymn Book. The tune is to a German Easter hymn and it soon was used in many schools in England. The hymn is used in the weeks of the Easter season.

*All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voices, let us sing:
Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Thou burning sun with golden beams,
thou silver moon that gently gleams,
O praise him, O praise him,*

*Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, Alleluia!*

*Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice,
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Thou fire so masterful and bright,
that givest man both warmth and light,
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, Alleluia!*

*Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*



Home Care Kits needed

The Together for Mission Project for April will be the assembling and donation of Home Care Kits. The West Ohio Conference is supporting Mid-West Mission in the collection of the cleaning kits that will be distributed to those impacted by disasters.



Needed are COMPLETE Home Care Kits. You are asked to assemble a kit or join with friends or family to assemble a kit or kits.

- The kits are five items and include:
- 5-gallon ROUND Bucket -1** with resealable lid (available at Home Depot, Lowes etc)
 - Liquid Household Cleaner - 1**
56-80 oz bottle - NO SPRAY bottles
 - Dish Soap - 1**
42 to 64 oz. bottle
 - Liquid Laundry Soap -1**
100 to 150 oz bottle
 - Scrub Brush - 1**
with or without handles

All Home Care Kits are to be at First Church by **May 17, 2024** to be taken to annual conference the end of May.

Please DO NOT bring individual items or empty bucket to the church. We do not have the means to donate partial buckets. ONLY completed Home Care Kits ready to deliver to conference will be accepted.

Retirement celebration for Pastor Todd



First Church celebrated the retirement of Pastor Todd Frail, Congregational Pastor on April 7. Many expressed their well wishes during the light reception held in the gathering space. Also thank you to Linda for her support of Pastor Todd and her service to First Church.



Looking over the display boards it was easy to follow the pastoral service of Pastor Todd. His commitment and compassion as our Congregational Pastor have supported many of our members during his ministry. Thank you again and our best to you.



Postponed General Conference convenes



The 2020 General Conference was set to happen in Minneapolis, Minnesota, until the pandemic made it necessary to postpone the quadrennial legislative event until 2024. From April 23 to May 3, 862 voting delegates from around the world will gather for the United Methodist General Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. The coming General Conference faces multiple proposals aimed at shaping the future of The United Methodist Church including:

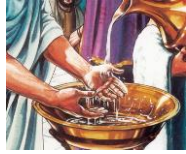
- Regionalization
- General church budget
- New African bishop
- Revised social principles
- Dealing with disaffiliations
- Same-sex weddings and self-avowed practicing gay clergy
- Ecumenical relationships
- Clergy focus
- Responses to sexual misconduct
- Students and Special Sundays
- Treatment of girls and women
- Young people's ministries
- Older adult concerns
- Wespeth -new clergy retirement plan

There are 88 delegates from the North Central Jurisdiction which include West Ohio with 2 and East Ohio with 6 delegates.

The conference will be live streamed on and a guide to the General Conference are available at www.resourceumc.org. Please note the information is listed as "Guide to 2020 General Conference" due to the rescheduling.

Easter at First Church

Many participated in the Holy Week special services and joined us for our Easter Celebration both in person and on line. The Maundy Thursday service was interactive service led by Pastor Barb and began with handwashing symbolizing the feet washing at the Upper Room. Thank you to retired clergy Bill Dunfee,



Paula Archdeacon, Bill Kopper and Renee Lawrence for assisting.



The Maundy Thursday service continued with a short meditation and communion served by

Pastor Barb and Peter in small groups of twelve at two stations. The service ended with a time of meditation in the “garden” led by Heath UM pastor Susan Britton.



Thank you to Kathy Snow and Melissa Loomis of Chancel Guild for setting up the garden and communion stations. And to Belinda Paisley who served as cantor for the service.



On Good Friday, Pastor Peter offered a meditation on the last seven words of



Christ. The reflective service ended with the extinguishing of the light. Thank you to all who helped to set up and reset the Chapel and Sanctuary to celebrate Easter with special music

offered by the Sanctuary Choir, Praise Team and special musicians.



The children enjoyed a egg “scavenger” hunt earning prizes for their finds. Thank you to all who donated items for the prizes.



FUMC Graduation Information Form

On May 19, 2024 to recognize our graduates. We will recognize individuals graduating from Middle School (8th grade), High School, and College. If you or a family member will be graduating, please fill out the form and return it to the church office by May 8, 2024. Please include a wallet size photo – color or black and white. The information will be included in the annual Graduation Booklet. Thank you for your cooperation!

Name of Individual completing this form _____

Contact me at _____

Attending May 19 at ____ 9 am ____ 11 am

Circle education level that applies

College/Technical High School Middle School

Full Name (please print) _____

Graduating from _____

Graduation Date _____

Degree _____

Future plans _____

Parents/Guardians/Spouse (please circle one) _____

History of Newark topic for Candlelighters gathering

By Bill Koppert

The May gathering of the Candlelighters will take place on Thursday, May 2, at 11:30 a.m. in the social room. Our lunch menu for the day includes ham loaf.



Our guest speaker will be Doug Stout from the Licking County Library. He will be sharing some of the history of Newark through the preservation of the historic

sights over the past several hundred years. He will speak on the preservation of the Hopewell Ceremonial earthworks in Ohio which was added to the UNESCO list of World Heritage sites on September 19, 2023. Great Circle Earthworks is nearly 1,200 feet in diameter and was likely used as a vast ceremonial center by its builders. Come, and invite your friends.

Apportionment giving at 100%

Pastor Peter and Pastor Barb hold a certificate recently received from West Ohio Conference Bishop Gregory Palmer.



In a note sent with the certificate, Bishop Palmer noted that First Church was one of 307 churches that met the 100% giving goal.

He added that joining together allowed the district and conference in 2023 to provide Go Grants, fund education around the word, and develop a conference strategic plan for ministry to children, youth and young adults. The bishop added these are only a few of the ways connectional giving supports all United Methodist.



Puzzles are us!



Another completed puzzle! The First Church youth are quite the puzzlers! They love to work on puzzles before our class starts. They work together well!

Confirmation class begins

The 2024 Confirmation class began last week with five students. Our confirmands include Harper Morris, Parker Myers, Laney Powell, Presley Hardy and Grayson Peterson. The classes will continue through May with some First Church members serving as mentors. The class will be confirmed in the June 2nd worship service. During worship on June 2, the confirmands will also serve as communion servers.

Please keep all our youth in your prayers as they continue their faith journey this summer!

Baking supports outreach

Recently, the First Church youth helped with our mission outreach for the 5th Sunday Salvation Army dinner. They made brownies for the 5th Sunday meal.



They also made muffins for our Easter breakfast. Thank you, Kayla Jones for helping the youth to be a part of these ministries!

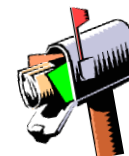


Volunteering important

Thank you to our adult ushers who faithfully serve every week at both the 9 am and 11 am service. On the first Sunday of the month, when the children are in service you may have also been greeted by Peter. Peter serves most first Sundays with Jan Beery, usher.



Mail Bag



First Church-
What a nice surprise to receive a card with “well wishes” from church members and the Candlelighters group. A big “thank you” to all who came to the rescue of Pastor Barb and me. Good gracious, what a way to create some attention! My thanks-
Nancy Grower

Dear First Church family-
Thank you for your prayers and get well wishes. They are instrumental in my recovery from heart bypass surgery. I appreciate your kindness. Love and God bless-
Linda Henry

Dear First Church-
Continuing my recovery from surgery so I can join you all in church again. Thank you, everyone for your support and prayers. My “flat” Jesus was with me.

Janice Calland



First Church-
Thanks for all of you for being so kind and giving. I know all of us in the shower ministry appreciate all you do. Thank you with much love and respect. Your friend-
Suzi – Shower Ministry

Friends and First Church-
A special thank you to all who donated to CASEY’s Cupboard in honor of Carl and Paula Archdeacon’s birthdays and 50th wedding anniversary this month. The donations will be used for needed items.

Bill and Julie Koppert

First Church-
Linda and I are so very appreciative of all the expressions of kindness that we received on my Retirement Recognition Sunday. We received numerous cards and many with added personal notes. I read them all and was a bit overwhelmed. The reception time between services in the gathering space was so very appropriate as it allowed us to speak personally with many of our people and to return our thanks for all the support we have received in our ministry together at First Church. We know Vicki Miller had a big part in organizing and carrying out the reception plan, so we thank her and all the others who had a part. The plaque, the love offering and the quilted table runner are all gifts we will treasure as we continue on in our new “fully retired” status. Remember what Peter said at the close of his sermon: “What we have done is now unique.” It is what we are all called to do...being “little Christs.”



About our members....

Marriage:

-Congratulations to April Helber and Ty Breese who were married on April 15.

Special wishes:

-Happy anniversary to Gary and Karen Krinn who celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary.

-Gregory Palmer, West Ohio Conference Bishop will retire this year. First Church will honor Bishop Palmer with a gift, however if you would like to send individual wishes you may send to westohioumc.org/retirement-greetings or to Bishop Palmer, WOC, 32 Wesley Blvd, Worthington, Ohio 43085 by May 15, 2024.





By Nancy Higgins, COG Preschool Director

Jesus calms the storm....



During the month of April, the children learned how Jesus calmed the storm. During our lesson we emphasized that when we are scared that we can talk to Jesus and he will take care of us. In class we acted out the story with our rocking boat. Everyone took turns playing the part of Jesus and telling the storm to “be still.”

Spring Cleaning...

Remember when you are spring cleaning that the preschool will take donations of gently used indoor and outdoor toys and craft items.

Registration....

Registration for the 2024-2025 school year is now open for First Church families and current preschool families.

Outdoor play time.....



We have been excited for the warmer weather so we can be out on the playground more.

Color me! Congratulations!



My Thoughts

From Associate Pastor Peter Borhauer

My home church was set up “in the round” with pews on three sides of the Sanctuary all facing in toward the altar in the middle. My family sat in the second row close to the pulpit. We went to the lower attendance service, so there was plenty of room not at the front. But that’s not where we sat, and no one asked my opinion. So, I tried look like I was paying attention. One of the ways I entertained myself when the sermons were boring (not that any of you would know what that’s like!) was to read the stuff in the pew backs. The pamphlets, the Bible, the hymnal. Over time, I started to pay more attention to the hymnal than the rest of worship. Not because I was that bored, but because reading and re-reading the songs we sang, and seeing the variety for every part of our faith journey, helped me to better understand everything else I was experiencing. Before I could understand the finer nuances of theology, or follow along with the sermons, I was able to build an understanding of who God is through the songs we sang and the ones I was reading. Even today, as much as I hassle Pastor Barb for having a song for every occasion, I go back to our hymnody, searching for ways to use songs to convey the same lessons I teach in my sermons.

Considering that I am unabashedly Wesleyan, my favorite hymn writer is my friend Chuck. That’s what I call Charles Wesley. His hymns and sacred poems gave voice to the Methodist movement, helping it to spread around the world. There are two that are favorites of mine: “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” and “Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown”. You might be familiar with at least some of the

verses of one or the other – but there are many more that you might not know. Next time you are bored in church, open up your hymnal to pages 57 and 58 and look at the entirety of “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”, or open to pages 386 and 387 for “Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown”. At my funeral I want both of these songs sung in their entirety. And there are a lot of verses.

I love how these songs call attention to our experience of God. “O For a Thousand Tongues” is an expression of praise for God’s boundless grace. It invites us to celebrate, along with every other believer, Christ’s victory over sin and death, and the freedom we find through Christ. It speaks to the ways God’s grace includes everyone, and how we are all invited to join in praise. It even delves into complicated concepts of grace, and what scholars call the “order of salvation”, in a way that is easy to understand. “Come, O Thou Traveler” (also called “Wrestling Jacob”) is the story of Jacob wrestling with the angel in Genesis 32, crafted into a metaphor for our own faith journey. Its verses highlight our deep desire to know God, guiding us to discover that “Thy nature and Thy name is Love.” It invites us to reflect on our own encounters with God, even in our wrestling, to discover how we moved from seeing God as the unknown traveler to the source of grace and love that never end.

I hope you’ll join us for a new sermon series, starting May 19th, that looks at how our faith is shaped by the songs we sing. As we gather in worship each week, pay attention to the ways the rich imagery, the poetic language, even the direct biblical references explore the mysteries of God’s love and the joys of a life in Christ. I’m excited about this new journey to discover how our faith can be enriched by our songs, and how songs offer us new ways and words to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.



Scrip gift cards....

Gift Cards make great graduation presents. We have a variety of gift cards that graduates will love! We can also order specific cards for your graduate. Stop in the gathering area between services.

SOWER registration...

The 2024 Henderson Settlement/SOWER home build registration is now available in the gatherings space. If you have questions see Ralph Brandon.

Salvation Army 5th Sunday...

Many volunteers from First Church gave up a few hours on Easter to provide dinner at the Salvation Army. The 5th Sundays during the year are provided by First Church. The next dinner will be on June 30.



CASEY Cupboard Shower....

Thank you to all who donated to the April 20 CASEY's Cupboard Shower. Providing simple household items can make a difference in many lives in our community. In the recent weeks the

cupboard has been able to provide household items to several residents who were displaced by the recent fire at the Avalon Building



RIP medical debt donations go to support Ohioans

Thank you to all you supported the Easter offering this year. A total of \$3035.00 was donated and sent last week. The partnership with the RIP Medical Debt relief program uses donations to purchase bundled medical debt portfolios from hospitals on the secondary market and then abolishes that debt at pennies on the dollar.



It has been reported 7 of 10 adults say they receive medical bills they cannot afford and many carry medical debt for years. A 2019 study found 35% of Ohio adults struggle to pay their medical bills. Your donations could help to relieve the stress and worry for Ohioans.



By Leyla Miller, Children's Coordinator

In our study of the Bible stories, April brings us to the Book of Numbers. Through the study we learned the results of the disobedience of the Israelites, and the results of not having faith in God. The Israelites' failure to uphold their commitment to God and the punishment of being kept out of the Promised Land. We thank Jesus for coming to us, for dying for us, so that we may never have to be kept from the Promise Land.

Resurrection gardens

During Easter as we welcome spring the kids made resurrection gardens in celebration. We have been challenged to keep enough water on the gardens. However, we are patiently waiting on our grass to grow!

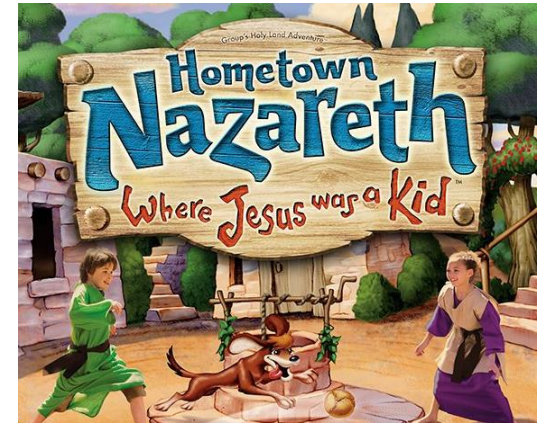


Eclipse viewing

On April 8, I joined with many of you to watch the total solar eclipse as the moon passed between the Earth and Sun. It was a once in a lifetime event for many. I hope you have an opportunity to see it.



VBS coming in July



Are you looking forward to VBS!! We will be continuing the Holyland adventure series with a VBS theme visiting "Hometown Nazareth-Where Jesus was a Kid". The interactive VBS promises to be as much fun as last year! Mark your calendars July 16th-18th and watch for ways to volunteer or donate.

Children's music needs you

Our children have been working hard to get ready for our Mother's Day performance in May. If you play the piano or have a love of music and are available during the Sunday School hour we need you. With the transition of children to the youth program our music director is moving up with his children. Please consider volunteering for an hour a week to help us continue our music programming. Contact me at lmiller@firstchurchnewark.org or call the church office at 740-349-7020 to volunteer or for more information.





Choral Scholar program approved

In August Director of Music Michael Belt will complete one year with First Church. Director Belt noted when hired he was tasked with building up the Sanctuary Choir as part of his duties. In an effort to meet that task, he presented a Choral Scholar Program to the Leadership Team which was approved. He explained to the team that starting a Choral Scholar Program here at FUMC is an important step in the growth and building of the choir/music ministry reflective of First Church's long music history.

The Choral Scholar Program is an initiative that brings in young musicians to be a part of a church choir and church life. By participating in this program, the young musician receives a scholarship for their work and participation. Here at FUMC, these young musicians will help to enhance our choir, through leadership, while enhancing their musical skills and religious understanding. This program also helps get young people in the church.

All of the singers will understand that the purpose of the choir is to enhance the theme of Sunday morning worship while also becoming stronger global citizens. The hope is each scholar at the end of their time, will be inspired to join the church while gaining experience for their resume and some financial help for their time in college or as a professional musician. Director Michael noted he began his time as a church musician as a Choral Scholar with the New Concord United Methodist Church.

Through the program, each Choral Scholar will make application and then sign a contract after an audition - interview. Selected scholars will participate on Wednesdays and Sundays and receive \$50 for each. An estimated cost per scholar is \$3500 per academic year.

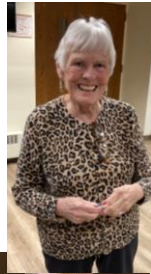
It is the plan to have the program be self-funded with fundraising events to support four scholars. Fundraising plans are being developed now. Director Michael is asking for your prayers and support as he develops a scholar program where musicians can learn and grow. Watch for more details.

Euchre winners

April Euchre we had a tie with three winners for highest score. They were Sharon Appleman, David McCann, and David Ohde. Kitty won with most loners with three! The most of anyone, in one evening.

April was also our grand finale after playing for seven years.

Thank you to all who participated on second Saturday evenings. We've had lots of laughter and delicious snacks. Most of all it's been a great opportunity to meet and get to know other members of our church family.



From our Lay Leader Kayla Jones



Setting Boundaries

1 Corinthians 10:23 "All things are lawful but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful but not all things buildup"

When I decided to step into the lay leader position, the most frequently asked question I heard was "are you sure you have time?". While I very much appreciated the concern of those who asked me that question, and I know their concern was genuinely about my sanity and that of my husband, I was able to confidently tell them Yes!

Over the last few months, I have taken a hard look at the organizations that I am involved in and asked myself "would this organization be just as strong if I stepped away?" If the answer was yes, it was a sign to me that someone else should be taking on that role who perhaps has more time and maybe even more passion than I do. If the organization would clearly thrive with just those who I work with and new volunteers, then I can decide to step away and not feel as though it leaves a void. I desperately needed to set boundaries and readjust where I'm spending my time.

As I wrap up my leadership positions with two such organizations, I have been blessed to watch new leaders get a chance to develop. Volunteers who would not necessarily step up are being pushed out of their comfort zone and are thriving. For me, walking away has been a blessing as well because when you are stretched too thin, you can't give your commitments the time and energy they deserve. I couldn't give

my family the time and energy they deserved either.

As I pivot my schedule from those organizations to spending more time serving the church, I can assure you that I feel the service to the church is helpful and builds me up. I am energized by planning and serving at the Salvation Army on the 5th Sunday and providing meals at the Shower Ministry. I love being behind the screen streaming the services to everyone at home. Every opportunity I have to help with a project at church encourages me to be even more involved.

Perhaps there are others who may also benefit from taking a hard look at your list of commitments and deciding- are your roles helpful and build you up or are they a source of stress for you or your family? Maybe it's time for you to set boundaries as well...

April POP Up

Folks were happy to receive \$25 Speedway gifts cards as the April Pop Up at the Speedway on E. Main downtown. Thanks to Jan Hendren and Mary Pierson for being our ambassadors.



National Day of Prayer

Lift Up the Word and Light Up the World! is the theme of the 2024 National Day of Prayer. Locally the special day will be observed on Thursday, May 2. Folks will gather at the steps of Newark City Hall, 40 W Main Street at 12:15 pm to join in prayer. You are invited to attend.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Keyless entry...

The continuing updating of the security and access systems included a recent update for the office doors. A new keyless code box was added at the back door by our security vendor DMO Security.



Caulking of protective film.

Solar Tint work teams returned to First Church last week to caulk around the impact protective film that was installed on doors and ground floor windows. The caulking was the final step in the process. The cost of the project was \$8497.00.



The Leadership Jigsaw

March 19, 2024

Members present: Brian Atwell, Diana Brest, Cinda Borden, Peter Borhauer, Lisa Clippinger, Karen Doherty, Jim Gorter, Gary Krinn, John Lawrence, Mackenzie Peterson, Zackary Powell, Barb Salyers, Jeff Vanest, Cliff Wartenbee, and Kayla Jones. Members absent: John Lawrence, Mackenzie Peterson, Margaret Wolford.

Meeting opened by President, Lisa Clippinger and prayer by Pastor Barb. February minutes were approved. Devotions were shared by Jim Gorter with a story "It Shall Pass" with ways to overcome.

Pastor's report: Pastor Barb

Pastor Barb stated that they are in the early planning phase for the summer worship but are working on a somewhat blended service with a teaching element type program. It will be a 10AM service, not too early, not too late. Praise team will still do traditional hymns as some of the parishioner's prefer the traditional music. It was noted that the Choir would like to go on summer break.

Todd Frail officially retired back in December but the decision was made to wait to have a retirement party until Todd was feeling better. The retirement reception will be held April 7th between services in the gathering space. The church office staff will do the reception and

serve light finger snacks. Confirmation classes will be held starting 14th April until 2nd June (Confirmation Sunday) during the 9am Sunday school class and will be taught by Tawney Myers. Students are expected to attend all classes especially the May 5th and June 2 ones if they intend to be confirmed. The class will include 2 field trips; one to a Catholic church and to a Jewish Synagogue, in which Pastor Barb will attend as well.

Committee reports:

Finance: Brian Atwell presented the finance report for February. He reported that giving remains steady and that there were no large expenditures for the month but does anticipate some larger expenditures for Anew freezer and the Impact Film for windows in the near future. The year-to-date net income is still in the positive.

Trustees: No report per Jim Gorter

Nominations: No report per Cinda Borden

Staff Parish: Diana Brest presented Pastor Barb and Pastor Peter Easter appreciation gifts from the group.

Missions: Cliff Wartenbee stated that the shower mission is doing well averaging 9-10 people, and they are hoping for more. Still need volunteers and figuring out the needs for the people and the mission. Kayla stated that the Look Up center tagged First Church for their donation to their dental clinic. Casey's cupboard is having a shower Saturday April 20 from 10-12 to restock the shelves.

Safety: Gary Krinn stated that the protective impact film was placed on the ground level windows and doors this week and said that they will be back the 15th of April to caulk around

the impact films. Gary noted that request to look at blinds for the youth room. Tawney and Karen feels unsafe and exposed should there be an issue.

Other business:

Diana Brest reported that Comfort Quilters requested a budget of \$600-\$700 for materials and repairs. This will allow them to continue making quilts to give for the ill, baptisms, confirmation students etc. After discussion Jim Gorter made a motion to give the Comfort Quilters up to a \$1500.00 budget that was seconded by Cliff Wartenbee and approved by all. The quilters will need to make purchases and provide receipts and will then be reimbursed from the Memorial monies.

Pastor Peter presented the following questions to the Leadership Team to start a discussion regarding ministries.

What is success in a Ministry?

What are the metrics we should use to measure a successful ministry?

Are there any areas of our mission that needs refined, updated, or adapted?

Closing prayer was given by Pastor Peter. The next Leadership Team meeting will be April 16, 2024 at 6:30 pm, Zack Powell will present devotions. The meetings are open to members.

Upcoming Events

May 16 – Child of God Preschool Graduation

May 17 – Home Care Kits due back









May 19 – Graduation Sunday

Pentecost Sunday – wear RED

May 27 – Memorial Day, Church office closed

June 2 - ONE Service at 10 am begins

Confirmation Sunday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<h1>2024</h1>		1 9:00 am Comfort Quilters 6:00 pm Chapel Bible Study 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	2 National Day of Prayer – 12:15 pm Newark City Hall 11:30 am Candlelighters 	3 9:00 am Shower Ministry	4 8:30 am UMM 10:00 am EGA
5 Communion Sunday 9:00 am Traditional 9:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Praise and Worship	6 9:00 am Monday Talks planning 10:00 am Bible Study	7 6:00 pm Mary Circle	8 9:00 am Comfort Quilters 6:00 pm Chapel Bible Study 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	9 Mother's Day event COG	10 9:00 am Shower Ministry	11
12 Mother's Day 9:00 am Traditional 9:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Praise and Worship	13 9:00 am Monday Talks planning 10:00 am Bible Study	14 11:00 am COG Ice Cream social 6:00 pm Emmaus Board	15 9:00 am Comfort Quilters 6:00 pm Bell Choir 6:00 pm Chapel Bible Study 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	16 Child of God Graduation 9:00 am COG Staff event 6:00 pm Trustees Meeting 	17 HOME CARE Kits Due 9:00 am Shower Ministry 9:00 am Spring Planting	18 8:30 am UMM 9:00 am Rain date for Spring Planting 
19 Graduation Sunday Day of Pentecost WEAR Red  9:00 am Traditional 9:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Praise and Worship	20 9:00 am Monday Talks planning 10:00 am Bible Study	21 9:30 am Esther Circle 6:00 pm Leadership 	22 9:00 am Comfort Quilters COG Conferences 6:00 pm Bell Choir 6:00 pm Chapel Bible Study 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	23 12:15 Let's Do Lunch – grief support – Olive Garden 	24 9:00 am Shower Ministry	25 8:30 am UMM
26 9:00 am Traditional 9:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Praise and Worship	27 Memorial Day – Church office CLOSED 9:00 am Monday Talks planning 10:00 am Bible Study 	28 6:00 pm Emmaus Gathering	29	30 <i>Annual Conference</i>	31 <i>Annual Conference</i> 9:00 am Shower Ministry	

For Summer - ONE Service at 10:00 am beginning Sunday, June 2, 2024 through Sunday, September 1, 2024