



First Presbyterian Church

meets at
292 West Main Street · Newark, DE 19711
302-731-5644 · firstpresnewark.org



This Week's Worship— February 22, 2026

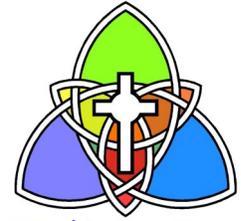
Ushers: Carol Aftosmis, Marianne Piser, Katlin Douglas, Joe Kowalski

Liturgist: Francis Kwansa

Closer: Greg Hills

Counters: Harvey Conner, Marianne Piser

FEBRUARY 20, 2026



Worship Grow Serve

You Tube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMqrt0yHvgOjUPphSOFgxxA>

Website

www.firstpresnewark.org

Church Calendar

[click here](#)

Online giving through PayPal



Next Week's Worship— March 1, 2026

Ushers: Vickie Pierson-Perry, Phyllis Biddle, Sarah Huckleberry, Paul Biddle

Liturgist: Jim Pierson-Perry

Closer: Paul Biddle

Counters: Ron Olson, Kern Piser

Office Hours

Tuesday–Friday

9:00 am—12:00 pm

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ARE DONATED BY

THE GLORY OF GOD



ALTAR flowers

Flowers can be dedicated **in honor** or **memory** of family member, friend or loved one. You may keep or donate them. You can sign up on the form located in the Narthex.

Checks *clearly identified for chancel flowers* may be placed in the offering plate or brought to the church office.

Chancel Flowers \$31.00

Notice of Congregational Meeting

There will be a brief congregational meeting immediately after worship service on March 1. The sole purpose is to review and approve the terms of call for Pastor Dan's next contract cycle. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Pierson-Perry.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is li-

Help Needed on the Buildings and Ground Committee

Session recently created a Buildings and Grounds Committee with responsibility to oversee the care and repair of our buildings and grounds at First Pres, as well as conduct long-range planning for upcoming needs or opportunities. This committee reports to Session and is chaired by Don Tancredi. It will fill a gap previously covered by the Trustees.

We now need church members to join the committee and volunteer their time and talents. While folks with practical knowledge of plumbing, carpentry, electrical wiring, etc. would be a blessing, we also need people who can devote time to research and planning. If you would be willing to help, or even just to find out more about the committee, please contact Don at dtancr7168@aol.com or (302) 293-1695. Thank you!



Thank You Newark Morning Rotary Club!



The Newark Morning Rotary Club held a “Stuff the Truck” food collection for the benefit of our Food for Success food pantry. Their goal was 50 grocery bags - and they may have exceeded their goal. On February 12th they delivered to us the following items. We are truly blessed and thankful.

NEWARK MORNING ROTARY CLUB DONATION

GROCERY		HOUSEHOLD	
Count	Item	Count	Item
25	Boxes of Cereal	173	Rolls of Toilet Paper
48	Individual servings Cereal	8	Detergent - 411 Pods
7 boxes	Oatmeal - 82 packs	6	Scotchbrite sponges
6	Single serve pancake mix	1	Ziploc storage bags
23 boxes	Granola Bars - 437 bars	PERSONAL SUPPLIES	
8	Tea - 782 bags	Count	Item
1	Hot Chocolate - 30 count	86	Toothbrushes
7	Keurig - 320 pods	225	Floss Picks
3	Ground coffee	86	Travel Bar Soaps
8	Snacks/Pretzels/Crackers - 132 servings	50	Combs
5	Peanut butter/fruit butter	50	Chapsticks
28	Vegetables/meat	18	Deoderant
22	Tuna	28	Tooth Paste
26	Spaghetti/Chili Sauce	Misc. travel size personal items	
61	Soup		
9	Pasta		
2	Apple sauce		
8	Jiffy Corn Mix		
1	Crisco shortening		

Dinanga Update

We received the following information from Pastor Tshibua as an update to what was provided for our 2025 annual report.

Development Plans for 2026

After surveying and analyzing the problems faced by church members, most of them opted for income-generating activities to meet their daily needs. These are primarily women, young people, and some men.

These are mini-projects such as:

- Raising chickens for meat production to be sold in 3 or 4 months, and then starting another cycle.
- Raising laying hens for egg sales.
- Making artisanal soaps from palm oil or palm kernel oil.
- Production of bacteriol or detergent. A youth initiative. Products to be sold at the church, to church members, to schools, and to anyone interested in the neighborhood.

How will this be done?

- Two-day training on the activities to be undertaken.
- Training on group dynamics: how to work synergistically.
- Work in small groups (selected activities will be done in groups of 6 to 10 people).

Missions and Education

- Assistance to the most vulnerable prisoners (Easter in prison)
- Assistance to widows - Assistance to orphans
- Support for schools
- and annual support for students (primary school, secondary school, and university)

Dinanga School Report: 2025-2026

Secondary School

- Total Student Enrollment: 165
- Boys: 72
- Girls: 93

Graduating Students in 2025:

- 20 students in 6th grade preparing for state exams
- 36 students in the orientation cycle
- Achievements Last Year 2024-2025
- 20 diplomas
- and 36 certificates

Staff Number 2025-2026

16 teachers

School Fees

vary between \$6 and \$10 per month per student, not including those who pay half fees.

Primary School

Total Student Enrollment: 160

Boys: 72

Girls: 88

Graduating Students for this school year 2025-2026:

25 students in 6th grade taking the National Primary School End Test

Achievements Last Year 2024-2025:

25 certificates

Staffing 2025-2026:

- 8 teachers including the school principal.

School Fees:

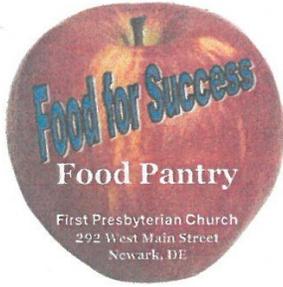
- Varying from \$5 per month per student.

- Cases of insolvency are numerous.

The school's enrollment is declining due to the free education policy implemented by the Congolese government 7 years ago.

This photo is from Pastor Tshibuabua's visit in 2007





Monday and Friday
2nd and 4th full week
of each month
4:00pm to 6:00pm
Memorial Hall
(behind the church)

For weather related closings go to www.firstpresnewark.org

Food for Success Open Dates for 2026

Dates circled in Green are holidays—Food for Success pantry is closed

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL						
SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31								29	30	31											

MAY							JUNE							JULY							AUGUST						
SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
						2	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4				1	2	3	4				
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				26	27	28	29	30			23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
31																			30	31							

SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
						1	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30						27	28	29	30	31			

foodforsuccess@firstpresnewark.org

An Equal Opportunity Provider

A choice pantry in partnership with the Food Bank of Delaware



March 7th
Session

Deacons

How They
Serve and
Strengthen
the Church

The Board of Deacons is concerned with the special needs of our congregation, with welcoming visitors and providing fellowship opportunities for the congregation. **Please let the Deacons know if there is a need for a home or hospital visit, a meal delivery or ride to an appointment.** Since care of our congregation should not be limited to the Deacons, we hope you will consider putting your name on a list showing your willingness to visit someone in need, provide a meal or offer a ride. **You can contact Ann Roybal, the Care Coordinator, or sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. We all know from experience that both the doer and the receiver will be blessed. Ann Roybal may be reached at 302-368-8539 or**

First Presbyterian Church

Dear Members and Friends of First Pres Church

As announced by email yesterday, the Adult Spiritual Education team has created a survey to understand how people would like to participate and what topics would be of interest. The survey is available in printed form, which also will be provided at church.

For those interested, the survey is now available online. If you click on the link below, you will be taken to the survey site.

<https://fpcplayground.org/adult-christian-education-survey/>

The survey will only take a few minutes of your time and the results will be very helpful to the Adult Ed team as they develop plans for future sessions.

If you use the on-line approach, it is not necessary to do the printed version. Please, however, do complete the survey one way or the other.

Thank you,

Melody Bock and Allen Sievert

Co-Chairs of FPC-N Adult Spiritual Education

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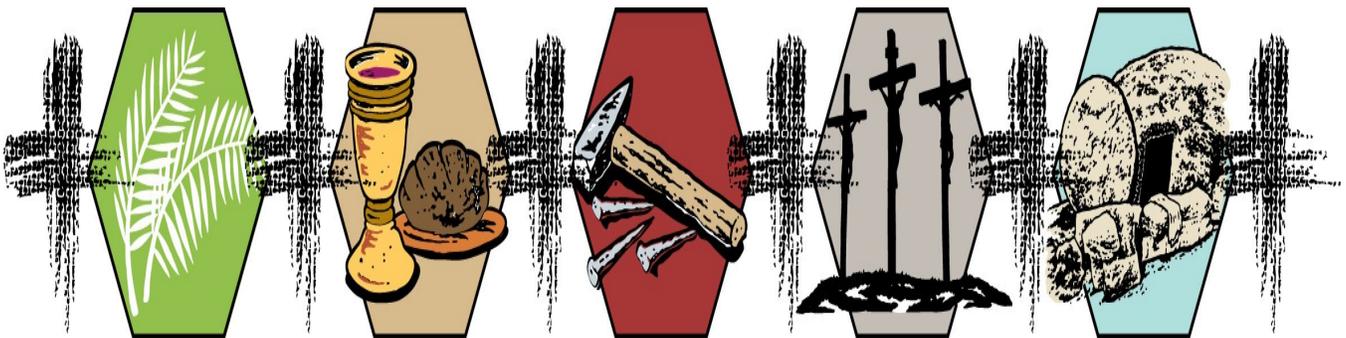
LENTEN MUSICAL MEDITATIONS

THURSDAYS @ 1 PM IN THE SANCUTARY

STARTING 2/19

A time for reflection and meditation, the Lenten season is upon us. As we seek solace and contemplation in solitude and quiet, so can we in music and gathering. This year, First Presbyterian is offering a weekly series of Lenten Musical Meditations, hosted by the Director of Music, Christian Hendricks hosted by the Director of Music, Christian Hendricks, with Pastor Dan McKenty leading in opening and closing prayers.

On Thursdays at 1 pm during Lent, folks are invited to come to the Sanctuary for music of contemplation and solace, thought and feeling. Participants are invited to engage as they need; music will include some hymns and chants, so you may sing either with your voice, or silently in your hearts. Each gathering will last about half an hour or so.



Presbyterian Women invite all Women of FPCN to join us for an afternoon of Painting & Fellowship



Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Time: 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Where: Painting with a Twist
400 Suburban Drive
Newark, DE 19711

What: 16x20 Canvas of Painting shown

Cost: \$40.00 (which is \$5 off)

Must Pre-register by Feb. 12th

How: Contact Laura Sievert

302-545-6736

lauralsievert@gmail.com



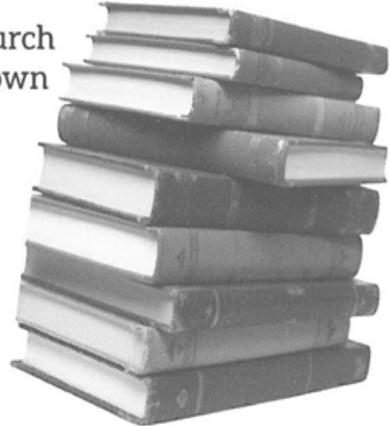


Presbyterian Women

Supporting a United for the Nations project by collecting gently used books in support of education in a sensitive region of North Africa.

UFTN builds long-term trusting partnerships with local church leaders as they accomplish projects to commission in their own contexts. They are helping to :

- Start a Christian College
- Continue bible translation in 30 languages
- Distribute radios and audio bibles
- Catalyze a radio station in a difficult location
- Strategize to fulfill the Great Commission



For more information about United for the Nations go to:
www.unitedforthenations.org

Collection bins are located in the Narthex and Memorial Hall

Thank you for supporting PW in this mission.

Contact:
 Sandy Wenner
 302-753-5347

Specific Book Categories for Christian College Books

Bible Atlas	Historical Theology
Books of Law	History of the Church
Christian Apologetics	Homiletics
Christian Counseling	Methods of the Bible Teaching
Christian Discipleship	Missions
Christian Education	OT/NT Commentaries
Christian Ethics	OT/NT Dictionaries
Christian Leadership	OT/NT Introduction
Christian Marriage and Family	OT/NT Survey
Christian Music and Worship	OT/NT Theology
Christian Philosophy	Pastoral Counseling
Church Administration	Pastoral Letters
Church Planting and Missions	Personal Ministry Preparation
Conflict Management and Resolution	Preaching
Cross Culture	Spiritual Formation
Encyclopedia (historical and theological)	Synoptic Gospel
Evangelism and Church Growth	Systematic Theology
Guides to the Bible	Theology of Doctrines
Hermeneutics	Wisdom Literature

February

BIRTHDAYS

February

BIRTHDAYS

Ella Trembanis	February 1	Isabela Merrick	February 16
Mimi Lovelace	February 3	Peggy Hester	February 18
Barbara Russell	February 3	Harry Seibert	February 18
Annette Mehan	February 3	Catherine Macharia	February 19
Anne Lewis	February 8	Cathy Colbert	February 20
Annette Mehan	February 8	Nancy Wooten	February 21
Barry Baker	February 10	Michael Fox	February 23
Melanie Sipko	February 11	Fiona Gowers	February 23
Sarah Trembanis	February 11	Anna Ngwe Nji	February 23
David Berkebile	February 12	Tim Birdsall	February 24
Francis Kwansa	February 13	Rosemarie Beron	February 26
Andrew Blackburn	February 15		

February

ANNIVERSARIES

Dennis & Geri Jacobs	February 1
Jerry & Hanne Holt	February 16
Jeffrey & Lucia Merrick	February 19

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sacrament of Communion 10:00am - 11:00am Worship - Sanctuary 11:30am - 12:30pm Adult Spiritual Development	2 6:00pm - 7:00pm Girl Scout Troop 15- (YR)	3 10 - 11:30am PW CT - MH Parlor 6:30pm - 8:30pm BSA Cub Pack - Den Meeting (YR)	4 9- 10am Prayer Group-Zoom 12pm 1:00pm Band of Brothers -Library 7:00pm - 8:30pm BSA Troop 56 Meeting (YR)	5 9:00am - 12:00pm Library Reserved 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Practice-Choir room	6 9:00am - 11:00am Finance/Bill Pay - Zoom	7 9:00am - 10:00am First Saturday Breakfast - PW Hosting
8 10:00am - 11:00am Scout Sunday Worship - Sanctuary 11:30am - 12:30pm Adult Spiritual Development	9 12:00pm - 1:00pm Hope Dining Room 4:00pm - 6:00pm Food for Success 6:00pm - 7:00pm Girl Scout Troop 15- (YR)	10 6:30pm - 8:30pm BSA Cub Pack - Den Meeting (YR) 7:00pm - 9:00pm Deacon's - Library - Zoom 7:00pm - 9:30pm Finance Mtg.- Zoom	11 9:10:00am Prayer Group-Zoom 12pm - 1pm Band of Brothers Library 7: 8:30pm BSA Troop 56 Meeting (YR)	12 9:00am - 12:00pm Library Reserved 3:00pm - 4:00pm HR Team- MH Library 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Practice-Choir room	13 9:00am - 11:00am Finance/Bill Pay - Zoom 4:00pm - 6:00pm Food for Success	14
15 10:00am - 11:00am Worship - Sanctuary 11:30am - 12:30pm Adult Spiritual Development 11:30am - 1:00pm ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING 1:00pm - 3:00pm Girl Scout Troop 157 Meeting	16 6:00pm - 7:00pm Girl Scout Troop 15- (YR)	17 10-12pm Rachel Cir-MH Gliwa and Ruth Circle- Parlor hybrid 1-3pm Eliz Cir-Parlor hybrid 5-7pm Mardi Gras Pancake 6:30- 8:30pm BSA Cub Pack - Den Mtg(YR) 7- 8:30pm Lydia Circle- Zoom/ Parlor	18 9:00am - 10:00am Prayer Group-Zoom 12:00pm - 1:00pm Band of Brothers-Library 7:00pm - 8:30pm BSA Troop 56 Meeting (YR)	19 9:00am - 12:00pm Library Reserved 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Practice-Choir room	20 9:00am - 11:00am Finance/Bill Pay - Zoom	21
22 10:00am - 11:00am Worship - Sanctuary 11:30am - 12:30pm Adult Spiritual Development	23 4:00pm - 6:00pm Food For Success 6pm - 7pm Girl Scout Troop 15- (YR)	24 6:30pm - 8:30pm BSA Cub Pack 56 - Pack Meeting (YR)	25 9 10am Prayer Group-Zoom 12pm - 1pm Band of Brothers -Library 7:pm - 8:30pm BSA Troop 56 Meeting (YR)	26 9:00am - 12:00pm Library Reserved 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Practice-Choir room	27 9:00am - 11:00am Finance/Bill Pay - Zoom 4pm - 6pm Food for Success	28 9AM-12 PM PW Blanket Project

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PASTOR: Dan McKenty

Email: pastor@firstpresnewark.org

Cell phone: 484-557-9983

OFFICE MANAGER: Marchelle Folks

Email: MFolks@firstpresnewark.org

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR: Helen Shores Jones

Email: officeadmin@firstpresnewark.org

TREASURER: Allen Sievert

Email: treasurer@firstpresnewark.org

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Christian Hendricks

Email: musicdirector@firstpresnewark.org

PRAISE TEAM LEADER: Larry Benson

Email: praiseleader@firstpresnewark.org

VIDEO/MEDIA TEAM: Andre Corbitt, Kaitlin Douglas, Dave Evers, Kerry Slinkard and

Jim Pierson-Perry

WEBSITE: www.firstpresnewark.org

PHONE: 302-731-5644

EMAIL: fpchurch@firstpresnewark.org

PRAYER EMAIL: prayers@firstpresnewark.org

ONLINE GIVING:: <https://fpcplayground.org/giving/> (Copy link to your web browser)

If you are thinking of joining
our church, we would love to
have you!

Please contact Pastor Dan at
302-731-5644 or 484-557-9983

