



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
HEART

292 West Main Street, Newark, Delaware 19711
(302) 731-5644 fpchurch@firstpresnewark.org

APRIL 2024

BEAT

*A nurturing community in Jesus Christ reflecting God's love for the world as we
Worship, Grow and Serve.*



WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday Worship

10:00 am
Worship Service

Sunday School

Begins in Worship
at 10:00 am

You Tube Channel

[https://www.youtube.com/
channel/
UCMgrr0yHvgO-
iUPphSOFgxxA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMgrr0yHvgO-iUPphSOFgxxA)

Website

www.firstpresnewark.org

Church Calendar

[click here](#)

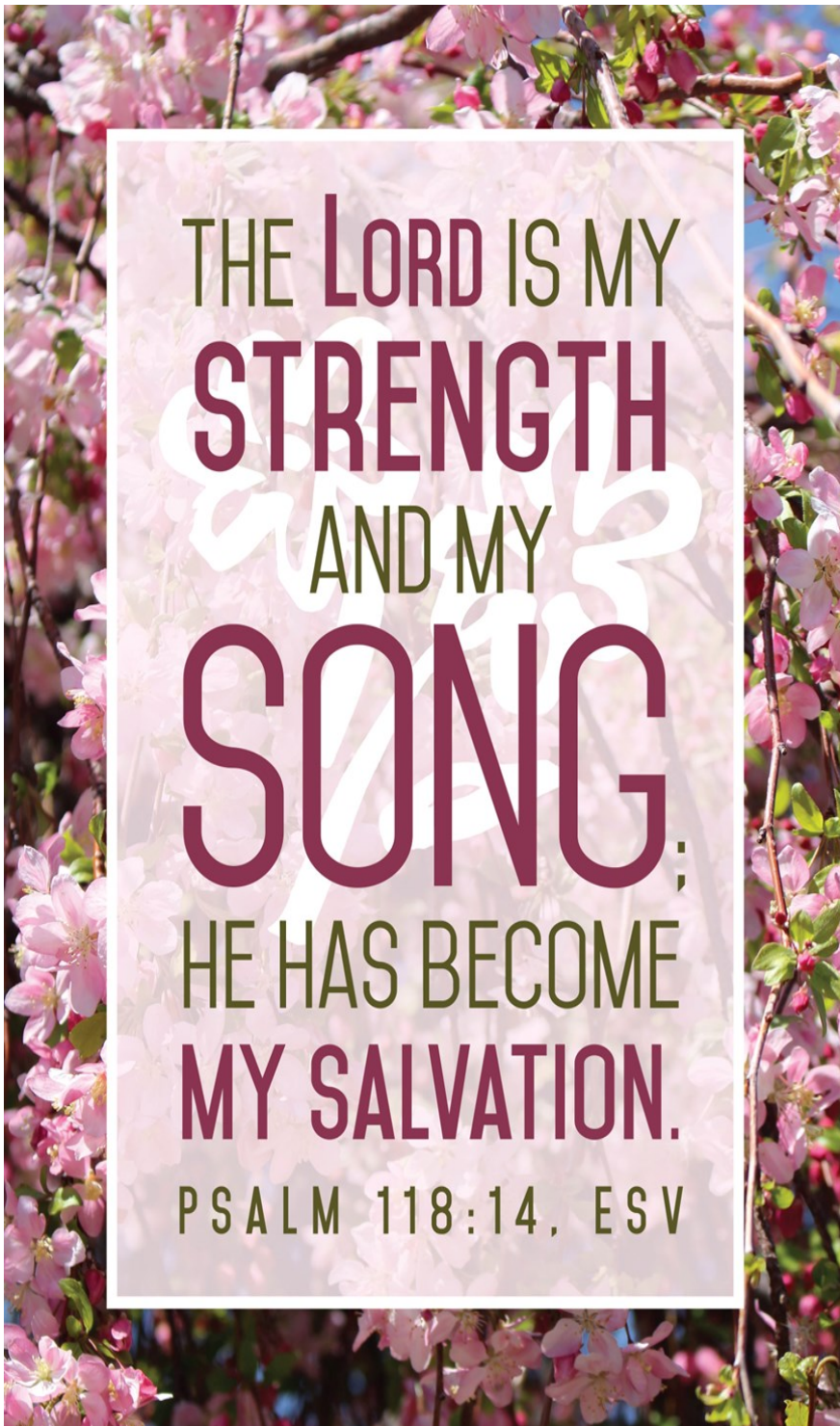
Online giving through



[https://firstpresnewark.org/
giving-at-fpc-n/](https://firstpresnewark.org/giving-at-fpc-n/)

Office Hours

Monday-Friday
9:00 am—1:00 pm



Ordinary People – An Extraordinary God

When I gave my “Candidacy Sermon” to this church several months ago, I included a story about the Amish community’s response to a mass shooting which occurred in the Nickle Mine Amish school house. I include that part of the sermon to refresh your recollection, “On October 2nd, 2006, a local milk tank delivery driver named Charles Carl Roberts IV backed his pick-up truck to the front of the one room Amish school house known as the West Nickel Mines School in Bart Township, Lancaster County, PA.

After gaining access on a rouse, he produced a firearm and ordered the schoolboys to bring in more weapons and barricade materials from his truck.

He then let the boys go and lined ten of the girls up against the wall of the schoolhouse. Before the police, or anyone else, could intercede, Roberts had shot eight of the ten girls, killing five of them and had then turned the gun on himself.

On the very day of the shooting, a grandfather of one of the murdered Amish girls warned the young men in the community not to hate the killer saying, “We must not think evil of this man.”

Another of the Amish fathers noted; “He had a mother and a wife and a soul and now he’s standing before a just God.”

An Amish neighbor comforted the shooter’s family and extended forgiveness to them, and an Amish man held the shooter’s sobbing father in his arms for hours comforting him.

The Amish community then set up a charitable fund for the shooter’s family and more than 30 of the Amish community attended the shooter’ funeral.

Marie Roberts, the wife of the shooter, was one of the few outsiders invited to the funerals of the little girls.

Marie Roberts wrote an open letter to her Amish neighbors thanking them for their forgiveness, grace and mercy.

She wrote, “Your love for our family has helped to provide the healing we so desperately need. Gifts you’ve given have touched our hearts in a way no words can describe. Your compassion has reached beyond our family, beyond our community, and is changing our world, and for this we sincerely thank you.”

In that sermon I remarked that the Amish community served as a powerful witness to the gift to us of Christ’s grace and forgiveness.

Recently, a story ran in the March 27, 2024, edition of the “Advertiser – Lampeter-Strasburg Edition” where a father and his daughter (Tim Rogers and Megan Shertzer) learned that Tim’s brother-in-law, Justo Smoker had been arrested for the kidnap and murder of Linda Stoltzfoos, a young Amish woman. There was no prior indication that Justo Smoker would commit such a heinous act.



While Tim and Megan were reeling from the news, the doorbell rang. When Tim answered the door an Amish woman and her family were standing there with gifts of flowers and produce from their garden. Incredibly, the Amish woman had been a teacher at the Nickle Mine school on the day of the mass shooting. She told Tim and Megan, “I want you to know that there’s hope and that God will take care of you.”

Tim recalled, “It was simple, but the gift of presence in that space was really powerful.”

Such a community is, indeed, a powerful witness to the world.

The point is not that the Amish are some form of Super-Christians. The Amish are just folk like the rest of us, flawed in the same way we are flawed. The point is that it is the grace of our Lord Christ that transforms a community that is open to God’s reign and is open to living life in God’s kingdom.

Some flowers, some produce, some comforting words, and the immeasurable power of presence are transformative, they are life-altering, they are the love at Christ at work. What a joy that we who are so ordinary have such an extraordinary God!

Peace to you all,

Pastor Dan



Clerk's Corner

Nancy Lewis, Clerk

Don Tancredi, Pastor Dan McKenty and Nancy Lewis attended Presbytery's Bay retreat from Feb 29 to March 2.

We were able to meet Presbyterians from all over our region.

We participated in classes with the theme "Love Embodied", including community engagement, mapping your neighborhood and also wonderful fellowship and music.



Stewardship News



Year to Date - Comparative VIF Gifting Status (25% of Year)

	Year:	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Gifts Received		\$132,957	\$ 109,976	\$ 104,284
Yearly Gifting Goal or Actual Amount		\$336,000	\$ 333,478	\$ 331,815
Gifts Received/Yearly Goal or Actual Amount		39.6%	33.0%	31.4%

2024 VIF Gifting % is about 7.4% higher than two previous years! Thank You!

Please Note: Year to Date QCD Gifting in 2024 is now higher than 23's by about \$20,800



Presbyterian Women

Carol Olson & Pam Wunder Co-moderators

Ladies
Bible Study



Any woman of faith who's not already in a Circle,

COME TRY ONE OUT!

"APRIL OPEN CIRCLES"

Tuesday, April 16th



10:00 a.m. 1 Circle Meets in Gliwa and 1 meets in the Parlor

1:00 p.m. 1 Circle Meets in Gliwa and 1 meets in the Parlor

7:30 p.m. 1 Circle Meets in the Parlor

Questions: email pw@firstpresnewark.org or call Carol Olson or Pam Wunder

Everyone is invited!

***Mark Your Calendars for
June 4th, 2024 7-8:30 p.m.***



***Presbyterian Women's Annual
Spring Program Event***

Talent to be announced soon!



***General Presbyterian Women's Association Meeting
8:00 p.m. Election and Installation of 2024-2025 Officers
Posting of NEW Circles for 2024-2026
Punch and Cookies***

Deacons

For this issue of the Heartbeat, I will be describing the responsibilities of the Deacons' Card Coordinator.

First, the Card Coordinator provides support to those who have lost a loved one by sending cards and notes to the bereaved.

“Thinking of You” and “Encouragement” cards are sent to our shut-ins, those having surgery or home with an illness, those needing support, and some of those on our prayer list. A report is to be sent to the Deacon Chair and Deacon Secretary prior to each Deacons' meeting. The report includes the names of the people who received any type of card since the previous Deacons' meeting and the reason for sending each card.

During the monthly Deacons' meeting, a verbal report is given by the Card Coordinator providing similar information as in the monthly report.

To request a bereavement, “Thinking of You” or “Encouragement” card, please call the church office.

Darlene Newsom



Sunday School News

The entire Sunday school staff has enjoyed sharing the various Bible lessons with the children since September.

The last Sunday of Sunday school before summer will be Sunday, May 19th. After that, there will not be any Sunday school until September 2024. Announcements will be made in August about the exact date for the beginning of Sunday school.

Over the summer, the nursery will be open for children 4-years-old and younger.

Children 5-years-old and older should remain with their parents during the service in the sanctuary.

We wish all children and their families a joyous summer!

Hope Dinning Room

We mourned the passing of Janet Myers. Jan had served at Hope for many years and we will miss her. She always welcomed our clients with a big smile and was a great addition to our group. Our numbers stay in the high 30's and low 40's.

We have noticed new clients and many of those who have been attending for a while.

We received money from the AGM and once again a big thank you for your many donations. Mimi Lovelace has joined our group and we are happy to have her help.

We thank you all for your continued support of Hope Dining Room.

Willee Short

Adult Discipleship

The Adult Discipleship class, aka Adult Sunday School, formally known as Adult Ed, is intended to help us grow spiritually and become disciples of our Lord Jesus.

To that end, we engage in conversations about what we are learning and how God is working in our lives, study biblical topics, and study various books of the Bible.

We are finishing up a series on listening to God, and will begin a series on parables this month, taught by Pastor Dan.

Please come join us and continue the good work begun in you!

Thanks,
Melody

Church Sign Update

The status of the new sign is that the application for payment was turned in, and the City did a automatic rejection since we are in a residential neighborhood, but as my friends say to me "no worries". this is all part of the process and the new sign will and should be approved. The present sign also needed a variance and we are moving forward not retreating.

Thanks for your patience!

Don Tancredi



FPCN will be hosting a community blood drive with Blood Bank of Delmarva
On May 17th 10AM to 2PM in Memorial Hall West.

*Details of the event will be published as we get nearer to the date for appointment's to be made and how you can participate and spread the word of he event.

My hope is that we can host more events like this.

Don Tancredi



Special Music

Chesapeake Brass Band Concert

April 27th

7:00 pm



- 1 Erin Challburg
- 6 Wade Catts
- 6 Greg Hills
- 15 Stan Blair
- 19 Sonia Choi
- 22 Judy Baker
- 23 Shirley Hills
- 30 Mike Beron



- Sandra & Sean Prather
April 08
- Louise & Fred Dawson
April 13
- Karen & David Baker
April 18
- Denise & David Murray
April 24
- Kathy & John Farnum
April 25

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE
MAY
HEART BEAT IS
APRIL 15**

Prayer Concerns or Needs?

You can use the prayer card in the pews, contact the church office or use our prayer email:

prayers@firstpresnewark.org

Please let us know if you would like them kept confidential.

If we are missing you from the birthday or anniversary list, please let us know!

Contact Grace in the church office
officemanager@firstpresnewark.org



Faithfulness
springs up from the ground, and
righteousness
looks down from the sky.

Psalm 85:11 ESV



For as the earth
bringeth forth
her bud,
and as the garden
causeth the things
that are sown in
it to spring
forth;

so the Lord GOD
will cause
Righteousness and
praise to
spring forth
before all the
nations.

Isaiah 61:11

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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Website: firstpresnewark.org***

Sunday Worship

10:00 a.m.

Children's Sunday School

Begins in worship at 10:00 am

We seek to be vibrantly active messengers of hope, bringing the caring presence of Jesus Christ and love of God into our community and the wider world.