



First Presbyterian Church

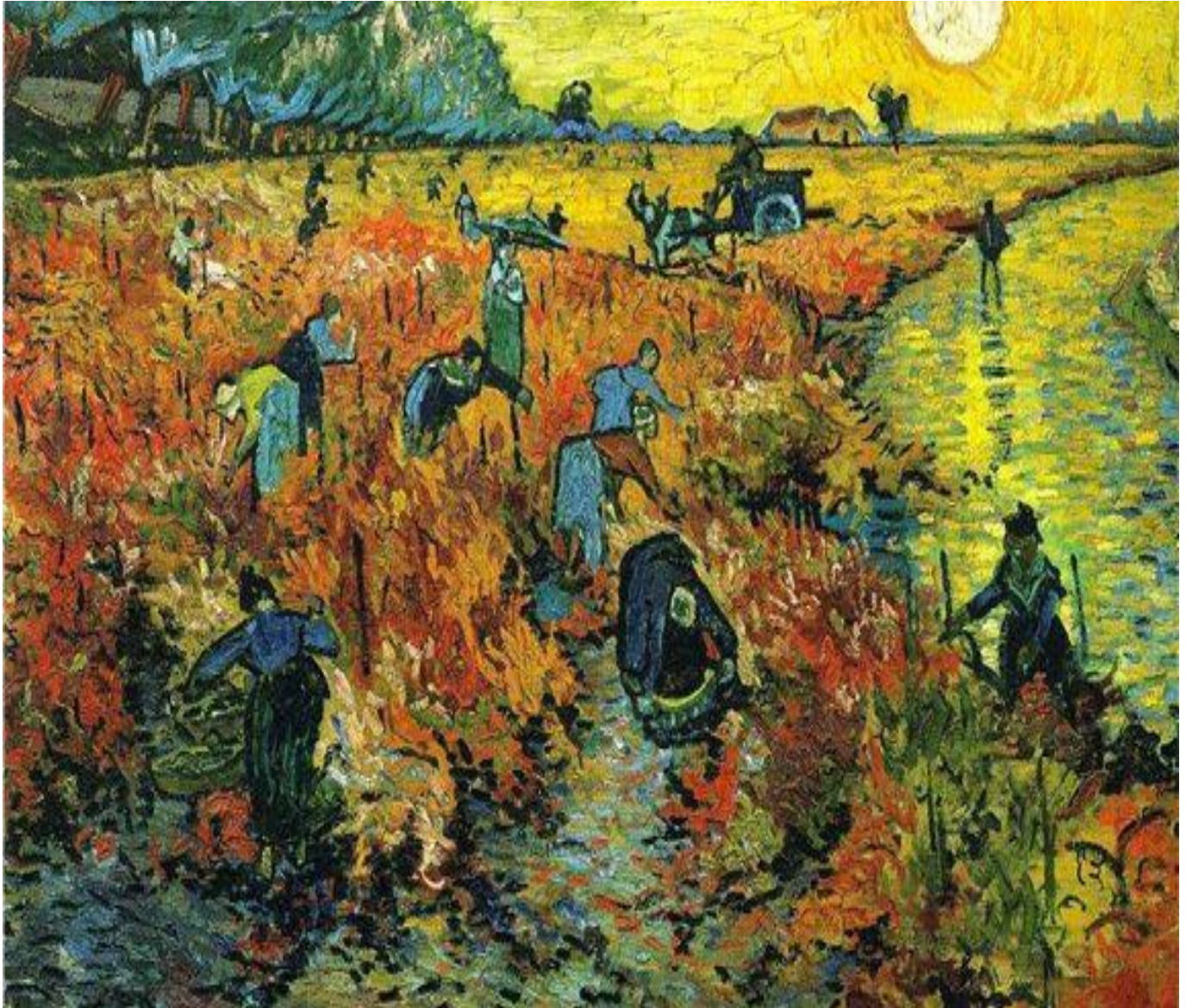
meets at

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



September 20, 2026

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Red Vinyard at Arles – Vincent Van Gogh 1888

*Those who are able may stand

PRELUDE *“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”*

arr. Kevin McChesney

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS AND MINDS

“Justice is getting what we deserve. Mercy is being spared what we deserve. Grace is being given what we do not deserve.” Cathleen Falsani

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP - (responsive)**

Whether we embrace God’s call in our lives or try to avoid it,
God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Whether we are long timers or late comers in the life of faith,
God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Whether our lives in Christ are comfortable or bring hardship,
God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. We praise God’s name forever and ever! Amen.

***HYMN #15 - “All Creatures of our God and King” (Verses 1-4)**

PRAYER OF THE DAY (unison)

Generous God, you come to us again and again, no matter how late it is in the day or in our lives. Calling to us, gathering us in, you give us your good work to do, daily bread, and boundless grace. Increase in us a generous spirit so that we may do your work with joy alongside others whom you also love. We celebrate your salvation not only in our lives, but also in the lives of other people, even those we had not imagined would be included in the kingdom you are bringing. Align us with your ways and help us receive your gift of justice and mercy as good news. In Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

***HYMN #582 “Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me” (unison)**

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen

World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of abundant goodness, we confess that we want your grace for ourselves but often wish punishment or exclusion on others. We judge the efforts and motives of others while ignoring the faults of our own. Forgive us, we pray, when we let jealousy overtake us. Forgive us, we pray, when we are petty even in the presence of your generosity. Forgive us, we pray, when we feel slighted by you. May we ask once again for your mercy? Will you help us to be more merciful toward one another? We pray in the name of Christ Jesus, by whose grace we are saved. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *“10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)”*

by Jonas and Matt Redman

MINUTE FOR MISSION – PW – Carol Olson

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Gracious God, your Word surprises, challenges, upsets, and overturns our way of seeing and thinking. Come and find us today wherever we are, however we are. By the power of your Holy Spirit, cause that which is withering in us to blossom and that which is exacting in us to broaden until we see as you see, and thereby glimpse the kingdom you are bringing. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen

1ST SCRIPTURE READING: Philippians 1: 21-30 (p.953)

Response after reading: This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

2ND SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 20: 1-16 (p.801)

Response after reading: This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MESSAGE:

SERMON *“When Justice and Grace Collide”*

***Hymn #792** – *“There Is a Balm in Gilead”*

If you have prayer concerns or joys today, please use our Prayer Request Card and give it to an Usher during this hymn.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – (unison)

We believe this is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *“Give Thanks”*

by Sue Farrar

***SONG OF DEDICATION** #710 *“We Lift Our Voices”*

**We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you:
we are an offering. Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands;
Lord, use our lives; they are yours: we are an offering.**

**All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you,
we give to you. We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to
you: we are an offering; we are an offering.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

PRAYER CONCERNS

*As each group is prayed for, the minister will say: Lord in Your Mercy, and the people will respond: **Hear our prayer.***

THE LORD’S PRAYER (unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***HYMN #836 – “Abide with Me” (verses 1,3,5)**

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Thanks be to God (He laveth the thirsty land)”

from *Elijah*, by Felix Mendelssohn



About the Music

As it is said, the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh, and that is in fewer places more true than in Exodus when the Israelites are wandering in the desert. Everyone is feeling cantankerous and complaining—the Israelites, Moses, even the Lord. Tired of hunger and wandering, the people call upon Moses to implore the Lord for food and water. In return, with some grumbling, He sends them manna in the dew, which isn't exactly milk and honey. But despite tempers all around, the people are given what they need by their God, who had always promised to care for them, even when patience wears thin on all sides. For that, in our music, we give praise and thanks in song and handbells.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS DONATED BY

Judy and Rick Agnello

In memory of her mother, Dorothy Roessel

This Week's Worship – September 20, 2026

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

Liturgist: Linda Banks

Closer: Greg Hills

Counters: Harvey Conner, Mimi Lovelace

Next Week's Worship – September 27, 2026

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

Liturgist: Julie Blair

Closer: Paul Biddle

Counters: Kevin Thomson, Mimi Lovelace



Flowers can be dedicated **in honor** or **memory** of a family member, friend or loved one. You may keep or donate them. Please sign up on the Chancel Flowers Donor Sign-up Form located in the Narthex to indicate your preference.

Checks *clearly identified for chancel flowers* may be placed into the offering plate or brought to the church office. Please **note on the check** whether you will *keep or donate both* flowers or *keep one and donate the other*.

Chancel Flowers \$31.00



October 3rd—Session

November 7th —UD / Community Engagement Committee

December 5th —Hope Dining Room

Fellowship SNACK SCHEDULE

*Let's fellowship
together!* 

Beginning in September,
each month will be
assigned to a specific
group in our church.
That group will bring
snacks on Sundays.

 **SNACKS ARE
SERVED FROM
11:15-11:30 AM**
after the service.

Thank you 
for helping us build
community and
fellowship together!



Jan	Session
Feb	Deacons
March	Praise Team
April	UD/Community Outreach
May	Finance Committee
June	Ushers
July	Adult & Children Ed
August	PW CT
September	Worship Committee/ Band of Brothers
October	Hope Dining Hall
November	Choir
December	PW Circle Members

== ST. JOHN AM CHURCH ==

— Presents... —

LORRAINE

MOTEL

**FROM MEMPHIS TO GLORY:
A TRIBUTE TO MLK**

THIS IS A PLAY BY ROBERT ANDERSON SENIOR
REFLECTING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

SCAN FOR TICKETS!



The Glory Grill Cook-out

Immediately Following the Play

SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

2:00 P.M.



SPIRITUAL EDUCATION

New Adult Discipleship Study Begins October 4!

On October 4, the Adult Discipleship group will resume with a new topic, “The Kingdom of God”. Many, if not most, of Jesus’ teachings dealt with this topic, but what does it mean? Is it here now or a future utopia? Author Greg Jao says this, “We will explore the nature of God’s reign and how Jesus inaugurates and embodies the Kingdom’s program of renewal and restoration in His life and ministry.”

The study will run for 10 weeks. Each week is a separate topic, so please join us even if you can’t attend every Sunday. We hope to see you after Worship in the Parlor for this enjoyable and interesting study.

– Allen Sievert

ALL ARE INVITED

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

First Presbyterian Church Newark, Memorial Hall

**“Hear what God is doing to expand his kingdom in some
of the most difficult parts of the world for the gospel
through Bible Translation and Church Planting”**

6:00 pm – Dinner – please bring a dish of your choosing:

- Main course
- Side dish
- Salad

Desert will be provided

7:00 pm – Speaker: Doulos Doulossia

A free will offering will be collected to benefit the mission

Harvest FESTIVAL

First Presbyterian Church of Newark

292 West Main St, Newark, DE 19711



Sunday, October 18th, 2026

Immediately Following Worship

11:30 AM – 2:00 PM

*Join us for an afternoon of
food, fellowship, fun, and community!*

**Our Harvest Festival is open to everyone—
not just our congregation.**

We warmly invite our friends, neighbors, families,
and the Newark community to celebrate with us!

Church Will Provide:



Turkey



Stuffing



Sides



Beverages



Want to Contribute?

Please bring a salad or
dessert based on your
last name:



A-K:

Bring a Dessert



L-Z:

Bring a Salad

**Fun for
the Kids!**

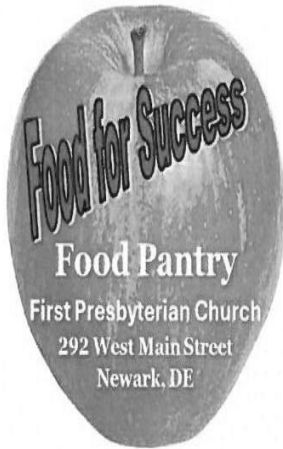
Children can enjoy
games and activities
throughout the
afternoon.



**Everyone Is
Welcome!** ♥

Come as you are, bring your family
and friends, and enjoy a wonderful
afternoon of food, laughter, and community.

~♥~ We hope to see you there! ♥~



Volunteering is good for you - providing benefits to both mental and physical health!

Help our *Food for Success* food pantry provide supplemental food for community members in need of nourishing meals.

We do on the job training!



Scan the QR code to access the Food for Success Signup Genius app

Food for Success Volunteer Coordinator - Nancy Lewis - nancylewis2011@gmail.com



Food for Success Open Dates for 2026

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

JANUARY

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

FEBRUARY

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8		10	11	12		14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22		24	25	26		28

MARCH

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

APRIL

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

MAY

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

JUNE

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

JULY

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

AUGUST

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

SEPTEMBER

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
			1	2	3	4
5		7	8	9	10	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20		22	23	24		26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8		10	11	12		14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22		24	25	26		28
29	30					

DECEMBER

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



September Birthdays

Name	Birthdate
Jacquelyn Land	Sep 03
Spurgeon "Nick" Nickle	Sep 03
Carolyn Morton	Sep 03
David Baker	Sep 06
Seona Stevenson	Sep 07
Janet Macharia	Sep 08
Anna Gliwa	Sep 14
Ruth Griffith	Sep 14
Janet Thomson	Sep 15
Kevin Thomson	Sep 16
Kathy Tancredi	Sep 17
Virginia Murtagh	Sep 19
Marilyn Reyne	Sep 20
David E. Lovelace	Sep 21
John Bock	Sep 21
Phyllis Sisk	Sep 24
Robert Black	Sep 24
Urie Boulden	Sep 26
Carol Coughenour	Sep 27
Marchelle Folks	Sep 27
Beth Marshall	Sep 29

September Anniversaries

Name	Anniversary
Charlean and Brian Ruiter	Sep 04
Carol and Donald Coughenour	Sep 06
Marianne and George Piser	Sep 11
Nancy and Bob Black	Sep 14

Christmas Presentation on December 13, 2026

By FPC Kids – Please join in on the FUN – Volunteers Needed!!

Adults

Narrator (kid or adults)

Researcher

Creative coordinator (props and costumes)

Rehearsal coordinator

Choreography coordinator

Casting Director

Parent support for child actors

Other roles you can volunteer to help with??

Kids

**Play roles of: Mary, Joseph, 3 wise men, shepherds, Archangel, angels, donkey,
sheep, camel, cow**

Ushers

Card holders: Scenes 1,2,3,4,5

Candy kids to hand out candy canes during intermission

Singer – solo and chorus

Narrator

Please contact Fe Wright [856-745-8736](tel:856-745-8736) / Febwright@outlook.com

Children's Nativity Service



Refreshments
provided! Plus,
a small gift for
every child.



10-11 am 13 Dec 2026

Everyone is welcome!

Fisrt Presbyterian Church
292 W Main Street, Newark DE 19711

RSVP & Inquiries
phone# 856-745-8736



Borcelle

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 10:00am - 11:00am Worship - Sanctuary 11:30am - 3:00pm Newark Housing Forum for Congregation	31	1 10:00am - 11:30am PW CT - MH Parlor	2 9 - 10am Prayer Group-Zoom 12 - 1pm Band of Brothers-Library 7- 8:30pm Bells Practice -Sanct. 7- 8:30pm Troop 56 Mtg - MWH	3 7:00pm - 8:30pm Choir Practice	4	5 8:00am - 9:00am First breakfast - Presbyterian Women
6 Sacrament of Communion WORLD COMMUNION DAY 10:00am - 11:00am Worship - Sanctuary 11:30am - 12:30pm Adult Spiritual Development	7	8 ADMIN OFFICE CLOSED 9-1PM City-Newark ELECTRICITY DOWN 4-6PM Food for Success 6:30pm - 7:30pm Cub Pack 56 Den Mtg - MHW 7 - 9pm Deacon's - Library - Zoom 7- 9:30pm Finance Mtg.-Zoom	9 9 -10AM Prayer Group-Zoom 12-1PM Band of Brothers-Library 7-8:30pm Bells Practice-Sanct. 7 -8:30pm Troop 56 Committee Mtg - GLIWA 7-8:30pm Troop 56 Mtg - MWH	10 3:00pm - 4:00pm HR Team- MH Library 7:00pm - 8:30pm Choir Practice	11 4:00pm - 6:00pm Food for Success	12:30-10:30PM LLUMOS ABBA Candlelight Experience
13 10:00am - 11:00am Worship - Sanctuary 11:30am - 12:30pm Adult Spiritual Development	14 12:00pm - 1:00pm Hope Dining Room	15 ELECTION DAY 10-12pm Rachel Circle -MH Gliwa and Ruth Circle- Parlor hybrid 1-3pm Elizabeth Circle-Parlor hybrid 7- 8:30pm Lydia Circle- Zoom/Parlor	16 9 -10AM Prayer Group-Zoom 12-1PM Band of Brothers-Library 7-8:30pm Bells Practice-Sanct. 7-8:30pm Troop 56 Mtg - MWH	17 7:00pm - 8:30pm Choir Practice	18	19 11:00am - 2:00pm Tom Brockenbrough Celebration of Life & Luncheon immediately after
20 10:00am - 11:00am Worship - Sanctuary 1:00pm - 3:00pm Girl Scout Troop 157 Meeting 6:30pm - 9:30pm Newark Symphony Chorus & Orch. Rehearsal	21 4:00pm - 6:00pm Food for Success 7:00pm - 9:00pm - Session - Parlor	22	23 9 -10AM Prayer Group-Zoom 10-11:00am Worship Team Mtg - Library 12-1PM Band of Brothers-Library 7-8:30pm Bells Practice-Sanct. 7-8:30pm Troop 56 Mtg - MWH	24 7:00pm - 8:30pm Choir Practice	25 4:00pm - 6:00pm Food for Success	26
27 10:00am - 11:00am Worship - Sanctuary 6:30pm - 7:30pm Newark Symphony Chorus & Orch. Rehearsal	28	29 6:30pm - 8:00pm Cub Pack 56 Mtg/ Recruitment Night-MWH	23 9 -10AM Prayer Group-Zoom 12-1PM Band of Brothers-Library 7-8:30pm Bells Practice-Sanct. 7-8:30pm Troop 56 Mtg - MWH	1 7:00pm - 8:30pm Choir Practice	2	3

Worship Services are in compliance with U. S. Copyright Act in accordance with CCLI License Number 311658. Permission to reprint, podcast, and / or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-735612. All rights reserved.

PASTOR: Dan McKenty

Email: pastor@firstpresnewark.org

OFFICE MANAGER: Marchelle Folks

Email: officemanager@firstpresnewark.org

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR: Helen Shores Jones

Email: officeadmin@firstpresnewark.org

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Harvey Conner

Email: finansec@firstpresnewark.org

TREASURER: Allen Sievert

Email: treasurer@firstpresnewark.org

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Christian Hendricks

Email: musicdirector@firstpresnewark.org

PRAISE TEAM LEADER: Larry Benson

Email: praiseleader@firstpresnewark.org

AV TEAM: Andre Corbitt, Dave Evers, Jim Pierson-Perry, and Kerry Slinkard

WEBSITE: www.firstpresnewark.org

PHONE: 302-731-5644

EMAIL: fpchurch@firstpresnewark.org

PRAYER EMAIL: prayers@firstpresnewark.org

ONLINE GIVING: <https://firstpresnewark.org/giving-at-fpc-n/>

(Copy link to your web browser)

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK: First Presbyterian Church of Newark

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday-Friday 9:00 am- 1:00 pm

LIST OF OFFICERS BY CLASS

Session Clerk—Jim Pierson Perry

Class of 2027: Stan Blair, Melody Bock, Pat Nelson, Bob Wunder

Class of 2028: Carolyn Morton, Kern Piser, Mark Sisk

Class of 2029: Lois Huggins, Nancy Lewis, Jim Pierson-Perry

Deacons Moderator—Greg Hills

Class of 2027: Kaitlin Douglas, Greg Hills, Melanie Sipko, Fe Wright

Class of 2028: Judy Agnello, Kim Raff, Ann Roybal, Pam Wunder

Class of 2029: Julia Blair, Jennifer Dube, Sarah Huckleberry

**THE MORE THE MERRIER -
COME AND BE A PART OF OUR
CONGREGATION!!**

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

