

The Daily Disciple

Newsletter of First Church of New Knoxville | December 2025



FOR UNTO YOU IS
BORN THIS DAY IN
THE CITY OF DAVID
A SAVIOR, WHO IS
CHRIST THE LORD.
LUKE 2:11



Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 14th at 9:00 am

Join us for morning worship where our children will lead and share with us. This program will be our morning worship that day.

We will broadcast through YouTube Live as usual, but we will not be on the radio. Pastor Joel is preparing a separate message for the T-102 radio broadcast.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7 pm

Join us in celebrating the birth of our Savior and Lord. The Christmas Eve offering will go to support Tanner's Romanian Mission for Children.

Annual Meeting:

January 25 — 10:00 am

As a church we gather together to hear from Pastor Joel, Pastor Tory and the treasurer.

The Designated Offering, Salary and Budget committees of the church will present their recommendations and we will elect officers for the coming year.

Church Painting Schedule

Oct 6 - Dec 19 : Complete preliminary work to prepare for the project

Jan 4 - Mar 22 : Brian Brothers completes painting project

Mar 29 : (Palm Sunday) Worship services return to Sanctuary

First Church of New Knoxville





Dear First Church Family,

The holidays really snuck up on me this year. I am writing this the day before our Joint Thanksgiving service. It's hard to believe it is that time of year already! I am preparing my Thanksgiving message, and it feels like we've barely even made plans for Thanksgiving yet. (Although I do know that Turkey Ribs will be on the menu...) Christmas and the New Year will be here before I know it.

Busyness is a challenge. It is a problem that all too many of us struggle with. It is hard to find time to do anything between family, work, school, and sports commitments. Those are not bad things. They are important! But our schedules can be so consumed by good things that there is no room for anything else. Add in the endless distraction of technology and it is a recipe for disaster.

Unfortunately, one of the easiest things to cut from your busy schedule is your time with the Lord.

Bible reading and praery gets put on the back burner and forgotten.

I challenge you to make time for the Lord this holiday season. Remember God's goodness and faithfulness as you gather with family and friends for Thanksgiving dinner. Take time to reflect on his many blessings. The greatest gift of all, of course, is the birth of his Son Jesus Christ. He's the reason for the season. In the midst of holiday parties and opening presents, remember to thank God for giving us his Son. The birth of Christ is the start of God's plan to rescue us from our sins.

One of the best ways we can slow down during this busy season is to read our Bibles. That seems like the obvious answer, does it not? There is a reason that Bible reading is a central aspect of personal devotions. God has spoken to his through his Word. We ought to pay attention to what he has to say to us!

As a church, we want to encourage you to slow down and spend time with the Lord this holiday season. Starting December 1, we are going to read through the Gospel of Luke together. You can find a copy of the reading plan in this newsletter and in the weekly bulletin over the next few weeks. If you read a chapter every day, you will finish reading through the entire Gospel on Christmas Eve. Let's be thankful and prepare our hearts for Christmas by reading about the birth, life, death, and resurrection of our Savior!

The advent reading plan will be a great way to get into the habit of daily Bible reading for the new year. First Church will begin a new Bible in a Year challenge in January. We will read through the Bible chronologically using The Bible Recap reading plan. The Bible Recap has a daily podcast the recaps and explains the reading for each day. In addition to the podcast, there are also devotionals, journals, and study guides. We are also planning to form small groups to discuss The Bible Recap. Check the bulletin for updates or reach out to Pastor Joel if you are interested joining a group!

No matter what season it is or how busy you are, it is important to spend time in God's Word. I hope that the Advent reading plan and The Bible Recap will be great resources for your personal devotions. Let us grow in our knowledge of the Lord and our love for him together!

In Christ,

Pastor Joel

We are Moving Next Door!

Sunday morning worship services will take place in the Ministry Center **beginning January 4, 2026**. We will still be able to use the Church building for Sunday School, the Social Room, and the nursery. Areas that are being painted will be inaccessible.

The Ministry Center will be used for youth and children's activities during the week. Therefore, we will need help setting up chairs and sound equipment in the Big Room on Saturday mornings. We will also need to put chairs away after the service on Sunday. Please contact Pastor Joel if you want to learn more about how you can help.

Dear First Church Family,

One of the things I love about Thanksgiving is that it's an opportunity to reflect on the Lord, who He is and all that He is doing. 2025 has been the busiest year of ministry I've ever had, but it's also been the best year of ministry! I've seen God move in incredible ways in and through our youth on Wednesday nights and Sunday bible study. I've watched our students deepen their relationship with Him as we've studied the book of Revelation together over the past few months at bible study. I saw Him work in the lives of all our students at camp this year. I've seen Him provide volunteers and help for all areas of ministry from Sunday school and VBS to Wednesday night youth group. God has been so faithful. I am so thankful that the Lord has a deep love for children and youth. I am so thankful for the ways He is moving in this generation. I am so thankful that He wants to use many people to accomplish His plans and purposes.



Truly, the word thankful doesn't feel like the right word to use when I think about who God is and all He has done this year. It doesn't feel adequate but it's the best word I can think of to express my gratitude to Him. I hope that as you all gather around the table for Thanksgiving that you reflect on Him. The Lord is so faithful and worthy of our thanksgiving and praise.

Tory Breitigan

Our students collected over 1500 canned goods in an hour. Thank you New Knoxville and to both church families for your generosity.

Many people will be blessed by all that was given to Agape before the holiday season!



DECEMBER YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

- DEC. 3- YOUTH GROUP AT 7PM
- DEC. 7- BIBLE STUDY AT 7PM.
- DEC. 10- YOUTH GROUP AT 7PM.
- DEC. 14- BIBLE STUDY AT 7PM.
- DEC. 17- CHRISTMAS PARTY AT 7PM.
- DEC 21 & 28- NO BIBLE STUDY
- DEC. 24 & 31- NO YOUTH GROUP

MERRY CHRISTMAS!
SEE YOU IN 2026

YOUTH GROUP REMINDERS:

NOV. 23-BIBLE STUDY @7PM
NOV. 25- FCA @ 7:30AM
NOV. 26- NO YOUTH GROUP-HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
NOV. 30-NO BIBLE STUDY

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL REMINDERS:

- DEC. 7- CHRISTMAS PROGRAM REHEARSAL DURING THE SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR.
- DEC. 14- CHRISTMAS PROGRAM. NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY.
 - **KIDS NEED TO BE IN THEIR SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOMS BY 8:45AM.**
- DEC. 28- NO SUNDAY SCHOOL! MERRY CHRISTMAS

The Bible Recap Sign Up and Giveaway

First Church will read through the Bible in a Year again in 2026. This time around, we are going to read through the Bible chronologically using a resource called The Bible Recap. In addition to the daily reading plan, there is a daily podcast, devotional, and Bible Study resources available to help us better understand and apply God's Word.

We are giving away three sets of The Bible Recap resources to encourage people to get involved. Each set includes the Bible Recap Daily Devotional, Study Guide, and Journal. There are also Bible Recap resources for kids, including a devotional for young readers and activity book.

To enter in the giveaway, please fill out this form. You do not need to join a small group to win a prize. Winners will be announced at the end of December.



Clinton Hirschfeld hired as Choir Director – At the Consistory meeting on October 27, the Personnel Committee recommended that Consistory hire Clinton Hirschfeld as the new choir director. Clinton is planning to lead the Vocal and Bell Choirs. Clinton has been very active in the music ministry at First Church, including playing guitar with the Praise Team and volunteering to lead the choir through the Easter season earlier this year. We are excited to have Clinton on board!

Choir and Handbells – We are pleased to announce that regular practices for both Handbells and Vocal Choir will be resuming!

Both Handbells and Choir: Practices on December 3, 10, and 17.

- **Handbells** - 7:30 PM
- **Vocal Choir** - 8:15 PM

We warmly invite you to consider joining one—or both—of these wonderful music groups! Please see Clinton with any questions you may have.


We want to express a warm "Thank You" to all those who helped back Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. This year we were able to pray over and load up 374 boxes to be sent across the world.

¹⁴When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.




Christmas Giving Opportunity - For several years, First Church has been a part of supporting Elizabeth New Life Center's meaningful mission. We are excited to serve again this year, coming together as a church family to support new mother's unexpected pregnancies with new items from ENLC's baby boutique. Matthew 18:14 says, "It is not the will of your heavenly Father that one of these little ones be lost."

- ◆ Pick up one or more tags from our giving tree in the Heritage Room.
- ◆ Scan ENCL's QR code for easy access to their Amazon Wishlist or pick up a provided wishlist in the Heritage Room to take shopping with you.
- ◆ Return purchased items unwrapped with gift tag attached to your item.
- ◆ The last Sunday to drop off donations will be December 7th.
- ◆ See Connie or Shelby in the office if you have any questions.




**ELIZABETH'S
NEW LIFE
CENTER**

Gift Cards	Amazon or Walmart
Layettees	Cotton Receiving Blankets Infant Beanie and Mitten Sets Cotton Flannel or Terry Burp Cloths Colorful or Patterned Multipack Onesies Multi-Pack Infant Socks
Diapers	Diapers (Sizes Newborn, 3 and up) Pull-ups (All sizes) Wipes Diaper Genie Pail and Refills Diaper Cream
Equipment	Car Seat / Stroller Booster Seat/ Portable High Chair Infant Swing / Pack'n Play Exersaucer / Walker Infant Bath Tub / Sound Machine Nursing / Boppy Support Pillow Cool Mist Humidifier / Baby Monitor Potty Seat . Potty Chair
Misc	Bibs Clothing Newborn to 5T Infant Hooded Bath Towels and Washcloths Backpack Style Diaper Bags Infant Toys, Rattles, and Teethers Infant Grooming / Healthcare Kits Baby Proofing Safety Kits Infant /Toddler Shampoo, Soap and Lotion




GIVING TREE

SCAN TO SHOP OUR
AMAZON REGISTRY



ENLC Contact: Lori Ernest
(937) 226-7414 | lernest@enlc.life



All Church Thanksgiving Service & Gathering

On Wednesday, November 19th we were able to gather as a community to worship our Lord and Savior with thankful hearts. We thank

Pastor Sherwin Parmar, Pastor Tory Breitigan, and Pastor Joel Bucklin for their unifying and encouraging leadership and message reminding us to turn back to Christ and give thanks for all He has done!



GIVE THANKS

Dear First Church, We are so very thankful for you love, care, prayers and support. There is so much to organize and plan as we prepare to leave Germany and return to Ohio! DANKE SEHR for your financial help in getting us back home! *Blessings, Doug & Kathy McClain*

Dear First Church, Thank you so much for the recent donation given to Do Good Restaurant & Ministry. I am grateful to those who support us and help us carry out the mission entrusted to us by the Holy Spirit. May we all go forward in service to the Lord and for His great glory! *Yours in Christ, Karen Homan*

Happy Anniversary to the following couples who are celebrating 50+ years of marriage.

John & Penny Pfenning, 51 years on December 27
Donald & Carolyn Hennen, 61 years on January 3

Happy Birthday to the following members who are celebrating special birthdays.

Annette Schrolucke on December 11
11120 Yost Circle, St. Marys, OH 45885

Mark Schneider on December 31
924 Daisy Drive, Wapakoneta, OH 45895

JoAnn Feldwisch on January 4
11230 St. Rt. 364, St. Marys, OH 45885

We Extend our Love and Sympathy

Joann Elshoff entered into Christ's care
on Thursday, October 23, 2025. She was 78.

She was laid to rest with a Christian Burial at Pilger Ruhe
on Friday, October 31, 2025.

We Extend our Love and Sympathy

Roger Hoelscher entered into Christ's care
on Thursday, November 20, 2025. He was 76.

We invite you & your family to take a picture in front
of our new winter backdrop.

We want to thank all those who donated and a special
thanks to Gina, Meg & Shelby for their time to set
everything up.



Congratulations to Zach & Paige Lageman on the birth of their daughter Emery Ann who arrived on November 2nd weighing 8 lb.15 oz. and was 21 ¾" long. Emery was welcomed home by big brothers Emmitt & Ean. Grandparents are Mark & Sarah Lageman, Jerry & Cindy Lehman. Great Grandparents are Jerry Lehman Sr., Jane Novean, and Sam & Kathy Ruck.



Financial Snapshot for October 2025

General Operating Fund Balance	\$192,492.06
Benevolent Fund Balance	\$48,151.08
VBS Fund Balance	\$6,744.46
Seminary Student Ed. Grant Fund Balance	\$13,285.66
Radio Ministry Fund Balance	\$26,641.46
Music Ministry Fund Balance	\$1,813.76
Bequest & Endowment Fund Balance	\$85,500.04
Camp Fund Balance	\$4,292.79
Building Maintenance Fund Balance	\$341,553.68
<i>Held for Elevator: \$102,395.57</i>	
<i>Held for Sanctuary Painting \$161,727.76</i>	

Jr. High Youth Fund Balance	\$4,546.37
Sr. High Youth Fund Balance	\$4,704.07
Global Missions Fund Balance	\$7,454.01
Christian Women's Fund Balance	\$7,793.38
Outreach & Evangelism Fund Balance	\$5,085.06
Children's Ministry Fund Balance	\$16,504.50
Building Technology & Improvements Bal.	\$19,192.60
Temporary Undesignated Gifts Balance	\$156,163.64
Those In Need Fund Balance	\$7,169.95

*Full detail is available by calling the treasurer, Connie Schroer
at the church office. 419-753-2446*

Designated Offerings - December

Dec 7	General Operating Fund
Dec 14	Salvation Army of Lima
Dec 21	Elizabeth New Life Center
Dec 28	Agape Ministries, St. Marys

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held on
Wednesday, December 24th at 7:00 pm at First Church in the
Sanctuary. The offering will go towards Tanner's Romanian
Mission.

Offering facts & figures

***The offering totals shown here include both
Sunday morning gifts and online giving.***

October 5
Attendance — 198
General Operating Fund — \$2,984.00

October 12
Attendance — 200
Gideons of Auglaize County — \$3,158.00

October 19
Attendance — 179
Radio Ministry Fund — \$2,488.00

October 26
Attendance — 214
Carl Lanham, Nations of Coaches — \$2,777.00

Misc. Extra Mission Gifts

Salvation Army of Lima—\$650.00
Agape Ministries—\$650.00

Online Giving through Realm

You can give online via our website at
www.firstchurchnk.org

You can also text "FIRSTCHURCHNK" TO 73256
and give via your mobile device.



ADVENT READING

The Gospel of Luke

Join us as we read through the Gospel of Luke during Advent. We will read one chapter a day, starting with Luke 1 on December 1. There is no better way to prepare for Christmas than to read about the birth, ministry, death, and resurrection of our Savior Jesus!

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 1 (December 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 13 (December 13) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 2 (December 2) | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 14 (December 14) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 3 (December 3) | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 15 (December 15) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 4 (December 4) | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 16 (December 16) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 5 (December 5) | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 17 (December 17) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 6 (December 6) | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 18 (December 18) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 7 (December 7) | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 19 (December 19) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 8 (December 8) | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 20 (December 20) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 9 (December 9) | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 21 (December 21) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 10 (December 10) | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 22 (December 22) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 11 (December 11) | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 23 (December 23) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 12 (December 12) | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 24 (December 24) |

First Church NK

Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



Join us at 7:00 PM on Christmas Eve for a special candlelight service as we celebrate the joy and hope of Christ's birth.

Experience the beauty & peace of Christmas with music, reflection, and the glow of candlelight. Share in the warmth with our church family. Whether it's your first visit or you've been part of our community for years, we would love to celebrate this holy night with you.

Come and be part of this joyous Christmas Eve service!



200 W. BREMEN STREET, NEW KNOXVILLE, OH 45871



FIRSTCHURCHNK.ORG



First Church
OF NEW KNOXVILLE

Senior Pastor Joel Bucklin
P.O. Box 339
200 W. Bremen St.
New Knoxville, OH 45871-0339
419-753-2446
Office e-mail: firstchurchnk@nktelco.net
Church Website: www.firstchurchnk.org
Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID
PERMIT #5
NEW KNOXVILLE, OH 45871



Find us on Facebook & Instagram at



#firstchurchnk