

The Daily Disciple

Newsletter of First Church of New Knoxville | January 2026



We are Moving Next Door!

Sunday morning worship services will take place in the Ministry Center **beginning January 11, 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 to be added to our volunteer list.



The Congregational Meeting to accept nominations for officers of the consistory/congregation will be held on Sunday, January 11, 2026 following the 9:00 am service.

Below is a list of those nominated for office (in bold) and outgoing officers who have completed their terms. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted.

Elders:

Maria Lammers

Michelle Dillon (outgoing)

Dean Haberkamp

Keith Leffel (outgoing)

Trustee:

Doug Bambauer

Jesse Dillon (outgoing)

Deacons:

Logan Leffel

Logan Leffel (staying for 2nd term)

Open

Dean Haberkamp (outgoing)

Tracy Luck

Maria Lammers (outgoing)

Lois Harrod

Zach Metzger (outgoing)

Annual Meeting — January 25, 2026

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.

This year's meeting will be held in the Ministry Center immediately following morning worship.



Dear First Church Family,

It's hard to believe that the new year is upon us! Many people make resolutions at the start of the year. Some try to eat healthier, exercise more, or cut out a bad habit. As 2026 begins, I encourage you to read through the Bible with us. We are going to use The Bible Recap chronological reading plan. In addition to the Bible reading, there is also a free daily podcast, devotionals, and study guides to help you dig deeper into the Bible. You can find more information about The Bible Recap in this newsletter and on our website (firstchurchnk.org).

This will be the fourth year in a row that I have read through the Bible. I've used multiple different plans (including The Bible Recap). Different plans have their own strengths and weaknesses. Honestly, I don't think it matters what plan you follow. You are in good shape as long as you are reading your Bible regularly. That's the reason we are encouraging people to read The Bible Recap with us this year. We want you to form a habit of reading your Bible every day. It is not really important if you finish the Bible in exactly one year. It may take you two years to read through the

Bible. That's ok! Our prayer with this challenge is that you form a habit of daily Bible reading and learn to love God's Word.

Reading through the Bible multiple times has taught me several valuable lessons. First, it helped me appreciate the full scope of Scripture. Everyone has their favorite passages: the Gospels, the Psalms, certain New Testament letters. We tend to gravitate toward those passages when we read the Bible on our own. A reading plan, however, especially a reading plan that covers the entire Bible, forces us to read all of Scripture. We can't avoid the difficult or hard-to-understand passages. Reading through the entire Bible forces us to engage with all of Scripture. That is a good thing, because "all Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16). Our knowledge of Scripture – and of the Lord – will grow as we engage with those difficult passages. We will appreciate Jesus' sacrifice more when we read through the temple sacrifices described in Leviticus. We will understand the seriousness of sin when we read about the Exile. We will understand Jesus better when we see how his life and ministry is foreshadowed in the Old Testament.

That leads me to the second lesson I've learned from reading through the Bible. Everything in Scripture points to Jesus. God is the main character of the Bible, not us. From the opening verses of Genesis to the closing verses of Revelation, everything points to him. Knowing this can help us get the most out of our Bible reading. You should ask yourself the following questions every day: "What does this passage teach me about God? How does this passage point me to Jesus?" You will be surprised by how much you will learn when you have this mindset.

This is something that The Bible Recap does very well. The daily podcast and devotional help us make those connections to Jesus throughout Scripture. It has helped me understand and love the Bible even more.

Finally, reading through the Bible multiple times taught me that there is always more to learn. No matter how many times you read the Bible, no matter how many Bible studies or Sunday School classes you attend, you will never "finish" learning about the Lord. There is a depth and breadth to Scripture that can never be fully exhausted. Romans 11:33-36 says:

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable his judgments,
and his paths beyond tracing out!

³⁴ "Who has known the mind of the Lord?
Or who has been his counselor?"

³⁵ "Who has ever given to God,
that God should repay them?"

³⁶ For from him and through him and for him are all things.
To him be the glory forever! Amen.

We will never fully understand everything the Bible says about the Lord. Some of the smartest people to ever live have been studying scripture for thousands of years and there is still more to discover. But that does not mean we should give up. On the contrary, we are invited to explore the depths of Scripture and grow in our knowledge of the Lord. The end result is that we then grow in our love for the Lord. As Bible teacher Jen Wilken often says, "The heart cannot love what the mind does not know." We commit to read and study our Bibles so that we can love God even more and strengthen our relationship with him.

Consider this another invitation to join us as we read through the Bible in 2026. It will already be part way through January by the time you receive this newsletter, but it is never too late to start! Pick up a copy of the reading plan and get started today! You won't regret it.

*In Christ,
Pastor Joel*

Dear First Church Family,

I love the start of a new year. Not because I set a ton of new goals for myself, but because January to June is packed with exciting ministry things that I look forward to every year. It's almost like the start of a new year begins a little countdown for me!


In January, we're starting a new bible study series with our students on 1 & 2 Timothy. I'm excited to see how the Lord will use His Word to mold and shape the hearts of our students. We will start thinking and praying about SonRise service and the theme for this year. I always love seeing what the Lord places on our students hearts for that service. Maria Kaiser and I will start planning VBS and Lakeside at the beginning of the year. The start of the new year is filled with all the big things I look forward to the most! I love the preparation for all these exciting things that happen in the spring and early summer.

God moved in amazing ways in our students in 2025. He used every big event and small moments to bring His students closer to Him. I know that He's got big plans for 2026. I cannot wait to watch Him work and see how He wants to use the big and little moments in ministry to shape His kids.

Tory Breitigan



LAKESIDE 2026 MEETING



**WED. JAN. 21 AT 8PM
MINISTRY CENTER**

ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS GOING TO CAMP NEED TO BE AT THIS MEETING WITH A PARENT! BRING YOUR CAMP APPLICATION AND MEDICAL FORMS TO THE MEETING!

REMINDER

There will be no Sunday school or confirmation on January 25th to allow our teachers to attend the annual meeting.

Confirmation students are expected to attend the annual meeting.

Childcare will be provided.

REMINDER

**YOUTH MINISTRY SCHEDULE
JANUARY & FEBRUARY**

WEDNESDAY YOUTH GROUP 7-8:30PM @ MINISTRY CENTER	SUNDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY 7-8PM @ BAMBAUER'S
JAN- 7, 14, & 28	JAN- 11, 18 & 25
FEB- 4, 11, 18 & 25	FEB- 1, 8, 15 & 22

WED. JANUARY 21- YOUTH GROUP WILL MEET FROM 7-8PM. LAKESIDE MEETING WILL BE AT 8PM IN THE MINISTRY CENTER.

Winter weather is here! Make sure to keep an eye on our youth group Facebook & Instagram for schedule changes due to weather.

FCA Christmas Breakfast



Christmas Fun



Bible in a Year 2026: The Bible Recap reading plan has officially begun. As a church family, we will be reading through the Bible in a Year 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.

Scan the above QR code with your camera to visit our First Church website to view details and "How to get started" guides. <https://firstchurchnk.org/the-bible-recap/>

We have listed resource links and information for you to purchase books from The Cornerstone Shop in New Bremen or from Amazon.

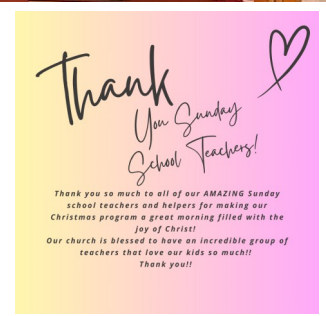
The church has purchased a few copies of *The Bible Recap A One-Year Guide* and a *The Bible Recap Study Guide*. If you would like to reserve a copy for yourself, please call the church office: 419-753-2446.

A One-Year Guide - \$23.00

Study Guide - \$12.00



Sunday School Christmas Program



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Designated Offerings 2026
First Church of New Knoxville

2026

January 4	General Operating Fund
January 11	Radio Ministry Fund
January 18	Auglaize Co. Crisis Center / Aug. Co. Group Home
January 25	WBCL Radio

(January 2026 was approved as part of last years designated offering sheet – it is here for your information only)

February 1	General Operating Fund
February 8	Youth Camp Fund
February 15	Building Maintenance Fund
February 18	Radio Ministry Fund, Ash Wednesday
February 22	Vacation Bible School

March 1	General Operating Fund
March 8	David Kimberly, Barnabas Ministry
March 15	Samaritans Purse
March 22	Carl Whitlatch, Fellowship of Christian Athletes
March 29	Jr & Sr High Youth Group Fund, Palm Sunday

April 2	Those in Need, Maundy Thursday
April 5	Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, Easter Sunday
April 12	Building Maintenance Fund
April 19	Auglaize Co. Family Life Center
April 26	Open Sunday

May 3	General Operating Fund
May 10	Katie (Miller) Loehr, Young Life
May 17	Mark Burd, Revive Ohio
May 24	Radio Ministry Fund, Pentecost
May 31	Children's Ministry Fund

June 7	General Operating Fund
June 14	Rustic Hope
June 21	Building Maintenance Fund
June 28	Eight Days of Hope

July 5	General Operating Fund
July 12	Kusel Mission Church, Germany
July 19	Radio Ministry Fund
July 26	Jr & Sr High Youth Group Fund

August 2	General Operating Fund
August 9	Children's Ministry Fund
August 16	Those in Need
August 23	Radio Ministry Fund
August 30	Melugin, Heart of Hispaniola

September 6	General Operating Fund
September 13	Right to Life of Shelby County
September 20	Do Good, Osgood
September 27	Jim & Carol Sheffield, Ethnos 360

October 4	General Operating Fund
October 11	Gideons of Auglaize County
October 18	Radio Ministry Fund
October 25	Carl Lanham, Nations of Coaches, Reformation Sunday

November 1	Building Maintenance Fund, All Saints Sunday
November 8	Clint Mahan, Athletes in Action
November 15	Outreach & Evangelism
November 22	Wayne Lunsford, Wycliffe Bible Translators
November 29	Mercy Unlimited

December 6	General Operating Fund
December 13	Salvation Army
December 20	Elizabeth New Life Center
December 24	Tanners Romanian Mission Christmas Eve
December 27	Agape Ministries

2027

January 3	General Operating Fund
January 10	Radio Ministry Fund
January 17	Auglaize Co. Crisis Center / Aug. Co. Group Home
January 24	WBCL Radio Ministry
January 31	Open Sunday

GIVE THANKS

Dear First Church, Your partnership of Nation of Coaches make it possible to have Kingdom impact in the lives of coaches, spouses of players! Our character coaches are serving them so well in the name of Jesus! Thank you & may the Lord continue to bless you all.
Carl Lanham

Dear First Church & Consistory, Thank you for the generous gift given to me in recognition of service on the praise team. I truly enjoy serving our church through music and I am blessed to work alongside a great group of people who also love to serve and praise the Lord. Thank you again! God Bless, *Adam Rohrbaugh*

Dear First Church, Thank you for the poinsettia and for the remembrance all year—it means a lot. Merry Christmas, *Becky Huston*

Dear First Church, Thank you Pastor Joel for your visits. I appreciate and enjoy your time and prayers. I appreciate all that First Church does for me. *Anna Donnerberg*

Dear First Church, Thank you for the red rose on the altar recognizing our 51st Anniversary. We are grateful for your love and support as we celebrate another year together. *John & Penny Pfenning*

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

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

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

Donald & Carolyn Hennen, 61 years on January 3
Tom & Ann Leffel, 54 years on January 8

We Extend our Love and Sympathy

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



Thank you to our Sunday School teachers for your love, dedication, and heart for serving at First Church. Your commitment to teaching our children about Jesus is such a blessing to our church family. We are truly grateful for each of you.



Financial Snapshot for November 2025

General Operating Fund Balance	\$190,884.36
Benevolent Fund Balance	\$42,833.08
VBS Fund Balance	\$6,744.46
Seminary Student Ed. Grant Fund Balance	\$13,285.66
Radio Ministry Fund Balance	\$25,041.46
Music Ministry Fund Balance	\$1,212.37
Bequest & Endowment Fund Balance	\$85,578.44
Camp Fund Balance	\$3,792.79
Building Maintenance Fund Balance	\$349,173.58

Held for Elevator: \$102,445.57

Held for Sanctuary Painting \$169,247.66

Jr. High Youth Fund Balance	\$4,538.48
Sr. High Youth Fund Balance	\$4,898.97
Global Missions Fund Balance	\$7,454.01
Christian Women's Fund Balance	\$7,793.38
Outreach & Evangelism Fund Balance	\$6,625.06
Children's Ministry Fund Balance	\$16,364.73
Building Technology & Improvements Bal.	\$19,192.60
Temporary Undesignated Gifts Balance	\$156,163.64
Those In Need Fund Balance	\$12,169.95

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

Designated Offerings - January

Jan 4	General Operating Fund
Jan 11	Radio Ministry Fund
Jan 18	Auglaize County Crisis Center / Auglaize County Group Home
Jan 25	WBCL Radio

Offering facts & figures

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

November 2

Attendance — 226

Sanctuary Painting Project — \$3,608.00

November 9

Attendance — 192

Clint Mahan, Athletes in Action — \$3,163.00

November 16

Attendance — 188

Outreach & Evangelism — \$2,081.00

November 19—Joint Thanksgiving Service

Attendance — 155

Agape Ministries — \$930.00

November 23

Attendance — 218

Wayne Lunsford,

Wycliffe Bible Translators — \$3,512.00

November 30

Attendance — 183

Mercy Unlimited — \$2,875.00

Misc. Extra Mission Gifts

Doug & Kathy McClain—\$5,000.00

*A gift from the Warner Benevolent Fund
approved by Consistory*

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.

First Church of New Knoxville

LOOKING FOR *Connection*



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP BEGINS AT 9:00AM

 200 W. BREMEN STREET, NEW KNOXVILLE, OH 45871

 FIRSTCHURCHNK.ORG



First Church of New Knoxville

rightnow MEDIA



FREE ACCOUNT

RIGHTNOW MEDIA IS AN ONLINE LIBRARY OF THOUSANDS OF BIBLE STUDY RESOURCES FOR ADULTS, YOUTH, AND CHILDREN.

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE - FINANCES - MENTAL HEALTH
RELATIONSHIPS - PARENTING - NEW BELIEVERS



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