

The Daily Disciple

First Church of New Knoxville | February & March 2026

2026 / 2027 Consistory

The consistory year runs from February 1, 2026 to January 31, 2027. Members serve 3 year terms.

Elders: Ryan Opperman, Dave Bambauer, Brad Hoge, Brian Jones, Maria Lammers, and Dean Haberkamp.

Trustees: Craig Fledderjohann, John Katterheinrich, and Doug Bambauer.

Deacons: Ryan Allen, Kale Wierwille, Hannah Holtzapple, Zach Lageman, Logan Leffel, Amy Weadock, Lori Foster, Jordan Settlage, Dan Langenkamp, Lois Harrod, Rob Michael, and Tracy Luck.

We invite you to join us February 18th for our Ash Wednesday service as we prepare our hearts and minds for Lent.



Red Cross Bloodmobile Dates

Location: First Church Ministry Center

Noon to 6:00 PM

February 20, 2026

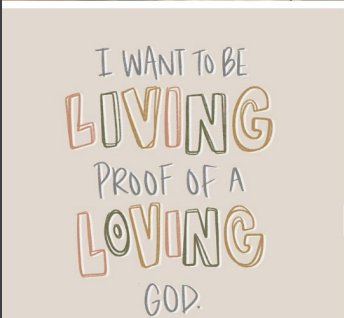
April 24, 2026

June 19, 2026

August 21, 2026

October 23, 2026

December 18, 2026





Dear First Church Family,

I hope that you are sticking with the Bible Recap reading plan. It is a challenge to stay committed and read every day, but it is worth it. The Bible is one of the main ways that we learn about the Lord. Stick with it even when it is difficult to understand. The investment will pay dividends in the long run.

We are quickly approaching a section of scripture where our commitment to the reading plan will be tested. There are a lot of chapters in the second half of Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers that detail various laws, sacrifices, and instructions for building the temple. It is tempting to skim over these sections because they seem irrelevant to us now. Why do we need to know about the dimensions of the temple or the various kinds of sacrifices on this side of the cross?

These passages are important because they point beyond themselves. We have no plans to build a new tabernacle. We definitely do not need to offer any more sacrifices. But these things are important because they help us understand God's character and his purposes for this world.

Take the tabernacle for example. Eleven chapters (more than 25% of Exodus) is dedicated to describing the instructions and the construction of the tabernacle. Why does the Bible go into so much detail? The tabernacle (and later the temple) was the focal point of God's presence with his people. That is why there is so much garden and angelic imagery in the design. It was meant to remind people of the Garden of Eden, where God dwelt with Adam and Eve. The tabernacle was essentially a miniature, mobile Eden. A meeting place for God and his people. In the New Testament book of Hebrews, we learn that the Tabernacle was a shadow of the real thing in heaven. It was a model, along with the various customs and sacrifices, showing us what authentic, genuine worship looks like.

This is relevant for at least two reasons today. First, as Christians we believe that the people of God are the "temple of the Holy Spirit". In other words, the focal point of God's presence is not confined to a particular building in a particular location. Since the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, God's spirit dwells in every believer. The same manifest presence of God that filled the Holy of Holies now fills each one of us. What an incredible thought!

Second, the detail with which God describes the tabernacle shows us that the place where we worship God is important. The building is not the church, but the building we meet in is the place that God provides for his church to meet. We should care for it as a sacred trust. We should maintain it as a way to honor and glorify God.

I was particularly moved reading through this section during the painting project. It was a helpful reminder that maintaining that space and beautifying it is an act of worship. We are blessed to meet in the Ministry Center during the project, but I am already looking forward to being back in the sanctuary on Palm Sunday. The building, of course, is only a temporary structure. First Church would not cease to exist if that building was destroyed. We are the church, and we will continue to gather wherever and whenever we are able to meet.

But the building itself is important. It holds value, because it is the place that God's people have met for worship for generations. It is the place where countless faithful people worshiped, ministered, and served the Lord. Many saints spent their entire lives as members of this church. They were baptized, confirmed, married, and buried in that sanctuary. That is significant.

My heart breaks for the congregation of St. John's Catholic Church in Maria Stein. They lost their building in a fire. They would be the first to tell you that the building matters. They are also, however, a living testimony to the reality that the church is the people. The congregation survives, even if the building does not.

All that to say, I am so grateful for the work being done in the church building. They are making a ton of progress. We included some pictures later in the newsletter to show the progress. I am very much looking forward to the church gathering for worship in there on Palm Sunday.

I am also grateful for the study and application of God's word. These reflections all came after reading a few chapters about the tabernacle in Exodus. Who knew!?!? (God did, of course!)

In Christ, Pastor Joel

Dear First Church Family,

We're almost 100 days away from the start of Vacation Bible School! Our theme for VBS this year is Emerald Crossing: An Irish Journey through Psalm 23. Our kids will journey through Ireland's lush landscapes, exploring the powerful words of Psalm 23. They'll discover the life of the shepherd-king David and will learn how to cross from worry to peace, from fear to faith, and from uncertainty to a firm foundation in God's Word through a relationship with the Good Shepherd.

Maria Kasier and I have started to plan for VBS, and soon we will be looking for many teachers and volunteers! If you'd like to be part of this awesome ministry, please let us know. It takes a village to make VBS happen each year, and we've got the best village that makes VBS a priority every year.

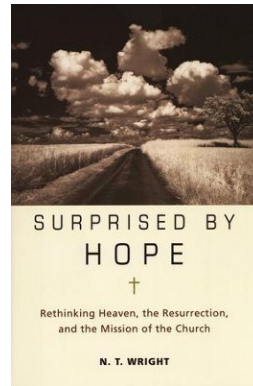
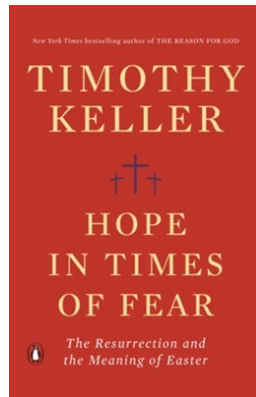
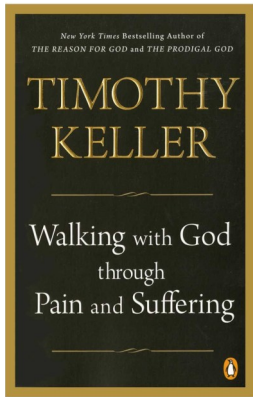
Tory Breitigan



Youth Group Valentine Party



Book Recommendations for Lent: In lieu of offering a Lenten Devotional this year, we encourage you to keep reading The Bible Recap study. If you are looking for something specific to lent, Pastor Joel has provided a few book recommendations. One of the themes of Lent is reflecting on suffering and the cross. He has found these books to be very helpful and challenging.



Interested in membership at First Church?

In May, Pastor Joel will be offering a two-week membership class for those interested in becoming part of our church family. The class will explore what membership means from a biblical perspective, share the history of First Church, and provide helpful, practical information about life in our church.

If you are considering membership, this is a great next step! Please contact Pastor Joel to learn more about what it means to be a member of First Church.

We look forward to welcoming you into our church family!

Lenten Prayer Services:

Sundays at 6:00 PM beginning February 22

Join Pastor Joel for an informal prayer service on Sunday nights at 6:00 pm. Each service will include a scripture lesson, guided scripture based prayer, and a time to pray for needs within the church and community.

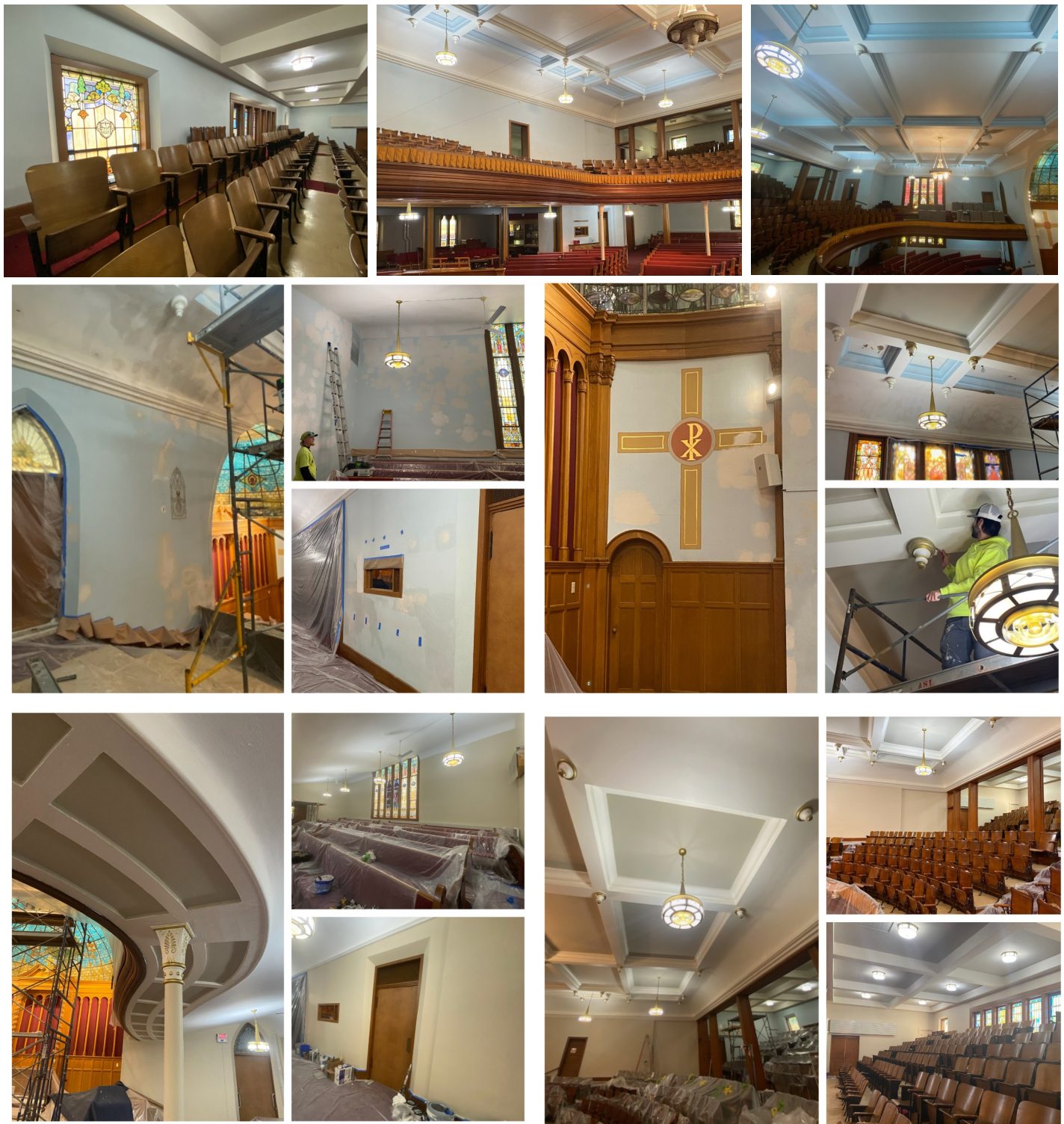
The scripture lessons will focus on how the tabernacle points us to Jesus. Each part of the tabernacle represents something important about his life and ministry. This will be a great way to prepare your heart and mind for Easter!



Church Painting Project Update

On February 13th, we officially reached the one-month mark of the painting project. A tremendous amount of work has been completed by Brian Brothers. The balcony level, ceiling, and main level of the sanctuary are now fully painted. Final touch-ups and artistic detail work are still to be completed, and Blanck Studios will be arriving soon to begin this phase of the project. Brian Brothers have also begun plaster repair and painting throughout all hallways and stairwells.

The photos below show the progress so far. At the top, you will see “before” photos of the sanctuary. In the middle, you’ll find images capturing repairs in various areas of the sanctuary and hallways. The bottom section shows where the project stands today. We look forward to opening the doors soon for everyone to come in and view the completed space. Until then, we kindly ask that you refrain from entering the Heritage Room and Sanctuary for your safety. We hope you have enjoyed these updates along the way.



GIVE THANKS

Dear First Church, Thank you for all the cards all year long. Thank you for the beautiful Poinsettia. *Mary Kuck*

Dear First Church, We thank you so much for your financial support! As inflation has risen in recent years, our support has taken an opposite trend, but I am reminded of Paul's statement to the Philippian church: "You sent help for my needs once and again." We appreciate you so much and pray that, as Paul assured his donors, "my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." Carol and I are continuing to host children in our home. Over the past 10 years we've hosted 37 different children from families in crisis through an organization named Safe Families for Children. Pray for that team as they are growing rapidly and seeing a surge in placements. Thank you again, and my God bless you as you have blessed us. *Jim & Carol Sheffield, Ethnos 360*

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

Norma Schroer on February 11th
Her address is 11101 Yost Circle, St. Marys

Jolene Eschmeyer on February 25th
Her address is 307 A Southeast Street,
PO Box 225, New Knoxville

Gary Katterheinrich on March 11th
His address is 11711 Kingfisher Lane, St. Marys

Jane Novean on March 11th
Her address is 6200 Botkins Road, New Knoxville

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

Dennis & Joan Henschen, 61 years on March 5th

TOMORROW ISN'T
PROMISED, BUT WHEN
YOU LIVE FOR JESUS,
ETERNITY IS.

We Extend our Love and Sympathy

Delores "Dee" Weadock entered into Christ's care on
Thursday, January 29, 2026. She was 78.

A Christian burial was held for Dee on February 2, 2026
at Elm Grove Cemetery.

Dick Elsass is a new resident at The Gardens of
Wapakoneta and would enjoy receiving cards or visits
from his church family. His new address is:

The Gardens of Wapakoneta Assisted Living
505 Walnut Street, Room 205
Wapakoneta, OH 45895



Love Thy Neighbor

T	P	Q	R	U	D	O	W	X	P	S	B	R	Z	I
C	O	M	P	A	S	S	I	O	N	A	T	E	O	H
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E	E	Q	I	I	J	K	R	U	U	N	T	P	U	X
D	Q	K	G	D	W	B	L	O	H	O	F	I	C	V

Word list:

BUILD
CARE
COMPASSIONATE
ENCOURAGE
FORGIVE
GOD
HEART
HELP

HUMBLE
KIND
LOVE
MIND
NEIGHBOR
PRAY
SHARE
TREAT



Financial Snapshot for January 2026

General Operating Fund Balance	\$262,581.77
Benevolent Fund Balance	\$42,096.08
VBS Fund Balance	\$6,742.46
Seminary Student Ed. Grant Fund Balance	\$13,285.66
Radio Ministry Fund Balance	\$26,457.04
Music Ministry Fund Balance	\$1,212.37
Bequest & Endowment Fund Balance	\$85,505.60
Camp Fund Balance	\$3,879.79
Building Maintenance Fund Balance	\$395,398.23

Held for Elevator: \$102,445.57

Held for Sanctuary Painting \$207,347.66

Jr. High Youth Fund Balance	\$4,530.44
Sr. High Youth Fund Balance	\$4,786.30
Global Missions Fund Balance	\$7,454.01
Christian Women's Fund Balance	\$7,636.18
Outreach & Evangelism Fund Balance	\$6,625.06
Children's Ministry Fund Balance	\$14,448.80
Building Technology & Improvements Bal.	\$18,443.43
Temporary Undesignated Gifts Balance	\$156,163.64
Those In Need Fund Balance	\$10,497.95

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

Designated Offerings - Feb.—Mar.

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	Dr. David Kimberly, Barnabas Ministry
March 15	Samaritans Purse
March 22	Carl Whitlatch, Fellowship of Christian Ath.
March 29	Jr & Sr High Youth Group Fund, Palm Sunday

Offering facts & figures

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

January 4
Attendance — 153
General Operating Fund — \$2,548.00

January 11
Attendance — 190
Radio Ministry Fund — \$3,042.00

January 18
Attendance — 194
Auglaize County Crisis Center — \$2,824.00

January 25
Attendance — Church canceled due to weather
WBCL Radio — \$1,505.00

Misc. Extra Mission Gifts

Agape Ministries—\$100.00

Tanner's Romanian Mission—\$250.00

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.

First Church of New Knoxville

LOOKING FOR *Connection*



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP BEGINS AT 9:00AM

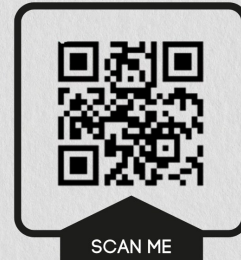
📍 200 W. BREMEN STREET, NEW KNOXVILLE, OH 45871

🌐 FIRSTCHURCHNK.ORG



First Church of New Knoxville

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

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RELATIONSHIPS - PARENTING - NEW BELIEVERS



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



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