

The Daily Disciple

Newsletter of First Church of New Knoxville | April 2026



HE IS
RISEN



As Easter draws near, we reflect on the incredible love and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. *"What He's Done"* by Passion is a beautifully written song, with lyrics that capture Biblical truth of what Easter means to Christians.

"See, on the hill of Calvary, My Savior bled for me... My sins are forgiven, my future is Heaven... I praise God for what He's done."



As you read these words, take a moment to let them sink in. Think about the freedom, grace, and victory Jesus offers—how His life has overcome death and how His sacrifice touches your life personally.

HE HAS SET YOU FREE!

Holy Week & Easter

Palm Sunday & Confirmation

March 29 — 9:00 AM in the Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday Worship

April 2 — 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary

Joint Good Friday Worship

April 2 — 7:00 PM at NK Methodist Church

Easter Worship — April 5

SonRise Service — 7:00 AM in the Ministry Center

Easter Breakfast — 8:00 AM in the Social Room

Easter Worship — 9:00 AM in the Sanctuary





Dear First Church Family,

Holy Week is one of the most special times of the year. It is packed with special services that commemorate the final week of Jesus' earthly ministry. I love the excitement of Palm Sunday, as the Sunday School classes parade around the sanctuary waving palm branches and the Confirmation students share their faith statements. The week continues with Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The services get more somber as we reflect on the significance of the Lord's Supper, Jesus' betrayal and arrest, and eventually his suffering and death on the cross. Once again, we will join our brothers and sisters in Christ at the NK Methodist Church for the Good Friday service this year.

Finally, we celebrate the resurrection on Easter Sunday. This is my favorite day on the church calendar. The youth always do an incredible job leading the SonRise service. Then we get to enjoy breakfast together before gathering in the sanctuary for worship. The joy and excitement are palpable as we celebrate the most significant event in human history: the resurrection of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. It doesn't get any better than that!

This year, Holy Week will be extra special. The painting project is almost complete, which means that we will be in the sanctuary for the Holy Week services. It will be so good to be back in the sanctuary again, and not just because we spent a couple months setting up chairs in the Ministry Center every week. There is something special about the space where we worship. We can worship anywhere and anytime, of course. We proved that during our stay in the Ministry Center. But I miss being in the sanctuary. I miss the familiarity of that space and the beauty of the stain glass. It will be so good to gather together for worship in the sanctuary once again.

The painting crew is putting the finishing touches on the project as I write this. I cannot wait for you to see the final product! Brian Brothers and Blanck Studios have done an incredible job and have been great to work with. I also want to thank our Trustees. They worked diligently throughout this project to make sure things were done properly. I also want to thank you for your generous support. The painting project was fully funded before we started (Praise the Lord!). You have also helped in practical ways: setting up chairs on Saturday mornings, putting away chairs after church, relocating Sunday School classes, and avoiding areas of the church that were "off limits". Thank you for making this process go smoothly!

God is gracious. He has provided for his church in so many ways over the years. The painting project is the most recent example of his faithfulness to his people. I look forward to being back in the sanctuary and celebrating Holy Week with you!

*In Christ,
Pastor Joel*



Interested in membership at First Church?

Pastor Joel will offer a two-week membership class on April 19 and 26. The class will meet at 6 pm in the Youth Room. The class will cover an overview of our church's history, structure, and beliefs. It will also discuss the requirements and expectations of membership. After the class, prospective members will be given an opportunity to join First Church during a worship service at a later date.

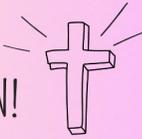
If you are considering membership, this is a great next step! Please contact Pastor Joel to learn more about what it means to be a member of First Church.

We look forward to welcoming you into our church family!

SUNDAY SCHOOL EASTER REMINDERS

- **MARCH 29- PALM SUNDAY.**
KIDS PARTICIPATING IN THE PALM PARADE DURING THE SERVICE NEED TO BE IN THEIR CLASSROOMS AT 8:50AM.
- **APRIL 5 - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL. SEE YOU BACK IN SUNDAY SCHOOL ON APRIL 12. HAPPY EASTER!**

HE HAS RISEN!



Confirmation Reminders

- **March 22- Interviews & Banquet**
 - Elder interviews at 10:15am.
 - Family Banquet at 6pm in the Social Room.
- **March 29- Confirmation Sunday**
 - 8th graders need to be at church for pictures at 8am.



YOUTH MINISTRY SCHEDULE MARCH & APRIL

WEDNESDAY
YOUTH GROUP
7-8:30PM @ MINISTRY CENTER

APRIL 1 - SONRISE PREP NIGHT
APRIL 8, 15 - NORMAL YOUTH GROUP
APRIL 22 - LAST NIGHT OF YG PARTY

SUNDAY NIGHT
BIBLE STUDY
7-8PM @ BAMBAUER'S

MARCH - 8, 15, 22
MARCH 29 - SONRISE PREP NIGHT IN THE MINISTRY CENTER. TIME TBD
APRIL - 12, 19, 26
APRIL 5 - NO BIBLE STUDY

Dear First Church Family,

Things are getting busy in the youth and children's ministry! I love this time of year because I love seeing the Lord pull plans together for His glory. I also love the busy season because this season always reminds me of how thankful I am for our church family and our community. The love and support for our children and youth in our church and in our community is incredible! Thank you church for your love and support of the children and youth in our community!



We have so many exciting things coming up from SonRise service to VBS, and it's all happening within the next 100 days! We have three eighth grade students that are busy preparing their faith statements for Confirmation Sunday on Palm Sunday. I can't wait for you to hear the things the Lord has been doing in their lives as they've been studying His Word and growing in their relationship with Him over the last two years. Our younger kids will kick off worship on Palm Sunday with the Palm parade. All our students have been working hard on putting plans in place for the service. The theme of the SonRise service is centered on the 2nd Coming of Christ and how the resurrection shapes our understanding of why Jesus came and why He's coming back! We hope that you will join us for the SonRise service at 7am on Easter Sunday.

Maria and I have been busy praying and planning for VBS! We are so excited to watch the Lord work in and through the kids in our community as He takes them through Psalm 23. We will begin recruiting for VBS teachers and helpers very soon. If you'd like to help with VBS this year, please let me know. We'd love to have you join the VBS crew!

Tory Breitigan





Holy Week invites you to slow down and reflect on the powerful events that lead to Easter. As we gather for these services, we remember Jesus' journey to the cross, the depth of His love for us, and ultimately celebrate the joy and victory of His resurrection on Easter morning.

- ◆ On Maundy Thursday we remember the last supper that Jesus shared with his disciples. The Lord's Supper will be served during this service.
- ◆ On Good Friday we remember the crucifixion and sacrifice Jesus made for each of us. This service will be at the NK Methodist Church. All are welcome.
- ◆ Bright and early on Easter Sunday, the youth of First Church will lead our SonRise Service, where we will gather to worship and share in the Lord's supper together.
- ◆ Immediately following SonRise, head down to the church basement, Social Room, for a delicious & hot breakfast. This year we will be serving a tasty hashbrown casserole, sausage patties, yogurt parfait station, homemade coffee cake or cinnamon roll. **Breakfast is available to all and free**, however if you would like to give a donation, funds collected will support First Church Youth.

Awana at First Church NK

The end of Awana is quickly approaching! It has been an amazing year, and it is hard to believe it's almost over. We have loved spending time with your children and sharing the Gospel with them. They studied and memorized a lot of scripture this year. You should be proud of their hard work! I pray that they continue to grow in their knowledge of and love for the Lord and his Word.

Our last meeting will be on Wednesday, March 25. We will NOT have a big, year-end celebration like we had in previous years. We will stick to our normal schedule. We will include some of our favorite carnival games in our gametime that night.

We also want to say a big "THANK YOU" to the many volunteers that make Awana possible. We could not do it without our amazing teachers, small group leaders, and game leaders. Thank you for committing time to pour into the children of our church and community. You are making a Kingdom impact in their lives!



Above Photo: Our Cubbies class (Pre-K & Kindergarten) learned the story of four friends who helped bring their friend to Jesus so he could be healed.



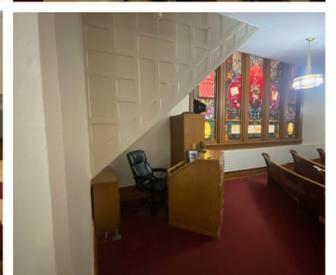
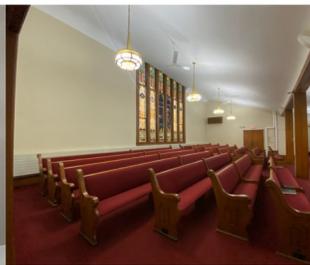
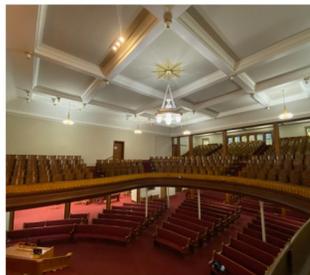
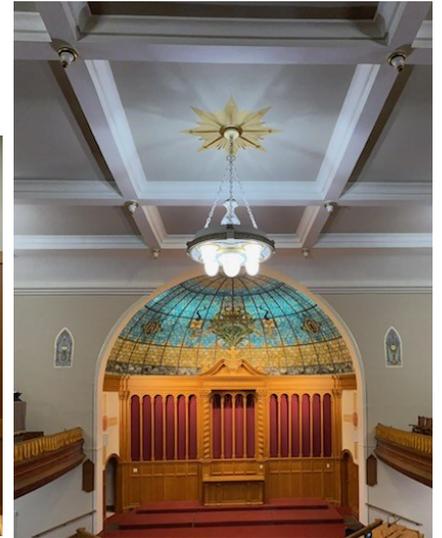
Photo to the left: Our Awana kids had a fun night where they were able to wear their pajamas and bring a stuffed animal if they would like. What a blessing to see so many kids wanting to learn more about Jesus & having fun in the process.

Church Painting Project Update

On January 13, the painting project began, and 58 days later the final touches are being completed on mural artwork in the Heritage Room and main foyer. We would like to reiterate what Pastor Joel shared in his letter to First Church by expressing our sincere thanks to our Trustees, Brian Brother, and Blanck Studios for their attention to detail, hard work, and care for our church building. The photos below show the finished look throughout the church. We hope you will take a moment to stop by and walk through the building to see the beautiful new updates. Beginning at the top, you will see the “after” photos of the foyer and sanctuary. Throughout the page, you will also find several before-and-after images that you can compare with the photos shared in the February/March *Daily Disciple*.

Thank you for following along with these updates—we hope you have enjoyed seeing the developments along the way.

**JOIN US BACK IN THE
SANCTUARY FOR
WORSHIP
ON MARCH 22, 2026!**



GIVE THANKS

Dear First Church, Thank you for the red rose on the alter for our 54th wedding anniversary. We are very blessed. *Tom & Ann Leffel*

Dear First Church, Thank you for your recent donation. Our residents have always enjoyed the wonderful parties, decoration, and activities that they have used your donations for yearly. We would love for anyone that wants to see our individuals and all the individuals CRSI assists in Ohio and what they are doing. Thank you so much for helping to make these things possible for them. We will have to start planning the next big thing for them. Thanks for your generosity. *Tanya Stauffer, SWA with Auglaize County CRSI*

Dear First Church, Thank you for all the prayers for Jason and me! Jason is trying so hard to heal and feel better. He just needs time and rest. I need help, my body has stopped making iron. The doctor is working on what to do next. I went to the doctor today and I see another doctor on Friday. Thank you! *Mary Kuck*

Dear First Church, The family of Annette Schrolucke would like to thank Pastor Joel and the women of First Church for the services they provided for our mother. We were so blessed. *The Schrolucke Family*

Dear First Church, It's hard to believe it's been a full year since my Industrial Accident on 3/10/2025. This year has tested us in ever way possible, but I'm still standing and I'm still moving forward along with my family. We want to take a moment to say thank you to everyone who has supported us through this. Whether you donated food, gave a monetary gift, or simply kept us in your thoughts and prayers— it has not gone unnoticed. We appreciate every bit of it, and we're so grateful for our church families and there continues support. As we keep striving toward progress you continued prayers are welcomed and appreciated. *Thank you, Greg & Christy Metzger and family.*

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

Joyce Alexander on April 5
Her address is 05839 Carter Creek Rd, New Knoxville

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

Bruce & Donna Hoge, 50 years on April 3
Gene & Pat Schrolucke, 62 years on April 11
Tom & Diane Fledderjohann, 60 years on April 16

PRAYER JOURNAL PROMPTS

GRATITUDE

- What are three things you are most grateful for today?
- Reflect on a small, seemingly ordinary blessing you experienced today. How did it touch your heart?
- Who has been a source of joy or comfort in your life recently? Offer a prayer of gratitude for them.
- Think of a past experience that brought you happiness. How can you carry that gratitude into your present?
- Write about a way nature has reminded you of God's beauty and goodness.

Financial Snapshot for February 2026

General Operating Fund Balance	\$282,888.30
Benevolent Fund Balance	\$44,236.08
VBS Fund Balance	\$8,255.47
Seminary Student Ed. Grant Fund Balance	\$13,285.66
Radio Ministry Fund Balance	\$26,494.04
Music Ministry Fund Balance	\$1,161.37
Bequest & Endowment Fund Balance	\$85,505.60
Camp Fund Balance	\$13,648.79
Building Maintenance Fund Balance	\$442,222.23
<i>Held for Elevator: \$102,445.57</i>	
<i>Held for Sanctuary Painting \$252,798.66</i>	
Jr. High Youth Fund Balance	\$4,194.43
Sr. High Youth Fund Balance	\$4,779.01
Global Missions Fund Balance	\$7,454.01
Christian Women's Fund Balance	\$7,636.18
Outreach & Evangelism Fund Balance	\$6,641.51
Children's Ministry Fund Balance	\$14,659.02
Building Technology & Improvements Bal.	\$18,443.43
Temporary Undesignated Gifts Balance	\$156,163.64
Those In Need Fund Balance	\$11,927.95

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

Designated Offerings - April

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

Offering facts & figures

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

February 1
Attendance — 172
General Operating Fund — \$4,092.00

February 8
Attendance — 170
Youth Camp Fund — \$3,356.00

February 15
Attendance — 194
Building Maintenance Fund — \$2,690.00

February 18 (Ash Wednesday)
Radio Ministry Fund — \$869.00

February 22
Attendance — 177
Vacation Bible School Fund — \$2,720.00

Misc. Extra Mission Gifts

Aug. Co. Crisis Center — \$95.00

WBCL — \$205.00

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.

JOIN US IN SUPPORTING
AGAPE MINISTRIES

GOOD FRIDAY FOOD DRIVE

MARCH 1 - MARCH 29, 2026

Most Needed Items:

Canned Chicken or Beef, Boxed or Pouches of Instant Potatoes, Au Gratin Potatoes, Gravy Mix, Egg Noodles, Pasta, Cream of Mushroom Soup, Creamed Style Corn, Boxed Jell-O, Canned Carrots, Canned Green Beans, French Fried Onions, Jiffy Muffin Mix, Cornbread Mix, Barbecue Sauce, Brownie or Cake Mix, Frosting, Pancake Mix, Butter, and Canned Fruit, Cereal, Oatmeal.



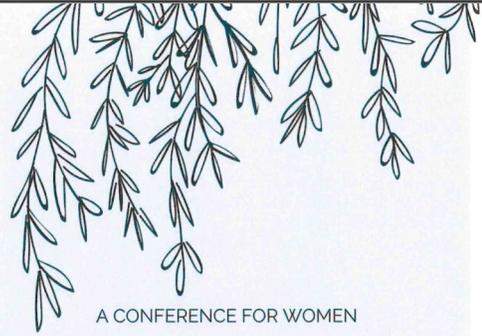
Contact : Shelby

419-753-2446



DROP LOCATION : CHURCH OFFICE

200 W. Bremen Street,
New Knoxville, Ohio 45871



A CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN

ABIDE

A Three Session Retreat in John 15
Saturday May 2, 2026
Harvest Baptist Church

A light lunch will be provided. Be encouraged with biblical truth and equipped to grow in your walk with God.

Register at harvestbaptist.church or scan the code



First Church
OF NEW KNOXVILLE

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #5
NEW KNOXVILLE, OH 45871

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



Find us on Facebook & Instagram at



#firstchurchnk

