

The Daily Disciple

Newsletter of First Church of New Knoxville | June & July 2026



America 250

This month marks a significant milestone in our nation's history. July 4, 2026, is the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. For two and a



half centuries, the United States has strived – albeit imperfectly – to embody the ideals enshrined in our founding documents. As citizens of this great nation, we experience many freedoms and rights that other nations long to have. Unfortunately, all too often we take them for granted.

It is good to love your country. It is good to want what is best for your nation and its people. This Independence Day, I hope you find time to celebrate what makes America special. Be grateful for the many freedoms we have. And, of course, take time to thank the countless men and women who served in the armed forces and the public servants who lead at the local, state, and national levels.

Above all, let the freedoms we experience in the United States point us to the ultimate freedom we have in Christ. Galatians 5:1 says, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free." Christ and his Kingdom are our top priority.

Christians claim dual citizenship. We are citizens of the USA and citizens of heaven. I believe that we will be better citizens of the former when we learn to be better citizens of the latter. That is how we can honor the freedoms we experience in this country: by using those freedoms to love God and love others. The 250th anniversary of our country is an important milestone. I hope and pray that our country celebrates many more important anniversaries in the future. One thing we can be certain of, however, is that one day all the kingdoms of this world will pass away. One King and one Kingdom will remain. We owe him our ultimate allegiance.

Pastor Joel Bucklin



Upcoming Communion Schedule

July 5, 2026	Summer Communion
August 2, 2026	Summer Communion
September 13, 2026	Fall Communion
October 4, 2026	Worldwide Communion Sunday
November 1, 2026	All Saints Sunday
November 29, 2026	First Sunday of Advent
January 3, 2027	New Year Communion

Nursery Help

The Nursery is an important ministry at First Church. It is a safe place where children four years old and younger are cared for and love. It is also a blessing for families to know that their children are cared for in a safe environment so they can focus on the worship service.

We need volunteers to make this vital ministry happen. Please contact Pastor Joel or the church office if you are interested in learning more about how you can help support the nursery ministry.



Dear First Church Family,

Someone at my Tuesday morning Bible study pointed out that this week marks the half way point of the Bible Recap. We've covered a lot of ground over the past six months. The story has progressed from the Garden to the wilderness to the promised land. We have seen the rise and fall of Pharaoh's, judges, and the kings of Israel. The faithfulness of God's people was on full display – as well as their failures. That is one thing I appreciate about reading the Bible chronologically. It helps us understand the ebb and flow of scripture better. And it reminds us that no one is perfect. Abraham, Moses, and David all failed in small and spectacular ways. But one thing remains constant throughout Scripture – God is holy and is faithful to his word. God always follows through and fulfills his promises, even when people fall short.

What a comfort to know that is true in our own lives! God proves himself faithful throughout scripture. Our God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He does not change. Do you know what that means? God remains faithful today! He will still fulfill his promises to his people.

This is why building a habit of regular Bible reading is so important. It grounds us in the story of Scripture. It helps us know and understand God's will. It reveals God's character and promises. We cannot know the Lord apart from his Word and the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. If you want to know who God is and his plans and purposes for your life, you need to immerse yourself in the Scriptures.

Psalm 119:11 says, ¹¹“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” God's word not only reveals God's character. It also empowers us to live godly lives in the world today. We cannot do that, however, if we do not spend time in his word. We need to know his word before we need his word.

I encourage you to keep digging into God's Word as we begin the second half of the Bible Recap plan this week. I pray you continue to grow in your knowledge and love for the Lord.

Some of you are behind. Maybe you didn't start back in January and feel like you missed your chance. It is never too late to start reading your Bible! You can still pick up a copy of the reading plan in the church office. We also have extra copies of the devotional and study guides available. We'd love for you to join us as we continue on our journey through the Bible! Remember: the goal is not to check off a box on a to do list. The goal is to spend time meditating on God's Word and growing in your relationship with him. It doesn't matter if you finish the plan on time or it takes you a few years. The goal is spiritual maturity, and you cannot put a definite timeline on that.

Keep digging into God's Word. Find a group where you can read and study it in community. Read good books and listen to podcasts that help you understand the Scriptures better. There are many good resources out there. The Bible Recap is one of many that you can benefit from. In all things, ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand and apply what you learn to your life. You cannot do it without his help!

In Christ, Pastor Joel

The Daily Disciple will look a little different starting this fall. The program we currently use to create the newsletter will no longer be available. One of the options we are looking into is to transition the newsletter into a digital format. Instead of arriving in your mailbox at the post office, the Daily Disciple will arrive in your email. You will be able to read it on your phone, tablet, or computer.

Please make sure that we have your current email on file. You can email the church office at firstchurchnk@nktelco.net if you need to doublecheck.

We will also print a limited number of hard copies and make them available in the church office and the info center in the Sanctuary.



Dear First Church Family,

It's been a busy start to the summer! We wrapped up VBS and jumped right into preparing to take 32 kids and 5 leaders to Lakeside Camp!

Lakeside was incredible this year! The entire week was full of crazy fun, really late nights, and most importantly, a whole lot of Jesus. The camp theme for the year, "Rescued," was based on the parable of the Lost Sheep in Matthew 18. I loved that it paired so well with our VBS theme this year. Throughout both weeks, our students learned of Jesus' deep love for them and His willingness to pursue them and bring them into a relationship with Him, no matter the cost.

My favorite part of camp was watching our students worship alongside the house band. I've never seen such genuine, wholehearted worship from our kids. Seeing the sincerity of their praise and their desire to glorify Jesus deeply impacted my own heart and reminded me what authentic worship looks like. It's a moment I'll never forget.

I might be a little crazy, but I believe there nothing better than spending an entire week growing in our faith, learning about Jesus, and worshipping Him alongside our students. I'm so thankful for the ministry of Lakeside and the impact it has on our students each year.

Make sure you are in church on Sunday, July 19th to hear more about Lakeside from our students! We're taking over the entire service and will be sharing all about what Jesus did in our lives during camp this year.





VBS Highlights : Emerald Crossing 2026





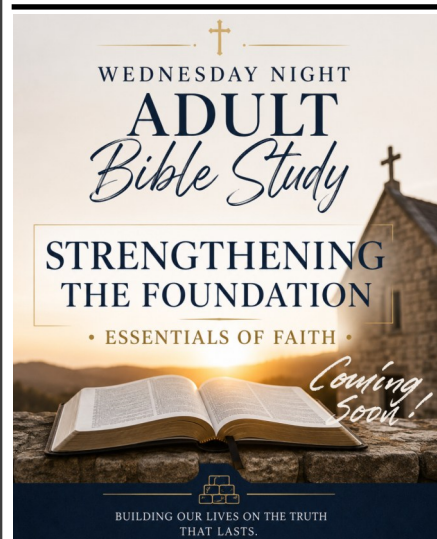
We ended the youth group year with a friendly competition at our first Amazing Race: New Knoxville Edition. Students competed in various challenges around the community for the grand prize and bragging rights for the next year!

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

- Wayne & Karen Kettler, 57 years on June 7th
- Jay & Kathleen Elshoff, 63 years on June 8th
- Chris & Janice Speckman, 54 years on June 10th
- Larry & Becky Longworth, 62 years on June 20th
- Jerry & Judy Kuck, 58 years on June 22nd
- Jim & Bev Reineke, 64 years on June 30th
- Gary & Deb Schrolucke, 53 years on July 6
- David & Deb McFeely, 54 years on July 7
- Wayne & Nancy Bambauer, 66 years on July 16
- Ned & Rebecca Vordermark, 52 years on July 26

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

- ◆ Mary Kuck on June 8
18 Haarbye Street, New Bremen, OH 45869-9415
- ◆ Sylvia Katterheinrich on June 9
11711 Kingfisher Lane, St. Marys, OH 45885
- ◆ Anna Donnerberg on June 25
02234 Greenville Road, St. Marys, OH 45885
- ◆ Larry Niemeyer on July 24
312 S East Street, PO Box 301, New Knoxville, OH 45871



Join us this fall for a new adult Bible study, led by Emily Shelby.

We will be walking through a series called "Essentials of Faith".

Ask any group what it means to be a Christian, and we will hear different answers. But what unifies us? What are the basic characteristics of our faith that every Christian affirms? In this six-session series, Francis Chan will lead us in an exploration of key concepts common to all Christians through the centuries. No matter what divides us, we are united by these truths about the God we worship and our relationship with him. Francis Chan's hope for the series is to learn things about our faith, but for wonder and awe to be developed inside our hearts.

This Bible study will begin on **September 9** and will meet weekly, following the Awana schedule. Bible study gatherings will be held from **6:00-7:15 PM** in the **Heritage Room**.

GIVE THANKS

Dear First Church, It was sure good to be able to worship with you all again in May! Thank you just doesn't seem to express my gratitude of Thanks for your extreme generosity, kindness, and Financial support! Because of this we have already seen 47 come to Christ, 112 baptisms & we have served over 2,300 meals in 2026. *Mark & Jill Burd, ReviveOHIO*

Dear First Church, Our family is deeply grateful for the desserts that were provided and shared and for the services you provided at Joann's celebration of life meal. All brought comfort and eased the burden with your generosity and support. Thank you for your kindness. *Diane Feldwisch*

Dear First Church, I would like to thank my church family for all the cards, prayers, and acts of kindness. A special thank you to Pastor Joel for his visits and prayers. I am truly thankful for all the encouragement while I am recuperating from my surgeries. *Jane Novean*

Dear First Church, Thank you for the beautiful rose, the cards and the well wishes we received for our anniversary. It was so nice to be remembered. *Bill & Edythe Henschen*

Dear First Church, Thank you for the beautiful red rose for our 68th wedding anniversary. *Lee & Gloria Schroer*

Dear First Church, sending a heartfelt thank you for the delicious breakfast and coffee! Your kindness and generosity made the day extra special. We truly appreciate it! *NK School Staff*

Dear Pastor Joel & First Church, We want to thank you again for allowing us to use the Ministry Center for our annual banquet. We sure appreciate it. *Sincerely, New Knoxville Historical Society*

Dear First Church, Thank you for your recent gift sent to Samaritan's Purse for U.S. Disaster Relief and Rebuild. *Franklin Graham*

Dear First Church, I can hardly say thank you enough for your backing and support for the ministry with FCA God has called me to. From the notes from the 2nd graders at the church, to several members of the church serving on my local board, to many attending our banquet, to the generous offerings; I have felt so encouraged by the partnership in the Gospel. Next year it will be almost three decades of support to God's call on my life in ministry that First Church has been an integral part of. Keep holding the Whitlatch's and FCA up in your prayers. *Carl Whitlatch, FCA Director NW Ohio*

We Extend our Love and Sympathy

Joann Feldwisch. Joann entered into Christ's care on Saturday, May , 2026. She was 97.

A service was held for on June 7, 2026 with a Christian Burial at Pilger Ruhe.

We Extend our Love and Sympathy

Serra Pax. Serra entered into Christ's care on Monday, May 25, 2026. She was 29.

A service was held for on June 9, 2026 with a Christian Burial at Pilger Ruhe.

We Extend our Love and Sympathy

Gene Schrolucke. Gene entered into Christ's care on Thursday, June 25, 2026. He was 83.

A service will be held on July 17, 2026 at First Church with a Christian Burial at Pilger Ruhe.

Financial Snapshot for June 2026

General Operating Fund Balance	\$269,668.31
Benevolent Fund Balance	\$46,685.01
VBS Fund Balance	\$7,748.26
Seminary Student Ed. Grant Fund Balance (Moved to Edward Jones Endowment)	\$0
Radio Ministry Fund Balance	\$22,916.08
Music Ministry Fund Balance	\$17,486.36
Bequest & Endowment Fund Balance	\$85,506.42
Camp Fund Balance	\$10,758.20
Building Maintenance Fund Balance	\$288,566.82
<i>Held for Elevator: \$102,470.57</i>	
<i>Held for Sanctuary Painting \$95,746.78</i>	
Jr. High Youth Fund Balance	\$5,500.35
Sr. High Youth Fund Balance	\$6,468.97
Global Missions Fund Balance	\$7,454.01
Christian Women's Fund Balance	\$7,604.75
Outreach & Evangelism Fund Balance	\$6,042.12
Children's Ministry Fund Balance	\$18,136.60
Building Technology & Improvements Bal.	\$18,443.43
Temporary Undesignated Gifts Balance	\$150,000.00
Those In Need Fund Balance	\$13,785.45

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

Designated Offerings - July & Aug.

July 5	General Operating Fund
July 12	Kusel Mission Ministry, Germany
July 19	Radio Ministry Fund
July 26	Jr. / Sr. High Youth Group Fund
Aug 2	General Operating Fund
Aug 9	Children's Ministry Fund
Aug 16	Those In Need
Aug 23	Radio Ministry Fund
Aug 30	Keith & Amy Melugin, Heart of Hispaniola

Offering facts & figures

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

May 3

Attendance — 226
General Fund Offering—\$3,695.00

May 10

Attendance — 212
Katie (Miller) Loehr, Piqua Young Life
Offering—\$3,384.00

May 17

Attendance — 194
Mark Burd, ReviveOHIO Offering—\$4,717.00

May 24

Attendance — 190
Radio Fund Offering—\$3,361.00

May 31

Attendance — 203
Children's Ministry Fund Offering—\$4,105.00

June 7

Attendance — 200
General Operating Fund — \$3,726.94

June 14

Attendance — 138
Rustic Hope, Russia, OH — \$3,278.00

June 21

Attendance — 161
Building Maintenance Fund — \$2,834.00

June 28

Attendance — 136
Eight Days of Hope — \$3,789.00

Misc. Extra Mission Gifts

Rustic Hope, Russia, OH—\$100.00
Salvation Army of Lima — \$1,300.00

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*



SCAN ME

firstchurchnk.org



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP BEGINS AT 9:00AM

200 W. BREMEN STREET, NEW KNOXVILLE, OH 45871

Come And Join Us For

90's Worhsip Night

Coming This Fall

Bring a friend

200 W. Bremen St., New Knoxville, OH



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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
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