

New Life (Growth): Leads in Evangelism and Missions (local & global). Works with the Session and congregation to build outreach efforts in our immediate neighborhood, coordinate work projects and drives for local missions, and expand missional outlook and support. Partnerships with organizations including Enos Park Neighborhood Improvement Association (EPNIA), Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery, McClermand Elementary/Parent Liaison, Neighborhood Police Officers, Inner City Mission, and church boards/committees to provide outreach into our immediate neighborhood and coordinate drives/fundraisers for local missions. At every event, outreach occurs through discussion and the sharing of a postcard/flyer that asks each to visit Third Presbyterian Church and be part of an exciting journey of faith, with weekly worship information, times, and address noted. The committee will continue working with missions, community outreach, and evangelism. Summaries of events and activities to highlight past and ongoing outreach efforts sharing the gospel, the messages and teachings of Jesus Christ through proclamation and service.

- **Resource Fair** was held with twelve Resource Organizations setting up tables/shared information on services and programs available to families and children. Organizations verbalized that the outreach was satisfying, and networking with the organizations was helpful and informative. Participants verbalized that they were thankful and delighted in the resource information shared. Since this was scheduled so near Mother's Day, we offered a carnation to women with a tag that had scripture about mothers, for example: "She is clothed with dignity and strength and laughs without fear of the future", Proverbs 31:35. Postcards were sent via Every Door Direct Mailing (EDDM) to 1,377 residents in designated postal routes surrounding the church and north end. On one side of the postcard was information about the church and scripture for evangelistic outreach: "I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, I was a stranger, and you welcomed me." Matthew 25:31-40 and the other side information about the resource fair, including summer fun activities, youth development, care coordination for children with special needs, nurturing health and wellness, free clothing and food sources, and spirituality. To help local missions, the committee also collected food and clothing donations to be provided to participants in need at the resource fair through two different helping organizations, Kumler and Contact Ministries, and the remaining donations were sent back with the Mission representatives.



- **Easter Egg Hunt:** Partnered with Mini O'Bierne Crisis Nursery (MOCN), Enos Park Neighborhood Improvement Association (EPNIA) and the board of Deacons. Outreach at Easter time to neighboring children and their families to express hope, joy, and a reminder of God's enduring love for us. This event provided a safe place for children and families to have fun. Eleven evangelistic messages were written on signs and scattered throughout the different age group easter egg hunt areas. The first year included a fundraiser through the sale of hot dogs, drinks, chips, brownies, and Rice Krispies treats. Proceeds went to the James Project and EPNIA. In 2026, it was decided to partner with neighborhood police community outreach, and they gave away hot dogs, chips, and juice bags. This allowed all participants access to a free lunch. Brownies were sold to raise money for missional support. Prefilled baskets were given out at prices. A free drawing was provided for three complete Easter Dinner baskets and additional gift cards. We had great participation both years and hope to continue this annually. Thank you to all generous donors of gift cards, candy, in-kind services, including Gordon Food Services, County Market, Lauterback Tire and Auto Service, Flowers by Kathy, Scheels, Wild Thrift and Sniff, Downtown Springfield Association, and all the volunteers that make this happen.



Invite a friend to church - Ice Cream Social: Partnered with the Interior Life committee to host an ice cream social. Invites provided to the congregation to use to personally invite a friend/family member to church. Welcome bags were provided to guests with a church magnet and brochure, along with other items.

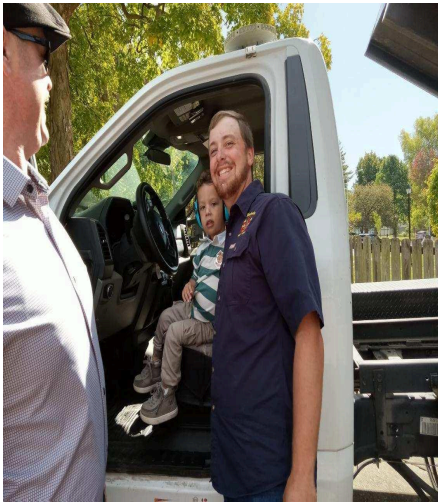


National Night Out: EPNIA hosted this event, and the Third Presbyterian Church participated. National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. The New Life committee coordinated a cake walk with church members donating 32 cakes. An estimated 150 adults and children had fun participating in National Night Out.

CROP Hunger Walk: A community-led interfaith event that raises funds to end hunger locally and around the world. Participation impacts individuals and families in more than 35 countries. The CROP Hunger Walk is the only nationwide Walk that addresses hunger both locally and globally. The Third Presbyterian church has participated in this event for several years, and the walk starts and ends at the church. The New Life committee recruits walkers from the congregation, walkers seek sponsors, and our congregation generously contributes through a special collection.



Fall Festival & Thrift Market: The New Life committee and the Deacons joined efforts again to host the second Annual Fall Festival. The first year, 2024 hosted a Touch - the -Trunk event along with games and pumpkin painting. The neighborhood police gave away hot dogs, chips, and drinks. In 2025, a Thrift Market was added with eight vendors present, including Third Presbyterian Church. Halloween costumes and fall and winter décor were sold. Many Halloween costumes were donated afterwards to the MOCN Costume Closet. Fundraiser proceeds from Third Presbyterian's thrift goods and from selling pulled pork sandwiches went toward the church's very needed restroom renovation. Facepainting was available, and many children enjoyed having their faces painted. There was a fall photo op display available for all to take their pictures.



Trunk or Treat on October 29th – Mini O'berne Crisis Nursery hosted. Third Presbyterian Church participated. Received candy donations from new life committee members and gave away some of the leftover small prizes from the Fall Festival. The theme of the Third Presbyterian's Trunk or Treat was from Ezekiel 37, Dry Bones Come Alive. MOCN also hosted a costume closet in coordination with the Trunk or Treat.



Movie Night: Invite a friend to movie night started with Christmas carols and a Santa visit. The *Journey to Bethlehem* was shown to include a popcorn bar and water. Planning another Movie Night for June 2026.

