John R. Kasich, Governor

**Andre T. Porter, Director Department of Commerce** 

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** December 13, 2013

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## NO CRIMINAL INTENT SUSPECTED IN SECOND MORROW COUNTY CHURCH FIRE

Cause of Fire Still Officially Undetermined

The Division of State Fire Marshal, working in conjunction with the Big Walnut Joint Fire District and the Morrow County Sheriff's Office, does not believe that there was any criminal intent or suspicious activity involved in the fire that destroyed the Gethsemane Baptist Church in Marengo, located in Morrow County.

The fire, which occurred on Tuesday morning, is believed to have originated between the drop ceiling and the first floor. The exact cause of the fire is still undetermined, but investigators could not rule out electrical components in the area of origin.

Firefighters arrived on the scene around 10:50 a.m. to find heavy smoke emerging from the basement. Multiple departments from Morrow and Delaware counties responded including Mount Gilead Fire Department, Cardington Fire Department, Elm Valley Joint Fire, Tri-Township, Porter-Kingston, Ashley, B.S.T.G. and Genoa Township.

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