



# First Church NEWS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Sunday, July 2, 16, & 23 at 10 am**

Rev. David Baker preaching  
Summer Choir



**Sunday, July 9, at 10 am**

Rev. Ed Peterson preaching  
Summer Choir

Childcare for infants through preschoolers

9:00 am - Sunday VBS for preschool - 6th grade=Breakfast Club for 7th - 12th grades

8:45 am - Front Porch Café for adults

## FAMILY PROMISE

If you ever wonder if you are making a difference when you help with First Church mission opportunities, read this note which was received from one of the families that stayed at First Church during the last Family Promise week:

Dear FUMC,

I just wanted to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for extending hospitality to myself and my three children. It has been a rough year for my family and it was really refreshing to meet so many people who were kind for no reason. Kathy Jackson and the rest of the volunteers made us feel so at home and for the three nights that we were here I slept at a peace that I haven't in a long time.

I pray God's continued blessing upon each and every one of you, your families, and your ministry.



Over 80 volunteers worked together in various capacities to create a safe, comfortable space for the 4 families that were enrolled in Family Promise early in June. We started the week with lots of little ones—one of the families left for their new home midweek and a new family of older teens and a mom joined us on Thursday. All in a week's work! The meals were homemade, delicious and enjoyed by all. The families were given new duffle bags, new towels, and a children's story Bible to take with them, thanks to very generous friends of the program. And everyone showed our guests how hospitable we are. We will open our doors and our hearts for the next group, for the week beginning Sunday, October 15. Maybe you have wondered what you could offer - is it too hard, does it take too much time? Call Kathy Jackson at 330-714-0860 and she will find just the right spot for you. You won't regret the opportunity.

**Welcome Rev. Erwin...** This Sunday, July 2, we will welcome Rev. Anna Erwin to First Church. There will be a reception in her honor at 11:00, after the worship service. Please stop by to greet her.

## 2017 Annual Conference Report

Bishop Tracy S. Malone presided over her first Annual Conference when 656 clergy members, and 742 lay members gathered at Lakeside Chautauqua on the shore of Lake Erie.

This 48th session was the first with the new four-year quadrennial theme *Bearing Fruit that Lasts: Called, Committed, and Connected*. Using John 15:1-17 as our guiding scripture, the conference

- explored what it means to be called and equipped as followers of Jesus Christ,
  - highlighted the joy of making a commitment to take up residence in God's love, and
- underscored the importance of being connected to God and our neighbors so that we may bear fruit that lasts by making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

“Jesus reminds us that he is the true vine, and God is the gardener. God is the keeper of the branches. He is the keeper of our lives, the keeper of our souls and, oh, how it is to be kept by God,” said Malone.

The Service of Commemoration and Holy Communion recognized 43 saints who joined the church triumphant since Annual Conference 2016, including the Rev. Bob Wagner from First Church.

Monday evening's Celebration of Retirement recognized 21 clergy who served faithfully for more than 400 years.

Many of the reports at Annual Conference 2017 were grouped around the Four Areas of Focus of The United Methodist Church. Reports on Tuesday highlighted Improving Global Health, and Creating New and Renewed Congregations, while those on Wednesday emphasized Engaging in Ministry with the Poor, and Developing Principled Christian Leaders.

“We strive to help churches and pastors deepen their knowledge of dynamic worship, discipleship pathways, leadership development, cultural competency, community engagement, advocacy, stewardship and small groups and all for the purpose of helping our local churches become more healthy and vibrant as they seek to reach more people, younger people, and a more diverse people,” Cabinet Dean the Rev. Dan Bryant said during the Cabinet Address.

Following the Address, District Superintendents, Dan Bryant and Karen Oehl each received a Bible from Bishop Malone. They were thanked for their years of service and wished well in their new appointments in the local church. Rev. Abby Auman and the Rev. Nestor Nazario were then introduced and affirmed as new superintendents in the Mahoning Valley District and the Mid-Ohio District, respectively.

Seven persons were commissioned as provisional members seeking ordination and six persons were ordained, and one was recognized as an associate member during the Wednesday night service.

The week was filled with uplifting worship, wonderful fellowship, passionate debate, and a spirit of grace.

### East Ohio Conference statistics:

- East Ohio Conference paid General Church Apportionments at 100% for the 12th-consecutive year.
- Proposed 2018 Conference budget is flat for the 13th-consecutive year (NOTE: Budget was approved on Thursday)
- 144,133 and East Ohio Conference membership, down 3,748 from last year.
- 53,325 and Average weekly worship attendance, down 1,844 from last year.
- 1,982 and Professions of faith, down seven from last year.
- 1,503 and Baptisms, up 17 from last year.

**Midwest Mission Distribution Truck** left Lakeside Chautauqua carrying:

- \$5,728.75
- 3,100 Health Kits
- 530 School Totes
- 420 Cleaning Buckets
- 250 Miscellaneous Items
- 35 Layette Kits
- 4 Sewing Machines

Thanks to the generosity of delegates and their congregations, countless lives will be touched because of the money given during these offerings:

- \$23,143 was given during the Annual Conference offering. Imagine No Malaria (45%), East Ohio Conference United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (45%), and the Bishop's Discretionary Fund (10%).
- \$6,000 was raised by the 3Cs Missions 5k Run /1-mile Walk.



**Montgomery Scholarship Recipients...** Jack Backhurst, Joseph Budrevich, Samantha Gifford, Scott Hopkins, Rachel LaFlame and Skylar Veto have been awarded the Reid and Roberta Montgomery Scholarship for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year. Jack, Samantha, Rachel and Skylar graduated from Cuyahoga Falls High School. Scott graduated from Stow-Munroe Falls High School, and Joe from Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy. Jack and Samantha will attend Kent State University and Joe will attend The University of Toledo. Rachel and Skylar will attend The University of Cincinnati. Our best wishes to these fine young members of our church as they begin their college education.



**A Testament to Our Church's Faithfulness...** A huge thank you goes out to First Church for helping us to have an amazing VBS this year. We were able to share the love of Jesus with 165 children this past week which would not have been possible without the tireless serving of the adults and teens in our church and the church's gracious generosity. In worship over 50 children shared with us some of the songs they learned during the week and our SERVE kids (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders) shared one of our gospel scriptures from the week through drama. We raised over \$350 for our mission, Heifer International, where we were able to buy 2 goats and several flocks of chickens. Our church was able to help our children and children from the community to experience the love of God and how they can be Heroes for God through mission projects, song, science experiments, games, Bible stories and more. Thank you once again for this wonderful opportunity to share Jesus's love with our community.



**First Fridays at Five...** The next gathering is July 7 at 5 pm at Oak Park in the Falls. Everyone is welcome to come! Hotdogs, buns, and ice water will be provided. Please bring a dish to share, your own table service and any other non-alcoholic beverage you wish. Questions? Call, text, or email

**College and Technical School Graduates...** If you or your child has graduated from college or technical school, please contact Christy Meyers at [cmeyers@firstchurchcf.com](mailto:cmeyers@firstchurchcf.com) or Ext. 210 and give her the name, school attended, and degree received. The information is needed by July 21 to be in the July 27 issue of the First Church News.

The deadline for the next FCN is Friday, July 21. Please submit your articles to Kathy Kuzas at Ext. 212 or [kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com](mailto:kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com).

## CHURCH ON A MISSION

**Soup's On...** Soup's On is a mission outreach program offering a free, hearty lunch and Christian fellowship to anyone who wishes to participate. First Church works in conjunction with 4 other Cuyahoga Falls churches to offer this program each week on Saturdays from 11:30-1:00. Funding comes from the change our church collects during the worship service to support our hunger mission projects.

Our assigned week is the 5th Saturday of the year. Although that means we only serve 4 to 5 times a year, we provide a very necessary relief to the primary churches involved. Our challenge is that those 5th Saturdays are often on holiday weekend. This year, we have 3 dates left - July 29, September 30 and December 30.

If you are able to help this year, or are willing to be put onto a sub list for the future, we would love to have you. Volunteers work from 10 am to about 2 pm, setting tables, serving and cleaning. Please contact Robin Hindel at [robin.hindel@gmail.com](mailto:robin.hindel@gmail.com) or 330-688-2437 if you would like to participate. As always, thanks for your support. Your donations, both financial and person, serve a much defined need in our community.

**School Supply Drive - Stuff the Bus!** VBS kicked off a school supply drive for Good Neighbors. To keep their efforts going, an orange bus will be in the hall by the parlor for more school supplies to be donated for students in Cuyahoga Falls. Items needed include: school boxes, pens/pencils, filler paper, book bags, backpacks, crayons, glue/gluesticks, scissors, markers, erasers, protractors, spiral notebooks, loose leaf binders, pocket folders, ruler, and pencil sharpeners.

Supplies will be collected through July into the beginning of August. Thank you for supporting students in our area. Stuff the bus!

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David Baker - Senior Minister x211=Anna Erwin -Associate Minister x217=Forrest Waller  
and Marvin Brown - Senior Ministers Emeriti=Dean Wagner - Director of Music Ministries/  
Organist x221=Karol Lewis - Director of Christian Education x219=Allison Dunlap - Direc-  
tor of Weekday Preschool x220=Tim Zuschin - Assistant Choir Director=Bob Capes - Direc-  
tor of Visitation Ministries x 213=Kathy Kuzas x212=Sue Nelman x216=Roxanne Rowe  
x218=Christy Meyers x210=Ann Kaiser, Matthew Kuzas



*The Gift/Memorial Book* is located in the parlor and is open to **Vera Williams**.

*Our Sympathies* to Tami, Brian, Trevor and Brooke Clayton and family on the death of brother and uncle, **Frederick Melott**, on 6/15=to **Ray and Jean Krusinski** and family on the death of his brother, **Paul Krusinski**, on 6/24.

**Weddings at First Church:** Our best wishes to **Michael Taylor and Kelly Sabatucci** who were married here on 6/17.

**Next Opportunity for Baptism** is Sunday, July 30, at the 10 am service. To sign up, call Kathy Kuzas at 330-923-5241, x212, by Friday, July 14.

**Did You Know?** We will be glad to publish (space allowing) milestone birthdays, anniversaries, births and other special events in your family if you send a note c/o Kathy Kuzas, call us at 330-923-5241 x212 or email [kku-zasfumccf@gmail.com](mailto:kku-zasfumccf@gmail.com).

**Thank you from the Osiers...** Eric, Ryan, Emma, and I truly appreciate all the love and prayers you have offered us these past months. Thank you so much for the love offering and the reception we received June 25. We are humbled by your generosity. Know you will always be in our prayers. Grace and Peace be with you.  
*...Rev. Katie Osier*

**Guest Preacher...** Our District Superintendent, Rev. Ed Peterson, will preach on Sunday, July 9. There will be an ice cream social on the lawn following the service.

**Summer Camps...** We have three camps available this summer.

Epworth Youth Camp - July 9-12 (Grades 7-12)

Chess Camp - July 10-14 (Kids with under 1500 rating)

Wesley Camp - August 4-6 (Grades 4-6)

For information please contact Roxanne at Ext. 218.

