



# First Church NEWS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR MIKE

### WORSHIP

#### Sunday, February 13

Pastor Mike Ward preaching  
8:30 am - Epworth Choir  
11 am - Chancel Choir

#### Sunday, February 20

Pastor Jon Priebe preaching  
8:30 am - Epworth Choir  
11 am - Chancel Choir

Sunday School/Confirmation at 9:45  
Nursery/Preschool at 9:45 & 11  
Children's Worship at 11

*Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'*

Matthew 25: 44-45 (NRSV)

As I sit here and look out the window at the rain that has started, I am thinking about Punxsutawney Phil, and his forecast for six more weeks of winter. I don't know about any of you, but I think I have had it with this winter. We seem to have had many more days of frigid temperatures, and more than our share of snow, and please don't get me started about the ice....

I am also thinking about those in our community who may be lacking many of the things we all take for granted. We have our fair share of people in our community who are struggling financially, or may not have adequate food or clothing. There are those who may have a roof over their head, but may not have funds to pay for heat.

I bring this up to mention some of our missions which take on more importance in the winter months. Our Hat & Mitten Mission is an easy way that we can help provide items that may keep someone warm, by purchasing hats/mittens/gloves or even socks! We also provide Soup's On, which takes place in the months that have five Saturdays. Recipients can pick up a hot lunch (until it is safe to offer in-person dining again) to go. First Church Feeds is our monthly food pantry. Recipients receive approximately one month's supply of food including canned goods, dry goods, cereal, pasta, canned meats, frozen meats, dairy products, fresh fruits, vegetables, bread, and other items. Our Blessing Box, although small in size, is frequented throughout the week. Items in need for this are canned foods, ramen noodles, oatmeal packets, tuna fish, individual applesauces, etc... Personal hygiene items are always well received. Our collection of coats has been beneficial for Heart4theCity, which is a mission church in East Akron/Tallmadge border. They have a store where recipients may purchase donated items at a very reduced price. They also host a weekly food pantry.

This passage from Matthew reminds us that God is everywhere. When we are in the midst of what feels like a never-ending winter, it can be hard to sense God's presence, or when we may encounter a stranger in need. Keep your eyes and your heart open as well, so that we can share God's love with the world, and remember that the person in need is a beloved child of God, and what we do or do not do for them, we do or do not do to Jesus himself!

Blessings,

Mike



## United Methodist Women News from 2020 and 2021

Our First Church UMW unit was busy in 2020 and 2021 despite the limitations due to Covid. During the past two years, the circles met either by Zoom, phone calls, in the parking lot, or in person when able. Several mission projects were accomplished and donations were given during that time so the UMW was still able provide help to the community and the District UMW. In 2020, the UMW raised over \$7,000 that was used to meet our pledge to the District UMW and provide donations to various organizations. In 2021, the UMW raised over \$8,000 that again was used to meet our pledge to the District UMW and provide funds to various organizations. The monies raised by the UMW come from members making pledges and the UMW fundraisers (that many of you support). Some of the organizations the UMW provided help to were: the Akron/Canton Regional Food Bank, Battered Women's Shelter, Faithful Servants, Family Promise, Flat Rock Homes, Inc., Good Neighbors, Goodwill Industries, Open-M, Haven of Rest Ministries, Salvation Army, South Street Ministries, UMCOR and Heart4theCity.



In addition to providing monetary help to organizations, the UMW chose two individuals to receive the Special Recognition Pin that is presented by the UMW in honor of their activity in mission work. The two individuals receiving the pin for 2021 were Sue Yates and Valerie Riedthaler.

There are currently over 150 women involved with the UMW through circles and/or emails. If you are interested in joining a circle, please contact one of the following people.

Acts of Grace Circle, Linda Demeter, [lindademeter@hotmail.com](mailto:lindademeter@hotmail.com)

Esther Circle, Peggy Manson, [rpmanson561@gmail.com](mailto:rpmanson561@gmail.com)

Susannah Circle, Sue Boltz, [gramodaattic@yahoo.com](mailto:gramodaattic@yahoo.com)

Network Sisters (email contact only), Sue Boltz, [gramodaattic@yahoo.com](mailto:gramodaattic@yahoo.com)



Thank you all for your support for our first time in quite some time participating in building a home with Habitat for Humanity of Summit county. The home that we built, along with 10 other churches in our area, was on E. Wilbeth in Firestone Park. We had 20 of our church members who volunteered to build at the home on various Saturdays between June and November. We also had 4 other church members who volunteered to provide lunch for our volunteers. The home was completed and the closing took place on January 28. We have been asked to participate in another build that will be taking place in the fall. This home will be built on Germaine Street in Cuyahoga Falls. Kim Kerr will be looking for volunteers again to help with this project when they are ready to build this home. Below is a QR code that will allow you to see the fruits of our labor. The homeowner is so excited to be a first time homeowner. Thank you for supporting this mission. 1 Corinthians 15:58 *Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work for the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*



# # # **All Children's activities have now resumed.**

Sunday School for all ages from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.

Children's Worship during the 11:00 a.m. service.

ROCK will return with some changes.

Music Rehearsals – 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

\*\*Those children who play bells or chimes need to talk with Dean Wagner about their availability this semester.

Dinner at 5:00 p.m. – the cost has gone up to \$3 per child and \$4 per adult.

Rock rotation will take place from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

This means that the evening will end thirty minutes early at 6:30 p.m.

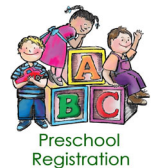
February 20 is also being added back into the schedule as the Wesley Trip will end on Saturday.

There will be child care for children up to age 3 during Sunday School and the 11:00 a.m. worship service. It will also be available from 3:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. each week for those parents participating as helpers with the evening's activities or in Adult Discipleship classes.



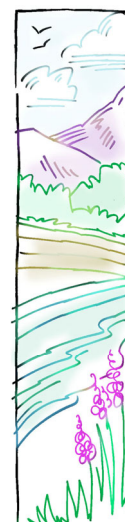
**Wesley Mission Trip...** All 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to attend the mission "trip" on Friday, Feb. 18 and Saturday, Feb. 19. On Friday we will be at the church from 6 - 8 pm for dinner, devotions, an overview of Saturday, and other activities. Then on Saturday, the church bus will leave at 7:30 am for "Canton For All People" where we will serve at the Fresh Food Market and help at the Free Store. That will be followed by lunch and an afternoon at the North Canton Skate and Entertainment Center. Pick up at the Center will be at 4 pm or at the church at 4:30 pm. The cost for the weekend is \$40 and **you must be registered no later than this Sunday, February 13.**

**Weekday Christian Preschool...** The preschool has begun registering for the 2022-2023 school year. Classes are on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, mornings and afternoons, for children aged 3 (by Sept. 30 and potty trained) to 5 as well as a Tuesday/Thursday Enrichment class for 4 and 5 year olds. There is also an all day option. To register or for more information please contact director Jennifer Brooks at 330-923-5243 or [jbrooks-fallsumc@gmail.com](mailto:jbrooks-fallsumc@gmail.com).



**Youth Sunday - February 27**

**Epworth Home Concert - Sunday, April 10**



*We know  
that all  
things work  
together  
for good for  
those who  
love God....*

*Romans 8:28*

# First Church News

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Jon Priebe - Lead Minister x211; Mike Ward - Associate Minister x217; Forrest Waller and Marvin Brown - Senior Ministers Emeriti; Dean Wagner - Director of Music Ministries/Organist x221; Karol Lewis - Director of Spiritual Formation x218; Jennifer Brooks - Director of Weekday Preschool x220; Jen McKenna - Youth Ministries Coordinator; Tim Zuschin - Assistant Choir Director; Donna Curfman - Children's Ministry Coordinator x219; Kathy Kuzas x212; Christy Meyers x210; Nancy Yeager x216; Ann Kaiser; John Fox; Joe Demeter; Alicia Stone; Kathy Just



*The Gift/Memorial Book* is located in the parlor and is open to **Dawn Priebe**.

**Our Sympathies** to the family of member **Eleanor Frantz** on her death on 1/26; to **Judy and Ed Jesson and family** on the death of her sister, **Dee Vitorella**, on 1/28; to **Jerry and Pam Kusar** and family on the death of his father, **Jerry Kusar**, on 1/28; to **Carol and Gerald Lewis and family** on the death of their brother-in-law, **Christy Topalu**, on 1/28; to **Dorothy Light and family** on the death of her brother, **Derek Collins**, on 1/31; to **Rosalie and Dave Goshen and family** on the death of her sister, **Valerie Seese**, on 2/2; to **Keith Winget and family** on the death of his wife, member **Marty Winget**, on 2/5.

**Wanted For Wesley Mission Trip...** We are collecting clothes, toiletries, and feminine hygiene items to take to Canton For All People on February 19. If you have anything you'd be willing to donate, please bring it to the church by Friday, February 18.

Newsletter  
**DEADLINE**

The deadline for the next FCN is **Thursday, February 17**. Please submit your articles to Kathy Kuzas at [kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com](mailto:kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com).



We are still taking orders for altar flowers in 2022. The cost is \$38 per vase. The church takes care of ordering and delivery. If you would like to reserve a date, contact Christy Meyers at Ext. 210 or email her at [cmeyers-fallsumc@gmail.com](mailto:cmeyers-fallsumc@gmail.com).

