



First Church NEWS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP

Sunday, March 13

Pastor Jon Priebe preaching

8:30 am - Epworth Choir

11 am - Chancel & Wesley Choirs

Sunday, March 20

Pastor Jon Priebe preaching

8:30 am - Epworth Choir

11 am - Chancel & Bethlehem Choirs

Sunday School/Confirmation at 9:45

Nursery/Preschool at 9:45 & 11

Children's Worship at 11



NOTES FROM PASTOR JON

Galatians 6:2 – “Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ.”

Are you annoyed by higher gas prices like me? It was easy to gripe and complain already about the costs of inflation arising from our economic recovery from the global economic effects of COVID precautions. Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has only added to these price increases we all face.

A friend of mine recently shared a thought on how to respond as a spiritual discipline to the ways we see the war in Ukraine and Russia affecting our day-to-day lives and I wanted to share it with you. What if, instead of complaining about higher gas prices, we took time to pray every time our day-to-day life is affected by the war? Such as when we fill up our gas tanks or we are shaken by breaking news. This would help us remember to turn our hearts toward God, the only one who can grant a lasting peace.

There are about 2,000 United Methodists in our churches in Russia and Ukraine. Couldn’t stopping to pray for them also help us to, in small ways, bear the burdens of our sisters and brothers whose lives are being disrupted by this war, and in this way fulfill the law of Christ as Paul wrote in Galatians 6:2?

Here’s a prayer from the United Methodist Book of Worship that I use for these prayers:

Remember, Prince of Peace, the peoples of the world divided into many nations and tongues. Deliver us from every evil that obstructs your saving purpose, and fulfill your promises of old to establish your kingdom of peace.

From the curse of war and all that creates it, O Lord, deliver us.

From believing and speaking lies against other nations, O Lord, deliver us.

From narrow loyalties and selfish isolation, O Lord, deliver us.

From fear and distrust of other nations, from all false pride, vainglory, and self-conceit, O Lord, deliver us.

From the lust of the mighty for riches, that drives peaceful people to slaughter, O Lord, deliver us.

From putting our trust in the weapons of war, and from want of faith in the power of justice and good will, O Lord, deliver us.

From every thought, word, and deed that divides the human family and separates us from the perfect realization of your love, O Lord, deliver us. Amen.

Blessings,
Jon



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

During our Stewardship campaign last fall, we looked at our membership vows and how we are called to live them out in our church and community, but we also were reminded that those vows are a two way street. We take on responsibilities as members, but the church covenants with us to help us to fulfill those vows.

One of these vows is to support the church with our financial gifts and we have some exciting news to share with you on how we are partnering with you and supporting you in helping to live that out this year. Our church has gotten a site license for **Ramsey+**, which is available for everyone and is a gift for you to share with friends and neighbors that you know as a way to reach out to them and share God’s love with them. Finances are the number one stress and struggles that marriages, families and people often deal with in their life. **Ramsey+** offers resources and a God-centered approach to money and a way to get debt free, to be able to give generously and live the life you are called to live. After Easter we will be offering an in person Financial Peace University class to work through this plan and see how we can apply this wisdom to each of our lives. Join us as we take control of our finances so that we can use them as Kingdom Builders. Contact Pastor Karol for more information.

GOAL: Living a Life Growing as Disciple through reflection.

All go to one place; all are from the dust, and all turn to dust again. Ecclesiastes 3:20 (NRSV)

ACTION: We began our Lenten journey, which always begins with Ash Wednesday. The words we often hear that day, “From dust you come, to dust you shall return” are echoes from Ecclesiastes 3. These words are harsh and can be unsettling to some, but I think they are just a reminder that our time on this earth is limited and to use that time wisely. So, Lent provides us with a time to reflect and remember what we already know, and to put some intentionality into looking at our life and our relationship with Jesus. It is a great reminder to us of the importance to continue to grow in our discipleship, as none of us knows how long we have. We just know that our time is finite.

The camp director at Camp Aldersgate when our kids were growing up, Eric Dingler, had a dash tattooed on his finger. The dash was his reminder that one day each of us will have two dates on our own tombstone—the dates of our birth and of our death with a dash in between. But we each live in the dash, however long or short it may be. What really counts is not the date you were born or the date that you died, but how you lived the dash in between.

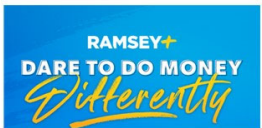
I would encourage us all to use this Lenten season to take time to reflect on how we are doing with our dash. We often think of Lent as a time of giving something up, but it’s not just an exercise of sacrifice, but a practice to draw us closer to God, using time freed up from our sacrifice to pray or connect to God. We could also switch it up this year by adding something into our life to intentionally connect with God over the next 40 days, like a devotional time, serving others daily, or scripture reading--the sky really is the limit in how you can spend time with God this Lenten season.

JOURNAL REFLECTION: What do you want your dash to represent when you die? Where would you like to grow in your spiritual life this Lenten season? What one thing can you give up or add into your life rhythm this Lent to grow as a disciple and in your relationship with Jesus?



Do you feel hope for your financial future, or are you so consumed with money stress that you avoid the subject altogether? What if we told you that you can get out of debt and build wealth to make progress toward the future you’ve always dreamed about? Well, you can! Ramsey+ is designed to get you out of debt (for good!) by giving you a plan to help you live in financial peace. How? We’re giving you (yes, you!) a FREE membership to Ramsey+, so we can all learn how to live and give like no one else. Join us today!

Stay Tuned for Dates and Times for our Financial Peace University Class after Easter!



First United Methodist Church
245 Portage Trail, Cuyahoga Falls
Firstchurchof.com 330-923-5241



Easter Flowers... Now is the time to order the flowers which will adorn our altar on Easter morning. The plants are \$8.50 each. The list of donors and those memorialized or honored will appear in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Please make your check out to First Church and return it with the order to the church office **by noon on Tuesday, March 15**. Please indicate the number of each plant that you are ordering.

___ Tulips ___ Hyacinths ___ Lilies ___ Daffodils

In memory or honor of (circle one)



Donor _____ Phone _____

During the first three weeks of March children's activities are normal... Sunday School will be from 9:45 – 10:45 a.m., Children's Choirs and Bells will be from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. and dinner and ROCK activities from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

There will be no ROCK activities on March 27 because of the Epworth tour and Spring Break. The morning schedule will not change.

During the month we will be collecting money for the Haiti Rice project and the children will be working on their Lenten boxes.

Children's
Ministry
News

Items Needed for the Easter Egg Hunt

With snow falling and covering the ground, Easter seems a long way off, but our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 9, from 11 am to noon. We are in need of small toys and candy, preferable nut free as well as small boxes of raisins and individual bags of chips. Donations need to be dropped off by Sunday, April 3. If you would like to help with this community outreach, please contact Pastor Karol.



Montgomery Scholarship... It is hard to believe, but the school year is quickly winding down, and this means it is time for interested graduating seniors to apply for the Reid and Roberta

Montgomery Scholarship. Applications may be picked up in the church office beginning Monday, March 28, and the deadline to submit applications will be Friday,

April 22. Applicants must be a member of First Church, be a graduating senior, and be planning to enroll in college or a technical school for the 2022-2023 school year.



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 jbrooksfallsumc@gmail.com.

Family Mission Workouts

Our mission focus for the month of March is Life-line Ministries, a ministry which provides meals for hungry children in Haiti. You may:

STEP with Jesus by praying for the hungry children in Haiti.

WALK with Jesus by bringing in \$1.74 to pack a meal for 6 Haitian children.

JOG with Jesus by coming in and packing meals on Sunday, April 3, at 5:30 p.m.

RUN with Jesus by donating the amount of money your family would spend when going out to dinner and packing meals on Sunday, April 3.

Blessing Box... Our blessing box continues to live up to its name by helping those in our own community with needed items. We are in need of the following items: personal hygiene items (toothpaste, soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, etc.) Dry goods, ramen noodles, canned soups, granola bars, all continue to be needed. Please do not donate items in glass jars/ bottles, as the cold can cause the glass to shatter and possibly hurt someone. The donation table is located outside the church library, or you may place the items in the box yourself.



**"I AM THE LIGHT
OF THE WORLD."**

WHOEVER FOLLOWS ME WILL NEVER
WALK IN DARKNESS,
BUT WILL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE."
JOHN 8:12



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First United Methodist Church

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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 **Edward Authenreith**.

Our Sympathies to **Dorothy Light and Michael and Terri Light** and family on the death of daughter-in-law and sister-in-law, **Julie Light**, on 2/11; to **Martha Shoults** and family on the death of her husband, member **Dick Shoults**, on 3/5.

Thank you Expressions: From Keith Winget...
Dear Church Family, I want to thank you for all your prayers, cards, and caring support for my family and me when Marty passed away on February 5. It meant so much and helped so much. **From Patsie Lewis...** Thank you for the beautiful cards and love that you have me and my family during the illness and passing of my husband, Dr. James Lewis. First Church is a caring place.



room to spread out in the sanctuary. We hope to see you there.

Dean Wagner will present half hour concerts of live music each Thursday of Lent in the sanctuary from noon to 12:30. Feel free to come in and hear the organ only as the organ can be heard. There is plenty of



This Sunday, March 13!

The deadline for the next FCN is **Friday, March 18**. Please submit your articles to Kathy Kuzas at kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com.