

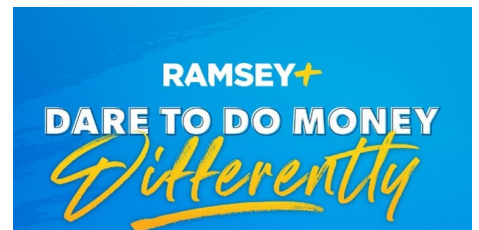
First Church NEWS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Have you ever been in the situation where you heard about a great giving opportunity, perhaps after a natural (or not-so-natural) catastrophe, only to realize that you didn't have any funds to give? Ever wanted to do more than just promise to pray for someone, but instead wanted to actually be a tangible part of the hands and feet of God in bringing hope and restoration to the world (James 2:16)? Unfortunately, it is difficult to be part of this if you are living paycheck to paycheck like two-thirds of our country. If you are tired of sitting on the sidelines though and are ready to learn how to get your finances in order so you can be a blessing to others, then this is your chance.

This class will teach you everything from retirement and budgeting to insurance and saving for your kid's college in a down-to-earth way that is anything but dry. The class will require effort though. It will be ten weeks long, starting on Sunday, April 24, and will meet from 4:00-6:00 PM. The class will cost \$75 for class materials but the church is offering a rebate of \$25 to anyone who goes to all ten classes. A signup sheet will be available at the Church Welcome Center starting on Sunday, April 10, but seats are limited. For more information, please contact Mark Rogalski at MarkKRogalski@gmail.com.



Our Stewardship team has obtained a Ramsey+ site license to help, and we're offering it as a free gift to help you achieve your goals of living a debt free life, giving generously, living the life you are called to live, and sharing this gift with your family. Access it at: <https://www.financialpeace.com/hosts/fumccuyahoga?pc=57393889>



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday

April 10

Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

*Epworth Home Concert
at 7:00 p.m.*

Maundy Thursday

April 7

*Silent Communion
all day in Sanctuary
Organ Concert at noon*

Worship at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday

April 17

*6:30 a.m. - Sunrise Service
9:00 a.m. - Worship Service
11:00 a.m. - Worship Service*

There will be special Holy Week devotions all week. You may watch them on Facebook or through our website.

Stewardship Financial Update - February 2022

Thank you to everyone for your 2022 financial commitments. Our 2022 operating budget projects a shortfall of around 6% which we can manage with continued vigilance in controlling our expenses combined with modest growth in membership and giving.

We budget income and expenses for each month of the year. So many people pay their entire yearly pledges in January, that it is the only month where budgeted income is greater than budgeted expenses. Therefore, showing you actual income and expenses would be misleading.

We have instead chosen to show how actual income and expenses turned out compared to our monthly and year-to-date budget. In the table below, February income came in at \$3,279 less than our budget and expenses were \$3,263 less than budget, resulting in a net \$16 shortfall compared to budget. Year-to-date our income is \$3,738 under budget and expenses are \$4,947 under budget, resulting in a net \$1,209 positive variance to date. Our \$1,209 year-to-date variance means that we are currently tracking to lose only \$53,218 instead of \$54,427.

	Compared to Budget		Annual Budget 2022
	Feb	Year-to-Date	
	2022	2/28/2022	
Income	-\$3,279	-\$3,738	\$780,918
Operating Expenses	-\$3,263	-\$4,947	\$835,345
Total Over/Under	-\$16	\$1,209	-\$54,427



Texas Roadhouse... We are having a fundraiser through the Texas Roadhouse in Stow to benefit Work Camp. Grab a flyer from the Welcome Center and take it to the restaurant on Tuesday, April 12, between 3 and 10 pm. When you present the flyer they will donate 10% of your total food purchase! Please help us raise the funds we need for our projects at Henderson Settlement.



UMW Accessory Sale... Because we all have purses in our closets, UMW is having the popular Accessory Sale on Saturday, May 14, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in Wesley Hall. We are asking for donations of gently used Jewelry, Purses, and Scarves. They may be put in the box labeled "UMW jewelry donations" which is outside the Church Library. Deadline for donations is May 8. All money raised goes to missions.



This N That

Organ Concerts - Dean Wagner's organ concerts continue throughout Lent every Thursday from noon to 12:30. On Thursday, March 31, Mark Thewes, organist at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Massillon, will be the featured musician.

Pastries with the Pastors - Are you newer to First Church? We would like to get to know you better! Please join us on Sunday, April 3 at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor for pastries and coffee with our pastoral team and our Director of Worship and Music, Dean Wagner.

Game Night - Join us for an evening of fun at our monthly Game Night. It will take place on Saturday, April 2, from 7 to 9 p.m. Bring your own games, or come planning to try out new games others have brought.

Holy Land Journey - Mark your calendar for January 30 - February 7, 2023 for a chance to walk where Jesus walked. Revs. Karol and Jim Lewis, PhD will be leading a trip that will bring the scriptures to life. For more information, contact Pastor Karol.

The ROCK schedule will be altered in the coming weeks:

- There will be no ROCK or music rehearsals on March 27 due to Spring Break.
- April 3 we will have children's choirs/bells, and then the children will pack dinners for the Haiti Rice project.
- The current session will end on April 10 as we celebrate Palm Sunday with a special dinner and activities.
- Children's choirs will continue on April 24 and May 1. All children will be singing at the 11:00 a.m. services on April 10 (Palm Sunday) and May 8 (Mother's Day). That will end the children's music program until Fall.



Registration for VBS opens April 1

Food Truck Party VBS will take place June 13-17 from 9 a.m. to noon.

VBS is for children age 3 (by 9/30/22 and potty-trained) through 4th grade.

VBS SERVE is a week of mission projects and field trips for grades 5 and 6.

VBS Extreme is an afternoon program for children entering 1st through 6th grades.

Registration link: <https://firstchurchcf.mycokesburyvbs.com>

Spaces are limited, so register early!



Haiti Rice Packing... We are excited to once again partner with LifeLine Ministries to pack meals for hungry Haiti children. This year it will be on Sunday, April 3, which will allow the congregation to take part in helping to pack rather than just donate to the meals. Each bag that is packed costs \$1.74 and is enough for 6 meals. This year we will also have a church-wide rice lunch (very similar to what we are packing) right after church and then head down to pack some meals. We encourage folks to donate what you would usually spend when you go out to eat, to be used for providing the meals. We will have a collection after church on March 27, to raise money so that we know how many supplies LifeLine needs to bring for us to pack. We will have the youth and kids packing during youth group and ROCK that night.



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.



Easter Egg Hunt... Join us on Saturday, April 9 for our Easter Egg Hunt from 10am to 11am. We will start off with our Easter Egg Hunt with four age groups from birth through 6th grade. We will have a telling of the Easter Story and a picnic lunch for everyone who attends. This is a great chance to invite family and friends as we are reminded of the real reason for Easter. If you are interested in helping please contact Pastor Karol. Please drop off candy, small toys, boxes of raisins and individual bags of chips, by Sunday, April 3.



NewsLetter
DEADLINE

The deadline for the next FCN is **Friday, April 1**. Please submit your articles to Kathy Kuzas at kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com.

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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 **Mary Jane Donohoe**.

Our Sympathies to **Sue and**

Jim Yates and family on the death of her brother Deny on 3/9.

Thank you Expressions: From Bill Dreyer... My thanks to Pastor Jon, Pastor Mike and the entire church family for your prayers, get well cards and visits to Bath Creek. I am home and have therapy every day. God is good.

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now." – Philippians 1:3-5

Over just a few months we find ourselves again and again in a position of deep gratitude. We are so thankful for the many kindnesses from our congregation around the birth of our baby boy, Zebediah. For the time off with family, the emails and cards, and your prayers and encouragement we give you thanks.

And continued, renewed thanks for the many cards, condolences, and your prayers upon the death of my mother in February. We have felt, and still feel, God's love and support through you all. Thank you.

Blessings,
Jon and Kattie and family

WORSHIP

Sunday, March 27

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

Sunday, April 3

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

Sunday School/Confirmation at 9:45

Nursery/Preschool at 9:45 & 11

Children's Worship at 11