



# First Church NEWS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

August 21 - Pastor Jon Priebe preaching

August 14 - Pastor Mike Ward preaching

Child care for infants through preschoolers

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR JON

*I lift up my eyes to the hills  
from where will my help come?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.*

### Psalm 121:1-2

This summer, Dean and I put together a series of special worship services using the Psalms as the focal point. We hope you were able to engage with them to experience the Psalms as they were intended in a worship service!

One thing I love about the Psalms is that they use a different style of writing than the other parts of the Bible with which we are more familiar. If the Gospels give us Jesus's biography and the New Testament give us the letters that early church leaders wrote to each other and to their congregations, the lyricism of the Psalms open our hearts, like all poetry and music does, to new experiences and understandings of God.

As we prepared the end of the summer series, I realized that one of the Psalms I didn't get to share about is Psalm 121. This Psalm opens with some of the most famous lines from the book aside from Psalm 23. I often use Psalm as part of the opening to graveside committal services at the conclusion of a funeral. I love the way it simply and lyrically captures one of the core truths about God: *we are utterly dependent on God.*

We depend on God for our daily bread, for our spiritual health and growth, for the air we breathe, even for the mere fact that we exist. Where does our help come from – it comes the Lord! I often use these words from a helpful focal repetition prayer for me when I need God's help in a difficult moment.

I hope you enjoyed the series! If you missed any of them, check out our library of videos on Facebook. We'll have a link up on the website for a few months to check them out as well. Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Blessings, Jon



You might have noticed our sign renovation is complete. We are looking forward to the new ways this will help us reach our community. A huge thank you to the two families who generously donated to provide the funds for this sign!



This is the first year we've been sharing our operating budget financials monthly. You may have seen over the first half of the year that our operating giving was slightly behind budget. I'm glad to report that this has caught back up in July. This is both from non-pledged giving (often from new people) and our pledged giving also catching back up. Thank you!!

This brings us back to within  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a percent of budget. However, our 2022 budget still anticipates a \$40,000 deficit. That deficit developed over the past six years or so due to the gradual decline in giving we have seen for the last 10 years. We do have just over \$200,000 of reserves to cover this deficit for a few years but hope that through reaching new people we will begin to close this gap. We will keep you updated over the years as to how much we anticipate using of those reserves as the year progresses.

### **Capital Campaign – We are so close!!!**

We are under \$10,000 to go to pay off the building and organ renovations from 2019!! Wow, thank you so much for your extravagant generosity! I can't wait to hold our mortgage burning celebration this fall!

*As of August 14, 2022:*

Our remaining loan balance is \$19,114

Capital Funds receipts balance: \$9,165

**Total needed to pay off loan: \$9,949**

## **Coming This Fall!**



Have you ever done your taxes, looked down at the number in the income box and wondered where it all went? Ever felt like there wasn't enough money to do all the important things you know you should be doing with it or wonder how to even do the important things in the first place? Ever been in a situation where you wanted to give to a good cause but didn't because you were trying to keep up with your own bills? If so, the church is sponsoring another iteration of Financial Peace University and offering it again at a reduced price of \$75 per family with a \$25 rebate if you come to all ten classes. Classes will be from 4:00-6:00 PM starting on the second Sunday of September and going through November 20<sup>th</sup> excluding Halloween weekend. 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. A signup sheet is available at the Welcome Center. Childcare is available. For more information please contact Mark Rogalski at [MarkKRogalski@gmail.com](mailto:MarkKRogalski@gmail.com) or at (330) 419-4085.

**Adult Discipleship Classes for the Fall...** We will again offer *Disciple Like Jesus* and *Ministry By Strengths* classes in the fall, both of which are part of our journey to membership, if you are considering that in the future. These classes are also integral for those who want to be involved in the leadership of our church. The 6 week *Ministry By Strengths* class will begin on Sunday, September 11, from 5:45 to 7 pm with a new class then beginning on Sunday, October 23 from 4 to 5:15 pm. We will also offer a 6 week *Disciple Like Jesus* class starting Sunday, October 2, from 9:30 to 10:45 am and then again starting Sunday, October 23, from 5:45 to 7 pm. We hope you will join us as we grow together as disciples this year. You may sign up by calling the church office. Childcare will be available upon request at sign up. For more information, please call Pastor Karol.

**Women's Bible Study...** All the ladies of the church and the community are invited to join us for a six week Bible Study beginning the first week of October. There are two opportunities for the same study: Tuesdays from 7 - 9 p.m. and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. - noon. This session will be "The Christ-Centered Woman - Finding Balance in a World of Extremes", which is based on Ephesians 3. The cost of the book is \$18. Please call Kathy Kuzas at Ext. 212 to register. The deadline is Monday, September 13.



Epworth Youth and Choir will resume their evening schedule on August 28th. Choir rehearsal and a Family Meeting

will begin at 4 p.m., followed by snack supper and messy games.

There will be a meeting for Confirmation students and their families at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, September 11.

If you have a youth in grades 7-12 and are interested in the various youth programs available, please contact Jen McKenna at [epworthyouth2@gmail.com](mailto:epworthyouth2@gmail.com) for more information.



As we plan for Rally Day on September 11, we are compiling our list of helpers and find we still need some in the every program. Several of our teachers need helpers; as does our Preschool and Kindergarten group. We are looking for leaders for the Wesley Youth Group, the Wesley outings and a couple of the ROCK activities. If you can give an hour or two once or twice a month, we have a place where you can use your talents to help our children. Please contact Donna Curfman at [dcurfmanfallsumc@gmail.com](mailto:dcurfmanfallsumc@gmail.com) if you are willing to help.

**New Adult Sunday School Class...** Are you newer to the church? Have you ever wondered what Christians believe or what Christianity is really about? If you said yes to any of these questions then this class might be just what you are looking for. We invite you to come to this class as you explore and grow together in your faith. Alpha Class will start Sunday, September 11 at 9:45am. Contact Pastor Karol for more information at [fallsfirstkarol@gmail.com](mailto:fallsfirstkarol@gmail.com)



**Heart4theCity...** Can you help our United Methodist local mission church again? You have been very generous in the past and we thank you for all your donations for Heart4theCity. Our next drive is to bring in **new packaged under garments for children thru adults.** We will keep this collection going thru the summer (June - August). The collection bin is located near the church office, next to the library. Drop off anytime. Thanks!

**1st Church Feeds...** Are you looking for a way to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our community? Please pray about helping out with our monthly food pantry, 1st Church Feeds. We will pack on Monday, August 22 at 10:00 am, and again on Wednesday, August 24 at 7:00 pm. Our next distribution will take place Saturday, August 27 from 11:30 am until 12:30 pm. We will start setting things up at 10:30 am. If you have any questions, or if you would like to sign up to help out, please contact Jen LaFleur at [jenlafleur98@yahoo.com](mailto:jenlafleur98@yahoo.com).



All the men of the church and the community are invited to attend Men's Time Out on Saturday, September 3, from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in Asbury Hall. It's a time of fellowship and discussion and a wonderful way to connect with the men of the church.

**Habitat for Humanity...** First Church will again participate with 10 other churches to build a home with Habitat for Humanity of Summit County. The home will be built in Cuyahoga Falls on Germaine St. The family building their home is a young family who come from Nepal. We are able to have 7 volunteers on each of our volunteer dates which are: September 7, October 8, November 5, and December 17. Habitat requires that all volunteers be 18 to be at a job site. If you are interested in participating in this mission, please contact Kim Kerr at 330-606-7736 or email her at [kdk3rr@gmail.com](mailto:kdk3rr@gmail.com) with your name, phone number, email address and t-shirt size. Thank you.



**Fall ROCK activities** are gearing up and we have some new programs for you to enjoy. There are music rehearsals for bell groups and choirs every Sunday from 4 - 5 p.m. and twice a month we will have our ROCK rotation activities which this year will include the regular sessions of Science, a Bible Story, Chess, and Crafts with some potential new Mission programs and Robotics. Please note that there will be no dinner served and the program will end at 6:00 p.m.

# First Church News

"First Church News" (185-000)  
**Periodicals**, postage paid at  
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223. Published  
every other wk Jan-June & Sept.-Dec.  
with 1 issue ea in July, Aug. by First  
UMC 245 Portage Tr.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes  
to First Church News, 245 Portage  
Tr., Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221-3274

Volume 77, No. 14 \* USPS 185-000 \* August 18, 2022

## First United Methodist Church

245 Portage Trail, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221-3274 \* (330) 923-5241

Email: [infofumccf@gmail.com](mailto:infofumccf@gmail.com) \* website: [www.firstchurchcf.com](http://www.firstchurchcf.com)

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 **Charles Waller**.

*Expressions of Thanks* from **John and Hilda Gul-lion...** We wish to thank everyone for prayers and thoughts during our time with Covid and John's two hospital stays. We are mostly recovered and thanking God every day! Continue to remember Mulberry Asst. Living as there are still about 20 with Covid-19 - terrible thing!

**Blessing of the Backpacks...** Bring your backpacks, iPads, tablets, or any other items used for school to church **next Sunday, August 21!** As fall begins and children and teachers return to school, a flood of mixed emotions fills our hearts. Relief and gratitude from parents, apprehension and anxiety for students entering new rooms with new things to learn from new teachers, hope for positive outcomes, even concerns for the safety of our teachers and students. Where better to take all these mixed emotions than to God in worship and prayer!



Discover Your Adventure with Cub Scouts! - Boys and Girls K-5th - Join us Thursday, August 25 from 6-8pm in front of the Church for more information on joining.

The deadline for the next FCN is **Friday, August 26**. Please submit your articles to Kathy Kuzas at [kku-zasfumccf@gmail.com](mailto:kku-zasfumccf@gmail.com).



**Bible Sunday, September 11...** We will be celebrating a milestone in our second grade, young disciples as they receive Bibles at the 11am service on September 11. Your child should receive a letter with information by next week. If you do not receive a letter, and your child would like to receive a Bible, please contact the church no later than August 30.