

First Church NEWS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



A NOTE FROM PASTOR JON

Over the last two weeks, (and yet once more on a brief ZOOM call after worship on 10/2), our congregation has been completing a one question survey about the future of the United Methodist Church. We are anticipating that in either 2024 or 2028, the UMC will allow churches and pastors to start performing marriages for LGBTQ persons and conferences to be able to ordain LGBTQ pastors. Churches and pastors won't be forced to do so, but they will have the ability to do so if they choose.

The categories were given to the UMC by Tom Lambrecht, one of the pastors who is leaving because he prefers to serve a church that only allows marriage between men and women.

Progressive Non-Compatibilist: Supports same-sex marriage and ordination of LGBTQ persons, NOT willing to be in a church with people who disagree

Progressive Compatibilist: Supports same-sex marriage and ordination of LGBTQ persons, willing to be in a church with people who disagree

Traditional Compatibilist: defines marriage between man and woman and against ordination of LGBTQ persons, willing to be in a church with people who disagree

Traditional Non-Compatibilist: defines marriage between man and woman and against ordination of LGBTQ persons, NOT willing to be in a church with people who disagree

Here is the rough breakdown of our congregation's responses so far (with a few yet to come in via the ZOOM call.)

Progressive Non-Compatibilist: 4%

Progressive Compatibilist: 52%

Traditional Compatibilist: 33%

Traditional Non-Compatibilist: 11%

As you can see, our active congregation leans slightly more progressive in general. This was a little bit of a surprising, as I thought we might be closer to the center. However, if you look at compatibility, we are overwhelmingly willing to be in church with people who don't agree with us. I think one of the great strengths of our congregation is that we recognize that the mission of Jesus transcends some of our disagreements.

We will use this data over the next few years to continue to lead through the possibility of denominational change. If you are having trouble imagining being part of a congregation that might practice same-sex marriage, I would encourage you to reach out to me. I truly respect that position and would prayerfully hope to help find a way that you can stay or be helpful to you as you look for a place where your conscience can be at peace.

As I have always done, I will continue to point us toward where Jesus is and where I believe he is leading us to go. Thank you.

FALL HIKING SPREE

Fall is here! That means it is time for some fellowship, fitness, and faith, so be sure to add these dates to your calendars. Pastor Mike will be participating in the Summit County Metroparks Fall Hiking Spree again this year. We will meet at 2:00 pm for a quick devotion. In case of bad weather, hikers can complete that hike on their own. First year hikers receive a hiking staff and this years badge upon completing 8 hikes. Returning hikers receive this year's badge upon completing 8 hikes. Please visit the Summit County Metroparks website to download this year's form and the list of park addresses. The order of hikes and the dates will be:

DATE	TRAIL	PARK	MILES
10/2	Redwing Trail	Firestone Park	1.1
10/9	Pheasant Run Trail	Silver Creek Park	1.2
10/16	Coyote Run Trail	Liberty Park	1.2
10/23	Rock Creek Trail	Furnace Run Park	1.3
10/30	Prairie Trail	Springfield Bog Park	1.6
11/6	Celebration Trail	Cascade Valley	1.6
11/13	Glens Trail	Gorge Metro Park	1.8

Freedom Brass Concert... The first concert in the 2022-23 Arts Series will take place on Sunday, October 23, at 2:30 p.m. Tucker Jolly, a professor of tuba and euphonium at the University of Akron, directs Freedom Brass, a 40 piece brass community band.

Other Arts Series events include:

Dec. 11 - Procession of the Nativity 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 10 - Dean Wagner 35th Anniversary Concert 7 p.m.

March 17 - Shenanigans Celtic Concert 7 p.m.

April 2 - Epworth Choir Home Concert 7 p.m.

April 23 - Craig Courtney & FUMC Choirs 3 p.m.

May 19 - Red Champion Concert 7 p.m.

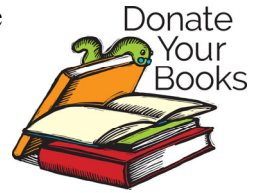
We are still in need of help with the Sunday morning Crib Room and Preschool classes. Anyone who can give an hour a month would be greatly appreciated! Contact Donna Curfman



All the men of the church and the community are invited to attend Men's Time Out this Saturday, October 1, from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in Asbury Hall.

It takes place regularly on the first Saturday of each month. Join them for a time of fellowship, discussion, and breakfast - a wonderful way to connect with the men of the church.

UMW/UWF Book Sale Returns! Mark your calendars for the Fall used Book Sale on November 4 & 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. "Fire Sale" will be on November 6. Bring your donations of used books October 31 thru November



3. Then return to buy some on Friday and Saturday. We will appreciate adult and children's books, DVDs, CDs, puzzles, and games. No magazines, text books, or encyclopedias. The sale will take place in Wesley Hall.

Holy Land Trip January 30-February 7, 2023

Come walk with us early next year to the Holy Land as we walk where Jesus walked. Our trip is focused on Jesus' pathway as we visit many sites that are significant to his ministry. This will be an intimate trip, but we are needing to finalize our group by the end of October. Our price was locked in early this year, before prices began to rise to rapidly so if you have always dreamed of following Jesus' footsteps, this may be just the trip for you. Talk to Pastor Karol if you would like to join us for this trip which will impact your faith for the rest of your life.



Acme Receipts... It's time to start saving your Acme receipts again for their Community Cash Back program. Buy store brands and save the

receipts dated August 4 through December 24. The church receives 5% on qualifying products. The money is used to fund the projects done at Work Camp. Receipts may be turned in at the Welcome Center or the church office.



In September, Epworth Youth spent an evening with Pastor Jon discussing the Bible and the role it plays in personal devo-

tions and corporate worship. On the last Sunday of the month, we loaded up the buses with donations and volunteers and visited the Rahab Ministries distribution center. Our groups sorted through and organized donations and restocked the boutique for their clients.

The youth also passed out M and M tubes to thank the congregation for their on-going support of the Youth Mission and Ministry. In October, we plan to learn more about prayer, visit a pumpkin patch, hold a mini cooking competition, go bowling, and help with the All Hallows Eve Party.

Disciple Like Jesus Class... Our next 6 week *Disciple Like Jesus* class will start this Sunday, October 2 at 9:30 am in the parlor. Many in our church have already participated in the study and have really enjoyed the practical implications and help for growing as disciples. Please contact the church office or Pastor Karol to sign up, so we can send you the pdf of the book and other materials you will need for the class. You may also sign up at the Welcome Center. The book can be purchased for \$20. If you have thought about or are thinking about joining our church at some time, this is a great place to start as this is one of the two classes on our membership pathway. If you have any questions please contact pastor Karol at fallsfirst-karol@gmail.com.

Children's
Ministry
News

ROCK will take place on October 9 and 23.

The Wesley Youth Group's October outing will be a trip to the Ruffener Hilltop Farms Pumpkin Patch on October 16 from 12 – 3 p.m. The cost will be \$11 and will include admission to the corn maze, a pumpkin to pick, the sunflower field, a hayride and train ride. Registration, permission and medical forms and payment are due on October 9. Space is limited as well. Everyone should bring a sack lunch.

October 23 will be the beginning of a new mission for the children and First Church, as we will be teaching the children to make yarn hats on looms. These will be put on the line in front of the church, given to school children or taken to the NICU at Akron Children's Hospital. Future opportunities for everyone will be scheduled, but we will start with the children.

This is the time to clean out those knitting supplies you no longer use. We will need the donation or loan of 5" and 7" looms, #4 crochet needles, and the donation of yarn, preferably 4 ply Worsted weight. Please bring these items by October 16.

On October 30, the children will celebrate All Hallows Eve during the regular ROCK time with games, dinner, and crafts. We need your help providing candy (no nuts please) and small treats for our goody bags. Please take a pumpkin from the patch in the breezeway and return your items by October 23. We will also need a few helpers that night to help set up and run the games.

Blessing Box... Our blessing box has been blessing many people as of late, and our inventory of items on hand is dwindling quickly. If you are able, please consider donating the following items:



ramen noodles, flavored rice/ noodle packets, granola bars, canned soup/ vegetables/ fruit, spaghetti o's/ ravioli, canned tuna/ meats, individual oatmeal packets, individual serving cereals, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, soap, shampoo. Donations may be left on the table outside the church library, or you may be the hands of Jesus by placing the items directly in the blessing box. Thank you!



UPDATE for Habitat for Humanity Mission... The home being built on Germaine street is running a little behind. We have had to cancel the October 8 build date. The build dates are November 5, December 17, January 7, and February 4th. We have space available on all of the listed dates, though space is limited for November 5 and December 17. If you would like to participate, please contact Kim Kerr at kdk3rr@gmail.com or 330 606 7736.

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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



Here's a fun way to help the Mission Committee give more to our local missions. We are selling shirts with our church name and logo. You order and pay through Bonfire. They will send you the shirt(s). We have two links with the Bonfire Company:

1. A simple design with church name only on the front of whatever type shirt you'd like - we even have a hoodie.

Shirt with front only (smaller font):

<https://www.bonfire.com/fumcs-mission-committee-fundraiser/>

2. Shirt with church name front and back: "I go to a great church" on back also available in different colors and styles.

Shirt with front and back (larger font):

<https://www.bonfire.com/fumcs-mission-committee-fundraiser-1-1/>

WORSHIP

Sunday, October 2

Rev. Joy Fenton-Jones preaching
8:30 am - Epworth Choir
11:00 am - Chancel Choir

Sunday, October 9

Pastor Jon Priebe preaching
8:30 am - Epworth Choir
11:00 am - Chancel Choir

Sunday School/Confirmation at 9:45
Nursery/Preschool Care at 9:30 & 11
Children's Worship at 11

The deadline for the next FCN is **Friday, October 7**. Please submit your articles to Kathy Kuzas at kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com.