



# First Church NEWS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## WORSHIP

### Sunday, January 22

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

### Sunday, January 29

Pastor Mike Ward 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



## NOTES FROM PASTOR JON

*Standing on the promises of Christ my King,  
through eternal ages let his praises ring;  
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,  
standing on the promises of God.*

With the New Year often come New Year's Resolutions. We make plans to exercise more, eat less, take care of ourselves better, and make some other significant change in our lives. Sometimes they're quite successful. Sometimes they're laid aside before the calendar turns to February. Perhaps we'll see change, or perhaps we'll break our resolution this time and go right back to our old routines.

Our resolutions to change may be breakable and hard to count on, but we can count on the promises of God not to disappoint. God's

promises of faithfulness and guidance and blessing and forgiveness are the sturdiest and most dependable things we have in this world.

For the season of Epiphany, we'll be spending some time at worship recalling and reflecting on these trustworthy promises of God on which we know can stand without falling. I hope to see you in-person or online!

If you haven't been to church in awhile or maybe have just fallen out of the habit, this season is a great excuse to get back into the habit! We would love to see you! Worship starts at 8:30 and 11:00.

If you're still worshipping online because you live too far away or your health prevents you from joining us, we're glad we can still connect with you online at 11:00 on Facebook Live.

## 35TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

Mark your calendars now for Friday, February 10, when Dean Wagner will play the new organ for a concert celebrating his 35 years at First Church. The concert will begin at 7:00 p.m.



## “Is the UMC Really...”

This weekend, some of you received a letter from a few of our church members as you were leaving worship or arriving for Sunday school. I’m sorry for the disruption that this may have caused you. I want to assure you that the clergy and lay leaders who comprise our church council have been in dialogue with these three persons from our congregation. Unfortunately, they have become convinced of some of the misleading information that is being shared online about the UMC these last eight months or so.

Without the permission of your clergy and lay leadership, and despite our discussions, they chose to distribute this letter. So once again, I want to make sure you have the correct information about the United Methodist Church and First Church. If you have any further concerns or questions, please reach out.

United Methodist Communications has put together a very helpful resource that addresses six of these misleading bits of information. I’ve included the link at the end of this article. I believe that this is a valuable resource to keep us all informed of the truth about our Church.

In Christ’s Love,

Jon

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-series-is-the-umc-really>

**First Church Feeds...** At our monthly distribution, we give out more than food. We are often able to get items like soap, paper towels, and pet food from the Food Bank. However, personal hygiene items, especially bladder control products for men and women (such as Poise pads or disposable underwear) are frequently requested by our clients but are rarely available from the Food Bank. We would love to be able to offer these products on a regular basis.

We are requesting donations of these products. Please drop off items in the bin behind the Welcome Center. And as always, monetary donations are appreciated as well.

**Hat & Mitten Mission...** If you are out shopping and you find gloves/ mittens/ winter hats, or socks, please consider purchasing them for this mission project. We will also collect very gently-worn items. The donation table is located across from the church office, outside of the chapel. Items may be left there, or if the line is empty, please feel free to bag the items, then place them directly outside on the line at the corner of Portage Trail & 3rd Street.

Embroidering our  
COMMUNITY

**Heart4theCity...** is a mission church of the East Ohio Conference. It is located at 954 Eastland Ave. in East Akron. They provide a weekly food pantry, along with a store where they offer items at a very reduced rate and other programs. They are currently in need of blankets, bedding, towels, small electric kitchen appliances, and heavier work style insulated gloves. Donations may be left in the bin outside the church library.

**Blessing Box...** our blessing box certainly lives up to its name by blessing those in the community who need assistance with food. If donating items, please avoid items in glass, as these may shatter and injure someone due to the cold weather. Items may be placed in the box directly, or brought inside and placed on the donation table located outside the church library. We are starting to run low on items, so please consider donating canned foods, individual oatmeal packets, ramen noodles, individual fruit cups, individual mac-n-cheese, travel size hygiene items, etc...

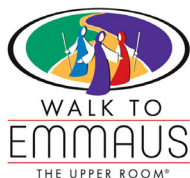
**Wesley Outing...** The Wesley Ice Skating Outing (for grades 4 - 6) will take place on Sunday January 29 from right after church until 2:30. We will be walking to the Front Street Ice Rink, No cost unless you need to rent skates which are \$5.00. Bring a sack lunch. After we return we will feast on hot chocolate and knit until it is time for bells and choir rehearsals. Be sure to bring your looms if you took them home. Sign-up sheets are at the Welcome Center and must be returned before you can participate. Contact Donna Curfman at 330-329-2379 if you have questions.



**Ramsey+ and Financial Peace University...** Do you want to create a life without financial stress? Learn how to steward your money well? We've invested in a Ramsey+ site license so every family in our church has access to a one-year membership full of tools and resources to help you honor God with your money. It includes access to Financial Peace University and other money courses, the premium version of the EveryDollar budgeting app, unlimited live coaching session, free federal tax filing and more. If you're ready for this go to <https://www.financialpeace.com/hosts/fumccuyahogapc> and sign up. A Financial Peace class will begin on Sunday, February 5, from 4 to 6 p.m. There is a \$50 fee per family.



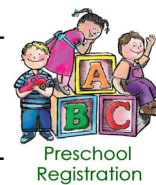
**Walk to Emmaus...** Have you taken part in the Walk to Emmaus, either locally or in a different state or country? We would like to put together a participant list of people who have. Please send Pastor Mike the following information: name, phone number, email address, and your Walk information.



If you've not taken part please consider the following: Are you interested in taking your relationship with our Risen Savior to a whole new level? Or does spending a weekend with Jesus sound like something you need or would enjoy? Then the Walk to Emmaus may be just the thing you need.. Don't let the name scare you, there is not a lot of walking involved during the weekend. The men's walk will be April 13- 16, and the women's walk will be April 20-23. If you have questions or would like to find out more about the Walk to Emmaus, please contact Pastor Mike.

**Alpha Study...** will start Tuesday, February 7 from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. **Alpha** is for beginning Christians, or even those who are not of the faith but curious. It also supplies those further along in their faith with a refresher course on the big picture of the Christian faith. Jerry Killian will be facilitating the study. No matter where you are on your walk in Christ, or if you have not even started, please come join us. Jerry is looking forward to what God will reveal during this time. Please contact the church office, 330-923-5241, by February 1 if you are interested in participating or if you have any questions.

**Weekday Christian Preschool...** Registration has begun for the 2023-2024 school year. We offer a Christian preschool program for children who will be 3, 4, or 5 years old by September 30, 2023. The program is state licensed and staffed with degreed lead teachers and trained teachers' assistants. We believe that learning takes place through discovery and play. Each classroom environment is child led and teacher facilitated. Our main objective is to foster a positive self-image in each child while nourishing their social, emotional, physical and intellectual growth.



# First Church News

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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; Kathy Just

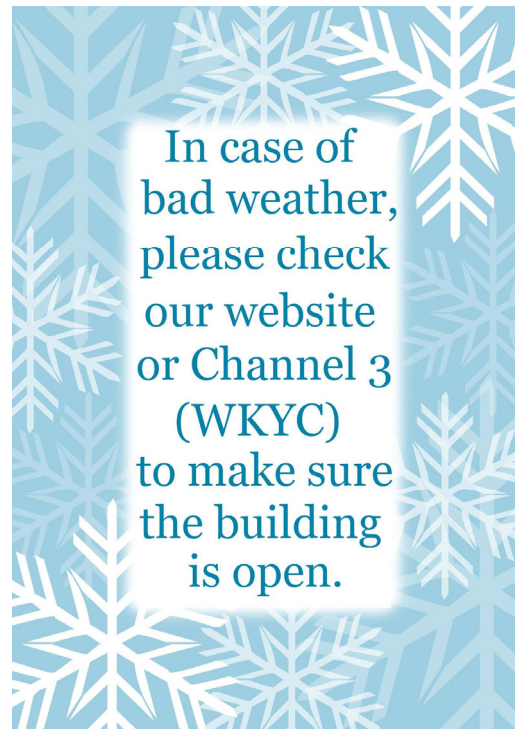


*The Gift/Memorial Book* is located in the parlor and is open to **Rosalia McAdams**.

*Our Sympathies* to the family of member **Arthur Wilson Jr.** on his death on 1/4; to **Barb Cully** and family on the death of her husband, member **Tom Cully**, on 1/6.

*Did You Know?* We will be glad to publish (space allowing) milestone birthdays, anniversaries, births and other special events in your family if you send a note c/o Kathy Kuzas, call us at 330-923-5241 x212 or email [kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com](mailto:kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com).

*Expressions of Thanks: From Sue Gohr and family...* We are extremely thankful and grateful for all the prayers & support from our church friends during the time of Dave's passing.



The deadline for the next FCN is **Friday, January 27**. Please submit your articles to Kathy Kuzas at [kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com](mailto:kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com).