



# First Church NEWS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## WORSHIP

### Sunday, January 8

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

### Sunday, January 15

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



## NOTES FROM PASTOR JON

*Lamentations 3:22-23 – “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”*

My older two kiddos have regular Bible reading as part of the school curriculum. I really enjoy hearing what they're reading about and helping them to wrestle with any questions they have. Their perseverance in this has inspired me to bring in a fresh practice to my own devotional life in 2023 – mixing up my Bible reading as part of a new year's resolution.

Nowadays there are some sentiments that new year's resolutions are outdated and passe. But, I appreciate the intentionality behind them. Maybe we don't stick to them all year and maybe we have to try again part-way through, or maybe again at the beginning of the following year. But, when I align my will and desires to show my love for God and meet God daily – I always find that God honors that desire.

So, this year I'm going to read a Psalm every day over the first half of the year. Rather than trying to study it deeply or analyze it, I'm going to read it devotionally and listen for one thing God is saying to me each day in the Psalm. I started the week after Christmas and am already finding that it centers my day in prayer in a renewed way.

What sort of simple, regular discipline of faith might you give a try in 2023? Shoot me an email if you're looking for some ideas!

Blessings,  
Jon



**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. We are in need of a lay person to act as liaison between Heart4theCity and First Church. This would entail finding out what Heart is in need of, starting a collection at church, and delivering it to Heart as needed. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please contact Pastor Mike for more information.

**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...



**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.



**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 January 31 if you are interested in participating or if you have any questions.



**Women's Bible Study...** Join us for a new study "Chasing Vines" by Beth Moore. In this study, Beth shows us from Scripture how all of life's concerns - the delights and the trials - matter to God. He uses all of it to help us flourish and be fruitful. There are two opportunities to participate: Tuesdays from 7-9 pm and Wednesdays from 10 am to noon. The study will last 12 weeks, beginning January 24 & 25. The study uses both the book Chasing Vines, and a study guide. The cost for the books is \$18.00. Please register with Kathy Kuzas at [kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com](mailto:kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com) or Ext. 212 by January 16.



## Crush your financial goals with Ramsey+.

Do you ever get tired of just scraping by? Do you and your spouse feel awkward tension when the topic of money comes up? Or maybe you want to know how to steward your money well but don't know where to start.

No matter where you land, we continue to have an exciting opportunity for you that can help you create a life without financial stress—starting *now*.

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.

Every membership includes access to:

- *Financial Peace University* and other money courses
- The premium version of the EveryDollar budgeting app
- Unlimited live Q&A financial coaching sessions
- Free federal tax filing
- And so much more!



Because as a church, we take stewarding money seriously. We want *every* person in our church to have the chance to honor God with their money, have the margin to be outrageously generous, and truly *thrive*.

If you're ready to get that kind of hope in your home, all you have to do is follow this link: <https://www.financialpeace.com/hosts/fumccuyahogapc=57393889> to sign up for Ramsey+ today! The cost is free.

If getting debt free is one of your New Year resolutions, sign up and then plan on joining our in-person Financial Peace University class that will be starting in February. Contact Pastor Karol for more information.



## This N That

**Year End Report...** In 2022, 46 families were served; 181 individuals. First Church volunteers had numerous opportunities to serve the families at Glendora House this year. In particular some of our folks provided a pizza night, did a cookout and provided a chicken dinner for the Glendora guests.

Money was donated to provide one family a Thanksgiving meal and one family a Christmas meal which were prepared by a local caterer. Volunteers also donated over \$1000 for Christmas gifts for the families. As usual, we donated to the food pantry at Glendora each and every month and the families have always appreciated what we provided.

What a generous and supportive group of Christians you are! God must be happy to see what a difference First Church has made at Family Promise of Summit County.

**Children's Ministry...** We're looking forward to seeing you for the new year's start-up of our children's activities. January 8 will be the beginning of Sunday School, Children's Worship, Choir and Bell rehearsals and our evening ROCK program. Children aged Preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited.

**Acme Receipts...** Turn in your Acme receipts dated through December 24 at the Welcome Center. All receipts will be due by the end of January.

**2023 Altar Flowers...** We are taking orders for altar flowers in 2023. The cost is \$38 and the church takes care of the ordering and delivery. If you would like to reserve a date, contact Christy Meyers at [cmeyersfallsumc@gmail.com](mailto:cmeyersfallsumc@gmail.com) or Ext. 210.

# 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



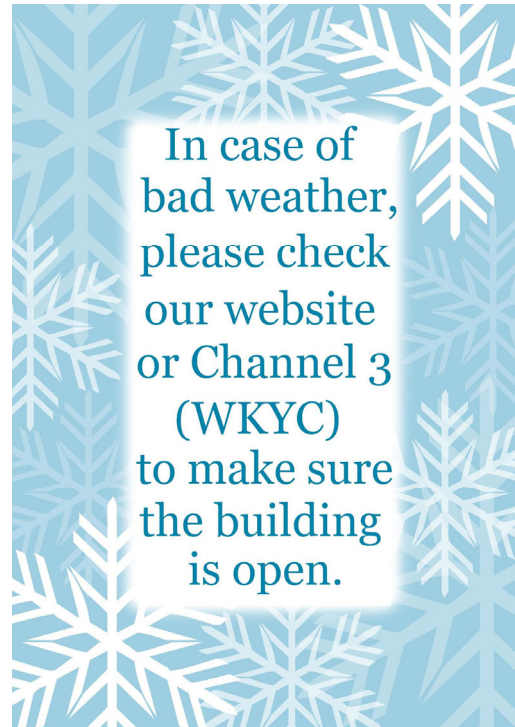
*The Gift/Memorial Book* is located in the parlor and is open to **Jane Caldwell**.

### *Our Sympathies* to Sharon

(Lee) Minier and family on the death of her brother, **Skip Higley**, on 12/23; to **Ken and Dorothy Bates** and family on the death of their son, **Brett Bates**, on 12/11.

**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 Debbie Amundsen...** Thank you so much for the altar flowers you gave me and to my buddy, Sue Boltz, for their delivery. Thanks, too, for the prayers for my recovery. You guys rock!



The deadline for the next FCN is **Thursday, January 12**. Please submit your articles to Kathy Kuzas at [kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com](mailto:kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com).