



# First Church NEWS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## WORSHIP

### Sunday, February 19

Pastor Jon Priebe preaching

8:30 am - Epworth Choir

11:00 am - Chancel & Wesley Choirs

### Youth Sunday, February 26

Both - Epworth Choir

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



This season of Lent the churches of Church Square have partnered to provide a number of wonderful chances to worship and enjoy study and fellowship with other area churches.. Two Lenten studies are being offered as well as combined services for the special Lenten worship opportunities.

### Studies

***The Practice of the Presence of God*** by Brother Lawrence, will be the basis of the first study. We will use it to explore a life of worship. It will be led by Pastor Karol and done with the New Fellowship Sunday School class. It will begin on Sunday, February 26 at 9:45 a.m. and last for 6 weeks.

A **joint study** with our two neighboring churches will begin on Monday, February 27, at 7 p.m. It will take place at St. John's Episcopal and will be led by our 3 pastors and the pastors at the other 2 churches. It will last for 5 weeks.

### Worship

**Ash Wednesday:** February 22, at 7 p.m. First Christian Church will host with Pastor Karol Lewis preaching.

**Maundy Thursday:** April 6, at 7 p.m. First UMC will host with Father Brian Bechtel (St. John's) preaching.

**Good Friday:** April 7, at 7 p.m. St. John's Episcopal will host with Pastor Jon Priebe preaching.

**Easter Sunrise Service:** April 9, at 6:30 p.m. Pilgrim UCC will host with Pastor Mike Ward preaching.

**Regular Easter Sunday Services** will, of course, take place here at First Church at 9 and 11 a.m.

**The Lenten worship series** at First Church will begin on Sunday, March 5, and is called "He Gets Us." We will be taking a deep look at each of the days of Holy Week.

In addition, beginning Thursday, February 23, and every Thursday through April 6, organist, Dean Wagner will present noon-time devotional recitals of music appropriate for lent. Each will be about 30 minutes long.

**Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast...** This Sunday, February 19, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. the scouts from Troop 152 will serve a delicious breakfast as a thank you to the church for its continued support. The meal will be free of charge, although donations would be gladly accepted. Join us for this much enjoyed and much missed tradition.



**Wednesday Men's Group:** Any men of the church and community are invited to attend the Wednesday Night Men's Group. It is modeled after John Wesley's "Class Meetings." They meet every other Wednesday from 7-8 pm in the parlor and **the next meeting will be on February 22.** Their purpose is to make themselves better disciples for Christ. They also have occasional group outings for their families. You may just come for the next meeting or if you would like more information you may contact Tom Hammonds at 330-322-8758.

**Alpha Study...** The Alpha study has an open invitation to anyone who wants to participate. Join the journey at any time - Tuesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. in the library. As Jesus stated in John 1 to two of his disciples - "Come and see."

Here are the subjects we will be spending time on in the next couple of months:

- Why Did Jesus Die? (2/21)
- How Can I Have Faith? (2/28)
- Why and How Do I Pray? (3/5)

All are welcome!

**Easter Flowers...** Now is the time to order the flowers which will adorn our altar on Easter morning. The plants are \$9.00 each. The list of donors and those memorialized or honored will appear in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Please make your check out to First Church and return it with the order to the church office **by noon on Monday, March 6.** Please indicate the number of each plant that you are ordering.



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 \_\_\_ Tulips            \_\_\_ Hyacinths            \_\_\_ Lilies            \_\_\_ Daffodils

In memory or honor of (circle one) \_\_\_\_\_

Donor \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Ushers ...** We are looking for folks who would be willing to serve as ushers for the 11:00 service beginning the first Sunday in Lent (February 26.) It's an easy, but very necessary way of serving the church. It consists of passing out bulletins, helping folks to their seats if necessary, and passing the offering plates. Please contact Linda Demeter (740-334-9290) or the church office if you feel you'd like to serve in this way.

**Vacation Bible School...** VBS this summer will be June 19 - 23 with morning sessions for preschool through 4th grade, a SERVE program of field trips and mission projects for 5th and 6th graders, and an afternoon extension program with activities and field trips called EXTREME. We are looking for people who are interested in spending time with our children either as a teacher or helper. Thanks to all who have already shared with us your plans. We will need a wide variety of skills for the different activities, so there are many opportunities for you to use your talents. Please contact Donna Curfman for more information or to volunteer. Complete details are coming soon.



**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.



**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...

**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.



**Febru“wear”y Sock Mission...** In the month of Febru “wear”y, The Acts of Grace Circle invites you to donate new socks which will be distributed to the folks who come to our monthly First Church Feeds. You may put the socks in the bin beside the church library.

**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.

# First Church News

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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



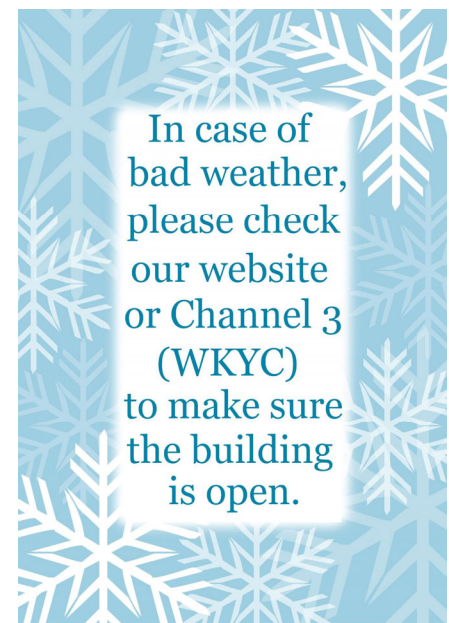
*The Gift/Memorial Book* is located in the parlor and is open to **Ann Magers Beebe**.

*Our Sympathies* to **Jerry (Becky) Pecko** on the death of his sister, **Susan Ross**, on 2/7; to **Bob Boyd and Bob (Nancy) Green** and family on the death of wife and sister, member **Patsy Boyd**, on 2/10; to the family of member **Jane Krecji**, on her death on 2/11; to the family of member **Gloria Roepke** on her death on 2/12.

*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).



Please join us on Sunday, February 26, for Youth Sunday. Our youth group (grades 7-12) has prepared an entire worship service to share with the congregation. The scripture will be Philippians 4:6-7.



The deadline for the next FCN is **Friday, February 24**. Please submit your articles to Kathy at [kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com](mailto:kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com).