



First Church NEWS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP

Sunday, March 19

Pastor Mike Ward preaching
8:30 am - Epworth Choir
11:00 am - Chancel & Wesley Choirs

Sunday, March 26

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

Hebrews 4:15 – *“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses”*

He Gets Us

One of our family's favorite books is called "We're Going On a Bear Hunt." Each page reveals a new challenge as the family is forced to try to go over, or under, or around. Snowstorms, rivers, patches of mud are confronted by the family. Each time, they realize that they “can’t go over it, can’t go under it, they’ve got to go through it.” It's playful and fun, but I also like it because the wisdom shared is helpful for all of life, not just family bear hunts.

When we encounter grief or shame or abandonment or despair, we can't go around it. We can't go over it. We've got to go through it. I believe Jesus showed us this clearly in the days of Holy Week, as he completed his earthly journey to the cross. All of life's greatest challenges are best faced directly and with Jesus who's been through it, too.

This Lent at worship, we're reflecting on the paths Jesus has shown us through, not around, life's greatest difficulties. Hope to see you there!

Blessings, Jon

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday - April 2 at 8:30 and 11 p.m.

Maundy Thursday: April 6, at 7 p.m. First UMC will host with Father Brian Bechtel (St. John's) preaching.
Community dinner at 5:30 p.m. before worship.

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 a.m. Pilgrim UCC will host with Pastor Mike Ward preaching.

Regular Easter Sunday Services - April 9 at 9 and 11 a.m. First UMC with Rev. Jon Priebe preaching

MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

Interested in joining First Church? We will hold a Discovery Class to learn more about the Methodist Church in general and specifically First Church for anyone interested in beginning the membership journey. The classes will be held in the Parlor at 9:45 on Sundays, April 23 and 30 and May 2.

We will also be starting the two courses that are on our pathway to membership on Sunday, April 16. They will run for 6 weeks ending on Sunday May 21.

- ◆ Ministry By Strengths will be help on Sunday mornings from 9:45am to 10:45am. The only cost is \$20 for the Clifton Strengths assessment that we will use during the class. This is a great way to discover your God given gifts and to see how God is calling you to use them to change the world.
- ◆ "Disciple Like Jesus" will be on Sunday afternoons from 4pm to 5:15pm. There is no cost unless you want a hard copy of the book. You will receive a digital version. This is a great class to discover or delve deeper into how to live as a disciple of Jesus.

Do You Knit Or Crochet? Our Prayer Shawl Ministry is in need of people who are willing to knit and

crochet prayer shawls. This ministry has been going on for more than 15 years but we have lost most of our crocheters and knitters. Would you be interested in helping this wonderful ministry of

First Church? If so, please call Sue Yates (330-322-4938) for more information.



Operation Christmas Child... Acts of Grace Circle, in conjunction with the First Church Youth Group, are starting a 9 month campaign to collect items for shoeboxes.

Our goal is to pack 100 shoeboxes in November. How can you help? We will post information about items to be collected each month. Items for March are: toothbrushes, yo-yos, and hair accessories for girls. Look for our display on Sundays. Contact Linda Demeter at 740-334-9290 with questions.



Good Neighbors... Good Neighbors has supplied us with a list of items that they need in March. If you would like to contribute some of these, you may leave them in the bin outside the church library. The items are: peanut butter, ramen noodles, jelly (in plastic containers), canned fruit, laundry detergent, paper towels, bathroom tissue, Kleenex, and canned cat food.

Easter Egg Hunt... Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday, April 1, at 11 a.m. No fooling! We are in



need of candy to fill the eggs. No candy with nuts, please. Small trinkets are also welcome, If you are interested in helping please contact Pastor Karol. A simple lunch will follow, so if feeding folks is your passion, let us know that as well!

Lenten Organ Concerts... Dean Wagner will present half hour concerts of live music each Thursday of Lent in the sanctuary from noon to 12:30. Feel free to come in and hear the organ only as the organ can be heard. There is plenty of room to spread out in the sanctuary. We hope to see you there.



If you have a student who will be entering 7th grade in the fall and would like to receive information and updates on Epworth Choir and YF,

please send an email to ep-worthyouth2@gmail.com to be added to the distribution list. There will be an opportunity for your youth to come to Youth Group on Sunday, May 2, to see what it's all about!

Senior Sunday is May 21. We would like to have the names of all graduating seniors so that they can be recognized at the church service on that day. Please send it to Jen McKenna at ep-worthyouth2@gmail.com or call the church office.



We will hold our last regular session of ROCK on Sunday, March 19. We are encouraging everyone to make two hats and bring them that night so that we can make a delivery to the NICU at Children's Hospital soon after that.

The Hero Hotline VBS will be held June 19 - 23 and registration will start soon, so save the dates. We are still looking for adults and youth to help.

All parents are invited to attend an important meeting on April 2 in Asbury Hall during Sunday School. We want to inform you about changes being considered for the fall which will impact your children and families.

East Ohio Conference summer camp registration has begun. There is an Early bird discount if you register by March 15. Everyone is entitled to a \$100 scholarship from First Church and an additional one from the District. Get your brochures at the Welcome Center.



Epworth Tour Concerts 2023

- Sunday, March 26, 10:30 am, Grace Cathedral, Topeka, KA
- Sunday, March 26, 3:00 pm, Grace Cathedral, Topeka, KA
- Monday, March 27, 7:00 pm, King's Way UMC, Springfield, MO
- Tuesday, March 28, 7:00 pm, Broadway UMC, Paducah, KY
- Wednesday, March 29, free day at Opryland, Nashville, TN
- Thursday, March 30, 7:00 pm, Trinity UMC, Madison, IN
- Friday, March 31, 7:00 pm, Worthington UMC, Worthington, OH
- Sunday, April 2, 7:00 pm, Home Concert

If it doesn't detract from your regular giving to the church, we always appreciate any gifts towards the annual choir tour which is needed to help with the rising costs of fuel, the bus and hotel costs since we have fewer host homes than in the past. Two of our churches are allowing us to sleep in the church. As always, thank you for your support of the youth. They have been working quite hard and look forward to presenting their concert to you and across the country.



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First United Methodist Church

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

Email: infofumccf@gmail.com * website: 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; Kathy Just



The Gift/Memorial Book is located in the parlor and is open to **Jack C. Garner**.

Our Sympathies to **Joanne Ames** and family on the death of her brother, **Ed Krier**, on 2/28; to **David, Michael and Paul Kunce** and family on the death of their father, member **Clyde Kunce**, on 2/28; to our former pastor, **Forrest Waller** on the death of his wife, member **Marilyn Waller**, on 3/8.

Expressions of Thanks: From the Tunstall family... Thank you everyone for the prayers, cards, and thoughts on Mary's passing. They meant so much to us.

Shenanigans



Come out on Friday, March 17, at 7pm, St. Patrick's Day, for a Celtic concert with Mark and Cristina Wade from our church. This concert is certain to be incredibly enjoyable and you will not want to miss it.

Rejoicing Spirits

Worship and Reunion

Saturday, April 15 at 5:30 p.m.

First Church in Asbury Hall

Come share God's love and

celebrate Christ's Resurrection!

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

The deadline for the next FCN is **Friday, March 24.**

Please submit your articles to Kathy at kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com.