

First Church NEWS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP

Sunday, March 5

Pastor Mike Ward preaching

8:30 am - Epworth Choir

11:00 am - Chancel Choir

Sunday, March 12

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday Organ Concerts for Lent - March 2 - April 6 at 12:00 p.m. - Dean Wagner playing

Men's Time Out - Saturday, March 4 at 8:30 a.m.

Shenanigans - Friday, March 17 at 7 p.m. - an evening of Celtic music with Mark Wade and Co.

First Church Feeds - Saturday, March 18 at 11:30 a.m.

Epworth Choir Tour - March 24 - April 1

Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday, April 1 at 11 a.m.

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 will, of course, take place here at First Church at 9 and 11 a.m.



Looking into the future: As you are planning the coming months, please consider including some or all of the following:

- ROCK will have two more sessions – March 5 (bring your looms and completed hats) and March 19. Our annual Rice Packing event is scheduled for May 7
- Vacation Bible School is scheduled for the week of June 19 – 23. We still need both adult and youth volunteers, so please let me know if you are willing and available to help. Thank you to all who have already committed to being part of the week's activities.
- Chess Camp will be July 17 – 21.
- Summer Camp brochures are at the Welcome Center.

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.



Ushers ... We are looking for folks who would be willing to serve as ushers for the 11:00 service. 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.

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.



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.

 ___ Tulips ___ Hyacinths ___ Lilies ___ Daffodils

In memory or honor of (circle one) _____

Donor _____ Phone _____

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.

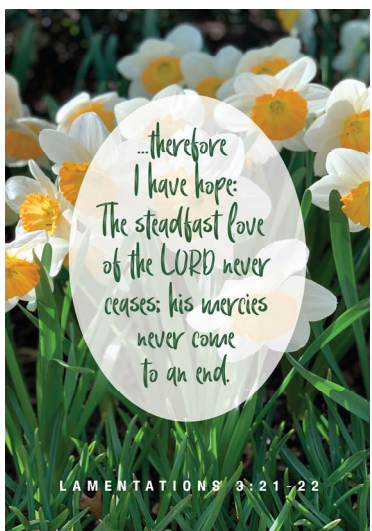


Heart4theCity... is a mission church of the East Ohio Conference. It is located at 954 Eastland Ave. in East Akron. They provide a weekly food pantry, along with a store where they offer items at a very reduced rate and other programs. They are currently in need of blankets, bedding, towels, small electric 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...

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.

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.



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.

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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

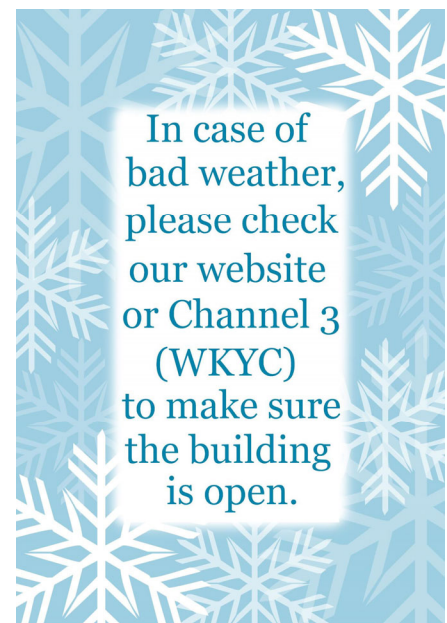


The Gift/Memorial Book is located in the parlor and is open to **Ann Magers Beebe**.

Our Sympathies to **Kay (Dave) Spahr** and family on the death of her brother, **James Barker**, on 2/5; to **Kenny Tunstall** and family on the death of his wife, member **Mary Tunstall**, on 2/26.

Expressions of Thanks: From Joe Demeter... I would like to thank the following men for helping remove and relaced the choir pews for the lighting project: Tim Treptow, Jake and Wally Davis, Tim Reese, Erv Balll, Tom Hammonds, Ed Jesson, Bob Boltz, and Ted Folk.

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 or Ext. 210.



NewsLetter
DEADLINE

The deadline for the next FCN is **Friday, March 10**. Please submit your articles to Kathy at kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com.