



First Church NEWS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Holy Week Worship

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

Rev. Jon Priebe preaching

Maundy Thursday - April 6 at 7 p.m.

First UMC will host

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

Rev. Jon Priebe preaching

Easter Sunrise Service - April 9 at 6:30 a.m.

Pilgrim United Church of Christ will host

Pastor Mike Ward preaching

Easter Sunday Services at First Church at 9 and 11 a.m.

Rev. Jon Priebe preaching

Epworth Home Concert... Please join us on Sunday, April 2, at 7:00 p.m. for one of our favorite traditions: the final concert of the choir's week-long spring tour. There will be new pieces along with the very familiar, ending with the beloved anthems, "When I Survey" and "The Lord Bless You and Keep You." We hope to see you there!



Thank you to Joe Demeter, one of our custodians, for his "over and above" work from mid-December through March. Our other custodian, John Fox, was out for surgery and Joe picked up the slack and kept the church looking wonderful and always ready for whatever was happening at the time. We couldn't have made it without him!

Habitat For Humanity... Would you like to participate at a build day for Habitat for Humanity? We have set up one more day in April for our church to participate at the house on Germaine. Our last date is April 8. This will be probably finishing touches. Contact Kim Kerr at 330-606-7736 or kdk3rr@gmail.com to participate. We are able to have 7 volunteers.

UMW/UWF Accessory Sale Donations

We are asking for donations of gently-used jewelry and purses for the Accessory Sale which will take place on Saturday, May 13, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in Wesley Hall. Deadline for donations is May 7. All money raised goes to missions. Donation box and cart is located in the church office. If you have any questions, contact Sue Boltz at 330-928-8635.

Montgomery Scholarship... It is hard to believe, but the school year is quickly winding down, and this means it is time for interested graduating seniors to apply for the Reid and Roberta Montgomery Scholarship. Applications may be picked up in the church office beginning Monday, April 3, and the deadline to submit applications will be Sunday, April 30. Applicants must be a member of First Church, a graduating senior, and planning to enroll in college or a technical school for the 2023-2024 school year.



Stations of the Cross... The Confirmation classes prepared a Stations of the Cross prayer journey as a thank you to the FUMC congregation for your support. The devotional exercise of visiting and praying in front of each of the stations and meditating on the Passion of Christ stems from the practice of early Christian pilgrims who visited the scenes of the events in Jerusalem and walked the traditional route from Pilate's house to Calvary. There are fifteen stations available in the two confirmation rooms through April 16. Stations 1-8 are in Confirmation 1 (across from the youth lounge) and stations 8-15 are in the Confirmation 2 room (the corner room in the Sunday school halls, where the 2 hallways meet).



Walk to Emmaus Agape... If you completed a Walk to Emmaus, Chrysalis, or a different 3-day Upper Room event, please attend our agape party on Saturday, April 8 at 11:00 am in Wesley Hall. We can join together to make agape for the upcoming walks. Please bring snacks to share, since food makes everything more fun!

The deadline for the next FCN is **Thursday, April 6**. Please submit your articles to Kathy at kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com.





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 email epworthyouth2@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 7, 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 epworthyouth2@gmail.com or call the church office.

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.

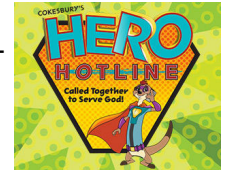
We will also be starting the two courses that are on our pathway to membership on Sunday, April 16. They will run for 6 weeks ending on Sunday May 21.

- ◆ Ministry By Strengths will be held 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.



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.

The Hero Hotline VBS runs from June 19 - 23. Programs for children aged 3 (by September 30) through 4th grade are from 9 a.m. to noon. Children in 5th and 6th grades will participate in a program of mission projects and field trips. VBS Extreme is an afternoon extension program with activities and field trips for those entering 1st through 6th grades. Registration starts on April 1 online using a QR code. There are limited openings for each program so register early. Registration deadline is May 26.



Church Square Community Garden...

It's that time of year again to look forward to things sprouting from the earth! Would you be interested in gardening as a mission project for the church? I'm looking for helpers this summer to plant, weed, water and harvest produce (beans, tomatoes, lettuce, herbs, peppers, and something new...round carrots) in the Church Square Community Garden. Each year, the produce from the garden has gone to Good Neighbors and other community organizations.

Planting will take place Saturday, May 27, of Memorial day weekend (weather permitting). We can use many helping hands with planting the garden and watering it throughout the growing season. If you have any questions or are interested in helping, please contact me via email or phone.

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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

“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 Corinthians 15:55-57

What a wondrous season has begun in the natural world around us! As hymnwriter Rev. Maltbie Babcock wrote: *All nature sings... birds their carols raise, and the morning light, the lily white, declare their maker's praise!* All around us we see God's handiwork renewing and regenerating life, making the world come alive again – an annual display of the way Christ renews and comes alive in us each day.

I hope you'll join us for our Holy Week services as we gather to celebrate the resurrection of Christ and our hope of eternal life. This year we have been building on the collaboration among the churches in downtown Cuyahoga Falls. Pastor Karol preached Ash Wednesday at the Christian Church. We will host Maundy Thursday with Fr. Brian from the Episcopal church and Pastor Jon will preach Good Friday at the Episcopal church. Pastor Mike will be preaching Easter sunrise at Pilgrim UCC.

The logo features the text "You're Invited!" in a purple, serif font. The word "You're" is on the top line, "Invited!" is on the bottom line. There are green leaf-like accents on either side of the text.

Then our Easter services will be in-person and streamed at both 9:00 (Epworth Choir) and 11:00 (Chancel Choir). And the Epworth Home Concert will be this Sunday, Palm Sunday, at 7pm.

I encourage you to invite a friend to join you for any of these services as we celebrate the renewal and new life that the risen Christ has given! See you then!

Blessings, Jon