



First Church NEWS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP

Sunday, April 16

Pastor Samuel Sinchuri preaching
8:30 am - Epworth Choir
11:00 am - Chancel Choir

Sunday, April 23

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

*“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Our financial officer, Nancy, received a phone call yesterday about our new sign that I wanted to share with you. Our electronic sign has been helpful in communicating with our neighbors about what's happening within the church. We've been hearing how folks have gotten involved in our food ministries or joined the preschool or heard about our Arts Series concerts through the sign.

In addition, we've been finding ways to use the sign to show the community that our church isn't just for our own benefit, but that we're for them as well. We have put messages celebrating major milestones in the schools and the city and starting in February, I have been adding a weekly prayer invitation to the sign. Each week, we name a specific group of people in our community who could use prayer. Then, we include that group in our pastoral prayers at worship. I hope you'll keep your eyes out for these invitations and join us in prayer.

This week, Nancy received a phone call from a single mother who'd seen our sign. The sign that had invited prayer for single parents two weeks ago had touched her so deeply that she wanted to call and say thank you. When she saw it, she'd been really feeling the weight of taking care of everything for her family and children by herself. She was overwhelmed that we took notice of the needs of single parents and that we would lead our community to join us in praying for folks like her.

There is such power in prayer, friends. So far, we've been praying for folks in business, education, government, and health care. Each opportunity brings another chance to touch people's lives for Christ. Even in your daily life, when someone shares that they have a need, stop and offer to pray right then! Join us in prayer!

Blessings,
Jon



*Do not worry about anything,
but in everything by prayer
and supplication
with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known
to God.*

**Please join Pastor Jon for a short State of the Church meeting on Sunday, April 30,
immediately following the 11:00 worship service.**

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.

Millie Keyser
330-945-4858
millie.keyser@sbcglobal.net



Art Series Concert: On Sunday, April 23



at 3 pm, we are honored to welcome composer Craig Courtney to our church to direct a concert of his own music with the Chancel and Epworth Choirs. Mr. Courtney is internationally known for his compositions. Many of them may

be your favorites, and you may not have ever put his name together with those pieces of music. This is a perfect time to invite someone to church for a concert that will be about an hour in length.

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.



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. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or in the church office.

Available Classes... There are two courses which are on our pathway to membership. They will both begin on Sunday, April 16 and run for 6 weeks.

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.



Registration for VBS is now open. To access the online site, use the QR code on the flier (copies are available at the Welcome Center) or go to <https://firstchurchcf.mycokesbury.com>.

VBS: Children aged 3 (by 9/30/2023) through 4th grade. Cost \$10.00 per child.

VBS SERVE: Program of Mission projects and field trips for children entering 5th and 6th grades. Cost \$10.00 per child.

VBS Extreme: Afternoon extension program with activities and field trips for those entering 1st through 6th grades. Cost \$60.00.

Payment in cash or by check should be sent to First Church – VBS. Credit card payments are available for amounts over \$50.00. Scholarships are available.

Registration is limited and must be made by May 26, 2023.

Questions: contact Donna Curfman at 330-923-5241 Ext. 219.

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.



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.

Shoeboxes For Christmas.... In an effort to 100 shoeboxes this Christmas, we are asking for different donations each month. During April we would like to collect washcloths, jump ropes, and costume jewelry for kids. If you have questions, please contact Linda Demeter at 740-334-9290.



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.

Nursery Help... We are in need of helpers in the nursery on Sunday mornings beginning immediately. If you are interested, please contact Donna Curfman at Ext. 219 or dcurfman-fallsumc@gmail.com.



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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



The Gift/Memorial Book is located in the parlor and is open to **Norma Sultzbach**.

Our Sympathies to **Marge Blocksom** and family on the death of her husband, member **Bill Blocksom**, on 3/16; to **Carol Lewis** and family on the death of her husband, member **Gerald Lewis**, on 3/30; to the family of member Neal Lindsley on his death on 4/3.

The deadline for the next FCN is **Friday, April 21**. Please submit your articles to Kathy at kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com.

2023 Altar Flowers... We are still 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.

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!

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.



Preschool
Registration