



First Church NEWS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, May 28 - 9:30 a.m.

Pastor Jon Priebe preaching

Sunday, June 4 - 9:30 a.m.

Pastor Jon Priebe preaching

STATE OF THE CHURCH 2023 SUMMARY

At the end of May, we'll be welcoming the first class of new members who have completed our discipleship pathway. Including our confirmation students, we will have received ten new members just in the month of May! This is just one of the many signs I see around the church this year that our congregational life is rejuvenating after the hard years of COVID. Several of these adult new members have never been a member of a congregation as an adult – this will be their first time professing their faith in Christ as part of a local church!

Our Arts Series has begun again, with concerts for Dean's 35th anniversary, an Irish group called Shenanigans on St. Patrick's Day, and a recent concert with the wonderfully gifted choral music composer Craig Courtney. In the past year, our congregation has met the tangible and spiritual needs of our neighbors through Family Promise, First Church Feeds, Soup's On, Open M, support groups, mission trips, Habitat for Humanity, bedclothes for children in at-risk homes, hats for children in the ICU at Children's Hospital, and preparing meals for refugees in Ukraine, among many other projects. And in addition to our new classes that are part of our discipleship pathway, our Women's Bible study started back up and many of our small groups like Men's Time Out, had already started back.



Looking ahead into the rest of 2023 and beyond, our strategic priorities will be even more important to help our congregation grow as we seek to meet the needs of our community. We have developed some **New Worship Expressions**, now we will need to look at new ways to create space for new people. We have built a more robust **Discipleship** pathway. Now we will need to find new **Recreation and Activity** ministries and ways to be a **Community Presence** in transformative ways. We will need to build on our **New Mission Partnerships** like with Heart 4 the City and the Food Bank to meet the needs of new people. All these priorities will help us as we seek to grow into a congregation that is more diverse and able to meet the needs of our increasingly diverse community.

If you missed Pastor Jon's State of the Church report, check our Facebook Page and it will be posted near the top.

SUMMER WORSHIP

On Sunday, May 28 we will begin our summer worship time of 9:30 a.m. Childcare will be available at that time for infants through preschool.

Golf Outing... The 17th annual Walter "Bud" Mills Golf Outing, the major fundraising event for the Epworth Choir Tour in the spring, is coming and will be held at Brookledge Golf Club on June 24, at 1:30. As always, prizes and raffle baskets and a good time will be had, and a dinner to follow in the shelter house. Cost per golfer is \$85. Individuals or businesses may sponsor a hole for \$150 or a cart for \$25. We are also seeking sponsors for gift/raffle prizes. Please contact Dean Wagner (Ext. 221) or Jim Boss (330-923-4004) for further information.



If you're not a golfer, you may play Putt-Putt at Downview for \$4 if you mention the golf outing. You may also attend just the dinner. Please contact Dean Wagner if you'd like to eat but not golf.

Church Square Community Garden...

Planting will take place Saturday, May 27, at 11:00 (weather permitting). We can use many helping hands with planting the garden, weeding and watering it throughout the growing season. If you have any questions or are interested in helping, please contact Millie Keyser at 330-945-4858 or millie.keyser@sbcglobal.net. Each year, the produce from the garden has gone to Good Neighbors and other community organizations.



ATTENTION!

Men's Time Out will not meet in June.

Geraniums For Pentecost... We will be celebrating Pentecost on Sunday, May 28. Red is the



color we use to celebrate it as red stands for fire (the all consuming power and presence of God.) We are asking people to bring a single potted red geranium that day and place it in the front of the Sanctuary. They will then be planted around the church building.

Good Neighbors... Good Neighbors is in need of the following items: Shampoo, Shaving Cream, Tooth Paste, Deodorant, Paper Towels, Bathroom Tissue, Laundry Soap, Dish Soap, Spaghetti Sauce, Ramen Noodles, Tomato Sauce, and Salad Dressing. If you are able to donate any of these, please put them in the bin outside the church library.

**Stewardship
REPORT**

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>vs.</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<u>1Q 2023 Income</u>	\$251,619		\$251,425
<u>1Q 2023 Expenses</u>	\$231,246		\$231,963
<u>1Q 2023 Surplus</u>	\$20,273		\$19,462

The current budget has a shortfall of \$55, 687.

Pledged and Non-pledged giving:

	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
	\$660, 000	\$710, 000

Shoebboxes For Christmas.... In an effort to 100 shoeboxes this Christmas, we are asking for different donations each month. During May we would like to collect small stuffed animals, combs, and matchbox type toy cars for kids. If you have questions, please contact Linda Demeter at 740-334-9290.

**Newsletter
Deadline**

The deadline for the next FCN is **Friday, June 2.**

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



Our Confirmands

Lucy Benson
Wilbur Chase
Kennedie Ward

Our Seniors

Mark Appleby
Collin Bailey
Ava Sabatucci
Gabby Schmidt

Teddy Van Sweringen
Dallas Wagner
Owen Wallace



VBS Registration will end on May 26. To register go to <http://firstchurchcf.mycokesburyvbs.com> or use the QR code on the info available at the Welcome Center. Programs for children aged 3 (by 9/30/2023) through 6th grade are available June 29-23 from 9:00 a.m. – noon. Cost is \$10.00 per child. Extreme is an afternoon extension program for grades 1 – 6. Cost \$60.00. It is currently full but you may request to be on a waiting list.

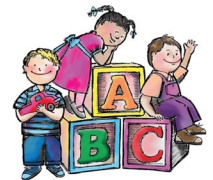
VBS Giving Board... If you've picked a tag off of the board, all items are due to the church by Sunday, May 28.

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.

We are requesting donations of these products. Please drop off items in the bin behind the Welcome Center.

Heart4theCity... Heart4theCity is a mission church of the East Ohio Conference located in the Goodyear Heights neighborhood of Akron. They are currently asking for small electric kitchen appliances, bedding, to be sold in the store they operate. Donations may be placed in the bin located outside the church library

Weekday Christian Preschool... 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. Please call 330-923-5243 for more information.



Preschool
Registration



First Church News

"First Church News" (185-000)
Periodicals, postage paid at
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223. Published
every other wk Jan-June & Sept.-Dec.
with 1 issue ea in July, Aug. by First
UMC 245 Portage Tr.
POSTMASTER: Send address chang-
es to First Church News, 245 Portage
Tr., Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221-3274

Volume 78, No. 10 * USPS 185-000 * May 25, 2023

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



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

Our Sympathies to the family of **Emily Welty**, on her death on 4/22; to the family of member **Bob Todd**, on his death on 4/24; to **Kathy, Michael, Christopher, and Matthew Kuzas** and family on the death of member **Doris Kuzas** on 5/15.



Love Offering

Both Pastor Mike and Pastor Karol's last day at First Church will be Sunday, June 25. A Love Offering will be taken for both between now and June 18, and will be given to them that day. You may place your Love Offering (made out to First Church, but marked Pastor Mike or Pastor Karol, in separate envelopes if possible) in the offering plate, or you may mail it to the church office to the attention of Nancy Yeager. We will celebrate their service, express our gratitude, and say goodbye to both Pastors Mike and Karol with cookies and lemonade on the lawn after the service on June 25.

welcome
to our church family

We are looking forward to welcoming Pastor Howard Pippin and his family to First Church in July! Pastor Pippin's first Sunday will be July 2, and we will have a cookie reception after the service to welcome him and his family. Also, please plan to meet the Pippin family at the First Friday picnic on July 7 at 5 p.m. at Water Works. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. We looking forward to seeing you there!