



First Church NEWS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, June 11 - 9:30 a.m.

Pastor Mike Ward preaching

Sunday, June 18 - 9:30 a.m.

Pastor Jon Priebe preaching

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

At the end of May, we welcomed the first class of new members who have completed our discipleship pathway. I wanted to take a moment to introduce these four new families to you. These folks were ready to be producers of ministry, helping to be a part of the good things that God is doing through our congregation. We are grateful that God brought them!

Tyson and Liz Cramer have three children: Noah, Audrey, and Lucy. They became part of the church around the beginning of COVID as Liz grew up with a family connection here and they caught our services online. Several of their family members were baptized here this winter and they have been getting involved in First Church Feeds during the last few years.

CJ and Mandie DeMartinis have two children: Aria and Noah. They found our church through the preschool, where Noah attends. Several of their family members were baptized on Easter and they have been getting involved in our children's ministries and the nursery.

Mark and Anna Rogalski have one child, Hope, who was baptized here last winter. Mark and Anna found our church through our online services and started attending in person after participating online for a time. Anna is involved with children's ministries and Mark serves on the Finance committee and has been leading our Financial Peace University classes.

Margaret Wiener found our church through the Methodist connection. On her first Sunday visiting, a friend from her former church saw her and welcomed her to our church. She is faithful with our online devotions and services. Between in-person and online worship, she hasn't missed a Sunday since that first day, fifteen months ago. Margaret is getting involved in First Church feeds this summer.



Love Offering

Both Pastor Mike and Pastor Karol's last day at First Church will be Sunday, June 25. A Love Offering is being taken for both between now and June 18, and will be given to them on the 25th. 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.



Dear friends,

It has been an honor and privilege to serve you all, and Cuyahoga Falls First UMC as your Associate Pastor for the past five years. As I prepare to leave, I want to thank you for the care and compassion you have shown me and my family during this time. I also want to thank you for the opportunities to grow professionally and personally during the past five years. I am grateful for our time together, and the ministries which we shared. I am excited for you as you prepare to welcome Pastor Pippin. I believe that Pastor Pippin will be a blessing to you all, and that you all will be a blessing to him.

Change is never easy, and I am looking at the change before me as a continuing journey, and I believe there is joy to be found along the journey if we look for it. For this pastoral transition to be successful, some boundaries need to be followed for the health and well-being of Pastor Pippin, for me, and for you as the congregation of Cuyahoga Falls First UMC.

With this in mind, I propose the following guidelines for this transition process:

My personal Facebook account will remain active, but I will no longer have access to the First Church account. I will not initiate online conversations with anyone as a way to honor this transition process.

While we will always remain brothers and sisters in Christ, Pastor Pippin will be your Associate Pastor. With this in mind, I will refrain from contacting you without Pastor Pippin's permission. I believe this will best honor our connection with Christ, with each other, and I trust you will too.

There are times when a family may desire to have a previous pastor participate in a service of some sort, such as a funeral, or some other special event. Pastor Pippin or Pastor Jon would be the people to contact for events such as this, as they will be your appointed clergy. They will work through the possibility of my participation as they see fit.

My family and I will still live in the community, and as a result, it is likely we will see each other in the community. Please feel free to say hello or strike up a conversation.

Thank you for understanding and complying with my desire to keep healthy boundaries during this pastoral transition. As I previously stated, I believe the journey ahead of me is part of my continuing journey. I am grateful for the opportunity to have been your Associate Pastor, your friend, and will remain your brother in Christ. I look forward to seeing what God has in store for me in the future. I also look forward to the ways that God will bless your ministry with Pastor Pippin not only in the months but years to come.

Blessings,

Pastor Mike



I want to thank everyone for allowing me to journey with you the past 16 years as we have served our church, our community and our world. It is with a heavy heart that I say farewell to you and ministry at First Church as we part ways. As we have grown in our spiritual lives over this time, I thank you for encouraging me, pushing me, learning with me and enriching me as I hope I have done for you as well. Through our time together, I have come to love and care for you deeply, and will miss you greatly. The memories of the ways in which we have lived out the call to "Make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the World" together has been a joy and one of the greatest times of my life. My prayer as we part is that you will continue living out the call of "Making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" to everyone who walks through the doors and wherever you may find yourself.

God Bless and Thank You.

Pastor Karol

Hero Hotline VBS will be taking place the week of June 19 -23 and we have children registered for all those events. If you have regis-



tered, please make payments and complete the Medical Information sheet before June

12. A reminder that all children need to bring a white t-shirt on Monday as they will tie-dye them on Tuesday. Plan to drop off your children by 9:00 a.m. and pick them up by noon. Extreme students will be picked up at 5:00 p.m.

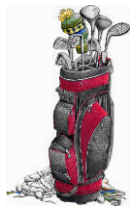
Paid Position Open... We are looking for a childcare worker for Sunday mornings (9:15 - 10:45 a.m.) this summer and Sunday mornings (9:15 - 11:45 a.m. and evenings (not completely determined yet) starting in the fall. You would be caring for infants through age 3 and a second person is always there. This is a paid position - \$14/hour for the first month and then \$15/hour. If you are interested, please contact Kathy Kuzas for an application.

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.

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 (330-697-7446) 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.

Shoebboxes For Christmas.... In an effort to 100 shoeboxes this Christmas, we are asking for different donations each month. During June we would like to collect girls' hairbrushes, children's sunglasses, and small bouncy balls. If you have questions, please contact Linda Demeter at 740-334-9290.



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.



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 changes
to First Church News, 245 Portage
Tr., Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221-3274

Volume 78, No. 11 * USPS 185-000 * June 8, 2023

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 Kathi

(Scott), Jack, Megan, Leslie and Luke Sawyer and family on the death of father and grandfather, **Dwight Nelson**, on 5/18; to **Chuck Suter** and family on the death of his wife, member **Sonia Suter**, on 5/24; to the family of member **Jeanne Wilson** on her death on 5/26; to **Kyrstyn (Michael) Kuzas** and family on the death of her mother, **Debbie Clem**, on 5/27; to the family of member **Diane Headrick** on her death on 5/27; to the family of member **Lucy Johnson**, on her death on 5/28.

Expressions of Thanks: The family of **Gerald Lewis** thanks all for your loving thoughts, prayers and cards at the time of his illness and death. Your thoughtfulness provided us with great strength and comfort and continues to do so. From the **Kuzas family**... Thank you for all the cards, thoughts and prayers before and following the death of **Doris Kuzas**. They were so much appreciated.



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!

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

Please remember that during the summer there is only one FCN during the months of June and July. The deadline for the next issue is **Thursday, June 29**. Please submit your articles to Kathy at kku-zasfumccf@gmail.com.