



First Church NEWS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A NOTE FROM PASTOR JON

Sunday, March 3

8:30 & 10:30 - Pastor Howard Pippin preaching

Sunday, March 10

8:30 & 10:30 - Pastor Jon Priebe preaching

Sunday, March 17

8:30 & 10:30 - Pastor Jon Priebe preaching

See the Lenten Worship Schedule inside

One hundred ninety-four years ago, a Methodist Episcopal circuit rider began to stop at a school building near where Moe's Restaurant is now located at Front Street and Wadsworth Ave. In 1837, the newly forming city of Cuyahoga Falls laid out the land between Stow Ave and Portage Trail and 2nd and 3rd streets for a public square and religious, educational, or governmental purposes. By 1840, a wood frame building was ready for us, next to St.



John's Episcopal church. We shared the square with this

congregation and a school until sometime after 1856, then a congregational church moved into a building where First Christian stands today.


For these nearly two centuries, our congregations have provided a spiritual presence at the heart of our city. We have cared for the hungry, healed the hurting, given glory to God through worship, and witnessed to God's goodness where we stand together. In that spirit, over the years we have also worshipped together on occasion. Starting in 2018, we began to expand these opportunities to Lenten services, a combined service at the riverfront, and Bible studies through Advent and Lent.

Last Tuesday, I shared with the congregational leaders that those experiences of worshipping, serving, and learning together have developed into some possible new shared vision for our congregations. We have begun conversations with our neighbors and our city about what it could look like to redevelop our block to maximize our shared ability to meet the present needs of our community in the name of Jesus. At a time when our society seems to find new ways to divide itself every time the calendar page turns, these discussions give me hope that we can communicate that another way of collaboration among Christians is possible.

Nothing has been decided as we are in a discussion and discernment phase. As the conversations develop this year, we'll continue to keep you in the loop. There will certainly be opportunities to participate, give feedback, and dream together in time. For now, I encourage you to pray for discernment, courage, and that God's will be done. Please reach out to me if you'd like to hear more about this.

Blessings,

Jon



**WORSHIP
SCHEDULE**
for
LENT

February 19-March 18 (Mondays)	7:00 p.m.	Combined Lenten study, "Bend"	Pilgrim UCC
March 24	8:30/10:30 a.m.	Palm Sunday worship	First Church
March 28	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday worship	First Christian Church
March 29	7:00 p.m.	Good Friday worship	Pilgrim UCC
March 31	7:00 a.m.	Easter Sunrise service	St. John's Episcopal
	9:00 a.m.	Easter Worship	First Church
	11:00 a.m.	Easter Worship	First Church

Preston Spring Break Backpacks... The donation board for backpacks is up in the Breezeway. Please help us fill backpacks for children from Preston Elementary School for their spring break by taking a card from the board and returning the requested items. All items should be delivered to the church by Sunday, March 10, so that the children at ROCK can pack them on March 17.



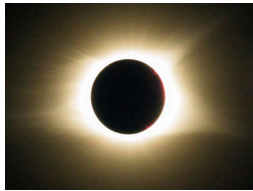
for food



MEN'S TIME OUT

All the men of the church and community are invited to gather on the first Saturday of every month for some food, a time for discussion, and lots of fellowship! It runs from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in Asbury Hall and the next one will take place on **Saturday, March 2.**

Solar Eclipse Program... On Wednesday, March 13, at 10:30 in Wesley Hall, Bob Boltz will present a program about the upcoming eclipse in April. Bob taught Earth Science for 35 years and knows this subject well. Susannah Circle welcomes anyone interested to join them for the program. Questions? Call Bob or Sue Boltz at 330-928-8635.



Easter Flowers... Now is the time to order the flowers which will adorn our altar on Easter morning. The plants are \$10.00 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 Friday, March 1. Please indicate the number of each plant that you are ordering.

___ Tulips ___ Hyacinths ___ Lilies ___ Daffodils

In memory or honor of (circle one) _____

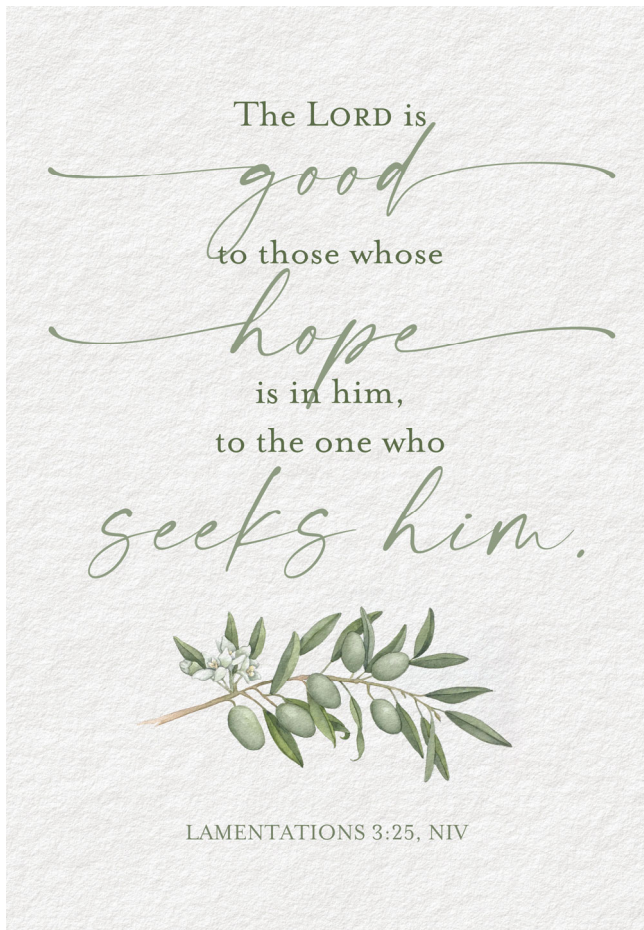
Donor _____ Phone _____

Weekday Christian Preschool Registration Open... We offer a Christian preschool program for children who will be 3, 4, or 5 years old by September 30, 2024. 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. We have both half and full day classes. Please call 330-923-5243 for more information.



Vacation Bible School... Camp Firelight will run from June 17 – 21 with VBS Sunday on June 23. There will be SERVE and Extreme programs as well that week. Registration will start April 1 and end May 31. Complete details will be out soon.

Chess Camp is returning this year! The program for children going into 1st through 8th grades will run in the mornings from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. the week of June 24 – 28. Beginners through advanced chess players are all welcome for a cost of \$25. This will include lunch each day. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.



Montgomery Scholarship Applicants... Applications for the Reid and Roberta Montgomery Scholarship may be picked up at the main office any Monday - Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. The deadline for returning the application is Friday, April 5. An applicant must be a member of First Church and a high school graduate planning to be enrolled in college or technical school this coming fall for the 2024-25 school year. The scholarship is awarded every spring and the money is given to the chosen recipient(s) in September.



Please support our community Easter Egg Hunt, which will be on Saturday, March 23, at 11 a.m., by providing bags of individually wrapped candy (no peanuts please) or small toys for us to pass out. All items need to be delivered to the Welcome Center by March 17.

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First United Methodist Church

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Jon Priebe - Lead Minister x211; Howard Pippin - Associate Minister x217; Forrest Waller and Marvin Brown - Senior Ministers Emeriti; Dean Wagner - Director of Music Ministries/Organist x221; Jennifer Brooks - Director of Weekday Preschool x220; Tim Zuschin - Assistant Choir Director; Donna Curfman - Children's Ministry Coordinator x213; 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 **Claire Lautermilch**.

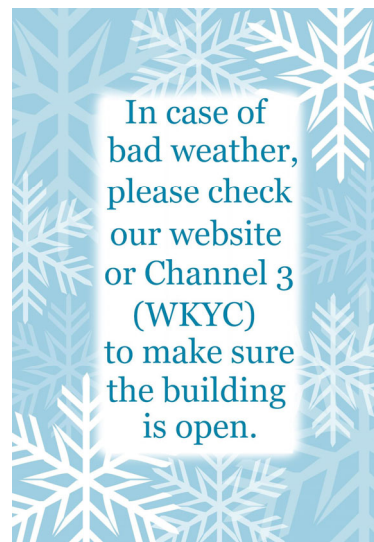
Our Sympathies to Pam Kenik and family on the death of her mother, member **Edna Harvey**, on 1/30; **Robin Ruth** and family on the death

of her grandson, **Kei'Nell Eichenlaub**, on 2/1; **Janet Blank** and family on the death of her husband, member **Bill Blank**, on 2/12.

Expressions of Thanks from **Donna Curfman**... I would personally like to thank everyone who supported me during my recent hospital stay and surgery with your calls, cards, and especially prayers. I absolutely believe that there is no better comfort during these times than what you all gave so generously.

**NewsLetter
DEADLINE**

The deadline for the April issue of the FCN is **Friday, March 22**. Please submit your articles to Kathy Kuzas at 330-923-5241 or kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com.



2024 Altar Flowers... We are taking orders for altar flowers in 2024. The cost is \$40 (please note the change) 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.

