

# First Church NEWS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Sunday, June 2 - 9:30 a.m.**

Pastor Jon Priebe preaching

**Sunday, June 7 - 9:30 a.m.**

Pastor Jon Priebe preaching



**Sunday, June 16 - 9:30 a.m.**

Pastor Howard Pippin preaching

**Sunday, June 23 - 9:30 a.m.**

Pastor Jon Priebe preaching

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

Pastor Jon Priebe preaching

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR JON

Our office executive, Kathy Kuzas, is retiring in a few weeks after over 35 years of serving Christ at First Church. If you keep reading through this FCN, you'll hear about a few ways to celebrate her in the time we have left with her, including a card shower and a reception following worship on June 30. Please join me in expressing your gratitude and love for Kathy as she retires!

In her absence, we're bringing on two part-time administrators. Kim Kerr will be in the office on Mondays and Fridays and responsible for building use and our membership database. Tuesdays through Thursdays, we're being joined by Sarah Neri who will be responsible for our print and electronic publishing. Christy Meyers will take on coordinating with funerals but otherwise she and Nancy Yeager will maintain their current schedule and responsibilities. We have had and will continue to have a truly wonderful office administrative staff! Thank you to each person!

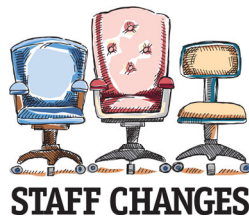
One addition we have made to our church communications is bringing back our weekly email that was being distributed during COVID. The format is a little different but should be easy to open on a computer or your smartphone. The purpose of this new offering is to give you a snapshot of things going on each weekend as a supplement to the other means we use to communicate. It is not intended to replace the bulletin, website, or the FCN. A note about what to look forward to at worship is included, as well as events coming up over the weekend. We'll include deaths that have happened, especially if the funeral service is coming up quickly so you can more easily make plans to participate.

If you'd like information shared in the weekly email, please share it with Kathy while she is still here and then directly with Sarah after Kathy retires.

Blessings,

Jon





**Kathy Kuzas** will be retiring from First Church after over 35 years of dedicated service. Her last day will be June 30. Kathy has been an integral part of the church staff, handling her responsibilities with professionalism, efficiency, and a warm demeanor that brightened our days. As Kathy embarks on this new chapter of her life, we want to express our deepest gratitude for her years of service and dedication. While we will miss her dearly, we wish her nothing but happiness and fulfillment in her well-deserved retirement.

Please join us in congratulating Kathy on her retirement and in wishing her all the best for the future. We will be hosting a farewell gathering in her honor on June 30 after the service. Also, during the month of June, we will have a card shower for Kathy. Please bring any cards or notes to the Welcome Center and we will have a basket to place them in. Thank you!

## Save the Date!

### Church Fest

Sunday, July 7 at 10 a.m

All churches on Church Square will meet at the amphitheatre on Front Street to worship together! Lunch will be served.

**Kim Kerr** has been a member of First Church since 1980. She attended First Church as a youth participating in Epworth choir and attending work camp two years.

Kim enjoys participating in Bible studies, prayer group and teaching Sunday School. She retired from Barberton City Schools in 2019 after teaching for 33 years. Most of those years were spent teaching first grade. Kim also worked at Habitat for Humanity of Summit County four years helping families become homeowners. Kim is so happy to attend First Church where there is a strong commitment to spreading God's love into the community.

**Sarah Neri** is a long-time resident of Cuyahoga Falls. She has a BA in Secondary Education (Social Studies) from the University of Akron. Her husband, Andrew, is a service manager for Spitzer Chevrolet in Northfield. They've been married for 25 years this summer (yes, they've been together since high school). They have 3 girls: Jenna (18) attends Tri-C/Radiography program, Emilia (17) is at Firestone CLC, for vocal music, and Adelyn (11) attends Miller South for vocal music and visual art. Sarah is a 4th generation Disciple and a long-time member of First Christian Church of Kent, where she sings in the choir (among many other things). For fun they like to camp, watch their girls perform in various theatrical productions/choir performances, play frisbee and hike with their dog, Levi the Australian Shepherd. But most of their time is spent fixing their 100 year old house or driving kids to rehearsals.

### Church Square Garden

The Church Square garden is going on furlough this year for a couple of reasons. After being the 'head' gardener of the garden for the past 7 years, Millie Keyser has decided that she needs to step back and pass it on to another gardener. She and the pastors from First Church and First Christian Church have been discussing a solution for some time but haven't found an answer. We'd like to find someone to take over the garden this summer or next year. In addition to not having a 'head' gardener, some of the raised garden beds have deteriorated and need rebuilt. Because that might not happen until later this summer, we put the garden on a hiatus. If you have any interest in the Church Square garden mission of providing fresh produce to the community, please contact Millie Keyser at 330-414-5357 or the church office.



## Vacation Bible School



Registration is still open for our session June 17-21. Morning programs are from 9 a.m. – Noon for children aged 3 (by 9/30/24) through 4<sup>th</sup> grade. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders will participate in a special program called SERVE. Extreme is the afternoon program of extended activities and field trips runs from Noon – 5:00 p.m. and is for children going into 1<sup>st</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> grades. Registration forms are available at the Welcome Center, online or you may sign up by using the QR code or go to <http://fumccf.mycokesburyvbs.com>. Registration is not complete until payment and Medical Forms are completed. The cost is \$10 per child for the morning activities and an additional \$60 for Extreme. Come join and share in a summer adventure with God!

**Chess Camp - Last Call!** Chess Camp will be held the week immediately following VBS from June 24 – 28. Sessions will be from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. The program will be for anyone going into 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grades, from beginners to more advanced players. Registration materials are at the Welcome Center. The cost will be \$25.



**Golf Outing...** It's not too late to join in on the 18th Annual Bud Mills Memorial Golf Outing! The proceeds are used to benefit the Epworth Tour of 2025. The outing is at Brookledge again on Saturday, June 22, at 1:30 p.m. You may play in the event for \$90. We are seeking hole and cart sponsors as well at the \$150 and \$25 levels.



**Money Counters...** Every Monday morning a group of dedicated First church members meet to count the offering from the previous Sunday. They begin at 8:30 a.m. and usually done by 9:30. If you are interested in helping them, please call Dale Gilbert at 330-945-4858.

CHURCH ON A MISSION

**Family Promise:** For the next several months, we are collecting laundry detergent PODs and bottles of all purpose spray cleaner for the families living in Glendora House. If you are able to help us with this, please put your donation in the Family Promise bin by the library.

**Good Neighbors:** We've received a current "wish list" from Good Neighbors which includes: dish soap, deodorant, laundry soap, shampoo, canned meats, canned fruit, salad dressing, decaf coffee, and ramen noodles. If you are able to supply any of these, please bring them to the bins located by the church library.

**Paper Bins:** The paper bins located in our parking lot will be removed in the next few weeks. The company has made the decision to reduce the number of bins that they have. Thank you for your past contributions!

**Are You Handy?** Do you enjoy doing outside chores? We are looking for volunteers to help out with trimming bushes, weeding and anything else that's needed on the grounds (with the exception of mowing & weed-whacking.) We also could use people who could occasionally help with small odd jobs in the building. If you are willing and able to help, please contact Bob Boltz at [rboltz@kent.edu](mailto:rboltz@kent.edu). Young folks are also encouraged to help!



The Scholarship Committee members at First Church announce that Jordan Tausch has been awarded the Reid and Roberta Montgomery Scholarship for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. Jordan will be attending The Ohio State University. Our best wishes to Jordan as she begins her college education.

# First Church News

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## First United Methodist Church

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Jon Priebe - Lead Minister x211; Howard Pippin - Associate Minister x217; Marvin Brown - Senior Minister Emeritus; 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; Sarah Neri; Kim Kerr; Ann Kaiser; John Fox; Joe Demeter



*The Gift/Memorial Book* is located in the parlor and is open to **Eugene Maple**.

*Our Sympathies to* member Todd (Cindy) Ederer and family on the death of his father, **Alan Ederer**, on 4/19; the family of member, **Martha**

**Johnson**, on her death on 4/28; the family of member **Marilyn Runkle** on her death on 5/4; **Wade (Kim) Kerr** and family on the death of his sister, member **Kay Steiner**, on 5/4; member **Billie Corbett** and family on the death of her husband, member **Don Corbett**, on 5/8; the family of member **Carolyn Wadelin** on her death on 5/10; **Cheryl Shaw** and family on the death of her daughter, member **Christina Shaw**, on 5/23.

*Happy Birthday to* member **Earle Hanna** who celebrated 100 years on May 29! Earle lives at 395 S. Main St., Apt. 244, Munroe Falls, 44262 if you would like to send him a card.



Join us on Friday, June 7, at Waterworks for a picnic and time for fellowship with our church family! We will start gathering at 5 p.m. and eat around 6. Please bring a dish to share. Meat, paper products, and water will be provided.

Mark your calendars for 2 other picnics: August 18 and September 22.

Newsletter  
**DEADLINE**

The deadline for the July issue of the FCN is **Friday, June 21**. Please submit your articles to Kathy Kuzas at [kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com](mailto:kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com).