

## First Church News

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First United Methodist Church

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# First Church NEWS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2024

### A Note from the Pastor

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

According to recent research on happiness, one of the greatest contributors to our happiness is how much gratitude we show in life. When you get a chance, check out this YouTube video where the folks over at Soul Pancake test out that research (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHv6vTKD6lg>).

So, saying thank you is actually good for the soul. Perhaps this is why the Bible repeats the instruction "Give Thanks" so often. By my count, this phrase occurs no less than 33 times throughout Scripture. We are to give thanks because God is good, and His love endures forever (1 Chronicles 16:34), because it's God's will for us to give thanks (1 Thessalonians 5:18), and even because it can be a remedy for our anxious souls (Philippians 4:6).

So, those scientists (the guy in the video was at least wearing a labcoat...) found the Biblical truth of Thanksgiving to be integral to our happiness. But, they pointed out two other things that are pretty interesting. First, when we're down the most, gratitude can give us the biggest boost. People in the study who were the least happy before they expressed gratitude experienced the greatest increases in happiness (sounds like Philippians 4:6 to me!).

Second, they found that actually saying that you're thankful to the person that you're thankful to resulted in the greatest benefits to happiness. So, it's one thing to be thankful, but a whole other ball game when we actually tell someone that we are thankful for them or something they did.

This gave me an idea: let's try it out. From the day you read this until Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 28, this year), say thank you to someone at least once a day. Maybe being every prayer with at least one thing for which you're thankful to God. Say it in person when someone helps you with something, write a thankfulness journal for the next few weeks, post a thank you on Facebook or Twitter each day, or send a card and call a person who was a big influence in your life. I'll start. Thanks for taking the time to read this!

In a few weeks, you'll receive your annual stewardship materials. We'll share our gratitude for the ways that your generosity has enabled the ministry and life of First Church. Maybe supporting your church is a way that you express your gratitude to God in 2025. Thank you for giving God your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness through First Church!

Blessings,

Jon

**The Gift/Memorial Book** is located in the parlor and is open to **the Parents of Jerry & Bonnie Nine**.

**Our Sympathies** to the family of member **Jerry Nine** who passed away on October 16.

**Did You Know?** We will be glad to publish (space allowing) milestone birthdays, anniversaries, births and other special events in your family if you send a note c/o Sarah Neri, call us at 330-923-5241 x212 or email [sarahnerifallsumc@gmail.com](mailto:sarahnerifallsumc@gmail.com).



The deadline for the December issue of the FCN is **Wednesday, November 20.**

Newsletter **DEADLINE**

### November Worship Schedule

**Sunday, November 3 — 8:30, 10:45am**

Daylight Savings Ends—All Saints Sunday  
Pastor Jon Priebe preaching

**Sunday, November 10 — 8:30, 10:45am**

Stewardship & 50 Year Members  
Pastor Jon Priebe preaching

**Sunday, November 17—8:30, 10:45am**

Consecration Sunday  
Pastor Jon Priebe preaching

**Sunday, November 24—8:30, 10:45am**

Christ the King Sunday  
Pastor Howard Pippin preaching



### Greens Fundraiser Happening Now!

The Epworth Choir annual Greens Sale is happening now. Orders are due by November 10 with delivery December 2-3. See an Epworth member to or call the church office to order. All proceeds will go toward funding the Epworth Spring Tour.

First United Methodist Church Cuyahoga Falls  
**THE ARTS SERIES**  
**FALL CONCERTS 2024**

**Saturday, November 16, @5:00pm-The Singer's Company**

This highly acclaimed choir is back! Under the direction of Samuel Gordon, come experience their 25th anniversary season, "Discover Awesome." They will be performing "A Thank You Note to the Universe" featuring a special commissioned piece in honor of their anniversary, as well as works by, Gjeilo, Von Kampen, Hagenberg, and Mc Groarty.

**Saturday, December 8, @3:00pm-The Master's Singers Chorale**

This community-based chorus is back under the new direction of Marc Weagraff and will feature Schubert's "Mass in E-Flat."

**Sunday, December 15, @6:00pm-The Procession of the Nativity**

The beloved worship service/concert of music with processions of the prophet Isaiah, Gabriel, Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, and the Magi, returns with an almost new program of music, accompanied by orchestra, piano and organ.

**Patron Information**

We are excited to resume our concert series. You are encouraged to support our efforts to offer free concerts to the community by making your contribution to: First United Methodist Church, c/o Concert Series. Friend: \$5-\$24, Patron: \$25-\$49, Bronze: \$50-\$99, Silver: \$100-

**Collecting Puzzles & Games**

Acts of Grace Circle is collecting puzzles and board games for all ages during the month of November. They will be distributed to local nursing homes and to Summit Co. Children's Services for Christmas. As always, we appreciate your prayers and support. Contact Linda Demeter with any questions, 740-334-9290.

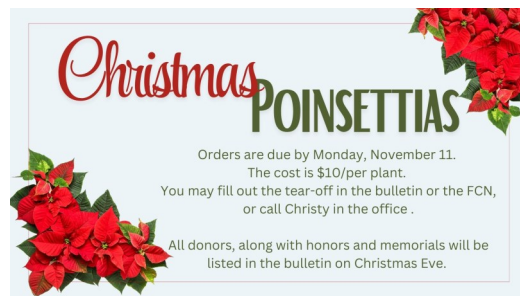


**Panda Express Fundraiser for Workcamp Crew**

Missions is raising funds for the Henderson Settlement work trip this summer through a dine-to-donate event at Panda Express on Monday, November 4 from 10:00am-9:30pm, dine-in or carry-out. You can use code 381221 in the app, or there will be flyers at the Welcome Center and the weekly email closer to the event.

**Poinsettia Orders by November 11.**

We are taking Poinsettia orders now through November 11. The plants are used to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas. This year the cost is \$10 per plant. A list of donors, and those honored or memorialized will be printed in the bulletin on Christmas Eve. Please make checks out to First United Methodist Church with "poinsettia" in the memo. You can call the church office to leave information about honors or memorials or fill out the form below and mail it to the church.



**Poinsettia Order Form 2024**

Orders are due by November 11  
 \$10/plant

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please circle one:      In memory      In honor  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



**Charge Conference**

**Important Announcement!**

Please plan to attend Charge Conference on **November 10 following the 10:45am service.** We'll meet in Wesley Hall. Hope to see you there!

**St. Nicholas Brunch & Shop**

The St. Nicholas Brunch is returning in 2024 bigger and better! This brunch is open to everyone. The ever popular omelet station is back along with other favorites and a few new surprises. Join us December 8, 9:30-12:30am in Wesley Hall. The cost is \$7/adults, \$5/children 3-11, under 3 is free.

We will also be hosting a St. Nicholas Shop where parents can help their children select gifts for other family members. A limited number of Santa's Helpers will be available to help kids shop for parents as well.

And of course, St. Nicholas himself will be there. We will be accepting donations of hats, gloves, and scarves for our community. Questions or to Volunteer: melinda.chase@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing everyone!



**Men's Time Out**

All the men are invited! We'll meet from 8:30 to 9:30am on **Saturday, November 2,** in Ashbury Hall. Hope to see you for food and fellowship!

**ROCK End of Season Updates**

December 4 will be our Advent Event during the regular ROCK time of 5:30-6:30 p.m. After music rehearsals at 4:30 for Bells and Choir at 5:00, we have a snack supper, make a craft, prep the candles for Christmas Eve and begin our Advent celebration. This will be the last 2024 ROCK session.



**Donut Sale November 3**

The Wesley group will have their *Annual Donut Sale* on Sunday, November 3 in the Parlor. Krispie Kreme donuts will be available for purchase.



**Annual Turkey Drive**



Open M is collecting turkey donations again this year. We have committed to supplying 200 turkeys. Donate a frozen turkey or \$20 toward the purchase of a turkey. Monetary donations need to be made by December 7 (write turkey in the memo line of your check made out to First United Methodist Church. You can also indicate if you're bringing a frozen turkey). Kindly fill

out the form below so we know how many to expect. Frozen turkeys can be brought to the church parking lot December 7 from 8-10am.

Open M will be holding their *Christmas for Kids* in December. More info coming soon!



I will donate: \_\_\_\_\_ frozen turkeys      Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to be used to purchase turkeys.

**Open M Turkey Collection**