

“First Church News” (185-000)
Periodicals, postage paid at
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223. Published
monthly by First UMC 245 Portage Tr.
POSTMASTER: Send address chang-
es to First Church News, 245 Portage
Tr., Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221-3274

First Church News

Volume 80, No. 4* USPS 185-000 * May 2025

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; 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; Christy Meyers x210; Nancy Yeager x216; Sarah Neri x212; Kim Kerr x214; Ann Kaiser; John Fox; Joe Demeter



First Church NEWS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MAY 2025

Hebrews 10:24–25 “And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another...”

This Lenten season has been a powerful demonstration our unity we share as followers of Christ. Thank you to all who participated in our growing ecumenical Lenten services. This year, we had total attendance of over 425 persons at Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. That's with seven pastors leading from six congregations of five different denominations! It has been a joy to worship alongside our neighbor congregations, in repentance, reflection, and hope.

At First Church, this year's Easter Sunday had 476 persons in-person and 325 joining us online! Our highest attendance since before the pandemic — God is moving in our midst. New faces, returning families, and long-missed members filled the sanctuary with joyful celebration of our risen Lord. After years of disruption and distance, we are seeing signs of spiritual renewal and renewed hunger for connection and truth.

Let us not let this momentum fade. I encourage you to keep reaching out, inviting others, and participating fully in the life of the Church. May we continue to grow not only in numbers but in love, service, and unity in Christ.

—Pastor Jon



The Gift/Memorial Book is located in the parlor and is open to **Louis L. Hollingshead** and **Ronald Collins**.

Our Sympathies to the families of members **Evelyn Crawford** who passed away on 3/24, and **Joan Johnson** (Kristopher & Kaz Lewis) who passed away on 4/9. We also lift up Michael Taucher and family upon the death of his brother **Dean Taucher**, on 3/30.

We celebrate the birth of **Charlotte Lore Davis**, who arrived on April 1. Congratulations to parents Jacob and Katie Davis, and grandparents Wally and Aimee Davis.

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.

The deadline for the June issue of the FCN is **Thursday, May 22**.

Newsletter
DEADLINE

May 4—Communion/Confirmation Sunday

8:30 & 10:45am

May 11—Mother's Day

8:30 & 10:45am

May 18—Senior Sunday

8:30 & 10:45am

Senior Reception

May 25—New Member's Sunday

First Sunday of *Summer Worship* @9:30am



Panda Express Fundraiser

Missions is raising funds for a the trip to Henderson Settlement in Frakes, Kentucky. Visit Panda Express or use code 3838466 for your online/mobile order, or show the flyer in person, and Missions will receive 20% of the sales for that day. **Monday, May 05, 2025, from 10:00am to 9:30pm.** *You must use the code or show the flyer found at the Welcome Center for your order to count.* Thank you!

Royal Family Kids' Camp

We are again this year providing the Birthday Celebration for the campers at The Royal Family Kids' Camp on June 2. This camp provides a week of activities for area foster children. We could use some volunteers to help us serve and prepare this event, as well as donations to help underwrite the cost. If you are able to help, please contact Donna Curfman.



Build Dates

First Church will again be participating with Habitat For Humanity of Summit County to build a home this summer. We are one of eleven churches who together form the Common Mission Coalition. Build dates are as follows: Sat., May 17, Thurs., June 5, Thurs., July 31, Thurs., Sept. 11, Sat., Sept. 27.

Contact Kim Kerr with any questions. 923-5241 x 214, kkerrfallsumc@gmail.com

Soup's On...Again

Soup's On will be serving bagged lunches again this year at Good Neighbors in Cuyahoga Falls. We will prepare lunches from 8:30-9:30am on the third Tuesday of the month May, June, September, and October (July will be on July 22 because of VBS and August will be the first Tuesday of the month). We then take lunches to Good Neighbors to hand out from 10:00-2:00pm. If you are interested in participating, contact Kim Kerr at kkerrfallsumc@gmail.com or 330-606-7736.



All About Vacation Bible School!

July 14-18, 9:00am-noon

It's VBS time! Get ready for a Road Trip where children age 3 (by 9/30/25) through 6th grade will learn that "The Lord your God is with you wherever you go." They will experience a full week of fun activities, crafts, games, and music. Cost: \$15/per child. **Registration opens April 1, and ends July 1.**



Extreme, 12:00-5:00pm

VBS Extreme is an afternoon extension program with activities and field trips for those entering 1st-6th grades. Cost: 80/per child. Spaces are limited. Contact Donna Curfman with any questions. Scholarships are available.

Supply Collection

Once again this year we will be collecting supplies for VBS for snacks, crafts, recreation and other activities. The Giving Board with cards for needed items will be up in the Breezeway by May 14 and items will be **due by July 6**. Any help you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

Volunteer Information

There are still positions open to **help with VBS** as a teacher or other volunteer. Teens 7th grade and older are encouraged to help. Please let Donna Curfman know as soon as possible if you are available and interested.

Volunteers and teachers for VBS will be having their **Mandatory Training Sessions** on July 2 at 12:30 or 6:30 or on Sunday, July 6 after the morning worship service. If you are unable to attend, please contact Donna Curfman ASAP.

Director of Children's Ministries: Donna Curfman, 923-5241 x 213, dcurfmanfallsumc@gmail.com.



Chess Camp, June 23-27, 9am-noon.

For children ages K and up. The cost is \$25. Registration is now open. Brochures with registration info are available at the church office, Welcome Center, or click [here](#). The registration deadline is June 13.

Safe Sanctuary Recertification

Our Safe Sanctuary program requires that all persons 18 and older who work with our children must be re-certified every three years. This means many of our regular teachers and volunteers will need to attend one of these sessions which are tentatively scheduled for June 8, and 13 after worship. A notification will be sent out soon indicating that you are one of those needing this recertification.



2025 Seniors

High School Seniors are invited to our annual celebration of their accomplishments and future endeavors. We do not want to miss one of you! Please let the church office know your name and plans for attending **Senior Sunday and the reception after the 10:45 service on May 18**. Please RSVP by May 14.



First United Methodist Church Cuyahoga Falls

THE ARTS SERIES CONCERTS 2025



Sunday, July 6 @3:00pm--BBWR (Brass Band of Western Reserve) Patriotic Concert

Formed in 1997, the Brass Band of the Western Reserve is an award-winning British-style brass band performing a wide variety of music at the highest possible standard of performance and, in so doing, creating an enjoyable experience for its audience. The band is able to perform impressively across a wide spectrum of emotions whether the music is quiet and delicate or strong and powerful.

Led by conductor Jay Wardeska, the band presents an annual Concert Series at the Medina Performing Arts Center. Additionally, the band is delighted to accept many of the invitations it receives to perform at other locations, many of which are repeat bookings. Prestigious concert venues have included The Amphitheater, Chautauqua Institution, Hoover Auditorium, Lakeside Chautauqua and Severance Hall, Cleveland.



Baptism

If you are interested in baptism please contact Kim Kerr in the church office 330-923-5241 x 214. The next date will be **May 25, 2025**.



2025 Work Camp @The Henderson Settlement

Registration is underway now through **May 2**. You can find forms with more information in the Welcome Center or [click here](#). Travel with us to the Henderson Settlement in Frakes, Kentucky June 1-7, to work on community projects like painting, repair, construction, and more. No skills needed, we will teach you on site. Contact Jack Steele with any questions, 330-697-8344.

2025 Golf Outing

Mark your calendars! The 19th Annual "Bud" Mills golf outing will be held at Brookledge on **Saturday June 28 at 1:00 pm**. We are currently looking for sponsors. There are forms available at the Welcome Center, or [click here](#) to download the form.



Weekday Christian Preschool

Registration continues for the 2025-26 school year. We offer a Christian preschool program for children who will be 3, 4, or 5 years old by September 30, 2025. We have both half and full day classes. Please call 330-923-5243 or visit our website for more information and 2025 enrollment forms.

Donation Wish list



Family Promise for the Glendora House: Glendora has expressed a need for donations of peanut butter, jelly (any flavor), ramen noodles packs (not cups), Velveeta style mac n' cheese in boxes (any brand).

Good Neighbors: We've received a current "wish list" for May which includes: deodorant, diapers (4, 5, 6) & baby wipes, toothpaste, feminine pads, dish soap, laundry detergent, shampoo & conditioner, canned tuna & chicken, canned fruit & soup, coffee & tea bags, socks (adult & child), mac n' cheese, salad dressing, and sugar packets.

Any donations can be brought in and placed in the bins by the Library. Thank you for your consideration.