

First Church News

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First United Methodist Church

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2025

A Message from Pastor Priebe

Looking to Jesus

Pastor's Sunday School Class starting September 14 at 9:30am in the Parlor.

The Gospels are at the very heart of our faith in Christ. As a young adult, reading through the Gospels as preparation for a youth ministry camp I was volunteering with changed my life. As I read about how Jesus treated others, listened in to the stories he told, and reflected on the wisdom he shared, I was able to see more clearly what God is like and how we are called to live.

This fall, I'll be leading a new Sunday School class walking through the Gospel of John. Together we will explore Jesus' miracles, his conversations with seekers, his teachings about love and truth, and discover how he reveals God's presence in our everyday lives.

This class is open to everyone, whether you are new to Bible study or have been reading the Scriptures for years. No homework needed, we'll work through the Scriptures each week. Even if you can't be there every week, you're invited to join us whenever you can make it!



The Gift/Memorial Book is located in the parlor and is open to **Rodney W. Vargo** and **Maurice Gilbert**.



Our Sympathies to the families of members, **Ann Niemann**, who passed away on 8/2, and **Pamela Wilson**, who passed away on 8/5.

Send Us Your News... We will be glad to publish (space allowing) milestone birthdays, anniversaries, births and other special news if you send a note to Sarah Neri, 330-923-5241 x212, or sarahnerifallsumc@gmail.com.

The deadline for the September FCN is **Thursday, September 18**.

NewsLetter DEADLINE



September 7—9:30am
Communion Sunday
Rev. Pippin, preaching

September 14— 8:30am & 10:45 am
Rally Sunday (Sunday School begins)
Church Square Picnic @noon
Rev. Priebe, preaching

September 21—8:30am & 10:45am
Rev. Priebe, preaching

September 28—8:30am & 10:45am
Rev. Pippin, preaching

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 8:30-9:30am in Asbury Hall. Join us for our next gathering, **September 6**.



MEN'S TIME OUT



Get On Course with Rally Day

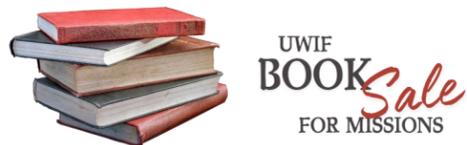
Join us on Sunday, September 14 as we kick off the Sunday School year at 9:30am! We have classes available for all ages. Worship services will begin at 8:30am and 10:45am. Hope to see you there!

Church Square Picnic

FUMC is joining the Church Square community at the First Christian Church lawn on Sunday, September 14, 2025 at noon for a picnic! Please bring a side dish to share, and plan to have a great time of food and fellowship. We plan to also have a love offering for the Church Square Christmas lights. Thank you!



I would like to thank you for the college scholarship that I received from the church. This will definitely be helpful to me as I head off to college. I plan to pursue a Secondary Education degree in Social Studies (History and government). I would also like to thank you all for the graduation present that the seniors received on Senior Sunday. It is very much appreciated. Thank you all for the all the opportunities that you have provided to children and youth as we grew up in this church.
—Chad Wagner



Annual UWIF Book Sale

Our annual used book sale is coming in October, so please start saving your adult & children's books, plus puzzles, games, and DVDs. Book Sale donations will be accepted on Oct. 20-23, followed by the sale on Oct. 24-25. Mark your calendars to bring donations and come and buy books. All profits go to UMW Missions Projects.



Photo from Dean's reception July 20. Courtesy of Jeanette Carlson.

A Farewell Thank You

On behalf of my whole family I wish to thank this congregation for the love and support we have always experienced here. It has been my greatest joy to serve as organist and music director for so many years. The opportunity to lead in the worship of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and the building up of each other in Christ is something I will never forget. I have loved this ministry with youth, adults and children with vocal and handbells and instrumentalists. The tours all over the US and two European tours will always remain in my heart. We are so grateful for the generous love offering from you all and plan to put it to good and charitable uses. I will miss you all so much but am also eager to see what God has in store for us in the next phase of ministry.

May God Bless you and keep you!

—Dean, Megan, Faith & Chad



Acme Community Cash Back

Please save your Acme receipts for Work Camp. There will be a container to collect them at the Welcome Center or you can mail them to the church office. Receipts must be intact, dated August 1, 2025-February 15, 2026, and have "Community Cash Back" on the bottom. Thank you for your support!



THE ARTS SERIES CONCERTS 2025

First United Methodist Church Cuyahoga Falls



The Moonlight Serenaders Big Band—Friday, October 17, time TBD. Join us for a concert with "Akron's Longest Continuously Performing Big Band." *Comprised of talented musicians and vocalists, the twenty-plus member band brings to life the sound of the original Big Band era with the rich full-sound and tunes of the world's most popular music performed live in theaters, dance halls, society events and corporate celebrations. The band provides a perfect mixture of recognizable music composed and recorded by Glenn Miller, George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Harry James, The Dorsey Brothers, Artie Shaw, Bennie Goodman and sing along favorites from Frank Sinatra to Dean Martin.*

Patron Information

Help us to grow our Arts Series. Become a patron today! Mail your contributions to First United Methodist Church, c/o Concert Series. Friend: \$5-\$24, Patron: \$25-\$49, Bronze: \$50-\$99, Silver: \$100-\$199, Gold: \$200-299, Platinum: \$300+



Welcome to our New Music Staff

We are overjoyed to welcome Marie Willis as our new Director of Music and Worship! Marie brings with her a rich background in choral direction, worship planning, and community engagement. With a Master's in Music Education from the University of Akron and over a decade of experience leading music ministry, Marie is passionate about creating meaningful worship through music for people of all ages.

Her work with Phoenix Performing Arts, Cleveland Chamber Choir, and Singers Company, highlights her excellence as both a performer and mentor. Marie also brings creativity and leadership through her design and photography business, Little M Photography, and is actively involved in civic life and community service.

We are likewise thrilled to welcome Eric Charnofsky as the new Organist and Choir Accompanist! Eric brings a wealth of experience as a professional pianist, organist, composer, and educator. He has served in music ministry in several United Methodist congregations and has performed extensively with orchestras and chamber ensembles across the country.

Eric has taught at Case Western Reserve University, The Juilliard School, and the Cleveland Institute of Music, and is active with numerous music organizations throughout Northeast Ohio. His passion for sacred music, collaborative spirit, and dedication to excellence make him a wonderful addition to our worship life.

Please join us in warmly welcoming Marie and Eric to the First UMC family!



Rally Day, September 14, 2025

Plan to join us for the beginning of our fall activities and events.

Start the day with **Sunday School at 9:30am.**

Classes for children from 4 years – 5th grade meet together in Room 104

6th grade – Meet in Room 107

10:45am with Dismissal for Children's Worship

There is child care for children 3 and younger in the Toddler room 238 from 9:30am through the end of the Worship Service. Please bring your children to their classroom and sign them in with emergency contact info.

Children's Worship meets during the 10:45 a.m. Worship Service.

Children will be dismissed after God's Words for Young Disciples. We start in the Chapel and move to Asbury Hall where you will pick them up after the service. *Please Note: We do not have Children's Worship on the first Sunday of each month so that the children may stay with their families for Communion. Parent's meeting in the Chapel once the classes have begun at 9:30 a.m. Please plan to attend.*

Wednesday, September 17 Music rehearsals and ROCK activities begin.

Choir and Bells begins at 4:30pm

Rock Activities are from 5:30 – 6:30pm

Please pick up the children in Asbury Hall or their activity rooms at 6:30pm. There will be a short Parent Meeting at 4:30pm in Asbury Hall. Complete calendars for these events and special events will be handed out at the meeting.

Blessing of the Backpacks - Students and teachers should bring their backpacks to the 10:45am Worship on Rally Day and receive a blessing for your school year and a gift.

Bible Presentations- On Sunday September 21 at the 10:45am service, all second graders will receive a Bible to use during all of the children's activities. If you would like to have a child receive a Bible and have not been notified by mail, please contact Donna Curfman ASAP to add them to the list.

Christian Education



Epworth Youth News

Greetings Epworth Youth and Parents: It is time to kick-off another Epworth Youth Season. Sunday, September 7 at 5:00pm (this is a time change) we will hold a mandatory parent and youth meeting in Asbury. This initial meeting is critical due to the extra planning necessary for the Epworth Choir to include Disney World in the Spring tour. Our agenda for the meeting is as follows: Meet and greet with Marie Willis-Guarneri our new Director of Music and Worship and Epworth Choir details, initial information regarding tour from Jen Ward, and Youth Fellowship dates and details from Pastor Pippin. Parents please bring medical cards so forms can be completed on site. Following the meeting Marie will hold Epworth Choir rehearsal. Epworth Youth Fellowship kicks-off on Rally Day with Messy Games!