

First Church News

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First United Methodist Church

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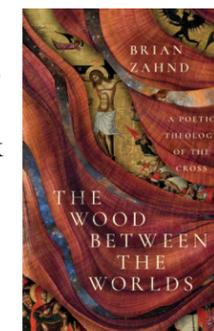
First Church NEWS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2026

A Note from Pastor Priebe

In the next few weeks, the season of Lent will begin in a world that feels divided by fear, exhausted by outrage, and unsure where hope can still be found. We carry questions about suffering, violence, justice, and the character of God. We will prepare our hearts for Holy Week when we will remember the cross of Christ in anticipation of his resurrection. What can the cross mean in today's world?



This Lent, we invite you into a six-week journey called "The Wood Between the Worlds," inspired by Brian Zahnd's book with the same title. The Wood Between the Worlds reflects deeply on the cross; the place where heaven and earth meet, where human violence and divine love collide, and where God is revealed most fully.

The cross is seen by some as a thing of violence demanded by a holy, angry God. But on the cross, Jesus enters the human machinery of blame, sacrifice, and fear, exposing it for what it is. The cross is not an act of divine violence, but the place where human violence is unmasked and undone by love.

Throughout Lent, we will explore what the cross reveals about God, about ourselves, and about the world God longs to heal. We will listen to Scripture with fresh ears and discover that repentance is not about self-punishment, but about turning away from death-dealing ways and toward mercy, justice, and peace. In a season when the world often seems loud and relentless, Lent invites us to slow down and look again at the cross, the wood between the worlds.

The Gift/Memorial Book is located in the parlor and is open to **Emma Barack Waltermire** and **Robert Kale**.



Our Sympathies to the families of members Dwight Konic (d.12/28) Herbert Weiser (d.12/29), Rose Ann Youngkin (d.1/8), Lavinia McIntyre (d.1/15), Scott Adie (d.1/24)

A very special Thank You to all who stopped by with well wishes and cards for my 90th birthday celebration. Thank you to my sweet daughter for making the arrangements. —LeAnn Lloyd

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 **March FCN is Thursday, February 19.**

A Note About Inclement Weather...

In case of inclement weather check our website, Facebook, or WKYC (channel 3) for notices about cancellations. We try our best to remain open as long as it is safe for folks to travel.



February

February 1—8:30am & 10:45am
Communion Sunday

February 8— 8:30am & 10:45 am
Boy Scout Sunday/ Pancake Breakfast

February 15—8:30am & 10:45am
Youth Sunday

February 18—7:00pm Ash Wednesday
@St. John's Episcopal

February 22—8:30am & 10:45am
First Sunday in Lent

Rev. Priebe preaching: 2/1, 2/8, 2/22

Easter Flowers



It's time to order Easter flowers! The list of donors, as well as those honored/memorialized will be published in the bulletin on Easter Sunday. Please make your check out to the church and return it with the order form below by Monday March 2 @noon. The cost is \$10 per plant. Be sure to indicate which type and the number of plants you would like in each box. Thank you!

- Hyacinths
- Daffodils
- Tulips
- Lilies

Name: _____

In honor/in memory (circle one):

Epworth Pasta Dinner, February 21, 5:30-7:30pm

We are doing things a bit differently this year. The dinner and show will run simultaneously, like dinner theater! See below for ticket prices and options. Tickets will be available for purchase from Epworth members and the church office beginning February 1, and on Sunday mornings, February 8, and 15. We are super excited about this year's event. Hope to see you there!

Presale Ticket prices:

- Adult dinner and show \$12
- Adult show only \$5
- Child 4-10 presale dinner and show \$6
- Child 4-10 presale show only \$3

Day of event: Adult at the door dinner and show \$15, Child at the door dinner and show \$6, Children 3 and under free.



Membership Class

On Saturday, March 28, we will offer a day-long *New Persons Discovery Class* from 9:30am to 2:00pm (includes lunch). This class is designed especially for those who are unable to attend the traditional Sunday morning membership series. There's a sign-up in the Welcome Center, or call the office, 330-923-5241, to register. Pastor Pippin would be happy to answer any questions fallsfirstpippin@gmail.com, x217.

Acme Receipts

There's only a few more weeks of this program. We'll continue to collect Acme receipts for Work Camp through **February 15, 2026**. You can place your receipts in the box on the Welcome Center, or bring them to the church office. Thank you for supporting Work Camp 2026.



Preston Backpacks/Spring Break

We are once again providing food for the children at Preston Elementary School for their spring break in late March. The Giving Board with cards and requested items will be placed in the Breezeway mid-February with items due by March 15. Thank you in advance for helping us provide needed supplies for the vulnerable children in our local school district.

Pizza w/Pastors

Please encourage any new folks you see to attend our next luncheon on Sunday, February 22, after the 10:45am worship in Asbury Hall. There's a sign-up at the Welcome Center, or they can call the church office.



Joshua 1:9
The Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Christian Education

R.O.C.K. Continues

Our Wednesday activities will continue through February into April with Bells and Choir meeting from 4:30-5:30pm, and ROCK activities following from 5:30-6:30pm. Please plan to attend if possible! Special events include a Seder meal on March 11, and packing Preston Backpacks on March 18.



2026 Ecumenical Lenten Activities

- Ash Wednesday Service
St. John's Episcopal Church
- Ecumenical Lenten Study
Northampton United Methodist Church
- Lenten Soup Supper
Pilgrim United Church of Christ
- Maundy Thursday Service
St. Luke's Lutheran Church
- Good Friday Service
First Christian Church
- Easter Vigil/ Sunrise Service
Outdoors/Church Square Greenspace
Light Breakfast, First United Methodist

- Wednesday, February 18 @7:00pm
- Mondays, February 23-March 30 @7pm
- Wednesday, March 11 @6-8:00pm
- Thursday, April 2 @7:00pm
- Friday, April 3 @7:00pm
- Sunday, April 5 @6:00am



Lenten Study

Our Ecumenical Lenten Study is hosted by Northampton United Methodist (845 W. Bath Rd, 44223) this year. The study is entitled "Blessed Are the Meek," published by the Society of St. Andrew. *Few of us aspire to meekness. Yet the scriptures routinely raise up small, lowly, poor, meek, and humble persons as testimony against institutions, societies, and leaders who use power against them.*

Written by faithful voices from across the country, these Lenten devotions invite you to slow down, open Scripture, embrace the quiet courage of meekness, and be shaped by the Lord who blesses the meek.

You can RSVP via the [link](#) or QR code above, or call the church office. It will run Monday evenings at 7:00pm, February 23-March 30.

Donation Wish list



First Church Feeds February Collection

FCF is collecting men's and women's deodorant and shampoo for the month of February. Donations can be brought in to the boxes by the church Library. Thank you for supporting First Church Feeds!

Work Camp 2026

Work Camp '26: Mark your calendars for Work Camp June 7-13 at the Henderson Settlement in Frakes, KY. Teens and adults who are willing to do service through hard work are encouraged to sign-up. Any questions can be directed to Jack Steele 330-697-8344.



Men's Time Out

All the men are invited to gather on February 7, for some food, a time for discussion, and lots of fellowship! MTO runs from 8:30-9:30am in Asbury Hall.



Weekday Christian Preschool

Registration is open for 2026-27 school year. Please contact Jennifer Brooks at 330-923-5243 for more information or to schedule a tour, or visit our website for more including 2026-27 enrollment forms.