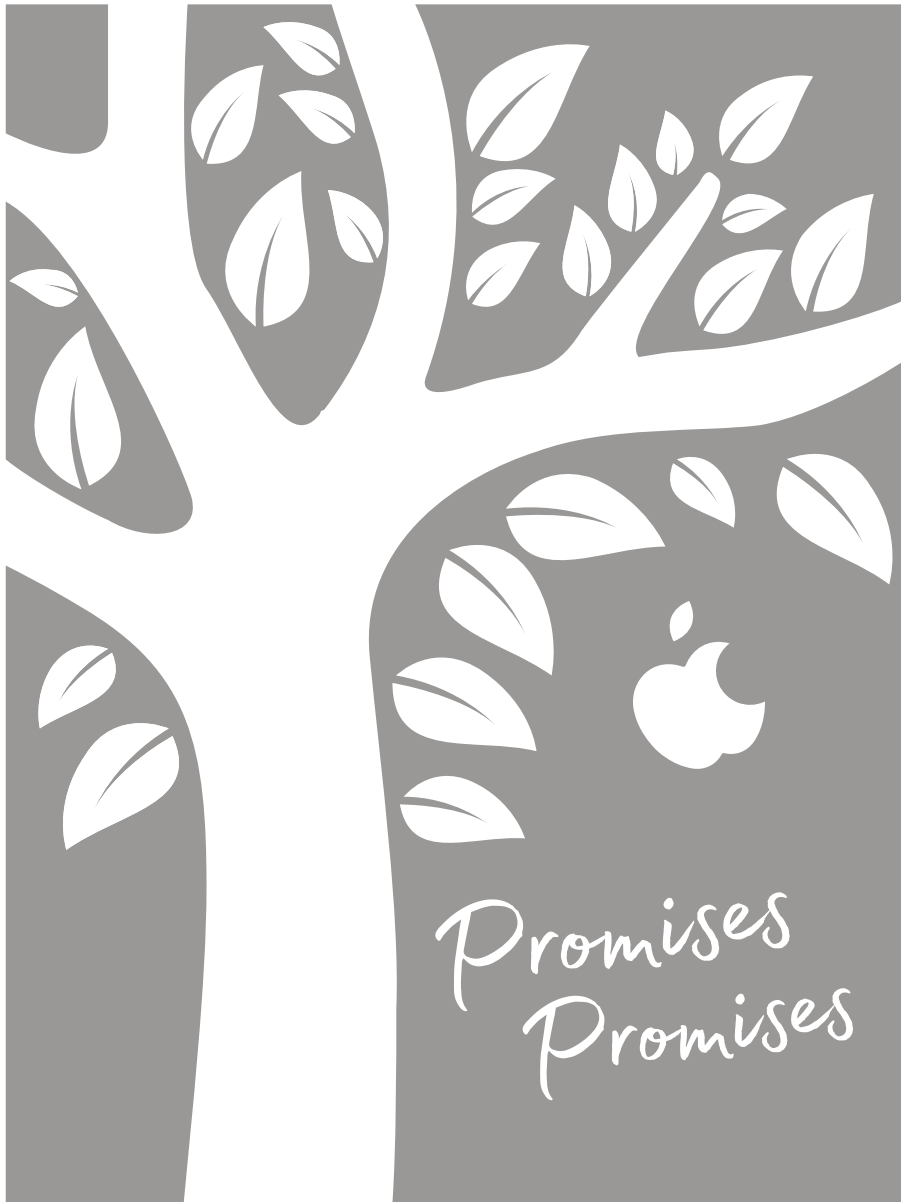


First United Methodist Church Cuyahoga Falls



Welcome to Worship and Live Streaming @9:30am

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30am

July 19, 2026

GATHERING

The people of God come together in the Lord's name.

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude--Preludium--Arthur Graham

Call to Worship--

Nothing is too hard for the Lord!

The God who promises is the God who fulfills.

Come worship the Almighty One who brings hope where hope seems impossible.

Rejoice in the power of God, whose word never fails.

Opening Hymn**131--We Gather Together

Invocation (please be seated)--

God of power and wonder, strengthen our faith today. Where doubt has taken root, remind us that You are able to do far more than we imagine. Fill this place with joy, hope, and confidence in Your promises. Help us believe that nothing is impossible for You. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages.

Scripture Reading--Genesis 18:1-15

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem--Grace--Mark Hayes

Summer Choir

God's Word for Young Disciples-- (congregation sings "Jesus Loves Me" as the children come forward)

Sermon--*“Promises, Promises: The Impossible Promise”*

Pastor Howard Pippin

RESPONSE

The People respond to the Word

Hymn of Response **496--*Sweet Hour of Prayer*

Discipleship Moment

Offertory--*Versettes--James Robinson*

Doxology**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Prayers of the People/The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Communion

SENDING FORTH

The people of God are sent forth to serve others and witness to their faith.

Closing Hymn **525--*We'll Understand It Better By and By*

Benediction **666--*Shalom to You*

*Shalom to You now, shalom, my friends. May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.
In all your living and through your loving, Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.*

Postlude--*Gavotte, from Holberg Suite--Edvard Grieg*

**The flowers on the altar this morning are dedicated to the glory of God and given
in loving memory of Matthew Kerr, by Wade & Kim Kerr**

Music--One License A-731491

***indicates please stand as you are able*

Clergy & Staff

Jon Priebe, Lead Minister, fallsfirstjon@gmail.com
Howard Pippin, Associate Minister, fallsfirstpippin@gmail.com
Marvin Brown, Senior Minister Emeritus
Marie Willis-Guarneri, Director of Music & Worship
Eric Charnofsky, Organist & Accompanist
Donna Curfman, Director of Children's Ministries
Jennifer Brooks, Director of Weekday Christian Preschool
Office Staff: Christy Meyers-Receptionist,
Nancy Yeager-Finance, Kim Kerr-Membership/Calendar,
Sarah Neri-Publishing

Contact Information

245 Portage Trail
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221
330-923-5241

Office Hours: M-F 9am-3pm
infofumccf@gmail.com
www.firstchurchcf.com



Prayer Requests/Pastoral Care

The fastest way to contact us is to call the church office. After hours voicemails come through to the church staff.

HYMN LYRICS

OPENING HYMN

#131 We Gather Together

1. We gather together
to ask the Lord's blessing;
he chastens and hastens
his will to make known.
The wicked oppressing
now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to his name,
he forgets not his own.

2. Beside us to guide us,
our God with us joining,
ordaining, maintaining
his kingdom divine;
so from the beginning
the fight we were winning;
thou, Lord, wast at our side,
all glory be thine!

3. We all do extol thee,
thou leader triumphant,
and pray that thou still
our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation
escape tribulation;
thy name be ever praised!
O Lord, make us free!

HYMN OF RESPONSE

#496 Sweet Hour of Prayer

1. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
that calls me from a world of care,
and bids me at my Father's throne
make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief,
my soul has often found relief,
and oft escaped the tempter's snare
by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

2. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
the joys I feel, the bliss I share
of those whose anxious spirits burn
with strong desires for thy return!
With such I hasten to the place
where God my Savior shows his face,
and gladly take my station there,
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

3. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
thy wings shall my petition bear
to him whose truth and faithfulness
engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since he bids me seek his face,
believe his word, and trust his grace,
I'll cast on him my every care,
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

CLOSING HYMN

#525 We Gather Together

1. 1. We are tossed and driven
on the restless sea of time;
somber skies and howling tempests
oft succeed a bright sunshine;
in that land of perfect day,
when the mists are rolled away,
we will understand it better by and by.

Refrain:

By and by, when the morning comes,
when the saints of God are gathered home,
we'll tell the story how we've overcome,
for we'll understand it better by and by.

2. We are often destitute
of the things that life demands,
want of food and want of shelter,
thirsty hills and barren lands;
we are trusting in the Lord,
and according to God's word,
we will understand it better by and by. Refrain

3. Trials dark on every hand,
and we cannot understand
all the ways of God would lead us
to that blessed promised land;
but he guides us with his eye,
and we'll follow till we die,
for we'll understand it better by and by. Refrain

4. Temptations, hidden snares
often take us unawares,
and our hearts are made to bleed
for a thoughtless word or deed;
and we wonder why the test
when we try to do our best,
but we'll understand it better by and by. Refrain

BENEDICTION

#666 Shalom to You

Shalom to You now, shalom, my friends.
May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.

In all your living and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

CHURCH NOTES 7-19-26

Nursery Help Needed: We are in need of adult help in the nursery on Sunday mornings from now through the end of September. Volunteers are welcome to sign up for any combination of Sundays. We encourage parents who are using the service to help at least one time during this period. Contact Donna Curfman if you would like more information, or would like to help.

New Members Classes: We invite everyone interested in learning more about First Church, getting to know our pastors, or joining the church as members, to attend our upcoming sessions. Please sign up for one session with Pastor Pippin and one session with Pastor Jon, held after summer worship in the Parlor. See the *Welcome Center* or call the office to sign up.

Session 1: Spiritual Foundation (July 12, 19, or 26)

Led by Pastor Pippin, covering the "Disciple Like Jesus" book and spiritual gifts.

Session 2: Heritage & History (August 16, 23, or 30)

Led by Pastor Jon, covering Wesley, UMC history, and the story of First Church.

A Call for Submissions: First Church is seeking submissions for our first art show "*Healing through the Human Experience*" as part of our Fall Art Series. Please share with your artist friends. The show will run from October-January with events and concerts throughout the exhibition. Contact Marie Willis-Guarneri for more information. Submissions are due by August 23. *See more info about our Arts Series and Cottage Meetings on page 9.*

Golf Outing: The 20th Annual Bud Mills Golf Outing benefitting Epworth Choir will take place on Saturday, September 19 at Fox Den golf course. Check the Welcome Center or the weekly email for registration brochures.

Communion Servers Needed: Thank you to all those who have signed up to help serve communion. There are still spaces available. The sign-up sheets are in narthex.



[Click here to view this week's prayer list.](#)

Join Us In Prayer

FODDER

The Impossible Promise

Sarah's Laugh Revealed Her Soul (vv. 9–12)

She was laughing because reality seemed stronger than God's Word.

God Heard the Laugh No One Else Heard (vv. 13–14)

Questions invite reflection.

God's Promise Was Greater Than Sarah's Doubt

Our faith doesn't create God's ability. It simply receives what God has promised.

The Last Laugh Belonged to God

God transformed cynical laughter into grateful worship.

Reflection questions: How does knowing nothing is too hard for God change how you view life circumstances?

Memory verse: Genesis 18:14 **Is anything too hard for the Lord?**

Next week: Genesis 22 - Promises, Promises: Ram in the Bush

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS



First United Methodist Church is seeking artwork for an exhibition titled: **Healing Through the Human Experience**. Artists are encouraged to submit reflections on healing. This exhibition is open to all in the community. Please submit only human-made artworks (no ai)

Entry deadline: August 23, 2026
Show: October 2-January 2027.

All ages welcome. Gallery will be open to the public during regular office hours daily. In conjunction with the show, special performances and events will be held throughout the exhibition.

**SCAN QR CODE
TO ACCESS ARTIST
SUBMISSION FORM**



FIRSTCHURCHCF.COM | FB: ART SERIES AT FIRST CHURCH | FALLSFIRSTMARIE@GMAIL.COM



Small Group COTTAGE MEETINGS

We invite you to view the latest concept illustrations for the Church Square redevelopment project. You'll also have a chance to discuss and ask questions in a small group format.

Thursday, August 13 @11:00am

Wednesday, August 19 @7:00pm

Tuesday, September 1 @7:00pm

Sunday, September 6 @10:45am (after worship)

See the sign-up at the *Welcome Center* or call the office