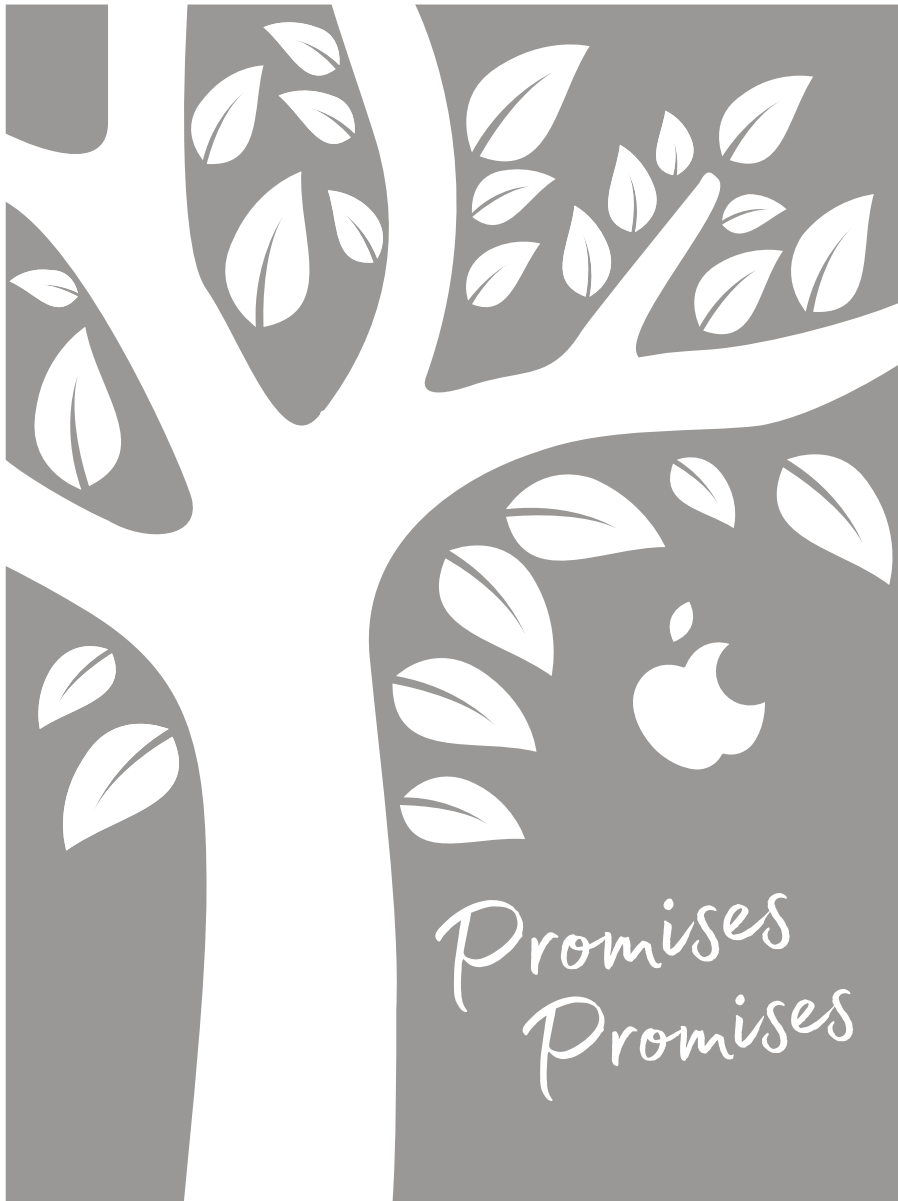


First United Methodist Church Cuyahoga Falls



Welcome to Worship and Live Streaming @9:30am

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30am

August 16, 2026

GATHERING

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

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude--The Holy Shepherd--Theo Bonheur

Call to Worship--

We gather in peace

Graced by the living, risen Christ!

Christ welcomes us

We come with joy to meet our savior. Alleluia!

Opening Hymn**414--Thou Hidden Love of God

Invocation (please be seated)--

Prepare our hearts, O Lord, to receive your word. Silence in us any voice but your own; that, hearing, we may also obey your will, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

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

Scripture Reading--Genesis 28:10-22

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

Anthem--It Is Well--arr. John Ness Beck

Summer Choir

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

Sermon--"Promises, Promises: God's Presence in Uncertainty"

Pastor Jon Priebe

RESPONSE

The People respond to the Word

Hymn of Response **528--Nearer, My God, to Thee

Discipleship Moment

Offertory--Andantino--Jacob Blied

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 (Hymnal p. 13)

SENDING FORTH

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

Closing Hymn **126--Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

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--Fugue in D Minor--Johann Pachelbel

**The flowers on the altar this morning are dedicated to the glory of God and given
in loving memory of her parents Richard & Mildred, and brothers Ron & Steve Bunner,
by Dottie Schmith
in loving memory of Bonnie Shultz, by Val Reidthaler**

Ignatian Prayer of Tielhard de Chardin - "Patient Trust"

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.

We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay.

We should like to skip the intermediate stages.

We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new.

And yet it is the law of all progress

that it is made by passing through some stages of instability—

and that it may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you;

your ideas mature gradually... let them grow,

let them shape themselves, without undue haste.

Don't try to force them on,

as though you could be today what time

(that is to say, grace and circumstances acting on your own good will)

will make of you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit

gradually forming within you will be.

Give Our Lord the benefit of believing

that his hand is leading you,

and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself

in suspense and incomplete.

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

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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

#414 Thou Hidden Love of God

1. Thou hidden love of God, whose height,
whose depth unfathomed no one knows,
I see from far thy beauteous light,
and inly sigh for thy repose;
my heart is pained, nor can it be
at rest, till it finds rest in thee.

2. 'Tis mercy all that thou hast brought
my mind to seek its peace in thee;
yet while I seek, but find thee not,
no peace my wandering soul shall see.
O when shall all my wanderings end,
and all my steps to thee-ward tend?

3. Is there a thing beneath the sun
that strives with thee my heart to share?
Ah, tear it thence and reign alone,
the Lord of every motion there;
then shall my heart from earth be free,
when it hath found repose in thee.

4. O Love, thy sovereign aid impart
to save me from low-thoughted care;
chase this self-will from all my heart,
from all its hidden mazes there;
make me thy duteous child that I
ceaseless may "Abba, Father" cry.

5. Each moment draw from earth away
my heart that lowly waits thy call;
speak to my inmost soul and say,
"I am thy love, thy God, thy all!"
To feel thy power, to hear thy voice,
to taste thy love, be all my choice.

HYMN OF RESPONSE

#528 Nearer, My God, to Thee

1. Nearer, my God, to thee,
nearer to thee!
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me,
still all my song shall be,
nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

2. Though like the wanderer,
the sun gone down,
darkness be over me, my rest a stone;
yet in my dreams I'd be
nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

3. There let the way appear,
steps unto heaven;
all that thou sendest me, in mercy given;
angels to beckon me
nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

4. Then, with my waking thoughts
bright with thy praise,
out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll raise;
so by my woes to be
nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

5. Or if, on joyful wing cleaving the sky,
sun, moon, and stars forgot, upward I fly,
still all my song shall be,
nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

CLOSING HYMN

#126 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

1. Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled
and every faithless murmur stilled:
To God all praise and glory.

2. The Lord is never far away,
but through all grief distressing,
an ever present help and stay,
our peace and joy and blessing.
As with a mother's tender hand,
God gently leads the chosen band:
To God all praise and glory.

3. Thus all my toilsome way along,
I sing aloud thy praises,
that earth may hear the grateful song
my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,
both soul and body bear your part:
To God all praise and glory.

4. Let all who name Christ's holy name
give God all praise and glory;
let all who own his power proclaim
aloud the wondrous story!
Cast each false idol from its throne,
for Christ is Lord, and Christ alone:
To God all praise and glory.

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 8-16-26

Final 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.

Women’s Bible Studies: This fall the **Tuesday evening** Women's Bible study will be reading “*The Patriarchs*” by Beth Moore. Encounter the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in this study of Genesis 12-50. Follow the stories of these patriarchs of our faith-their relationships with God and their failures and redemptions. The group meets on Tuesday evenings in the Youth Lounge from 7-9pm, beginning on **September 15**. The study runs 11 weeks (through November 24.) The cost for the book is \$20. You may register at the Welcome Center, by calling the church office, or email Kathy Kuzas at kuzmom@att.net. **Registration ends Thursday, September 3.**

The **Wednesday morning** Women's Bible study will be based on Kristi McClelland's book, “*Jesus & Women: In the First Century and Now.*” Join biblical culturalist Kristi McLelland as she transports you back to Jesus’ world, following in the footsteps of the women who came face-to-face with the Living God. Over 7 sessions, examine the historical and cultural climate of first-century Middle Eastern society to not only understand Jesus more deeply but to fuel your worship of Him today. We will begin on **Wednesday, Sept. 23 @10:00am** in the church library. The cost for the book is \$25.00. Sign up at the Welcome Center, or by contacting the church office. **The deadline is September 11.**

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.

First Church Feeds: FCF is collecting shampoo and adult toothbrushes for the month of August. Donations can be brought in to the bins by the church library.

UMW “Unbake” Sale: Instead of holding a bake sale, United Women in Faith is hosting an Unbake Sale. Rather than purchasing baked goods, we invite you to donate the amount you might have spent at a bake sale—or even a little more.

Your gift supports projects around the world, community centers across the country, and local ministries including Open M, Family Promise, First Church Feeds, Habitat for Humanity, Good Neighbors, and others.

To participate, please make checks payable to UMW and write “Unbake Sale” in the memo line. You may place your donation in the offering plate, give it to a UWF member, or mail it to: Millie Keyser 3511 River Rock Drive Cuy. Falls, OH 44223

FODDER

Journeying “In-Between”

Genesis 28:11 - Jacob is sleeping in the bed he has made himself

In between the home he left, the consequences he faced, and a future he cannot see

Presence in Uncertainty

Genesis 28:15 – God reminds Jacob that God’s promises are bigger than his problems

Faith is rarely knowing where the road goes, it’s trusting who is with us on the journey

Questions for Reflection: Why do you think God gives Jacob the promise “I am with you” rather than simply explaining what will happen? Where am I experiencing uncertainty right now? How can I bring this reminder of God’s enduring presence into those parts of my life?

Questions for Discussion: Jacob discovered, “Surely the LORD is in this place and I did not know it.” Have you ever looked back on a difficult season and realized God was present even when you didn't recognize it at the time?

Memory Verse: **Genesis 28:15a** – “Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go...”

Readings for this Week: Genesis 37 and 39, Psalm 46



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

Join Us In Prayer

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)

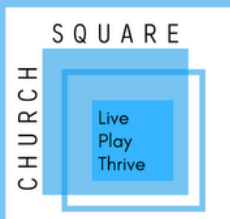
Entry deadline: August 23, 2026
Show: October 2-January 2027.

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~~ Full

~~Wednesday, August 19 @7:00pm~~ Full

Tuesday, September 1 @7:00pm

Sunday, August 30 @10:45am (after worship)

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

EPWORTH AUGUST 29 - 30
SUMMER CAMP
 MUSIC | FELLOWSHIP | DEVOTIONAL TIME | GAMES



Epworth will begin at Waterworks Park at 8:30 for park clean-up. Immediately following, we will load up and carpool to Heindel Farm for a weekend of music, camping, games and fellowship. Cost is \$20. Scholarships available. RSVP to Marie Willis-Guarneri.

**SHOP & EARN
 5% CASH BACK FOR
 First UMC
 Work Camp 2027**



IT'S EASY!

Save your Acme Fresh Market receipts dated August 1, 2026 – February 15, 2027 to help us raise money!



Earn 5% Community Cash Back on these Participating Brands:



**SUPPORT
 WORK CAMP**

Save your Acme receipts! 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, 2026-February 15, 2027, and have "Community Cash Back" on the bottom. Thank you for your support!