



First Church NEWS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2026

A Note from the Pastor

I hope most of you have heard by now that this summer our family adopted Grace, who had been placed with us for foster care from when she was two months old. We are overjoyed to officially welcome her into our family!

Pastor Pippin and I have been working with the PPRC committee to plan for me to take parental leave, as is expected of clergy by our annual conference after the birth or adoption of a child. I wanted to share the details of this plan and our appreciation for their support, and yours, as we take this vital time for our family.



My last day before this leave will be Tuesday, September 15th and I will be returning after Thanksgiving. I plan to continue to teach the Pastor's Sunday school class on John's gospel and my family will attend worship, but Pastor Pippin will be responsible for the pulpit and other areas of the life of the church. We are so thankful to be in ministry here these last eight years and look forward to being back with you later this year!

Thanks for your support, love, and kindness!

-Pastor Jon

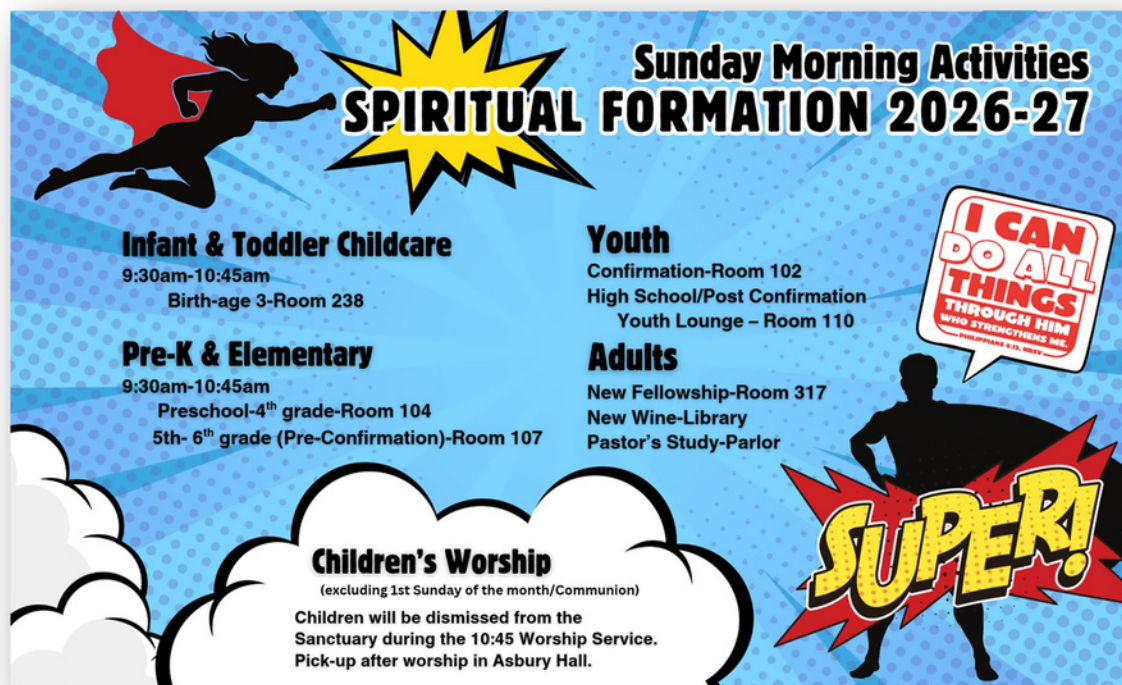
Are you ready to Rally?

It's hard to believe we are back to fall programming September 13! It's a busy day, here's what's happening!

- Return to two services @8:30am—Communion each week, @10:45am—Children's Worship & Choirs
- Sunday School for ALL ages will resume @9:30am each week. See the next page for information about our classes and where they meet.
- Blessing of Backpacks—teachers & students bring your bags for a blessing (10:45am)
- Bishop's Visit—Bishop Hee-Soo Jung will be here to preach at both services
- Church Square Picnic—Join us @noon in the greenspace for a picnic (see the article on the 3rd page for more information)

Rally Day
Sunday, September 13





Sunday Morning Activities SPIRITUAL FORMATION 2026-27

Infant & Toddler Childcare
9:30am-10:45am
Birth-age 3-Room 238

Pre-K & Elementary
9:30am-10:45am
Preschool-4th grade-Room 104
5th- 6th grade (Pre-Confirmation)-Room 107

Youth
Confirmation-Room 102
High School/Post Confirmation
Youth Lounge – Room 110

Adults
New Fellowship-Room 317
New Wine-Library
Pastor's Study-Parlor

Children's Worship
(excluding 1st Sunday of the month/Communion)
Children will be dismissed from the Sanctuary during the 10:45 Worship Service. Pick-up after worship in Asbury Hall.

I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH HIM WHO STRENGTHENS ME

SUPER!



Sunday School Begins

Sunday School for ALL ages begins on September 13 @9:30am. See the graphic for times and locations.

Sunday Evenings

Activities for ages Preschool through High School ages will now take place on Sunday evenings. Please make sure to bring your updated [Family Information Card](#) and [Liability, Medical & Photo Release](#) forms to the first week, or email to Donna asap. Those forms can be found at the Welcome Center, on our website under Children & Youth Ministries, or Stack app (Epworth). Thank you!



Sunday Evening Activities



4:00-4:30 Bethlehem Choir (Preschool-4th grades)
 4:30-5:30 R.O.C.K. Activities (Preschool-4th grades)
 4:00-5:15 Wesley Youth Choir & Bells (5th-8th grades)
 4:00-5:15 Epworth Youth Fellowship (9th-12th grades)
 5:15-5:45 Wesley/Epworth "Snack Supper" (5th-12th grades)
 5:45-7:00 Wesley Youth Fellowship (5th-8th grades)
 5:45-8:00 Epworth Choir & Bells (9th-12th grades)







Christian Education

Sunday School, Sunday Evening Activities & Children's Worship

See graphics above

Blessing of Backpacks Students and teachers bring your bags for a blessing during worship on Rally Day, Sunday, September 13 during the 10:45am service.

2nd Grade Bible Presentation September 27 we'll present Bibles to our 2nd grade students at the 10:45am worship. If you would like to have a child receive a Bible and have not been notified, please contact Donna Curfman ASAP to add them to the list. dcurfmanfallsumc@gmail.com, 330-923-5241 x213

Contact Info For any questions regarding children's programming please contact: Donna Curfman, dcurfman-fallsumc@gmail.com or 330-923-5241 x213

Epworth M&M Fundraiser



How this fundraiser works:

1. Enjoy your M & M's
2. Fill the empty container with a *check, cash, or coins
3. Write your name on the label and return it to church by October 18

Your donation helps to support Epworth Youth Events, Missions, & Youth Sponsored Outreach to the community.

*Checks should be made out to First United Methodist Church, with M&M fundraiser in the memo line. Thank you for your support!

Men's Time Out

All men of the church and community are invited to join us Saturday, September 5 for some food, a time for discussion, and lots of fellowship! MTO runs from 8:30-9:30am in Asbury Hall the first Saturday of each month.



Family Promise

Family Promise renovations on the old and new shelter will be completed some time in September. At that time we will need to begin increasing our monthly food donations from 10 of each of the items to 17. We will continue to collect peanut butter, jelly, ramen noodles packages, Velveeta mac and cheese (or any other similar shells and cheese product that doesn't require additional ingredients), and canned fruit.



News from the United Women in Faith

We will NOT have a Book Sale this year. Please DO NOT drop off books at the church. If you have books you'd like to donate, here are some suggestions. You should contact them first to see when you can drop them off.

Local Used Book Stores: The Mythical Bookworm in Munroe Falls (330-808-1789), Shelf Life in downtown Cuyahoga Falls (234-414-4145), Local Libraries: Cuyahoga Falls Library (330-928-2117), Stow Public Library (330-688-3295), Akron Public Library (330-643-9000).

Thank you for all the donations and purchases of books over the past 14 years. You helped us distribute gifts to many different mission projects.

Picnic Information

Our annual Church Square Picnic will be held after worship on Sept. 13. Hamburgers, hotdogs, and tableware will be provided. Our Community Life/Program Team is asking each church to provide a different category. **We will bring side dishes** (ex. coleslaw, potato salad, garden salad, hot dishes, etc.) or **beverages** (2 liters or gallons of soda, unsweet iced tea, lemonade, punch) ice & cups provided. We could also use able-bodied folks to help tear down the event. See the event sign-up at the Welcome Center or use the QR code. See you there!

Join us for our annual
CHURCH SQUARE PICNIC
Sunday, September 13 @ Noon
Sign up to bring a side dish or beverage to share!



Annual Golf Outing

Calling all golfers and sponsors! Join us for the 20th annual Bud Mills Golf Outing benefitting Epworth Youth Choir, **Saturday, September 19, 2026** at Fox Den. You can find [registration brochures](#) and [sponsorship information](#) at the Welcome Center, church office, or on our website. **Register and pay by September 13 to be entered into a special raffle!** If you'd like to volunteer to work the event, please reach out to Marie Willis-Guarneri fallsfirstmarie@gmail.com.



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Jon Priebe - Lead Minister x211; Howard Pippin - Associate Minister x217; Marvin Brown - Senior Minister Emeritus; Marie Willis - Director of Music & Worship x221; Eric Charnofsky - Organist & Accompanist; Jennifer Brooks - Director of Weekday Preschool x220; Donna Curfman - Children's Ministry Coordinator x213; Christy Meyers - Receptionist x210; Nancy Yeager - Finance x216; Sarah Neri - Publishing x212; Kim Kerr - Calendar x214; Ann Kaiser - Kitchen Manager; Joe Demeter & Greg Guarneri - Custodians



The Gift/Memorial Book is located in the parlor and is open to **Rachel L. Salladay** and **Katherine Lucille Clowers**.

Our Deepest Sympathies to the families of **Peg Yeager**, who passed away on 8/12, **Don Howell**, who passed on 8/15, and **Cathy Hammonds** who passed on 8/18.

Congratulations to Tessa & Matt Lawrence on the birth of their son, **Cole Matthew Lawrence**, born August 14. Proud grandparents are Tom & Barb DiTirro. Congratulations to Sabrina & Brandon Mackey on the birth of their daughter, **Violet Marie Mackey**, born August 21. Proud grandparents are Don & Christine Tausch.

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.

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

The deadline for the **October FCN** is **Thursday, September 17**.

September 6—9:30am

September 13— 8:30am & 10:45am

Rally Day, Sunday School begins @9:30am

Backpack Blessings, Church Square Picnic @noon

September 20—8:30am & 10:45am

M & M Fundraiser Begins

September 27—8:30am & 10:45am

2nd grade Bible presentations



Communion will be offered September 6, and each Sunday at the 8:30am service.

Pastor Pippin is preaching 9/6, 9/20, 9/27. Bishop Jung will preach on Rally Day, Sept. 13, at both services.