Give thanks



THE CHARACTER OF A METHODIST

Welcome to Worship and Live-Streaming @10:45am

Welcome to Worship

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost November 8, 2026, 10:45am

GATHERING

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

Welcome

***Prelude**--Let Zion in Her Beauty Rise* --arr. Laurel Hunt Pedersen

***Introit**--Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here* Combined Choirs

***Call to Worship**--*

Every good gift comes from the generous heart of God.

We gather with grateful hearts for all we have received.

In seasons of joy and in times of struggle, God's grace surrounds us.

Let us worship the God whose goodness and faithfulness never fail!

***Opening Hymn**114**--Many Gifts, One Spirit*

Invocation** (please be seated)**--

Gracious and loving God, open our eyes to the countless gifts of grace that surround us each day. Teach us to recognize Your presence not only in moments of joy but also in life's challenges. Free us from taking Your blessings for granted, and fill our hearts with gratitude that shapes the way we live, love, and serve. May our worship today remind us that everything we have is a gift from You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

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

***Scripture Reading**--*Psalm 138

Gloria Patri (Hymn #70)--

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

***Anthem**--My Lord, What a Morning*--arr. Sue Ellen Page Epworth Choir
Addy Neri, Joy Priebe, Wilbur Case-soloists

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

***Scripture Reading**--*1 Thessalonians 5:12-18
This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Sermon**--"Everything Is a Gift"* Pastor Howard Pippin

RESPONSE

The People respond to the Word

***Baptism**--*Cole Matthew Lawrence

Hymn of Response **399**--**Take My Life, and Let it Be

Discipleship Moment

***Offertory**--As Long as I Have Breath*--Sue Farrar Chancel Choir

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.

SENDING FORTH

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

Closing Hymn **606--***Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine***

***Benediction**--Let Us Share God's Love*--Stan Pethel Combined Choirs

***Postlude**--Grace*--Lani Smith

The flowers on the altar this morning are dedicated to the glory of God and given
in loving memory of her father, Bill Riedthaler, by Val Riedthaler

***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-Coordinator/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
#114 Many Gifts, One Spirit

1. God of change and glory,
God of time and space,
When we fear the future,
give to us your grace.
In the midst of changing ways
give us still the grace to praise.

Refrain: Many gifts, one Spirit,
one love known in many ways.
In our difference is blessing,
from diversity we praise
One Giver, one Lord, one Spirit, one Word
Known in many ways, hallowing our days.
For the Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise,
praise!

2. God of many colors, God of many signs,
You have made us different,
blessing many kinds.
As the old ways disappear,
let your love cast out our fear. *Refrain*

3.Freshness of the morning,
newness of each night,
You are still creating endless love and light.
This we see, as shadows part,
many gifts from one great heart. *Refrain.*

HYMN OF RESPONSE
#399 Take My Life, and Let it Be

1. Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.

2. Take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee.
Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.

3. Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

CLOSING HYMN

#606 Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine

1. Come, let us use the grace divine, and all with one accord,
in a perpetual covenant join ourselves to Christ the Lord;
Give up ourselves, thru Jesus' power, his name to glorify;
and promise, in this sacred hour, for God to live and die.

2. The covenant we this moment make be ever kept in mind;
we will no more our God forsake, or cast these words behind.
We never will throw off the fear of God who hears our vow;
and if thou art well pleased to hear, come down and meet us
now.

3. Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, let all our hearts receive,
present with thy celestial host the peaceful answer give;
to each covenant the blood apply which takes our sins away,
and register our names on high and keep us to that day!

NEXT Steps with Pastor Pippin

Everything Is a Gift - A Methodist Gives Thanks
Inspired by Five Marks of a Methodist: The Fruit of a Living Faith and the Wesleyan understanding of gratitude, grace, and generosity. 1 Thessalonians 5:12–18

Everything We Have Begins with God

One of the foundational truths of Christian stewardship is that everything we have ultimately belongs to God.

Gratitude Changes the Way We See Life

Paul tells the Thessalonians to "give thanks in all circumstances." Not for but IN. There's a difference.

Thanksgiving Becomes a Way of Life

Gratitude is not meant to remain a private feeling. It is meant to shape how we live together.

Reflection Questions: How might your perspective on life change if you began each day recognizing everything you have as a gift from God? Paul us to give thanks in all circumstances. How can we cultivate gratitude during difficult seasons without ignoring the reality of pain, loss, or disappointment?

Memory verse: 1 Thessalonians 5: 18 give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Next week: "Gratitude Lends Itself to Generosity" - 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

CHURCH NOTES 11-8-26

Consecration Sunday & Charge Conference: NEXT Sunday, November 15, we will gather after the 10:45am worship in Wesley Hall for our annual Charge Conference & Potluck (please bring your pledge card and a dish to share). We'll also recognize our 50 year members!

Christmas Poinsettias: We are taking Poinsettia orders now through November 11. The cost is $12 per plant. A list of donors, and those honored or memorialized will be printed in the bulletin on Christmas Eve. Please make checks out to First United Methodist Church with "poinsettia" in the memo. You can call the church office to leave information about honors or memorials, or fill out the form found at the Welcome Center.

AOG Hymn Devotions: The Acts of Grace circle has extended the deadline for submissions of hymn devotions to December 15. Please be sure to include your name. Several who have already submitted items have not included their names. Please send that with a statement of the name of your hymn to Donna Curfman at dcurfmanfallsumc@gmail.com.

Spread the Word--a new Sunday class. The *College and Careers Class* would like to invite anyone who would be interested, to join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30am in room 321. We pray, read scriptures, and discuss a range of discipleship topics. Contact Sue Boltz or the church office if you have questions.

Epworth Pie Sale: The Thanksgiving deadline has passed, but there is still time to order pies for Christmas. Christmas orders are due December 3 and will be ready December 20.
If you need help getting your pie we will deliver it to you. Please indicate on the order form.
Orders and payment can be placed in the drop box by the Welcome Center OR online via Zeffy (Scan QR code).

Poetry Night with Chili Cook-Off: November 20 @6:30pm, featuring Poets Duane Dodson & Karen Schubert. Please contact Marie Willis-Guarneri to sign up (fallsfirstmarie@gmail.com) to share your poetry. Spots are limited. All are welcome to attend the Chili Cook-Off @5:30pm on the same evening in Wesley Hall. Adults $10, Kids 4-10 $5, Under 3 free (Family max $20). Tickets will be sold at the door only. It's not too late to enter the chili contest. Scan the QR code to enter.

Upcoming Quilt Raffle: Our quilting group will be holding a Silent Auction for a Reverse Pinwheel Quilt, donated by Mae Peck, and started by her mother in the 1920's. The quilt will be displayed in Wesley Hall during Charge Conference. The bidding will start that day and continue until December 31. To place a bid, see the quilters on Sunday mornings, or contact the office (9am-3pm) to during the week. This fundraiser benefits Missions here at First UMC. Pictures coming soon!



Click here to view this week's prayer list.

Join Us In Prayer

ART SERIES

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE ART SERIES
AT FIRST CHURCH

EXHIBITION

OCTOBER 2-JANUARY 26, 2027

"Healing through the human experience"

NOVEMBER 12 NOON-1PM | IN WESLEY HALL
MAKING OF "IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE"



DISCOVER THE STORY BEHIND THE MAKING OF THE 1946 CHRISTMAS CLASSIC.
A HEALING STORY OF HOW ONE LIFE CAN TOUCH SO MANY OTHERS.
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CUYAHOGA FALLS PARKS AND REC DEPARTMENT

REGISTER NOW

PLEASE REGISTER WITH PARKS AND REC @ 330-971-8225 OR
WWW.CITYOFCF.COM/DEPARTMENTS/PARKS-RECREATION



DECLUTTER & ORGANIZE
THOUGHTFULLY WORKING THROUGH
MEMORIES AND HELPING PEOPLE PART
WITH SENTIMENTAL BELONGINGS.

DECEMBER 3 11-12
IN WESLEY HALL

REGISTER NOW

PLEASE REGISTER WITH PARKS AND REC @ 330-971-8225 OR
WWW.CITYOFCF.COM/DEPARTMENTS/PARKS-RECREATION

ART SERIES

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE ART SERIES
AT FIRST CHURCH

Poetry Reading & Open Mic

Plus Chili Cook off!

Featuring Poets Duane Dodson & Karen Schubert

- 5:30pm in Wesley Hall we will have a Chili Cook off to benefit Epworth Choir and their annual tour. Tickets for dinner sold at the door.
- 6:30pm in the Parlor, our guest poets will share their poetry followed by an open mic for poets of all ages. Poetry night is a free event. Please contact Marie Willis-Guarneri to sign up (fallsfirstmarie@gmail.com) to share your poetry. Spots are limited.

November 20

Dinner @ 5:30 in Wesley
Poetry @ 6:30 in Parlor



245 Portage Trail
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221