



First Church NEWS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP

Sunday, September 15

Dean Wagner preaching

8:15 a.m.

10:15 a.m.

Chancel & Epworth Choirs

Sunday, September 22

Pastor Jon Priebe preaching

8:15 a.m.

10:15 a.m.

Chancel & Epworth Choirs

Nursery/Preschool care all morning.

9 a.m. Sunday School/Confirmation.

Children's Worship at 10:15 a.m.



**...his mercies never come
to an end; they are new
every morning; great
is your faithfulness.**

Lamentations 3:22-23, NRSV



NOTES FROM PASTOR JON

Psalm 51:15 - *O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.*

Over the last three weeks our Director of Music, Dean Wagner, and I have been planning music for worship that spans nearly the entire life of the

Church. We'll hear and sing the clean harmonies of the early Church, the strong melodies of the Reformation, and even the beautiful and complex songs of the modern Church.

I was surprised to learn that some of my favorite hymns of praise, including Be Thou My Vision which may be over 1500 years old, are some of the oldest. Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence is believed to be over 1700 years old. Meanwhile, hymns that are considered classics like How Great Thou Art (1956) are practically modern! This is one of my favorite things about our traditional services at First Church: that we draw from so many of the sources of inspiring sacred music, and deeply from both history and tradition.

As the flooring replacement phase of our sanctuary renovation project begins and the organ work comes to completion, we'll be displaced from our sanctuary for close to two months. We're excited about the upcoming worship services we've been planning for our brief sojourn to Wesley Hall and the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. During the services in Wesley Hall, we will be live broadcasting video of those services in the Chapel for those who find it easier to access.

Can you guess where in our building the original sanctuary was located prior to moving to our current space?

Can't wait to see you in the next few weeks!

Blessings,

Jon

VIDEO VENUE

Starting on Sunday, September 22 we expect to move upstairs to Wesley Hall while our sanctuary floor is replaced. Wesley Hall is on the upper floor of our Education Wing, accessible by several staircases and one elevator.

During this time, we will be video broadcasting the worship services from Wesley Hall into the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. We hope this makes it easier for some of us to participate in worship during our sojourn upstairs.



What a year it's been since we as a congregation embarked on a journey to improve the quality of our worship experience. There is so much exciting news to report.

Pipe Organ Rebuild - Most of the mechanical part of the pipe organ rebuild was completed by the end of August. This work included: removal, cleaning, repair, and re-installation of more than 2,200 pipes; replacement of the pipe chests; replacement of the pneumatic system with a modern electronic system; addition of some ranks of pipes that will help to complete the sound of the organ; replacement of the protective screen on both sides of the organ loft; and many improvements to the organ loft environment. Tweaking the system and voicing the pipes will take several weeks. This process will be coordinated with the flooring project.

Sanctuary Refurbishment - This phase of the project – which will begin in mid-September and be completed by October 31st - will include: removal and temporary storage of the pews; removal of the existing asbestos tile and carpet; carpentry work to extend the width of the chancel steps, and some adjustments to the floor around the organ console; installation of engineered hardwood flooring throughout the main floor and in the balcony; reinstallation of the pews with touch-up of the varnished and painted surfaces where needed; painting to match existing colors of the wainscoting and pew end caps; repair and painting of some water-damaged walls in the balcony; painting of the narthex and outside doors; and installation of carpet in the balcony stairwells.

Capital Campaign - Having just passed the one-year mark, the capital campaign is in good financial shape. While it is difficult to make firm predictions, it appears that the entire project should come in well under budget. Steady cash flow to date has covered most of the pipe organ rebuild and miscellaneous expenses. We have yet to borrow money! But that will soon change. With all the remaining work being completed by the end of October, all the remaining vendor payments will come due at about the same time. Although the need to borrow money was anticipated, the best stewardship practice suggests that the key to minimizing interest payments is not having to borrow any funds in the first place. The key to achieving this goal is to sustain the steady flow of donations.

In a few weeks, as part of the Church's fall stewardship campaign, you will receive information on how you can contribute to – or continue to support - the capital campaign. Until then, please make certain that you are on-track to fulfill your 2019 year pledges. Of course, Spirit-directed donations are welcome at any time!

We cannot adequately express our gratitude for the overwhelming support over the past year. To be where we are at this point in a five-year capital campaign is truly a testament to the abiding faith of this congregation.

Going Strong Bus Trip... On Thursday, October 10, the group will take the church bus to The Ohio Star Theater in Sugarcreek for a musical production of "A Simple Sanctuary" and a buffet lunch at the Dutch Valley Restaurant. The bus will leave at 9:30 a.m. and return at approximately 5 p.m. **The deadline for reservations is September 26.** There is a maximum of 28 people. The cost is \$50 per person and includes lunch. Reservation forms are available at the Welcome Center or you may call Robbie Robinson at 330-688-5982.

Young Adult Ministry... First Church is looking to establish a young adult ministry, so if you are a young adult, or the parent of one please let them know about this opportunity. Pastor Mike would like to meet with young adults to find out what it is that they are looking for, so we can start up this ministry. Examples could be a small group/groups, an alternative worship service, mission focused group, etc. Please contact Pastor Mike at fallsfirstmike@gmail.com to let him know if you are interested in meeting, your contact information and when your top 2 or 3 meeting days/times would be.

New United Methodist Women Circle! There is a new evening UMW Circle that will be forming. It's all about walking more closely with our LORD, each other, and supporting missions. On Monday, September 23, at 7 pm, we will meet in the church parlor to make decisions on meeting date/time and a circle name. If you would be interested in coming please contact Linda Demeter (740) 334-9290 - lindademeter@hotmail.com or Cathy Faber - CVFaber@yahoo.com



ROCK, our mid-week children's ministry, is back! It is for children age 4 through 6th grade. It begins at 4:15 pm with Rhythm for our preschool-Kindergarten children, Chimes for 1st-3rd grade, and Bells for 4th-6th grade. There is also a cooking and puppet elective option for 3rd-6th graders during that time. For those 1st-6th graders not in an elective there is Homework Club. Choirs will be at 4:45 pm and dinner at 5:30. At 6 there are various activities for the different age groups and the evening ends at 7 pm. Hope you can join us!



The youth kicked the new year off with their annual Road Rally -- several teams of youth went out into the community to perform random acts of kindness. They handed out flowers, filled the Blessing Box, helped with household tasks, and left chalk messages of encouragement on the sidewalks.

Football season has meant that it's time Fifth Quarter; we welcomed nearly 60 students in grades 6 through 12 after the first Falls home football game! We're able to offer a safe and fun environment for kids to come and hang out with friends. Our next Fifth Quarters will be on September 27 and October 11, followed by the always-popular overnighter on November 1.

The youth will be holding their M & M fundraiser to help sponsor Missions & Ministry. The funds brought in defray the cost of outreach programs and regular events throughout the year. Please take one of the tubes of M&M's and enjoy its contents; if you'd like to support the youth programs with a donation, you can place your gift in the empty tube and return it to the church by October 13. Please sign your name so that the youth can thank you!

If you are not currently receiving email updates on youth programs and events and you would like to, please send a message to epworthyouth2@gmail.com so that we can add you to the list. You can also sign up for Remind updates on your phone by texting [@cfepworth](https://www.remind.com/) to 81010.

Worship Aids... For some of our young children (and not so young folks), worship aid items which quietly keep their hands busy have been a great help in worship. Please remember these are valuable tools for worship that belong in the sanctuary, in the same way the hymnals and Bibles belong in the sanctuary. We are expecting parents' help to ensure these aids return to their home in the sanctuary, rather than going home with the kids, in the same way that stores expect parents to ensure store items don't wander home. Over the last few years, we have filled our fidgets container 4 times, but once again they are all gone. We no longer have any of our sequined pillows, the weighted vest, lap or shoulder throws, and one of our finger prayer labyrinths is also missing. If your children have used any of these helps in the past, please ensure none of them have migrated to your house. We are also asking folks to bring in some new fidget items for the box (no lights or sounds please). They can be dropped off in the box or in the spiritual formation office. We are asking parents of children who use these items to please keep them in the pew with you when your children go to children's worship and put them back on the cart when you leave worship. Thank you so much for your help in ensuring these valuable worship resources are available where they are needed most.



Confirmation... Here at FUMC, Confirmation is a two-year process of spiritual exploration and Christian education.



The goal is to equip our young people with what they need to say "Yes" to God and take responsibility for their relationship with Christ. Confirmation takes place during Sunday School time for our 7th and 8th graders. If your child is entering 7th grade in the fall and you'd like them to begin the Confirmation journey, contact Roxanne at the church to be included in all Confirmation communications. Entering 8th or 9th and didn't go through Confirmation? Let Roxanne know and the Confirmation team will find the right placement for your young person!

First Church News

"First Church News" (185-000)
Periodicals, postage paid at Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223. Published every other wk Jan-June & Sept.-Dec. with 1 issue ea in July, Aug. by First UMC 245 Portage Tr. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to First Church News, 245 Portage Tr., Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221-3274

Volume 74, No. 16 * USPS 185-000 * September 12, 2019

First United Methodist Church

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Jon Priebe - Lead Minister x211; Mike Ward - Associate Minister x217; Forrest Waller and Marvin Brown - Senior Ministers Emeriti; Dean Wagner - Director of Music Ministries/Organist x221; Karol Lewis - Director of Christian Education x219; Jennifer Brooks - Director of Weekday Preschool x220; Tim Zuschin - Assistant Choir Director; Bob Capes - Director of Visitation Ministries x213; Kathy Kuzas x212; Jody Nelson x216; Roxanne Rowe x218; Christy Meyers x210; Ann Kaiser; John Fox; Joe Demeter; Marlina Blocker



The Gift/Memorial Book is located in the parlor and is open to **Verna Klavenberg**.

Births: Congratulations to **Christopher and Brit-tany McCaulley** on the birth of their son, **Cameron Curtis McCaulley**, on 8/11 and to **Dante Jr. and Julia Sabatucci** on the birth of their daughter, **Anastasia Rose Sabatucci**, on 8/20.

Did You Know? We will be glad to publish (space allowing) milestone birthdays, anniversaries, births and other special events in your family if you send a note c/o Kathy Kuzas, call us at 330-923-5241 x212 or email kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com.

Thank You Expressions: From Justin Hinkle... I would like to thank you for the Reid and Roberta Montgomery Scholarship. I appreciate the scholarship to help with my education at The University of Akron. The funds will help me to pursue a degree from the College of Business. Thank you for your generosity! **From Wendy Gillespie...** thank you for your compassionate prayers and support! I have experienced tremendous healing in my back fractures and relief from the myeloma which caused them. By God's provision, I am now entering a new phase of treatment in order to put the myeloma into remission. If you would like to follow my progress through stem cell transplant and recovery, please join us on caringbridge.org.

Giving neighbors a hand.... Or at least a glove!

First Church has several ministries focused on the neighbors in our midst. For several years, as the weather turns cold, we hang a clothes line along Portage Trail and place gloves, hats and socks on it for individuals to take as they have need. Many people are involved in the ministry, donating, bagging, and hanging the items. In the same area of our lot we have a Blessing Box, a small pantry to place non-perishable food or personal care items. Again, individuals within the community can access the Box on their schedule. Finally, we again have a flourishing Community Garden to the north of the sanctuary. Fresh vegetables are available to share. Who are our neighbors? Everyone!



The deadline for the next FCN is **Friday, September 20**. Please submit your articles to Kathy Kuzas at Ext. 212 or kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com.