



First Church NEWS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP

Sunday, September 29

Pastor Jon Priebe preaching

8:15 a.m.

10:15 a.m.

Epworth Choir

Sanyuka Children's Choir

Sunday, October 6

Pastor Jon Priebe preaching

8:15 a.m.

10:15 a.m.

Chancel Choir

Nursery/Preschool care all morning.

9 a.m. Sunday School/Confirmation.

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



NOTES FROM PASTOR JON

On September 15, we held our last worship services before the flooring phase of our current Sanctuary renovation project displaces us for a little over a month. As the 10:15 service concluded, the congregation was asked to help the project

by gathering up the Bibles, hymnals, and other materials from the pews and putting them where they will be used or stored during construction.

When Dean first proposed this idea, we weren't entirely sure how responsive people would be to the request. We surely thought there would be some work left to do in clearing everything out. Thank you for surprising us!

It seemed like everyone grabbed at least something! I saw hymnals stacked on walkers, arms full for multiple trips back and forth to Wesley Hall as we all accomplished the work together. When the dust settled, the sanctuary was ready and there were only three pencils and a prayer request card. I prayed a prayer of thanksgiving to God for such an overwhelming work. It was truly *liturgy*, literally

from the Greek for "work of the people."

Our congregation has worshipped in several spaces over our 189 years. A storefront, a basement, a wooden church building, and two different sanctuaries in our big brick church building. Now, we're on a sojourn for a few weeks of worship up in Wesley Hall. What a privilege to have all these spaces provided by the dedication, sacrifice, and service of those who have gone before us at First Church.

Check out a wonderfully written blog post about some of this dedication and history of our congregation by our Chancel Choir member and Trustee, Brian Gregory.

<https://sprucehillurbanhorticulture.blogspot.com/2012/05/they-dug-foundation-deeper.html>

MARK KROOS IN CONCERT

Mark Kroos plays two guitar necks at the same time and is one of the few people in the world touring his trade. He will join us on Sunday, October 6 for a concert at 3 p.m. His instrument style is characterized by open harmonies, polyphonic textures, incredible tapping technique, and is as entertaining to watch as it is to listen. Drawing influence from folk, Celtic, indie, and even punk rock artists, Mark has developed his own edge to the acoustic guitar.





The family was tired. They had been on a journey and found themselves without a place to stay. It may not have been as bad, but the woman was eight months pregnant. Where could they turn? Then doors opened and they were given space to spend the night, at least temporarily. Soon a beautiful child was born to the expectant parents. People, who had been strangers, brought gifts for the child. What a joy!

Does the story sound familiar? It should, but may not be the story you are thinking about. This did not happen thousands of years ago in a town thousands of miles away, but earlier this year within our own walls. Last winter one of our Family Promise guest families welcomed a child into their arms during their stay with us. First Church helped make sure the child did not need a manger or swaddling clothes. Instead, beds were available for the family and we, along with the Family Promise staff, provided gifts including a handmade blanket and plenty of diapers to start with at a special baby shower. Volunteers, when labor began, also made sure the family made it to the hospital! What a blessing to be able to be a blessing for this family and the others that have taken their rest at First Church.

Family Promise is one of the organizations that First Church supports with our time, talent, gifts, and service. Through those efforts we give witness to God's love, without needing to say a word. Each family has a unique story and set of circumstances that led them to our doors, opened wide like God's arms.

Altar Flowers

We are now taking orders for altar flowers in 2020. The cost is \$35 and the church takes care of ordering and delivery. If you would like to reserve a date, contact Christy Meyers at cmeyers-fallsumc@gmail.com or Ext. 210.



Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Support Group

Do you or a family member or friend have a diagnosis of MS? More people have MS than other people know. Interest has surfaced about forming an MS support group, much like the Alzheimer's support group. Sharing problems, solutions, troubles, suggestions, and answers can be a joy for those afflicted and/or caregivers and supporters. If you would like to see an MS group formed, please notify the church office or Bob Capes so that we can gauge interest. Thank you in advance.



The Walk to Emmaus

Are you interested in making the Walk to Emmaus? Don't let the name fool you, there is not a great deal of walking done during the weekend. The name comes from the book of Luke, and the story of Jesus appearing to travelers on the road to Emmaus. These are events designed to help people grow their faith journey with our Lord and Savior. The weekends also help grow and develop leaders for people at their home church. The Men's Walk will be October 18-20 and the Women's October 24-27. Please see Pastor Mike if you are interested in registering for the Fall walks.

Global Missions Secretary to Speak

On Wednesday, October 9 at 10:15 a.m. Kevin Schaner, the Global Missions Secretary for the East Ohio Conference, will be here. She will explain the Volunteer in Mission program and her own mission experience in Cambodia. All are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, please call Sue Boltz at 330-928-8635.



Wesley Youth Outing... We invite all 4th – 6th grade students to join us on Sunday, October 13, for a trip to Rufener Pumpkin Farm. There will be a hayride, corn maze, inflatables, a train ride and pumpkin picking! The cost is \$10 which includes a pumpkin to take home. We will eat lunch right after the 10:15 a.m. worship service and leave after that. Permission slips are available at the Welcome Center, the office, and online. For more information please call Ext. 218.

Wesley Youth Mission Trip... We invite all our 4th-6th graders to join us for our mission trip to Columbus February 14-16. We will spend Friday night at Church 4 All People in Columbus, prepare and serve breakfast for those coming to the Free Store on Saturday morning and then work in the Free Store and Fresh Food Market. On Saturday afternoon we will go to COSI, spend the night at Drury Inn, then on Sunday morning we will return to Church 4 All people to worship before heading to CiCi's and home. It is a fun, mission filled weekend. The cost is \$90, but we do need a \$10 deposit by October 16, as this is President's Day weekend and we need to book the hotel by October.



On September 22, Pastor Mike and the Youth Group went on a mission trip to Rahab Ministries to learn how Rahab assists persons affect by human trafficking. The Rahab staff asked for full sized bottles of lotion to distribute in personal hygiene packages. If you are will to provide some, please bring them to the church by September 30.

Football season has meant that it's time for Fifth Quarter; We're able to offer a safe and fun environment for kids in grades 6-12 to come and hang out with friends. Our next Fifth Quarters will be on September 27 and October 11, followed by the always-popular overnigher on November 1.

The youth are currently 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, sign your name, and return it to the church by October 13.

Ramseyer Farms - The Youth Group will go to Ramseyer Farms on October 6. We'll leave at 1 p.m. and return in time for snack supper. The cost is \$15, but if you wish to purchase a pumpkin or food, you will need to bring money for that as well. The RSVP deadline is September 30 to Pastor Mike or Jen McKenna so that we can make sure to have enough transportation for everyone. Youth are permitted to bring friends, but the friend must have a completed medical emergency form and an event specific travel form turned in to Pastor Mike.

On October 20 the youth group will be going on their monthly mission trip. They will travel to Heart4theCity in East Akron to partner with them in Trunk or Treat. If you are willing and able, please consider donating candy to be distributed to the children during the event. Donations can be turned into Pastor Mike.

Teachers' Gathering... We will be having a preschool and elementary teachers' dinner at Karol's house on Monday, September 30, at 6 p.m. This is a fifth Monday and we will not be having a preschool or elementary small group meeting that day, but we invite those who may not be able to meet with us on a regular basis to join us Monday night. There is no need to bring anything, but please RSVP to Karol by Sunday, September 29. Come and have a fun and relaxing evening of fellowship with us.

Worship Aids... For some people worship aid items, which quietly keep their hands busy, have been a great help. Please remember these are valuable tools for worship that belong in the sanctuary, just as hymnals and Bibles belong in the sanctuary. If your children have used any of these in the past, please ensure none of them have migrated to your house. We are 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. Parents, please don't let your children take them to Children's Worship.

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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 **Betty Bricker**.

Our Sympathies to members **Charlotte Mains and Dick and Brenda Mains** and family on the death of husband and brother, member **Bob Mains**, on 9/17; to the family of member **Warren Strub** on his death on

9/20; to **Lois and Bill Howell** and family on the death of her mother, member **Janet Owen**, on 9/21.

Best Wishes to **Kyle and Alyssa (Cuffman) Edwards** who were married here on 9/14; to **Jonathan and Jessica (Rodriguez) Sharp** who were married on 9/21.

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 Sandy, Tom and Alan Wardell... Thank you for the cards sent to our family after the recent death of Sandy's sister.

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.

The deadline for the next FCN is **Friday, October 4**. Please submit your articles to Kathy Kuzas at Ext. 212 or kkuzasfumccf@gmail.com.