

# The First Word

First United Methodist Church

1526 E. Wooster Street

Bowling Green, Ohio

Pastors: Amy Miller, Chris Walter

Volume XXVI, Number 8

October, 2016

## FROM OUR LEAD PASTOR

Dear Friends,

I've really enjoyed worshipping at one service this summer and seeing how we blend both styles of worship together. Equally so, now that we're back into our regular worship schedule I enjoy seeing more of our members, engaging with our 8:45 service, and worshipping with our choir at 11:00. It certainly is a gift to worship together as the Body of Christ!

Another area of our church that's started up again is our Sunday School Classes. I plan to take a Sunday and try to visit with each of you during this time. Below you'll see a list of class offerings and their locations. I encourage you to attend one at the 10:00 hour as we grow in our faith together.

Connexions Call - Studying "Heaven" by Randy Alcorn. Meet in the meeting room. Group led.

Bible Study - Studying the book of Galatians. Led by Dan Miller in the library.

Wired Word - Discuss a news article and relevant scripture each week. Group led. Meet in parlor.

Upper Room - Studying "The Heart of Christianity" by Marcus Borg. Group led.

SonShine - A Group for adults with disabilities. A lively group with rotating teachers. See Sallie Gardner for more info. Meet in the Sonshine room

Welcome Thomas - Questions about faith? Dealing with Doubt? Led by Tim Brackenberry in room 209.

Student Ministry - Middle School room 205. High School - youth room. See Pastor Chris.

Membership 101 - Interested in learning more about the United Methodist Church and First Church? Join us! Beginning Oct. 3. See Pastor's Amy or Chris for more info.

God is always on the move, let's join God as we grow together in our discipleship. You're invited, please join a class and see how God is speaking to you though others and through scripture.

Pastor Chris will be preaching the last sermon of our series "The Christian Atheist" on October 3. Then we'll start a new series called "The Heart of the Matter." This will be a great series for us to explore scripture together and allow me as your new pastor to learn more about you.

Thank you for all the ways you make First Church what it is.

In Christ's Service,  
Pastor Amy

## **FROM FAMILY MINISTRIES**

On September 11, I had the privilege of passing out 15 Bibles to the children of our congregation. A 5-year-old girl was very excited to receive her Bible. With a huge smile on her face and wide eyes, I handed her a Bible. Her excitement quickly changed to fear as she said, "but I can't read." I said "sweet girl, this is a picture Bible to use until you learn how to read." Her fear was then replaced with enthusiasm. Simple reassurance to a child can change everything.

This month I wanted to share with you some of what has been happening here at FUMC within the Children's ministry. Sunday school kick off was September 11. We have six servants to lead and help with the classes. Sunday school is broken down K-1<sup>st</sup> grade, 2<sup>nd</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and 4<sup>th</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> grade. I am thrilled to say we are looking for larger spaces for some of our classes as our children are filling the rooms - what a problem to have! We have hired nursery workers to work with our infant to preschool children. Children's Worship, which is worship designed specifically for children ages 5 to 9 during service, is on-going.

It is such a blessing to see so many children here on Sunday mornings. I want to thank our Church family for the support and enthusiasm.

Blessings,  
Stacy Kerr

**The TrebleMakers Children’s Choir** mission is to learn to share the Word of God through music as we sing songs that inspire us to be better Christians. We are all called to serve our Lord--even children!

So...children grades K-8 are invited to come join us for singing, dancing, playing instruments, while we learn to praise the Lord! Rehearsals are:

**Every Wednesday  
5:00-6:00 PM  
FUMC Room 207-208**

To sign up now, call, text, or email Jo Ascunce--419-308-2928  
[/rascunce@woh.rr.com](mailto:rascunce@woh.rr.com)  
or contact the church office, 419-353-0682 for more information.



*\*\*Check out our Facebook page-- <https://www.facebook.com/TrebleMakers1526/?fref=ts>*



**2016 CROP WALK:** First United Methodist Church will be collecting a noisy offering **on Sunday, October 16** to benefit the upcoming local CROP Walk.

Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty— Neighbors from different faiths, cultures, and ages walking together to take a stand against hunger in our world. Together we raise awareness and funds for international relief and development, as well as local hunger-fighting agencies. Hungry people in developing countries typically walk as many as six miles a day to get food, water, and fuel, and to take their goods to market. We walk because they walk! Up to 25% of what is raised can assist local food banks, pantries, gardens, and other local hunger-fighting initiatives. In the last 20 years, CROP Walks have raised over \$294 million to assist those struggling to feed their families.

The annual Bowling Green, CROP Walk will be held on Sunday, October 23 at 1:00 p.m. at the Bowling Green City Park.

**OCTOBER FOOD DISTRIBUTION:** *Our*

*food bags made a difference to 165 families last month. (249 adults and 38 children).*



Helpers are needed the first Thursday of the month, **October 6 at 9:00 a.m.** to help unload trucks & set up for Food Giveaway, and the first Friday of the month, **October 7 at 9:00 a.m.** to bag and distribute groceries. Please consider giving a couple hours of your time each month to this wonderful ministry. If you are interested in receiving emails about how to volunteer with the food pantry, contact Heather Saylor at [hsaylor@hotmail.com](mailto:hsaylor@hotmail.com).



**ITEMS NEEDED:** The Food Pantry is always in need of the following items:

- Non-Perishable Food Items
- Plastic grocery bags
- Brown grocery Bags

*"I was hungry, you gave me food. I was thirsty, you gave me drink."*

*~ Matthew 25:35*

**DIAPERS/PULL-UPS NEEDED:** The food pantry team continually appreciates the congregation's support of the food pantry and monthly distribution! We continue to do our best to fulfill the needs of the many households that visit our church, not only during the monthly food distribution, but also during the week when visitors arrive in the church office asking for assistance. Lately, we have experienced an increase in requests for **baby diapers (specifically larger sizes 5, 6, 7) and pull-ups**. During the month of October, we are requesting donations to fulfill this need. While we understand this may sound atypical for a food pantry, we do want to continue to adapt to the needs of our clients and community, especially as we hear from families in need. These are items that can be costly to a family and even grandparents who are raising their grandchildren, so any help is very much appreciated. Items can be dropped off in the church office or put in the white bin in the coat closet. Thank you!



## RUMMAGE SALE SUMMARY

Do you remember the time when we renamed our rummage sale "Treasures and Trifles," putting a classy spin on our old toasters, mixers, lamps, bread makers, file folders, toys, and favorite sweaters? A bit over the edge perhaps, so this year we reverted to the familiar "RUMMAGE SALE: ONE PERSON'S TRIFLES, ANOTHER'S TREASURES" (There's a sermon in there, somewhere.)

Whatever we called it, we continued to celebrate the real joys of the rummage sale: meeting and greeting old and new friends, sharing stories from the past year, and making plans for the future (what are we going to call it *this* time around?). And laughing over our screw-ups. This year, we learned that we should have painted our advertising sign with NON washable paint. Imagine our surprise when we arrived at the church the Sunday before the sale to realize the sale was over (thanks to a mischievous, if welcome, rain storm). But, we soldiered on, repaired the sign (sort of), and opened on time. (Applications are being accepted for a new sign.)

We were not able to come up with any new slogans or gimmicks, but it was not really necessary. The old themes and practices did just fine, thank you. UMW came through again and provided a delicious lunch for the workers (and anyone else who wandered through the door) as we put the finishing touches on the table displays. We did shorten the number of days of the sale but still set price by donation, enabling all to give as they were able. This made things a lot easier.

The rummage sale could not happen without the many friends who volunteer their time, items, and energy. Whether it was donating, sorting, selling, cleaning up or buying back that which you mistakenly donated (sorry, no refunds), THANK YOU! At present, \$1888.09 has been received and will support a variety of projects as we look to the needs of our church, of each other, and our community.

Sue Moore & Steve Goyer

## KAIROS THANK YOU!

Thank all of you for your wonderful cookie, prayer, financial, and overall support for ToCI Kairos #27 weekend – it was super! Your gifts of love will help give the men inside an opportunity to enjoy a better understanding of God's love and grace, and will help them walk closer with Christ. God Bless!

Tom and Rick

## **PRAYER GROUP MINISTRY**



Come join us for prayer as we celebrate the second anniversary of our group in October! We meet every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m for approximately an hour. We follow a guideline of communal prayers that allows us space for sharing specific needs. The guide helps center our minds, hearts, and spirits on praying for the needs of our world, nation, church (local and beyond), clergy and staff, people in need of healing, people on our care list, our schools and educational needs, the unemployed and homeless and coming events. We also take time to celebrate our joys and be thankful.

We welcome new people to join us at any time and you are welcome to come whenever you are able.

Are you being called to intercessory prayer?

*"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matthew 18:20*

What: Wednesday Prayer Group

Who: All are welcome

When: Every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. in FUMC Parlor (located off of the Narthex)

Contact person: Sue DiBiasio [suedibiasio@gmail.com](mailto:suedibiasio@gmail.com) 419-686-3940

## **CHURCH CONFERENCE**

Our annual Church Conference meeting will be held

**Monday, October 17** beginning at

**7:15 p.m.** in the Meeting Room

The purpose of the Church Conference is to approve the following:

2017 Committee members, Pastoral compensation packages,

and members to remove by charge conference.

*All FUM members are encouraged to attend.*



## FUM MEMBERS & BUILDING USE

The Trustees have approved new *Building Use Guidelines* regarding use of the church facility and updated room fees. The *Room Request Form* has also been updated and both documents can be found on the church website under “Meeting at FUM.”

As part of the new guidelines, FUM Members can request rooms for personal use (birthday parties, showers, family gatherings, etc.) and **in lieu of a fee, members are asked to make a donation for use of the facility.** *Exception: Any member asking to use the facility for any sporting related event will be charged the room fees listed in the Building Use Guidelines.*

**BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED:** The FUM Child Learning Center is looking for church members willing to sit on their board. Board meetings will occur only once a month, with date yet to be determined. As an outreach ministry of the church, it is important to have church members’ input on the board. If you would be interested in serving in this capacity, please contact Peggy Reisberg, CLC Director at 419-352-3612. Thank you!



## A MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- A reminder to all work areas, the Finance Committee is beginning to plan for the 2017 fiscal year budget. Please be on the look out for more information in the month of October.
- Online giving is off to a great start. If you haven’t taken the opportunity to register and contribute online, please check out the Give Online link on the FUM website. We encourage you to transition from writing checks to a simple click. It’s safe, fast and secure!
- The Finance Committee is reading a book titled, *Not Your Parents’ Offering Plate* by J. Clif Christopher. I have a few extra copies and if any one is interested let me know and you are welcome to have one. Just send me an email at [jelsasser@woh.rr.com](mailto:jelsasser@woh.rr.com)



FUMC DINNER THEATRE PRESENTS



November 17, 18, 19

Dinner at 6, Show at 7 Tickets \$15

[www.fumcbg.org](http://www.fumcbg.org)



[facebook.com/FUMCdinnertheater](https://www.facebook.com/FUMCdinnertheater)



**DINNER THEATRE INFORMATION - *GodSpell***

“Prepare Ye,” FUMC, for the 34<sup>th</sup> annual church theatre and mini-bazaar – November 17, 18, 19, 2016. Janine and Will Baughman are directing *Godspell*, a wonderful collection of songs and parables telling the story of Jesus’ ministry.

This year we return to a dinner format, but have decided to take the great advice, “Learn Your Lessons Well” and will use a chili/soup station format, mimicking the format of the successful dessert theatres! (With the added twist of dessert served at intermission.)

The return to dinner means we have need of “All Good Gifts” from our amazing congregation. We are calling everyone to be the “Light of the World” and come share your gifts by working at the theatre. Together we can build a “Beautiful City” ... okay, well maybe not, but we can create an inspiring event.

So, keep an eye out for service opportunities. “We Beseech Thee” – join us in the celebration. The committee says, come and serve “By My Side.” Cook chili, work at the bazaar, cook soup, bake bread, cut up fixins, serve at a station, clean up, come see the show !!

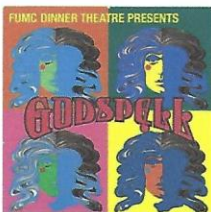
If you have any questions about serving, please contact Robin Cagle (419-308-8925) or [caglera@woh.rr.com](mailto:caglera@woh.rr.com).

**BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE A GREAT SUCCESS!**

The Mission Committee would like to thank everyone in the congregation for supporting our Back to School Drive during July and August which collected clothing for emergency needs for the Crim Elementary School students. Thanks to all of you, it was a great success!

We received 15 packages of underwear, 17 pairs of gym shorts, and 5 pairs of gym pants in various sizes for boys. We received 20 packages of underwear, 18 pairs of gym shorts, and nine pairs of leggings and pants in various sizes for girls. Four pair of socks were also collected for boys and girls. In addition, a total of \$150 dollars was donated to Crim Elementary.

Thanks again for your support of this ministry!



**34th ANNUAL - FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
THEATRE and MINI BAZAAR**  
Directed by Janine Baughman

**GODSPELL-2012 REVISED VERSION**  
is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).  
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.  
www.MTIshows.com

**November 17, 18 and 19, 2016**

*Godspell* was the first major musical offering from... award winner, Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked, Pippin, Children of Eden*). Led by the International hit, "Day by Day," *Godspell* features a parade of beloved songs... A small group of people help Jesus Christ tell different parables by using a wide variety of games, storytelling techniques and a hefty dose of comic timing. An eclectic blend of songs, ranging in style from pop to vaudeville, is employed as the story of Jesus' life dances across the stage. Dissolving hauntingly into the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, Jesus' messages of kindness, tolerance and love come vibrantly to life.

5:30 p.m. – Mini Bazaar Opens  
6:00 p.m. –Doors Open  
6:15p.m. – Dinner Stations Open  
7:00 p.m. – Curtain (Desserts will be available at intermission)

*Chili and Soup Dinner organized by Kevin Cagle and Vicki Shilling with Desserts by Bonita Bembrly*  
*Chili Bar*  
*Cream Soup and Bread*  
*Coffee and Hot Tea*

**TO ORDER TICKETS**, please complete the form below and return it with your check payable to **FUMC DINNER THEATRE**. The check **MUST** accompany the order before your table places will be reserved. If you have a group, **please remit ALL orders together** and early to be seated together. **Eight** will be seated **per table** this year. All tickets will be available for pick up at the door. Order early for best seating.

For ticket information: call Lee McLaird between 7 and 10 p.m. weekdays: (419)354-6618

For general information: call First United Methodist Church between 8:30 and 4:30 weekdays: (419)353-0682

**RESERVATIONS FOR 34<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FUMC THEATRE**

We wish to attend the following night (please check which performance).

\_\_\_\_\_ Thursday, November 17      Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Friday, November 18      Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Saturday, November 19      Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \$15 per ticket

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF GROUP: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Include check payable to **FUMC DINNER THEATRE** to reserve table place

**RETURN FORM TO:**

**Lee McLaird**  
**227 E. Napoleon Rd**  
**Bowling Green, OH 43402**  
**(419) 354-6618**  
**(7 -10 p.m. weekdays or leave msg)**

October 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 8:45 & 11:00am Worship Services 10:00am - Faith Formation Classes 5:30pm - Student Ministries Youth Fellowship	3 5:00pm - WOC Meeting 5:30pm - Girl Scout Troop 11616 5:30pm - Line Dancing 6:00pm - Praise Team Rehearsal 5:30pm - Staff Parish Relations Committee	4 9:00am - Job Jars 6:30pm - Girl Scout Troops 10213 & 10824	5 9:00am - MOPS 11:30am - Prayer Group 5:00pm - TrebleMakers	6 9:00pm - Setup for Food Distribution 9:30am - UM Pastor Cluster Team 4:30pm - Hi-Society 7:00pm - Chancel Choir	7 Food Distribution 10:00am 9:00pm - Bagging & Prep for Food Distribution 4:30pm - Martha's Kitchen 6:30pm - DT Rehearsal: Godspell	8
9 8:45 & 11:00am Worship Services 10:00am - Faith Formation Classes 1:00pm - DT Rehearsal: Godspell 4:00pm - Pack 244 Wolf Den 5:00pm - League of Women Voters Candidate Forum 5:30pm - Student Ministries Youth Fellowship	10 5:30pm - Line Dancing 6:00pm - Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00pm - BSP Auditions: Crazy for You 7:00pm - Finance Committee 7:00pm - Membership & Evangelism Committee 8:00pm - Ad Council	11 9:00am - Job Jars 6:30pm - Girl Scout Troops 10213 & 10824 7:00pm - BSP Auditions: Crazy for You	12 11:30am - Prayer Group 5:00pm - TrebleMakers 6:30pm - DT Rehearsal: Godspell 6:30pm - Education Committee	13 9:30am - UM Pastor Cluster Team 4:30pm - Hi-Society 5:45pm - FUM CLC Board Meeting 7:00pm - Chancel Choir 7:00pm - BSP Call Backs	14 4:30pm - Martha's Kitchen 6:30pm - BGSU Men's Chorus Retreat	15 9:00am - BGSU Men's Chorus Retreat 1:00pm - Baby Shower
16 8:45 & 11:00am Worship Services 10:00am - Faith Formation Classes 1:00pm - DT Rehearsal: Godspell 5:30pm - Student Ministries Youth Fellowship	17 1:00pm - PERI Group 1:30pm - King's Daughters & Sons 5:30pm - Line Dancing 6:00pm - Church Conference 6:00pm - Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00pm - Trustees	18 Newsletter Deadline 9:00am - Job Jars 1:00pm - Prayer Shawl Knitting 6:00pm - PEO 6:30pm - Girl Scout Troops 10213 & 10824 7:00pm - BSP Rehearsal: Crazy for You	19 9:00am - MOPS 11:00am - Wood Co. Retired Teachers Luncheon 11:30am - Prayer Group 5:00pm - TrebleMakers 5:00pm - DT Rehearsal: Godspell	20 9:30am - UM Pastor Cluster Team 9:30am - UMW 4:30pm - Hi-Society 5:45 pm - NW Ohio Modern Quilt Guild 7:00 pm - Black Swamp Girl Scout Leaders 7:00pm - BSP Rehearsal: Crazy for You 7:00pm - Chancel Choir	21 4:30pm - Martha's Kitchen	22 8:00 am - PEO Event
23 8:45 & 11:00am Worship Services 10:00am - Faith Formation Classes 1:00pm - DT Rehearsal: Godspell 4:00pm - Pack 244 Wolf Den 5:30pm - Student Ministries Youth Fellowship	24 1:00pm - BG Housing Authority 5:00pm - Missions Committee 5:30pm - Line Dancing 6:00pm - Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00pm - BSP Rehearsal: Crazy for You 7:00pm - Worship Work Area	25 9:00am - Job Jars 10:00am - Newsletter Assembly 1:00pm - Mt. Ararat Investment Club 6:00pm - Hearth & Chapel 8:30pm - Girl Scout Troops 10213 & 10824 7:00pm - BSP Rehearsal: Crazy for You	26 9:00am - BG Housing Authority 11:30am - Prayer Group 5:00pm - TrebleMakers 6:30pm - DT Rehearsal: Godspell	27 9:30am - UM Pastor Cluster Team 4:30pm - Hi-Society 7:00pm - DT Rehearsal: Godspell 7:00pm - Chancel Choir	28 1:00pm - BG Housing Authority 4:30pm - Martha's Kitchen	29 1:00pm - Birthday Party
30 8:45 & 11:00am Worship Services 10:00am - Faith Formation Classes 1:00pm - DT Rehearsal: Godspell 5:30pm - Student Ministries Youth Fellowship	31 5:30pm - Line Dancing 6:00pm - Praise Team Rehearsal					