



# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ASHLAND



August/September, 2024

## Special Sunday on September 8th

For the past 2 years, we've had a Ministry Fair to celebrate Rally Day. This year, the Church Council would like to do something different: **Bring A Friend to Church Day!**

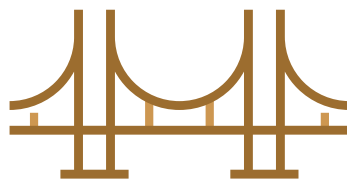
**Everyone in the whole church is invited to bring a friend** along that morning. It will be a day when we will worship together, treat our friends to a potluck brunch, and show off what a kind and loving community we have.

Don't worry, though. **This day isn't about recruiting new members or proselytizing our loved ones.** It's about **sharing an important part of our life** with our friends and family. It's about introducing them to the friends we have, the music we love, the scriptures we cherish, and the rituals that give us meaning.

Whoever you want to bring is entirely up to you! You may have a **good friend** who has never been here, or you may have a **family member** who used to attend but hasn't been back in quite some time, or maybe there's a **young person** in your life that you want to expose to the beauty and mystery of church life. Whoever it is, bring them along! **Pick them up, and make a morning of it.**

One of the key differences between a vibrant, living congregation and a congregation that just putters along in a state of decline is the amount of **pride** church members have in their church -- how **"in-love"** they are with their own church-family.

This is a great opportunity for you to show someone close to you just **how much love you have for this amazing community of faith!**



## PROJECT: BRIDGE

AFTER-CHURCH DISCUSSION ON SEPTEMBER 22ND!

ENJOY A FREE COFFEE AND DONUTS AS WE TALK ABOUT  
THE FUTURE OF OUR CHURCH!



In this newsletter  
you can expect:

Bring a Friend to  
Church Day

Our Next  
Project:BRIDGE  
Meeting

Third "Faith Together"  
Worship Service

Acolyte Ministry

Meet our Guest  
Preacher for 08-04

New Bible Study

New Trustees Chair

Pool Party

Beyond the Box

## Third “Faith Together” Worship Service

On **August 11th, at 10am**, we will be meeting across the street at **First Presbyterian Church** for our third ecumenical worship service of the year! Joining us that day will also be Peace Lutheran Church, Come Alive Community Church, and Christ United Methodist Church. After the service, we will share a **potluck** in their fellowship hall, so **please bring a dish to share!**

***It is undeniable that God has been working in powerful ways through these services!***



In a world where the Church has become a declining institution, where fewer people go to church and those that do, do so less often, and where financial support for communities of faith is lower than it has ever been, churches need, now more than ever, to work **together**. By worshiping and eating together, we are forging new friendships and building relationships across denominational lines that we hope will open up new areas for **fellowship, shared ministry, and greater unity** in the future.

It's always difficult to break rhythm and go to a strange church at a strange time and meet people you don't already know. Yet, it is precisely in that discomfort that Christ meets us and gives us a glimpse of what is possible. If you have not yet been to a Faith Together service, I challenge you to **make it a priority on August 11th**.

Jesus said, **“By this they will know you are disciples, that you love one another as I have loved you.”** Let us walk across the street, gather with neighbors, and continue the hard work of learning how to love one another!

### Acolyte Ministry

We are restarting our **FUMC Acolyte Ministry**! If you know a **young person** who would enjoy serving the church by carrying our flame and helping in other ways on Sunday mornings, please **let Vicar Derek know!**

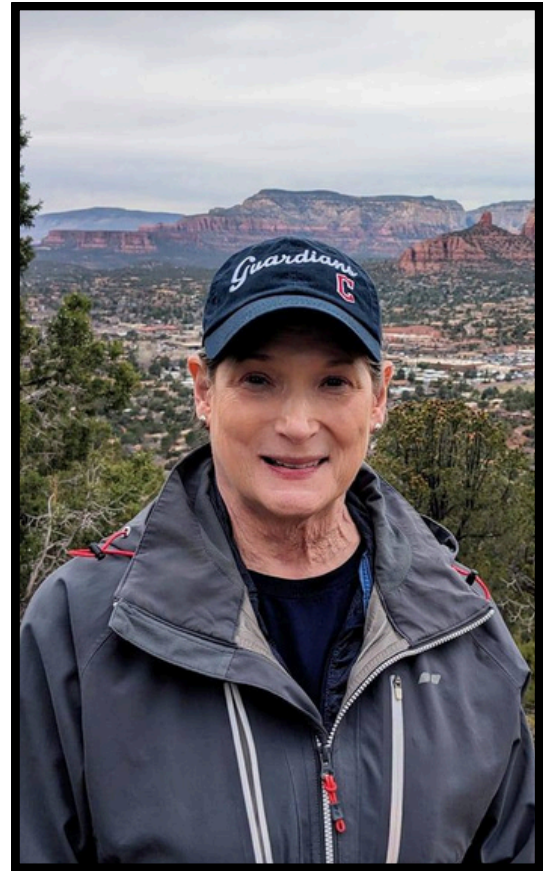


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## Special Guest Preacher on August 4th!

While Vicar Derek is away on retreat, First UMC will welcome a good friend of Vicar Derek to be our special guest preacher on **August 4th**.

**The Rev. Mollie Gordon Brown** is an ordained elder in full connection in the East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church. She retired from full-time pastoral ministry last year. Her most recent appointment prior to retirement was as Lead Pastor of Westlake United Methodist Church in the western suburbs of Cleveland. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Virginia Commonwealth University and a Master of Divinity degree from United Theological Seminary. In retirement, she and her husband Doug live in Delaware, Ohio. **Please make it a priority to be here that day to support Rev. Brown!**



## New Bible Study Launching September 9th

Our Monday Morning Bible Study has miraculously transformed into the **Monday Afternoon Bible Study!** We will be meeting at **4pm in the Church Library** to read and discuss a book of the Bible. We will choose our first book on **August 19th**, so if you would like to have a say, plan on being there that day.

**You don't have to be a Bible expert to come!** The Monday Bible Study is **relaxed and informal**. We have a core group of six who come pretty regularly, and if you can't make a week, it's no big deal. We go pretty deep (Ezekiel took us a whole year), but we also have a lot of **fun**, and every week we have **interesting discussions!** If you're looking to get back into regular Bible reading, please join us in August!

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## Say “Hello” to our new Trustees Chair, Brooks Whitmore!

Even though his wife, Pastor Jenny, is now serving the fine people of Crestwood UMC, Brooks will continue to be involved in our Church! He cares deeply for our history, our tradition, our building, and for us! That’s why **he has accepted the position of our new Trustees Chair until at least January 1st, 2025.**

Until then, he will be organizing a **Team of Trustees** who help take care of this wonderful building that serves as our church-home!

If you feel God calling you to this special ministry, make sure you mention it to Brooks or to Vicar Derek. **Thank you, Brooks, for your service to the Church!**

## Fun and Fellowship Pool Party

The Fun & Fellowship Ministry is back! We’ll continue to meet for fun activities, however it will be a little less frequent than monthly like it was in 2023. So get out your floats and shades..... it’s time for a pool party potluck! Mark your calendars now for **Wednesday, August 7 from 4:00 – 7:00 PM at 815 TR Road 1524** in Ashland, where Pam Uhler and daughter Mary Pheneger have graciously agreed to host us again this year. Burgers, hot dogs, and drinks will be provided.....and **guests are asked to bring sides or desserts, and table service.** Sign up via a pew card at the worship service or let the church office know by **Monday, August 5** so that we’ll know how much meat to buy. Don’t forget to bring your bathing suit and a towel, or just enjoy relaxing at Pam’s beautiful poolside. Sound like a plan? See you August 7!



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We had a great pool party at Brookside on July 27th and are currently making plans for the Fall! If you have a young person in your life that you would like to see involved, please let Vicar Derek know and show them our **Mountain Movers Facebook** page so that they can stay up to date on everything that's happening!



## Calling All Teachers

As part of Project: BRIDGE, the Church Council would like a team of **current/former teachers** to help us evaluate how we can make our building more accessible to children. If you have ever been a teacher and would consider serving on this team, please **let Vicar Derek** know, and plan on attending a meeting on **Saturday, August 24th, at 9am!**



## Dear AFUMC Family

Thank you very much for the wonderful tribute you paid me during and after worship on June 16th. It was a great surprise and honor to be recognized in such a way for my military service and in celebration of my 80th birthday. I appreciated the kind words of Melody Barnes and the Bible presented to me that day. Thank you for the delicious cake, reception, and time of fellowship after worship. I was also very touched by your many birthday cards and heartfelt notes. God is great and so is his family. I am truly blessed as always.

- **Jack Cadley**



## Cards for Veterans

Sending a card is a great way to let a veteran know that you're thinking about them and you love them, especially on their birthday! The Veterans' Ministry would like to invite you to send a card to those mentioned below who have birthdays in June and July.

Brynn McKee 08/08  
1393 Township Road 523  
Ashland, Ohio 44805

Edmund Coleman 09/11  
PO BOX 1313,  
Ashland OH 44805

Howard Smithheister 09/23  
1787 Kingwood Court  
Ashland, Ohio 44805

Nate Baum 08/23  
5422 Rosecliff Dr,  
Lorain OH 44053

Gary Coleman 08/09  
48 Rainbow Ridge Rd,  
Franklin NC 28734

Deadline for submissions for the Oct./Nov. Newsletter is **8am on Sept. 22nd** !

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Grace and peace,

As we head into Fall and the start of what we call “the program year,” I invite you to take some time to consider how you can **prioritize your own spirituality and discipleship** in your schedule. It’s really easy to get swept up in the busy-ness of life and the cares of this world. Yet we are always called to make **connecting with God and with our Church Family a priority.**

# BEYOND THE BOX



CHRISTIAN POLITICS BEYOND THE LEFT/RIGHT SPECTRUM

**Does your family feel political strain?**  
**Do you worry about the divisions in our society?**  
**Do you fear what tomorrow might bring?**

Join us for an **8-Week Seminar** as we search for **hope** in the **peculiar politics** of the Bible and imagine what **Christian politics** looks like in a society torn apart by partisanship. Just make sure you leave your **FOX/MSNBC** talking points at the door!

**6:30-8:00 on Wednesdays in September and October**  
 @ Ashland First United Methodist Church  
 220 S. Sandusky Street  
 Please call to tell us you're coming:  
 419-289-7551

We have several opportunities for you to make that connection happen this Fall through the ministries of our Church. Our Wednesday night seminar, **Beyond the Box**, will focus on how to live as faithful Christians during another difficult and divisive election season. Our **Monday Afternoon Bible Study** will be studying a New Testament book **beginning August 19th**. We are gathering with our fellow Christians **at First Presbyterian on August 11th** to worship as a single Body of Christ. You're invited to **bring a friend to church August 8th**, and our next **Project: BRIDGE meeting will be September 22nd**. These are all great opportunities for you to **prioritize** your relationship with God and with God's Church. If you do that, if you put these dates on your calendar and make them a priority, I can guarantee, you won't regret it!

*Vicar Derek*

FIRST UMC OF ASHLAND	419-289-7551
<a href="http://www.ashlandfirst.org">www.ashlandfirst.org</a>	Sunday Service: 9:30am Sundays Morning Prayer: 7:30am Tuesdays