



The Spire

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
OF ASHLAND



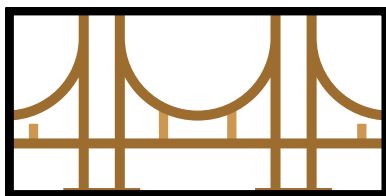
October/November, 2024

Reserve a Candle for All Saints' Day

One of the most important services of the year happens on the first Sunday of November. **All Saints' Day** is an ancient Christian tradition whereby we remember those Saints of our Church and of our lives who have passed into the "Church Triumphant," especially those who have passed away over the last year.

If someone close to you has passed away since last November 1st, whether they attended our church or not, please give their name to Christina in the Church Office so we can purchase a candle in their honor. If you reserve a candle for someone, please come **fifteen minutes early** on **November 3rd** so you can be a part of our procession and place their candle on the altar.

There are a handful of Sundays every year that are so important to the life of the Church that everyone should make every effort to attend. All Saints' is one such Sunday. It will be a time for us to remember, to mourn, to give thanks, and to give comfort to those among us who have felt loss in the past year.



PROJECT: BRIDGE

AFTER-CHURCH DISCUSSION ON OCTOBER 13TH!

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

At this important meeting, the One Board and Vicar Derek will present some work we want to accomplish this next year to make our building more accessible and inviting to children, families, and those with disabilities. We will ask for your blessing as we move forward with the project of building bridges! If you want to be a part of our church's decision-making process, please plan to attend.

In this newsletter you can expect:
All Saints' Day Candles
Our Next Project:BRIDGE Meeting
Fourth "Faith Together" Worship Service
Shoebox Ministry
ZOE Corn
Vicar Derek's Vacay
Hanging of the Greens
Mountain Movers/Parents' Night Out
Veterans' Recognition

First UMC to host fourth “Faith Together” Service on November 24th.

On November 24th, our church will host First Presbyterian, Peace Lutheran, Christ UMC, and Come Alive Community Church as we again worship together as one Body of Christ in the City of Ashland. **Rev. Justin Hylden** will bring us our message that day, and Vicar Derek will preside over Holy Communion.



Afterward, we will share a continental breakfast together and have a **panel discussion with all the Faith Together clergy** about where we feel God is leading our churches as we partner to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with the Ashland community.

This has the potential to be an important conversation about the future of all of our churches. Please plan on staying for both the service and the breakfast to follow.



Shoebox Ministry

It's hard to believe, but the Christmas season is already quickly approaching! We will again be placing shoeboxes in the narthex to be filled for Operation Christmas Child.

These boxes will be handed out to millions of children throughout our Global Church Network.

These boxes, including the postage fee of \$10 per box, will need to be returned to the church by Sunday, November 10th. If you enclose a check for the postage, please make the check out to First United Methodist Church.

You have the opportunity to show the light of Christ to a child this Christmas season!

Zoe Corn Harvest Results

Thank you to everyone who purchased and participated in our fundraiser support our beloved ZOE Ministry. Here are the results from this year's harvest:

Ashland First UMC: 50 dozen, \$426

Willoughby UMC: 58 dozen, \$493

Gay Street UMC: 58 dozen, \$945

Willoughby Hills UMC: 86 dozen, \$1,177

Total: 279 dozen, \$3,041

A special thank you to John Boyer for planting and tending the corn, to all volunteers who helped pick up and transport, and to all who purchased the corn. You are all a blessing to the ZOE orphans in Zimbabwe.

Also, thanks to all who continue to pray and support the ZOE program in other ways!



Vicar Derek's Time Away

Our sheepdog will be on a monastery retreat with his religious order October 14-20th. His annual vacation will be November 4-18th, when he will be going away with Maggie, writing, reading, and tending to his bonsai trees. Please refrain from contacting him during these times. **If you have a pastoral emergency, please call Rev. Toni McKee at 419-606-5454**



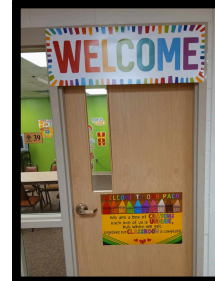
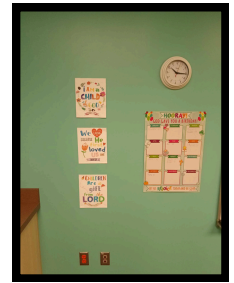
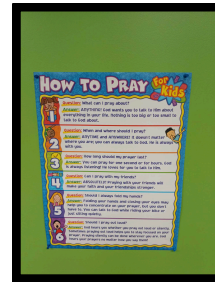
Hanging of the Greens

Every year we transform our Church into a Winter Wonderland! Please come on out on **Saturday, November 30th, at 10am** for our **Hanging of the Greens**. We will be hanging garland, putting up Christmas trees, and preparing the sanctuary for the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Vicar Derek will provide lunch for all who attend. If you are planning on coming, please let Sandi Rowsey know!

Thank you, Sandi!

A special thanks goes out to Sandi Rowsey for painting and rejuvenating our Children's Sunday School room downstairs.

And thank you to all of our faithful Sunday School teachers who show up, week in and week out, to teach children about God's love for them and for the world!



Coming Soon to AFUMC: A Future with Hope!

It's never too early to begin planning for 2025, and we hope your planning will include how you can continue your support of First Church.

Our congregation stands in the Ashland community as a beacon of welcome, hope, faith, and warm hospitality. We give thanks for all our resources – spiritual, theological, physical, and financial – that support this indispensable work. More information about God's beautiful gift of "a future with hope" will be presented at the worship service on October 6 and weeks following.



On Friday, October 25th, from 5:30-7:30pm, we will be hosting a Parents' Night Out. This is an event for all kids, K-6, to have a night filled with food, fun, and faith! It's perfect for parents to drop off their youngsters so they can have a couple hours for themselves on a Friday night.

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!



Veterans Recognition

The Veterans Ministry of Ashland First UMC cordially invites you to attend the **20th Annual Veterans Recognition to be held on Sunday, November 10th.** Veterans and their widows from our church family will be recognized before worship, and a reception will be held in the upper concourse immediately following worship. Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend. **If you have a friend or a family member who is a veteran, you might consider inviting them to church with you on that Sunday!**



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.

Stan Vallentine. 10/4
12430 Mifflin Ave.
Ashland OH 44805

Andrew Dreibelbis 11/11
2616 Collins Drive
Lorain, OH 44053

Andrew Zeigler. 11/26
3499 Annie's Run
Lucas OH. 44843

Duane Fulk 10/28
2601 Foxhaven Drive
Ashland, OH. 44805

Ken Householder. 11/22
151 Sharon Ave.
Ashland, OH. 44805

If you have a veteran in your life that you would like to add to our card list, please contact the Church Office!

Deadline for submissions for the Dec./Jan. Newsletter is
8am on Nov. 25th!

Church Finances



As part of our commitment to responsible financial stewardship, the One Board would like to more regularly communicate with the congregation about the state of our finances.

Below you will find our profit and loss statement for the month of August. You'll see that we ended the month about \$800 to the positive, though this includes a \$10,000 disbursement from this year's interest earnings of our central endowment fund.

While we would rather allow that interest to continue to accumulate, it has often been the case that we have needed to take disbursements in order to supplement our general church expenses, especially during lean summer months when attendance and giving are usually lower. Our hope is that the church will pay very close attention to our stewardship campaign this fall, so that we can all do our part to meet our church's financial goals in 2025.

Profit & Loss August 2024

	<u>Aug 24</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
ACCF--Barbara McCammon Fund	453.15
ACCF--Libby/Louis Thomas Fund	862.00
ACCF--William/Lutie Wolford Fund	4,327.00
EMU distribution	10,000.00
Envelopes	10,291.95
Misc. Income	-87.11
Plate	56.00
Sunday School	8.00
Sunday School--Friendship Clas	8.00
Total Income	<u>25,918.99</u>
Gross Profit	25,918.99
-	
Total Expense	<u>25,107.97</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>811.02</u>
Net Income	<u><u>811.02</u></u>

Grace and peace,

As we move toward Halloween and Thanksgiving, I find myself giving thanks for all of you! Especially for those who have taken the time to come on out to the new Monday afternoon Bible Study we launched this fall, the Breakfast Club Sunday School class where we've been learning about the Enneagram, and those who have been coming to the Wednesday night seminar.

If I'm being honest with myself, I have to admit that I've been over-extending. I love teaching and pastoring, more than probably anything else, especially when I have a congregation that's hungry to learn and grow. Yet, I have to acknowledge the temptation within myself to do too much.

That's why I'm also thankful that I have my monastic retreat with my religious order coming up and my annual November vacation is on the horizon.

The spiritual writer Parker Palmer says, "**Burnout is the violation of one's own nature in the name of nobility.**"

I think that's true. We live in a culture that tells us that we should always be doing more, producing more, achieving more, and - somehow - living more life. Yet that mentality refuses to acknowledge our humanity, that we are people who were created by God to live in fragile bodies with fragile minds that need rest, prayer, and repair. Work, school, society - they will all try to get us to transcend ourselves, to be more, to do more, to make, buy, and experience more. They will do everything they can to get us to use ourselves up for their sake, until we have no time or energy left for rest, for healing, for our families, for our spirits, or for our church.

Christ, on the other hand, wants to take our burdens from us, and lead us into harmony with God, with creation, and with ourselves. This fall, I hope you'll take him up on that offer.

-Vicar Derek



FIRST UMC OF ASHLAND	419-289-7551
www.ashlandfirst.org	Sunday Service: 9:30am Sundays Morning Prayer: 7:30am Tuesdays