

The Spire

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
OF ASHLAND ✦

April/May

Holy Week: Enter the Greatest Story Ever Told

Every Easter we expect to hear “the greatest story ever told,” the tale of Christ, betrayed, abandoned, executed, but ultimately victorious in resurrection. Yet, through the services of Holy Week, we have the opportunity not just to hear that story, but, in a way, to live it, to participate in it. Hearing a story is an intellectual exercise, but experiencing it through the tradition and the ritual of the church.... that’s something we do with our hearts. This year, please do what you can to join us, and remember, everyone who goes to at least 4 out of five of these services will receive a special gift!

| | | |
|----------------------|---|--|
| SUN 13 APRIL | 9:30 AM @FIRST UMC Palm Sunday, Washing of the Altar |  |
| THURS 17 APRIL | 7 PM @FIRST UMC Maundy Thursday Eucharist Service |  |
| FRI 18 APRIL | 7 PM @FIRST PRESBYTERIAN Good Friday Tenebrae Service |  |
| SAT 19 APRIL | 7 PM @RONK CHAPEL The Great Easter Vigil |  |
| SUN 20 APRIL | 9:30 AM @FIRST UMC The Feast of the Resurrection |  |

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Holy Week

Faith Together on
April 27

Pentecost and
New Members on
June 8

Candy Collection

Children’s Sunday
School News

Helping
Appleseed

Bridge Builders

PILLOW FIGHT

Veterans Ministry

Finances

Faith Together Service on April 27 @First Presbyterian

We will be worshipping with all our FAITH TOGETHER friends at **First Presbyterian** on April 27th at **10am**. Vicar Derek will be preaching!



The Feast of Pentecost - Sunday, June 8

Make sure you join us on this special Sunday when we celebrate the **birthday of the Church!** It is traditional to **wear at least one article of red clothing** on Pentecost Sunday to symbolize the fire of the Holy Spirit that resides in your heart. This will also be the day that we welcome **new members** into our community of faith. If you would like to become a member of First UMC, please contact Vicar Derek to find out how to participate!



Candy Collection

Pastor Toni is collecting candy donations for our shut-ins, and she would love your help! If you would like to contribute, please drop off your donations by Palm Sunday, April 13th.

Your generosity will bring joy to those who may not be able to celebrate in person, and every little bit helps. Thank you for being a blessing to others!



Children's Sunday School News

Beginning Sunday, June 1st through Sunday, August 31st, there will be no Sunday School pull-out during the worship service. There will be children's Sermons during the worship hour in the sanctuary throughout the summer months.

I would personally like to thank the dedicated teachers and helpers who graciously gave of their time and resources this past year to minister to our young children:

- Belinda Foster
- Kim Liston
- Mary Pheneger
- Kay Sayers
- Kay Smithhisler
- Delila Stiteler
- Sheryl Wallish



You are appreciated!

If you are interested in using your gifts either in teaching or helping with Sunday School in the fall, please contact Sandi Rowsey or the church office.

(On a more personal note, I (Vicar Derek) want to thank Sandi for all her hard work in taking on this incredibly important ministry of our church. She and all her helpers have done a wonderful job!)



Helping Appleseed

Appleseed Community Mental Health Center has lost an important grant that allowed them to **provide laundry service** for some of their clients, and our Church is going to try to fill that gap! They need **\$2000** to provide fresh clean clothes to those who desperately need them. Please, send in a clearly marked donation or drop it off in the basket at Church between now and Easter!

We are Building Bridges

In 2025, our new Community Engagement Coordinator, Mary Kettering, is helping us build bridges of love and service to this community. Every Christian is called to loving service, to their neighbors, to their community, and to those one the margins of society. She has been scouring the City of Ashland, looking for places where our service is needed.



If you haven't already done so, please take the Bridge Builders Survey (link below or fill one out at the Welcome Center), and tell us a little bit about yourself: where you currently serve, where you might like to serve, your abilities, and your schedule. And Mary will do whatever she can to connect you to an organization that needs your help!

Let us be together the hands and feet of Christ!

Bridge Builder Survey: <https://form.jotform.com/250714035130139>





Join the PILLOW FIGHT

Help the ACCESS ministry give a little bit of comfort to those in need by helping them restock their pillow supply!

Join us in our in a PILLOW FIGHT by bringing in pillows so that everyone who comes to ACCESS looking for shelter has a fresh, clean pillow. We'll see which side of the sanctuary can make the biggest pile by Easter Sunday to claim the title of 2025 PILLOW FIGHT CHAMPIONS!

Volunteer Grounds Keepers Needed

Do you enjoy working outside? Do you take pride in having trimmed hedges, well-watered plants, and clean flower beds? Are you looking for a fun and slightly different way to serve the Church?

If so, then you might consider becoming a new Volunteer Grounds Keeper! We need someone who is willing to help keep the flower beds and bushes in and around the Church looking neat and tidy. Having well-kept grounds is so important for making sure our Church building looks like a warm and inviting place to be. You can work by yourself or with other volunteers. In all, it only requires a couple hours a week during the summer months.

If you're interested, please talk to Vicar Derek!



Veterans' Ministry

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 April and May.

Kenneth Fisher 04-01

85 Little Creek Rd
Pleasant Shade, TN 37145

Justin Hart 04-22

5319 Abby Loop Way
Dayton, OH 45414

William Dilts 04-04

15 Water St
Ashland OH 44805

Glen Carter 04-15

825 Mt, Auburn Ave.
Ashland OH 44805

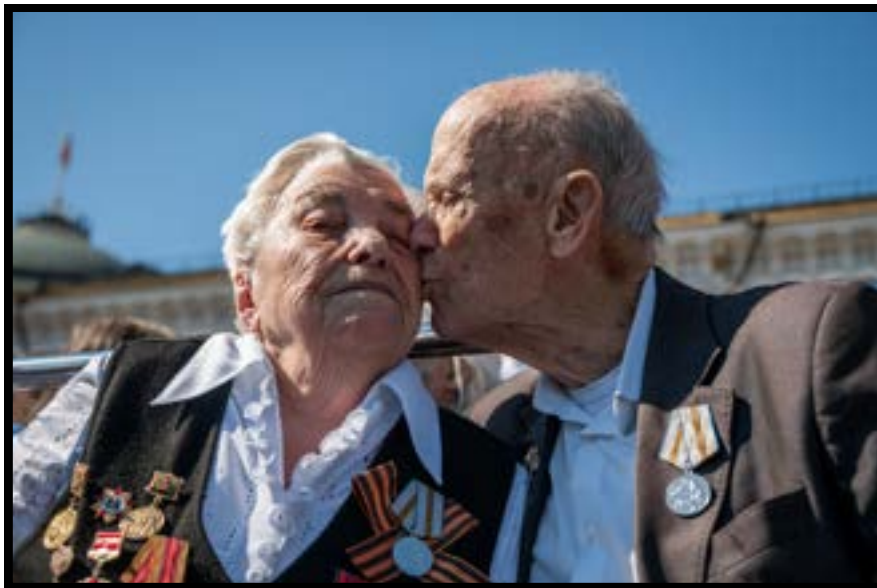
Jack Irvine 05-09

Inn at Ashland Woods
Rm 338
1050 Dauch Dr
Ashland OH 44805

Mike Longwell 04-23

1319 Cty Rd 956
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 SUMMER Newsletter is
8am on May 26th!

Church Finances



| | Ordinary Income/Expense | | |
|---|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Feb '25 | Feb '24 | Feb '23 |
| Income | | | |
| Amazon smile rewards | | | 7.06 |
| Community Foundation annual distributions | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Apportionments | 0.00 | 0.00 | 25.00 |
| Building use fees | 314.00 | 564.00 | 380.00 |
| custodial fees | 66.00 | 66.00 | 0.00 |
| withdrawal from endowments / memorials | 15,000.00 | 10,000.00 | 10,000.00 |
| tithes & offerings | 9,805.35 | 15,787.95 | 16,599.10 |
| Misc. Income | 0.00 | 276.85 | 63.46 |
| loose in plate | 58.00 | 90.00 | 111.00 |
| quarterly trust fund gift | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Sunday School | 0.00 | 5.00 | 9.00 |
| VISA rewards income | | | |
| Total Income | 25,243.35 | 26,789.80 | 27,194.62 |
| 2024 Contract Worship Leader | 200.00 | 0.00 | 64,382.18 |
| Total Expenses | 28,148.13 | 27,404.18 | 28,033.93 |
| Net Income | -\$2,904.78 | -\$614.38 | -\$839.31 |

Hello folks,

Just a quick note to let you know where we stand in giving so far this year, due to the fact we were not in sanctuary two Sundays in the Month of February and we have had an extended period of cold running up the heating costs, we are behind in giving to the amount of \$11,780.60. If you have missed giving those two weeks consider giving extra in the next few weeks. Thank You for your consideration of this matter and if there are questions about finance please feel free to contact me.

Yours in Christ,
Tom Barcroft