



The Spire

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
OF ASHLAND ✦

October/November

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Leave

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and Elsa Court

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Vicar Derek Goes on Renewal Leave: Oct. 6 - Nov. 23

The United Methodist Church allows pastors, once every four years, to go on an extended **spiritual renewal leave**. SRL is an opportunity for clergy to disengage from the unique stresses of pastoral ministry, recenter their lives, and attend to the needs of physical, psychological, spiritual and relational health.

I feel incredibly privileged to be able to take this time away, and focus on my writing and on my spiritual life. While I love you all very much, I know that if I am to keep loving you well, it is important for me to take care of myself and attend to the needs of my own soul and of my family.

If you think there is an issue that absolutely requires my attention, I invite you to share it with Rev. Steve Court (more on him below) and he will be the one who decides if I am contacted. In the meanwhile, I ask only for your prayers. For my time away, for my writing, and above all for Maggie who has to deal with seeing me a LOT more around the house! You might want to pray for Beowulf and Fenris too, as they will miss seeing everyone in the office during the week.

Thank you all for this opportunity, and for continuing to be the same wonderful people you always are. I have every confidence in the world that you will be edified by the ministry of Rev. Steve and that you will be faithful to the Church in my absence.

Your Sheepdog,
Vicar Derek

Rev. Steve and Elsa Court

The Rev. Steve Court has graciously accepted the call to stand in as the Pastor-in-Charge while Vicar Derek is away. He is a retired Elder in The United Methodist Church. He has served as a pastor, district superintendent, director of connectional ministries, and board member of the General Council on Finance and Administration.

He and Elsa live in Mansfield where they enjoy time with the families of their 3 adult children and especially their 3 grandchildren. He volunteers as the East Ohio Conference Disaster Response Coordinator as well as a member of the West Plains District Mission and Strategy team.

He will cover Vicar Derek in the pulpit, perform any funerals, hold limited office hours, and teach the Monday afternoon Bible Study.

He has an excellent reputation in the East Ohio Conference. He has attended First UMC quite a bit this last year with his grandchildren. Vicar Derek would have struggled to find anyone more qualified to keep watch over the Church as him!



Contact Rev. Steve

Rev. Steve Court can be reached at **330-447-4976** and his email is **sdcumc@gmail.com**.

New Office Hours

While Vicar Derek is away, the office will change its weekly schedule:

Monday 8:00am-12:30pm
Tuesday 8:00am-4:30 pm
Wednesday CLOSED
Thursday 8:00am-12:30pm
Friday CLOSED

FAITH TOGETHER JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE

Our next Faith Together service will be held on **October 19th** at **Peace Lutheran Church** at **10am**. Rev. Mar Bruner, the new pastor from Christ UMC, will be preaching!



All Saints Day Is Coming!

On November 2nd, First UMC will have our annual service to honor all the saints who have departed from us this past year.

If you have someone who has died since November 1st 2024, and you would like them to be remembered in our service that day, please give their name to Christina in the church office and she will make sure they get a candle. Also, if you ordered a candle, please make sure you or another person is at the church five minutes early that day to participate in the processional at the start of the service.

If you have a name in mind, and think the church office already has it, please contact us to make sure! We don't want to leave anyone out.



Senior Lunch Bunch

The Senior Lunch Bunch is a monthly group for seniors, especially those who are retired or have been widowed. The group will meet at The Greens Bistro & Pub on Monday, **October 6 at 11:30am**. Please **RSVP to Kim Liston** in person or by sending her a text at 419-651-8793.



Hanging of the Greens!

Christmas may feel like it's a long way off, but it's closer than you think!

On Sunday, **November 23rd**, we will stay after the service for the annual Hanging of the Greens. We deck the halls of First UMC with lights and greenery and make the atmosphere as holly and jolly as possible before Advent.

Many hands make light work, so please mark this date on your calendar! (There may be some pizza involved as well!)

NEW LEADERS!

Say hello to the three newest members of our Church Board!

Carol Wally- Staff Parish Relations Chair (basically, church HR)

Randy Endsley- Trustees Chair (handles building and maintenance)

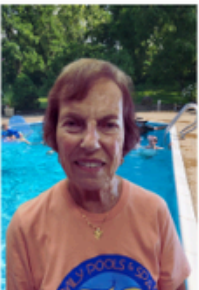
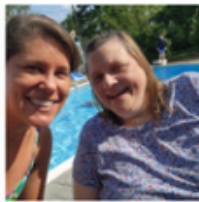
David Boyer- Annual Conference Delegate (represents us to the larger UMC)

Thank you all for accepting the call to service!



Thank you to Pam Uhler and the Phenegers!

We had a great turn out for our Fun & Fellowship Pool Party in early August! We gathered at Pam Uhler's house and enjoyed lots of great food! The kids and some of their parents enjoyed the swimming pool while most of the other adults just had a great time relaxing and catching up with one another on a warm summer evening.



GAME NIGHT- OCT. 15, 6:30-8:30 pm

Our next Fun & Fellowship event will be Game Night on Wednesday October 15th, 6:30-8:30pm. **Sign up at the welcome center** if you plan to attend. You're welcome to bring your favorite game to play with friends, and/or a snack or dessert to share, but it's not required. The most important thing to bring is yourself!

BRIDGE BUILDERS

The Bridge Builders Project has been moving forward with great progress! Mary Kettering created Bridge Builders Booklets which contain information about various volunteer opportunities in our community. Everyone has skills, talents, and availability that is unique to them, and this booklet can help each person find the opportunities that work best for them. Whether you like to make things, visit with people, make food, work with animals, or something else, there is a service opportunity in Ashland for you!

If you did not receive a booklet you can pick one up at the church. If you need help discerning which service opportunities would be best for you feel free to contact Mary and she can help. 419-685-4989.

We also have Serving T-shirts available! You can wear one of these shirts to help be a witness to those around you while you are volunteering, or while you are just out and about in the community. There is a QR code on the back of the shirt that someone can scan to connect with our church and get more information. To get a shirt fill out a Serving Shirts form at the church and turn it in to Mary Kettering.

Have you noticed that by doing acts of service for our community you are touching on all FIVE portions of our vows as United Methodists? It requires our prayers to help discern which things we will do, our presence to go and do them, our gifts - which are more than financial, our service - the acts that we do, and witness by showing people who we are, sharing where we're from, and wearing t-shirts with our church's name on them.



Bridge Builders Breakfast

Be on the lookout for a free Bridge Builders Breakfast in November. As our congregation works to build bridges to the wider Ashland community, we need to hear from that community. Our Community Engagement Coordinator Mary has invited two service-based groups in the City of Ashland to come to our church to tell us a bit about what they do and what we can do to help them. We are still looking for a date, but we're hoping it will take place in November!



Veterans' Ministry

Please SAVE THE DATE: November 9th, Veterans Recognition

The Veterans Ministry of Ashland First UMC cordially invites you to attend the 21st annual Veterans Recognition after church on Sunday, November 9th. Veterans and veterans' widows will be recognized directly before the worship service and a reception will follow in the upper concourse immediately after.

Please plan to be there that day as we worship God and remember the plight of veterans and veterans' widows. If you have a friend or family member who is a veteran, please invite them to attend with you.

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 October and November..

Stan Valentine 10-4

2430 Mifflin Ave
Ashland OH 44805

Brian Kinner 10-17

6177 Cty Rd 68
Spencerville IN 46788

Kayla Wolf 10-27

3351 31st #4
San Diego CA 92104

Duane Fulk 10-28

2601 Foxhaven
Ashland OH 44805

Andrew Driebelis 11-11

2616 Collins Dr
Lorain OH 44053

Ken Householder 11-22

151 Sharon Ave
Ashland OH 44805

Bradley Harris 11-25

No Address

Andrew Zeigler 11-26

3499 Annie's Run
Lucas OH 44843

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

Church Finances



Ashland First United Methodist Church Profit & Loss August 2025

	Aug 25
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
ACCF--Barbara McCammon Fund	473.40
ACCF--Libby/Louis Thomas Fund	848.00
ACCF--William/Lutie Wolford Fund	4,297.00
Building Use Fees	
Weight Watchers Rent	801.50
Total Building Use Fees	801.50
Custodial Fees	
Weight Watchers	82.50
Custodial Fees - Other	66.00
Total Custodial Fees	148.50
EMU distribution	5,000.00
Envelopes	15,572.53
Misc. Income	100.00
Plate	55.00
Sunday School--Friendship Class	19.00
Total Income	27,314.93
Gross Profit	27,314.93
Total Expense	23,711.33
Net Ordinary Income	3,603.60
Net Income	3,603.60

Deadline for submissions for the
next Newsletter is 8am on
November 22nd!