

November, 2024



The Echo

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
202 W. FOURTH STREET
GREENVILLE, OHIO 45331

Come, Worship the Lord

Worship Service @ 10:00 a.m.

Life Groups @ 11:15 a.m.

MISSION OF FUMC

At First United Methodist Church we praise and worship a living God, and love and serve others.



*Wednesday
November 20th for
the December
Echo newsletter.*

Meet Your Staff & Lay Leaders

Pastor - Gary Blacklidge

Music Director - Debbie Weyrick

Organist - Matt Hunt

Leadership Council - Sonja Etzell

SPRC - Joyce Dotson

Trustees - Scott Laughead

Hearts & Hands Caregiving Ministry -
Ken Moore

Soup Kitchen - Marty Schipfer

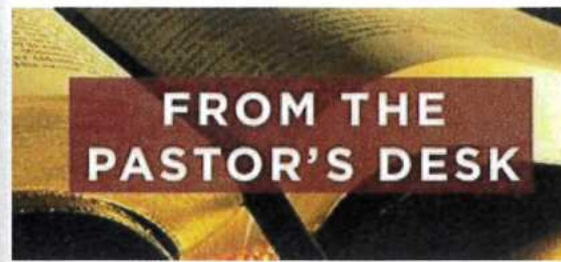
Custodian - Mike Ditty

Office Administrator - Natasha Shilt

Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9:30 AM - 4:00





It seems as if we were just serving in the Spiritual Life Center at the Darke County Fair in 90-degree temperatures. And now we are entering the month of November. We need to remember that it is a very busy and important month. As I have mentioned in years past, November is not just a place holder between Halloween and Christmas. Much work in planning and preparation is going on to prepare for Advent and Christmas Eve. Christmas is on Wednesday this year, which means Christmas Eve is on Tuesday.

The first Sunday in Advent is December 1st. Therefore, Hanging of the Greens will be November 24th following worship.

We need to keep in mind however, that even with all the planning and activity of getting ready for Advent, November is also the month of Thanksgiving. We all need to make sure we take time to reflect on all the many blessings God has bestowed upon us. It is important to remember that Thanksgiving occurred in November because the pilgrims and those that followed, used that time to be thankful for the bounty of the harvest that God had blessed them with to sustain them through the coming winter.

Being grateful for and reflecting upon God's blessings and bounty during November, the month of Thanksgiving, is one of the reasons that the Stewardship Committee of the church has decided to again have our annual Stewardship Season this month. In this manner, our time of reflecting and focusing on God's many blessings will prepare our hearts and minds to determine what we will be pledging to support the church financially in the coming year.

We call this time of planning our giving, stewardship, because we are focusing on a very foundational truth. In our relationship with God, God is the owner, and He has rights. We are the stewards, and we have responsibilities. Everything we have belongs to God, and we are acting as stewards of that which is truly His.

Most people do not like their pastors to talk about stewardship. Some think it is boring; others think it is meddling. However, stewardship is an extremely important topic for Christians to understand. In fact, understanding biblical stewardship can transform our lives. People want to hear about Jesus and His love. But, did you know that after the topic of love and faith, Jesus talked more about stewardship than anything else? That is why William James Dawson said, "It was not an accident that seventeen of the thirty-six parables of our Lord had to do with property and stewardship."

We will again present our pledges to support the 2025 Budget on November 24th, during our Thanksgiving worship service. This year we will be repeating something that was very meaningful last year. On that Sunday there will be a card in your bulletin allowing everyone to list what they are thankful for. During the service when we bring our pledge cards forward, we will also be able to bring our cards of Thanksgiving forward to the altar as well. In this manner, we will be able to honor the Lord with our pledges and our thanksgiving.

By the time you receive this ECHO, our secretary, Cindy Austen will have retired. She has been very dedicated and hardworking and will truly be missed. She and Tim will still be attending our church, when they are not in Myrtle Beach for the winter, so please make sure to thank Cindy for all her hard work. Natasha Shilt has been hired as the new secretary. If you are in the office some time, please make sure and introduce yourself and say hello.

I pray that the Lord will bless you and our church during this season of Thanksgiving.

Pastor Gary





| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 Worship 10 AM 11:15 AM Searchers Class Going Deeper Class | 4 Soup Kitchen 6-8 PM SCOUTS | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 Worship 10 AM 11:15 AM Searchers Class Going Deeper Class | 11 6-8 PM SCOUTS Renewed Life Group – 7 PM | 12 6:00 PM SPRC | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 Worship 10 AM 11:15 AM Searchers Class Going Deeper Class | 18 6-8 PM SCOUTS | 19 5:30 PM Leadership | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 Women's Thanksgiving Brunch – 10 AM |
| 24 Worship 10 AM 11:15 AM Searchers Class Going Deeper Class | 25 6-8 PM SCOUTS | 26 | 27 Church Office Closed | 28 Church Office Closed Thanksgiving | 29 | 30 |



| <u>DATE</u> | <u>TIME</u> | <u>HOME</u> | <u>AWAY</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Mon Nov 4, 2024 | 7:30 PM - 8:15 PM | FUMC | Ansonia | First United Methodist Church |
| Mon Nov 4, 2024 | 8:15 PM - 9:00 PM | FUMC | Ansonia | First United Methodist Church |
| Mon Nov 4, 2024 | 9:00 PM - 9:45 PM | FUMC | Ansonia | First United Methodist Church |
| Mon Nov 11, 2024 | 7:30 PM - 8:15 PM | EUM #2 | FUMC | Eum Church |
| Mon Nov 11, 2024 | 8:15 PM - 9:00 PM | EUM #2 | FUMC | Eum Church |
| Mon Nov 11, 2024 | 9:00 PM - 9:45 PM | EUM #2 | FUMC | Eum Church |
| Mon Nov 18, 2024 | 7:30 PM - 8:15 PM | FUMC | Beech Grove | First United Methodist Church |
| Mon Nov 18, 2024 | 8:15 PM - 9:00 PM | FUMC | Beech Grove | First United Methodist Church |
| Mon Nov 18, 2024 | 9:00 PM - 9:45 PM | FUMC | Beech Grove | First United Methodist Church |
| Mon Dec 2, 2024 | 7:30 PM - 8:15 PM | FUMC | Oakland #1 | First United Methodist Church |
| Mon Dec 2, 2024 | 8:15 PM - 9:00 PM | FUMC | Oakland #1 | First United Methodist Church |
| Mon Dec 2, 2024 | 9:00 PM - 9:45 PM | FUMC | Oakland #1 | First United Methodist Church |
| Mon Dec 16, 2024 | 7:30 PM - 8:15 PM | FUMC | Oakland #2 | First United Methodist Church |
| Mon Dec 16, 2024 | 8:15 PM - 9:00 PM | FUMC | Oakland #2 | First United Methodist Church |
| Mon Dec 16, 2024 | 9:00 PM - 9:45 PM | FUMC | Oakland #2 | First United Methodist Church |
| Mon Dec 30, 2024 | 7:30 PM - 8:15 PM | Painter Creek | FUMC | Painter Creek Church-Brethren |
| Mon Dec 30, 2024 | 8:15 PM - 9:00 PM | Painter Creek | FUMC | Painter Creek Church-Brethren |
| Mon Dec 30, 2024 | 9:00 PM - 9:45 PM | Painter Creek | FUMC | Painter Creek Church-Brethren |

| <u>PLACE</u> | <u>ADDRESS</u> |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Ansonia First Church of God | 750 South Main Street, Ansonia, OH, US |
| Beech Grove Church of the Brethren | 3420 Harrison Road, Hollansburg, OH, US |
| Castine Church | 624 U.S. 127, Arcanum, OH, US |
| Eum Church | 111 Devor Street, Greenville, OH, US |
| First United Methodist Church | 202 West 4th Street, Greenville, OH, US |
| Fort Jefferson United Methodist Church | 3856 Church Street, Greenville, OH, US |
| Oakland Church of the Brethren | 8058 Horatio-Harris Creek Road, Bradford, OH, US |
| Painter Creek Church-Brethren | 8593 Ohio 571, Arcanum, OH, US |
| Pitsburg Trinity | 8520 Oakes Rd, Greenville, OH, US |
| Saint John Lutheran Church | 7418 OH-121, Greenville, OH, US |
| Trinity Wesleyan Church | 1400 East Main Street, Greenville, OH, US |

Dear Members and Friends of First United Methodist Church,

It is a privilege to write to you on behalf of the Finance Committee to announce the annual Stewardship drive will begin during the worship service on Sunday, November 3rd and shall conclude during morning worship on Sunday, November 24th. “Continuing to Move Forward” is this year’s stewardship theme.

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines “stewardship” as “the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care.” Everything we have comes from God whether it be our talents, our material possessions, or how we manage our time. Our Reaffirmation of Faith reminds us “as members of the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church we will faithfully participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.”

In 2 Corinthians 9:7 we learn “each of us should give what we have decided in our hearts to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a joyful giver.”

Being good stewards is something we do at First Church not only during the month stewardship is emphasized but all year long. We are a generous congregation!

During the month of November Pastor Gary’s sermons will provide us with a better understanding of the biblical basis of stewardship. Additionally, information will be provided by the Finance Committee about the church’s finances, a projected budget for 2025, and wishes and wants in order to grow the church.

While the overall goal of the Stewardship drive is to have all members and friends of the church make a financial pledge toward tithing or beyond for the upcoming year, please keep in mind you can adjust your giving over the course of next year due to circumstances which cause one’s income to decrease or to increase. Your pledge is kept strictly confidential. Only the financial secretary of the church, Keith Denman, is aware of the amount pledged.

Thank you for taking of your time to read this letter. The Finance Committee asks you to prayerfully consider participating in this year’s stewardship drive.

Let’s Continue to Move Forward in 2025!!

Respectfully,

Dan Schipfer
Finance Committee Chair

MY COMMITMENT TO MY CHURCH



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

- I will **pray** for our church _____ times a week.
- I will **worship** at FUMC _____ times each month.
- I will **give** \$ _____ per (circle one) week/ month/ year.
- I will **serve** in the ministries written on the back of this card.
- I will **witness** to my faith by inviting _____ friends to worship at FUMC.

In gratitude for God's generosity toward me, I gladly commit to support Christ's ongoing work through FUMC in 2025.

NOVEMBER

Things to do

Around the Greenville



1st - Greenville's First Friday Event. Theme: Culinary Tour



2nd - Fall into Christmas Food Truck Rally & Crafts @ Darke County Fair Grounds



5th - Don't forget to Vote!



18th - Christmas Open House @ Bears Mill



23rd - Greenville's Annual Hometown Holiday Horse Parade



29th - Christmas Bazaar @ Arcanum Historical Society



WOMEN'S THANKSGIVING BRUNCH

Join us Saturday, Nov. 23rd at
10:00 AM for a carry-in brunch.

Join us on Saturday, Nov. 23rd at 10:00 AM for a carry-in brunch. We'll enjoy some delicious food and then create a Thanksgiving craft with the assistance of Kristin Jones of A Hive Collective. Cost of the craft is \$15, and making it is optional.

Use the sign-up sheet in the
narthex, or call the church
office at 937-548-3075 to
make your reservation.
Bring a friend!

**DON'T
MISS OUT**





Sunday November 24th everyone is invited to help us prepare for the coming season of Advent and Christmas. Decorating will take place immediately following service.



We Will Be Decorating Our Worship Area With Red Poinsettias This Christmas!

#Of 6 1/2 inch _____ Poinsettias @ \$17 Each

#Of 7 1/2 inch _____ Poinsettias @ \$29 Each

Your Name _____

Given in memory of:

Given in honor of:



Please place this form in the offering plate or submit to the church office no later than Dec. 10th
Please pay by December 1st.

November Birthdays

- 13 Lynda Burns
- 28 Dan Schipfer
- 29 Timothy Harless

November Anniversaries

- 23 Gary Lloyd & Judy Eikenberry
- 26 Gary & Jodi Blacklidge
- 27 Ed & Kay Curry



The sign up sheet for 2024 altar flowers is available in the narthex. Cost is \$35.

A white ceramic cup of coffee sits on a red knitted cozy on a rustic wooden table. Scattered around the cup are several yellow and orange autumn leaves and small red berries. The scene is warmly lit, suggesting a cozy indoor setting.

We have a sign up sheet for 2024 Sunday refreshments in the narthex.

Please lift up the following when you pray:

Bill Corbin, Richard Rhoades,
Jim & Teresa Ward,
Mike Lecklider
Clark Dynes

WE 

VOLUNTEERS

Marty Schipfer would like to say thank you to the soup kitchen volunteers!!

Our Homebound Church Family

Brethren Retirement Community: Luella McLearn, Mitzi Tryon, Anna Stryker

Tapestry Senior Living: Judy Jones

Oakley Place: Phylliss Williamson

Village Green: Richard Rhoades, Kay Curry

Brookdale: Mary Brewer, Anne Randall

ALL ABOUT FALL!

fill-in crossword



3 letters
red

4 letters
fall
rake
corn

5 letters
gourd
feast
cider

6 letters
apples
autumn
leaves
orange
yellow
turkey
season

7 letters
October
pumpkin
harvest
hayride

8 letters
November
football
haystack

9 letters
September
scarecrow
Halloween

12 letters
Thanksgiving



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
202 W. FOURTH STREET
GREENVILLE, OHIO 45331**

Phone: 937-548-3075
or: 937-548-0605
Email: gofumc@woh.rr.com

November, 2024

