

Just Some Thoughts from the Pastor

As I have thought about what to write for the newsletter, I of course thought about how we would soon be beginning our Lenten journey. As individuals, as a church family, but also a universal family of Christians around the world.

Lent is a time for reflection, as we prepare to experience the events leading to Holy Week and the glory of Resurrection Sunday. It's also a time for us to withdraw from our daily way of life to reflect on our own lives. To truly let go of self, surrendering all that you are to God, embracing his Spirit and letting your senses rejoice. It's an opportunity to make personal sacrifices to fast. Take time to not just read or hear the scriptures and Gospels of this Lenten season, but truly experience them. Put yourself into them, embrace them.

I would like to share something I just finished reading. It is from *The Shack: Reflections for Every Day of the Year*. I opened the book at random and the reading is very fitting. I believe it is for March 6th which will be Ash Wednesday. It is a conversation between God and Mac, with God saying:

"Don't forget the story (of the cross) didn't end in his sense of forsakenness. He found his way through it to put himself completely into my hands. Oh, what a moment that was!" —Papa. This is Mac's reply: "Jesus, I don't have that...your ability to completely trust. I don't know your Papa like you do. I need you to climb inside my lack and trust on my behalf. I need to live by your faith. I will do the best I know how and add my weak voice to yours and cry...but into your hands."

This Lenten season, let each of us once more renew our own covenant to God and once more cry out "into your hands".
Peace, Pastor Sam

After a day filled with prayers, the General Conference began their work on a Way Forward. After much debate and procedures, the vote was taken and the Traditional Plan was passed 54% to 46%. Even though The Judicial Council had ruled many parts to be unconstitutional as it relates to the Book of Discipline. It has been sent to the Judicial Council. At this time no one knows what will happen next for The United Methodist Church. I have supported the One Church Plan. The General Conference decided by a narrow margin otherwise.

I encourage you not to lose heart! We, the people of Firestone Park United Methodist Church, will continue to be the church that welcomes all people. For throughout the years, we have shown our love to all the people. As long as I am your pastor, I will lead our church to ensure that all persons will be fully welcome to encounter Jesus Christ and His love in our midst. All persons will be embraced fully as part of our family. Pastor Sam

A message from our Bishop Tracy S. Malone: *"Many people have shared with me their heartfelt thoughts and feelings regarding the results of the Special Session. There are some who are pleased with the outcome and some who are deeply hurt and disappointed. My heart weeps for the brokenness experienced within the Body of Christ. It is in times like these that community and togetherness are most important. Let us turn towards God and one another for strength and encouragement. Let the love we have for the Lord, for our neighbor and for the mission, sustain us for the journey. Stay...United! God is with us and will guide us!"*

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9



The Monthly Periodical of:
Firestone Park United Methodist Church
250 North Firestone Boulevard
Akron, OH 44301

March Birthdays

4 - Shelley McConnell
William Woodside
8 - Patricia Moyer
9 - Angelica Henley
Paula Lundgren
12 - Preston Crislip
13 - Amy Culp
19 - Joe Kandiko
24 - Maryjane Payne
28 - Pastor Sam
29 - Patricia Hunsicker
John Tucker
31 - Chris Jesty

March Anniversary

13 - Nahlon & Elizabeth White - 8 years

Condolences

Our prayers and condolences to Fran Jesty, on the passing of her aunt, Lucille Sigler, who was 99 years old; to the friends and family of Angelica Henley on the passing of her mother, Gudrun Staehle; and to the family and friends of Joan Benson. May they rest in the arms of the Lord.

Thank You

We have earned \$156.26 for our church from the Acme Community Cashback program. Thank you all for bringing in your receipts. Jean Marshall

Thank you for your generous donation of wonderful blankets for the patients at Akron Children's Hospital. Please know that you have made a difference in the lives of our patients. Sincerely, Vicki Parisi
Volunteer & Visitor Services

Thank you to everyone who has sent cards to us. We appreciate each and every one. Also, please do not hesitate to call. We would love to hear from you. Nancy Campbell



Keeping you informed. Copies of the minutes from the Finance, Trustee and Church Council meetings will be in both lobbies for you to take a look at. All meetings except SPRC are open to all church members.



Serving This Month

Altar Guild

Lyn Boldt, Anne Croghan

Counters

Karen Menefee, Doug Menefee, Elaine Forsch

Ushers

John Yerkey, John Oprian,
Gary Smith, Paul Galley

Missions

MISSION FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH CANAL DISTRICT APPORTIONMENTS

The money local churches contribute to their District and Conference to support District, Conference, and General church UM missions and ministry. Sometimes called "shared ministry giving", they are usually called apportionments because each church is assigned a specific dollar amount each year. Ours for this year is \$1227.00.

EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY AND FREE LUNCH/DINNER MISSION

March 6 - Free Lunch, 11am - 1pm

March 13 - Free Lunch, 11am - 1pm

March 20 - Free Lunch, 11am - 1pm

March 27 - Free Dinner and
Food Pantry, 4pm - 6pm

Treasurer's Report

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|-------------------------------|--------------|
| November Offerings | \$11,877.00 |
| November Disbursements | \$10,825.00 |
| Net Monthly Gain (Loss) | \$ 2,921.00 |
| December Offerings | \$16,216.00 |
| December Disbursements | \$17,379.00 |
| Net Monthly Gain (Loss) | \$ 1,758.00 |
| January Offerings (3 Sundays) | \$ 8,905.00 |
| January Disbursements | \$ 10,869.00 |
| Net Monthly Gain (Loss) | \$ (206.00) |

Upcoming Events

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

March 6, 7:00 p.m.

PALM SUNDAY SERVICE

April 14, 10:30 a.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

April 18, 7:00 p.m.

Combined service with
Firestone Park Presbyterian
and Allenside Presbyterian Churches
at Allenside Presbyterian Church
410 Rexford St., Akron, OH 44314

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

April 19, 7:00 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunrise Service - 7:00 a.m. - tentative

*Easter Breakfast - 8:30 - 10:00 a.m. - tentative
Easter Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.

*Volunteers are needed to take charge of the
Easter Breakfast. Please contact the
church office no later than March 31.

Young Disciples



It's time to start registering for church summer camp! It has been the practice of FPUMC to ensure that all of our campers can attend camp for free. If you are interested in camp information or financial aid forms, please see Sue Shaw or the church office. Please register your Young Disciple by May 1 to receive a camp T-shirt.

The leaders of our Young Disciples will be putting together Easter baskets for our kids. If you would like to help out by making a donation, it would be greatly appreciated.

YOUNG DISCIPLE COIN COLLECTION

Sunday, April 7



Please bring your loose change for our kids—bills also accepted!

2019 CHURCH DIRECTORY



If you have not yet picked up your copy of the new church directory, they are on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

Congregational Life



Attention all UMW ladies: The 150th Anniversary Celebration Legacy Tea will be held at Macedonia UMC, 1280 E. Aurora Rd., Macedonia, Saturday, March 23. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. The program will begin at 10:00 a.m. with the tea to follow at 11:30 a.m. All UMW ladies should attend this event. Carpooling will be available. Please let Nancy Campbell know if you will be attending.

ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, June 1 - 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Donations now being accepted. Watch for more information coming soon. Pam Ferguson is in need of volunteers in the kitchen, pricing, setting up tables, etc. Please see Pam to sign up.

CANAL DISTRICT SPRING CONFERENCE

Sunday, April 7 - 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Kent United Methodist Church
1435 E. Main St, Kent 44240
Everyone is invited to attend.

UPCOMING MARCH MEETINGS

March 15 - Altar Guild, 7:00 p.m.

March 18 - Finance, 6:00 p.m.

Trustees, 6:45 p.m.

Please mark your calendars!



FROM THE OFFICE

Be sure to check our website every week for the **Sunday bulletin**. We are no longer mailing or emailing them to individuals. The newsletter is posted monthly on our website and will be emailed to everyone. Hard copies are available at the church.
www.firestoneparkumc.com

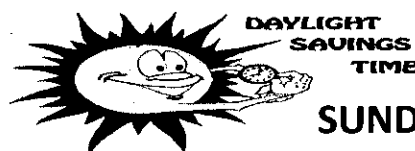


Scout News



CUB-SCOUT PACK 3074
PINWOOD DERBY
Saturday, March 23
FPUMC Fellowship Hall
2:30 p.m.

Food & drinks available for purchase.
EVERYONE IS INVITED!



SUNDAY, MARCH 10

March 2019

April 2019

March 2019

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|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Feb 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | Mar 1 | 2 |
| 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Worship/SS 2:00pm Private Event 5:00pm Faith & Hope | 4 6:30pm Boy Scouts | 5 5:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts | 6 8:30am Men's Brk/Quilt 11:00am Free Lunch 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Svc | 7 6:30pm Disciple 4 Class 7:00pm Chancel Choir | 8 YD Retreat 3:00pm Benson Mem. Dnr. | 9 YD Retreat |
| 10 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Worship 11:00am YD Music 5:00pm Faith & Hope | 11 6:30pm Boy Scouts | 12 5:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts | 13 8:30am Men's Brk/Quilt 11:00am Free Lunch 6:30pm Disciple 4 Class 7:00pm Wesleyan | 14 7:00pm Chancel Choir | 15 7:00pm Altar Guild | 16 |
| 17 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Worship/SS 5:00pm Faith & Hope AA | 18 6:00pm Finance 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:45pm Trustee Mtg | 19 5:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts | 20 8:30am Men's Brk/Quilt 11:00am Free Lunch 6:30pm Disciple 4 Class 6:30pm Mary Circle | 21 7:00pm Chancel Choir | 22 Setup Pinewood | 23 8:00am UMW Spring Gathering (Macedonia UMC) 2:30pm Pinewood Dirby |
| 24 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Worship 11:00am YD Music 5:00pm Faith & Hope | 25 6:30pm Boy Scouts | 26 5:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts | 27 8:30am Men's Brk/Quilt 4:00pm Free Dinner 6:30pm Disciple 4 Class 7:00pm Wesleyan | 28 7:00pm Chancel Choir | 29 5:30pm Rehearsal | 30 2:30pm Katie Bair Wedding |
| 31 UMCOR Sunday 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am Worship 5:00pm Faith & Hope | Apr 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |