

FOCUS ON FIRST

Worship 10:00 a.m.
Live-Stream via Facebook

Rev. Mark Finrock, Pastor
Xiaoming Zhu, Music Director
Vicki Wheeler, Admin. Assistant

MAY EVENTS



Sunday, May 12

Sunday, May 19
Wear red!



May 2024

Volume 18, Issue 5

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PASTOR'S LETTER

Hello Friends,

May is a month of emergence. We walk around the garden looking to see what is coming up and what isn't. We look at our lawns and make plans on what we will do to improve them, nurture the plants that return, and replace the ones we loved and lost. May is the month when the young appear. A tiny squirrel, a fluffle of rabbits or a robin's nest in the tree. Have you noticed the kittens safely tucked under the front stoop while the mother is out hunting? May is renewal in full force.



"A time to plant and a time to uproot" Ecclesiastes 3:2

May is when we look into the future. What is possible; what dreams we have of what we can be; what we need to uproot; and what needs a little patience to come into its own. Wesley looked at the church as a society functioning in the real world as opposed to holy huddles of exclusiveness that the church had become in his time. The early Methodist societies called on the sick, helped the poor and applied God's principles to lift those on the margins to a better life.

"Already by 1746 Wesley saw the essence of the church and its ministry as functional rather than institutional." - Howard Snyder

It is our duty to remember that the aroma of the flower, the peace of a babbling stream, the coolness of shade were all given by God to everyone. His gift of grace is for all.

Jesus tells us, "14 The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. 15 But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop." Luke 8:14-15

Notice that the seeds are cast. It is the soil that determines what happens next in the parable. We need to see which type of soil we want to be and what community we can grow into.

While we are looking at the future we must remain mindful of the past but we cannot stay there. We must be diligent to care for those in the present while we seek new ground in the Methodist tradition to sustain the future.

Blessings,
Pastor Mark



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First United Methodist Church,
225 Ludlow St. Hamilton, OH 45011
JUNE NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE: May 20
For newsletter submissions, send to Vicki
at firstumc@firstumc-ham.org



Pastor Mark
Donna Coombe
Noah Trumbull
Charma Camp
Jackie Jewett
Grant Montgomery
Scott Wilson
Sandy Thornton
Norma & Lynn Kinkaid
River Bastin

Aimee Epperson
Tyrone Williams
Wayne Huston
Adam Blundell
Marilyn Rumpler
Steve Young
Kelly Antalosky
Dennis & Debbie Sanders
Karen, friend of Nancy Mabis

Those who do not know the peace of Christ. Let us offer Christ, who will heal their souls.

Those families mourning the loss of loved ones.

Hamilton Living Water Ministries for their continuing work in our community.

Community lunch, missionaries, Peace Corp workers, and those who work for international peace. Military members and their families and national leaders. Concerns of the people in places of war, famine and social unrest. Those who are sleeping outside. Those who have no food.

Do you have someone you would like us to pray for? Please call or email the office. 513-896-LOVE (5683) or firstumc@firstumc-ham.org. If you would like them on the newsletter "long-term" list, please let us know.



Join us on Mother's Day, May 12, for Sunday service at 10:00 a.m.

There will be special music by Xiaoming Zhu, on piano, and Kelly Hale, on organ. It will be a fabulous music-filled service you won't want to miss. Make mom happy and bring her to church on her special day!

4F's
Faith, Fun, Fellowship & FOOD!

May 16 at Noon

The 4F's luncheon will be at
Applebee's
700 NW Washington Blvd.

If you plan to attend,
contact Karen Epperson
(513-300-9894)
so there is room at the table.
All are welcome!



2nd QUARTER 85+ BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



EASTER AT FIRST UMC

Were you there? One hundred and twenty folks (120) attended Easter service and about 40 people came to the continental breakfast.



WOMEN'S CIRCLE NEWS

United Women in Faith



Ruth Circle
May 2—2:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall
East Alcove

Naomi Circle
May 16—6:30 p.m.
Nancy & Harriet's
24 Annie Lou Drive

FLOOD BUCKETS

The Naomi Circle will be collecting items for UMCOR's flood buckets during the month of May. Look for the buckets on the 1st pew, take a tab or 2 with needed items, and return it to the same bucket. These buckets are used during natural disasters.



THANK YOU!

The Naomi Circle would like to thank everyone who donated the laundry supplies to the YWCA of Hamilton and the Dove House domestic violence shelter. Your donations will go to good use!



Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended our spaghetti dinner fundraiser last month. We received several compliments, the food was “restaurant good,” desserts were “5 stars”, everyone got 4 meatballs and they were “delicious”, and people liked being served at the tables, like being in a restaurant. The meatballs, tossed salad, and desserts were made by the Outreach committee members. Our deepest gratitude to Nick Dadabo who donated the pasta sauce and provided guidance from his unlimited restaurant knowledge.

During our worship service on April 21, we were graced with Celina Chang performing the postlude *Colors of the Wind*. She received a standing ovation and is a student of Xiaoming Zhu, our Music Director.

Serve City is teaming up with for the National Public Works Week Fill-a-Truck Food Drive, hosted by the City of Hamilton Public Works Department for this annual event from Friday, May 10 - Monday, May 27. We are a host site for this event where community members can leave their donations of canned goods and nonperishable food items. Please leave your donations in the collection bin provided. The church who collects the most pounds of food will be invited to Serve City for a complimentary meal and presentation (date TBD).



Save the date, our annual Texas Roadhouse fundraiser is scheduled for Monday, June 17. With a ticket you provide your server, we will receive 10% profit for dine in and carry-out meals. In addition, we are selling bags of peanuts for \$5.00 each. Each bag sold will get a free appetizer card.



**THANK YOU TO OUR
COMMUNITY LUNCH
PARTNERS WHO SERVED
DURING APRIL**

April 6—First UMC

April 13—First Baptist

April 20—Zion Lutheran

April 27—Princeton Pike Church of God

SPAGHETTI DINNER ON APRIL 20

THE PREP



That's a lot of meatballs!!!!!!

THE DINNER



WHAT IS PENTECOST?



On Pentecost Sunday, we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit in a special way. The story in Acts 2 describes a powerful wind and tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit was poured out on people from all over the world who came to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast. At the first Pentecost over 3000 people were baptized, creating the first church. This is why Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Christian church.

The word Pentecost comes from a Greek word meaning fiftieth. The Jewish Festival of Pentecost (called *Shavuot*, meaning "weeks" in Hebrew) falls on the fiftieth day after the original Passover. On that day, God gave the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai. The Christian festival of Pentecost falls on the 50th day after the resurrection of Jesus.

Pentecost for Christians culminates the celebration and work of the church begun on Easter Day. In much of early Christianity, Easter Day (not Pentecost) became the primary day for baptisms. After their baptism, the newly baptized were then trained in basic Christian doctrine, including the meaning of the sacraments they had now experienced, as they prepared to take up their ministries in the life of the church. On Pentecost, Christians primarily celebrate the commissioning of new members into ministry. Some do this through services of confirmation on Pentecost. And still others have also, historically, offered baptism on Pentecost as well.

Two colors are historically associated with Pentecost. Red is a visual reminder of the "tongues of fire" that empowered the apostles and others to proclaim the good news of Christ's resurrection in many languages to the crowds of pilgrims from many lands (Acts 2:3). White was used in some places, including England, where Pentecost had also become a day for baptisms by the Middle Ages. Whether it happened at Easter or Pentecost or at some other time, those being baptized were given new white robes to wear as a sign they had taken off the world, died to sin, and were raised with the risen Christ to new life. This is why Pentecost may also be referred to in English as "Whitsunday" or "White Sunday."

The season after Pentecost is the time of the church year to support new disciples and the whole congregation in living out the gifts we have been given in the name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.

WEAR RED FOR
Pentecost

THOUGHT ABOUT BECOMING A MEMBER?



Pentecost Sunday, May 19, we will be bringing new members into the church. If you have been attending for awhile now, maybe it is time for you to join. If you are interested in becoming a member of the First family, please contact the church office or Pastor Mark.



We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to help with the PowerPoint presentations we put on up on the screens during Sunday worship. Joe Binegar is going to help us put together the initial set and we will need folks to set up the new presentations for each Sunday and help run them. Steve Brashear is currently doing all this and we need to make sure that we have folks who are able to assist him. If you are interested in finding out more information, call the church office.

YOUTH AT FIRST

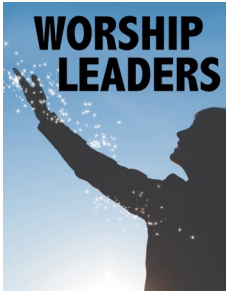
*I believe the children are our future
Teach them well and let them lead the way
Show them all the beauty they possess inside
Give them a sense of pride to make it easier
Let the children's laughter remind us how we used to be*

Maybe when you read these lyrics, you can hear Whitney Houston's beautiful voice. But, what I hope for is that you will think of what these words mean. The children ARE our future and, lately, we have been having more "children" or "youth" (I would presume they preferred to be called) in Church. It is important that we take the time to get to know these folks and let them know they are welcomed and valued in our congregation. Take some time, make the effort to talk to our young people. Find out what they like to do, how they can become involved at First, how First can be there for them. Thanks to Christine Birhanzl, who works with our youth on Sunday, they keep coming back. It's time we all let them know we are glad they are here!!



Enjoying some time at the local Wendy's

MAY HAPPENINGS



5/5—Noel Hinrichs
 5/12—Lisa Stephens
 5/19—David Puckett
 5/26—Jane Campbell



5/5—Diane Hinrichs
 5/12—Lynn Kinkaid
 5/19—Rusty Haid
 5/26—Dee Harper
 ALL SUNDAYS—David Puckett



Pocket Change Sunday May 19

During worship service a special collection of pocket change (dollars, too) will be taken as an offering for the Saturday Community Lunch Program.

Game Night Friday May 24 5:00 P.M.















Join us for games, great fellowship and food. Bring your own beverage and a favorite board game. We will order pizza for dinner



5/8 Robin & Ray Wilson
 5/10 Alta Hamblin & Eddie Horton
 5/23 Mary & Bob Aderholt
 5/24 Leesa & Mark Finfrock
 5/27 Carolyn & Ron Purvis
 5/29 Alice & Dave Stephenson



5/1 Jennifer Pflanzer
 5/8 Tracie Jewett
 5/10 Nick Blauvelt
 5/11 Terry Spurlock
 5/16 Beth Day
 John Sebastian
 5/17 Carolyn Purvis
 5/18 Frankie Ittel
 5/23 Tammy Hall
 5/27 Jackie Jewett
 Caroline Williams
 5/30 Kathy Conrad
 5/31 Eva Jones

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 MAY 						
5 10:00 AM Worship Service & Livestream via Facebook	6 Noon Ministry 	7 Noon SPRC 2:00 PM Ruth Circle @ East Alcove 5:00 PM Trustees 7:00 PM NA Meeting	8 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	9 2:30 PM Outreach 7:00 PM GA Meeting 	10	11 Community Meal 11:00-1:00 Islamic Center cooking 8:00 PM NA Meeting
12 10:00 AM Worship Service & Livestream via Facebook 	13	14 7:00 PM NA Meeting	15 10:30 AM Bible Study @ Berkeley 6:00 PM Bible Study @ First 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	16  Noon 4F's Lunch @ Applebee's 700 NW Washington Blvd. 6:30 PM Naomi Circle Nancy & Harriet's 24 Annie Lou 7:00 PM GA Meeting	17	18 Community Meal 11:00-1:00 Hamilton Christian cooking 8:00 PM NA Meeting
19  Pentecost Sunday 10:00 AM Worship Service & Livestream via Facebook 	20 	21 5:30 PM Church Council via Zoom 7:00 PM NA Meeting 	22 10:30 AM Bible Study @ Berkeley 3:00 PM Worship @ Berkeley 6:00 PM Bible Study @ First 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	23 7:00 PM GA Meeting	24 5:00 PM Game Night @ Fellowship Hall 	25 Community Meal 11:00-1:00 PP Church of God cooking 8:00 PM NA Meeting
26 10:00 AM Worship Service & Livestream via Facebook	27	28 7:00 PM NA Meeting	29 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	30 7:00 PM GA Meeting	31	
-----ANNUAL CONFERENCE----- ----- Pastor Mark – out -----						



First United Methodist Church
225 Ludlow Street
Hamilton, OH 45011
(513) 896-5683
firstumc@firstumc-ham.org

Address Service Requested



SAVE THE DATE!!!

Sunday, August 18
205th
Anniversary Celebration

