

First United Methodist Church  
88 N. 5<sup>th</sup> St  
P.O. Box 729  
Newark, Ohio 43058-0729

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# THE PIONEER



Newsletter for First United Methodist Church  
Rev. Mike Denman, Lead Pastor

February 2012 Vol. 10 Issue 2  
Rev. Mark Chow, Executive Pastor

## A SEASON OF PREPARATION

Dear Church Family,

As I write this message, it is a very cold day, and I cannot help myself from looking forward to warmer weather. In looking forward, the season of Lent begins this month. This special season in the church year has always been a season of looking forward to the celebration of the greatest act of love in the history of the world: Jesus going to the cross for the world.

Lent is also a season of preparation. **Ash Wednesday is February 22<sup>nd</sup>**, and will begin with a time of devotion, prayer, communion, and, if desired, the imposition of ashes. **This opportunity will be in the chapel from 6:30 am to 8:00 am**, and is designed for people to come and go quietly as schedules allow. This will be a great way to begin this holy season before getting into the rest of one's day. **At 7:00 pm, everyone is invited to experience Ash Wednesday Holy Communion** and the imposition of ashes in the Sanctuary as we gather to humble ourselves before God as we prepare our hearts, souls, bodies and minds for the remembrance of the life, death and resurrection of our savior and Lord.

**Another opportunity during Lent will begin Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>**, and will run each Monday morning through April 2. Join me in the Chapel for **a brief bible study and Holy Communion to begin the work week**. The chapel will be open from 6:30 am to 8:00 am. **At 6:30 am, 7:00 am and 7:30 am**, a ten-minute bible study will be offered followed by communion; the same ten-minute study will be repeated three times each day, with the remaining time available to spend in personal prayer and reflection. This will be a great way to establish a discipline of study and prayer.

Finally, this season of Lent is special for First Church as we experience Compass, a consultation that was offered to us by the West Ohio Conference in the spring of 2010. Like any consultation, this is a process that will provide a direction that moves First Church to the next level of outstanding ministry. **Compass is extremely important for First Church**. We, like any organization, need outside eyes to see the things that we often overlook. And, like any consultation, some of the next steps will require us to trust the giftedness of all of our First Church leaders, laity and staff, and to trust the leading of God's Holy Spirit.

**Compass will be most effective if every one of us commits to praying daily** for God to guide the process, to bless the team coming to guide us, to open our hearts and minds to the revelation of God's Spirit, and to have courage in responding to God's call for each of us to live by faith during the next three years of living into God's plans.

First Church is blessed in so many ways. You are a big part of that blessing. Your faithfulness in prayer, study, service, giving and participation makes First Church a congregation with great ministry and even greater potential for great transformation in our region.

Thank you for the ways you bring glory to God through First Church,

*Pastor Mike*

## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

P.O. Box 729, Newark, Ohio 43058-0729  
740-349-7020 Fax: 740-670-0911

Web site: [www.firstumcnewark.org](http://www.firstumcnewark.org)  
Office e-mail: [office@firstumcnewark.org](mailto:office@firstumcnewark.org)

The e-mail address for an individual staff member is

[<name>@firstumcnewark.org](mailto:<name>@firstumcnewark.org)

where <name> is the person's first initial  
followed by their last name (no punctuation).

### Office Hours

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday

The PIONEER Newsletter is published monthly;  
**the deadline for submission of articles is the  
15th of each month.**

The First Church website is updated  
continuously; desired updates should be  
**submitted at least one week prior to the date  
they are requested to appear** on the website.

Announcements are published weekly as  
worship bulletin inserts, and are displayed on  
the screens in the front of the Sanctuary prior to  
worship services; **the deadline for submission  
of announcements for a given Sunday is the  
preceding Tuesday.**

Newsletter, website, and/or announcement  
submissions should be emailed to:  
**[communications@firstumcnewark.org](mailto:communications@firstumcnewark.org)**

or placed in the Office mailbox  
(just outside the Sanctuary).

When submitting website updates or announcements,  
**please indicate the dates or date range**  
for which they are to be published.  
Please include a **contact name and email address or  
phone number** with all submissions.

## Thoughts from Your Lay Leader

By Jeff Walker



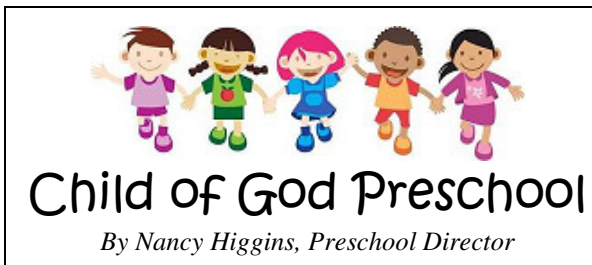
Every day I look for a message from Christ Jesus. Each day is a gift from Him with something for me to really see and grow from. My wife, Carol, had knee replacement surgery on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, and, after some minor complications, is home and doing well. In the days following her surgery, I prayed many times for her recovery. I was not sure what to expect, and as I do not sit and wait well, I continued to work and wait. I was in the office doing the 'year-end, year-beginning' work, when a friend called. After I told him how Carol was, he shared that his wife had the same problem when she had knee replacement, and it would be fine. I thanked God for His messenger, and shared the information with Carol who also was thankful. As the days moved forward others came to me with messages that also calmed our concerns.

My devotional for the week gave me a strong message to recognize and be grateful for all the marvels that come our way. Attentiveness to little daily gifts helps us respond to life with gratitude. The gifts are simple – a smile from a child, a kind word, lunch with a dear friend, a hug, a call from a friend to check on your day, an answer to a prayer, or whatever brings comfort to you where you are.

Researchers have found that grateful persons tend to have more vitality; are more positive, empathic, generous and helpful; are less depressed and stressed; and place less importance on material possessions. Gratitude encourages a positive cycle or reciprocal kindness among people.

Carol and I thank you for your prayers, calls, cards, inquiries, assistance, and also for some great casseroles! We have been blessed by your gracious help, and have grown in our faith journey during this time. Our prayer is: Giving God, we thank you for your abundant gifts. Amen.

We will talk again next month!



## Let it Snow!

January has been a fun month at Preschool!  
The children have had so much fun learning  
about snow, even when we haven't had any.



Spaces are available for January through  
May enrollment! This is a great time to enroll  
your child for a partial year to give them a head  
start into the next school year.



Call Nancy (349-7020) or check out our  
website at [www.childofgodpreschool.org](http://www.childofgodpreschool.org).



Our Child of God Preschool staff had a great  
time joining with the First Church Staff for our  
annual Christmas luncheon!

## YOUTH NEWS!

### Youth Sunday

We want to say "thank you" to everyone  
who helped out with Youth Sunday on January  
29<sup>th</sup>. Our youth worked very hard to plan and  
prepare the worship services, and loved the  
opportunity to share and worship with their church  
family in an exciting and unique way.

Our youth and adults truly appreciate all  
of the support and encouragement that each of you  
offer to our youth ministry!

### Youth Group

Our youth in grades 7-12 meet each  
Sunday evening from 5:30-7:30 pm (except  
holiday weekends). During our time together we  
eat dinner which is provided by our generous  
volunteers, learn about our faith, share our joys

and concerns with each other, and spend time sharing our lives and having fun. If you or someone you know would like to get involved with the youth group or have any questions, please contact Brandi.

## Senior High Small Group

Our Sr. High small group is continuing to meet on Wednesday mornings at 6:15 am at River Road Coffeehouse on 21<sup>st</sup> Street. About 10-12 of our senior high youth, along with Brandi and Mary Bousquet, meet each week to enjoy a cup of coffee (or hot chocolate), share our prayer concerns and praises, and we are also reading and discussing the book “The Purpose Driven Life” as we discern God’s purpose and call for each of our lives.

All Sr. High students are invited to attend even if you can’t make it every week. If you would like more information and/or a copy of the book, please contact Brandi.

## February Youth Schedule ...

- Feb. 4: Snow tubing at Snow Trails – see Brandi for more information
- Feb. 5: Youth Group from 5:30-7:30 pm (game night)
- Feb. 12: Youth Group from 5:30-7:30 pm
- Feb. 18: Boys’ Chrysalis Weekend (Feb. 18-20); see Brandi for more info
- Feb. 19: Youth Group from 5:30-7:30 pm
- Feb. 26: Youth Group from 5:30-7:30 pm

## Thanks to our volunteers!

We would like to thank Chris and Kelly Thompson, Roger Hobson, Mary Bousquet, Chris and Gary Watson, and Cheryl Wartenbee for preparing dinner and volunteering at youth group during the month of January!

## Young Adult Ministries

### Staying connected with our Young Adults

Our Young Adult Sunday school class met during the months of November and December. This group of young adults spent time reconnecting with friends, sharing about their lives, and studying the book “When Christians Get It Wrong” by Rev. Adam Hamilton. This class offered a great opportunity for our college students to stay connected with their church and church family.

Now that our college students are on their way back to school we planning other ways to stay connected with them. So if you know a college student or any other young adult who would like to periodically receive care packages from the church, please contact Brandi or the church office.

In addition if you know a young adult (between the ages of 18-30, married or single, without children) that we can include on our mailing list for future events, please let us know.



## MEET THE PASTOR!

“Meet the Pastor” opportunities are being offered from February 1 – March 11. These informal, “get acquainted” meetings will be held at the church, in members’ homes, and at other locations. Everyone in the congregation is highly encouraged to attend one of the meetings to meet and talk with Pastor Mike Denman.

Dates and places have been confirmed for most of the meetings, and sign up sheets are in the first floor Gathering Space noting the host, date, time, and place. More opportunities will be added as they are available.

If you would like to host a group and have not yet been asked, please contact the church office at 349-7020. The meetings will be about an hour long and will include 15 to 20 persons.

The current meeting schedule is as follows:

- Thurs., Feb. 2, 6:30 p.m. – Tigyers
- Sat., Feb. 4, 2:00 p.m. – Gorters
- Mon., Feb. 6, 7:00 p.m. – Joy Munson
- Tues., Feb. 7, 6:30 p.m. – Slaters
- Thurs., Feb. 9, 7:00 p.m. – Brandons
- Mon., Feb. 13, 7:00 p.m. – Paisleys
- Wed., Feb. 15, 7:00 p.m. – Shumakers
- Thurs., Feb. 16, 2:00 p.m. – Harrises
- Mon., Feb. 20, 6:30 p.m. – Molly Ingold
- Tues., Feb. 28, 7:00 p.m. – McPhadens
- Thurs., Mar. 1, 7:00 p.m. – Cantlins
- Mon., Mar. 5, 6:30 p.m. – M. Bousquet
- Wed., Mar. 7, 7:00 p.m. – Larry Lorence

## CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: LIVING OUR VOWS

- *For those desiring to move deeper in their understanding of the Christian faith...*
- *For those wishing to learn more about their United Methodist heritage...*
- *For those seeking to transfer their church membership...*
- *For those wanting to explore what it means to ‘Be the Church’ through ‘Our Prayers, Our Presence, Our Gifts, Our Service, and Our Witness’...*
- *For those wanting to build lasting relationships...*
- *For those looking for ways to live out their faith...*

You are invited to join us for a **morning and afternoon of learning and growing**. This is a great opportunity for those who wish to join First UMC, transfer their membership, or who simply want to learn more.

We have set the following day and time aside for you: **Sunday, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:45 AM – 3:00 PM.**

We will begin by meeting in the Chapel at 9:45 AM; taking a brief tour, attending the 11:00 AM worship; breaking for lunch (in the Social Room); and then continuing in the afternoon, concluding at 3:00 PM. Childcare will be available as needed. (Please **let us know by Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, if you need childcare.**)




Those who choose to make a commitment to membership **may be received as members on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.**

**This promises to be a meaningful time** of learning, growing, and sharing together. If you would like more information or wish to be a part of this learning opportunity, please feel free to contact the church office at 740-349-7020.

Mark Chow, Executive Pastor

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**2012**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<b>5</b> 8:00 a.m. Membership Class 8:30 a.m. First Word 9:30 a.m. UMW Exec. Mtg. 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Traditional 5:30 p.m. Youth Group	<b>6</b> 2:00 p.m. Monday Talks 6:00 p.m. In Depth Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Parent/Comm. Mtg 4 7:00 p.m. Share Groups 7:00 p.m. Troup 4	<b>7</b> 7:00 p.m. Mary Circle 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Roundtable
<b>12 Boy Scout Sunday</b> 8:00 a.m. New Member Rec. 8:30 a.m. First Word 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Traditional 5:00 p.m. Blue & Gold Banquet 5:30 p.m. Youth Group	<b>13</b> 9:00 a.m. COG Valentine Pty. 2:00 p.m. Monday Talks 5:00 p.m. Relay for Life 5:30 p.m. Pack 4 Cub Sc. Den 6:00 p.m. In Depth Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Share Groups 7:00 p.m. Scouts – Troop 4	<b>14</b> 9:00 a.m. COG Valentine Party 9:00 a.m. Staff meeting 5:30 p.m. Pack 4 Den Meetings 6:30 p.m. Emmaus Board Mtg. 6:30 p.m. Staff Parish 7:15 p.m. Compass Mtg.
<b>19</b> 8:30 a.m. First Word 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Traditional 4:30 p.m. Youth Group	<b>20</b> 9:00 a.m. COG Chapel 2:00 p.m. Monday Talks 4:30 p.m. Relay for Life 6:00 p.m. In Depth bible Study 7:00 p.m. Share Groups 7:00 p.m. Troop 4	<b>21</b> 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 9:30 a.m. Esther Circle
<b>26 Emmaus Walk</b> 8:30 a.m. First Word 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Traditional 5:30 p.m. Youth Group	<b>27</b> 11:00 p.m. COG Chapel 2:00 p.m. Monday Talks 5:30 p.m. Pack 4 Den Mtg. 6:00 p.m. In Depth Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Scouts 7:00 p.m. Share Groups 7:00 p.m. Visitation Ministry Tm	<b>28</b> 11:00 a.m. COG Chapel 5:30 p.m. Pack 4 Den Meeting 6:00 p.m. Emmaus Gathering
		

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:00 a.m. MOPS Steering Tm 5:30 p.m. Praise Team Reh. 6:15 p.m. Jubilant Bells 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Reh	<b>2</b> 7:30 a.m. Chow Share Group 11:45 a.m. Candle Lighters 6:00 p.m. Emmaus Team Mtg. 6:30 p.m. Trustees 7:00 p.m. Prayer Summit	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6:30 a.m. Share Groups 8:30 a.m. UM Men 4:30 p.m. Tween Time
<b>8</b> 9:00 a.m. Comfort Quilts 5:00 p.m. Community Dinner 5:00 p.m. Bridges out of Pov. 5:30 p.m. Praise Team Reh. 6:15 p.m. Jubilant Bells 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Reh.	<b>9</b> 7:30 a.m. Chow Share Group 6:00 p.m. Emmaus Team Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Prayer Summit	<b>10</b> 9:30 a.m. MOPS	<b>11</b> 6:30 a.m. Share Groups 8:30 a.m. Emmaus Team Mtg 4:30 p.m. Tween Time
<b>15</b> 5:30 p.m. Praise Team Reh. 6:15 p.m. Jubilant Bells 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Reh.	<b>16</b> 7:30 a.m. Chow Share Group 9:00 a.m. PEO 6:00 p.m. Emmaus Team Mtg. 6:30 p.m. Finance 7:00 p.m. Prayer Summit	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 6:30 a.m. Share Groups 8:30 a.m. UM Men
<b>22</b> 9:00 a.m. Comfort Quilts 5:00 p.m. Pancake Supper 5:30 p.m. Praise Team Reh. 6:15 p.m. Jubilant Bells 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. EGA Meeting 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Ser.	<b>23 Emmaus Walk</b> 7:30 a.m. Chow Share Group 6:00 p.m. Emmaus Team Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Prayer Summit	<b>24 Emmaus Walk</b>	<b>25 Emmaus Walk</b> 6:30 a.m. Share Groups
<b>29</b> 9:00 a.m. MOPS Steering Tm. 9:00 a.m. COG Beach Day 5:30 p.m. Praise Team Reh. 6:15 p.m. Jubilant Bells 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Reh.			
			

## MINISTRY MATTERS

### Our Resource Center: “The Source”

We are moving along with some new desks and the RESOURCE CENTER is looking very nice. We are organizing and marking shelves temporarily until we are sure, and then we add more professional signage.

It seems that many are very happy with how the space and usage of it are developing. We will have a display screen and new computers soon to make its usage even better. We are very excited! More books and materials will be ordered soon.

One new idea is for us to be open from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., and then 12:00 to 12:15 p.m. or whenever the need is over. There have not been people needing help at 8:15 a.m. very often. The door will be left open for dropping off materials or getting new things, but the Center won't be staffed until 9:30 a.m. Some volunteers may be in the Center during the 11:00 a.m. service, but that is optional. You are learning how to use the space yourselves (that's a good thing!), but we wanted you to know when help will be available.

Thanks for all your support and for your compliments on our new space!

Linda Frail and the Resource Center Committee

### Why Do You Want to Read This Book?

The book is UNBURDENED by Chris Tiegreen (“The secret to letting God carry the things that weigh you down”).

I am a world class worrier. At least I used to be. This book has helped me look to God instead of looking to myself. When you conclude that God is completely in control of ‘everything’,

‘everything’ includes the answer to your (my) problems, too.

Here is just one of the discussions that resonated with me: “People who have already laid down their lives and abandoned their will to the Father have nothing left to prove and no need to hang on to whatever they think they deserve or even need. They know the Father is taking care of them, and they are able to rest in that. They can give – emotionally, financially, and any other way – because they no longer belong to themselves. They belong to, are supplied by, and are empowered by an inexhaustible source much greater than themselves. The more they give away, the more they have.”

I have many times heard a discussion about the ‘new self’ when you are born again; however, this is the first discussion I have ever seen about our ‘old self.’ “Dead people don’t hurt,” so, when someone attacks us, they are attacking either our old self, which is dead, or the Father. He can stand up to any attack!

“Trust in God and passive indifference can often look identical on the outside, but they are worlds apart on the inside. When we let go of our stress in troubling situations, we have to also let go of our need for people to understand us.”

Would you like to read and discuss this book some more? The new Resource Center will have a few copies to lend, and perhaps a Sunday school class will be discussing this book sometime in the near future. In addition I hope to start an online book study so that busy people (like me) can discuss a book without having to commit to a fixed weekly meeting time. At the very least, I hope you will consider my recommendation to read this book.

Gary Krinn

## MINISTRY MATTERS

### Acolytes serving

The following acolytes served during the month of December:



Travis Bralley, Aubrey Chann, Madison Cartnal, Brooke Lee, Emily Rader, Caleb Snow, Emily Stachler and Garet Walton.

We thank them for their dedication to this ministry!

### DEAGAN CHIMES

Our Deagan Tower Chimes were originally dedicated on December 14, 1941 –



### PANCAKE SUPPER

Ash Wednesday – February 22, 2012

5:00 - 6:45 p.m.; First Church Social Room  
\$3.00 per person; Family of 5 or more – \$15

Includes: All the pancakes you can eat  
Two sausage links  
*(additional sausage available at nominal fee)*  
Juice, Milk and Coffee  
Dessert



*Sponsored by Mary Circle with proceeds to benefit local charities.  
Ash Wednesday Service to follow at 7 p.m. in Sanctuary.*

a week after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Last December, the chimes were rededicated to outreach service.

We offer thanks to the following folks who have helped to maintain the chimes: Bob Ketner, Ryan Ketner, Tim Singleton, T.J. Singleton, John Singleton, Ken Partington, Norm Wentz, Mark Nutter, Alan Miller, Rod Cook, Roger Loomis, Tom Carpenter, Steve Henthorne, John Bebout, Dale Hollis, Bob Ward, Fred Wartman, Dereck Mugglin (Eagle Scout project) with assistance of his father Doug Mugglin, Don Stutesman, Jerry Ashcraft, David Bralley, Cary Shirin, Roger Hobson and others. The financial support from Pat Peddicord in memory of Jim Peddicord is also appreciated.

# CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS



## About our members...

### Births

- Callum Kenneth Schottenstein, December 14, to Noah & Denise Schottenstein; proud great-grandparents are Gail & Ginny Moran.
- Ean Ray Hendrickson, December 23, to Shawn & Christina Hendrickson; proud great-great-grandmother is Eve Koppert.

### Deaths

- Loren Turner, December 28
- Martha Tomesek, January 1; mother of Mike Tomesek (First Church organist)
- Dave Stotler, January 7
- Alfred L. "Cuzzie" Mayberry, January 7; grandfather of Nick Myers
- Robert Pricer, January 10; father of Doug Pricer

### Marriage

- Sherry Guisinger and Byron Chute, December 30. Sherry is the daughter of Rod & Joanne Guisinger.

## Mail Bag



*I want to thank you. I really appreciate your kindness. Bless you and your church. It really helped me a lot.*

*Thanks again.*

*Amanda Babcock – Christmas Share recipient*

*Please accept our deepest thanks for prayers, cards, and spoken sympathy following the death of Mike's mother. Thanks, too, to the Sanctuary Choir for the gift of an anthem in her memory.*

*Although she attended worship and Candle Lighters for only a short time, Mom thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship and warmth of everyone she met. She said many times while in Hospice care, "Now that I've found a church I really like, it's going to be difficult to get there."*

*Sincerely, Mike & Rita Tomesek.*

*Dear Friends at First Church,*

*What a wonderful surprise to receive by British Post your thoughtful gift! The beautiful quilt will make our new home in England feel more cozy, keep us warm this winter, and most of all, remind us of all of you.*

*We think it especially appropriate that you chose a music theme for the design. We have fond memories of 'making music' with you as we worshipped and served God together in Newark.*

*Thank you for this kind gift.*

*Peace,*

*Kristin, Dave, Hannah and Aidan Markay*

*To the Women's Group at 1st United Methodist Church (Bereavement),*

*I want to thank all of you for your kindness and thoughtfulness shown to me, all my family and friends during the loss of Dave. The luncheon you provided was wonderful and greatly appreciated!*

*You are all such good thoughtful people and have always made me feel welcome in your church! It was so comforting to have all of you! I just can't thank you enough!*

*God Bless,  
Carolyn (Stotler)*

*The First Church Table Tennis Group would like to offer a special 'thank you' to Jan and Bob Hendren for their donation of a new table.*

*The First Church Table Tennis Group*

*Dear First Church,*

*Our family would like to thank everyone for the prayers for Jake as he had his angiogram, heart cath, and carotid stent placement. A special thanks to Pastor Mike & Pam for visiting & having prayer with us in the hospital. We are truly blessed with a caring church family.*

*May God shower you all with His Blessings!*

*The Bowden Family*

## Inclement Weather Policy



Winter weather can cause delays or closures, so please keep in mind the church's policy:

**If Newark City Schools are closed for the day, all activities at the church are cancelled.**

In the event the schools issue a two-hour delay, activities will continue, but please use your judgment whether you feel it is safe to travel to and from the church.

Our **One Call Now** notification system will be used in the event of a **Level 2 or greater snow emergency**: each household will receive a call detailing the closing information.

The church office will be open during regular business hours as much as is safely possible during inclement weather. Call first (349-7020) to check if the office is open before setting out.

## FIRST CHURCH STAFF:

Mike Denman, Lead Pastor

Email: [mdenman@firstumcnewark.org](mailto:mdenman@firstumcnewark.org)

Mark Chow, Executive Pastor

Email: [mchow@firstumcnewark.org](mailto:mchow@firstumcnewark.org)

Todd Frail, Congregational Care Pastor

Email: [tfrail@firstumcnewark.org](mailto:tfrail@firstumcnewark.org)

Carl Robinson, Pastor Emeritus

Cathy Carpenter, Pianist

Email: [ccarpenter@firstumcnewark.org](mailto:ccarpenter@firstumcnewark.org)

Karen Cost, Handbell Director

Email: [kcost@firstumcnewark.org](mailto:kcost@firstumcnewark.org)

Debby Green, Joyful Noise Director

Email: [dgreen@firstumcnewark.org](mailto:dgreen@firstumcnewark.org)

Jan Hendren, Receptionist

Email: [jhendren@firstumcnewark.org](mailto:jhendren@firstumcnewark.org)

Nancy Higgins, Child of God Preschool Director

Email: [nhiggins@firstumcnewark.org](mailto:nhiggins@firstumcnewark.org)

Mark McPeek, Director of Technology

Email: [mmcpeek@firstumcnewark.org](mailto:mmcpeek@firstumcnewark.org)

Vicki Miller, Church Office Administrator

Email: [vmiller@firstumcnewark.org](mailto:vmiller@firstumcnewark.org)

Belinda Paisley, Communications Secretary

Email: [bpaisley@firstumcnewark.org](mailto:bpaisley@firstumcnewark.org)

Stacey Reed, Be the Church Coordinator

Email: [sreed@firstumcnewark.org](mailto:sreed@firstumcnewark.org)

Brandi Rigsby, Director of Youth & Young Adults

Email: [brigsby@firstumcnewark.org](mailto:brigsby@firstumcnewark.org)

Jeff Rings, Minister of Music

Email: [jrings@firstumcnewark.org](mailto:jrings@firstumcnewark.org)

Sue Sensibaugh, Financial Secretary

Email: [ssensibaugh@firstumcnewark.org](mailto:ssensibaugh@firstumcnewark.org)

Anita Snow, Director of Family Ministries

Email: [asnow@firstumcnewark.org](mailto:asnow@firstumcnewark.org)

Mike Tomesek, Organist

Email: [mtomesek@firstumcnewark.org](mailto:mtomesek@firstumcnewark.org)

Jeff Walker, Director of Adult Studies

Email: [jwalker@firstumcnewark.org](mailto:jwalker@firstumcnewark.org)

Gary Watson, Facilities Manager

Email: [gwatson@firstumcnewark.org](mailto:gwatson@firstumcnewark.org)

Linda Marroquin, Custodian