

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

Non-Profit Organization  
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Newark, Ohio 43058

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## **COMPASS: INA SEASON OF DISCERNMENT**

Dear First Church Family,

There is a beauty to this time of year which I love: the leaves turning so many colors; the days that are bright and brisk. Even the days that are windy and rainy remind me of the changes that come with each season. God's word reminds us that there are seasons for all that takes place.

**First Church is in a season of discernment as the Compass process unfolds.** Many have asked me about Compass. Compass is not a secret small group that is deciding the future of our congregation; obviously I have heard this said. Compass is a consultation process provided by the West Ohio Conference. Originally, 10 churches were invited into the first consultation group. These churches were chosen as the best candidates from over eleven hundred congregations. This is a recognition by our conference leaders that First Church has gifted people who are willing to live out God's call to transform our world.

Compass began with a presentation from the West Ohio Conference consultation team which invited First Church to enter into the process. First Church then voted to accept the invitation. The next step was the development of the Compass Leadership and Compass Prayer Teams. After that, the Compass Leadership Team prayed together, studied together and completed the various assignments given them for Compass to be most effective.

**These next several months are critical** as you are being asked to **pray for God's Spirit to reveal to First Church the next steps of growth** that will provide even greater vitality in our congregation and the impact we will have on our community with the transformational power of God's grace.

The next formal step for the Compass process is a weekend (Friday night, all day Saturday, and Sunday morning) experience when a conference team will come to our church. They will meet with many in our congregation, write a report, and present the report to the congregation following our worship experience.

This report will provide **3-5 prescriptions for the congregation to prayerfully consider** over the 30 days following the Compass weekend. During these 30 days, there will be town hall meetings for the congregation to discuss the prescriptions. At the end of the 30 days, a church conference will be held where **the entire congregation will be invited to vote on these next steps.**

**Please join me in daily prayer as God has provided a way for us to be in a season of discernment.** Pray for the Compass Team and the consultants that will hear from us and from God. There are many people already praying for First Church.

May God bless you during this exciting time,

*Pastor Mike Denman*

## 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



Each year at this time, when the leaves fall, I can feel that the Lord is with me. Why? Because I know that the bare trees will be renewed by the Lord in a few months! Last month I shared about finding God's presence when we worship; this month, I want share some thoughts about realizing the everyday presence of the Lord – something I must continually work at!

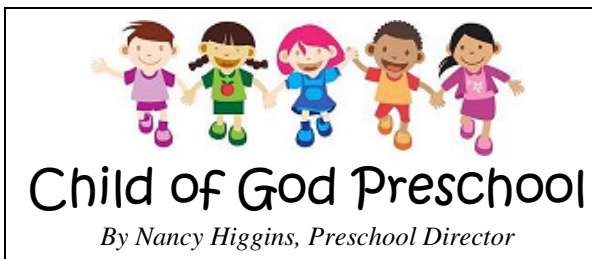
A seventeenth century humble monk named Brother Lawrence wrote about “practicing the presence of God”. When he was 18, he also observed the trees bare in winter and realized they soon would be renewed. He committed his life, as a monk, to try to stay aware of God's presence at all times.

Author John Van de Laar, in an article in the current issue of *Weavings*, encourages us to perceive the presence of the Lord in our lives daily. We each have the real struggles of life going on each day, and they can overshadow the quest for God's presence. Also, the events around the world fill our lives with many concerns that can make us wonder if God is real. This can cause some people to think it's not worth the effort to seek Him.

Many of us only realize His presence during times of great need or longing. Van de Laar tells us to seek God everywhere and at all times. Regular daily effort is needed to keep our connection with God in place. We need to use prayer, reading the Bible, and silence, not only in worship, but as *daily* disciplines that can be cultivated. In the daily practice of these, we will learn to realize what the author calls “thin places”: those places where God becomes visible to us among all of the other parts of our lives. We need to begin a sacred quest that will allow us to discover the presence of God which heals us, and enables us to extend that healing presence to every person and situation we encounter.

“The Lord is with you.” May we know this to be true.

See you next month!



## Celebrating Fall!

The preschool children have had a great time celebrating fall! First, the children have been learning about apples by tasting them, counting them, and weighing them. They tasted different colors of apples, and also made applesauce.

The whole school went on a fieldtrip to Devine Farms. They got a little wet, but that didn't spoil the fun! Everyone enjoyed the barrel train ride, and learned about how bees help the pumpkins grow.



Again, **THANK YOU** so much for the **overwhelming support of the 1998 Campaign**. We raised 1834.00!!! Your generosity allowed 6 children to attend school, and we have money left over to help children who enroll later in the school year.



## Fall Harvest Party



A BIG thank you to Roger and Melissa Loomis for hosting the annual Fall Harvest Party at their home, and to all of the volunteers who helped to create a fun time for all!

Families of all ages shared a wonderful time together while the kids participated in many activities such as the ever popular hayride, “spooky” barn, and games. The evening proved to be a special time of fellowship in the lives of many here at First Church!

## Tween Time, Saturday Night!

Tween Time is back and we're more excited than ever! Our 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade kids are invited to join ‘**Tween Time**’ on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month!

This is a time for this age group to fellowship, blow off steam, and grow in the presence of God. The evenings will include dinner, fellowship time, and a planned activity.



## Camp Ohio: Tween Survivor Sunday

Our FUMC Tweens and their friends conquered their fear of heights as they scaled a

climbing wall and rode a zip-line at Camp Ohio on Sunday afternoon, October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The group (which included 5 parent “volunteers”) participated in two activities – the climbing wall and zip line – after having lunch together and learning the safety measures needed to have fun! This was such an AWESOME time, we can’t wait to go back and spend more time. Thank you, Camp Ohio! By the way, I’m still not sure who had more fun – the kids or the parents who volunteered!! Thank you to Ali and Jeff Evans, Jason Samples, Brian Snow, and Kyle Snow!

## Upcoming Tween Activities

**Nov. 12:** ‘Minute to Win It’ games, with dinner at the church; **5:00-7:00 pm**

**December:** No Tween Time

**Nov. 12:** Wii Game Night, with dinner at the church; **5:00-7:00 pm**

Questions about ‘Tween Time’ should be directed to Anita Snow ([asnow@firstumcnewark.org](mailto:asnow@firstumcnewark.org)).

## Christmas Eve Family Service

The preparations are getting started! A brief meeting is planned for **Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> after the 11:00 a.m. service** for those children interested in participating in the Family Christmas Eve Service which will be at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve.



If your child would like a speaking part, attendance at this time is encouraged. If you are not able to attend this meeting, but your child is interested in a speaking part, please email Anita Snow at [asnow@firstumcnewark.org](mailto:asnow@firstumcnewark.org) to ensure a part. The first rehearsal/read through is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the church. The remainder of the rehearsal schedule will be available at the November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting or thereafter.

## Sunday School ... A place for everyone in the family of God

Sunday School is a time to enhance our faith journey as individuals and as families. **Please join us on Sunday mornings from 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.** – finding a place to plug in is easy!

**Preschool – 5yrs.**  
Bible stories with  
Katie Lee and Bonnie Brooks.

**K – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades**  
Rock Solid:  
Building a Heart of Faith  
(teacher rotation).

**4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grades**  
Re:FORM with  
Larry Lorence and Jodi Nichols.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** As volunteers we would like to remind parents that **Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m. and concludes at 10:45 a.m.** In an effort to make sure that our children are safely reunited with their parent/grandparent, please be sure to **pick your children up at their classrooms at 10:45 a.m.** so that our volunteers can continue with their mornings! Thank you.

In His service,  
Anita Snow  
Director of Family Ministries



## YOUTH NEWS!

### CROP Walk 2011!

On Sunday, October 16, our church participated in the annual Newark Area CROP Walk. First Church had 21 people participate in the walk, and many more who contributed to the cause through prayers and donations.

The CROP Walk is sponsored by Church World Service, and works to alleviate hunger and poverty both around the world and locally. We want to say thank you to everyone who participated in the 2011 Newark Area CROP Walk!

### Poinsettia Sale

It may seem hard to believe, but it’s that time of year again! Beginning November 27<sup>th</sup>, the Youth will start taking orders for poinsettias and the sale will continue through December 11<sup>th</sup>.

The poinsettias are a great way to decorate your home for the holidays, and to honor and remember loved ones – and all proceeds from the sale help to support the summer mission trip for our youth! The order form (at right) will also be included in the December Pioneer, the bulletins (starting in late November), and will be available in the church office. If you have any questions, please see Brandi or Diane Koman.


### Sunday School

With the size of our youth group growing and the desire of our youth to continue to grow and deepen their faith we are beginning to explore idea of starting small groups this winter. If you are interested in getting involved in a small group either as a youth or as an adult leader/helper please let Brandi know.


### November Youth Schedule ...

Oct. 29: Fall Harvest Party, 5-7 pm at Loomis’ house  
Oct. 30: Youth Group from 5:30-7:30 pm

Oct. 30: Fish Fry following the 11am worship service (youth who are able to help serve, please contact Brandi)  
Nov. 6: Youth Group from 5:30-7:30pm  
Nov. 13: Youth Group from 5:30-7:30pm  
Nov. 20: Youth Group from 5:30-7:30pm  
Nov. 27: No Youth Group



**Poinsettia Order Form**  
Please complete and return to  
Diane Koman or the church office



**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

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**MEMORIAL & HONORARIUM ORDERS**  
**\*\* PLEASE PRINT \*\***

\_\_\_\_\_ **6” pot X \$13.00 each = \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check one:**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **I will pick up on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Please deliver plant to a shut-in**

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**(CIRCLE ONE) In Memory of / In Honor of:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**(CIRCLE ONE) In Memory of / In Honor of:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Given by:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**PERSONAL USE ORDERS:**  
**PICK UP WILL BE IN THE CHAPEL**

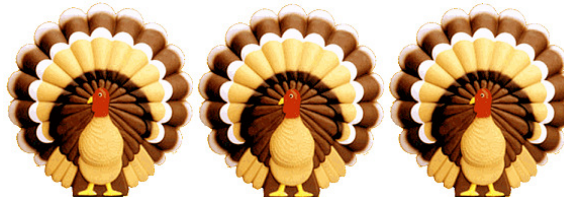
\_\_\_\_\_ **6” pot X \$13.00 each = \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check one:**  
**I will pick up my personal use order on:**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **December 4<sup>th</sup>**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **December 11<sup>th</sup>**

# N O V E M B E R

# 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
		<b>1</b> 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 9:30 a.m. Share Group 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Crew 4200A Scouts 7:00 p.m. District Round Table 7:00 p.m. Mary Circle
<b>6 Consecration/All Saints Sunday</b> <b>8:30 a.m. Coats for Kids-11/9</b> 8:30 a.m. First Word 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Traditional 3:30 p.m. Concert Off Site 5:30 p.m. Youth Group	<b>7 Candle Lighters Ex. 10:00</b> 2:00 p.m. Monday Talks 5:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack Mtg. 5:30 p.m. Share Group 6:00 p.m. Share Group 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m. Visitation Team 7:00 p.m. Share Group	<b>8</b> 9:00 a.m. Candy Making 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 9:30 a.m. Share Group 10:00 p.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Staff Parish 6:30 p.m. Emmaus Board Mtg.
<b>13 Veteran's Sunday</b> 8:30 a.m. First Word 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Traditional 5:30 p.m. Youth Group in Church	<b>14</b> 2:00 Monday Talks 5:30 p.m. Den Meetings 5:30 p.m. Share Group 6:00 p.m. Share Group 7:00 p.m. Share Group 7:00 p.m. Scouts	<b>15</b> 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 9:30 a.m. Share Group 9:30 a.m. Esther Circle 5:30 p.m. Den Meeting 6:00 p.m. SLC 7:00 Church Conference
<b>20 Emmaus Walk</b> <b>Tags on tree for Christmas</b> 8:30 a.m. First Word 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Traditional 5:30 p.m. Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Comm. Serve at Trinity Esp.	<b>21</b> 10:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Sort. 4:30 p.m. Relay for Life 5:30 p.m. Share Group 6:00 p.m. Share Group 6:30 p.m. Cub Pack Parents 7:00 p.m. Scouts 7:00 p.m. Deborah Circle	<b>22</b> 9:00 a.m. COG Harvest Feast 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 9:30 a.m. Share Group 10:00 p.m. Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Share Distribution 6:00 p.m. Emmaus Gathering
<b>27 Advent Sunday – Poinsettia Sale</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>28</b> 11:00 a.m. COG Chapel 2:00 p.m. Monday Talks 5:30 p.m. Den Meetings 5:30 p.m. Share Group 6:00 p.m. Share Group 7:00 p.m. Scouts 7:00 p.m. Share Group	<b>29</b> 9:00a.m. Staff Meeting 9:30 a.m. Share Group 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:00 a.m. COG Chapel 5:30 p.m. Den Meetings
		

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>2</b> 9:00 a.m. Candy Making 9:00 a.m. MOPS Steering Tm. 5:00 p.m. Praise Band Reh. 5:30 p.m. Praise Team Reh. 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. COG Curr. Night 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>3</b> 7:30 a.m. Chow Share Group 11:45 a.m. Candle Lighters 6:00 p.m. Emmaus Team Mtgs. 6:00 p.m. MOPS Mom 6:30 p.m. Finance 7:00 p.m. Prayer Summit	<b>4</b> Coats For Kids Thru Nov. 9th	<b>5</b> 6:30 a.m. Share Groups 8:30 a.m. UM Men 10:00 a.m. Rehearsal for All Saints Sunday
<b>9</b> 9:00 a.m. Comfort Quilts 12:30 p.m. Kitchen in use 5:00 p.m. Community Dinner 5:00 p.m. Praise Band Reh. 5:30 p.m. Praise Team Reh. 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>10</b> 7:30 a.m. Chow Share Group 9:30 a.m. UMW Ex Mtg. 6:00 p.m. UMW Dessert /Prog. 6:00 p.m. Emmaus Team Mtgs. 6:30 p.m. Trustees 7:00 p.m. Prayer Summit	<b>11</b> 9:30 a.m. MOPS Monthly Mtg./Childcare	<b>12</b> 6:30 a.m. Share Groups 4:00 p.m. Tween Time 5:30 p.m. ALD Meeting 6:30 p.m. Emmaus
<b>16</b> 5:00 p.m. Praise Band Reh. 5:30 p.m. Praise Team Reh. 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>17 Emmaus Walk</b> 7:30 a.m. Chow Share Group 9:00 a.m. COG Buckeye Day 7:00 p.m. Prayer Summit	<b>18 Emmaus Walk</b> 9:00 a.m. Tree up for Christmas Share	<b>19 Emmaus Walk</b> 6:30 a.m. Share Groups 8:30 a.m. UM Men
<b>23 COG Thanksgiving Brk.</b> 9:00 a.m. Comfort Quilts 5:00 p.m. Praise Band Reh. 5:30 p.m. Praise Team Reh. 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	<b>24</b> <b>Happy Thanksgiving Day</b>  <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Thanksgiving Break</b>  <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>26</b> 6:30 a.m. Share Groups
<b>30</b> 9:00 a.m. MOPS Steering Tm. 9:30 a.m. Chancel Guild Decor. 5:00 p.m. Praise Band Reh. 5:30 p.m. Praise Team Reh. 6:00 p.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. EGA 7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal			
			

## MINISTRY MATTERS

### New Resource Center: "The Source"

The hard surface renovation of the former Library is mostly complete. On October 30<sup>th</sup>, books were shelved and ready to check out again. This will be an ongoing, evolving process, as more technology and materials are added.

This area has been renamed as the resource center and it will be called "The Source". As a church, we want to reach out to all ages to provide more information. We are using more internet and materials that do require some additional technology. There are still needs to be met and we are now looking for furniture to make "The Source" a comfortable and welcome place to find materials, to read, and to have small group events for learning.

The hours for usage will be posted, and the bulletin board outside of the room will have pertinent information on it. So we hope this will help people understand what is a new direction and ministry here at First Church, a 'source' for inspiration and hope.

Linda Frail, Interim Chairperson of "The Source"

### THANKSGIVING SHARE

The Thanksgiving Share Team is asking for donations of boxed mashed potatoes; jars/bottles of gravy; boxed stuffing; canned corn, peas or green beans; applesauce; cereal; canned pears, peaches or mixed fruit; canned cranberry sauce; canned yams; and cash donations to purchase gift cards for perishables (eggs, milk, turkeys, and pies) for the **Annual Thanksgiving Baskets**.

Non-perishable donations may be placed in the bin marked 'Thanksgiving Share' in the Gathering Space from October 23<sup>rd</sup> through Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. (Please do not put the Thanksgiving Share food items in the Food Pantry or Community Dinner boxes). Cash donations should be given to the office staff or to Beth

Phelps, Chairman of the Thanksgiving Share Team. Pick up of the baskets will be on Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. **Thank you for helping us to provide a Thanksgiving Meal to families in our community.**

### Annual Coats for Kids Project

COATS FOR KIDS is an annual program of the Salvation Army. Margaret and David Wolford are chairpersons for the coat drive this year for First Church.

The Salvation Army accepts new and clean, gently-used winter coats for children and adults. The gently-used coats are cleaned by local cleaners and returned for distribution.

If you have one or more coats to donate, please bring them to the church between Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, and put them in the box in the first floor Gathering Space. Coats cannot be accepted after November 7<sup>th</sup>, and will be dropped off at the Salvation Army on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

### Kroger Community Rewards

The Kroger Community Rewards Program still exists, and is a way to donate a portion of your purchases to the church, much the same way the gift cards do through the SCRIP program. Over the last several months several members have asked how they can enroll in the Kroger program.

Kroger requires each person to stop at the service desk at the local stores and request the church receive the proceeds from the program. You can enroll by stopping at the service desk and updating your Kroger PlusCard Database by giving them the church number. To register online, go to krogercommunityrewards.com (if you currently have a Kroger PlusCard). You will be asked to sign in as a new customer online if you have not designated the church as your organization to receive the rewards.

## MINISTRY MATTERS

The Kroger Community Rewards Program is an easy way for members and friends of First Church to support the church. Through the program, each time your Kroger PlusCard is scanned, a percentage of the sale will go to the church. Kroger monitors the program and sends a check to the church each month with a listing of the total dollars purchased and the percentage the church receives.

The number church's number is NPO#80397 – First United Methodist Church, Newark. The address connected to the church is the physical address of 88 N 5th Street, Newark.

Please note that if you have registered in the past, you must re-enroll every year. Thank you for considering this option as you shop at Krogers.



The United Methodist Women have been busy making candy, and it will go on sale in November. Remaining dates and times for candy-making are:

- November 1 – 7:00 PM – ???
- November 2 – 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
- November 8 – 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

If you would like to purchase more than ten pounds of candy, you can order and prepay in advance to be certain to get the kind you like. The candy is \$7.00 per pound this year. Call Betty Radley at 345-6354 or Kay Guttridge at 644-9477 with any questions or to place an order.

On November 10<sup>th</sup> we will be having an evening meeting with the Mary, Rebecca, and Deborah Circles providing a dessert buffet. The program will be J.U.M.P., a gospel group from Johnstown UM Church. ALL are welcome to attend (women and men). If you are planning to attend and are not

in a UMW Circle, please call your reservation in to the church office by November 5<sup>th</sup>.

December 8<sup>th</sup> at noon will be our annual Christmas Tea. We will entertain UMW Units from other churches. Please mark your calendar.

Any woman is welcome to any of the First Church United Methodist Women's group meetings or Circle meetings. Please contact UMW President Kay Guttridge (644-9477) for more information.



### Acolytes serving

The following acolytes served during the month of September:

Travis Bralley, Aubrey Chann, Kaye Esterline, Emily Rader, Morgan Ryan, Jillian Samples and Emily Stachler. Your leadership in worship is appreciated!

### SECURITY REMINDER

Facility Manager, Gary Watson offers a security reminder to all groups meeting at the church. You are asked to turn off lights and lock the doors if you are the last or the only group meeting in the evening. If you are the only meeting in the evening, please take a minute to lock the doors before going to the basement or upstairs to your meeting. A bell is located at the main parking lot entrance door. If anyone would need to enter the church building after the meeting has started they could ring the bell for assistance. Also if you are the last group and your meeting has run long, please remember to lock the doors when you leave. The night lock-up employee *does* check and secure the building each evening, but it could be hours between when folks leave and the lock-up time leaving the church open to theft or vandalism. **Your assistance in securing the building and turning off lights as you leave is appreciated.**

# CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

## Church Conference

The annual First UM Church Conference will be held on **Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**. All members are encouraged to attend and participate in the business of the church.

## Handling Panhandling

Newark has an Anti-Panhandling Strategy in place that includes an ordinance prohibiting “aggressive begging,” an offense for which one may be arrested. The ordinance was developed to be sensitive to individual needs, as well as considering everyone’s Constitutional rights. It holds individuals responsible for inappropriate behavior while attempting to protect the public from aggressive behavior.

If you are approached by someone asking for money; or for assistance with gas for their vehicle, groceries, or other needs, please do not give them money or place yourself in a potentially unsafe position by going with them. Instead, direct them to the church office during regular business hours for assistance.

Many in the downtown area have been panhandling at several churches, businesses and agencies, and the police department encourages individuals to give to local service organizations and charities rather than giving money to folks who panhandle. You should not feel you must respond, as aggressive panhandling is illegal. Aggressive panhandling is when: a person asks for assistance with the intent to intimidate you to give them money, goods or property; they are within twenty feet of an ATM or check cashing facility; they approach an operator or occupant of a motor vehicle while the vehicle is on the street; while begging they intentionally touch a person without consent or intentionally obstruct pedestrian or vehicular traffic on a street, sidewalk, or on publicly or privately owned property with the City of Newark.

First Church assists those in need when the need can be documented, and is handled appropriately. Your giving to the Ministers’ Discretionary Fund as well as the Food Pantry and other projects provides dollars

and groceries to folks from all around the city – not just to folks who are willing to approach you and beg or panhandle. Please direct any requests while you are on church property to the church office or to church staff if you are in doubt as to how to handle the situation.

## Mail Bag



*Thank you, First Church, for being there for Mary and our family. Mary enjoyed going to services at First Church as well as the Bible studies. Thank you, Rev. Todd Frail, for the visitation, as well as Robert & Edith Wiechel. Thank you, church members, for the sympathy cards and visitation. Special thanks to Pastor Mark Chow for visitation and for a perfect funeral service enhanced by Belinda Paisley, Michael Tomesek, and Gary Watson. Thank you, Pastor Denman, for being there for Mary as well. Mary always enjoyed all the services from all 1<sup>st</sup> Church pastors.*

*The family of Mary Grace Kunkle Francis*

*To First United Methodist Church:*

*The family of Calvin E. Roebuck acknowledges with grateful appreciation your kind expression of sympathy.*

*Thank You for “Being the Church” and extending your hospitality to Men’s Emmaus Walk #35. [Signed by members of the New-Ark Area Men’s Walk to Emmaus #35 Live-in Team]*

*Dear First Church Family*

*Thank you so much for your kind and thoughtful notes and gifts during Pastor Appreciation Month. It truly is a joy to serve among you as one of your Pastors.*

*Our family is deeply blessed to be here, and we count it a joy to be part of this wonderful family.*

*Thank you for the many ways you show affirmation and appreciation!*

*Blessings!*

*Pastor Mark*

*The Community Block Party served 400 and was successful because so many from First Church provided donations and help. A special thank you to Community Block Party team – Jason, Kelly, Claire, Trent, Jackie, & Brett Montgomery; Ashley, Theresa & Dave Johnson; Kalista Lees; Anita Snow; Tink and Linda Henry; Phil and Vicki Miller; Jan Hendren; Rick and Stacey Reed; Michele MacDonald; Linda Wait; Aleesa Womer; Ralph and Carolyn Brandon; Dave, Molly, & Travis Bralley; Ed and Sue Stone; Larry Lorence; Scott Ryan; Barb Eckstein; Roger Hobson and Mary Bousquet; John and Donna Orben; Brian Atwell; Mitch and Jodi Nichols; Gary Watson; Brandi and Justin Rigsby; Mark Chow; Jeff Vanest; Nick Thompson; and Mike and Pam Denman. A very special thank you to the First Church youth group who worked so hard and to the Praise Band for great music. By all reports, the Marty Ford Experience was a big hit too!*

*Our special thanks to: Licking Memorial Health Systems for the loan of the tent and the staff to put it up and take it down; the City of Newark Parks and Recreation Department for the loan of the stage; Gary & Karen Krinn and Signs Now for the great banners promoting the event; the YMCA and Lance & Missie Stachler for the loan of the bounce houses; Richardson Glass employees for delivery of the stage; Ross Miller and Leyla McIntyre for picking up the games; Stephanie Cantlin for providing face painting; Kirk Paisley and our very own “voice of radio” organist Mike Tomesek for emceeing; Roger Hobson and Mary Bousquet for clowning and providing balloon animals; and Jackie Montgomery for organizing the Chili Cook-off giving bragging rights to winners John & Donna Orben (1<sup>st</sup>), Doug Pricer (2<sup>nd</sup>), and Gary Watson.*

*I appreciate all the food donations that helped to keep us within budget. Your willingness to help was great! Thank you for making this outreach such a success. If I forgot anyone, my deepest apologies.*

*Laurie Montgomery*

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