



**JULY 2024**

# **Parish News**

## **First United Church of Christ**

### **A Note from Your Pastor**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Independence, according to the Oxford Dictionary:

Independence is a condition of a person, nation, country, or state, in which residents and population, or some portion thereof, exercise self-government, and usually sovereignty, over its territory. It is defined as freedom from outside control or support. Independence is the freedom to organize your own life, make your own decisions, etc. without needing help from other people. It can also refer to a territory not under the control of any other power.

This July 4<sup>th</sup> we, the United States of America, will celebrate the anniversary of our declaration of independence from England's rule. While this momentous occasion is certainly something we are proud of, we must realize that our independence came at a great cost. Many lives were given to win or freedom. We must also realize that this independence was won to allow our country to self-govern, not to isolate us from the world.

We as humans like to have the ability to self-govern, but we must ensure that we do not let this isolate ourselves from others. God intended us to be communal and share in fellowship with one another. We are all part of something bigger than our individual selves.

Too often we let our differences get in the way of friendship and fellowship. As this year progresses the wheel of politics will turn at a blinding pace. Differences of opinion will be expressed, and some will cause hurt feelings and discord like we have previously not experienced. Walls can be built that will divide us if we let them. As Christians we must not let this happen! It is fine to have difference of opinions and political alliances, but we should remember that God intended for us to remain a unified body, the Body of Christ.

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## **A Note from Your Pastor (continued)**

And if we really believe in our faith as we profess to, we should understand that God is in charge no matter who sits in the White House.

God has a plan for each of us, and for all of us. His will prevails no matter what. We must submit ourselves to Him, and His decisions. We must still work to love one another, putting political and other differences aside. One of the great freedoms won for us as part of the independence we achieved, was to have the freedom to worship as we choose to. Let us exercise that freedom to the fullest, together, and as One. If you feel the need to voice your opinions or political alliances remember to do it with respect and kindness. For we are all part of God's family, and we should work not to isolate or injure one another.

I pray that each of you has a joyous July and that in the times ahead you are afforded the respect and thoughtfulness you deserve. You are a child of God almighty, and He has plans for you! I hope that as you bask in the summer weather, you also bask in His great love for you!

*Pastor Gerry*

## **Toy Drive 2024**

We are once again holding our Toy Drive, from now until the end of November, for the Warren Family Mission. If you wish to participate, there will be a bin in the lobby where you can drop off any new, unwrapped toys at any time.

In late November or early December, we will take these toys to the Mission for their yearly Christmas give away. Please keep in mind that while it's fun to shop for the little ones, there are teenagers who need love and support at Christmas also.

Thank you in advance for your kindness. If you have any questions, please see Karen Schoch.

## July Update

Hello everyone! As you read this, we have just celebrated Pentecost. Sometimes I get asked about the significance of Pentecost or what does it mean. Pentecost marks 50 days since Easter and brings the Easter season to an end. It's a time when Christians recall how God's Holy Spirit was given to the disciples after Jesus' ascension, empowering them to begin the work of making disciples of all nations. In other words, it was the beginning of the early church. As for the color red, it symbolizes joy and the Holy Spirit's fire. It's why the altar colors are red and we plant red flowers around the church.

Speaking of flowers, thank you to all who made generous donations for our outside flowers. Thanks also to Bill Paxson for obtaining the geraniums and for all those who helped plant them. A special thanks to Bill and Junior Fumerola for their hard work in getting the beds prepared for planting.

Many of us are now in full blown summer mode as we embark on all the activities this season has to offer. With vacations and other plans, we ask that you not forget the church. We still will be here every Sunday and need your support as summer moves on.

Not a month goes by that I don't take time to thank our Deacons. This group is very dedicated to our church in so many ways. Recently they helped honor our mothers with Muffins and Moms on Mother's Day. They are now planning something similar for the fathers with Dad and Donuts on Father's Day. Plus they are planning for our annual summer picnic in late August. Kudos to these hard working ladies. Also special thanks to Sharon Longworth for her dedicated leadership to our Sunday school. Classes have concluded for the summer and will resume in September. And one more thank you—our choir is taking some much needed time off for the summer. Thanks so much for your beautiful music under the leadership of Karen Fumerola.

Many of you are aware that Reverend Gammon recently had back surgery again which will hopefully alleviate his back pain. He has dealt with this for some time and our prayers are with him and Marian during what will hopefully be a short recovery. During his absence, the pulpit will be filled with several guest pastors, some which you are very familiar with. I ask that you please welcome them and thank them for their service to our church.

One more reminder. Our summer worship schedule will find us meeting at 11:00am this summer. Please note the time change from previous years.

Till next month, remember our shut-in!

Ron Schoch

## Annual Church Picnic



When: Saturday August 24, 2024,

Where: Lake Park Pavilion

Howland Township Park.

Time: noon to 4:00 p.m.

Join us for food, fun, and fellowship! Please plan on bringing a covered dish, your own place settings, chairs, and games for all ages to play. Everyone is welcome! A sign-up sheet will be in the lobby at the beginning of August.

May Income	May Expenditures	May Net
\$3,282.00	\$7,454.97	-\$4,172.97

## Friday Funnies

I was driving when I saw the flash of a traffic camera. I figured that my picture had been taken for exceeding the speed limit even though I knew that I was not speeding.

Just to be sure, I went around the block and passed the same spot, driving even more slowly, but again the camera flashed. Now I began to think that this was quite funny, so I drove even slower as I passed the area once more, but the traffic camera again flashed.

I tried a fourth and fifth time with the same results and was now laughing as the camera flashed while I rolled past a snail's pace.

Two weeks later, I got five tickets in the mail for driving without a seat belt.

You know, you can't fix stupid!

## Prayer List

Jennifer Boyle	Ruth Gilbert	Layes Wood	<b>Shut-ins:</b>
Becky Callahan	Dick Leiby	Hailee	Donna Beavers
Jerry Currie	Marilyn Leiby		Ruth Gilbert
Rodger Davis	Diane Lemasters	Those affected by	Betty Howren
Steve Doracin	Dean Mahalick	the conflicts through	Dick Leiby
Barb Edwards	Peggy Marshall	out the world.	Marilyn Leiby
Phil Fletcher	Larry Mattison		Glenn Mark
Gerry Gammon	Norma Patchin		Norma Patchin
Donald Gammon	Carter Plot		Barb Sponaugle
Wesley Gault	Mary Sabol		

## Floating Five Emergency Fund

In July 2009, the Floating Five Committee decided to start an emergency account to help those in the church having an unexpected need for money such as a car repair, medical bill, or legitimate need as recommended by church members or staff, etc. Please speak with Judy Fabian, Keith Burger, Karen Schoch, or Rev. Gammon should you have such a need.

This is a confidential service available to any church member, staff member, or anyone who attends regularly. This is not intended to be an ongoing source of income but rather for emergency situations which one might encounter.

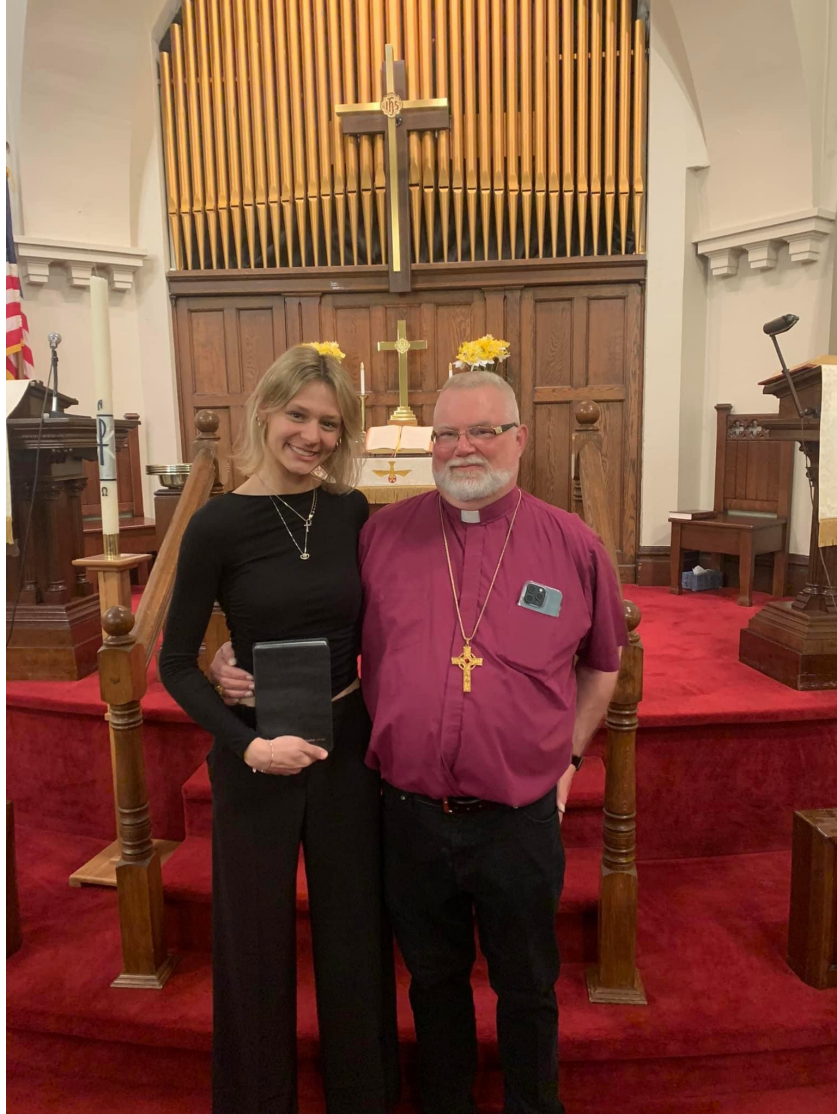
## Prayer Chain/List

The Prayer Chain has been slightly revised. As a reminder, names of people for the Prayer Chain with specific messages are prayed for regularly for that person for seven days. Be sure to begin your request by calling the church office or by filling out a prayer request card.

Names on the Prayer List in the weekly bulletin will be carried for that month unless requested it be continued on or removed prior to the end of the month.

\*\*If you would like to be a caller and offer prayers for those on the prayer chain, please notify the church office (330) 394-4741 or fill out a prayer request card.

## Lexi Muck receiving her bible for graduating high school



## Consistory

There will be a special meeting of consistory on Monday, July 1, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.



## Baptism of Edison Hartman on May 11, 2024



Lee & Emily Hartman  
with Edison, Everly, &  
Sullivan



## First United Church of Christ

280 E. Market Street  
Warren, Ohio 44481  
(330) 394-4741  
Email: firstuccwarren@gmail.com



*The church with the “golden dome”*

website  
[www.firstuccwarren.org](http://www.firstuccwarren.org)

### Pastor:

Rev./Dr. Gerald Gammon

### Pastor Emeritus:

Joe Doran  
Everett Gould

### Elder Emeritus:

Al Conklin  
Nick Fabian  
Ed Gilbert  
Don Howren  
Glenn Mark  
Sylvia Moyes  
Bill Paxson  
George Schneider  
Bill Schoch  
Charles Weller  
Ken Wright

### Deacon Emeritus:

Dick Leiby

## Consistory

<b>President:</b>	Ron Schoch	<b>Elders:</b>	Keith Burger	12/31/26
			Jr. Fumerola	12/31/24
			Linda Paxson	12/31/24
<b>Vice President:</b>	Bill Paxson		Bill Paxson	12/31/24
			Karen Schoch	12/31/26
<b>Secretary:</b>	Nancy Hamrick			
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Rev. Gammon	<b>Deacons:</b>	Melanie Burger	12/31/24
			Sheryl Cozad	12/31/25
			Judy Fabian	12/31/24
<b>Financial Officer:</b>	Sheryl Cozad		Marian Gammon	12/31/25
			Candy Lemasters	12/31/25
<b>Bookkeeper:</b>	Sheryl Cozad		Sharon Longworth	12/31/25
			Debbie Wimer	12/31/24