



**First United Church of Christ
Sugarcreek, Ohio
.....our story of faith is still unfolding**

APRIL
Newsletter 2025
First United Church
of Christ
526 W Main St.
Sugarcreek OH
330-852-2632

Worship 10 AM

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Earl Rogers 330-737-1233

Email: earl.rogers.12@gmail.com

Office hours:

Monday - Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Also available by appointment.

Secretary Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Church office: 330-852-2632 or 330-401-7153

Email Robin at: sugarcreekfirstucc@gmail.com

Like us on FaceBook: First United Church of Christ - Sugarcreek

Website: firstuccsugarcreek.com



APRIL HIGHLIGHTS.....

- April 3 7:00 p.m. Lent Study
6 9:00 a.m. Youth Easter Egg coloring in the fellowship hall
10:00 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Worship & Music meeting
2:00 p.m. Pirate Packing
8 7:00 p.m. WOF Book Discussion
10 7:00 p.m. Lent Study
12 9:00 a.m. Outside Clean Up - anyone is welcome to help
9:00 a.m. - 12 noon
Cookie & Pie pick up, Drive Thru
10:00 a.m. to noon - Clothing Closet open
4:30 p.m. Youth MOVIE Night
13 10:00 a.m. Worship - Palm Sunday
17 6:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Meal
18 9:00 - 5:00 Stations of the Cross
20 10:00 a.m. Worship - HAPPY EASTER!!
23 6:00 p.m. SOUL Men's Group
24 5:30 p.m. OWLs Ladies Night
27 10:00 a.m. Worship
Compassion Sunday Presentation
11:00 a.m. Worship & Music Fundraiser
Lunch - all are welcome!!



Holy Week

April 13th Palm Sunday
Children's Procession,
please meet in the entrance
hall at 9:45

April 17th 6:00 p.m.
Maundy Thursday Meal and
service in the fellowship hall

April 18th 9:00 - 5:00
Stations of the Cross in the
sanctuary

April 20th 10:00 a.m.
Easter Worship Service
Easter Egg Hunt during
Children's Church



FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST APRIL BIRTHDAYS

3 Sam Troyer
5 Virginia Baab
6 Todd Gerber
Carol Radefeld
Jacki Burkey
10 Steven Slivka
11 John Dague
13 Hope Slemmer
16 Elizabeth Dague
17 Firman Yoder
19 Jim Parson
20 Mike Blauch
23 Bill Angel
24 Jill Young
25 Karen McCoy
26 Olivia Young
28 Mark Johnson
29 Blake Angel



PRAYER CHAIN

The new Prayer Chain Email is now in place. All requests can go into the church office to Robin and an email will be sent out. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please contact Robin.

Reminder!

Prayer Shawls are always available to be given to people we are thinking of. They can be found on the 3rd floor of the Educational building. If you have any questions, please see Susie Immel or Brenda Johnson.

ALL YOUTH EVENT MOVIE NIGHT

****April 12th 4:30 p.m.**

All youth are invited to go the see the movie King of Kings, at the Canton Movie Theater.

If you have any questions please contact Erica Rogers.

330-737-1552



FIRST UCC WOMEN OF FAITH

OWLS....(Out with the Ladies)
All ladies are invited on April 24th
at 5:30 p.m. Details coming soon.

Owls is an evening out for ALL
ladies of the church, anyone is
welcome and no reservation is
necessary. Bring a friend and plan
to come and spend time with our
church ladies for good food and
conversation.

We look forward to
seeing you there!!



WOMEN OF FAITH

The Book Club
will meet to discuss Sum it Up by
Pat Head Summit and Sally
Jenkins on Tuesday, April 8 at
7:00 p.m. in the parlor on the
lower level.

All women are welcome to join
us for good discussion and
refreshments.

Women's Retreat at UCC Camp in Dunkirk NY **LADIES RETREAT.....Dunkirk Conference Center**

The Women of Faith are announcing a ladies weekend retreat at Dunkirk Camp & Conference Center in Dunkirk, New York, scheduled for **Friday, June 6th thru Sunday, June 8th**. This is an awesome time of fellowship with our own ladies and others from PA and NY!! Please consider joining us for a wonderful weekend. The cost of \$100 includes 2 nights in a cabin, meals and retreat materials.

You can register online at www.dunkirkcc.com

If you have questions about the camp, please contact Marsha Baab or Nancy Troyer.

We will carpool and it's always a great weekend!!



From the Pastor's Desk.....

Friends,

We arrive in the month of April, just waiting to see what could be in store for us. In years past, it seemed almost a foregone conclusion that April means warmer weather and a settling of our schedules for at least a month or two. The big celebrations are over, and summer has not yet appeared on our horizons. This year we are having those assumptions challenged in a big way.

Easter is coming about as late as it possibly can, thanks of course to the timing of the full moon. (If you don't remember how Easter and the moon are related, check out last year's March newsletter.) With that change in date and schedule, we are seeing that many of the alignments in celebration that we take for granted are not materializing like we would want them to. The late date of Easter Sunday moves other dates, such as Pentecost, and we find that the Easter season is going to stretch into June this year, instead of ending in mid-May.

The more I have thought about the ways that this year looks so very different than the past few, the more I have realized that this is very much a God moment. We need to have our assumptions and regular schedules pushed, prodded, and tested occasionally. Routine is nice, and it is often said that we thrive in it. However, I am led to wonder just how much we actually thrive when routine becomes rote. If every day is the same in and same out, where is our space for the Spirit to do great things in our lives? If we never deviate from the schedule we have set, is there room for the creativity of God's call in our lives?

We may not always like it, but we need to be challenged in our routines. Jesus did that very thing time and again with the Pharisees and Scribes. He asked them difficult questions that were meant to break them out of the routines that kept them comfortable but separated from the people. Stories and Parables, healings and miracles taught them that sometimes we need to break the comfort of our daily cycle in order to see something wonderful that God has prepared for us.

I think that this year is a great opportunity to lean into the disruption. Our schedules are off, things aren't quite playing out in the expected ways. Rather than cling to the remnants of our plans like pieces of a foundered ship, let's be willing to let go a little bit and see where the tides of time take us this year. I encourage you to trust in God, and trust in one another as we find the new direction that this year will take.

Blessings on your journey,
Pastor Earl



PRAYERS

In the Spirit of Christ, you are invited to hold these persons in your prayers and thoughts this month. We lift up for healing and protection: Ed Klein, Craig Morris, Ada Miers, Sharelle Miller, Annette Rossi, Garrett Milks, Paul Yoder, Ruth Beechy, Davis, Lee Radefeld, Jim Stein, Kathy Durfee, Dianne Rice, Jim Ray, Dennis Radefeld, Herbie Kaufman, Donna Haines, Marge Clauto. We ask God to comfort the family of Susan Johnson.

DATE	GREETERS	COOKIE TABLE	ALTAR FLOWERS	WORSHIP LEADER	CHILDREN's MESSAGE	CHILDREN's CHURCH	SECURITY
April 6	Ginny Eric D	Ginny	Bob & Judy	Sally Green	Sally Green		Eric Dodge
April 13	Rhonda A	Nicole Hilton	Tammy F	Val Gerber	Val Gerber	Courtney Hicks	Dave Ely
April 20	Zach & Remi		Michael & Diana	Peg Jones	No Children's Message	Easter Egg Hunt	Kevin Troyer
April 27	Wayne & Diana	No Cookie Table	Bill & Rhonda	Erica Rogers	Zach Zesiger	Catherine Snyder	Justin Troyer

**SOUL....(Sharing Our Unique Lives)
Men's Group April 23rd 6:00 p.m.
....details coming soon.**

SOUL



CHILDREN'S BOOKS....

There is a collection of Easter books available to take home and read with your little ones and then return.

The books are located on the stand in the side hall by the Children's Table.

Happy reading!!



We are so *THANKFUL* for those who are able to join us ONLINE each week. A reminder that your offerings can be mailed to the church or if you would like to give online, please visit **firstuccsugarcreek.com** and click on "give". If you have any questions, please call the church office..