

# FAITH HAPPENINGS

JUNE 2022

\*SPECIAL EDITION\*



## *Thoughts From The Pastor*

BY PASTOR BRANDON KECK

Greetings First UMC,

In Luke 10 we have an account of Jesus sending out 72 of his followers to minister to people in need. They are given instructions on how to conduct themselves as they enter towns and homes. They are told to offer peace to others and to receive whatever is freely given to them. If they are rejected, then they are told to wipe the dust off of their feet and simply move on. As I consider these instructions, I am preparing to go on a mission trip to Puerto Rico. It has been some time since I was able to participate in a trip such as this. I have been on so many mission trips that it is hard to keep track of them all. I have participated in trips to Michigan, West Virginia, Kentucky, and El Salvador. I must say that in every mission experience I have been on, our teams have been welcomed with open arms. People have received us with food, fellowship, and thanksgiving. There have been times where our teams were very productive while there were times when things just did not go our way. On all of them, I have seen eyes opened to the struggles that different people face. As I prepare for this mission trip, I look to the “what to expect” page of our volunteer guidelines. We are asked to understand the culture of Puerto Rico is different than that of Tuscarawas County.

Some of these differences are easy to expect as the people speak Spanish as their official language. Other customs will not be so easily understood or expected. One area that might be surprising to some here at home is that wearing shorts will not be an option in many places. You would think with temperatures regularly reaching into the 90s that the people would be fine with shorts and sandals, but it is not. We have been told to dress in attire that would be acceptable in the sight of the people we are serving even though it will most likely be uncomfortably hot. I am not enthusiastic about this expectation, but I think to what Jesus tells these 72 servants. He tells them to eat what is offered to them and to share in their culture. He does not say that it would be okay to refuse hospitality. He tells them to reach people where the people are. When we go out into the world to serve, we need to make sure that we are understanding that others will be in a different place spiritually and culturally. We must find ourselves allowing others to share their lives with us so that we can share Christ with them. In doing so we can be like the 72 servants that Jesus sent out in ministry.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brandon Keck". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pastor Brandon

## Kids Ministry

We wrapped up our Be Renewed Sunday School craft by making a necklace with all the shrinky-dinks we have been making during the month of May. The kids had fun with this project & we want to thank Bill & Cheryl Graham for providing our craft as well as the Children's messages and song during both worship services. (picture)

The kids also enjoyed "committing" some flowers at the front of the parking lot on Commitment Sunday. Thank you Lauren Wilson for coordinating this project!

As of June 5th, we will be taking a break from 10am Sunday School for the summer months. A huge thank you to Denise Cochenour for leading our Kids Ministry time during the 2021-22 school year!

Children's Worship time during both of our services (9am and 11am) will still be happening. Children are dismissed after the children's sermon for a special time of worship. If you attend adult Sunday School during the 10am hour and need childcare, that will be available for kids up through the 5th grade. Please consider helping out with the Children's Worship time. There will be detailed instructions and a computer provided. Contact Johnna Keck to get more information or sign up for a 9am or 11am time slot. Thank you!

Looking ahead... Starting in July we will be providing training to help connect with pre-school and elementary aged children. This training will prepare us to share the Gospel with the next generation. Stay tuned for more details!



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Opportunities

- *Vacation Bible School -Please reach out to Suzanne Komaromy to help*
- *Rummage Sale- Please reach out to Linda DiDonato to help*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- *Rummage Sale*
  - *June 10th & 11th*
- *Vacation Bible School*
  - *July 10-14th*

FIND AND FOLLOW US ON  
FACEBOOK  
@NPFIRSTUMC

# Rummage Sale

- *Doing some spring cleaning? Save those items for our rummage sale. You can bring items to the church starting June 5th thru June 9th office hours. Sale is on June 10th 9-5 and June 11th 9-12. Saturday, June 11th, fill a bag for \$1.00. Please contact the church office or Linda DiDonato with any questions.*



## Outreach

- *Outreach is collecting sunscreen, chapstick and hand sanitizer items for the month of June. Please drop off any items at the church office.*

## Finance Committee

*Offering envelopes update:*

*Our new boxed sets (June 5, 2022 through May 28, 2023) are ready for pickup here at the church.*

*If you give on-line, nothing will change for you. We will still have pew envelopes available each Sunday at the welcome tables.*

*Thank you for your generous giving. If you have any questions, please give Suzanne (330.339.6411 ext 308) a call.*

## BIRTHDAYS

<i>Roman Breehl</i>	<i>6/1</i>
<i>Rich Powell</i>	<i>6/4</i>
<i>Jim Rice</i>	<i>6/5</i>
<i>Craig Cairns</i>	<i>6/7</i>
<i>Verna Pedersen</i>	<i>6/8</i>
<i>Parker Wilson</i>	<i>6/9</i>
<i>Jaden Riker</i>	<i>6/9</i>
<i>John McClain</i>	<i>6/9</i>
<i>Michael Bollon</i>	<i>6/12</i>
<i>Frank Bair</i>	<i>6/12</i>
<i>Lynne McClain</i>	<i>6/12</i>
<i>Renee Ronald</i>	<i>6/15</i>
<i>Cheryl Graham</i>	<i>6/16</i>
<i>Laura Goddard</i>	<i>6/17</i>
<i>Dina Zimmerman</i>	<i>6/17</i>
<i>Jim Hamilton</i>	<i>6/18</i>
<i>Jim Clark</i>	<i>6/19</i>
<i>Joe Gavin</i>	<i>6/21</i>
<i>Jason Blocker</i>	<i>6/22</i>
<i>Wilma Briggs</i>	<i>6/22</i>
<i>Cobe Hutchison</i>	<i>6/25</i>
<i>Kris Cardani</i>	<i>6/26</i>
<i>Lois Ann Fisher</i>	<i>6/27</i>
<i>Chris Alberts</i>	<i>6/27</i>
<i>Zoe Zimmerman</i>	<i>6/27</i>
<i>Chris Sand-Ashley</i>	<i>6/28</i>
<i>Pat Maurer</i>	<i>6/28</i>
<i>Ron Weber</i>	<i>6/30</i>
<i>Elois Watson</i>	<i>6/30</i>
<i>Olivia Powell</i>	<i>6/30</i>



## Congregational Care Team

A Congregational Care Team has been created to respond to the needs of our congregation and offer support for all aspects of life including illness, hospitalization, aging, grief, loss, and so much more. This includes visitation, prayer, cards, meals, prayer shawls, and support. We will also focus on fellowship including special events such as the ice cream social, hog roast, trunk-or-treat and hopefully more fun events like these. College care packages, special Sundays (Mother's Day/Graduation/Father's Day/Back to School/Veterans Day), and visitor gifts and follow-ups will also fall under this team.

*Caring for each other helps us to grow in our faith. It then strengthens and empowers us to reach out to create and mature disciples of Jesus Christ!*

*We need your help to make this team successful! If you are interested in helping, you can attend a monthly meeting the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm in the Upper Room. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, June 7th at 6:30pm. If you can not attend the meetings, please contact Johnna Keck or Suzanne Komaromy to see how you can get involved.*

*If you are in need of visitation, communion brought to your home, meals, prayer, or any kind of support, please call (330-339-6411) or email the office (office@npfirstumc.org), and they will put you in touch with this team.*

## Vacation Bible School



**Please plan to join us!!**

**2022 VBS - First United Methodist Church  
201 West High Avenue New Philadelphia**

**Sunday July 10 through Thursday July 14  
5:00 until 7:30**

**Children ages; ability to use the restroom  
without adult assistance through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
6<sup>th</sup> Graders through adult are welcome as  
volunteers. ALL must register to attend at:  
[www.npfirstumc.org](http://www.npfirstumc.org) – VBS tab or by calling  
the church at 330.339.6411**

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

*Bill & Sara Updegraff*

*June 5th*

*Tom & Julie Albright*

*June 9th*

*Jim & Linda Rice*

*June 9th*

*Mike & Carol Stephens*

*June 9th*

*Fred & Shawna Hinkle*

*June 12th*

*John & Jane Cartrell*

*June 14th*

*Steve & Julie Johnson*

*June 14th*

*John & Susan Arnold*

*June 18th*

*Bill & Karen Murphy*

*June 18th*

*Tom & Patti Strickling*

*June 20th*

*Andy & Dina Zimmerman*

*June 21st*

*Michael & Stacie Bollon*

*June 22nd*

*Brent & Linda Creathouse*

*June 26th*

*Kim & Debbie Miller*

*June 28th*

## CONTACT US AT:

FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH OF NEW PHILADELPHIA

201 W HIGH AVE  
NEW PHILADELPHIA, OH 44663

(330) 339-6411  
OFFICE@NPFIRSTUMC.ORG  
WWW.NPFIRSTUMC.ORG



# NP FIRST UMC 2022 Graduates!

## Jaelynn Marks

She is the daughter of Jason and Devan Marks. Jaelynn attended Strasburg High School and graduated from Buckeye Career Center. She is headed to Bowling Green State University to study middle childhood education. Jaelynn has been a member of the Strasburg volleyball and softball teams for four years, the basketball team for three years, president of FCCLA and a member of FCA. Two of Jaelynn's fondest memories at our church: vacation Bible school she loved seeing the energy and excitement. And confirmation retreat with Reverend Susan Brown and going on the retreat in the winter. Jaelynn hopes to see the continuation of growth in the church through education with the youth.

## Jayvin Herbert

He is the son of Joel and Devi Herbert. Jayvin graduated from New Philadelphia High School and plans to attend Walsh University majoring in pre-med. When Jayvin was in school, he was in the band and choir, and is also an Eagle scout. He shares this about NP First: "I love singing in the choir, playing instruments, and preaching!"

# NP FIRST UMC 2022 Graduates!

## Audrey Mason Garbrandt

She is the daughter of Fred Garbrandt. Audrey graduated May 20th from Canton South High School. She is going to Kent Stark Campus this fall and wants to be a Veterinary Pharmacist.

## Bethany Goddard

She is the daughter of Jeff and Laura Goddard. Bethany graduated from Cleveland State University and plans to apply to and attend Physician's Assistant school in the spring of 2023. Some of her activities at school included the National Society of Leadership & Success, the Cleveland State Dance Team, and the American Medical Student Association. She also stated that Philippians 4:13 has always been a favorite verse of hers. She says, "I turned to it as God reminds me that I am capable of great things no matter how long or rough the road ahead may be."

## Emma Hinkle

She is the daughter of Fred and Shawna Hinkle. Emma recently graduated from Kent State University. This summer she is working as Dean of Girls at the International Music Camp in North Dakota. She then plans on attending Northern Illinois University for graduate studies in horn performance. At OWU before transferring to KSU she was in cheerleading, Kappa Alpha Theta, Ultimate Frisbee, orchestra, band, and chamber ensembles. At KSU she was in the orchestra, symphonic band, chamber ensembles and was principal horn. She says this about her church: "I am thankful for the support from the congregation and allowing me a safe space to share my faith and love of Christ through music."

## Tessa Grace Goddard

She is also the daughter of Jeff and Laura Goddard. Tessa just graduated from Buckeye Career Center and plans on working as a dental assistant. She was in the high school marching band color guard. She loves cats and working at Marshalls. She shares that "through Christ ALL things are possible!"

# Congratulations to all of our graduates!