**FCU WEEKLY E-NEWS**

Join Worship through Zoom **Sunday at 10:00am**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89246438945?pwd=ZEsrdUtTODY2VTBjWVJWSndyZ3gvQT09>

Meeting ID: 892 4643 8945

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| **MARCH 23**  **WORSHIP** | Usher Bill Koellner  Candlelighters  PowerPoint Shaun Kruger  Organist Brenda Miller  Choir Chimes  Greet/Coffee Hour |
| **MARCH**  **NUMBERS** | March 2 attendance – 66 March 2 giving - $3,407.00 (Incl. Auto Deposit)  March 9 attendance – 64 March 9 giving - $654.00  **Current monthly total – $4,061.00**  **Needed each month - $12,840.58**  A giving tab is included on the church website: <https://fcuwl.org/give/>  During the Lenten season, we will be collecting special offerings for the One Great Hour of Sharing (Presbyterian) and Week of Compassion (Christian Church Disciples of Christ) offerings. Envelopes will be available in the pews and on the front table. |
| **PASTOR OUT** | Pastor Deb will be out of the office Tuesday March 25. |
| **YOUTH REMINDERS** | March 19 – **No WOW** due to Spring Break  March 23 – Regular **CYG** resumes  March 26 – Camp Bear Creek will visit **WOW**  **Save the Dates: Vacation Bible School offerings for Summer 2025**  June 23-27 @ West Liberty Christian Fellowship  August 5-7 @ First Church United |
| **MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION FOOD DRIVE** | During the month of April, area churches in the Ministerial Association are working together to collect donations for the Food Pantry. First Church United will be collecting specifically Hamburger Helper and Ramen noodle packages. There is a table in Fellowship Hall to place donated items. |
| **EASTER LILIES** | For the Easter season, church family members often wish to purchase an Easter Lily or other spring potted plant to decorate the alter and baptistry area. Please contact Three B’s Floral, either by phone or in person, to purchase a flower and have it delivered to First Church United.  Easter Lily = $20 (6-inch container wrapped with a bow)  Other options include: Ivy baskets $25, Hanging ivy basket $35, Azaleas $40, Tulip garden $20, Daffodil garden $20, Hydrangeas $40, Calla Lily $36 |
| **COMMUNITY CALENDAR** | March 19 St. Joseph Catholic Church 75th anniversary mass @ 6pm & potluck to  follow. All are welcome!  March 21 Catfish Fry @ St. Joseph’s Catholic Church, 5-7pm |
| **BINGO NIGHT** | The Congregational Life committee would like to invite you to a fun filled night of BINGO on **March 28**! Pizza will be provided starting at 5:45 and Bingo will start at 6:00.  Participants should bring a white elephant gift for the prize table.  Please let us know how many will be attending (to help with the pizza order) by clicking this link:  <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/14oyWQfOahXWS11LAthf7LdlEO6JaJRivWeeGMZq19LE/edit?usp=sharing> |
| **FOOD PANTRY HOURS UPDATE** | The VAC Food Pantry has added an extra hour to their hours of operation. They will be open on Thursdays from **3:00-4:00pm** & 6:00-7:00pm, and Saturdays from 9:00am-10:00am. |
| **LENTEN NOTES FROM**  **PASTOR DEB** | Lent = a 40-day season within the church that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends right before Good Friday, leading up to Easter morning. It is a time of reflection / prayer / sacrificial giving as we remember the love of God that is poured out through Jesus Christ. His sacrifice on the cross offers us the gift of eternal life. May we honor His sacrifice with our own dedicated efforts.  Two questions for reflection this Lent:     WHERE is God in my life?     HOW would I define my relationship with God?  Possible ideas for Lenten reflections are listed below.   * Join the Lenten 6-week Bible after worship * Pick up a Lenten devotional off the front hallway table and read individually or with friends * Make a dedicated effort to attend the 6 weeks of Lenten worship leading up to Easter on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am * Plan a dedicated time for additional prayer or Bible study * Read devotional material available online, apps, podcasts or in bookstores * Invite a friend or family member to church * Plan a coffee get together to connect with faith community * Journal, meditate or listen to faith-filled music * Ask a trusted friend or pastor to pray about a burden that is weighing heavily on your heart |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **SUMMER CAMP INFO** | Many of our church families are thinking about/have already signed up for summer 2025 church camp! We are so fortunate to have the ability through the Endowment Fund to contribute to the faith development of our youth. In 2025, the Endowment Committee will continue to have the family out-of-pocket expense be $100 per child registered, with endowment money covering the balance that would be due for each child.  The “You and Me” camp, which is a 24-hour camp experience for an adult and child together, will be fully funded by endowment dollars. An information sheet & Endowment Request form are attached.  **Camp Bear Creek:**<https://bearcreek.camp/programs/>    **Christian Conference Center**: <https://www.newtonccc.org/scsessions> | | Many of our church families are thinking about/have already signed up for summer 2025 church camp! We are so fortunate to have the ability through the Endowment Fund to contribute to the faith development of our youth. In 2025, the Endowment Committee will continue to have the family out-of-pocket expense be $100 per child registered, with endowment money covering the balance that would be due for each child.  The “You and Me” camp, which is a 24-hour camp experience for an adult and child together, will be fully funded by endowment dollars. An information sheet & Endowment Request form are attached.  **Camp Bear Creek:**<https://bearcreek.camp/programs/>    **Christian Conference Center**: <https://www.newtonccc.org/scsessions> |