



First Church of God

Our Mission: Bringing Lives Into Focus with Christ

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If you have an item to put in the newsletter, please submit it to Susie Hoffman by the 3rd. Sunday of the month. Susie's email address is fcogrisingsun@gmail.com

Pastor's Meditation May

A happy month of May. Spring is in the air, baseball is happening, and the school year is almost done.

When I was a youth, I had parents, specifically my mom, that encouraged reading. I was in the public library before I started school, and my sister and I were encouraged to explore books of all genres. My mom also read to us regularly. I heard all of the Little House on the Prairie books, the Chronicles of Narnia, the Hobbit, and many other classic stories before I was in the fourth grade.

One of the stories my mom shared that I enjoyed, and still do, is Anne of Green Gables. Anne of Green Gables was written by Canadian author Lucy Maud Montgomery (published as L. M. Montgomery). The book was published in 1908. Since its publication 117 years ago, Anne of Green Gables has been translated into at least 36 languages and has sold more than 50 million copies, making it one of the best-selling books in any language.

Set in the late 19th century, it tells of the adventures of an 11-year-old orphan girl, Anne Shirley, sent by

mistake to two middle-aged siblings, Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert, who had originally intended to adopt a boy to help them on their farm in the fictional town of Avonlea in Prince Edward Island, Canada. The novel recounts how Anne makes her way through life with the Cuthberts, in school, and within the town.

A recurring theme in the book is how Anne longs for a family. She lost hope of ever finding a place to call home, but the Cuthberts take her in. In the beginning of the story, on the buggy ride to their home, Anne apologizes for chattering on and on, but Matthew, a quiet man, says, "You can talk as much as you like. I don't mind." This is music to Anne's ears. She felt no one ever wanted her around, much less wanted to hear her chatter. When they get to the farm, Anne's hopes are dashed when she learns the Cuthberts had thought they were getting a boy to help as a farm-hand. Anne fears being returned to the orphanage, but her longing for a loving home is met when Matthew and Marilla make her a part of their family.

I share this because we've all had times when we felt unwanted or alone. When we become a part of God's family through salvation in

Jesus, the Bible tells us that Jesus becomes a secure home for us. Psalm 62:2 says that God is our rock and our foundation, and he's also our fortress. Another way that can be translated is God is our home. God delights in us and invites us to talk with Him about everything: our worries, temptations, sorrows, and hopes. The psalmist tells us in 62:5, 8, we can "find rest in God" and "pour out our hearts to him."

When it comes to talking to God, and asking to find a home in him, don't hesitate. God says to us what Matthew said to Anne, "Talk as much as you like." God won't mind. He delights in our hearts. In God, you'll find a home.

CELEBRATING OUR NEW MEMBERS!!

May 4, for the celebration of 15 new members into our church family! That day's schedule will be a bit different than usual as we are blessed by 15 different testimonies! Sunday School will be held at 9am, one combined church service beginning at 10am followed by a carry-in fellowship lunch around 12noon! Plan to attend the service in support of our new members and enjoy lunch as you officially welcome these wonderful people! Wow, is God ever good!!



Church Garage Sale

FCOG will be having a garage sale May 16, 9am-4pm and May 17, 9am-? If you have items to donate, please put it in the Green Room, at the east end of the church. Please no car seats, strollers, anything that may have a recall, electronics, TV's or particle board furniture. If you have any questions please contact Sandy Stephenson. During the garage sale we will also have a Lunch Stand with a bake sale, the profits from the lunch stand will go to LifeWise. Dessert signup sheets are on the clipboard.

SPAGHETTI LUNCH SUCCESS!!

The 4/27 Community Spaghetti Lunch was a huge success thanks to ALL OF YOU!!! Donations were generously given in the amount of \$1028 with 65 dine-in lunches served and 47 takeout orders prepared! Many, many thanks to Pizza Hut and Randy Wilhelm for the wonderful donation of marinara sauce and garlic bread, to Frobose Meats for 10# of ground beef and to Susan and Joel Bloemer for 15# of ground venison (surprise!!) It all came together to make a delicious spaghetti sauce! Everyone who baked and donated cookies cannot be forgotten and there are enough to use for the 5/4 new member lunch! Thank you! Many thanks, as well, to anyone who helped with food prep, serving and clean up, women and men alike! The Women's Breakfast Club will now be able to contribute to church camp fees, graduating senior fees (3 school districts) and LifeWise! The Lord certainly blessed this event!!

Women's Breakfast Club future dates!

- May 31- breakfast, 9am @ church.
- August 24- Pay-To-Eat Breakfast (donation) in combination with safety and Christian Ed. updates.
- October 18- Men's Appreciation Tailgate 3.0! (TTBD).
- November 15- Ladies' One Day Retreat! More info. to follow!
- September 21- combined service, cook-out/ church family birthday party, planning with the Yacht Club! More to follow!

Safety Team



The Q3 Safety Team Schedule is being worked on and will be out by the end of May. If you have a conflict please try to work out a trade with another team member, if you can't find a trade, let Tim know. Upcoming events that we will need to cover are: Graduation Party on Sat. June 21st from 1pm-4pm Please let Tim know if you can take care of this event.

VBS is coming up soon. It is from July 28 through Aug. 1. The hours are VERY different this year as Christian Ed is trying something new. We will need to cover from 8:45am to 11am on these days. Please let Tim know if you can cover 1 or more of these days. THANK YOU!

Yacht Club

The next Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday June 28th at 8:30am AT THE CHURCH. This will be just before the scheduled church workday. Although organized by the Yacht Club ANYONE is welcome to join us this morning to knock out as many improvement projects as we can.

Men, the Ladies Appreciation dinner is Saturday May 10th . The set up is on Friday night, May 9th . If you can help set up please be at the church by 6pm. If you have food or supplies to bring, please try to get them to the church by Friday evening during the set-up time as well. If you need a reminder about what you are supposed to bring, see Tim. If you don't have any food or supplies you can always donate money to the cause, see Tim for that as well.

New Yacht Club shirts (same color and design) are available. If you need a new one or you haven't ever received one see Tim. Sizes large to 4XL available.

Ladies Appreciation Dinner

Ladies Appreciation Dinner will be held on Saturday May 10th. If you haven't already Turned in your RSVP you need to do so Sunday, May 4th
Thank you

Men's Retreat

Men, save the dates and put in for vacation if necessary. The Men's Retreat will be August 15-16-17, At Camp Otoykawah near Butler, OH (The Mohican area)

This is always an awesome time of fellowship, fun and food. God always blesses us on this weekend and we have a great time. Details to come.

Church council members

Beginning with the May 12th meeting we will meet in the GAB Sunday School classroom. This is the room in the far Northeast corner of the Education wing. Hopefully this will reduce the distractions and we can hear each other better in a smaller area and get our business completed quicker.

Christian Ed

Hello,
Things are moving along quickly in the Christian Education Department. Just this last week we had our last night of Kids for Christ for the season. Numbers were a bit low this year, but we still had a good time with lots of lessons learned. We are looking forward to a little bit of down time; but not too much.

Starting on May 14th , from 6pm-8pm, we will be holding our first meeting of the Youth Group at the church. The age range is grades 7-12.

We are also looking forward VBS starting July 28th . It will be here before we know it and more details will be coming soon.

Numbers for Jr. Church have been steady, and it has been nice to see some new faces helping with this incredibly important program. If you have ever considered helping lead a class or two the sign-up sheets are always on the clipboards in the sanctuary. If you have suggestions or questions about any aspect related to this department, please contact me through phone/text (419-788-8121) or email- revjlhun@gmail.com

Sincerely,
Justin Hunt, Christian Education Director

First Church of God May 2025

Sun			Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5-11	Tim J. & Steve	Brittney & John K.				1 9am Bible Study	2 8:30-9:30 walking group	3
5-18	Brad & Susan	Tracy & Justin						
5-25	TJ & Jim D	Pam & Nicole						
4 10AM ONE WORSHIP SERVICE 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL LUNCH AFTER SERVICE	5 8:30-9:30 walking group 6:30 Congregational prayer	6	7 8:30-9:30 walking group 6pm Bible study	8 9am Bible Study	9 8:30-9:30 walking group 6pm dinner setup	10 Women's Appreciation Dinner		
11 8:15am Worship 9:30am donuts/coffee 9:45am Sunday school 10:45am Worship Happy Mother's Day	12 8:30-9:30 walking group 6:30 Council meeting Garage Sale setup	13	14 8:30-9:30 walking group 6pm Bible study	15 9am Bible Study	16 9am-4pm Garage Sale	17 9am-? Garage Sale		
18 8:15am Worship 9:30am donuts/coffee 9:45am Sunday school 10:45am Worship 4:30 4-H meeting	19 8:30-9:30 walking group 6:30 Congregational prayer	20	21 8:30-9:30 walking group 6pm Bible study	22 9am Bible Study	23 8:30-9:30 walking group	24		
25 8:15am Worship 9:30am donuts/coffee 9:45am Sunday school 10:45am Worship	26 Memorial Day	27	28 8:30-9:30 walking group 6pm Bible study	29 9am Bible Study	30 8:30-9:30 walking group	31 9am Women's breakfast		

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