



The Circuit Rider

The newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Lancaster, Ohio

March 2023

Loving God and Loving People Making Disciples of Christ for the Transformation of the World. Lancaster First United Methodist Church (FUMC) is a historic United Methodist Church that welcomes everyone of all race, color, religion, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, nationality, ability, and age. We are dedicated to nurturing everyone and helping them grow in their faith journey with Christ.



Sunday, March 12th

3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

at Crossroads Ministry Center

2095 W. Fair Ave., Lancaster

Please join us & bring a friend!



Glow Party!

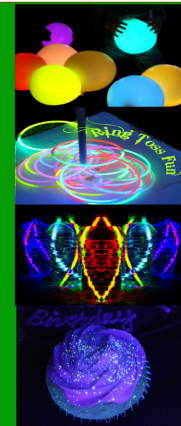
Wear White or Neon!

3:30 Activities

- * DJ Dance Party (3:30-5:30)
- * Games
- * Snack
- * Crafts

4:30 Celebration

5:00 Free Pizza and Glow in the Dark Cupcakes!



For more information, go to www.love-first/messy-church

EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Saturday, April 1st

CROSSROADS

**for ages
3-12**

2095 West Fair Ave.

1-3 p.m.

Entertainment by

VIRTUOUS REALITY

FREE ADMISSION!

love-first.org



A Creative Outreach of
LANCASTER FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



“and suddenly from heaven came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting” (Acts 2:2 NRSV)

Last week (as I write this mid-February), a worship service ended at Asbury University in Wilmore, Kentucky. Nothing especially memorable about that. They have chapel three times a week. When I attended there, chapel was mandatory. I’m not sure it is at this time. But it’s a part of the regular life of the school.

But this week was different. After the service, a few students lingered, worshiped, and began to confess to one another some of their sins and things they needed God to heal. It was then that something unexpected happened. The Holy Spirit showed up in a very powerful way. The service did not end. In faith has still not ended, some 130 hours. The Auditorium, which sits around 1,300 to 1,400 people, is filled to capacity. There are people on the steps. The chapel across the street is filled, as well. The town is filled with thousands of people, many not from the community. Someone likened it to the end of “Field of Dreams” as headlights fill the road like people streamed to the baseball field. It’s spilled over to other campuses and to churches, as well.

More than an incredible time of worship, people have given their life to Christ. People have rededicated their lives to Christ. There has been healing and reconciliation. Lives changed. This is what happens when the Holy Spirit manifests Himself in powerful ways.

It’s not the first time this has happened there. It happened in the late 50’s, and more famously in 1970. What’s interesting is that ever since that revival, people have prayed for it to happen every year. And it didn’t happen. I would have loved for it to have happened when I was there. So why now?

There is no real answer to that question. There is a wild and unknowable part of God’s personality. He cannot be controlled or manipulated. But it occurs to me there are some things we can learn here that I think can be helpful for us as we move through Lent together.

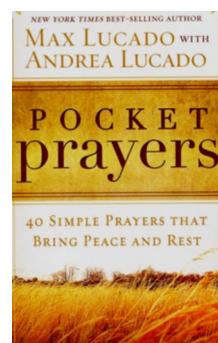
Just because we did not experience a revival like this, it does not mean the Holy Spirit didn’t move in our lives. In fact, some of the greatest spiritual moments in my life occurred there. The Holy Spirit did move. As Christians, our role is not to demand that God comes in a specific way. Our role is to see how the Holy Spirit is moving in our lives at that moment. The question is not if, or even when. It’s how.

Secondly, God is a creative God. Just look at all the beauty in the world. God does not always come in the same expected ways. We need to be aware God will move in our lives in unexpected ways. Let’s not miss what God is doing merely because we were looking the wrong way.

Thirdly, The Holy Spirit is interruptive. He changes our lives. Understand if you are seeking the Holy Spirit, He’s going to change your life. It will not be the same.

Finally, while we can’t control revival, it seems to always come after a time of prayer, confession, and repentance. Spend your time of Lent wisely. Look for God. Spend time with Him, confess and repent. And look for the Holy Spirit to come.

In Christ,
Rev. Dr. Brian Jones <><



Lenten Devotionals
Now Available at
the Church





**REAL people looking for a way to have
REAL conversations and live a
REAL faith in Jesus Christ in the REAL world**

We would love to have you join us!

Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Crossroads Ministry Center

We'd love to have you join us for a time of fellowship and worshipful, interactive, and relevant Bible study (with small group discussions and sharing) to help us live out our faith in our world today. Children are welcome to stay with their parents or play in the nursery. **We invite you to join us any or every week—and bring a friend!**

Lenten Study/Crossroads Community:

In *Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws*, pastor and bestselling author Adam Hamilton explores the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Luke. Through Luke's stories we find Jesus' care and compassion for all as He welcomes ordinary people, those considered sinners, and outcasts alike. As we study Luke and see Jesus' concern for those who were considered unimportant, we hear a hopeful and inspiring word for our lives today. Invite your friends and neighbors, especially those who may feel like they would never be accepted at church. This is a great way to explore the depth of God's grace and our faith together.

Watch your bulletin for other ways that you can join in this journey through the book of Luke. At time of print, we are still working on ideas to include some online options. We hope that you will join us on this Lenten journey through Luke as we come alongside our confirmands and their mentors who are studying Luke together as well.

Feb. 28- Lifting Up the Lowly

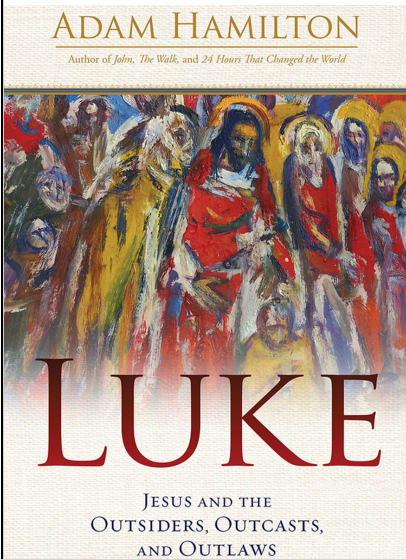
March 7- Simon, Do You See This Woman?

March 14- Parables from the Underside

March 21- On the Journey to Jerusalem

March 28- The Final Week

April 4- Crucified with the Outlaws



If you have any questions or want to learn more, please contact the Church, 740-653-3330.

Faith Matters

Bible Study

**The Search for Meaning:
A Study of Ecclesiastes**

**Sunday Mornings at 10:15
in Room 22**

Begins February 19

The Search for Meaning: A Study of Ecclesiastes.

Join the Faith Matters Bible study during Lent as we contemplate the meaning of life with King Solomon as our guide. No book is necessary other

than your Bible. Introduction to King Solomon on February 19th. Ecclesiastes chapters 1 and 2 on February 26, and about 2 chapters of Ecclesiastes each week after that until Easter. All are welcome.

Ark Builders Sunday School Class

**"Finding Jesus in the Psalms: A
Lenten Journey" by Barb Roose.**

**Sunday Mornings at 9:00
in Room 22**

Begins February 26

Ark Builders Lenten Study

Ark Builds Sunday School class will begin a 6-week Lenten study on February 26 titled, 'Finding Jesus in the Psalms: A Lenten Journey' by Barb Roose. Combining an

interpretation of the psalms with real life stories, the study moves through the familiar words of Psalm 23 toward the painful cries of Psalm 22 uttered by Jesus on the cross. The study includes reflections on the life of King David and the original context of the writings, along with connections between the psalms and the life and death of Jesus the Messiah. The class is at 9AM in Room 22. Study guides will be available in the parlor. If you have questions please contact Tim Binkley at 740.243.1600 or tdbinkley@gmail.com.

Unrevealed Until It's Season - Lenten Study of Favorite Hymns: Come join us for a look into our favorite hymns! Each session will include fellowship, worship, and singing as we journey together through Lent. Wednesdays, 6-7pm, in Room 26 at the church. Notify Judy Hug to assure a book is reserved for you (\$14.00 donations accepted, as possible.)

New Members' Classes: Have you been looking for a church home, or visited with us for a while and wondered about United Methodism and about this church family? YOU are invited to join the pastors and staff in learning more about your spiritual gifts and call to serve, and to learn about the many ministries in which you and your family can be involved in honoring our amazing God! Classes are offered Sundays, April 16, 23, and 30, 11:30am - 2:00 pm, and include a light lunch. Reception of members will be conducted in either service on Sunday, May 12. To register for the classes, please contact the church office at 740-653-3330 or indicate your interest on the weekly Connect Card. Please advise also if childcare is needed.

Help is needed to provide lunches for those in the New Member Classes in April - a salad, a casserole, or a dessert. Please contact Judy Hug at 740-653-3330 ext. 1009 or judyhug@love-first.org

Bloodmobile: The Red Cross Bloodmobile will visit Crossroads on Monday, March 20, 1:30-6:30pm. Donors can register online at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> or by contacting the church at 740-653-3330 or judyhug@love-first.org.

Easter Cards: Homemade cards can brighten a person's day, especially if homebound or residing in a care facility. Please submit cards to the church office **on/before March 26**.

Sharing Hearts: The Sharing Hearts Ministry has returned! This very important ministry connects a member/member family with one of our members or friends that is homebound. Monthly contact is encouraged and might include a visit, a card, a small gift, and/or a phone call each month. For information or to be "matched", please contact Judy Hug at 740-653-3330 ext. 1009 or judyhug@love-first.org.

Would you know what to do? **March is American Red Cross Month.** In addition to the Bloodmobile, **free Hands-Only CPR Training is being offered.** Contact the church office to sign up for one of these sessions:

Thursday, March 23, 4:00 - 4:30pm, Room 26

Sunday, March 26, 10:00 - 10:30pm, Choir Room

Members and friends can be helpful in an emergency by accessing equipment that would be useful to our medical and health professionals. A response kit is kept behind the receptionist desk in the Parlor. The Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is located on the wall at the ushers' stand in the back of the sanctuary, and the other across from the office at Crossroads. If you have questions or concerns, or have training for emergency response, please contact Judy Hug at 740-653-3330, ext. 1009 or judyhug@love-first.org

Numbers Matter when monitoring your blood pressure! BP Screening will be offered in Room 14 (off the Parlor) the first Sunday of each month, conducted by trained personnel. Members or friends will receive a wallet card to record monthly readings, to be shared with medical providers. No need to register, just stop by!

Are you a Caregiver, or know a Caregiver? In November, devotion booklets were distributed to family caregivers. There are some extra booklets available, free to persons caring for family members or friends, or for those who are professional caregivers. Available while supplies last. Contact the church office to receive a copy for yourself or someone else.

Welcome to the Trustees' Corner

Trustees here to give you the latest update on our Capital Campaign. We have vetted a General Contractor (GC), Bill Burch, Drummond Construction, Inc., and the total cost of renovations is \$1,954,000. Currently, we have received a grand total of \$1,113,094.58 Capital Campaign funds. Out of that amount, we have spent \$229,246.75 on the new doors, permits, architect and engineer fees, and storage container fees. This leaves us with \$889,339.71 remaining of Capital Campaign funds raised thus far which includes the interest gained from the CD investments and Money Market Account. We have other funds available to absorb some of the difference, but any additional giving in your hearts towards the Capital Campaign would be greatly appreciated. Our next step for the renovations since vetting a GC is that we have applied for the permits with the city to approve our plans. We know this has been a long awaited start to fixing our ever need to improve the infrastructure of our church, but we are finally here and appreciate your giving toward, your patience, and most of all your prayers as we go through the process. In each monthly *Circuit Rider*, we will continue to share the progress and status of the Capital Campaign renovations.



See you around the corner.

The Trustees

Hooked on Books

April 4, May 2, June 6

10:00 a.m.

at Crossroads Ministry Center



A New Book Club is starting

by Linda Godenschwager and Denise Bennett! The first book being discussed is "The Girl's Still Got It" by Liz Curtis Higgs, which is about Ruth.

There will be food, as well! Linda and Denise will provide food for the first meeting, and they will see if there is interest in rotating bringing food once a quarter or going out to eat during the meeting.

We want to encourage people to connect, as the main purpose is for fellowship! Please sign up in the Parlor and contact Linda or Denise with any questions.

We are now collecting handmade Easter

cards to be mailed to our friends who can't get out much. Cards should be flat, no embellishments, and should fit in a standard card or business-size envelope (saves on postage costs). Please let us know if you'll be participating in this ministry, and bring your handmade creations to the Church during business hours, Mon-Thurs, 9am-1pm, or on Sunday mornings. Thank you for brightening someone's day!



Youth News:

March: 5, 12, 19, 26

Sunday morning combined classes 6th-12th grade: Room 26, 9am & 10:30am

Sunday morning Confirmation class 8th-12th grade: Chapel room, 10:30am

Sunday Youth Group Nights: Crossroads Youth room 5-7pm *

Give Back Days:

March 1st & 15th Drive Thru dinners 3:30 – 5:30pm

March 11th Second Saturday pack college gifts at Crossroads 8:30am

March 12th Messy Church at Crossroads 3:30 – 5:30pm

*After Messy Church Youth Group Night will start at 5:30pm till 7pm

SHIELD
Serving Him In Every Little Deed



YOUTH GROUP

Come Be Seen, Heard, And
Supported In Your Faith!



Youth Mission Trip 2023

June 25th – July 1st

Springfield, Ohio

\$75 due to the business office by May 15th reserves your spot. Make checks payable to FUMC and in the memo write "mission trip" If you are over 18, we will need a background check done, the office has the paperwork for you.



Come help our neighbors in Springfield fix a ramp, paint a house or build a porch! You need to be 6th grade or older, we welcome college age and adults who are willing to chaperone. Check out more information about the mission trip on the age on the church website or contact me anytime with questions. Janieburdsal@love-first.org



Youth Ministries
March 2023

Help is needed for

The Lion's Club Convention

Saturday and Sunday
March 4th and 5th

at Crossroads Ministry Center
2095 W. Fair Ave.

Please sign up in the Parlor

Thank You!

Can you help out? We are once again hosting the **Lion's Club Convention on Saturday and Sunday, March 4th and 5th**. This is a great fundraiser for our congregation and helps us fund the various programs here at First Church. With everyone's help, it only takes a few hours of your time to make the Lions Club feel welcomed at our facility! Look for the sign-up sheet in the Parlor to see which shift best fits with your schedule. We truly appreciate any and all help you can give.

SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES

9am Service 6th-12th

10:30am Service 6th-12th

ROOM 26

Confirmation Class

10:30am Chapel Room

SHIELD
Serving Him In Every Little Deed



YOUTH GROUP

Come Be Seen, Heard, And
Supported In Your Faith!

Mission Trip 2023

Youth Group Nights

5th 5-7pm
12th 5:30-7pm
19th 5-7pm
26th 5-7pm

Feel free to bring a friend to youth group night and also bring your favorite card or board game from home.

The mission trip is in Springfield Ohio this year, so it's a very close trip. It will be from June 25th - July 1st. I will need to know if you are coming by May 15th. You need to be in 6th grade or older. It's 75 dollars to come but let me know if you can't afford that we will make it happen.



Give Back Days
All at Crossroads:

Packing college gifts
11th 8:30am
Messy Church 12th
3:30-5:30pm
Drive thru dinners
1st & 15th
3:30 - 5:30pm



LANCASTER FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Janie Burdsal Youth Director
Contact info:
740-653-3330 ext. 1101
janieburdsal@love-first.org



We express our sincere sympathy to the families of those who have lost loved ones:

Bob Harmon
Ron Dillon
Jeannine Cunningham
Eileen Deyo
Nancy Streets



Interested in Baptism?

If you are, please contact the church at (740) 653-3330.

March 12

**DON'T FORGET TO
 SPRING FORWARD**

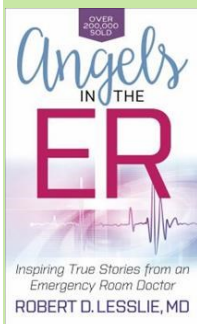
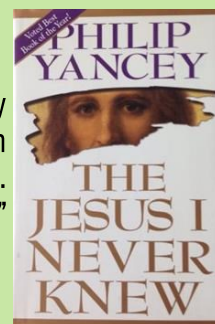


Stop by the Church Library!

Visit the library this Sunday to borrow some books, CDs and DVDs. Here are a few featured items:

Book-“The Jesus I Never Knew” by Philip Yancey

Best-selling author, Philip Yancey says, “The Jesus I got to know in writing this book is very different than the Jesus I learned about in Sunday School. In some ways, He is more comforting; in some ways more terrifying.”



Book- “Angels in the ER” by Robert D. Lesslie M.D.
 Inspiring true stories from an emergency room doctor.

Go Bananas!

We have a bunch of Bananas DVDs featuring appealing comedy for the whole family!



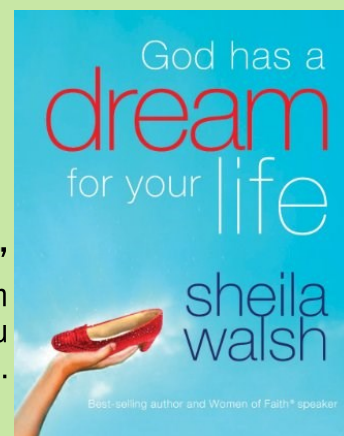
DVD- “The Chosen” Seasons 1 & 2

For the first time ever, the greatest story ever told is being presented as a multi-season show. The #1 highest crowd-funded media project of all time introduces you to people such as Simon Peter, Nicodemus, Mary Magdalene, Matthew and of course Jesus in a way never before seen on film.

Book- “God has a Dream for Your Life”

by Sheila Walsh

Sheila Walsh wants you to catch a vision for God’s love for you and His desire to work through you.



Drive-Thru Dinner March Menu:

March 1, 2023

Spaghetti with Meat Sauce
Hot Vegetable
Salad, Roll, and Dessert

March 15, 2023

Beef & Noodles
Mashed Potatoes with Gravy
Hot Vegetable
Salad, Roll, and Dessert

Attend a Service, Serve a Service!

"God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to others God's many kinds of blessings".

1 Peter 4:10 Living Bible Translation

We have some exciting opportunities for ministry on Sunday Mornings! Make your day complete by worshiping AND serving! Opportunities include:

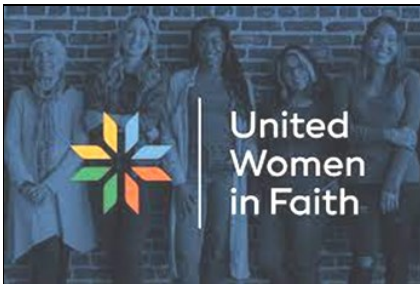
Fellowship Hour Hosts

Nursery helpers

Children's Ministry Volunteers

Serve as a family or serve as an individual—there is something for everyone!! Thorough training is included!

Blessings abound! For more information contact Judy Kraft at 740.653.3330.



Trinity Circle will meet at the Church in Room 22 on March 10, 2023 at 10 a.m. to 12 Noon. We will resume our card making focusing on Easter Cards.

Elizabeth Circle will meet again the third Thursday of the month, March 16, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 22 at the Church.

**We believe
love in action
can change
the world.**

THANK YOU! For your generous donations! We were able to donate \$100 to each of the following LOCAL and NATIONAL ministries: McCurdy Ministries, Pastors Discretionary Fund, Community Kitchen, Creative Ministries (Puppets), Maple Street UMC (Lunches), Foundation Dinners, Lutheran Pantry (Lancaster), Lighthouse, and Community Development for All People (Lunches).

There are **five new books in the Church Library for the Reading Program**. Stop in and check them out:

Good Health, Good Life by Joyce Meyer

Which Way Lord? Exploring Your Life's Purpose in the Journeys of Paul by Robert Fuguey

Finding Jesus at the Border - Opening our Hearts to Our Immigrant Neighbors by Julia Lambert Fogg

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek - a novel by Kim Michele Richardson

Small Great Things (a novel) by Jodi Picoult

Donations of used all-occasion cards can be left at church for card-making.

Note: All stored items from UMW have been cleaned out and donated to Community Kitchen and Crossroads. A few items have been sold and the proceeds deposited in the account for UWF.

Day of Giving for UWF is March 23, 2023. Funds go to The Legacy Endowment Fund for UWF. Please mark your check "UWF Legacy".

The Elizabeth Circle meets the 3rd Thursday of each month. Upcoming meeting dates are March 16, April 20, and May 18, at 9:30, in Room 22. Please join us!

#STILLINMISSION

In this monthly virtual event, hear firsthand experience from missionaries about their call to mission and the communities they serve.

Join us on March 2, 7 p.m. (ET)
for conversations with missionaries:



Joy Prim

Welfare Case Officer for Migrant Workers
Mission for Migrant Workers
Hong Kong, SAR, P.R., China
Advance #3021344



Satomi McCurley

Church and Community Ministry
Coordinator, Asian Rural Institute
Japan
Advance #3022313



Edwin Campomanes

Assistant to the President for Institutional
Development, National Evangelical
Primitive Methodist Church, Guatemala
Advance #3022594



Grace Rogers

Fundraising & Outreach Coordinator
Florida Justice for our Neighbors
United States
Advance #3022650

REGISTER



Sick Child Policy: With cold and flu season in full swing we would like to take this opportunity to remind parents of our sick child policy. If your child has experienced: runny nose, cough, fever, diarrhea, scratchy throat, or anything else that may be contagious, please do not bring your child to class until they have been **SYMPTOM FREE for 24 hours**. Thank you for helping to keep our children and volunteers healthy! If you have any questions, please see Judy Kraft.

SAVE THE DATE!
July 10-15, 2023



Thank You!

Dear Friends in Mission: Thank you! The dear people you just helped with your gift to UMCOR may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be Thank You! And through your financial support, you are serving with a vital network of interactive relationships in the U.S. and in more than 60 countries in which UMCOR and partnering agencies engage in direct ministry to persons in need. May we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate the healing power of the gospel with those who suffer.

Grace and Peace, Roland Fernandes, General Secretary, Global Ministries

Dear Elizabeth Circle: Thank you so much for your monetary donation to our Second Saturday Pollowcase Ministry!
Gina Pressler

Dear Pastor Jones and the Members of the First United Methodist Church: I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for the generous donation of Bibles to the inmates at Southeastern Correctional Institution. Your kind gesture has touched the lives of many who are seeking hope and guidance during a difficult time in their lives. Your donation will make a tremendous impact on the inmates, as it provides them with a means to connect with the word of God and to find solace in their faith. I cannot thank you enough for your generosity and for recognizing the importance of providing spiritual support to those who are incarcerated. Your caring spirit is a true testament to the kindness and compassion of the First United Methodist Church and its members. Thank you once again for your thoughtful and generous donation. Your support and encouragement are greatly appreciated. Sincerely, Chaplain Goss, Southeastern Correctional Institution



Creative Ministries News

Our Egg Stuffing Event will take place at Crossroads on March 25th. We will **begin at 9 a.m.** and go until we run out of eggs and candy. The more hands we have, the quicker we will get finished! We usually have around 14,000 eggs to fill so we appreciate your help. You can arrive or leave as needed. The event will take place in the 4 square room.

Collection boxes are in the church parlor and Crossroads main hallway for **donations of plastic eggs, (which are probably cheaper than real ones), and non-chocolate candies that will fit inside of eggs.**

Candies like Tootsie Rolls, Jolly Ranchers and Starbursts are good fits for eggs. Smartees and Dum Dums are too long to fit inside of most eggs. Here are some good and bad examples:

"Good Candy" for filling Easter Eggs



"Bad" Candy for filling Easter eggs:



Eggstravaganza will happen on **April 1st**. We will hide eggs at 9 a.m. Volunteers are needed to hide the 14,000 or so eggs around the Crossroads property. It is usually chilly out and the ground is wet so I recommend that you bring a spare pair of shoes and socks and a pair of gloves with you. Volunteers are also needed to staff the games and inflatables which follow the Egg Hunt. A sign-up sheet is in the church parlor.

Virtuous Reality will be performing at **Eggstravaganza** this year and will also be doing a Spring show on April 30th.



Drive-Thru Dinners are on hiatus until March 1st. Make plans to pick up a delicious meal and be on your way lickity-split! Reservations are required by 1 PM on Monday, Feb 27th. Suggested donation is \$5.00 per meal!



Second Saturday 2023! One Saturday a month you can make a difference in the life of others! There are projects for every age and ability! Projects we are working on are:

Wood Ministry No experience necessary! We will train! If you enjoy the great outdoors, this project is for you! We cut, split, and stack wood. We also deliver split wood to community members who burn wood to heat their homes. Wear work clothes for the weather and bring work gloves.

Pillowcase Ministry Santa Rich needs our help making pillowcases to hand out at Christmas! Will you be on the "Nice List" this year? This project is for those who can sew and non-sewers alike! We need folks to iron, fold, and place completed pillowcases in a bag with a printed prayer. If you can sew or would like to learn how to sew pillowcases, we need you too!

New for 2023 We're bringing back a favorite—**Shut-in Visitation!** This project is slated to kick-off this month, but we need committed volunteers to make it happen! We need folks who can donate home-baked cookies, fruit, or fruit cups. These items need to be dropped off at church no later than Friday, March 10th at 1:00 p.m. Since the building is locked on Fridays, please ring the doorbell next to the backdoor to let us know you are here. We also need help with packing treat bags and inserting a few encouraging words in a greeting card. Most importantly, we need you at Second Saturday to visit our shut-ins with a smile and a treat. **Please contact Judy Kraft at 740-653-3330 or at judykraft@love-first.org if you are interested in this project.** We will need many volunteers to make this a success! We are also searching for a volunteer who can organize and coordinate this important ministry. Most of the work can be done from home! If you are interested in coordinating the visitation ministry, see Judy Kraft.

If you would like to be a part of any of the Second Saturday projects, make plans to join us for our next meeting on **Saturday, March 11th at 8:30 AM at Crossroads.** No experience is necessary, just a heart to help others in our community. If you have any questions concerning any of the Second Saturday projects, please contact Judy Kraft at 740-653-3330 or at judykraft@love-first.org.

Former minister, Rev. Robert McDowell's final sermon as an active minister in the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church will be June 11, 2023. at 10:30 A.M. at Athens First United Methodist Church at 2 South College St., Athens, Ohio. All are welcome to attend and/or send a note of celebration.

This is a surprise to Pastor Robert!!

Thrivent Choice Program: If you are a Thrivent Benefit member you have the opportunity to give to our church through their Thrivent Choice program. The Thrivent Choice program encourages their members to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes an amount of its charitable grant funds. Members make this recommendation by directing Choice dollars to enrolled nonprofit organizations such as First United Methodist Church. To find out if you are able to give to the church in this way, talk to your Thrivent Financial Advisor.

Our rewards account # with Krogers is NX126!

Support our church mission projects by shopping at Kroger! Just **register your Kroger card** at:
<https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow/>

-link your card to our church, our organization number is **NX126 First United Methodist Church-Lancaster.** Kroger will send us a check for a portion of all that is spent with Kroger cards associated with our church. Check the bottom of your receipt to confirm you are supporting our church. Thank You! This generates some nice income for the church, which goes to support global missions!



LANCASTER FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FUMC Scholarship Application



February 19, 2023 thru March 31, 2023

For more information, please visit our website:

<https://www.love-first.org/resources/>

First UMC's Scholarship Application

period is from February 19 thru March 31, 2023. Applications are posted on our website, www.love-first.org, and are also available in the Parlor.

Applications must be turned into the Business Office or postmarked by March 31, 2023.

The Higher Education Outreach Committee will be collecting items for **care packages to send to our college students** as they pursue their studies. We will collect items in the parlor **thru March 5**. Please consider donating some of the following items to remind our college students that their church family is thinking of them even as they are away. All items must fit in a small box for mailing.

Snacks: Individual-sized packages only

Snack-size crackers, cookies, chips, pretzels, etc.
Granola & other snack bars
Packaged fruit snacks
Jolly Ranchers, Starburst, packs of gum/mints, etc.
No Chocolate, please (it could melt)
Microwave popcorn
Microwave mac & cheese or other single serving meals
Ramen Noodles
Flavoring packets for bottled water
Gum

Yo-yo's or other fidget items, gift cards

Note cards or personal notes of inspiration are encouraged to be included with the packages. The due date for these items is March 5. The packages will be made up on Sat., March 11th.

School Supplies

Highlighters
Pencils
Post-it Notes

Bath and Beauty:

Travel-sized toiletries ONLY
Shampoo & Conditioner
Body Wash/Soap/ & Hand/Body Lotion
Hand Sanitizer
Tissues, Q-Tips
Chapsticks & Lip Balms
Head bands

Please let us know if your college student has a new address or is studying from home so we can be sure to have the right address for college care packages:

College Caring Ministry

Student's name: _____ College/University: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Student's Email: _____ Cell _____

A note from The Business Office

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

For God so Loved...That He Gave

As we have entered into the season of Lent, the death and resurrection of Jesus represents **the most generous gift ever given** – when the King of Glory gave up everything in order to reconcile us to God.

Giving cheerfully, sacrificially, and consistently is a part of our worship to our gracious God. When we are generous with others, we remind one another of the great generosity of our God. Your generosity for the church impacts many in our ministries here and the generosity we can share with others in need.

The following are ways that you can help support our church through your monetary gifts:

- On-line giving on our website, www.love-first.org
- E-Offering (ACH) is a safe way to have your giving directly deducted from your checking or savings account – contact the Business Office for an authorization form.
- Direct bill payment through your own bank
- Mail in gifts to 163 E. Wheeling St., Lancaster, OH 43130

We are here to help! If you have any questions on any of the ways to give to our church please call Sarah or Jill in the Business Office at 740-653-3330. Thank you for your generosity.



Easter Flower Order Form

Please fill out one form for each flower purchased. Payment must accompany your order. Make checks payable for FUMC Altar Guild earmarked "Easter Flowers." Note: There are two blanks to use for keeping the "In Memory of" and "In Honor of" separate. **Look for more forms in the Parlor.**

\$5.00 each Daffodil Hyacinth Tulip

\$8.00 each Lily

☐ I'm sponsoring but I don't plan to take my flower home

☐ I plan to take my flower home

In Memory of: _____

By: _____

In Honor of: _____

By: _____

Firm Deadline is March 6.



UPCOMING DATES:

Tuesdays: Crossroads Community, 6:30pm
Wednesdays: Pastor's Bible Study, 4pm, & The Gathering, 6:00 pm
Feb. 22: Ash Wednesday
Mar. 4: Men's Breakfast
Mar. 11: Second Saturday
Mar. 12: Messy Church
Mar. 1 & 15: Drive-Thru Dinners
March 4 & 5: Lions Club Convention-Crossroads
March 5: College Care Packages Due
Mar. 20: Red Cross Blood Drive, 1:30-6:30pm
Mar. 23 & 26: CPR Training
Mar. 25: Egg Stuffing at Crossroads
Mar. 31: FUMC Scholarship Application Period Ends
Apr. 1: Eggstravaganza



It's easier than ever before to find out, and see, all the **great things happening at Lancaster First**. In addition to our Facebook page, we have a Twitter account as well as an Instagram account. Not only will you be kept up-to-date with our ministries, but we'll include devotions, thoughts for the day, pictures, music, and a few surprises along the way. Follow us at: Facebook: Lancaster First United Methodist Church; Twitter: LoveFirstUMC; Instagram: Lancasterfirstumchurch



Articles for the April issue of the
CIRCUIT RIDER are due by March 15
to Lisa Schenck at lisaschenck@love-first.org

The Circuit Rider

is the monthly newsletter of
First United Methodist Church
163 E. Wheeling St.
Lancaster, OH 43130

Sunday:

9:00 am – Worship Celebration

10:30 am – Praise Worship

Tuesday:

6:30 p.m. Crossroads Community

Wednesday:

6:00 p.m. – The Gathering (at Crossroads)
Crossroads Family Ministry Center
2095 W. Fair Ave.

We welcome you to worship with us and to
experience the joy of having fellowship
with other people who believe in the love of
God and the teachings of Christ.

Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. Brian Jones

Associate Pastor – Rev. Amy Wood

Telephone – 740-653-3330

Email – receptionist@love-first.org

Website – www.love-first.org

Place label here