



The Circuit Rider

The newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Lancaster, Ohio

April 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.

Worship Happenings

Holy Week will bring many opportunities for us to worship and journey together through the powerful experiences that surround Easter. Consider being a part of that important week in as many ways as you can! We will make livestream options available whenever possible.



Sunday, April 2nd offers **Palm Sunday** worship at 9:00 or 10:30 a.m. in our sanctuary. Our children will be part of a procession with palm branches as we celebrate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.



Tuesday, April 4th at Crossroads at 6:30 p.m. invites you to be part of **Crossroads Community**, a time of worshipful, interactive, and relevant Bible study to help us live out our faith in our world.

On **Wednesday, April 5th**, **The Gathering**, a small group interactive worship and discussion time at 6:00 p.m. at Crossroads is open to all and is a good option for those who prefer a smaller group setting.



Maundy Thursday worship, April 6th at 7:00 p.m. will happen at **CROSSROADS**. Because of planned construction happenings in our main building that day, we will move worship to our Crossroads building. We will experience a telling of the Passion story, the Chancel Choir will sing a beautiful anthem, and we will celebrate a time of communion together.



April 7th Good Friday worship at 7:00 p.m. will be back in our main building sanctuary. Our Chancel Choir will lead us in a musical setting of a Tenebrae service of Shadows.



The joyous **Easter Sunday** celebration will happen on **April 9th** at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.

How is God calling you to be a part of Holy Week this year? Who is God calling you to invite to experience worship with you? Let's journey together!

“Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples “I have seen the Lord” (John 20:18 NRSV)

As we continue to move through Lent, I find myself thinking about Holy Week. Being laid up these past few weeks has forced me to be a bit more aware of Lent and our need to slow down and contemplate life and our faith. That's a bit of what Lent is about. It's about slowing down and turning inward and upward.

As we approach the Easter season, I've been thinking about Mary's words. Can you imagine? She and the disciples have gone through what must have been the most tragic event in all of human history. The joy of the triumphant entry shattered by the arrest, the beating and the death of Jesus. And then that horrible Sabbath where nothing happens.

But then that darkness is shattered by Mary running into the disciples saying, I have seen the Lord. She and the women had seen the angels. John and Peter had found an empty grave. But it is Mary who is the first witness to the resurrected Jesus. And her first response is to go back to the people she loves and share that she has seen Jesus.

There's something powerful about the idea that it's Mary who first sees Jesus. Jesus doesn't appear to Pilate or to the Sanhedrin showing them up for being wrong and proclaiming His Kingdom. It's not to His Disciples, those faithful followers who stood by Him the last three years. It's not even to Peter, James and John, Jesus' closest friends. It's to Mary Magdalene.

I have a few ideas as to why this must be. It could be because the resurrection mirrors the Nativity. In both cases, Jesus comes in unexpected ways, being announced to those who were considered the least in society.

And I'm sure that's a part of it. But I think it's also because Mary Magdalene lingers. She is the only one not to rush away from the empty tomb. She waits, she lingers, and in the place Jesus comes. And the world is changed by her testimony.

I want to encourage you not to leave Easter too quickly. Linger, listen, pray. Seek the presence of the resurrected Lord. See Jesus. And then go and tell someone that you have seen Jesus.

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



**Our
Pastor's Bible Study
is back! Wednesdays at 4pm.**

Crossroads Ministry Center
2095 W. Fair Avenue

And we would love to see you at
The Gathering on Wednesdays at 6pm!

 **LANCASTER FIRST**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

At Crossroads Ministry Center
2095 W. Fair Ave.

**MEN'S
Breakfast**

April 1, 2023
8:00 a.m.

Call 740-653-3330 to reserve your spot

May Bloodmobile

2022 saw our nation's first blood shortage crisis - we continue to struggle to meet the needs of victims of illness or accidents. Every two seconds, someone in the US needs blood or platelets.

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will visit the Crossroads Ministry Center, 2095 W. Fair, On Monday, May 22, 1:30 – 6:30pm. Donors can register online at www.redcrossblood.org, or by contacting Judy Hug at the church, 740-653-3330, ext. 1009, or judyhug@love-first.org. Can't donate? Helpers are needed to help staff the bloodmobile, either in registering donors or assisting in the canteen area.

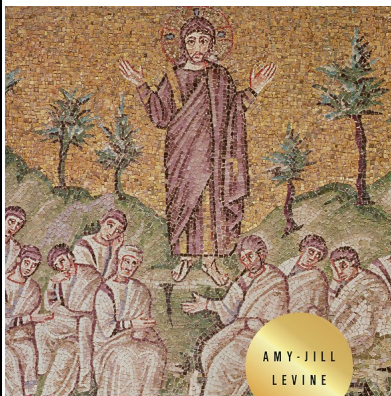


REAL people looking for a way to have
REAL conversations and live a
REAL faith in Jesus Christ in the REAL world

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!***



The Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7, contains some of Jesus' most profound and most memorable teachings. What might these teachings have meant to His disciples, and to the others who first heard them? How do they speak across the centuries to listeners today? How, if we pay careful attention to His words, does Jesus provide us a road map to living as God would have us live? Come for a time of conversation and community as we discover more about the Kingdom of God and the life that God desires for us. ***If you have any questions or want to learn more, please contact the Church, 740-653-3330.***

SERMON *on*
the MOUNT

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

April 11- The Beatitudes
April 18- The Extensions
April 25- Practicing Piety
May 2- Our Father
May 9- Finding Your Treasure
May 16- Living into the Kingdom



EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Saturday, April 1st

CROSSROADS

for ages
3-12

2095 West Fair Ave.

Entertainment by

VIRTUOUS REALITY

1-3 p.m.

FREE ADMISSION!

love-first.org



A Creative Outreach of
LANCASTER FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



New Member Classes

Classes will begin for persons considering membership in this congregation of the United Methodist Church. These classes are encouraged but not required, providing information about The History and Structure of the denomination and of this church specifically, as well as acquainting participants with the pastors, staff and ministry opportunities of this church.

Classes are conducted 11:40am – 2pm, on consecutive Sundays, April 16, 23 at the church, and April 30 at our Crossroads Ministry Center. A light lunch will be provided, and, with prior notice, childcare is available. Participants then will collectively determine the date to be received as members of this congregation.

To register for the classes, or to become a member without participating in classes, please contact Judy Hug at the church, 740-653-3330, ext. 1009, or judyhug@love-first.org.

If you or your small group would like to help in providing/serving meals for the New Member Classes, please contact Judy Hug.

Visitation Ministries

"Visiting someone who is homebound not only ministers to their needs and spiritual life, but also to mine; each is blessed."

"I love the stories of our church in years past, and how many of our ministries were shaped. I love not only sharing Christ's love, but also growing in His love, while visiting a homebound member."

Comments like these are not uncommon from those who visit our members and friends that are homebound. One visit/contact each month can make such a difference in the lives of those being visited as well as the visitors. Families are also invited to be involved by 'adopting' a church friend, and creating relationships through visits, cards, phone calls, or small gifts.

There are three components of our Visitation Ministries – 1) visiting those residing in nursing facilities, 2) those who are homebound in their personal home, and 3) those in the hospital or recovering in a rehabilitation facility.

For information about getting involved, please contact Judy Hug, Caring Ministries Coordinator, 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:**

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

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!

Welcome to the Trustees' Corner



Trustees are happy to report that things are starting to happen in the basement. If you haven't been able to worship in person or stop by the church in the past week, there are now construction barrier walls in place at the top of the stairs from the basement in all the stairwells. The General Contractor has been prepping the basement for abatement. One big change in preparing for the abatement is removing the walls from the Sunday Shop. It seems so much bigger in that area of the basement. On 03/20/2023, the abatement process began. This should be a 3-4 week process total. No worries, it is not putting a damper on our Easter services. The abatement contractor is understanding of the importance of Holy Week to our church and accommodating us so that our services can still go on. Once the



abatement process is complete, the General Contractor will be getting the sub-contractors lined up to start the renovation process. As each month goes by, we will continue to share the progress. Be sure to stay tuned each month and read our article.

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.



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 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.**

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!!

Youth News:

April 2, 16, 23

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* also April 30th

Sunday 23rd is Youth Group Night from 6-7pm because of a mission trip meeting 5-6pm

No Classes 9th for Easter and 30th for family service 5th Sunday

Give Back Days:

April 16th Messy Church at Crossroads 3:30pm-5:30pm

April 5th & 19th Drive Thru Dinners at Crossroads 3:30pm-5:30pm

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

Please come to an **informational meeting** about the mission trip this year, hosted by Janie Burdsal, in the 4 Square room at Crossroads **on April 23rd from 5pm-6pm.**

We will answer questions you have, show you videos from the company hosting us and have a few people there that have gone before, so you can ask them about their experiences. I will need to know by May 15th if you plan to come on the mission trip. Contact me at Janieburdsal@love-first.com or 740-653-3330 Ext. 1101



Congratulations, Jayden Goodyear and Emily Buckley, for recently receiving your New Driver's License Visor Clips! These clips also went in all of the Spring College Care Packages!



Lancaster Greenhouse



Presents:

First UMC Youth Mission Days

Present this flyer at the time of purchase and 15% of your sale will go directly to help fund the FUMC's Youth Mission Trip this summer.

May 12th 9am-6pm		
May 13th 9am-6pm		
May 14th 10am-5pm		

Enjoy shopping from our extensive line of annuals, perennials, herbs, vegetabales, geraniums, container plantings, seeds, trees, shrubs, mulches, and soils.

Gift Certificates and landscaping services not included.

1281 Granville Pike (Route 37) Lancaster, Ohio 43130
(740) 653-2760 www.lancastergreenhouse.com



Mother's Day Flower Sale

Sunday May 14th

Before & after services at the church sidewalk,
S.H.I.E.L.D. Youth Group will sell hanging baskets
for a mission trip fundraiser event.

Don't forget to also shop at Lancaster Greenhouse with
your flyer on, 5/12, 5/13 & 5/14





Donate Your Items

Thursday, May 4th Noon till 8pm
Friday, May 5th Noon till 8pm

Come Shop

Saturday, May 6th
8am-2pm

All things happening at
Crossroads Ministry Center
2095 W. Fair Ave.

SHIELD

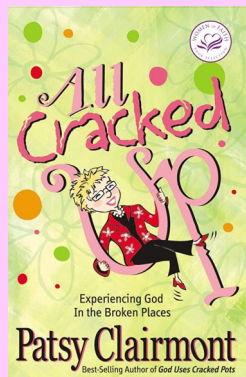


Graduation

We would like the chance to recognize all the high school and college graduates for achieving their goal of graduation! Please text or email a picture of yourself with a short bio about your life in school and your plans for the future to Janie Burdsal. Bios and pictures are asked to be submitted by May 8th. Please let Janie know what service you would like to attend on May 28th and we will give you the opportunity to share your plans with the congregation.

You can reach Janie by
email, janieburdsal@love-first.org
or text, 740-652-0089

MAY 28TH

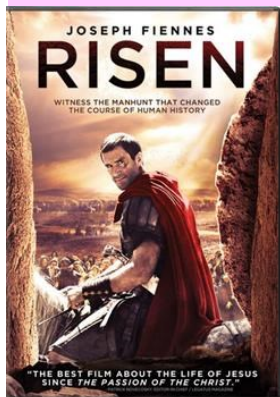
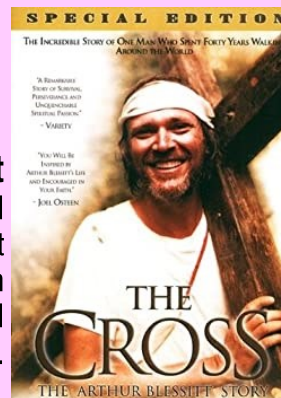


Book- "All Cracked Up, Experiencing God in the broken places" by Patsy Clairmont

Duct tape not doing the job? Feeling as cracked as that pot you left on the porch last winter? Not sure how you can hold it together another day? Never fear- Spackle's here!

Book- "The Cross" by Arthur Blessitt

On June 13, 2008, Arthur Blessitt walked his 38,102nd mile in Zanzibar, off of the coast of Tanzania, completing a journey that began in 1969. Arthur started walking with a twelve-foot cross on December 25, 1969, and successfully carried it into every nation and major island group of the world. This is the story of his incredible journey.

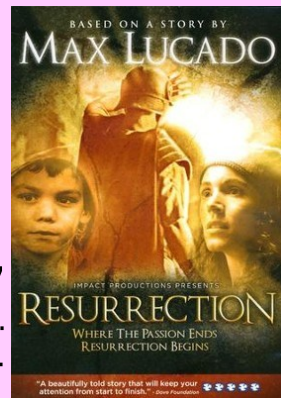


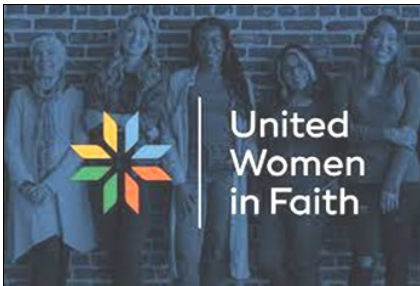
DVD- "Risen"

Risen is the epic Biblical story of the resurrection as told through the eyes of a non-believer, Claudius, (Joseph Fiennes), and his aide, Lucius, (Tom Felton). Tasked with solving the mystery of what happened to Jesus in the weeks following the crucifixion in order to disprove the rumors of a risen Messiah and prevent an uprising in Jerusalem.

DVD- "Resurrection"

Based on a story by Max Lucado.
Where the Passion Ends Resurrection Begins.





Have you read the RESPONSE MAGAZINE? There are very informative articles on missions. The magazine is in the Church library. Check out the magazine for a good read.

SAVE THE DATE -

DAY APART - APRIL 29

GALLILEAN SERVICE - AUGUST 3

ANNUAL MEETING - OCTOBER 7

Any woman or teen is invited to join a circle.

Elizabeth Circle meets the third Thursday of the month, April 20, 2023 and May 18, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 22 at the Church.

Trinity Circle meets the second Friday of the month, April 14, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. until noon.



April 8th – 8:30 a.m. @Crossroads

****Special Programming Note**** 2nd Saturday will be focusing on home-bound, and care facility visitation on April 8th. If you are a cookie baker, please have your cookies to the church no later than 1:00 p.m. on Friday, April 7th or to Crossroads the morning of April 8th. The pillowcase and wood ministries will resume in May. Thank you to everyone who supports or comes to 2nd Saturday! You are a blessing to the community!



**PLEASE HELP US STUFF
THOUSANDS OF EGGS
FOR OUR EGG HUNT.**

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

9-??



April 1 -
April 30

Diapers can cost \$70-\$80 per month
a major burden for families living below the poverty line. PLEASE HELP.

**Lancaster First United Methodist
Church is proud to partner with
Bottoms Up to help moms in need!**

How to Give:

Buy diapers at your preferred store
and bring them in to help collect 500,000 diapers for the
World's Largest Diaper Drive.



Bottoms Up
DIAPER BANK



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

**Larry Wilson
Kathryn Faigley**



Interested in Baptism?

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



Summer Camp Registration is now open for West Ohio's 2023 Summer Camp Season: West Ohio Camps is gearing up for an amazing summer 2023 camping season. Camps are designed to appeal to a wide array of interests and include everything from horses and treehouses to performing arts and scaling boulders. Summer Camp opportunities are offered during June and July for campers ages 7 to 17. Some popular camps fill up quickly, so register early to reserve your child's spot! For more information about 2023 summer camps, visit the West Ohio Camps website at www.westohiocamps.org, email camps@wocumc.org, or call 380-223-2267 (CAMP).

Children's Sunday School Sick Child

Policy: With cold and flu season still 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 this winter. If you have any questions, please see Judy Kraft.



Volunteer Adventurer
Registration begins on April 9.
<https://vbspro.events/p/f4e64a>



Thank You!

Dear Pastor Jones, Staff, and Congregation: Thank you for your generous support of Bottoms Up! Your contribution will directly impact about 90 families here in Fairfield County. You are heroes to those moms and babies. God Bless you. Jo

We would like to thank all who put together the gathering at Crossroads following Dad's Celebration of Life. We are so appreciative.

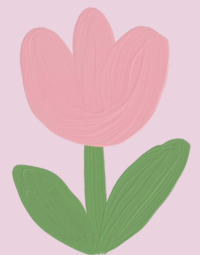
God's Blessings, The Harmon's (re: Robert Harmon)

Dear First United Methodist Church: Please accept our sincere gratitude for your generous gift to the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (inspiHER Leadership). We appreciate your support creating opportunities for the citizens and communities of Appalachian Ohio. Your gift helps ensure Appalachian Ohio is a region abundant with possibilities, today and across future generations.

Dear FUMC: Thank you for all your good work. We enjoy online church and the Wednesday Night Dinners.

Thank You! Fred Kark & Liz Wood

Thank you to all the bakers who sent cookies for our 2nd Saturday visitation teams! They were delicious and such a sweet treat for all of those who were visited!



Creative Ministries News

Virtuous Reality celebrates 30 years!

Our blacklight theater team has been doing ministry since 1993. We began as a "mixed puppetry" ministry using Muppet style "white light" puppets along with blacklight

Founding member, Greg Nicholson
with Zane Householder in 1994



Greg and Zane displaying sets from "Prodigal Joe".

puppets created by founding member, Greg Nicholson. After performing at the Fellowship of Christian Puppeteers national conference, we were invited to be guest performers at a new Christian puppetry conference created by a major puppet resource company. They asked us to do a 20 minute presentation and then proceeded to tell us what numbers NOT to do. (These were the skits produced by their competitors.) The banned numbers happened to be most of our white light skits, so our show ended up being 95% blacklight.

Our performance was received with great reviews from the audience, but the next day, the owner of the puppet resource company taught a class on puppetry and said "You can't do all blacklight. Last night's show was a perfect example." A member of our team was in the class and reported what was said. We made the decision right then and there that, "from now on, we are ALL BLACKLIGHT!" We never looked back and never regretted our decision. People LOVE blacklight puppetry and older puppeteers like that, they don't have to get on their knees and crawl around!

In our 30 years, we have performed at many national Christian conferences, from Gettysburg to Mississippi. We have done several "Florida Tours", where we performed our way to Florida and back. When we couldn't find resources on how to do blacklight ministry, we created our own DVD series which has sold across the country as well as internationally.

Our director, John Coen, has had the privilege of teaching at Christian ministry conferences in Malaysia and Indonesia on two different occasions. He also taught at a Chinese church camp for two Summers.

This July, we plan to attend the Fellowship of Christian Puppeteers national conference in Hagerstown, Maryland. We hope to perform and teach while there.



Puppet Team 1994 practicing
in the Youth Chapel



Puppet Team in 1996



Puppet Team in 2006



If you would like to be a part of this fun ministry, contact John Coen. Our rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings at Crossroads. We are always looking for new members to make our ministry bigger and better!

If you have never seen one of our blacklight shows, we are presenting one **on April 30th at Crossroads! Shows are at 2 and 6 p.m.** for a suggested admission of \$5.



The Magic of Believe is working on shows for 2023.

Our first show is for a Vacation Bible School in southern Ohio. Our second show is a Halloween show. We are in need of extra actors and actresses for the Halloween show. If you would like to help us with this show, (held at Crossroads), please contact John Coen.

Thank You to everyone who donated eggs, candy and their time to help with Eggstravaganza!





April StillInMission Meeting

Join us as we explore the transforming work of United Methodist missionaries serving around the world.

Date/Time: April 6, 2023 at 7:00 PM

You will have the opportunity to meet in a small group to hear a presentation from a single missionary during the call. Find out more about these missionaries below, or at www.umcmmission.org.

- * Richard Navarro serves as Minister for Congregational Development with Overseas Filipino Workers in Taiwan (POC).
- * Andrew Lee serves as Asia Mission Initiative Coordinator with the Methodist Mission in Cambodia.
- * Patrick Booth serves as Co-Director with Project ARK in Cambodia.
- * Helen de Leon Camarce serves as the Treasurer for Cambodia and SE Asia Missions with the Methodist Mission In Cambodia.
- * Rachel Therieh serves as Activity Coordinator with Susanna Wesley House in Cambodia.

United Methodist Missionaries are #stillinmission and we hope that you'll join us to learn more!

Register at: <https://umcmmission.org/sim-2/>

Gift To Wings Of The Morning

Wings of the Morning is an aviation ministry of The United Methodist Church in North Katanga in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in central Africa and is under the care and supervision of the General Board of Global Ministries. This ministry is based in Lubumbashi, the second largest city in the DRC. With little or no transportation infrastructure, such as paved roads or a railway system, the Wings of the Morning airplane is a lifeline to the 6 million people of the Katanga province, providing vital services, such as...

Carrying life-giving medications, vaccines, and supplies to remote villages and towns
Transporting critically ill patients to clinics and hospitals
Providing transportation for pastors, missionaries, and volunteers
Delivering payroll and other supplies to villages, towns, and churches
Transporting government leaders for peace negotiations

Due to supply chain issues and government paperwork delays, the much-loved Cessna aircraft provided by West Ohio to the North Katanga Conference Wings of the Morning ministry has been unexpectedly grounded for nearly 6 months awaiting necessary repairs. This means there have been no flights to the remote locations that the ministry serves in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) – no emergency medications or supplies getting in, no emergency medical evacuations getting out, and no corporate sponsors helping to offset operating costs. Although the costs for the major maintenance are covered thanks in part to the Wings of the Morning Endowment Fund, operating reserves are now depleted, and staff may need to be laid off.

Bishop Palmer, the West Ohio Conference Office of Connectional Ministries, and the UMFOW made a special urgent appeal to help Wings of the Morning. We have responded with a \$500.00 gift from our Kroger account to Wings of the Morning. This will help cover immediate needs for operational support including staff salaries, airplane documentation fees, hanger fees, and fuel costs – all necessary costs for getting the ministry back up and flying this spring, just in time for the rainy season in the DRC.

We are in mission to the world helping to lighten the load for missionaries Jeanne and Gaston Ntambo!

To read more about Wings of the Morning, please visit: <https://www.westohioumc.org/conference/wings-morning-virtual-mission>

Or look for the link on our church web site: <https://www.love-first.org/global-missions/>



\$5* HamLoaf Dinner

***Suggested Donation**

***Ham loaf with Sauce, Potato Puff,
Corn Casserole, Salad, Roll, and Dessert***

Meals served at Crossroads Ministry Center

Just follow the line, stay in your car, and let us serve you!

Because of the preparation needed and popularity of this meal,
reservations and cancelations **MUST BE CALLED IN TO**

740-653-3330 NO LATER THAN 1:00 PM

on Monday, April 3th.

We will have a limited number of "roll-in" meals available, but
please, make a reservation to guarantee a meal for you.

Can't get enough ham loaf?! We'll have **300 ham loaves**
available on a **FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS**. There will be
NO RESERVATIONS for these extra bundles of joy. Just let your
server know you would like to purchase extra ham loaves. The
ham loaves will be sold **2 to a package with sauce for \$5**. Meal
purchase is not necessary to purchase, but please line up in the
drive-thru line in order to purchase extra ham loaves.



LANCASTER FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 19

4:00-5:30 p.m.



Swiss Chicken

Rice Pilaf, Hot Vegetable

Salad, Roll, and Dessert

\$5

**Suggested
Donation**

Meals served at Crossroads Ministry Center

Just follow the line, stay in your car, and let us serve you!

For reservations call 740-653-3330 no later than

1:00 p.m. on Monday, April 17.



LANCASTER FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A note from The Business Office

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. John 3:16

This verse, that most of us know by heart, shows us the ultimate foundation for why and how we should give. First, God's motivation was love, He so loved the world; secondly, He gave of Himself through His son Jesus, He gave sacrificially. And lastly, He gave in response to our need so we would not perish but have eternal life with Him. This Easter season, as we ponder the depth of God's love and sacrifice in order to save us, remember His great example as we give gifts to our church. Give with love, give sacrificially, and give in response to the needs of our ministries and missions of the church. 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.



Easter Mission Offering

As we prepare for our Easter celebration, our Global Missions Team has announced the following projects that we will be supporting.

- ♦ Our Lithuania Partner Church
- ♦ Jane Wise, West OH Conference Missionary in the Democratic Republic of Congo
- ♦ Good Works Outreach, Athens, Ohio
- ♦ West Ohio Conference Apportionments

Special missions envelopes are in the pew pockets. Checks may be made payable to "First UMC" with "Easter Missions Offering" on the memo. Thank you for your generous support of our Easter mission project .



Sunday, April 16th

3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

at Crossroads Ministry Center

2095 W. Fair Ave., Lancaster

Please join us & bring a friend!



New Life!

3:30 Activities

- * Big Messy!
- * Games
- * Snack
- * Crafts

4:30 Celebration

5:00 Free Dinner



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

UPCOMING DATES:

Tuesdays: Crossroads Community, 6:30pm
Wednesdays: Pastor's Bible Study, 4pm, & The Gathering, 6:00 pm
March 25: Egg Stuffing at Crossroads
March 31: FUMC Scholarship Application Period Ends
April 1: Eggstravaganza
April 1: Men's Breakfast at Crossroads Ministry Center
April 2: Palm Sunday
April 5 & 19: Drive-Thru Dinners
April 6: Maundy Thursday
April 7: Good Friday
April 8: Second Saturday
April 9: Easter
April 16, 23, 30: New Member Classes
April 16: Messy Church



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 May issue of the
CIRCUIT RIDER are due by April 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

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