

# The Circuit Rider

The newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Lancaster, Ohio

# May 2023

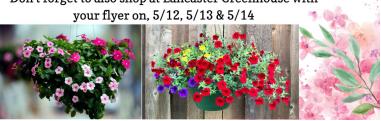
Loving God and Loving People Making Disciples of Christ for the Transformation of the World. Lancaster First United Methodist Church (FUMC) is a historic United Methodist Church that welcomes everyone of all race, color, religion, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, nationality,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





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





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





### First UMC Youth Mission Pays

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, vegetbales, 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

### "Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain." (Psalm 127:1 ESV)

In some ways, this is one of the most difficult newsletter articles I've had to write. Not because of the subject matter, but because of the circumstances. My entire office is shaking due to the construction going on directly under my office window. I'm writing this in a constant state of pounding, booming, and vibration.

But while it is loud, it is also coming with some excitement. After years of prayer, planning, and stepping out in faith, our capital improvement project has begun in earnest. It is wonderful to see the results of the faithfulness and generosity of our congregation materialize.

That's not to say it's been easy. We have had to move some ministries and make some major shifts in how we get things done. Some things are not where they usually are. Access to parts of the church is no longer available. It is loud, it is inconvenient and it's messy. Did I mention it is loud?

We appreciate our staffs patience and yours as we go through this process.

We all understand when a project like this is done, it gets messy and loud, an inconvenience. But there is no other way to accomplish what we need to accomplish. You must go through the process to experience the final product.

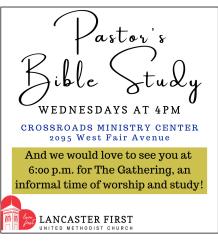
We are much the same way. Our Scripture reminds us that unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. When we ask Jesus to transform our lives and shape us into His image, it is never easy. God begins to build the house. And sometimes, it's not our design because God has a much grander one in mind. The shaping and transforming of our souls, the building on our house can be messy. It can be inconvenient as God works in our lives. Things will change. Oh, but it is worth it in the end as God shapes us into new creatures.

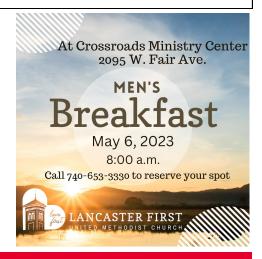
If God is building your house and you are going through construction pains, keep going. Allow God to move and shape, tear down and build up. You have been born to be a place of beauty for the spirit of God to reside. Allow Him to come and do just that. And be kind to others as we are all in some ways still under construction.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Brian Jones <><







<u>May Bloodmobile</u>: 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 Ave., 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.

Dear Lancaster First UMC Family,

During service on April 2, I announced the news of Pastor Brian Jones' new appointment to Grove City United Methodist Church. His new appointment will begin July 1st. The appointment process is designed to bring benefits to local churches and its members by ensuring that pastors are assigned to churches based on their gifts and abilities.

After the announcement the committee members and I began working with leaders and staff to discern the needs and goals of our church family. We collaborated with our District Superintendent, Tim Bias, and this past Monday, we met and Tim Bias introduced us to a pastor that matched the needs of our church. We engaged in conversation about the pastor's strengths and our needs and unanimously agreed to the appointment.

The Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee is excited to announce that Bishop Palmer will be appointing Pastor Nicole Baker, effective July 1st. Pastor Nikki, her husband, Matt Baker, and their 2 college-aged children come to us from Pataskala UMC. Pastor Nikki is a compassionate and dedicated minister who has a heart for Jesus. She is passionate about sharing her faith, and hearing others share theirs. We are delighted for you all to meet Pastor Nikki and her family! Her first Sunday with us will be July 2nd, so mark your calendars to come and welcome her and her family.

Please keep Pastor Brian, Pastor Nikki, and both of their families in your prayers during the coming months of transition.

Joseph Palmer SPPRC Chair



# The Family Concerns Ministry served its 500th funeral meal on Friday, March 31, 2023!

Thank you to all who have helped with this ministry! If you are interested in serving as a worker or food provider, please call Sarah Holley at the church, 740-653-3330, ext. 1005, or Donna Waugh (Coordinator) at 740-654-4447.

# Hooked on Books Contact Linda 10:00 a.m. Godenschwager or Denise Bennett Sign up in the Parlor

# At our next *Hooked on Books* book club.

we'll be discussing "Finding God in a Bag of Groceries: Seeking Food, Discovering Grace" by Laura Lapins Willis. Light refreshments will be served. We want to encourage people to connect, as the main purpose is for fellowship. Please contact Linda Godenschwager or Denise Bennett with any questions. We hope to see you on May 2!

# 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!



# Thank You's

**Dear FUMC:** Please express our gratitude to the entire First United Methodist Church family for their generous support of our boot project. With your help, we were able to give over 300 pairs of high quality boots to the homeless and housing insecure of Fairfield County. May God reward you all abundantly!

In Christ, Jack Welsh, Faculty, FCHS

**Dear FUMC:** Thank you for the care package! I always appreciate the things you do for the college students! I hope all is well, and I will be sure to come back over the summer.

Isabelle Poling

Dear Second Saturday Outreach and Higher Education Outreach: Thank you so much for my college care package! I appreciate you thinking of me and taking the time to put the package together! I truly appreciate my church family!

Thank you, Braidyn Reed

Dear FUMC Second Saturday Outreach Ministry & Higher Education Outreach & Scholarship Committee: Thank you so much for my college care package. All of the snacks are so yummy and my favorites! I appreciate the love and support while I am away at college. I feel extremely blessed and grateful for your generosity!

Thank you, Brenna Reed

Thank you to everyone who donated to the World's Largest Diaper Drive for Bottom's Up Diaper Bank! Every diaper counts and blesses a parent who needs help!

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

**Dear Church Family:** Thank you so much for the beautiful blanket you gave me when I was in the hospital and nursing home. I am so glad 2nd Saturday is back! I love the goodies and talking with the people who bring them. God bless you all that give of your time to help those of us that are needing. Thank you and God Bless you all!

Aileen Cave

**Dear Church Family:** Thank you for Ernie's Birthday card. He celebrated his 92nd Birthday on April 12th! He watches services at home each Sunday.

Doris Morris

**Dear Second Saturday:** Thank you for giving cookies to my wife at Primrose!



Former minister, Rev. Robert

Ralph Scott

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!!



# Welcome to the Trustees' Corner

Things keep moving along folks. The abatement process is complete. During that timeframe, a few extra pipes were discovered to have asbestos insulation wrapping and they were able to remove that for us while already having access to the exposed areas. The General Contractor is gearing up to start digging into the cement floors to prep for the infrastructure repairs of plumbing. The parsonage backyard is becoming a temporary road access to the side of the church where the large air handlers are currently housed. The General Contractor will need to be able to bring in large equipment and trucks to haul away the cement chunks when they start digging through the floors. It has been interesting seeing the different cement floors throughout the basement after the tile was removed for the asbestos abatement. It is almost like exposing a time capsule from each era and how they would have mixed concrete. Speaking of exposing, after the abatement process was complete, more pictures were taken of the progress. Some of the original brick wall foundations under the sanctuary were exposed. As we have safe access, we will continue to take pictures to be displayed as part of Sunday's slideshow so you can see the progress. This has been a long time coming. We appreciate your patience leading us up to this point. We are grateful for all the gifts given thus far towards the Capital Campaign; any additional giving in your heart would be greatly appreciated to help make up for the difference between the project cost of \$1.9 million and the \$900k available funds from current giving. Be sure to stay tuned each month and read our article.

See you around the corner.

### The Trustees





# 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 - 3rd, 4th, or 5th Sunday of the month

Nursery helpers - 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services

**Children's Ministry Volunteers** - \*URGENT\* PreK-5<sup>th</sup> Grade teacher and assistant teacher at the 10:30 service beginning June 4<sup>th</sup>. Serve one Sunday or all Summer!

\*URGENT\* PreK-1<sup>st</sup> Grade teachers and assistant teachers 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. beginning in September. Substitute Teachers for 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services

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 or judykraft@love-first.org** 

### MAY

# **Youth News:**

7th: The last Sunday morning

combined class of this school year! For 6th-12th grade: Room 26, 9am & 10:30am.

7th: Confirmation Class will be joining the 10:30am service to assist with communion alongside their mentors in their last class.

14th: Youth Group will be selling Mother Day flowers at both services at church.

21st: Confirmation graduation day both services.

28th: High School & College graduate day both services.

No Classes 14,21,28

hours that is fine as well.

# **Give Back Davs:**

6th: Rummage sale 7am-2:30pm, please come after school 4th & 5th till 8pm to help, if you can only show up for a few



14th: Mother's Day sale before first service till after second service, help during what time works for you. We will have aprons to save your clothes from dirt. 16th Messy Church at Crossroads 3:30pm-5:30pm 3rd, 17th: Drive Thru Dinners at Crossroads 3:30pm-5:30pm

# **Youth Group Nights:**

May 7<sup>th</sup> will be our last youth group night of the school year! We will celebrate with a movie in the gym (Ant Man) and the popcorn machine. I will invite the people who have helped us this year at lock in and in church classes as well, so feel free to bring a friend too.



# Youth Mission Trip 2023

June 25th - July 1st Springfield, Ohio

Please let Janie know by May 15 if you plan to come on the mission trip.

Janieburdsal@love-first.com or 740-653-3330 Ext. 1101



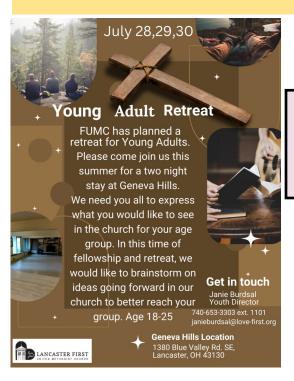
SHIELD

Serving Him In Every Little Deed

YOUTH GROUP

Come Be Seen, Heard, And

Supported In Your Faith!



Congratulations, Claire Deem, for recently receiving your **New Driver's License Visor Clips!** 



# United Women in Faith

### **REMINDERS**

# **GALLILEAN SERVICE -** AUGUST 3 **ANNUAL MEETING -** OCTOBER 7



Any woman or teen is invited to join a circle. The Elizabeth Circle meets the third Thursday of the month, May 18, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. at Marie Scramblers. The <u>Trinity Circle</u> meets the second Friday of the month, May 12, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. until noon in Room 22 at the Church.

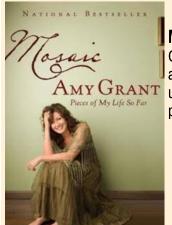


SPRING has arrived, and it is time to collect items for our local Community Action.

(See the list of items on the box in the Parlor.). Contribute today and show love in action to our neighbors in need!

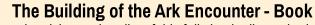


# Visit the Library!

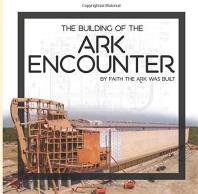


# Mosaic: Pieces of My Life So Far. - Book by Amy Grant

One of America's most popular music artists shares beautiful pieces of an unforgettable human mosaic, revealing pieces of a life in progress.



See the vision and reality of this full-sized, all wood ark come together, dream by beam.



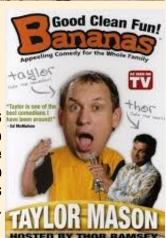
# TOM HANKS BEAUTIFUL DAY THE NEIGHBORHOOD THE NEIGHBORHOOD TOM HANKS TOM H

# It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood - DVD

Tom Hanks plays Mr. Rogers in the movie based on real life events.

### Bananas - DVD Series

Laugh it up with comedians who share clean jokes. Filmed at the Funny Bone comedy club In in Columbus, this series features Christian comedians.





Get ready to *BLAST OFF*! It's going to be **STELLAR!!** The Stellar expedition leaves the Crossroads launchpad on Monday, July 10th and ends its exciting journey of sharing God's Light on July 14<sup>th</sup>. The countdown begins nightly at 6:00 p.m.!

Volunteer Registration is currently open on-line.

Participant Early Registration begins on-line starting Sunday, May 14<sup>h</sup>. Early VBS paid registrations include a Free Stellar VBS T-Shirt! Registrations received AFTER June 16<sup>th</sup> will not receive a t-shirt!

Go to **vbspro.events/p/blastoff2023** to register either as a volunteer or as a participant.

Registration is \$10 per participant with a family maximum of \$25. Scholarships are available, contact Judy Kraft for more information.

Want to volunteer? No experience necessary, just a heart for Jesus and children! For any questions, please contact Judy Kraft at 740-653-3330 or judykraft@love-first.org







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

Marie Stapp Chuck Imhoff Dwight Snowden Dick Benadum Jim Daubenmire Gwen Capps



# <u>Birth</u>

# **John Virgil Davis**

Date of Birth: April 10, 2023
Parents are Jennifer & David Davis
Grandparents are Gary & Diana Seipel
Great Grandparents are Lon & Sue Cass



Interested in Baptism?

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

# May 13<sup>th</sup> - 8:30 a.m. At Crossroads

If you would like to be a part of the Second Saturday ministry, make plans to join us for our next meeting on Saturday, May 13th, at 8:30 AM at Crossroads. Projects for May are pillowcase making and shut-in visitation. Also happening is *Crafts in Space!* VBS is just around the corner, so we'll be constructing props and decorations to make Crossroads an out of this world experience!! There are many projects for young and old alike! No experience is necessary, just a heart to help others in our community. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Kraft at 740-653-3330 or judykraft@love-first.org

# Children's Discipleship Save the Dates:



**Stellar VBS:** July 10 -14<sup>th</sup> 6:00–8:30 p.m.

Back to School Supply Drive: July 23rd - August 6th

Blessing of the Backpacks: August 13<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Presentation: September 17<sup>th</sup>



REAL people looking for a way to have

REAL conversations and live a

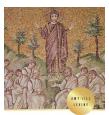
REAL faith in Jesus Christ in the REAL world

We would love to have you join us!

# Tuesdays, <u>6:30-7:30 p.m.</u> 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

May 2- Our Father

May 9- Finding Your Treasure

May 16- Living into the Kingdom

## **Creative Ministries News**

Virtuous Reality recently celebrated their 30th year of ministry with a mini party. One member of the team has been active for all 30 years. Kate Ogilvie was presented with a special jacket in appreciation of her years of dedication. Congratulations Kate!





Virtuous Reality will be presenting a special show for Stellar VBS at Crossroads in July.

The Magic of Believe is currently working on a Stellar VBS show for New Holland UMC which will be held in June.

If you would like to become part of our blacklight or illusion teams, contact John Coen (johncoen@love-first.org)!



# 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).



# **#STILLINMISSION Meeting**

Join us for a special StillInMission conversation on Thursday, May 4 at 12 p.m. ET.

Speaking will be Gaston Ntambo from Wings of the Morning in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Gaston Ntambo and his wife Jeanne visited us at Crossroads a few years ago. We have also helped support their ministry through our West Ohio Conference giving.

Please register at: https://umcmission.org/sim-2/





# Cookies and Fruit Needed Monthly for Second Saturday:

2nd Saturday needs cookies & fruit to deliver to our friends who can't get out much. Please bring cookies to the church no later than 1:00 p.m. on Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup> or to Crossroads the morning of May 13. Since the main building is closed on Fridays, please contact the Church or any staff member at 740-653-3330, and they will make sure you can get into the building.

Thank you!

# \$5\*Pulled Pork with sauce Dinner

\*suggested donation

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

4:00 to 5:30 p.m.





- Seasoned Potato Wedges
- Hot Vegetable
- Salad
- ♥ Roll
- Dessert

Meals served at Crossroads Ministry Center

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

LANCASTER FIRST

For reservations call 740-653-3330 no later than 1:00 p.m. on Monday, May 1st!





Served with

- Pasta Salad
- **v** Roll
- Dessert

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, May 15th!



## A note from The Business Office

A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. Proverbs 11:25 Doesn't that sound nice? Being refreshed and prospering, who wouldn't want that! God's gift to us when we give to others can be very uplifting; it warms our hearts and is good for the soul. We have many ways at the church that you can be generous through your time, talents and yes, your giving of tithes and offerings. Try it; you might want to do it every day!

The following are ways that you can be refreshed by helping 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 refreshed hearts.





# Volunteer Spotlight: Kate Ogilvie!

The Virtuous Reality Puppet Team just celebrated their 30th Anniversary, and Kate has been an active member for all 30 years!!! Kate Ogilvie was presented with a special jacket in appreciation of her years of dedication. Congratulations Kate! Kate helps with events like Eggstravaganza and our Halloween Carnival, and also Parades. She was previously part of the Good News Clown Crew!

"I first joined Virtuous Reality after watching one of their rehearsals and thinking: 'Hey this is interesting. I would like to do that also.' During my time with the team I've learned about working together as a team, different ways of sharing God's Word, and also the Golden Rule of 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Thank you, Kate, for all you do, we are very grateful for you!



# Sunday, May 14th

3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

at Crossroads Ministry Center

2095 W. Fair Ave., Lancaster

Please join us & bring a friend!

# Messy May!

# 3:30 Activities

- \* Big Messy-Wear Old Clothes!
- \* Plunger Games
- \* Snack
- \* Crafts

4:30 Celebration

5:00 Free Dinner



### **UPCOMING DATES:**

Tuesdavs: Crossroads Community, 6:30pm

Wednesdays: Pastor's Bible Study, 4pm, & The Gathering, 6pm April 30: Blacklight Theatre: 2pm & 6pm-Crossroads

Hooked on Books-Crossroads May 2:

May 3, 17 Drive-Thru Dinners

Still in Mission Virtual Event May 4:

May 6: Men's Breakfast at Crossroads Ministry Center

May 6: Youth Rummage Sale- Crossroads

May 13: Second Saturday VBS Registration begins! May 14:

May 14: Mother's Day Flower Sale - Main Church

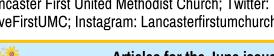
May 14: Messy Church

May 22: Red Cross Blood Drive, 1:30-6:30pm

May 28: **Graduation Sunday** 

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 June issue of the **CIRCUIT RIDER are due by May 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 a.m. - Worship Celebration 10:30 a.m. - 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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