



The Circuit Rider

The newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Lancaster, Ohio

September 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.

**See what fun we had last month,
join us in September!**



Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art. Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light. (Be Thou My Vision UM Hymnal #451, A Traditional Irish Melody, translated by Mary E. Byrne, 1905; versed by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912.)

This is the first stanza of my favorite hymn, #451 in the United Methodist Hymnal. As a person who did not know the love of God for myself until my early twenties, I struggled to figure out my life's purpose and my path. I was restless as uncertainty seemed to batter me back and forth like a small boat on a hostile sea. Have you ever found yourself being swayed back and forth by the craziness of life's circumstances? By competing voices urging you to choose this way or that? By decisions big and small that all add up to confusion?

The words of this hymn are words that I sing as a prayer. As a prayer, singing redirects me to keep my focus on Christ—on the way of peace and the way of love. For three years, the disciples followed Jesus, learning from the way He embodied God's law by genuinely loving God's people. When His disciples struggled, Jesus gathered them together to offer them compassion and direction that would help them discern their way through life's storms.

Jesus' solitary focus was embodying God's law by loving God's people.

And Jesus was the vision the disciples learned to trust. He was their vision. And Jesus is our vision, as well.

September is Kick-off month. The Pastor's Bible Study begins again in earnest after summer break for vacation. Children's Sunday School restarts. Our programming runs at full-tilt, and our choir and bells return to lead us in worship. I am so excited to be a part of this faith community.

I would encourage you as we walk into this new season together to sing-pray with me...let us lift our voices as one ... "Be thou *our* vision, O Lord of *our* hearts; naught be all else to *us*, save that thou art. Thou *our* best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence, *our* light." And let us see where this vision takes us together.

In Christ,

Pastor Nikki



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 Oct. 8**. 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 Oct. 8. The packages will be made up on Sat., Oct. 14th.

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
Headbands

join the

Faith Matters

Sunday School Class

Beginning on Sept. 24


for a 5 week study

on Galatians

in Room 22 on

Sundays from

10:15-11:30



Ready to start reading the Bible? Come join us!

The Faith Matters Sunday school will begin on September 24th with a 5-week study on Galatians. No book is needed other than a Bible (and we have extras if needed!) All adults and youth are welcome, whether you've read the Bible for decades or don't even know where to start. Join us in Room 22 on Sundays from 10:15-11:30. Talk to Sam or Renee Benham to learn more.

The Faith Matters Sunday school class will then do a 4-week study on Ephesians from Oct 29th - Nov 19th.

On October 1, we will be celebrating **World Communion Sunday**. As a salute to the different cultures of the world, we are inviting you to share souvenirs from your travels for display on the altar (no flags, idols, or weapons). Please bring them to church September 24. If you have questions, please contact John Coen.

Music at First

We say thank you to all the soloists and small groups who gave of their time and talents to provide awesome worship music throughout the summer! God was glorified, and His people at 1st UMC were blessed by your gifts of music!

Our Chancel Choir and Hi-Lo Ringers bell choir enjoyed their couple of months off, and we now look forward to God leading us into another great season of musical happenings. You can be a part of helping to keep our music ministries going strong! All of our music groups are blessed by a steady influx of new people who are willing to share of the time and talents that God has provided. Help us get the word out to keep that going. If someone you know (or, hey, even YOU!) enjoys singing, or plays an instrument, or just really likes music, invite them (or YOU!) to come be a part of Music at First.

People who serve in music ministry have a good time, they grow in their faith, they enjoy awesome fellowship with one another, and they experience the power of God's presence when they make music in God's name. NOW is a GREAT time to become part of our music ministries. You will be a blessing, and, you will be blessed by serving in this way. Prayerfully consider it!

Chancel Choir practices on Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. upstairs in the music room, beginning Aug. 31st. First Sunday singing in worship will be Sept. 10th. Open to all persons high school age and up. No previous experience required.

Hi-Lo Ringers bell choir practices on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. upstairs in the music room, beginning Sept. 14th. We have a couple of vacancies to fill for sure. Open to high school age and up. Some previous music reading can be helpful.

Our praise band is always open by audition to new singers or new instrumentalists. Practices happen intermittently around the schedules of the participants. We also are always willing to schedule people for gathering music or solos/ensembles as we can.

Contact Clarence McCoy at clarencemccoy@love-first.org or 740-653-3330, ext. 1004 with questions or to express your willingness to be a part of the Music at First.



Caring Ministries

Judy Hug: judyhug@love-first.org or 740-653-3330 ext. 1003

Card Ministry – “Reach out and touch someone!” Remember that AT&T slogan? For our members and friends who are no longer able to attend church services, a personalized, handwritten note on a card reminds them that their church family loves them and prays for them. How can you help? Donate handmade or other greeting cards especially Birthday, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas), or provide some stamps for mailing – become a “Card Minister” and help connect with those who are homebound or convalescing in a nursing facility.

Blood Pressure Screenings – Tracking blood pressure over time can help in alerting us to health problems that might otherwise go undetected. Trainer personnel are available the first Sunday of each month to take your blood pressure so you can share that information with your health provider. Visit Room 14 in the Parlor/Hospitality area, 9:45 – 10:30am.

Red Cross Bloodmobile will visit Crossroads on **Monday September 18, 1:30 – 6:30pm**. Our goal is to collect 32 units, which could make a positive difference in up to 96 lives! Our May Bloodmobile exceeded our goal, and the July Bloodmobile collected 97% of it's goal. You can register to donate online at www.redcrossblood.org. Interested in volunteering at a Bloodmobile? Contact Judy Hug at the church.

Scavenger Hunt – Sometimes accidents happen, even at our church. Children age 12 and under (and their families) are invited to participate in the monthly Scavenger Hunt to help locate items that might be needed in an emergency. Those finding the specified item(s) will receive a sweet treat – just let the Sunday receptionist volunteer know where the item is located! The item to look for in September is...

... a first aid response kit/bag (hint: it is red and is NOT in the sanctuary)

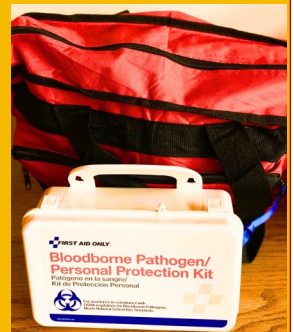
Sweet Treats on Second Saturday – “My mother LOVES visits from the church and especially the cookies and treats! Thank you for remembering her!” Such are the comments the church receives when we connect with persons no longer able to be an active part of life at the church – both the person that receives the visit and the visitor are blessed! ALL cookies were distributed in August so there is a need for several dozen cookies before our September 9 visits. Cookies that can be frozen may be delivered at any time to the church, or by the September 8, 1pm deadline. Fresh or packaged fruit is also needed. Perhaps your family has one hour to donate in packaging and delivering one or more Sweet Treats! All are welcome. Sign-up sheets let us know how many will be serving on a given Saturday, so please sign up in the parlor, OR you can just show up on Saturday, September 9, 8:30am at Crossroads! Hope to see you there!!



New Member Classes will be held on October 29, November 5, and November 12, from 11:30am to 2:00pm. Lunch will be provided.

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”
Matthew 18:20

We are invited to be in community, together, in worshipping God. If you are interested in exploring membership at First Church, please sign up for the New Member classes. You will learn more about this church, our mission and ministry, and about our church family. You can sign up in the parlor or by contacting Judy Hug. If you are interested in helping to prepare or to serve food for these classes, please contact Judy Hug.





Birth

Charlotte Lane Harding

June 16, 2023

Parents: Joe & Samantha Harding

Grandparents are Jon & Melodi Slater

Great-Grandparents are Jon & Carol Slater



Birth

Caroline Brooke Fisher

August 8, 2023

Parents: Jake & Lydia Fisher

Grandparents are Don & Linda Godenschwager



Holy Baptism (9:00)

August 20, 2023

Claire Elizabeth Coy

Daughter of Whitney and Jason Coy



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

Ned Hinton

Farrell Jackson

Patricia Sharritts

Robin Risch

Yvonne Bowland



Interested in Baptism?

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



Attend a Service; Serve a Service - Opportunities to Serve on Sunday Mornings

Be a part of the crew that makes First Church a warm and inviting place for neighbors, friends, and family! We have serving opportunities for:

Fellowship Hour Hosts, Welcome Desk Hosts, Greeters at entrances, Children's Ministry Substitutes and Assistants, and Nursery Helpers

You can serve individually, or bring the whole family! No experience necessary, just a smile and the desire to make a great impression! For any questions, contact Judy Kraft@ 740-653-3330.

In Our Volunteer Spotlight: Judy Thomas!



Judy's volunteer activities with us include her involvement as a Money Counter, Communion Server, First Community Kitchen Volunteer, Altar Guild, and the Circuit Rider Assembly! Judy loves to volunteer because she feels like it gives her a purpose and she feels like she is helping other people. Thank you ever so much for all you do, Judy! We are very grateful for you!

Thank You's

Thank You seems so inadequate for the selfless dedication your church people shared with us this week at your Youth Mission Week. Thank you for sharing them with us in Springfield. They helped get a wheelchair ramp done so my parents can safely access their home. Your folks were so kind and so understanding. They impacted our lives in so many ways. Thanks again for sending out the best!

Misty Jones



Dear Pastor Jones + Staff + 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, Bottoms Up Diaper Bank

Dear Lancaster FUMC: *Thank you for helping me through my college journey! I am very grateful for your support through the years, and I am proud to be part of our church community. Thank you!*

Ben Schenck

Thank you for all that you do for me and my fellow college students through your outreach programs and scholarships. I feel very blessed to have received one.

Thank you, Sarah Comer

Dear Church Friends: *Thanks to 2nd Saturday Ministry for the goodies delivered to us by Libby Hensley—so good to see her. It means a lot to be remembered since Bob's health condition prohibits us from attending church services. We watch every Sunday online. Thank God for technology! We miss you!*

Love, Bob and Marilyn Jepson

Dear Lancaster First United Methodist Church: Thank you so much for the constant and overwhelming support as I pursue my degree. I cannot wait to give back to the community that has helped me so much!

Jeremy Watson

Dear FUMC and the FUMC scholarship committee: *I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for receiving a scholarship from you. The honor of receiving this scholarship fills me with immense gratitude. I am truly humbled and appreciative of the confidence that you and the congregation have placed in me. Your generous support will undoubtedly have an impact on my academic and professional journey. This scholarship will allow me to focus more on my studies and extracurricular activities. Your recognition and investment in my education reaffirm my commitment to excel academically and professionally as I grow in my faith.*

This scholarship serves as a motivation for me to strive for hunger in my studies. The financial support you have provided will help me attain my academic goals and contribute significantly to my development. With your assistance, I will be better equipped to gain the necessary skills, knowledge, and experiences required to excel in the field of study. Once again, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to you and the congregation for believing in my potential and investing in my future. I am sincerely honored to receive this scholarship. I assure you that I will make the most of this opportunity and strive in my academic pursuits. Thank you once again for your kindness, trust, and support. God bless.

Yours sincerely, Owen Poling

Dear Higher Education Outreach & Scholarship Committee: Thank you for taking the time to review and consider my application! I greatly appreciate your financial support as well as the support I have received from the church as I have grown up! I feel blessed and incredibly grateful!

Thank you, Brenna Reed

Dear First United Methodist Scholarship Committee: *Thank you so much for awarding me a scholarship as I prepare to attend Miami University. I am very excited to study architecture. Thank you for your support as I begin this next chapter.*

Sincerely, Caroline Conklin

Thank You to those who shared their time and talents at the Virtuous Reality Camp in August. We made 123 props and 14 puppets in 2 days. The guests were thrilled with the classes on clowning, puppetry, audio/videotec, and sharing the gospel. They loved the meals and activities. Much appreciation to those who prepared food, helped sew and paint props and puppets and staff special events during our camp!

Virtuous Reality Team

Dear Higher Education Committee: *Thank you again for the generous scholarship. Your support over the years has been valuable to me. This scholarship will help me in pursuit of my doctorate.*

Sincerely, Ian Elick

Thank YOU!!

Our Back to School Supply Drive for Talmage Elementary was a HUGE success! Because of your generosity, many kids will have the proper supplies that will benefit all them be successful this school year!



Drive-Thru Dinners are back starting on September 6!

Need a delicious home-cooked meal without any of the fuss and clean up? We've got you covered! Hop in the car and head out to Crossroads on the first and third Wednesdays of the month for a great meal at an even better price-\$7.00!

All meals are served at the Crossroads Ministry Center from 4:00 to 5:30 PM. Just follow the line, stay in your car, and let us serve you! Reservations are required. Please make

reservations no later than 1:00 PM on the Monday prior to the meal. Order a couple of extra meals and surprise your neighbors or friends with a mid-week treat!

Our upcoming menu is:

September 6: Beef and Noodles served with Mashed Potatoes and Gravy

September 20: Spaghetti with Meat Sauce

All meals come with Vegetable, Salad, Roll, and Dessert.

Second Saturday is September 9!

Come out and help us make a difference in the Lancaster community! If you would like to be a part of the Second Saturday ministry, make plans to join us for our next meeting on Saturday, September 9th at 8:30 AM at Crossroads. 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.

Children's Discipleship Fall Kick-off is scheduled for Sunday, September 10th.

EPC registration forms are now available in the Parlor to register your child for Children's Programming. We need to have a form completed for each child who is in a classroom on Sunday mornings. Completed forms can be returned to Judy Kraft or the church office.

Classroom check-in will once again be in Room 11B. Please sign in your child on the appropriate class roster and complete a name tag/pick-up tag for your child. Don't lose the pick-up tag; otherwise you will need to present a photo ID to pick up your child after class.

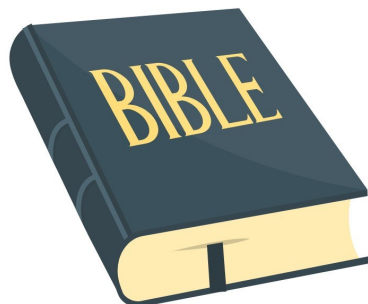
Childcare for children **aged four and under** will be in **Room 12 on the 1st floor** during the 9:00 and 10:30 services.

The PreK—1st Grade Class is located in Room 11A on the 1st floor. Please check-in your child in Room 11B prior to the beginning of service. Children at the 9:00 a.m. service will go directly to their classroom. Children at the 10:30 service will go with their parents to the Sanctuary and will be dismissed to their classroom following the Children's Moment.

The 2nd—5th Grade Class is located in Room 11A on the 1st floor. Please check-in your child in Room 11B prior to the beginning of service. Children at the 9:00 a.m. service will go directly to their classroom. Children at the 10:30 service will go with their parents to the Sanctuary and will be dismissed to their classroom following the Children's Moment.

3rd Grade Bibles

Sunday, September 17, 2023



Third Grade Bibles will be presented on Sunday, September 17th

If you have a child who is currently in third grade and would like for them to receive a Bible, please call the church office or sign up in the Parlor.

Learning to Use my Bible Class

Is scheduled for September 17th and 24th in Room 22 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

A light lunch will be provided. All students 3rd grade through 5th and their parents are welcome to participate! This class is taught by Jill Warner. Sign up in the Parlor or call the church office. For questions or more information, please contact Jill at 740-653-3330.

Youth News

September

Classes at Church:

3rd :No Classes, Labor day weekend!

10th, 17th, 24th : 9:00am Combined class Jr & Sr. High, room 26 upstairs.
10:30am Jr. High, room 26 upstairs.

24th: 10:30am High School, Chapel room upstairs.

Confirmation Class:

10th, 17th : 10:30am 8th-12th grade, Chapel room upstairs.

Give Back Days:

3rd :Acolyte, one youth for each service. 9am & 10:30am

6th, 20th :Drive Thru Dinners 3:30-5:30pm at Crossroads.

10th :Messy Church 3:30-5:30pm at Crossroads.

S.H.I.E.L.D. Youth Group Nights, at Crossroads

3rd :No youth night, Labor Day weekend!

10th :5:30-7pm Game night after Messy Church.

17th :5-7pm

24th :5-7pm High School only night



Drivers License:

No one in August said they got their drivers license. Let me know if you get Yours. I still have visor clips for you.

Contact Janie Burdsal
740-653-3330, ext. 1101
janieburdsal@love-first.org

Confirmation Class:

Please sign the forms in the church parlor and give them to me or the reception desk in the church parlor. First class is September 10th and will be the 2nd and 3rd Sunday of each month. Please contact me if you have any questions, you can find me upstairs after my Sunday morning classes at church.

Our Local Relief... is their relief

For those that don't know, Fairfield County 211 (211) is a central hub of information and referral for those in the community that need assistance. Our church has continued to grow our partnership into a close relationship with 211. Through the years and still to this day, we assist with things like rent, utility shut-offs, car repairs, and even obtaining birth certificates.

In the past couple of years, 211 has expanded assistance beyond the daily life needs. One thing that a lot of households take for granted is being able to celebrate a child's birthday. There are a lot of parents and even grandparents raising grandchildren that barely have enough to provide their day-to-day needs. Could you imagine not even having money to buy a birthday cake or even bake one for your child, let alone buying them one gift to celebrate their special day? A new program that is only a couple of years old is the **Birthday Bag Project**. Each bag is filled with all the pantry items needed to bake a cake, decorations, and a gift or gifts for a child. The Birthday Bag Project is for children turning one year old up through teenager. It's amazing what your dollars can do to help a parent make a child's day, especially their birthday. Last year, we helped be a part of putting together over 250 birthday bags. The proof is in the picture, seeing the room full of Birthday Bags ready to surprise a child. With such success, our church contributed towards the project again this year in hopes of going beyond the 250 families that we helped last year. Your continued efforts to give toward Local Relief have helped so many families in Fairfield County. You can contribute to our efforts to assist our Local Relief at any time, especially on Communion Sunday by notating on the memo line of your check or giving envelope.



Welcome to the Trustees' Corner

Have you been itching to hear the latest update of how things are progressing in the basement of the church? Well, here is what is happening now. The plumbers have moved on from digging ditches to laying new pipes for water, sanitation, and storm water drainage. You can actually start to see how the new bathrooms are going to be laid out with the pipes in place, and there is a new sump pump going in. Not all the areas involved in the renovation are below ground, some are up high. It might have looked like the Halloween bats are starting to hangout in the bell tower or the roof edges, but it is just the plumbers and the general contractor up top verifying the flow of gutters for storm water drainage.



Here is the latest update on figures. To date we have received a little over \$1.166 million cash. Reminder that the overall job cost ended up coming in at a little over \$2.1 million, leaving almost \$935k in cost above what we have received to date through the Capital Campaign. We are grateful for all the gifts given thus far to the Capital Campaign; any additional giving in your heart would be greatly appreciated to help make up for the difference between the project cost and the cash received to date. Be sure to stay tuned each month and read our article.

See you around the corner.

The Trustees



A note from The Business Office

Every month we have the opportunity to give our loose coins and cash to our Coins for Christ program. If you are not familiar with this program, here is how it works. Each month our Local Missions Team picks an agency in our community that helps those in need. All the coins we collect from our offering plates for the month are given to that agency. Last month the recipient of our Coins for Christ was InspiHer, this group connects with young girls to help provide them with the skills, resources and tools needed to overcome challenges in today's world through retreats and training. From your coins, we were able to send \$426.65 to this agency! Giving your loose change can make a difference in the lives of so many.

For the month of September, our Coins for Christs will be collecting money for the Foundation Shelters. This agency provides a safe, warm place to sleep and shelter for residents who are homeless. Please consider helping by giving your loose change or a gift to our Coins for Christ program.

The following are ways that you can give your monetary gifts to our church:

- On-line giving on our website, www.love-first.org
- E-Offering (ACH) 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; or place your gifts in the offering plate on Sunday mornings.

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 generous gifts to our church.





United
Women
in Faith

SAVE THE DATE for the Annual Meeting of Olentangy River District United Women in Faith October 7.

Remember the Circle Meetings: **Trinity Circle** meets on Sept. 8, at 10:00 a.m. to noon in Room 22 at the Church, and **Elizabeth Circle** meets Sept. 21 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 22 at the Church.

Love in Action - The Trinity Circle recently made Birthday and Thinking of you Cards for contributing to Meals on Wheels for their clients for Community Care Days.

You can contribute to the mission work of United Women in Faith by giving in one of five different ways: Pledge to Mission, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory, World Thank Offering and Special Mission Recognition. Just mark your offering for United Women in Faith and the area in which you wish to give.

We believe
love in action
can change
the world.

First Community Kitchen is collecting bottled water



Please bring donations
to the Parlor

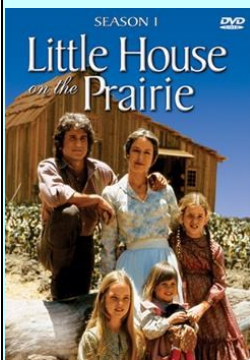
Being out on the streets is hard. The warm weather we are experiencing makes it harder for our guests to keep hydrated. **First Community Kitchen is collecting bottled water to hand out to our guests at lunch** so they have something to drink when feeding sites are not serving. Water donation can be brought to the Parlor on Sunday mornings or during the week. Thanks for helping with the small things that make a big impact on our First Community Kitchen guests!



Visit the Library!
Book- Mike Lindell is the author of "What Are the Odds?" From Crack Addict to CEO. A raw, authentic memoir revealing his battles with crack cocaine and gambling addictions, hardship and failure that he struggled with for decades all while pursuing his entrepreneurial journey.

Book- Seven Things that Steal Your Joy.

Through inspiring Scripture and words of wisdom drawn from her own experiences, Joyce Meyer shows you how to achieve the joyful life God wants for you. She reveals the seven things that can steal your happiness and teaches you how to replace them with God's truth and love



"Little House On The Prairie"
Seasons 1-9. Relive this wonderful series about the lives of Laura Ingalls Wilder and her family. (Please borrow only one season at a time)

CD - The Booth Brothers "Two for One".

Two CD projects of this dynamic trio in one package. Includes their hit song, "He Saw It All".



Creative Ministries News

Virtuous Reality thanks those who volunteered with their VR Camp in August. We appreciated your help. We are getting ready to plan our **Christmas show which will be at Crossroads on Sunday, December, 10th at 2 & 6 p.m..** Mark your calendar to save the date!

The Magic of Believe will present a dinner theater at Crossroads on **Saturday, October 7th at 5 p.m.** Dr. Crypticus' Carnival of Oddities features illusions and sideshow attractions. Fun for everyone. Tickets are a suggested donation of \$15 for adults and \$10 for ages 12 and under. Tickets can be purchased at the church.

Our **annual Halloween Carnival takes place on Saturday, October 28th** from 5-8 p.m. Lots of help is needed to serve food, run games, inflatables, to do face painting and more! A sign-up sheet is in the church parlor. We need candy (chocolate is welcome) for the trick-or-treat trail. Donation boxes are in the church parlor and the tower hall at Crossroads. Monetary donations can be given to the finance office marked "Halloween Carnival."



DR. CRYPTICUS'
CARNIVAL OF ODDITIES
A MAGICAL DINNER THEATER
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7TH
5:00 PM
AT
CROSSROADS
2095 WEST FAIR AVENUE
LANCASTER, OHIO
love-first.org
TICKETS*
\$15 ADULTS
\$10 12 & UNDER
*SUGGESTED DONATION
A Creative Outreach of
LANCASTER FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT LANCASTER FIRST UMC 163 E WHEELING ST

Chair Volleyball

Wednesdays, 2:30-3:30

At Crossroads Ministry Center,
2095 W. Fair Ave.

Join us for fellowship
& laughter beginning Sept. 6!



Come play Chair Volleyball with other people! We play on Wednesday afternoons, 2:30-3:30, at Crossroads Ministry Center. A beachball is used, and there is a lot of laughter! Join us for fellowship and laughter beginning September 6!

At Crossroads Ministry Center
2095 W. Fair Ave.

MEN'S Breakfast

September 2, 2023

8:00 a.m.

Call 740-653-3330 to reserve your spot





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, Sept. 8. Since the main building is closed on Fridays, just ring the doorbell at the High Street Entrance. Thank you!

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!



**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

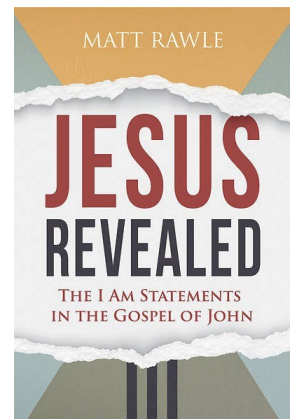
We'd love to have you join us for a time of fellowship and worshipful, interactive, and relevant Bible study (with small group discussions and sharing) to help us live out our faith in our world today. Children are welcome to stay with their parents or play in the nursery. ***We invite you to join us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

we will start a new series on September 12th:

"Jesus Revealed: The I Am Statements in the Gospel of John"

Light. Bread. Shepherd. Life. The Gospel of John uses these and other symbols to paint a picture of who Jesus is. Through the I Am statements Jesus describes Himself with rich images, showing us that He is both fully human and fully divine and calling us as His followers.

In *Jesus Revealed: The I Am Statements in the Gospel of John*, author Matt Rawle explores the "I Am" statements in John as works of art that resonate throughout the Gospel and all of Scripture. He shows how these words point beyond themselves to the deep mystery of Jesus Christ. Join us on this journey and experience the profound truth at the heart of the "I Am" statements: that Jesus is light and life, and He calls us to Himself and offers us the hope of resurrection.



- Sept. 12: I am the bread of life (John 6:48)
- Sept. 19: I am the light of the world (John 8:12)
- Sept. 26: I am the good shepherd (John 10:11)
- Oct 3: I am the resurrection and the life (John 11:25)
- Oct 10: I am the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6)
- Oct 17: I am the true vine (John 15:1)

UMCOR

As the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, **the United Methodist Committee on Relief – UMCOR** – assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need. UMCOR comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters – famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events—to alleviate suffering and serve as a source of help and hope for the vulnerable. UMCOR provides relief, response and long-term recovery grants when events overwhelm a community's ability to recover on their own. UMCOR also provides technical support and training for partners to address emerging and ongoing issues related to disaster relief, recovery, and long-term health and development.

100%

UMCOR was designed so that 100 percent of all donations go directly to the intended projects. This goal was achieved by instituting the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) donation. The OGHS is an annual collection taken at United Methodist churches around the world in March. UMCOR receives enough support through OGHS each year to cover all overhead, administrative, and operation costs for the coming year. Excess funds received from OGHS are directed to UMCOR's most urgent or least funded projects. Every dollar received in response to emergency appeals is spent on direct relief.

Whether you give \$500 or \$5, 100% of your gift to UMCOR through this church are received by UMCOR and the designated project.

If you feel called to help in Hawaii, Ukraine or Africa all of your gift will reach the project you specify.

Source:

<https://umcmmission.org/umcor/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Methodist_Committee_on_Relief



#STILLINMISSION

Join us on Thursday, Sept. 7, 12 p.m. ET
for conversations with missionaries:

Dieudonne Kutela Katembo, Angola
Fernando Matsimbe, Tanzania
Lorraine Charinda, DRC
Temba Nkomozezi, Zambia

 **Global Ministries**
The United Methodist Church



Join us for the next
StillInMission conversations

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



Hooked on Books

Contact
Linda
Godenschwager
or Denise
Bennett

Sept. 5, 2023
10:00 a.m.
at Crossroads Ministry Center



 Sign up in the Parlor

The book selection for September 5 is **“Be Bold”**
by Rachel Billups. Please join us!

Light refreshments will be served. Don't forget our Service Project: Items for the “Blessing Box”.

UPCOMING DATES:

Tuesdays: Crossroads Community, 6:30pm
Wednesdays: Pastor's Bible Study, 4pm, & The Gathering, 6pm
Sept. 2: Men's Breakfast at Crossroads Ministry Center
Sept. 5: Hooked on Books-Crossroads
Sept. 6: Drive-Thru Dinner, 4-5:30pm
Sept. 9: Second Saturday
Sept. 10: Children's Discipleship Fall Kick-Off
Sept. 10: Messy Church
Sept. 17: Third Grade Bible Presentation
Sept. 17 & 24: Learn to Use My Bible Class
Sept. 18: Red Cross Blood Drive, 1:30-6:30pm
Sept. 20: Drive-Thru Dinner, 4-5:30pm
Oct. 1: World Communion Sunday
Oct. 7: Magic of Believe Dinner Theater

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 October issue of the **CIRCUIT RIDER** are due by September 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.

Lead Pastor – Rev. Nikki Baker
Associate Pastor – Rev. Amy Wood
Telephone – 740-653-3330
Email – receptionist@love-first.org
Website – www.love-first.org

Place label here