



# The Circuit Rider

The newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Lancaster, Ohio

October 2023

Loving God and Loving People Making Disciples of Christ for the Transformation of the World.

## Lancaster First UMC 1st Annual

**SATURDAY,  
OCT. 21st  
Time TBD  
Set-up TBD**

Crossroads Ministry Center  
2095 W. Fair Avenue

**BATTLE  
OF THE  
BREADS**



BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

LANCASTER FIRST  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**CHILI  
COOK  
OFF**

OPEN TO ALL AGES

FREE TO ENTER

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED  
(FULL RULES AVAILABLE WHEN REGISTERING)

ENTER AS AN INDIVIDUAL OR AS A TEAM

JUDGING FOR FAN FAVORITES &  
BEST OVERALL

ENTER A CHILI, A BAKED BREAD, OR BOTH!

TABLE AND ELECTRICITY PROVIDED  
(BRING AN EXTENSION CORD & TABLE DECORATIONS)

**PRIZES FUN BRAGGING RIGHTS**



First United Methodist Church Presents  
Community

**HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL**

**October 28th**  
at **5-8 p.m.**

doors open at 4:45 p.m.

**CROSSROADS**  
2095 West Fair Ave.



A Creative Outreach of  
LANCASTER FIRST  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

I have been walking with you on this faith journey for two full months, now. I am so grateful to be your pastor and to be living out our faith together. As I have come into this established community of disciples, I have seen so much beauty and a desire to live into Christ's call to follow Him. At our staff worship this week, our devotion leader was Dustin Roberts. He spoke from his heart from Ephesians 4:1-6. *I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup>with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: <sup>4</sup>there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.*<sup>[a]</sup>

I have continued to reflect on this passage in light of who we are called to be as the body of Christ—a people who interact with one another in a posture of humility, with gentleness in our voices and hearts, and patience as we learn and grow, and a people who bear with one another in love, attentive to maintaining unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace. This is a tall order when we look at all that is going on around us and when we consider the broadening gaps that seem to yawn at us from everywhere.

I was able to spend time this week at a luncheon with a large group of people in our city. So many people, so many different views, and community leadership roles were represented. I'm sure they didn't all agree with each other on every single issue out there. But as I walked among them and met new friends and learned about the new community in which I live, I was afforded a glance at what the Kingdom of God might look like: unity in the ideal of being peace-makers. They may all approach peace from different angles, but the joy they experienced in one another's presence demonstrated such a focus on their mission of peace.

As a body of Christ, we are called to be peacemakers, too. We are called to that ideal for the sake of unity in the body and for the purpose of love. We may not all agree on every aspect of how we live out our faith all the time. But as we work it out, it is important for us to bear with one another in love for the sake of our witness to the world as to who Jesus is and how He has loved us as individuals and as a community.

I look forward to continuing our walk together...step by intentional step.

Blessings,  
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



# World Communion Sunday

October 1, 2023



# FAIR SUNDAY

Sunday, October 15, 2023



We want to celebrate anything you are doing at the **Fairfield County Fair** this year! We'd like pictures of what you are submitting, and we invite you to share with the congregation on **Fair Sunday, October 15th!**

## Grandparents Sunday

OCTOBER 22, 2023

### Grandparents Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>

This year, we will celebrate Grandparents Sunday on October 22<sup>nd</sup> during both worship services. It's the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month but we will be celebrating Family Worship so families can be together that day! At the end of each service, we will offer an opportunity to have pictures taken with grandchildren and grandparents! Photos will be available in the Parlor the following Sunday.

So, kids! Bring your grandparents (or friends and neighbors who are like grandparents!), and grandparents bring your grandchildren, so we can all worship together on October 22<sup>nd</sup>! Regular children's programming will occur on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

Dear Members of First UMC,

October brings with it a special opportunity to show our appreciation for individuals who play an integral role in our spiritual journey – our beloved Pastors. It is with great joy that we announce the arrival of Pastor Appreciation Month, a time for us to express our gratitude and love for the guidance, support, and inspiration our pastors provide us throughout the year.

Starting on October 8th, we invite each and every one of you, young and old, to participate in our Pastor Appreciation Card Collection. We encourage you to create heartfelt cards, letters, or notes that express your appreciation for our pastor's dedication and service. These cards can be dropped off at the church office or placed in the designated collection baskets in the church parlor.

Let us make this Pastor Appreciation Month a time of love, encouragement, and unity. Your participation, whether through cards or joining us for fellowship during October, will mean the world to our pastors.

In the spirit of gratitude and togetherness, let us celebrate Pastor Appreciation Month and let our pastors know how much we cherish their presence in our lives.

Thank you for being an integral part of our church family.


Yours in Christ,  
Joseph Palmer



## Caring Ministries

Judy Hug: [judyhug@love-first.org](mailto:judyhug@love-first.org) or 740-653-3330 ext. 1003

The **Red Cross Bloodmobile** will visit Crossroads Ministry Center on Monday, November 13, 1:30 – 6:30pm. Register to donate at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or contact Judy Hug.



November 13, 2023  
1:30 – 6:30 pm  
Red Cross Blood Drive  
Crossroads Ministry Center  
2095 W. Fair Ave.

Register at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org),  
or contact Judy Hug, 740-653-3330  
ext. 1003  
or [judyhug@love-first.org](mailto:judyhug@love-first.org)  
to help save a life!



*Fall New Member Classes*  
OCTOBER 29, NOVEMBER 5,  
& NOVEMBER 12

Contact Judy Hug  
740-653-3330, ext. 1003  
or [judyhug@love-first.org](mailto:judyhug@love-first.org)

**New Member classes** will be held on Sundays after 2<sup>nd</sup> service – October 29, November 5 and 12. If you are interested in exploring membership at First UMC, you can register for these classes in the parlor or by contacting the church office at 740-653-3330. If members/others are interested in providing lunch for participants in these classes, please contact Judy Hug.

**Who doesn't enjoy receiving cards from loved ones during the holidays?** Persons who are homebound especially enjoy being remembered for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. There are two ways in which you can help – 1) donate any handmade cards (by adults or children!), and/or 2) donate postage stamps for mailing cards.

**Sweet Treat visits, a Second Saturday ministry**, delivers homemade cookies, fruit, candies and a prayer to those who are homebound. How can YOU be involved? YOU can donate cookies, fruit or soft candies (including sugar free) to be distributed – YOU can help create packages of items for delivery – YOU can help in delivering the Sweet Treats bags to our members/friends who are homebound. Sweet Treat visits remaining for 2023 are scheduled October 14, November 11, and December 9. Hope to see you there!



**BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS**  
1st Sunday of each month  
**FREE**  
9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.  
Room 14 in the Parlor  
LANCASTER FIRST  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Blood Pressure Screening** is offered the first Sunday each month in Room 14/parlor. This easy measurement will be helpful in providing reliable information to your physician/healthcare provider in monitoring your personal health.

### **Calling all (Interested, Former, Experienced or Unexperienced)**

**Visitation Ministers!!** There are several opportunities for individuals, ministry pairs, or families to provide care for our homebound members through visitation. Visitations may be as simple as contacting another through a monthly phone call or handwritten

note, or as personal as a short visit offering friendship and relationship. Interested members/others can also receive training to visit those in the hospital or requesting Communion in their home. Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them". Visitations remind others that they have not been forgotten, and that Jesus is always with them – abundant blessing!







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

**Isabell Entsminger  
Barbara Swartz  
Joyce Rife-Cochran**



### Interested in Baptism?

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



### Birth

**Iris June Gossell**

September 13, 2023

Parents: Gloriann and Jordan Gossell  
Grandparents are Janet Gossell, Anna Schmelzer and Dave Gossell



### Birth

**Hannah Jane Slater**

September 13, 2023

Parents: Drs. Andrew & Lydia Slater  
Grandparents are Jon & Melodi Slater

### In Our Volunteer Spotlight: Joan Wedge



Joan has recently stepped up and volunteered to greet people and hand out bulletins for Worship! She has been a member of our church for 72 years! She's been an active member of the United Women in Faith, and through the years has been a Greeter at the doors, worked in the Nursery, served at Fellowship Hour, and at First Community Kitchen. "I knew that you needed people to help, so I stepped up to help." Thank you, Joan, we so appreciate you!!



### Poinsettias for the Sanctuary

Once again, the Altar Guild is offering the opportunity for members of the congregation to provide poinsettias in honor or memory of important persons in their lives. Forms are in the Parlor. Checks may be written out to "FUMC- Altar Guild" and marked Poinsettia. **Please Note the Firm Due date: November 20.** The poinsettias will be available for persons to take home or to others following 8:00 p.m. worship on Christmas Eve.

### Poinsettia Order Form – Deadline November 20, 2023

☐ In Honor of ☐ In Memory of

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Poinsettia given by \_\_\_\_\_

Check one: ☐ 4.5" Red - \$4.00  
☐ 6.5" Red - \$7.00  
☐ 8" Red - \$14.00  
☐ 10" Red - \$22.00

Enclose payment & return this form to the church office.  
1 form per Poinsettia.



## Annual Meeting

Save the date for the Olentangy River District Annual meeting! Saturday, October 7th, 9:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. at Summit Station UMC, 6626 Summit Rd. SW, Pataskala, Ohio. Pastries offered, devotional time, a quick business meeting, and time to honor women across the district. We will then share in a conversation on "Infant Vitality vs. Infant Mortality" led by deaconess Katelin Hansen of the Church for All People and Community Development for All People will We will conclude with training and a time for worship.

Remember, there are lots of good books in our library at First UMC. Stop by and check one out!

**Remember the Circle Meetings:** Trinity Circle meets on October 13, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 22 at the Church, and Elizabeth Circle meets October 19, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 22 at the Church.

**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.**

*October 4*  
4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

**DRIVE THRU DINNERS**

**Zesty Baked Chicken**  
Potato Puff  
Hot Vegetable  
Salad, Roll, and Dessert

**\$7**  
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, October 2nd.**

LANCASTER FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*October 18*  
4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

**DRIVE THRU DINNERS**

**Pulled Pork**  
Potato Wedges  
Hot Vegetable  
Salad, Roll, and Dessert

**\$7**  
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, October 16th.**

LANCASTER FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH





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 Wednesday of the month for a great meal at an even better price—**\$7.00!!**

All meals are served at Crossroads Ministry Center from **4:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m.** Just follow the signs, stay in your car, and let us serve you!

Reservations are required. **Please make reservations no later than 1:00 p.m. 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 October meals are:  
October 4<sup>th</sup>

**Zesty Baked Chicken with Potato Puff and Hot Vegetable**

and October 18<sup>th</sup>

**Pulled Pork with Potato Wedges and Hot Vegetable**

All meals come with a salad, roll, and dessert!

Please join us!



October 14, 2023

8:30am at Crossroads Ministry Center  
2095 West Fair Ave.

**Second Saturday is Oct. 14** 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, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. 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.



### It's Angel Tree time!

The Local Missions Team is sponsoring the Angel Tree this year. This project helps provide Christmas gifts to children in need.

**Applications** for inclusion on this year's Tree will be available in the Parlor on Sunday mornings or during business hours throughout the week beginning October 8<sup>th</sup>. They are due

back to the Local Missions Team by November 5<sup>th</sup>. If you know of a family who could use some help, please pick up an application, complete it, and return it to the church no later than November 5<sup>th</sup>.

If you would like to join this group or if you have any questions, please contact Judy Kraft at [judykraft@love-first.org](mailto:judykraft@love-first.org) or 740-653-3330 ext. 1002.

### Our Baby Quilters & Knitters Group!



Stop by the church to say "Hi!"

Trick or Treat

Receive a special treat!

October 31, 2022  
6-7:30 p.m.



Lancaster Trick or Treat Night Oct 31<sup>st</sup>

While you're out Trick-or-Treating stop by the church to say "Hi!" and receive a treat at the pop-up tent! We'll be located along High Street in the parking lot.

## Creative Ministries News

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".

The **Holiday Parade is just around the corner!** Participants are needed to represent our church. We want to be the part of the parade that people remember and we need many people to make that happen! Sign up in the parlor. The theme this year is "Old Fashioned Christmas".

## Our Local Relief is their relief

It's the time of year when the weather starts thinking about changing, the mornings are crisp, and the evenings start to cool down. On most days, we unconsciously take for granted that we have homes to seek comfort in during the cool and cold times of year. We also take for granted that we have a place to safely lie down at night and rest our heads. Recently, we received a request from a woman who, along with a few adult family members and minor age relatives, were staying at a shelter. They haven't been able to obtain proper housing. They were able to find a campground to stay at but needed a tent to be able to house all of them and stay together. Luckily, we found a three-room tent at Walmart that they could pick up the same day. When you wake up in the morning, come home from a



day at work or school or are just hanging around your secure, warm home, take a moment to pray for those less fortunate. Ask yourself what you can do to help those in your community that might not have a safe warm place to go to at the end of their day, especially as the cold weather approaches. By giving to Local Relief, you can help one person or maybe an entire family. The money could put a temporary roof over someone's head, help pay for an application to get into an apartment, furniture, etc. You can contribute to our efforts to assist our Local Relief at any time by notating on the memo line of your check, giving envelope or notating while giving online.

### Ark Builders Sunday School Class "On Purpose, Finding God's Voice in Your Passion"

Please join us in Room 22 at  
9:00 beginning Sept. 24, 2023



**Ark Builders Sunday school class will begin a new Christian 4-week study beginning September 24th.** It is entitled, "**On Purpose, Finding God's Voice in Your Passion.**" It is a four-part exploration of the spiritual principles that allow us to listen to God, discover our purpose and passion, join with others in the journey, and, ultimately, make a difference in the world around us. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Clark at 740-654-8766. Hope to study with you as we grow closer in our relationship with God.

Do you have a child currently in college? We have a College Caring Ministry for our youth in college. We'll be assembling care packages to send to them. Simply supply us with your child's name, mailing address, cell #, correct email address, & school attending. Drop this form in the offering plate or at the receptionist's desk in the Parlor.

### College Caring Ministry

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_ College/University: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_



## Welcome to the Trustees' Corner

Time marches on and so does the progress of the renovations. The majority of the new plumbing is installed, which was quite a feat. They say it takes a village to raise a child...it took a village to get through the plumbing installation and process. Historical prints and documents weren't quite clear. Thank goodness for the teamwork of our General Contractor, the plumbers, and the City of Lancaster. They all worked together to straighten out what the actual flow of the existing sewage and water lines was in order to get the new plumbing installed for the integrity of the infrastructure to last for many years into the future. The ditches are starting to be filled back in. Mid-September, the electricians came on site to start their process. Here is the latest update on figures. To date we have received a little over \$1.167 million cash. Reminder that the overall job cost ended up coming in at a little over \$2.1 million leaving almost \$933k 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

**UMCOR** is the acronym for **United Methodist Committee on Relief**. UMCOR is the humanitarian arm of The United Methodist Church. Its work reaches people in more than 80 countries, including the United States. UMCOR provides **immediate** humanitarian relief when war, conflict, or natural disasters disrupt life to such an extent that communities cannot recover on their own.

This year alone, UMCOR has sent aid to Libya, Haiti & California for flooding, Morocco, Turkey & Syria for earthquakes, Hawaii for wildfires, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Alabama & Georgia for Tornadoes, Ukraine & Sudan for war relief. These are just the highlights of all the places that UMCOR is present.

For more than 50 years, United Methodist congregations have been taking part in special offerings to grant those in need relief and hope. When you hear about a disaster or humanitarian crisis and you give to UMCOR, you can be assured that 100% of the money you designate goes toward people in need.

We at First Church have been doing our part in helping by giving to UMCOR. With your generosity we have been able to send \$9,320 to UMCOR this year, of which over \$7,000 was sent to help with the wildfires in Maui. Each time you give to UMCOR, you are helping to be the hands and feet of Jesus at a time when those who are living these disasters need it most. God Bless you for your generous gifts!

If you would like to give to UMCOR please write "UMCOR" in the memo of your check or on your envelope. You can also give online by choosing the fund "other" and writing UMCOR as your designation. Your gift will help make sure UMCOR continues to be able to help many when a disaster strikes.

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

- On-line giving on our website, [www.love-first.org](http://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.



## Chair Volleyball

Wednesdays, 2:30-3:30

At Crossroads Ministry Center,  
2095 W. Fair Ave.

Join us for fellowship  
& laughter!



## 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!



## 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!***

Our Current Series:

**"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.

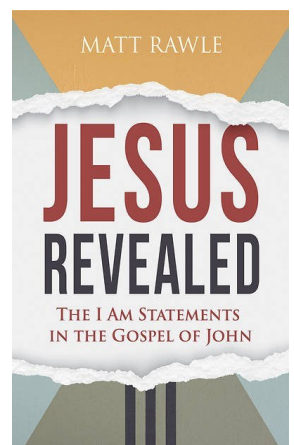
Oct 3- I am the Good Shepherd (John 10:11)

Oct 10- I am the Vine, You are the Branches (John 15:5)

Oct 17- I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6)

Oct 24- I am the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)

Oct 31- No Meeting as it's Trick or Treat Night. Join us at the main church building at 6 pm if you'd like to help pass out candy to our community.





## Youth News

### October

#### Classes at Church:

1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>: 9:00am Combined class Jr & Sr. High, room 26 upstairs.  
10:30am Jr. High, room 26 upstairs.

1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>: 10:30am High School, Chapel room upstairs.

22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>: **No Classes, Family Service!**

#### Confirmation Class:

15<sup>th</sup>: 10:30am 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade, Chapel room upstairs.

#### Give Back Days:

1<sup>rd</sup> : Acolyte, one youth for each service. 9am & 10:30am

4<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> : Drive Thru Dinners 3:30-5:30pm at Crossroads.

15<sup>th</sup> : Messy Church 3:30-5:30pm at Crossroads.

28<sup>th</sup> : Halloween Carnival 4:30-8pm at Crossroads, sign up in parlor or contact Janie Burdsal

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

1<sup>st</sup> : 5-7pm

8<sup>th</sup> : **No Youth Group, Fair Day!**

15<sup>th</sup> : 5:30-7pm Game night after Messy Church.

22<sup>nd</sup> : 5-7pm **High School only night**

29<sup>th</sup> : **No Youth Group, trick or treat weekend!**

#### Drivers License:

No one in Sept. 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

## Thank You's

**Dear First United Methodist Church:** Thank you sincerely for selecting me as a recipient of scholarship. I'm deeply honored. I would like to take a moment to update my Church Family about my college journey thus far. I am entering my junior year at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where I study Environmental Science with a focus on clean energy, public policy, and economic development. I hope to help towns like Lancaster and Amanda across the U.S. move into the future, one that is bright and hopeful. This scholarship will help me accomplish that dream, and I am deeply thankful.

Sincerely, Anthony Buckley

**Dear First United Methodist Church Members:** Thank you for continuing to support me in my college career. Your gift helps me so much. I appreciate your blessings and prayers.

Kyle Walton

**Dear Scholarship Committee:** Thank you for the generous amount of financial aid you have given. This money will go towards school supplies and groceries since I will now be living on my own. I appreciate all of the love and support I've been shown over the years. I could not imagine a better church family. Thank you, Jacob Deuscher

**Thank You to our Church Family** who supported us during the passing of our loved one, Yvonne Bowland. We appreciate the outpouring of prayers, kind words, and the comfort we received. A special thanks goes to Pastor Amy. We would also like to thank the folks who prepared and served the funeral meal. Mom helped with the funeral meals for many years, so we know the amount of work that goes into preparing them. Mom loved her church and her church family

Ann Cherry on behalf of Yvonne Bowland Family

**Big Thanks** to everyone who donated water bottles to First Community Kitchen! The cold water bottles that are being distributed to our guests not only gives them a cool drink, but also gives them a container to refill throughout the day.





## 2023 Friends of Lithuania In-Person Gathering!

Dear Friends of Lithuania,

The last time we were together was in 2018 and what a great time we had sharing and getting to know one another along with strengthening our relationships to this ministry. It seems like we have been wandering in the wilderness these last couple of years with the pandemic. It is time to make plans to *reconnect and recommit* to our ministry together. With that being said, you are invited to a Friends of Lithuania Gathering in Royal Oak Michigan in October 2023.

This gathering will focus on connecting and recommitting ourselves to this ministry along with naming our own faith stories as a way to have deeper conversations with our partner churches here in the United States and Lithuania.

### **Dates:**

Friday, October 13 and Saturday, October 14, 2023

Sunday, October 15, 2023: Rev. Remigijus will preach at both 9am & 11am services

### **Location:**

Royal Oak First United Methodist Church  
320 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Please prayerfully think about and invite some people from within your church or from other churches who would be interested in missions. We are hoping to expand the circle of supporting individuals and churches who will be Friends of Lithuania. If you are interested in attending please contact Tim Binkley – 740.243.1600 or [tdbinkley@gmail.com](mailto:tdbinkley@gmail.com)

Blessings,

*Remigijus*

Rev. Remigijus Matulaitis  
District Superintendent  
United Methodist Church of Lithuania  
Email: [remailo@gmail.com](mailto:remailo@gmail.com)

*Jeanie*

Jeanie Kurka Reimer  
Global Ministries/The United Methodist Church  
*In Mission Together* Lithuania/Latvia Partnership  
Email: [jreimer@umcmmission.org](mailto:jreimer@umcmmission.org)





## #STILLINMISSION

Join us on Oct 5, 2023 at 07:00 for conversations with missionaries:

### Rebecca Parsons

Mission Advocate for the Northeast Jurisdiction with the General Board of Global Ministries in the United States

### Cristian Schlick

Regional Migration Specialist with the General Board of Global Ministries in Mexico

### Mark Zimmerman

Consultant Internist/Medical School Professor with Patan Academy of Health Sciences in Nepal

### A. Kamara

Teacher/Trainer with Sunbeam Languages & Vocational Center in Southeast Asia



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

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

## TOGETHER OUR REACH IS BEYOND MEASURE

### WHY DO WE CELEBRATE SPECIAL SUNDAYS?

United Methodists celebrate on specific days to unite and make clear the commitment of the church as the people of God, and to give everyone the opportunity to contribute to special programs approved and supported by the Church. For stories on how you make a difference visit [UMC.org/yourimpact](https://umc.org/yourimpact)

### HOW DO YOUR GIFTS SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS AROUND THE WORLD?

We are called to reach out to all people and model the diversity of all God's children. Your gifts support racial and ethnic students in achieving their educational goals while also transforming communities. Fifty percent of the offering provides scholarships for graduate students from the U.S. and other countries. Thirty-five percent supports ethnic scholarships for undergraduate students. Fifteen percent funds In-Service Training Programs for racial and ethnic persons.



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

## Hooked on Books

Contact  
Linda  
Godenschwager  
or Denise  
Bennett

Oct. 3, 2023

10:00 a.m.

at Crossroads Ministry Center



### The book selection for October 3rd is "Night" by Elie Wiesel.

Anyone wishing to bring snacks to share is appreciated and please bring your own drinks. November book selection will be chosen at the October meeting. Also, remember our service project is donations for the Blessing Box. Please place your donations in the box anytime during October.

## UPCOMING DATES:

Tuesdays: Crossroads Community, 6:30pm  
Wednesdays: Pastor's Bible Study, 4pm  
Oct. 1: World Communion Sunday  
Oct. 3: Hooked on Books-Crossroads  
Oct. 4: Drive-Thru Dinner, 4 - 5:30pm  
Oct. 7: Men's Breakfast at Crossroads Ministry Center  
Oct. 14: Second Saturday  
Oct. 15: Fair Sunday  
Oct. 15: Messy Church  
Oct. 18: Drive-Thru Dinner, 4-5:30pm  
Oct. 21: Chili Cook-Off!  
Oct. 22: Grandparents Sunday!  
Oct. 28: Halloween Carnival

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 November issue of the **CIRCUIT RIDER** are due by **October 15** to **Lisa Schenck** at [lisaschenck@love-first.org](mailto: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  
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](mailto:receptionist@love-first.org)  
Website – [www.love-first.org](http://www.love-first.org)

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