



The Circuit Rider

The newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Lancaster, Ohio

April 2024

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

Let's journey together!

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

9 & 10:30am
Sanctuary

March 24:
Palm Sunday

6:30pm
Crossroads

March 26:
Crossroads Community

7pm
Crossroads

March 28:
Maundy Thursday

7pm
Sanctuary

March 29:
Good Friday

9 & 10:30am
Sanctuary

March 31:
Easter Sunday



Living the Resurrection

"I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as He said would happen." Matthew 28:5b-6a NLT

This Lenten Season, we have walked with Peter as he followed Jesus. At one point in the journey, Jesus tells Peter and the disciples that He will suffer and die. Peter wants to hear no word of this because in his mind, Messiah would not have to undergo suffering and hope would die if Messiah died. But Jesus is not exactly what Peter and everyone else was expecting. He reprimands Peter, reminding him not to think in human terms, but divine ones.

In about a week, Easter Sunday will have come and gone. The remorse we feel at the foot of the Cross on Good Friday will have been overcome by the joy we feel at Jesus' rising on Resurrection morning. But I wonder, in our desire to follow Jesus, do we allow gravity to pull us back toward the cross or do we fly from the tomb with Jesus and let the joy of Resurrection guide our faithful living? I'm not saying that we must choose between remembering the Cross and living the Resurrection. But I am suggesting that we live in such a way that our remembering the cross does not overshadow the joy of the Resurrection.

Matthew's gospel narrative ends with the women finding the grave empty, religious leaders bribing the guards of the tomb to lie and say Jesus' followers took Him, and Jesus meeting with His disciples "on the mountain where He told them to go" to commission them for ministry. Mark's gospel has two endings, the first of which is the women fleeing from the empty tomb after seeing a man in bright white clothes there who told them to go tell the disciples what they had seen. The second ending leaves us with Jesus commissioning His disciples and ascending to heaven. John's gospel ends with Jesus restoring Peter after Peter's denial and abandonment, then commissioning Peter to feed His sheep—or care for the community of believers. And finally, Luke's gospel ends with the promise of His continued guidance through the Holy Spirit that He will send after He ascends. But Luke does not stop with this promise at Jesus' ascension, he writes a Part II—what happens *afterward*, in light of all that has transpired (See the Acts of the Apostles).

The events leading up to the Resurrection were horrible, tragic, and heart-wrenching. But God, through Christ, redeemed every bit of the suffering, tragic, heart-wrenching horror in the Resurrection. Love conquered the Cross and the inhumane suffering of Jesus. Love conquered sin, being sent into the world in a new way to cover all the ugliness humanity can muster and transform it into something new and good. Love conquered even death itself.

The good news is that in and through Christ, we are made new. And in our newness, we live as beloved and redeemed children of God, called to celebrate our redemption as we live our lives for the glory of God. Friends, we still journey toward the cross, but on Easter morning, the cross is empty. The tomb is empty. Christ is risen! So, let us live our lives in certain hope of the Resurrection! Amen!

Easter Blessings,

Pastor Nikki



At Crossroads Ministry Center
2095 W. Fair Ave.

**MEN'S
Breakfast**

April 6, 2024
8:00 a.m.

Call 740-653-3330 to reserve your spot

Please join us!

Pastors Bible Study

meets at 4pm on Wednesdays,
at Crossroads Ministry Center
2095 W. Fair Ave.

**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



APRIL ESCAPE ROOM

APRIL 14TH

3:30-5:30 PM

Join us for an afternoon filled with puzzles, games, and more as we discover the surprises of Jesus!



LANCASTER FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 2095 W. Fair Ave.
 Lancaster, OH 43130
amywood@love-first.org

Chair Volleyball

Wednesdays, 3pm-4pm
 at Crossroads Ministry Center
 2095 West Fair Ave.



Sign up in the Parlor & come join us for fun & laughter!

We're starting Chair Volleyball back up!
 Have fun with others! We play on **Wednesday afternoons, 3pm-4pm**, at Crossroads Ministry Center. A beachball is used, and there is a lot of laughter! Join us for fellowship and laughter! Please sign up in the Parlor!

April 3rd

4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Meatloaf

Corn Casserole
 Potato Wedges
 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, April 1st.**

LANCASTER FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



2024 FUMC Scholarship Application

Postmarked by MARCH 31, 2024

love-first.org/resources/

April 17th

4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Chicken & Noodles

Mashed Potatoes w/gravy
 Glazed Carrots
 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, April 15th.**

LANCASTER FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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

Welcome to the Trustees' Corner

During the process of the Capital Campaign renovations, we have been maintaining a spreadsheet tracking available funds, money spent to date, the original job cost, change orders, etc. in order to watch our remainder funds balance. Through the course of the passing months, we accidentally forgot to add the architect and engineer fees to the original job cost list. This accidental oversight changes our overall job cost to a little over \$2.2 million instead of \$2.1 million. To date, we have received a little over \$1.2 million in cash, leaving almost \$1 million in cost above what we have received to date through the Capital Campaign. We have been able to fill some of the gap with the proceeds from the Rising House sale along with some generous bequeaths/gifts. 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. The renovations are moving along in most of the basement. The Fellowship Hall area and open classrooms are coming along nicely with fresh paint, new floor and drop ceiling being installed. The new ADA bathrooms have tile installed, and countertops have been ordered. The electricians continue to plug along with replacing old wiring and changing out fuse boxes in preparation for the new electric coming into the building when the switch gear arrives. The kitchen is still a large work in progress and will be one of the last areas to be completed. Your continued patience is appreciated. Be sure to stay tuned each month and read our article.

See you around the corner.

The Trustees



United
Women
in Faith

SPRING MEETING - You will not want to miss the first **Spring Meeting** of the new *Olentangy River District*. On **Saturday, April 6** at Worthington United Methodist Church.

Have you ever wondered about...

**Climate Justice? Global Warming? Renewable Energy?
and most of all, how you are affected?**

Barry Goodwin will have some answers for you at the Spring Meeting!! Barry is a graduate of West Virginia University. He has used his degree in Electrical Engineering to work in the field as well as being the Engineering Project Manager for 29 years at Abbott Laboratories. He will also be discussing Climate Justice, one of United Women of Faith goals to improve today and tomorrow. There will be helpful handouts for everyone.

The **Spring Meeting** will have a continental breakfast and a box lunch! Both meals have been arranged by the Worthington UMC's United Women in Faith units. (Flyer in the Parlor for registration.)

TRINITY CIRCLE will meet the second Wednesday, April 10, 12 noon to 3 p.m. in Room 22 at First UMC.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE will meet the third Thursday, April 18 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 22 at First UMC.



Dear Friends of Lithuania,

I am writing to share good news that Bishop Alsted, District Superintendents Remigijus Matulaitis (Lithuania) and Edgars Sneider (Latvia) applied to the General Board of Global Ministries for a missionary position in Lithuania with some responsibilities in Latvia. **The missionary position is approved by GBGM and the search process for suitable candidates is in progress.**

There is not sufficient pastoral capacity in the Baltic Annual Conference, especially after the Estonia district disaffiliated from the United Methodist Church. A person (or a couple) with strong leadership, teaching and coaching skills would be needed to strengthen the current pastors in the conference and identifying new candidates to pastoral ministry. Several churches in Lithuania have had to manage without proper pastoral oversight, which is not healthy for sustainable development of the church.

Responsibilities of this missionary position:

- Serving as pastor in 2-3 local churches (an interpreter will be needed)
- Sharing the story of the ministry of the UMC in Lithuania and Latvia
 - Leadership development in the local churches
- Participate in leadership training on a district level (Lithuania)
- Develop and lead a leadership training program (Latvia)

The missionary couple/missionary will live in Lithuania in either Birzai, Vilkauskis or Kaunas. Travel monthly or bi-monthly to Latvia.

Although GBGM covers many of the costs associated with the missionary position, there will be a need to do fundraising to cover some of the program costs such as transportation, translation, and a one-time cost of a car purchase.

Estimate of costs:

Translation: cost to be determined but this will likely be a significant cost

Phone:	960 Euro/year
Internet:	250 Euro/year
Travel:	4.800 Euro/year
Car maintenance:	1.500 Euro/year
Total annual expense not including translation	7.510 Euro/year

Purchase of car	one-time expense	10.000 Euro
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How you can help:

If you are aware of any potential candidates for this missionary position, please contact either Bishop Alsted bishop@umc-ne.org or DS Remigijus Matulaitis remailo@gmail.com. We also ask you to prayerfully consider how you or your church can help support some of the program costs associated with the missionary position.

Blessings,

Jeanie

Jeanie Kurka Reimer: Email: jreimer@umcmmission.org; Cell: 920-851-5485\

"In Mission Together" Partnership Coordinator for Lithuania & Latvia; Global Ministries/The United Methodist Church

Are you interested in learning more about United Methodist missionaries? Do you wonder what day-to-day life is like in mission? **#STILLINMISSION** is a monthly Zoom event where you can hear first-hand experience from missionaries about their call to mission and the communities they serve. Join



--Featuring--

Joseph Riddle

serves as a Church Developer with the South Congo/Zambia Episcopal Area in Zambia.

Jack Muringa

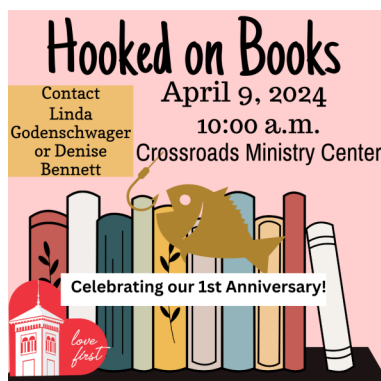
serves as an Agricultural Fellow with the Cote d'Ivoire Episcopal Area in Cote d'Ivoire.

Patricia Moreira Marques

serves as a Missionary Minister with Igreja Evangelica Metodista Portuguesa in Portugal.

United Methodist Missionaries are an extension of the church's work in the world, and we hope that you will join us to learn more! Registration is limited. You will get a confirmation email once your registration is accepted. If the limit is reached, you will get priority for future events.

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



"Small Things Like These"
by Claire Keegan

Caring Ministries

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

Visitation Ministers Needed!

A church member that delivers our Sweet Treats monthly to persons who are homebound recently shared with me that, having acted on God's nudging, she has found these visits are as meaningful to her as they are to those she visits. I invite you to consider visitation as a spiritual practice instead of simply being a volunteer. Our call to serve is included in our vows of church membership, utilizing the gifts God created within us. I encourage you to listen carefully for God's nudging, and become involved either

as a 'Sharing Hearts' minister who creates relationship with one (or more) of our homebound members through at least two contacts each month; a greeting card, a phone call, or a personal visit which could include Holy Communion, and/or

as a 'Hospital Visitation Minister' who visits members/friends of the church who are hospitalized or request prayer before surgery/a procedure.

Training is provided and each minister will receive a name badge identifying them as representing our church family. Individuals, couples and families are encouraged to become involved, serving those who can no longer physically attend church or participate in our ministries. In the famous quote by Hillel, a first-century Jewish scholar, "If not you, then who? If not now, then when?" YOU are needed and wanted.

May 2024 Bloodmobile

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be visiting Crossroads Ministry Center on Monday, May 20, 1:30 – 6:30pm. To register to donate, please visit www.redcrossblood.org or call the church office. If you are interested in volunteering (greeting donors and getting them 'signed in'), contact Judy Hug.

Monthly Blood Pressure Screenings

Free Blood Pressure Screenings are available the first Sunday of each month between services in Room 14 in the Parlor. Each participant will receive a personal tracker so that readings can be shared with their healthcare professional. Quick and painless – the best way to know if you have high blood pressure.

A Good Problem!

Our church is experiencing a wonderful problem on Sunday mornings – we are providing transportation to the 9am service from all over town! Our church van presently picks up both on the far east side of town (Tiki Lane/188 area) and on the far west side of town (Fair Avenue and Cedar Hill Road area), with an additional recent request for another pick up near the fairgrounds. We currently have four weeks each month covered by four people (two individuals and one couple) and we frequently have to ask these loyal people to also drive for 'fifth Sundays' or special services, e.g., Holy Week, mid-week Christmas services, etc. In addition, we cannot always provide transportation for individuals who wish to attend events or ministry opportunities at Crossroads or the church.

There are two ways in which you could help in this ministry:

Adding your name to the list of approved drivers for the van, and/or

Providing a ride to/from church for another when you come to church.

For more information, contact Judy Hug.

Babysitter's Training

Do you have someone in your family 11-15 years of age who wants to babysit? Perhaps you know of a neighbor in that age group that you would want to babysit for your children. If you are interested in taking, or having someone else take, a Red Cross Babysitter's Training course, contact Judy Hug. There must be at least five participants before scheduling a class. Contact Judy Hug if interested.



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

**Carl Parent
Nils Theller
Randy Groff**



Creative Ministries News

Thank you to everyone who helped with Eggstravaganza. Your donations and volunteering to staff the event helped to make it a successful outreach to the community.

Virtuous Reality will be presenting a Blacklight Show at Crossroads on April 28th. The show will be offered at 2pm and 6pm. Admission is a suggested donation of \$5 per person, and you pay at the door. We hope to see you!



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

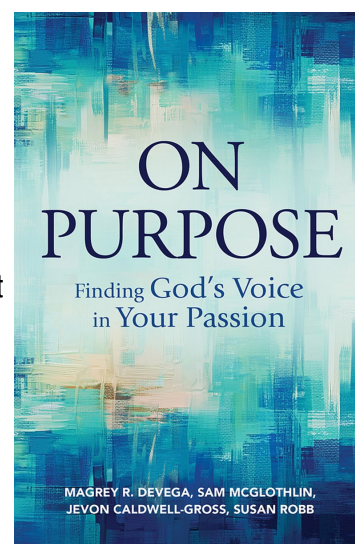
We would love to have you join us!

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 are hungry for a sense of purpose, direction, and calling in our lives. We want to be part of something bigger than ourselves. We want to participate in something that has eternal merit and lasting impact. We do not want to live a shallow, hollow existence. We yearn for deeper meaning, for deeper purpose within our lives. We want to be more than we are.



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 or give during our worship service.

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.

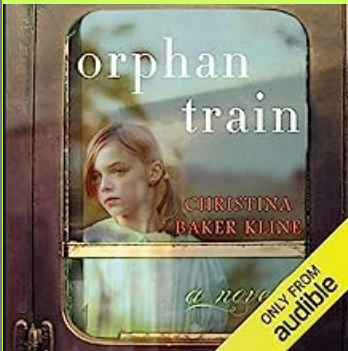


Online Giving is available!
Please visit our website,
love-first.org, and we also have
our Giving QR code!



Take a Peek at our Church Library And see what we have for you!

Here are a few selections we have picked for April:

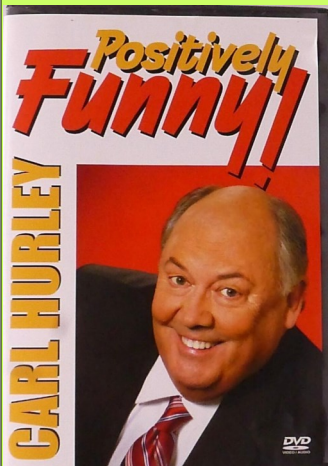
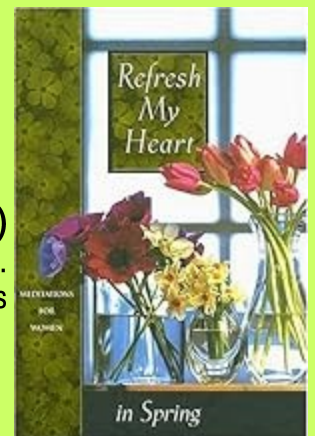


Orphan Train (Audiobook)

A lovely novel about the search for family that also happens to illuminate a fascinating and forgotten chapter of American history.
By Christina Baker Kline

Refresh My Heart in Spring (Book)

A 13-week devotional of meditations for women.
Compiled by Terri Gibbs



Positively Funny! (DVD)

Comedian, Carl Hurley, shows us how positive thinking and a sense of humor go hand in hand!



Second Saturday: April 13 One Saturday a month you can make a difference in the life of others! There are projects for every age and ability! Projects we are working on in April are:

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

Sweet Treats Delivery Brighten the day of someone who doesn't get out as much as they used to; deliver home-baked treats and a smile! We need folks who can donate cookies, fresh fruit or fruit cups. These items need to be dropped off at church no later than Friday, April 12 at 1:00 p.m. We also need help with packing treat bags and inserting a few encouraging words in a greeting card.

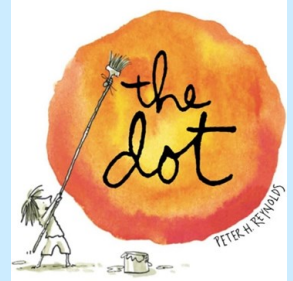
Items for the Homeless This month we are making lip balm to hand out during our First Community Kitchen ministry. These are easy projects for anyone including the little ones!

Small Notes of Encouragement Everyone needs an encouraging note occasionally. Help us create notecards that will spread joy and love to whomever receives it!

If you would like to be a part of Second Saturday projects, make plans to join us on Saturday, April 13th at 8:30 AM at Crossroads. No experience is necessary, just a heart to help others in our community. If you have any questions concerning any of the Second Saturday projects, please contact Judy Kraft at 740-653-3330 or at judykraft@love-first.org

Help us celebrate National Library Week (April 7-13) with the 2nd Graders of Ms. Slater's class!

Second Saturday in conjunction with Haley Slater's 2nd grade class at Tallmadge Elementary is celebrating National Library Week and Right to Read Day (April 8). We are purchasing the book **The Dot** by Peter H. Reynolds for each student in the classroom! Please consider sponsoring a book for \$6.00 and give a child the love of reading and confidence in their abilities!



Look for the display in the Parlor with donation envelopes. You can put your donation in the offering plate or turn it in at the Welcome Desk. The deadline for sponsorship is Sunday, April 7th.



Downtown Lancaster Clean Up Day on April 20, 2024

8 am-Noon | Downtown Bandstand

First United Methodist loves its community! Make plans to join us for the Downtown Lancaster Clean Up Day on April 20, 2024. This event is sponsored by Destination Downtown. We'll meet at the church in the parking lot at 7:45 a.m. to walk to the bandstand as a group by 8:00 am on the day of the event. We will be assigned into groups that will

split off into sections throughout downtown. Volunteers will be picking up trash, painting, weeding, and laying mulch in the downtown tree wells. The clean-up will end no later than noon! If you would like to participate let Judy Kraft know (judykraft@love-first.org) along with your t-shirt size. *Sign up by April 2nd to be guaranteed a cleanup day shirt.

This is a great opportunity for us to be out in the community and meet others as we beautify our downtown.



YOUTH GROUP

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

April

Classes at Church:

7th, 21st, 28th : 9:00am Combined class Jr & Sr. High, room 26 upstairs.

7th, 21st, 28th : 10:30am Jr. High, room 26 upstairs.

7th, 21, 28th : 10:30am High School, Chapel room upstairs.

14th : No Classes, Confirmation Service both services.

Give Back Days:

7th : Acolyte, one youth for each service. 9am & 10:30am

3rd, 17th : Drive Thru Dinners 3:30- 5:30pm at Crossroads.

14th : Messy Church 3:30-5:30pm at Crossroads.

20th : Join the church in helping out in Destination Downtown Clean Up Day

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

7th : 5-7pm Movie clip trivia Battle, Blue team VS Red team

14th : 5:30-7pm Game night after Messy Church.

21st : 5-7pm High School only night.

25th : 5-7pm at 6pm we will watch the Black Light puppet show.

Contact Janie Burdsal

740-653-3330, ext. 1101

janieburdsal@love-first.org

Driver's License:

No one said they got their driver's license. Let me know if you get yours, I still have visor clips for you. Drive Safe!

Stay up to date with the youth by reading our newsletter, they are updated each month and posted on our web page (love-first.org/youth) or printed copies on the wall in the parlor and at Crossroads front entrance.

Rummage Sale: This year during drop-off days we will only allow rummage sale workers in the building so please drop off by front entry doors and we will come out to get them. I can no longer take square T.V.'s only flat screen and old printers, scanners as well. Thank you for all your help and donations. You all help make our mission trips amazing!



Rummage Sale

Donate Your Items

Thursday, May 2th	1pm till 7pm
Friday, May 3th	1pm till 7pm

Come Shop

Saturday, May 4th	8am-2pm
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All things happening at
Crossroads Ministry Center

2095 W. Fair Ave.
Lancaster, Ohio



YOUTH GROUP



LANCASTER FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Graduation

We would like bios and pictures of high school and college graduates from this year to be added in the graduation slide show. We will honor them during services on June 2nd.

Please send them to
Janie by May 20th by email,
janieburdsal@love-first.org
or text, 740-652-0089

JUNE 2ND

UPCOMING DATES:

Tuesdays: Crossroads Community, 6:30pm; Wednesdays: Pastor's Bible Study, 4pm
March 24: Palm Sunday
March 28: Maundy Thursday - 7pm at Crossroads
March 29: Good Friday - 7pm in Main Sanctuary
March 31: Easter!
March 31: Scholarship Applications Due
April 4: Still in Mission Zoom Event
April 6: Men's Breakfast at Crossroads Ministry Center
April 9: Hooked on Books-Crossroads
April 3 & 17: Drive-Thru Dinners
April 13: Second Saturday
April 14: Messy Church
April 28: Virtuous Reality Blacklight Show
May 2 & 3: Drop off items for Rummage Sale
May 4: Youth Rummage Sale

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



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

The Circuit Rider

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

Sunday:

9:00 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
Website – www.love-first.org

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