



The Circuit Rider

The newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Lancaster, Ohio

May 2024

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

Our Church Caterer, **Marty Cyrus**, retires on May 31st after 21 years of dedicated and faithful service! Marty is a 59-year member of Lancaster First. She is very active and involved with the Chancel Choir, First Community Kitchen, Second Saturday, Eggstravaganza, Halloween Trick or Treat Trail, Trinity Circle, and Altar Guild, just to name a few! Marty has a patient and nurturing nature and has selflessly shared with many people how to find joy in serving the Lord while serving others! She can pull off any event effortlessly, whether it is a few attending the Men's Breakfast or **HUNDREDS** attending the United Way Community Care Day or the Post 11 Baseball Banquet. Marty, we love you and wish you a very happy retirement!



Our Financial Secretary, **Jill Warner**, retires on May 31st after 24 years of service. She started off as the Children's Director in 2000 and then went on to the Financial Secretary position in 2004. Besides being on staff, she has been and continues to be a faithful member of Lancaster First. Whether it is singing in the choir, helping with VBS, Second Saturday, numerous outreach events, or even skipping along in holiday parades, she is a shining light to others. Even though she will no longer be on staff, she will still be around helping with ministries and being a loving example of serving God and others. The staff, the congregation, and those in the community wish Jill a blessed retirement as she moves into the next chapter in her life.

Dear Friends:

Ecclesiastes 3 says, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."

It is with mixed emotions that I write to you today to let you know that we are entering a season of change. Bishop Palmer is appointing me to serve as the Associate Pastor at Stonybrook UMC in Gahanna, beginning July 1st.

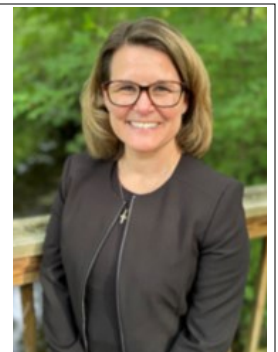
I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of you for the love, support, and friendship you have shown me during our time together. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve alongside you, to worship together, to pray together, and to witness the work of God in our midst. I celebrate the lessons learned with you and spiritual growth we have experienced together.

The bishop, district superintendent, Pastor Nikki, and your Staff Parish Relations Committee are working together to discern who your next Associate Pastor will be. They will match the needs of the church with the gifts and graces of your next pastor so that the church may continue to grow into God's vision for Lancaster First: Loving God and Loving All People.

So, let us hold fast to the words of Philippians 1:3: "I thank my God every time I remember you." May the love of God continue to bind us together, and may God's peace and grace abide with us all as we enter into this new season.

In loving gratitude,

Pastor Amy





Rooted in Faith, Living in Love

For in Christ, the only thing that matters is faith working through love. Galatians 5:6

Happy May, Friends! It is an exciting time to be part of Lancaster First UMC!

The Saturday of April 13, a team of five people participated in the Generate Ohio Conference where we learned about intergenerational ministry to help us be more attentive to the needs of younger people who are absent from our community. We recognized more than thirty adults who have reached the fifty-year mark of being faithful disciples at FUMC. On the same day, we baptized one youth and received six young people into our membership through confirmation. It is also a great celebration that in the next several weeks, we will be baptizing four infants and children.

We have embarked on a new preaching series called *United Methodists: Rooted in Faith, Living in Love*. Our adult Sunday School classes are exploring our United Methodist roots as we experience the first General Conference of the UMC since 2016. And we are preparing for holy conferencing at the 2024 Annual Conference of West Ohio in June. We are a North Star church of the UMC and are embracing the opportunity to welcome and care for members of former UMC churches that have recently left our denomination.

During the months of April and May, our Global Missions Team has challenged us to raise \$15,000 to *Raise the Roof* for the school that West Ohio missionary Jane Wise is partnering with the people of Mfuta to build. A team of more than twenty people from FUMC celebrated Earth Day by participating in Destination Downtown's Clean Up Day on April 20. On Saturday, May 4, you can shop or support our Rummage Sale to help our youth experience a mission trip in June. And we are already starting to prepare for an undersea-themed VBS, SCUBA: Diving into Friendship with God scheduled for July 8-12. There are so many opportunities to share God's love with young disciples and their families and welcome them into our church body!

We will be wishing Jill Warner and Marty Cyrus happy retirement on May 19 in the parlor after our worship times. We are grateful for their many years of loyal and compassionate service to the people of the community, and we hope that you'll join us in wishing them well in their new adventures. We have welcomed two new staff members, Michael Belt (Financial Secretary) and Chip Elder (Maintenance/ Custodial). We encourage you to introduce yourself and welcome them when you see them around. Their pictures will be added to the staff board in our entryway.

The renovations of our basement are nearly complete, and we are hopeful that we will see the return of First Community Kitchen to our premises before the end of summer. The Trustees are hard at work as they have hosted several Trustee workdays out at our Crossroads Ministry Center, repairing and painting walls in the main room and hallways. We want our facilities to demonstrate the love that we have for our church and the Lancaster community whom we serve.

We are actively living out our faith as a local church community! We are sharing the love of Christ right where we are and scattering seeds as far as our arms will reach! We are a people rooted in faith and living in love, and I am so very proud to be in ministry with you all!

Many Blessings,

Pastor Nikki



APRIL 14 - JUNE 2



Please welcome **Michael Belt**, who will become the new Financial Secretary as Jill Warner moves into retirement. He will be shadowing Jill in the Business Office until Jill's last day, on May 31st. Michael is a native of Warsaw, Ohio. He has served in several churches in many aspects along with experience as Administrative Assistant, Financial Secretary, Administrator, and Director of Music. Michael's passion is serving the church and the people that form church communities. He takes pride in getting involved in the church and helping in any way possible. Michael received musical training at Muskingum University in New Concord, Ohio. Besides coming on board here at Lancaster First, he will continue to serve as the Director of Music at First United Methodist Church in Newark. We are blessed to have him joining our staff.

It has taken us some time and a few bumps in the road to hire a Maintenance Technician. Please welcome **Martin "Chip" Elder**. He became a part of our staff here at Lancaster First on April 29th. Chip is married to Carrie and has three children, two boys and a girl. He and his wife, since becoming empty nesters, are now parents to two dogs Maggie and DiDi. Being in nature and outdoors is one of his passions. We are blessed to have him joining our staff.




Rummage Sale

Donate Your Items

Thursday, May 2nd	1pm till 7pm
Friday, May 3rd	1pm till 7pm

Come Shop

Saturday, May 4th
8am-2pm

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




Rummage Sale:
This year during drop-off days, we will only allow rummage sale volunteers in the building. Please drop off donations by the front entrance, and we will come out to retrieve them. We no longer accept square TV's (only flat screen), old printers nor scanners.

Thank you for your donations. Your generosity helps make our mission trips amazing!



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



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

Betty Bookman



Holy Baptism (10:30)

April 14, 2024

Nickolus Parker Goodyear

Parents: Paul and Misty Goodyear



Holy Baptism (10:30)

April 21, 2024

Kenzlie Rae Wilson


Parents: Adam and Andrea Wilson

Grandparents are Mark and Diane Wilson

Hooked on Books

May 7, 2024
10:00 a.m.
Crossroads Ministry Center

Contact
Linda
Godenschwager
or Denise
Bennett



**“Lessons in Chemistry”
by Bonnie Garmus**



Interested in Baptism?

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



United
Women
in Faith

Elizabeth Circle meets the third Thursday of the month, May 16, 2024 at 9:30 a.m., at IHOP. Cody Tatum, Director of Harcum House, spoke in April about child advocacy, and he was excellent!

Trinity Circle gave \$100.00 in March to the Legacy Endowment Fund Day of Giving which supports the different needs of women and children. In April, Trinity Circle gave \$100.00 to Raise the Roof for the Mfuta School in Kasenga. On May 8, 2024, Trinity Circle will meet at 12 noon and have fun making Thinking of You cards.



**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!**

Exploring the Chapter Behind the Verse.

Throughout the month of May, we will be looking more deeply at some of the most well-known Scriptures and exploring their meaning by examining them in their original biblical context. In *Context*, Josh Scott looks at verses we know by heart but may not know the people, places, and times that give them meaning. Through this process, he unveils fresh and enlightening interpretations that are often missed when these Scriptures are taken out of context.



May 1st
4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

DRIVE THRU DINNERS

Beef & Pasta Bake
Green Beans
Garlic Bread
Salad 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 29th.**

 LANCASTER FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Ark Builders
"Being a United Methodist Christian, Living a Life of Grace and Hope"
by Ann Langford Duncan

Please join us!
Sundays at 9am
Room 22

Ark Builders adult Bible class has started a new study at 9AM, entitled "Being a United Methodist Christian, Living a Life of Grace and Hope," by Ann Langford Duncan. It's a 6-week study with different topics discussed each week with a video introduction. We will be discussing: What United Methodist believe. Where do we come from. What are our distinctive characteristics. And, How do we grow as disciples of Jesus Christ within this great communion. We welcome you each Sunday to share your time with others as we grow together in Christ Jesus. Questions, please call Joe Clark at 740-654-8766.

This We Believe

You're invited to join the Faith Matters Sunday school class at 10:15 in Room 22 from April 14 through June 2.

You're invited to join the Faith Matters Sunday school class at 10:15 in Room 22 through June 2. We'll be following along with the sermon series Rooted in Faith

and Living in Love, a series on the tenants of Methodism. No book required - we will discuss the sermon topic, provide space for questions, and delve deeper into our Methodist faith. All adults and youth welcome - no sign up needed.

May 15th
4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

DRIVE THRU DINNERS

Chicken Salad
On a Bed of Lettuce
Pasta 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, May 13th.**

 LANCASTER FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

First Community Kitchen/Billy

Mistakes made in youth do not define the adult you become. This is the case with many of our guests at First Community Kitchen. They have made mistakes that become a barrier to employment, housing, and other things we all take for granted. This is Billy's story:

Billy has been a guest at First Community Kitchen for many years. As a youth, Billy made an unfortunate mistake that still follows him today. Billy is a go-getter; always looking for odd jobs to make ends meet. He's a hard worker, willing to lend a hand with whatever we need at First Community Kitchen. Most importantly, Billy has a heart of gold. Honestly, there are days when Billy isn't helpful and he's more disruptive than he should be, but because of the relationships that First Community Kitchen volunteers have developed with Billy, we have gotten to know him and care for him deeply. One day before Easter, one of our church members was sprucing up the flower beds at church. Billy walked by and started a conversation. Before long, Billy was helping. Our volunteer told Billy that it wasn't necessary for him to help; it was her way of volunteering. Billy's response to her was PRICELESS! He told her that "It is necessary. I've been going to First Community Kitchen for a long time. You guys have helped me so much. I just want to give back to you!"

First Community Kitchen builds relationships and shows God's love in practical and tangible ways! For every story like Billy's we have many more just like them waiting to be told.

Thank You

Dear FUMC: We wish to thank you for the pretty Easter card you sent us, and we wish you all a very Happy Easter. Thank you all, and have very nice Easter.
Tim and Sheila Coakley

Dear First Church: Thank you for sending my Mother, Dorothy Hudson, holiday cards, for the cookies and visits from Second Saturday!

Thank you to everyone who participated in Destination Downtown's Clean up Day! First Church showed up in force and helped to make downtown beautiful!

Thank you to all the bakers who sent cookies for our 2nd Saturday visitation teams! They brighten the day of the sweet people we visit!



Creative Ministries News

Virtuous Reality Blacklight Theater performed April shows in Coolville, Ohio, Bexley, Ohio and at Crossroads. They will be traveling to Mt. Vernon this month to perform for the Ohio Eastern Star Home. They are currently working on shows for VBS.

The Magic of Believe performed at Eggstravaganza in April and are working on shows for July and August.

If you would like to be part of Creative Ministries, contact John Coen. We are always looking for new members to welcome into our ministries! (johncoen@love-first.org)

No Messy Church in May—Have a Happy Mother's Day!

A promotional poster for a 'Movie & Popcorn' event. It features a large red and white striped popcorn bucket overflowing with popcorn. The text 'SPECIAL EDITION' is written in a red banner above the bucket. The 'Messy Church' logo is prominently displayed. Below the bucket, it says 'MOVIE & POPCORN' and 'June 9, 2024'. The start time is 'START: 3:30 PM' and the location is 'CROSSROADS MINISTRY CENTER, 2095 W. FAIR AVE'. A small image of the movie 'Inside Out' is shown in the bottom right corner of the poster. The 'love first' logo is in the bottom left corner.

SPECIAL EDITION
Messy Church
MOVIE & POPCORN
June 9, 2024
START: 3:30 PM
CROSSROADS MINISTRY CENTER
2095 W. FAIR AVE
FROM THE CREATORS OF
INSIDE OUT
MEET THE LITTLE VOICES BEHIND YOUR VOICES
love first

Please Note: Due to Mother's Day, there's no May Messy Church. June 9th will be movie and popcorn only.



Congratulations to our 2024 Confirmands:
Nickolus Goodyear, Adrienne Pruitt, Delaynie Lape,
Samantha Buckley, Elaina Bishop, Noah Binkley

Caring Ministries

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

MAY is Blood Pressure Awareness Month

High blood pressure—or hypertension—is a major risk factor for heart disease. Half of Americans have high blood pressure, and many don't know they have it. Have yours checked, keep a record, and talk to a healthcare provider about what your numbers mean for you. Blood Pressure Screening is available between morning church services every first Sunday monthly in Room 14 in the Parlor. Confidentiality is assured.

Who doesn't enjoy a Sweet Treat on occasion?

Come join the fun on Second Saturdays each month at Crossroads and package homemade cookies and fresh fruit for our members/friends who are no longer able to join us physically in worship. *Be the Church* for those who have served so diligently in our past. There are two ways in which to be involved – donate cookies and/or fresh fruit, and/or deliver the Sweet Treats packages to no more than 4-5 people in their home. Bagging the treats begins at 8:30am and most are completed by 11am. Invite a friend or family member to go with you – it's more fun being in ministry together!



Babysitting Classes for Young People ages 11-15

There are still openings in this class which will be scheduled in the Fall dependent on the schedules of those participating. Learn about child development, appropriate play and meals, and how to make contacts and to prepare for babysitting jobs. This is a Red Cross certification course which does have a cost – the instructor is a volunteer/member of the church. To sign up, contact Judy Hug.

Prayer Tree

Prayer is the way God gives us to regularly communicate with the One whose nature and name is Love.

Steve Manskar, author and retired UMC clergy

Prayer is a spiritual practice for all Christians of all ages. If you would like to pray for and/or give thanks to God for yourself or on someone else's behalf, please contact Judy Hug to be included in the Prayer Tree emails. Prayer and Praise requests are generated from completed Connect Cards or by contacting the church, and are emailed every Monday morning at 8am with updates as needed throughout the week.

GriefShare, for Times of Loss and Hurting

The participants of our recent GriefShare course, and their facilitators Rev. Ricci and Brenda Arthur, invite others to begin their own journey of healing. Whether your loved one has been gone one month or more, having the support and understanding of others on that journey can bring new perspective on grieving and living a different life after loss. Consider joining the participants and the Arthurs at an informal gathering to discover if GriefShare might be helpful to you or to someone you care about –

Tuesday, May 21, in Room 22 at 7pm.

Red Cross Bloodmobile – Monday, May 20

“One of the most distressing situations for a doctor is to have a hospital full of patients and an empty refrigerator without any blood products,” said Dr. Pampee Young, chief medical officer of the Red Cross, the nation's largest blood supplier. “A person needs lifesaving blood every two seconds in our country — and its availability can be the difference between life and death, however, blood is only available thanks to the generosity of those who roll up a sleeve to donate.” statement from The American Red Cross 2/2024; www.redcrossblood.org

The need is real! Half of the available donor appointments for our drive are still open. Reserve your spot at www.redcrossblood.org or contact Judy Hug. Not able to donate? There are other ways to help with our Bloodmobiles, held odd-numbered months, in receiving and welcoming the donors.



Welcome to the Trustees' Corner

We are starting to turn a corner with the renovations to where we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. The switchgear electrical equipment that has been one of our largest obstacles due to supply and demand has finally been delivered. The electricians are able to proceed even further now to prepare for



the switchover from the old electrical grid to the new. It was a feat and a half to get it through the doors and to the basement, but the electricians made it happen. The kitchen is starting to be built back out with new drywall in a few areas, ceiling tiles installed, new lights, preparing for the new floor to be installed next. Everyone is still inquisitive about when this all will be finished. We still have a road ahead, but at



least we can now see the destination. To date, we have received \$1.3 million in cash, leaving almost \$900k 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.

See you around the corner.

The Trustees



American Red Cross

May 20, 2024

1:30 - 6:30 pm

Red Cross Blood Drive

Crossroads Ministry Center

2095 W. Fair Ave.

Register at www.redcrossblood.org,
or contact Judy Hug, 740-653-3330
ext. 1003

or Judyhug@love-first.org
to help save a life!

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

1st Sunday of each month

FREE

9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Room 14 in the Parlor



At Crossroads Ministry Center
2095 W. Fair Ave.

MEN'S Breakfast

May 4, 2024

8:00 a.m.

Call 740-653-3330 to reserve your spot

Sunday Morning Cookies

We are looking for cookie bakers to bring cookies for Fellowship Hour on Sunday mornings. If you would like to help out, please contact Judy Kraft at judy.kraft@love-first.org or sign up in the Parlor for a particular Sunday.

Please join us!

Pastors Bible Study

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



Second Saturday: May 11, 8:30 a.m. @Crossroads

If you would like to be a part of the Second Saturday ministry, make plans to join us for our next meeting on Saturday, May 11th at 8:30 AM at Crossroads. Projects for May are pillowcase making, VBS decoration construction, and shut-in visitation. There are many projects for young and old alike! No experience is necessary, just a heart to help others in our community. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Kraft at 740-653-3330 or judykraft@love-first.org.

World's Largest Diaper Drive

Every single day in our community tens of thousands of mothers must use (and re-use) diapers because they can't afford to purchase enough diapers to keep their child clean, dry, and healthy. It's a sad fact that one in three families need help to diaper their babies. Join us as we partner with Bottoms Up Diaper Bank during the month of May for a historic journey to make life a little easier for moms and their babies in our local communities. Bottom's Up has an ambitious goal to collect 1,000,000 diapers during the month of May. Won't you join us? Donations can be brought to the Parlor on Sunday mornings or during the week, Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.



Hope Coffee and Compassion Tea

If you have been to the Parlor lately, you probably have noticed the updated refreshment area! Not only have we made the space more welcoming, but we have also updated the food and beverage offerings. Fresh fruit has been added alongside our Tim Horton's Donuts. More importantly, Fellowship Hour now has a purpose beyond gathering in community on a Sunday morning. With the addition of Hope Coffee and Compassion Tea! Fellowship Hour has become missional! By partnering with Hope Coffee and Compassion Tea we are changing lives by drinking coffee and tea! We are helping to empower coffee farmers by purchasing beans at a fair price, providing clean water, safe housing, and education for families, AND we are supporting churches as they reach families in their communities! I bet



you didn't know a cup of coffee could do all of that! Supporting Hope Coffee and Compassion Tea allows us to be in mission in a way that we have not been before! Stop by the refreshment table to try our new line of coffee and tea and find out how you can be a part of the mission! Go to HopeCoffee.com to learn more about the impact that drinking coffee can have!

The Dot Book

You guys are amazing! Not only did we reach our goal of purchasing 70 books for Ms. Slater's 2nd Grade class at Tallmadge Elementary school, but we also exceeded it by leaps and bounds! A total of \$970.00 was raised—even a donation from a sweet resident at Primrose—to purchase books for kids! Haley Slater was thrilled with your generosity! After she purchases the books for her classroom, she is going to share your kindness with the other 2nd Grade teachers at Tallmadge by purchasing books for their students. Again, thank you for answering the call to help children with reading literacy!



A note from the Business Office

Last month, Jane Wise, our missionary we support from the Democratic Republic of Congo, came to us with a need for a new motorcycle. The motorcycle they were using was on its last leg, and it was their only way of transportation between villages. From the generosity of our church, we were able to purchase a new motorcycle for Jane and her staff! Pictured here is Bwalya, her manager. His hands are clasped together which is the gesture used in the Congo when they say thank you. They are very happy that they will not have to make repairs on the motorcycle weekly in order to use it. Jane sends her thanks to First Church for this very generous gift. It will facilitate their work for years to come.



There are many ways that your monetary gifts are used to bless people not only here but around the world. Thank you for your giving hearts.

The following are ways you can give your monetary gifts to First UMC:

- 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.



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

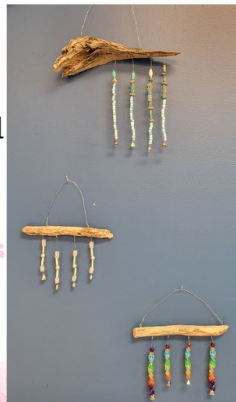


Mother's Day Windchime Sale

Sunday May 12th

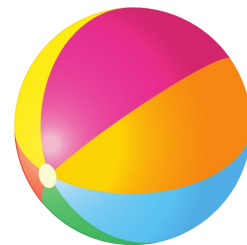
Before & after services at the church sidewalk, S.H.I.E.L.D. Youth Group will sell hanging windchimes that they made, for a mission trip fundraiser event.

Don't forget to also shop at Lancaster Greenhouse with your flyer on, 5/10, 5/11 & 5/12



Chair Volleyball

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



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

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!

Mfuta School Project - Update: As you may know, United Methodist Missionary Jane Wise has asked for our help to raise the funds necessary to complete the Mfuta School. Mfuta is an hour's drive from Kasenga on a motorcycle. It is one of the most remote villages of the Kasenga District. During the rainy season, the road to Mfuta floods, and a boat is used to transport people and goods to and from Mfuta.

We have partnered with Jane and her work in the Kasenga District of the Democratic Republic of Congo in Africa. In 2023, Jane's organization, Nuru ya Mapendo, which is Swahili for Love's Light, completed building the Mwangaza School. Prior to building the Mwangaza school, the Pastor from the Mfuta Village discussed with Jane about building a school in Mfuta. The pastor shared that Mfuta has never had a school! Each day he watches the young of Mfuta people linger there with nothing to do. "They can't read or write. They have no skills. They can't get a job. Please, can't we build a school so that our children will have a future?"

In late 2023, some of the \$70,000 for the school was raised. And while raising the funds, construction costs soared. So \$15,000 was needed to complete the Mfuta School. In a recent email from Jane, she asked if we would consider helping to raise the remaining funds necessary to complete the Mfuta School. She also noted the money needed is not only for construction but will also provide the school desks.

As you may know, we are partnering with Jane in raising the \$15,000 needed to complete the Mfuta School. We started this journey on April 14, ironically the same day our confirmation class took their vows. Our hope is to raise the \$15,000 by May 19. As of this writing, we have raised approximately \$6,015.00. As you consider how to support this project, please consider the impact your gift will have.

As noted, the school will bring an opportunity for an education to people that have no school. Just as we stress knowledge as a tool for prosperity, the same is true in Africa. This school building will be a beacon of hope. Not only does this school bring the hope for economic improvements, but the school also brings God's presence to Mfuta. The United Methodist Theology of Mission statement notes that 'the church in mission is a sign of God's presence in the world'.

We hope if you give to this project that you remember you are bringing God's presence to the world and specifically to Mfuta. The power of God's presence will shine through this school. As great things are done through the Mfuta school, our Prayer should be for those Blessed by this school to be a Blessing for everyone they meet.

Please give what you can. And don't forget to mark your gift with the designation 'Mfuta School Project'. Thank You!

Please join us for
**A SERVICE OF
COMMISSIONING**
Global Missionaries
THURSDAY, MAY 2
8:00 A.M. ET
Charlotte Convention Center,
Charlotte, North Carolina
View the livestream:
umcgc.org/live

Global Ministries
The United Methodist Church

...and KNOW that I am GOD

Join us as we explore the transforming work of United Methodist missionaries serving around the world. You will have the opportunity to meet in a small group to hear a presentation from a single missionary during the call. Find out more about these missionaries here, or at www.umcmmission.org

--Featuring--

Janice Lee

Christian Education Specialist with the Methodist Mission in Cambodia

Christine Brua

Peace Educator for the Local Community with the Border Peace School in South Korea

Rhett Thompson

Pastor and VIM Coordinator with the Evangelical Methodist Church of Panama in Panama

Priscille Malandji

Communication Assistant with Koinonia in Brazil

#STILLINMISSION

Join us on:
May 2, 2024 07:00 PM
For conversations with missionaries:
Janice Lee
Christine Brua
Rhett Thompson
Prscille Malandji

Global Ministries
The United Methodist Church

May

Classes at Church:

- 5th, 19th: 9:00am Combined class Jr & Sr. High, Room 26 upstairs.
- 5th, 19th: 10:30am Jr. High, Room 26 upstairs.
- 5th, 19th: 10:30am High School, Chapel room upstairs.
- 12th, 26th: No Classes, Mother's Day and Memorial Weekend.

Give Back Days:

- 5th: Acolyte, one youth for each service. 9am & 10:30am
- 1st, 15th: Drive Thru Dinners 3:30- 5:30pm at Crossroads.
- 12th: Sell Mother's Day windchimes before and after both services.
- 2nd, 3rd: Come to Crossroads after school till 7pm to help with Rummage sale.
Come for however long you can stay.
- 4th: Come to Crossroads from 7:30 am till 3:30pm to help run the Rummage sale.
I need the most help at 7:30 am and 1 to 3:30pm.

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

- 5th: 4:45 - 7:15pm Bowling night at Tiki Lanes
- 12th: No Youth Group, Mother's Day. (Do the dishes for your MOM)
- 19th: 5-7pm Last youth night, after this will be S.H.I.E.L.D. Assemble Days
- 26th: No Youth Night, Memorial Weekend!

Driver's License:

No one got a license this month, please continue to pray for those youth that are driving out there. 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.

S H I E L D
Serving Him In Every Little Deed



YOUTH GROUP

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

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

BOWLING AT TIKI LANES
SUNDAY MAY 5TH
Meet at Crossroads at 4:45pm
Pick up from Crossroads at 7:15pm

2 HOURS OF UNLIMITED BOWLING
RENTAL SHOES
2 LARGE ONE TOPPING PIZZA
2 PITCHER OF POP!

SHIELD
LANCASTER FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

YOUTH GROUP

Lancaster Greenhouse
Presents:
First United Methodist Church Youth Mission Days

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

May 10th 9am-7pm		
May 11th 9am-6pm		
May 12th 11am-5pm		

Enjoy shopping from our extensive line of annuals, perennials, herbs, vegetables, geraniums, container plantings, seeds, trees, shrubs, mulches, and soils. Gift Certificates and landscaping services not included.

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

Registration begins May 5th



Vacation Bible School
 Ages 4 - 5th Grade
July 8-12
6-8:30 pm
 Crossroads Ministry Center
 2095 W. Fair Ave
<https://vbspro.events/p/fumc2024>



VBS

Make a splash this summer and get ready to dive into friendship with God at SCUBA Vacation Bible School (July 8-12, 6-8:30 pm)!! We have the chance to help children, ages 4-completed 5th grade, discover that God is a real friend who we can trust, who loves us forever, and who loves everyone.

Make a forever difference in a child's life this Summer.

Volunteer Registration is open **on-line**.

Dive into the adventure! Participant **Early Registration** begins **on-line** May 5th. **Early VBS paid registrations include a Free SCUBA VBS T-Shirt!** Registrations received **AFTER** June 16th **will not receive a t-shirt!**

Go to vbspro.events/p/fumc2024 to register either as a volunteer or as a participant.

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

For any questions, please contact Pastor Amy at 740-653-3330 or amywood@love-first.org

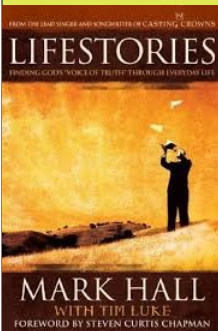


Baby Quilters

The end of an era has come to our Baby Quilters Ministry. After many years and thousands of baby quilts given to new parents at Fairfield Medical Center, the quilters have donated their last batch of quilts to the hospital. With creating on average 15 quilts a month, the current group including, Aileen Cave, Brenda George, Judy Goslin, Judy and Nelson Hicks, and Barb Wisniewski have made over 2,100 baby quilts in the past 12 years alone! Fairfield Medical Center and the parents who have received these hand-made gifts over the years have been so appreciative. Thank you, Baby Quilters, for the love and prayer that you have put into these quilts of love!

Stop by the church library to borrow books, DVDs and CDs for free!

Here are some selections we have inside:

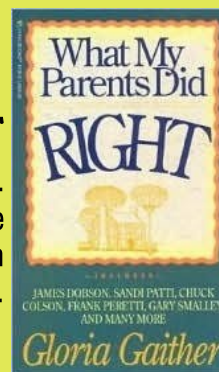


LIFESTORIES (book)

Mark Hall, lead singer of Casting Crowns, shares a collection of stories that show how the "Voice of Truth" speaks softly through people and situations God has brought into our own lives.

WHAT MY PARENTS DID RIGHT (book) by Gloria Gaither.

Discover how the nurturing and vital role of parenting molded the lives of more than 50 renowned Christian leaders.



WAR ROOM (DVD)

From the creators of FIREPROOF and COURAGEOUS comes WAR ROOM, a compelling faith drama filled with humor and heart that became the #1 movie in U.S. theaters and received rave reviews from audiences of all ages.

UPCOMING DATES:

Tuesdays: Crossroads Community, 6:30pm
Wednesdays: Pastor's Bible Study, 4pm
May 1 & 15: Drive-Thru Dinners
May 1: Bottoms Up Diaper Drive begins
May 2: Still in Mission Zoom Meeting
May 2 & 3: Drop off items for Rummage Sale
May 4: Youth Rummage Sale
May 4: Men's Breakfast at Crossroads Ministry Center
May 7: Hooked on Books-Crossroads
May 11: Second Saturday
May 12: Mother's Day Windchime Sale
May 20: Red Cross Blood Drive
June 9: Movie & Popcorn
July 8-12: Vacation Bible School!

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



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

The Circuit Rider

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

Sunday:

9:00 a.m. – Worship Celebration
10:30 a.m. – Praise Worship

Tuesday:

6:30 p.m. Crossroads Community
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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