



# The Circuit Rider

The newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Lancaster, Ohio

## November 2023

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

## Experiencing Christmas Churchwide Advent Study

Deepen your appreciation of the Christmas season with intimate small group fellowship. During Advent, FUMC will be doing a church-wide small group study of ***Experiencing Christmas: Christ in the Sights and Sounds of Christmas*** by Matt Rawle. We hope you can participate!

### How will it work?

Each week, the sermon will introduce the topic of the week. Participants will then read the corresponding chapter in their book. Each small group will meet once during the week to watch the accompanying video segment and discuss the material in the chapter.

### When does it start?

The first sermon for the study will be November 26<sup>th</sup>. Then the groups will start meeting. Groups should meet once each week.

- Week 1: November 26<sup>th</sup> – December 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Week 2: December 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>
- Week 3: December 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>
- Week 4: December 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>

### How do I join?

There will be a number of groups to choose from – some during the day and some in the evening. Most will be in-person but there will be at least one on Zoom. The full schedule of groups will be available on our website by November. To join a group, you can sign up online with the link on our website or add your name on the sign-up sheet in the parlor.

You will need to purchase your own participant guide online (\$15-\$20). There will be limited copies at the church for folks who are having trouble buying it online.

***Experiencing Christmas: Christ in the Sights and Sounds of Christmas.***  
**By Matt Rawle. Abingdon Press, Nashville. 2023. ISBN: 978-1-791029272.**

If you have any questions or are interested in leading a small group, please contact Renee Benham at [tesseract03@gmail.com](mailto:tesseract03@gmail.com) or at 937-926-5600.

***O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!***  
**Psalm 118:1**

In the United States, November is the month in which we are focused on giving thanks. On the fourth Thursday of November every year, we gather at a table with family and friends and we spend the day sharing a special meal and enjoying one another's company. As a faithful people of God, however, we are called to dedicate ourselves to living our entire lives in gratitude.

When Jesus healed the leper (Matthew 8:1-4), He told the man not to "tell" everyone about it, but to "show" the priest, give the proper offering according to the commandments of Moses for healing, but then to demonstrate with his life, his gratitude to God for the gift of his life. The Message paraphrase says it like this: "Don't talk about this all over town. Just quietly present your healed body to the priest, along with the appropriate expressions of thanks to God. Your cleansed and grateful life, not your words, will bear witness to what I have done."



In other translations, the leper is to offer his gift at the temple as "testimony" to the people. Testimony is "evidence in support of a statement." Jesus told the man not to go talk about his healing, but to live a life that offered evidence to support that he had been healed by the power of God through Jesus.

In her book, *Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks*, Diana Butler Bass offers, "Gratitude is, however, more than just an emotion. It is also a disposition that can be chosen and cultivated, an outlook toward life that manifests itself in actions—it is an ethic." A life of gratitude is more than a happy feeling that we have received the gift of new life in Christ Jesus. Rather, the gift of grace transforms us and it changes how we choose to live. Our lives become the evidence that God's grace, given to us in Christ Jesus, is transformative. And what better way to prepare our hearts for the season of Advent than to focus ourselves on living lives that demonstrate God's love alive and active in God's people?

I invite you to do some holy work with me starting this month—to adopt an ethic of gratitude. Make gratitude more than a feeling, be intentional about making gratitude a way of life. How could it do any less than change us as individuals? How could it do any less than transform our community?

I am grateful for the life I have been given and the new life I have received in Christ Jesus. I am grateful that my family and I have been called here and that I have been given the opportunity to serve with you all. Thanks be to God!

Ever grateful to the One who made us all,  
Pastor Nikki

## Fall Back November 5, 2023



Our Pastor's Bible  
Study is back!  
Wednesdays at 4pm.

Crossroads Ministry Center  
2095 W. Fair Avenue

Please join us!

Olentangy River District is hosting its Regional Charge Conference with the local churches of our district on November 8, at 7:00 pm at Peace UMC in Pickerington (235 Diley Rd., Pickerington, OH 43137). We will have a time of worship with Holy Communion, a word from our District Superintendent, and we will turn in our local church reports. **The local church reports will be gathered from our Church Council meeting on October 30 at 6:30 pm in room 22 at FUMC.** Church Council meetings are open to FUMC members and attendees, and members and attendees are welcome to attend the District Regional Charge Conference.

**Our first annual Chili Cook-off and Battle of the Breads was a huge success.** We had a total of 18 individual entries. It was a great afternoon of food and fun! Thanks to all of our participants and everyone who came out to cheer them on! A special thanks to those who helped behind the scenes and to our impeccable judges, Leah Palmer and Josh Guiler! We couldn't have done it without you!

- Best Overall - Judge Voted:** Karen Harmon - Chili  
Tim Derflinger - Bread
- Fan Favorite (voted by those in attendance)**
- 1st Place** Joe Palmer - Chili  
Renee & Sam Benham - Bread
- 2nd Place** John Whittington - Chili  
Marty Cyrus - Bread
- 3rd Place** Cindy Muller - Chili  
Joe Palmer - Bread



**The Fall of the House of Ushers**

**Join the usher team this Fall!**  
See Clarence McCoy for details.

LANCASTER FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

***Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. (Hebrews 13:2)***

What is one way I can step out and demonstrate God's love to those who are seeking a place to belong as they grow in their faith?

Serve on our Hospitality Team! Hospitality is a vital ministry that we provide to all who enter our doors on Sunday mornings. If you like to meet new people, or if you are new and want to meet more people, join our team! You can serve as an usher, a greeter, at our welcome desk, or at our food and fellowship station. To learn more about what it means to provide hospitality at FUMC, please join Pastor Nikki, Clarence McCoy and our team for our Fall Training: The Fall of the House of Ushers on Sunday, November 12 at 2:00 pm in the parlor at our main campus.

**Who:** Anyone who is currently serving or wants to know more about hospitality ministry at FUMC  
**What:** Training and equipping for jobs as usher, greeter, fellowship hour, or reception desk  
**When:** Sunday, November 12, 2:00-3:00 pm at FUMC main campus parlor  
**Sign-up:** Parlor table by reception desk or call the church at 740-653-3330.



## 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.

**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

**Sweet Treats on Second Saturday**

Nov. 11



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!

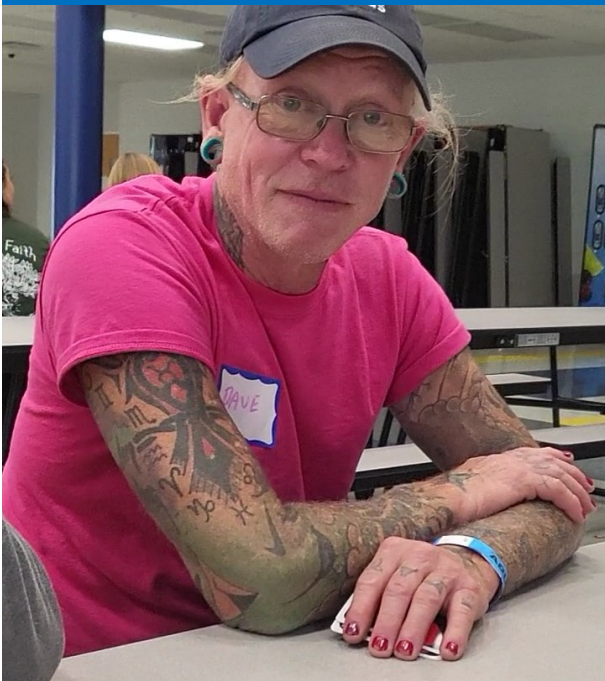
## **Thanksgiving Mission Offering**

As we prepare for our Thanksgiving celebration, our Global Missions Team has announced the following projects that we will be supporting.

- ◆ Our Lithuania Partner Church
- ◆ Jane Wise, West OH Conference Missionary in the Democratic Republic of Congo
- ◆ Good Works Outreach, Athens, Ohio
- ◆ West Ohio Conference Apportionments

A special missions envelope is provided for your convenience. Checks may be made payable to “First UMC” with “Thanksgiving Missions Offering” on the memo. Thank you for your generous support of our Thanksgiving mission project.

## **In Our Volunteer Spotlight: Dave Goslin!**



Dave has been a huge part of our church for many years, even volunteering as a teenager after school to fill pew pockets!

He plays French Horn, participates in Bell Choir, Youth Mission Trips, the Youth Rummage Sale, the Nativity Scene at Crossroads, assists Maintenance Staff, Bushhogs the Crossroads Field, Mentor for Confirmants, Usher, help with Emmaus! That is a big list, Dave, and we are so very grateful for you!

Dave says, “I enjoy the things I do at church because it makes me feel good when I can put joy in other people’s lives in the presence of God.”

**1 Samuel 12:20: “Don’t be afraid, just don’t turn back from following the Lord. Serve the Lord with all your heart.”**





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

**Brenda Wildermuth  
Sue Fisher**



**Birth**  
**Clyde Joseph Burcham**

September 16 2023  
Parents: Maggie & Kenny Burcham  
Grandparents are Dr. Cora & Phil Arledge



**Interested in Baptism?**

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



**Birth**  
**Wyatt Luke Williams**

September 22, 2023  
Parents: Luke & Meaghan Williams  
Grandparents are Steve & Ruthie Williams



**Holy Baptism (10:30)**

October 8, 2023

**Jack Thomas Fuller**

Son of Mark & Samantha Fuller



**Card Shower for Maxine Yost!** Maxine will turn 95 years young on October 28th! Please send Birthday cards to Maxine's attention at the church prior to October 28th, 163 E. Wheeling Street, and we'll bring them all to her!



**On Sunday, December 10, we will celebrate Bob Morehead's 100th Birthday (with cake!) between services in the parlor! There will be a basket for Birthday cards for Bob.**



**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

It is time again to collect items for **COMMUNITY ACTION**. Many people who find themselves without some basic necessities are referred to Community Action to meet those needs. This is a way to reach out in mission and help those in need in our local community. There is a wooden box in the Parlor where items can be placed. The following items are needed: Diapers (any size), Dish Soap, Toothpaste, Shaving Soap, Razors, Toilet Paper, Deodorant, Shampoo, Sanitary Napkins, Wash Cloths and Bath Towels, Cleaning Supplies of any kind. **THANK YOU!** For your generous donations.

**REMINDER** - If you have **PLEDGE** money for your Circle, please send it as soon as possible to the Church and mark it with the name of your Circle and that it is pledge money for United Methodist Women. United Methodist Women is trusted with pledges and donations from individual members and local member organizations, as well as mission partners and anonymous donors who have a heart for mission. We support programs in the United States and around the world that benefit women, children and youth - thereby impacting entire communities. As an agency of The United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women abides by the Social Principles and Discipline as determined by General Conference, giving only to projects in accordance with those guidelines. Through their generosity, United Methodist Women members transform the lives of women, youth, and children in the United States and around the world.

**November 1st**  
4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

**DRIVE THRU DINNERS**

**Chicken & Noodles**  
with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy  
**Hot Vegetable Salad, Roll, and Dessert**  
**Veterans Eat FREE tonight!!**  
Thank you for your service!

**\$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 30th.**

LANCASTER FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Coins for Christ for 2024.** Our Local Missions Team is starting to prepare our list of charitable organizations that will benefit from our Coins for Christ program. 2023 's list included: Bottom's Up Diaper Bank, 2nd Saturday, Maple Street Community Kitchen, and InspiHER among other worthy recipients! If you would like to nominate a charitable organization that would benefit from our 2024 Coins for Christ program, please contact Judy Kraft at 740-653-3330. Thank you!

Watch the December Circuit Rider for information on the **Blanket Drive for Lutheran Social Service's Main Street Homeless Shelter!**

**The Local Missions Team** is looking for people who want to make a difference in Lancaster and Fairfield County. Angel Tree, Coins for Christ, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday are just a few of the ways we make a lasting impact! Take a "no-commitment test-drive" on Tuesday November 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. to see if this ministry is a fit for you! Please call Judy Kraft at 740-653-3330 for more information. Make plans to join us on Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>!

**First Community Kitchen Thanksgiving Dinner** Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12 Noon at Maple Street. It takes a lot of volunteers to help prepare and serve First Community Kitchen's Thanksgiving Meal. If you or your family would like to help, please contact Judy Kraft at 740-653-3330.

**November 15th**  
4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

**DRIVE THRU DINNERS**

**Turkey with Gravy**  
Mashed Potatoes & Dressing  
Hot Vegetable Salad, Roll, and Pumpkin 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, November 13th.**

LANCASTER FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH





**Veterans Eat FREE!** Thank you Veterans! In recognition of your selfless service to our nation we are honored to provide veterans with a complimentary meal on November 1<sup>st</sup> to thank you. When making reservations; please mention that you are a veteran. Reservations and cancelations **MUST BE IN NO LATER THAN 1:00 PM on Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**A Drive-Thru Dinner Thanksgiving Winner**, winner home-cooked turkey dinner! This meal only comes once a year and you can't beat the \$7.00 price tag! Make plans to pick up a few meals on November 15<sup>th</sup>! Turkey with all the trimmings and pumpkin dessert is on the menu. Because of the preparation needed and popularity of this meal, reservations and cancelations **MUST BE IN NO LATER THAN 1:00 PM on Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.** We will have a limited number of "roll-in" meals available, so please make a reservation to assure a meal for you. Call the church receptionist with any questions.



**Second Saturday is November 11** 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, November 11th 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>.



**Angel Tree** It's that time of year that our committee starts preparing for the Angel Tree program. This is an opportunity for our church to provide assistance to school age children in Fairfield County. We have the chance to make their Christmas morning just a little brighter while at the same time lessening the financial burden for their families. The First Church family has been so generous in the past. Some families struggle financially with many finding themselves out of work, trying to financially recover, or continuing to have limited income. This year, our beautiful tree will be back in the parlor with many Angel tags hanging from its branches. Simply choose an angel tag from the tree and record the tag number in the Angel Tree Tag book, shop for the gift listed on the tag and return your purchase to church (unwrapped and with the angel tag attached) no later than December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Once you have returned your donation, please make a notation in the Angel Tree Tag book that your donation is complete. Thank you in advance for helping children in need.

Have a blessed and happy holiday season.

The Local Missions Team.

Stop by the church to say "Hi!"

**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.

**Calling all Early Birds!** First Community Kitchen needs a few volunteers to help out with breakfast service. Help is needed from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays preparing and serving a simple breakfast. Volunteer one morning a week or all three! No experience necessary, just a heart to serve the less fortunate in Lancaster! If interested, please contact Judy Kraft at 740-653-3330.



# Hooked on Books

Contact  
Linda  
Godenschwager  
or Denise  
Bennett

Nov. 7, 2023  
10:00 a.m.

Crossroads Ministry Center



The book selection for November 7 is "Orphan Train"

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

## Ark Builders Sunday School Class

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

Please join us in Room 22  
at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays



LANCASTER FIRST  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Ark Builders Sunday School Class** is starting a new 6-week study entitled "Jesus Revealed, The I Am Statements in the Gospel of John." 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.

Study books for the class are available in the Parlor. A video will be shown at each class, as well. Each week is a new subject, so feel free to come any time during the six weeks. The class meets at 9 AM each Sunday. Any questions, call Joe Clark, 740-654-8766.

**Messy Church**  
**THANKSGIVING**  
Free  
**NOV. 12 SNACKS**  
**3:30-5:30**  
**CRAFTS**  
**FOOD**  
**GAMES**  
**SERVICE**  
Crossroads Ministry Center  
2095 W. Fair Ave.  
amywood@love-first.org

## Join the Faith Matters Sunday School Class

for a  
study of Ephesians  
Oct. 29- Nov.19

in Room 22 on Sundays from  
10:15-11:30



LANCASTER FIRST  
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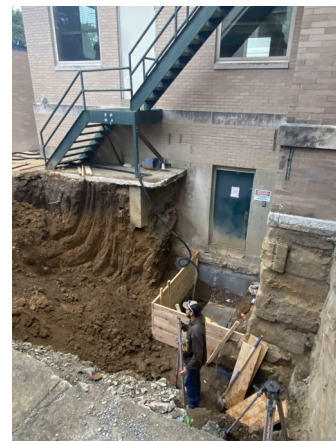
**The Faith Matters Sunday School Class:** You're invited to join us for a study of Ephesians starting October 29th and running through November 19th. No book required other than your Bible (and we have extras if needed). All adults and youth are welcome. Sundays 10:15am in Room 22.

## Welcome to the Trustees' Corner

It's homecoming season at most high schools this time of year. An event where the high school kids show off their latest dance moves. Well, it's been like a dance of sorts lately with the Capital Campaign renovations. The contractors are not doing funky dances or even a mosh pit, but they seem to be dancing in a collective way one would think was choreographed. The electricians are more than sixty percent through their installation. Unfortunately, even when they complete their process internally, we will still be at the mercy of supply and demand for the new switch gear, external electrical components. One of the contractors has been digging and prepping for the new location for the kitchen grease interceptor. Still a lot of moving parts and still more to be done, but things are continuing to come along. To date, we have received a little over \$1.170 million cash. Reminder that the overall job cost ended up coming in at a little over \$2.1 million, leaving almost \$930k 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



# GIVING TUESDAY

## A note from The Business Office

**GivingTuesday** is a Global Day of Generosity that will take place on November 28, 2023, created in 2012 as a simple idea; a day that encourages people to do good. Over the past eleven years, this idea has grown into a global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity. GivingTuesday is an opportunity for people around the world to come together to thank, help, give, show kindness, and share what they have with those in need. This global generosity movement unleashes the power of radical generosity to transform communities and the world. People can show their generosity in a variety of ways during GivingTuesday—whether it's helping a neighbor, advocating for an issue, sharing a skill, or giving to causes—everyone has something to give, and every act of generosity counts.

However you decide to give this month, consider one being a gift to your church either monetarily or through volunteering so we can continue to do good in our community, globally and through our ministries here at home. Your generous gifts continue to help us to do ministry and share the love of Christ every day.

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) is a safe way to have your giving directly deducted from your checking or savings account – contact the Business Office for an authorization form.
- Direct bill payment through your own bank
- Mail in gifts to 163 E. Wheeling St., Lancaster, OH 43130

We are here to help! If you have any questions on any of the ways to give to our church please call Sarah or Jill in the Business Office at 740-653-3330. Thank you for your generous gifts to our church.



Online Giving is available!  
Please visit our website,  
[love-first.org](http://love-first.org), and we also have  
our Giving QR code!





## Thank You's

Thank you to the **Second Saturday group** for their visit and the fruit and cookies! I enjoyed your visit.  
Jo Ann Bainter

**Dear Friends in Mission:** Thank You! The dear people you just helped with your gift to UMCOR may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be—Thank YOU! And through your financial support, you are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships in the U.S. and in more than 60 countries in which UMCOR and partnering agencies engage in direct ministry to persons in need. May we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate the healing power of the gospel with those who suffer.

Grace and Peace, Roland Fernandes, General Secretary-UMCOR Global Ministries, The United Methodist Church

Thank you to all who offered cards and words of encouragement to us during Pastor Appreciation Month. Your kindness and thoughtfulness brightened our days and brought us joy. Pastor Nikki and Pastor Amy.

Thank you to **Carola and the whole Neeley Family as well as the Lancaster Greenhouse**. They provided 30 large pumpkins for our October Messy Church where we served over 60 people. What a blessing to share the love of God with our community!



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

**We would love to have you join us!**

**Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Crossroads Ministry Center**

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

We will have faith conversations as we gather around tables to discuss relevant topics that challenge us in today's world. Join us for this short, 3 week series. Then, on November 28th, we will join the church-wide Advent study on "Experiencing Christmas".



**Happy Thanksgiving!** *grateful*

At Crossroads Ministry Center  
2095 W. Fair Ave.

**MEN'S  
Breakfast**

November 4, 2023  
8:00 a.m.

Call 740-653-3330 to reserve your spot



## Youth News November

### Classes at Church:

5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>: 9:00am Combined class Jr & Sr. High, room 26 upstairs.  
10:30am Jr. High, room 26 upstairs.

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

26<sup>th</sup>: **No Classes, Thanksgiving Weekend!**

### Confirmation Class:

12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>: 10:30am 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade, Chapel room upstairs.

### Give Back Days:

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

1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>: Drive Thru Dinners 3:30-5:30pm at Crossroads.

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

18<sup>th</sup>: Holiday Parade 8am at Crossroads, sign up in parlor or contact Janie Burdsal

26<sup>th</sup>: You can host the coffee and donuts with me in the parlor before and after the services.

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

5<sup>th</sup>: Hike to Old Man's Cave, We meet at the church at noon, come back to the church by 5pm

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

19<sup>th</sup>: 5-7pm **High School only night**

26<sup>th</sup>: **No Youth Group, Thanksgiving weekend!**

### Driver's License:

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



STAY IN TOUCH WITH SHIELD YOUTH GROUP USE TEAM REACH APP

**For Youth:**  
Name: SHIELD Youth Group  
Group Code: Youth6-12

**For Volunteers:**  
Name: SHIELD Volunteers  
Group Code: YouthHelp



**SHIELD YOUTH GROUP**

**Nov. 5th Youth Hike to Old Man's Cave!**  
Meet at the Church at noon and come back by 5pm. There will be a packed lunch, bring a water bottle and dress for the weather.

Bring a friend! Contact me if you are going so I can have enough food.  
janieburdsal@love-first.org

**LANCASTER FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**



**SHIELD YOUTH GROUP**

**WE NEED ACOLYTES**

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH:

- ✓ 9am Service
- ✓ 10:30am Service

CONTACT JANIE BURDSAL YOUTH DIRECTOR:  
janieburdsal@love-first.org

**LANCASTER FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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

**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!

## Africa Update...

Missionary Jane Wise has provided an update about her work in Democratic Republic of Congo. She includes updates about the new Mwangaza school and a very interesting 'Did You Know?' section. To read more look for the Nuru News Letter on our church web site: <https://www.love-first.org/global-missions/>

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

Talk to United Methodist Missionaries, hear about their work during the monthly Still In Mission meetings.

## #STILLINMISSION

Join us on Thursday, Nov. 2, 12 p.m. ET for conversations with missionaries:

Priscilla Legay-Gilayeneh, Liberia  
Mutwale Ntambo Wa Mushidi, Tanzania  
Umba Kalangwa, Tanzania  
Honest Baraya, DRC

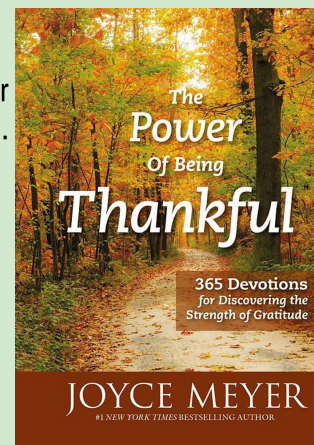
 **Global Ministries**  
The United Methodist Church



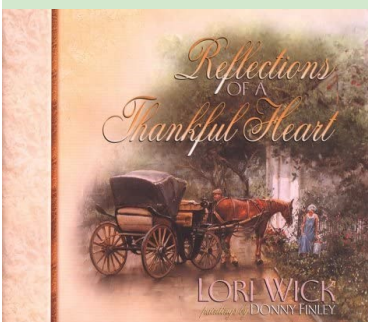
## Library News

November is a good time to curl up with a good book. Stop by the church library to borrow a book, DVD or CD! Here are a few selections:

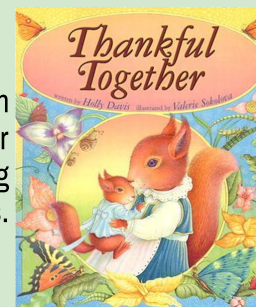
**“The Power of Being Thankful”** (Book) - Joyce Meyer shares 365 devotions for discovering the strength of gratitude.



**“Reflections of a Thankful Heart”** (Book)- Beloved fiction writer Lori Wick opens up the pages of her heart in this collection of deeply personal essays that celebrate the blessings of a thankful spirit and the joy of knowing God.



**“Thankful Together”** (Book)- Celebrate God’s good gifts with your child. With sweet rhyme and cozy illustrations, Thankful Together beautifully portrays how mother and child experience God’s loving provision all through the day. Written by Holly Davis.



**“A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving”** (DVD)- Spend Thanksgiving with Charlie Brown and the gang in this classic TV special.



## Creative Ministries News

We will be setting up our Walk-Through Nativity at Crossroads the weekend of November 10-12. If you would like to help with this huge project we would be happy to have your help! Contact John Coen for details.



It's time for the annual **Holiday Parade** in downtown Lancaster! This year's theme is "Old Fashioned Christmas". The parade takes place downtown on **Saturday, November 18th at 10 a.m.** We need lots of people to represent our church in the parade. Gingerbread chefs will be baking cookies and stringing popcorn, along with other old fashioned activities. There is a sign-up sheet in the church Parlor. Please help us stand out in the parade!

**Mark your calendars for the following events coming in December:**

The **Nativity Festival** will be on **December 3rd at Crossroads**. Please consider displaying your own nativity collections on this evening. The festival runs from 6-8:30. Reservation forms are available in the parlor and at Crossroads to reserve a table for your display.



**We need cookie donations to serve at the Nativity Festival.** Please consider making some cookies to share that evening. They can be dropped off at the church on Dec. 3 or at Crossroads that afternoon. Thank you!



Virtuous Reality will present their **Blacklight Christmas Show** on **Sunday, December, 10th** at Crossroads at **2 p.m. and 6 p.m.** Tickets are a suggested donation of \$5. Invite a friend!

Our **walk-through nativity display** will be open every Sunday, Wednesday and Friday in December from 6-9 p.m. This is another great opportunity to invite friends to our church facility. There are cards available in the church parlor and at Crossroads to give to others as you invite them.

If you are interested in hosting the walk-through nativity please contact John Coen or sign the sheet in the parlor and he will contact you with details.





## UPCOMING DATES:

Tuesdays: Crossroads Community, 6:30pm  
Wednesdays: Pastor's Bible Study, 4pm  
Oct. 28: Halloween Carnival  
Oct. 30: Church Council Meeting - 6:30pm, Room 22  
Nov. 1 & 15: Drive-Thru Dinner, 4 - 5:30pm  
Nov. 4: Men's Breakfast at Crossroads Ministry Center  
Nov. 5: Daylight Savings Time Ends  
Nov. 7: Hooked on Books-Crossroads  
Nov. 11: Second Saturday  
Nov. 12: Messy Church  
Nov. 13: Red Cross Blood Drive  
Nov. 18: Holiday Parade - Downtown  
Nov. 26: Church Wide Advent Study begins

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 December/January issue of the **CIRCUIT RIDER** are due by November 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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