

The Circuit Rider

The newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Lancaster, Ohio

October 2024

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





Save the Date!!

Are you the Oueen of Cookies? Are you the King of Cake Pops? Get your recipes out and get ready to rumble!

Pre-Holiday Bake-Off! On Sunday, November 17th, we will gather at Crossroads from 6-8 pm to determine who is best in all the land! Those who can bake will bake and those who at Crossroads can't, will eat samples of the tasty entries! It will be a fun night for all to kick off the holiday season. Watch the bulletin and The Circuit Rider for more information as the date gets closer. If you would like to help plan this church family event, please contact Judy Kraft at judykraft@love-first.org





Your steadfast love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness stretches to the clouds.

Psalm 36:5

A good friend of mine was just lamenting how difficult it has become to trust anyone or anything. We are constantly bombarded with competing messages that make us

confused, uneasy, angry, worried, and fearful. Daily, we struggle to discern what is right and true. Inside the chaos of all that mess, we often forget that we have chosen to trust in God who is faithful to keep His promises. God led His people through the Red Sea to freedom from slavery. God led His children through the flood waters of the Jordan into the Promised Land. And once and for all, God sent His Son to show us the way to live once again in harmony with Him and all Creation. God does not desert us when our lives get messy.

So, I want to offer you some encouragement in the middle of life's chaos. When troubles become overwhelming, pick up your Bible, go to God in prayer, take time to be grateful, or go outside and marvel at creation. All of it points to God's love in Jesus Christ—the fulfilment of God's promises in the flesh. Let your trust in God's steadfast love fuel you when you become weary and let the Father's faithfulness stretch around you as a hedge of protection when fear threatens to undo you. For God's faithfulness knows no limit, and His love stretches far beyond what we can imagine.

May God's love be your anchor and God's Word be your guide. Stand firm in your faith, beloved child of God, for you reflect the very faithfulness of God to a world desperate for hope.

In Christ,

Pastor Nikki

Powered Up Faith:

Do you feel like your faith has stalled out? It's time to power up! Our faith can vary in its intensity as we journey with God. Anywhere along the road, we may get stalled. That's why it is so important to surround ourselves with others as we live a life of faith—our faith is enriched by encouraging one another and building each other up when we run out of energy. Instead of giving in to spiritual inertia, choose to go to Power Up! Join us for one, some, or all of the following six sessions where you can get the resources to help you power up your faith!

- 1. Worship and Prayer: Charging your Spiritual Batteries as Individuals and a Community (9/18/2024)
- 2. Study: Plugging in to Jesus' Life through Scripture (9/25/2024)
- 3. Serving: Extending Hope by Working Together (10/2/2024)
- 4. Giving: Boosting Our Reach through our Time, Talents and Treasures (10/9/2024)
- 5. Sharing: Generating Interest by Sharing our Faith Stories (10/16/2024)
- 6: Gifted for Ministry: Exploring Your Spiritual Gifts (10/23/2024)



Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30pm thru October 23 at Crossroads Ministry Center 2095 West Fair Ave., Lancaster



Children's Corner

Starting in October, children and youth will be receiving communion in their classrooms. Pastor Kathleen will bring the elements to the elementary class (grades 2-5) and youth classes in both services. They will receive communion with age-appropriate instruction. As United Methodists, there is no age requirement for participating in the sacrament of communion. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Kathleen.

Children's Sunday school is back in session! The younger children (birth-grade 1) will meet in the nursery, room12. The older children (grades 2-5) will meet in room 11 until the basement renovations are completed. Upon completion, the older children will return to their basement classroom. Please remember to fill out a new registration form and to use the nametags when signing in your child.

Later this Fall, all third-grade students will receive a Bible. If you are interested in having your child receive a Bible, please contact Pastor Kathleen or the church office.

Lastly, the children's spaces will be redecorated, and help is needed. If you enjoy interior design and are willing to transform these spaces. Pastor Kathleen would like to hear from you!

Trick or Treat

On October 31, the beggars will be out in Lancaster from 6 to 7:30 pm. First UMC will be giving away full-sized candy bars and cracker snack packs (for the toddlers) to show the community that God's grace is full-sized! Donations for the treats will be accepted through Sunday, October 27.

Do you live in the country? Do trick-or-treaters never stop by? Come to Trick or Treat at the church! Bring a chair and your treats and line the side walk around the church with lots of goodies for the neighborhood beggars.

If you are interested in helping with this event or want more information, please contact Pastor Kathleen.



October 13, 2024 3:30-5:30pm Crossroads Ministry Center, 2095 W. Fair Ave.

LANCASTER FIRST



Interested in Baptism?

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



We have several items in our Lost & Found:

- 1. Earbuds
- 2. A very nice Bible in a zippered case left in May
- 3. A metal water bottle

Please contact our Receptionist, Barb Hunt for more information, 740-653-3330.

The Higher Education Outreach Committee will be collecting items for care packages to send to our

college students as they pursue their studies. We will collect items in the parlor **thru Oct. 6** Please consider donating some of the following items to remind our college students that their church family is thinking of them even as they are away. All items must fit in a small box for mailing.

School Supplies

Highlighters

Pencils
Post-it Notes

Snacks: Individual-sized packages only

Snack-size crackers, cookies, chips, pretzels, etc.

Granola & other snack bars

Packaged fruit snacks

Jolly Ranchers, Starburst, packs of gum/mints, etc.

No Chocolate, please (it could melt)

Microwave popcorn

Microwave mac & cheese or other single serving meals

Ramen Noodles

Flavoring packets for bottled water

Gum

Yo-yo's or other fidget items, gift cards

Note cards or personal notes of inspiration are encouraged to be included with the packages. The due date for these items is Oct. 8. The packages will be made up on Sat., Oct. 12

Please let us know if your college student has a new address or is studying from home so we can be sure to have the right address for college care packages:

| College Caring Ministry | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Student's name: | College/University: |
| Mailing Address: | |
| Student's Email: | Cell |



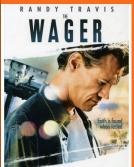
It's Angel Tree time!

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 6th. They are due back to the Local Missions Team by November 3rd. 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 3rd.

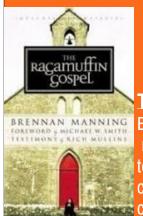
We have learned of another critical need for Tallmadge. Much of the learning today is accomplished using Chromebooks that are distributed to each child at the beginning of the school year. Students are required to purchase wired headphones to use with their individual Chromebooks. For families who struggle to purchase basic school supplies, headphones create an additional financial burden. We are collecting funds to purchase headphones for the students to use. \$10 will purchase a set of sturdy headphones for classroom use. Our goal is to purchase 200 sets for Tallmadge. See the display in the Parlor for giving envelopes or more information. Keep an eye on The Circuit Rider and Bulletin for additional opportunities and projects to support the students at Tallmadge.

Library News:

Stop by the Library and check something out! Here are some selections you may enjoy:

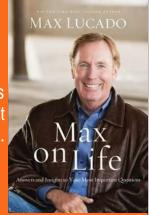


The Wager (DVD)- Randy Travis stars in this film written by best selling author, Bill Myers. A story of conviction and redemption that reminds us that, in the face of adversity, we must find the strength to do what is right.



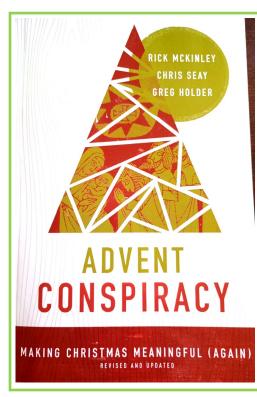
Max on Life (book)- Max Lucado answers and gives insight to your most

important questions.



The Ragamuffin Gospel (book)-Brennan Manning's now -classic meditation on grace and what it takes to access it- simple honesty- has changed thousands of lives. It will change yours, too.





Are you tired of how consumerism has stolen the soul of Christmas? This year make a difference! Join the groundswell of Christ-followers who are choosing to make Christmas what it should be - a joyous celebration of Jesus' birth that enriches our hearts and the world around us, not a retail circus that depletes our pocketbooks and defeats our spirits. Advent Conspiracy shows you how to substitute compassion for consumption by practicing four simple but powerful countercultural concepts: Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More, and Love All. Come join us!

The Faith Matters Sunday school class will be doing the study Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful

(Again) by Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder starting on Sunday, November 3rd and continuing on November 10, 17, and 24th and December 8, 15, and 22. Meetings held at 10:15 in Room 22 of the downtown building. Sign-ups will be available in the Parlor in October. Youth and adults are welcome.

Creative Ministries News

Our annual Halloween Carnival takes place on Saturday, October 26th from 5-8 p.m. Lots of help is needed to serve food, run games, inflatables, and staff the Trick-Or- Treat Trail. A sign- up sheet is in the church Parlor.



or-treat trail. Please make sure that the candy is individually wrapped. Donation boxes are in the church parlor and the tower hall at Crossroads. Monetary donations can be given to the finance office marked "Halloween Carnival". We reach around 400-500 people each year with this outreach. Your support is greatly appreciated.

The Holiday Parade is just around the corner! Participants are needed to represent our church. We want to be the part of the parade that people remember and we need many people to make that happen! Sign up in the parlor. We will be celebrating "The Spirit of Christmas" with an old fashioned sleigh ride!

Would you like to get involved with our Memorial Nativity set up? Mark your calendar for the weekend of November 15th and contact John Coen for details.

Fall is a great time to start involvement with Creative Ministries. Whether you enjoy magical illusions, blacklight puppetry, creating nativity scenes, or other fun things, we could use your help! Contact John Coen for details. johncoen@love-first.org















Chair Volleyball

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





Caring Ministries

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

BABYSITTER'S TRAINING - October 13, 20 and 27; 11:30am - 3pm

Do you have a young person in your home who likes to work with children? A Red Cross Babysitter's Training Course will be offered for 11-15 year olds covering three consecutive Sundays – October 13, 20 and 27 – after the second worship service at the Main Church Building. Lunch will be provided. Cost is \$17 for the participant manual (or free by download, 222 pages) and \$38 Red Cross for certification. Judy Hug is the volunteer Instructor, with 50+ years of training experience as a Red Cross Instructor/Instructor Trainer. Course information and registration forms will be available in the parlor beginning September 22, or can be received electronically by contacting Judy Hug at the church. Attendance and participation at all three sessions is required for certification, as well as receiving at least 80% on all three written tests.

Sweet Treats

THERE WILL BE NO SWEET TREAT DELIVERIES IN OCTOBER as we collect information to determine how to best continue to reach out to our members and friends of First Church who are no longer able to attend church. If you are or have been in the past a deliverer or a cookie baker/supplier of fruit, have received or have a family member who receives Sweet Treats, please contact Judy Hug with your thoughts as to how to improve our ministry. Sweet Treats will resume in November! Please come join us!

<u>Do you have the gift of Hospitality?</u>

On Wednesday, October 23, our church will be hosting a <u>clergy training event at Crossroads</u>. To extend hospitality to our guests, we invite members and friends of First Church to help in any number of ways including:

Greeters – at front doors and assist with any persons being dropped off

Host/Hostesses - to direct traffic and assist guests in becoming oriented within the building, e.g., restrooms, Prayer Room, etc.

Food Servers – set up light breakfast foods/drinks for morning (8-9;30am), replenish snacks/drinks throughout the day (9am – 3pm), coordinate distribution of boxed lunches (10:30am – 1:30pm)

Clean up – assist staff in storing leftover food items, discarding trash, etc.

Volunteers should sign up in the parlor and contact Judy Hug for more information or to sign up to help.

Red Cross Bloodmobile

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will visit Crossroads on Monday, November 11, 1:30 – 6:30pm. Our country is experiencing an emergency blood shortage so donation is vital so that those who are critically ill or injured can receive lifesaving transfusions. To schedule your donation, go online at www.redcrossblood.org or contact Judy Hug at the church.

Thank You

Clarence and the Entire FUMC Team: Thank you for being gracious and accommodating hosts for our Chamber Music Classics performance. It was an amazing venue and performance combo, and felt like home walking back in after several years off. We are grateful for community partners like First United Methodist Church that made the 2024 Lancaster Festival a true celebration!

All our best, The Team at the Lancaster Festival

Dear First United Methodist Church: Thank you for selecting me to receive your scholarship. I am very excited to start school this week! This scholarship will assist in tuition cost to reach my academic goals. I truly appreciate your support. Thank you, Peyton Wilson



Thank you to the ladies that visit and love the cookies they bring. Love to all of you and God Bless! -Janice Lippoli

Thank you for the delicious cookies, fruit, and visit from the church. Jo Ann Bainter

Special Mission Sunday

Please be sure to be in worship on Sunday, October 13 for a special presentation by Jane Wise. Jane Wise is a United Methodist missionary serving the Lord in the District of Kasenga in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Africa. We have had the opportunity to support Jane's work and her organization Nuru ya Mapendo through various projects.

In 2021-2022, our support helped with construction of a well at the Galilee Church, a district center. This well provides water for the church and school. Not long after completion of this well, the Galilee Church was asked to host the 2023 Kasenga District Annual Conference. The well was a tremendous Blessing for all of the Kesenga District.

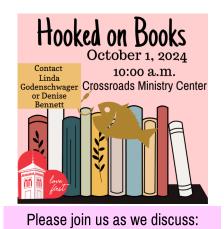


Earlier this year, we provided funds to assist Jane and her staff with purchasing a new motorcycle. Their old motorcycle was needing weekly repair and needed replaced. The generosity of this church made it possible to buy a new motorcycle. Motorcycles are a primary means of transportation, especially during the rainy season. Recently, a motorcycle caravan transported desks for the newly complete Mfuta School.

And earlier this year, we raised funds to help complete the construction of the Mfuta School. The village of Mfuta did not have a school, and the children of Mfuta could not read or write. Our generosity helped complete the doors, windows and roof of the school. Imagine the hope the construction of the school will bring to Mfuta. A good education will Bless them with a more hopeful future.



Be sure to be in worship Sunday, October 13 to hear more from Jane and her work!



"The Noticer "by Andy Andrews!





A note from the Business Office

We have all been experiencing and witnessing the effects of this recent drought. We have seen the ground become hard and areas begin to split from the lack of moisture. While we have had bits of small relief, we continue to see the grass turn brown and leaves falling from the trees before the normal time. We have also been witnessing a financial drought within our church. You may have noticed in the bulletin that most weeks we are not meeting our budgeted offering giving. Our general fund keeps the lights, water, gas, and other utilities running, provides coffee and other items for the Fellowship Hour, and other essential day to day operations functioning within our church. Your church appreciates the contributions you give to the general fund and hope you give when your heart leads you to do so. We pray for rain to come to break this drought both literally and metaphorically.

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

- · On-line giving on our website, www.love-first.org
- · E-Offering (ACH) 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 Michael 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, and we also have
our Giving QR code!

















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 us to see how missionaries share God's love in partnership with communities around the world.



--Featuring--

Patrick Abro

Health Operations Manager with the Burundi Annual
Conference
Burundi

Francine Ilunga Mpanga Mufuk

Young Girls' Ministry Coordinator with the United Methodist Church Côte d'Ivoire

Duasala Danjuma

Human Rights Research Officer with Justa Paz-Center of Study and Conflict - Kenya

Please register at: https:// umcmission.org/sim-2/



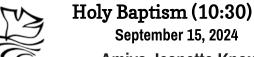
We express our sincere sympathy to the families of those who have lost loved ones:

> **Sherry Beery** Jeannette Scholl **Pete Vandervoort** Elece Ash

We are no longer collecting plastic lids/ caps for the Boy Scouts.

Trinity Circle will meet on October 9 at Noon, in Room 22, making Thanksgiving cards! Please join us!

Elizabeth Circle met on September 18th, and they had an excellent speaker from Big Brothers/Big Sisters! They will meet on October 17, 2024, at 9:30 a.m., in Room 22. Their speaker will be Aaron Roberts from Maywood Mission, who will speak on their mission for children and adults. Please join us!



Amiya Jeanette Knox Reaffirmation of Baptism - Avalyn Nevaeh Knox

Parents are Jessica Slater and Lance Knox Grandmother is Carolyn Greene

Please join us for a Birthday
Open House

Mary Widener!



October

11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. At Crossroads Ministry Center,

2095 W. Fair Ave.

Welcome to the Trustees' Corner

Here is the latest update on the renovations. AEP was finally able to install the new transformer. With that being said, the electricians were able to start working on getting the church off the old electric onto the new. The church on the new electric is a sigh of relief considering the condition of the old electric. What's left, you ask? The electrical needs to be completed, a smidge of plumbing left to do, install the last of the flooring, some work in the kitchen, finishing out of a few spaces and the punch list. This has been a long road with some hiccups along the way. There still isn't an exact completion date, but we can start to see it on the horizon. 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





Youth News

Classes at Church:

6th, 13th, 20th, 27th: Room 26 upstairs, 9am 6th -12th grade, 10:30am 6th-12th grade. On the 6th at 10:30 will be a high school only class in the chapel upstairs.

Confirmation Class at Church:

13th, 20th, 27th: Chapel upstairs, 10:30am

Give Back Days:

13th: Help at Messy Church, 3pm-5:30pm at Crossroads.

26th: Help at the Halloween Carnival.

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

13th: 5pm-7pm youth night

20th: 5pm-7pm Meet at Crossroads, we go visit the Rock House 39 in Lancaster.

No youth night on the 6th because of the Fair and not on the 27th for Halloween Carnival weekend.

Driver's License:

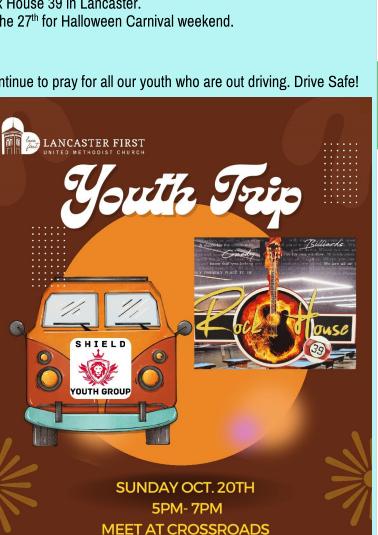
No one got their driver's license in September. Please continue to pray for all our youth who are out driving. Drive Safe!

Attention Parents or Guardians:

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/vouth) or printed copies on the wall in the parlor and at Crossroads front entrance. There are instructions on how to join our app as well.

Please fill out an EPC form for your youth so I can update them. The papers are in the parlor on the information wall, and you can turn them in at the welcome desk.

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



We will hang out at Rock House 39 for an hour and check out the games they have.

SHIELD

Serving Him In Every Little Deed

Come Be Seen, Heard, And

Supported In Your Faith!

UPCOMING DATES:

Wednesdays: Powered up Faith - Crossroads, 6:30-7:30pm

Hooked on Books October 1: October 5: Men's Breakfast

October 8: College Care Items Due Oct.13, 20, 27: Babysitter Training

October 13: Messy Church

October 23: Clergy Training event at Crossroads

October 26: Halloween Carnival

October 27: Mary Widener Open House-Crossroads October 31: Trick-or-Treat at Main Church-Please join us!

It's easier than ever before to find out, and see, all the great things happening at Lancaster First. In addition to our Facebook page, we have a Twitter account as well as an Instagram account. Not only will you be kept up-to-date with our ministries, but we'll include devotions.

thoughts for the day, pictures, music, and a few surprises along the way. Follow us at: Facebook: Lancaster First United Methodist Church: Twitter: LoveFirstUMC; Instagram: Lancasterfirstumchurch





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

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. Kathleen Kisner Telephone - 740-653-3330 Email – receptionist@love-first.org Website - www.love-first.org

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