



London, Ohio Est. 1813

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE TOWER CALL April/May 2026

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TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026

4:00-7:00pm DRIVE-THRU

**Spring Baked Steak or
Pork Tenderloin Dinner
69th Semi Annual Event**

\$15

Baked steak or pork tenderloin, real mashed potatoes,
homemade brown gravy, seasoned green beans,
cole slaw, dessert with ice cream, roll and beverage.

**CASH OR CHECK ONLY
NO CREDIT OR DEBIT CARDS**

First United Methodist Church of London

52 N. Main Street

London, Ohio

www.londonfumc.org

740-852-0462



London, Ohio Est. 1813

**FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

DOWNLOAD OUR APP!

www.londonfumc.org

There is an instructional
video on the website for
online giving -

www.londonfumc.org

Our directory is online for
members. Access it from
our website—contact Gail
for the password.

gail@londonfumc.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!



The Pastor's View

Reverend Dave Leckrone

Senior Pastor

As we continue to celebrate Easter, I'd like to copy for you the message from our district superintendent Jim Wilson from the districts April newsletter.

"Help me understand why a dead man needs to pay taxes. No, I changed my mind. Don't try to explain it to me because I will never agree with anyone's logic or answers. I filed my deceased father's taxes last week and appreciated the help I received to do that legal requirement. But then it happened. It was time to close the family post office box.

Box 163 has always been our address. As a little boy I would go uptown and get the mail out of Box 163. I have kept it open for 7 months after dad's death. Why? Because I wanted to and it was part of my grief journey. I travelled about 150 miles round trip almost every week to get dad's mail in the last few years, even after his death. But it was time to close Box 163.

But wait. A dead man needs to show his ID to have his mail forwarded, even though there is no mail. Upon request for his ID I said, "He's dead." The postmaster was so nice and caring but had no choice. The government requires the ID to be scanned to forward the mail. Fortunately, I still had dad's driver's license, and all is well. The postmaster kindly said, "Your dad was a good man." With tears in my eyes I said, "Yes he was."

Every good dead man needs someone to wrap it up upon death. It's all finished now and there is hardly a trace of a man who touched many lives except in the hearts and memories of those who knew him. It reminds me of another dead man who died many years ago.

A few women tried to wrap things up at the graveyard on the third day. They were not trying to file Jesus' taxes or close His mailbox. They just wanted to tend to His corpse. In hoping to wrap things up they discovered everything unwrapped and missing. Instead of the postmaster saying, "He was a good man" an angel said, "He has risen." (Matthew 28:6)

Except for the rags in the tomb there was not a trace of the man around. Yes, I know he appeared several times in post-resurrection narratives. But you know as well as I know there is not much left of Jesus today except what remains in the lives of those who know Him and love Him. That would be you and me.

As we approach this Easter once again let our celebrations remind us that the dead still live. As with Adam we all sin and die. In Christ we all are forgiven and made to live again. The tax has been paid. No ID is required. Just let a little resurrected Jesus shine thru how you live your life."

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Dave". The word "Pastor" is written in a simple, slightly slanted font, and "Dave" is written in a more cursive, flowing script.

Pastor Dave



Youth Adventures:

The youth group had a phenomenal time snowtubing! It was a great day for it and even began to snow towards the end of the session.

On the first night where it was sunny during group, we went to the park and took a walk!

The youth group hosted the Easter Sunrise service, will be scheduling a service day, and an end of the year party in May.

*Thank you for pouring into and praying over the students.
Kate*





Gift cards can be purchased in increments of \$25, \$50, or \$100



Gift cards will be delivered on Sunday, May 3rd!

TEXAS ROADHOUSE GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER

Purchase a gift card and support Night to Shine!

Great gifts for:

- Mother's Day
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Father's Day
- Summer festivities
- Cash, check, or Venmo accepted!

GIFT CARDS WILL BE SOLD ON SUNDAY, APRIL 12TH, 19TH, AND 26TH IN THE RUDORAH PARLOR BEFORE & AFTER CHURCH

You can also contact Melinda at kidshopeusa@londonfumc.org to purchase gift cards!



8am ~ We meet in the Rudorah Welcome Parlor. Coffee & Muffins Provided
Open to all men—invite friends and family to this informal discussion and time of fellowship
It's a good way to learn

Identity in Christ - Saturday, April 11

Our identity in Christ shapes how we view ourselves and our purpose. The Bible teaches that we are loved, accepted, and valued by God. Discussing identity in Christ can help us unpack the lies we often believe about ourselves and replace them with biblical truth. This topic fosters conversations about self-worth, belonging, and the freedom that comes from being rooted in Christ. It emphasizes the importance of understanding our identity as a foundational aspect of our faith journey.

End Times and Hope - Saturday, April 25

The topic of the end times often stirs curiosity and concern among believers. The Bible offers hope amid uncertainty, reminding us of God's ultimate plan for humanity. Discussing the end times encourages exploration of prophetic scriptures and what they mean for our lives today. This topic can lead to uplifting conversations about the promise of Christ's return, the restoration of creation, and the hope we have as followers of Christ. It also emphasizes the importance of living in readiness and sharing that hope with others.

Guarding Your Thoughts - Saturday, May 9

Today we will talk about bible verses about guarding your thoughts. Our minds shape how we live, how we love, and how we follow Jesus. When we guard our thoughts, we choose what we let in and what we let go. That helps us walk closer to God. As we read these scriptures, let us open our hearts and listen gently. We will find help, hope, and practical steps in God's words. Let us hold each verse softly, think about it, and ask God to work in our minds. Together we will learn to think on things that are true, pure, and lovely. Let us pray for wisdom and clarity. These bible verses about guarding your thoughts are meant to guide us, encourage us, and give us tools to renew our minds. We will not be perfect, but we will be students of God's truth. Let us walk this journey together, choosing right thoughts, resisting wrong ones, and filling our minds with God's light.

God's Creative Limits - Saturday, May 23

When we read Bible verses about God's boundaries that describe creation, we see a God who sets edges and order with intention. As a community, we learn that the world's limits — like shorelines, seasons, and the fixed paths of day and night — are signs of care. These boundaries help life flourish. They show that chaos is held in check and that God's wisdom shaped a world that can sustain us. As we read, we can feel comforted: God is not absent in the details; He set boundaries so life could be predictable, safe, and beautiful. When storms toss the seas, the boundaries remind us that even the wild has limits, and God's design keeps things in balance. We should take these verses into our hearts and remember that the boundaries God set in nature teach us about His protecting hand. They call us to trust His order, to respect the created world, and to follow the example of living within good limits that promote life and peace.



Sunday Volunteers Needed

- ◆ Nursery—9:45-11:15am
- ◆ Children's Sunday School—9am
- ◆ Junior Church—Following Children's Sermon during Worship Service
- ◆ IGNITE! Youth Group—6pm-8pm

Our church has a Safe Sanctuary Policy designed to protect our children and those who are caring for them. There must be two adults in the room whenever children are involved. Please let Pastor Dave know if you will volunteer. Katelyn has a sign up sheet on the bulletin board outside of the Youth Room. We will run a background check on all volunteers.



Has your email address changed? Have you moved locally? Have you moved away and will no longer attend church here? Did you know you need to resign if you leave, or we can transfer your membership to a new church? Did you drop your home phone and now use a cell phone? For these and other reasons, please contact Gail



Have you ever wished you knew the Bible better?

Whether you're just beginning or looking to deepen your understanding, this class is for you. For some, it may also serve as a meaningful refresher of the longer Disciple studies offered in the past.

Disciple Fast Track is a streamlined Bible study designed for busy people. The program includes two 12-week sessions—one covering the Old Testament and the other the New Testament. Each week features manageable daily readings (3–5 chapters) and a 75-minute group session with video, discussion, and study materials.

Part 1 begins June 1 at 6:30 p.m. and runs for 12 weeks.

The study guide costs \$16.99. Please sign up with Gail Baker by May 18 so materials can be ordered. Contact: gail@londonfumc.org, 740-852-0462



A big thank-you goes out to all who contributed to the success of our Christmas gift card distribution this past season. We got many donations from individuals, churches, and organizations that helped in the purchase of the cards and pies. The apple pies we bought from Kroger were a bonus for our families in need. In total, we handed out 337 either Walmart or Kroger gift cards in \$30, \$40, and \$50 denominations depending on family size. This compares to 277 families who were helped with their Christmas meals in December 2024. (Note—Our church made a contribution).

We believe that the year over year increase may have been tied to higher pantry usage during our registration window in November when there was uncertainty around the continuation of SNAP benefits. With help from the community, we were able to make so many families' Christmas dinners just a little more special and maybe even a little less stressful.

Ways to Support the Food Pantry **Financially:** Periodically, but hopefully at least once a year take up a free-will monetary collection to help subsidize the pantry's rent and utilities.

Ways to Support the Food Pantry **Food Drives** Coordinate food drives within your church. We can always utilize any non-perishable canned and boxed foods collected. Our current needs: tuna, crackers (saltines/Ritz, e.g.) and bagged/boxed breakfast cereal.

Ways to Support the Food Pantry **Volunteer** We continue to need 1-2 volunteers during our distribution days from 8:45 am to 12:00 pm every Wednesday and Saturday. Churches that establish sign-up sheets during their assigned month find this the easiest way to fulfill this commitment.

Contact Us Food and financial support can be dropped off at 125 S. Oak St. in London during distribution hours: 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. every Wednesday and Saturday or by special arrangement.

For more information contact Jim Pozy, Operations Manager, at 614-315-3165 or you may call the pantry directly during distribution hours at 740-852-5822.

Food and financial support can be dropped off at 125 S. Oak St. in London during distribution hours: 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. every Wednesday and Saturday or by special arrangement.

For more information contact Jim Pozy, Operations Manager, at 614-315-3165 or you may call the pantry directly during distribution hours at 740-852-5822.

LONDON FUMC—MAY IS OUR MONTH TO VOLUNTEER AT THE FOOD PANTRY.

Can you help out one day or more? 8:45 am to 12:00 pm every Wednesday and Saturday in May

CONTINUAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Evone Banks, Bobby Dorn, Gladys Griffith, Joyce Hildebrand, Sue Minner, Sally Sisterhen

CURRENT PRAYER REQUESTS

Avalee Adams, Carol Albright, Rachael Allen, Harriet Baker, Laura Beyer, Ernie Boyd, Joe Brackett, Kim Braddock, Jayden Clark, Becky Cress, Toni Daniels, Paul Daugherty, Michelle Decoe, Diana, Woody Draper, Allison Engle Porter, Linda Finney, Phyllis Follrod, Tylor Freeman, Carole Gordon, Jane Hackworth, John Harbage, Hope Hecht, Dee Heilman, Linda Holloway, Gary and Cindy Hoback, Roger Horsely, Gary Hunter, Dan Jones, Jeannie Justice, Ray Justice, Cody Leavens, Cris Martinez, Jerod McKenzie, Chuck Miller, Aiden Norton, Sue Osborn, Pauline Persing, Richard Peterson, Julianne Phillips, Alicia Pullin, Michele Ramsey, Marco Ranalli, Howard & Lillie Reynolds, Steve Richmond, Frank Salyers, Laura Schoeller, Miles Schrock, Jill Wyatt Setty, Nancy Snyder, Robert Stallings, David Stewart, Rob Suter, Alta Vance, Hayden Weese, Gretchen Wingert, Gordon Wyllie, Avalene Wyllie, Sandy Young, Heather Zollman
The family of Phyllis Miller

SERVING ON ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY

Lt. Colonel John Crisp ~ Navy Lt Commander Tom Crisp
2nd Lt Cheney Gross ~ 2nd Lt Luke Peart ~ Sgt First Class Mathew Rowley
Caiden Craig—Private First Class ~ Garrett Weldon, Officer’s Training School
All troops deployed for the war on Iran

Please pray for the family and friends of those who have given their lives for our nation.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2026 USHER SCHEDULE**

| JANUARY | MAY | SEPTEMBER |
|---|---|--|
| John Foote, Chair Debra Hay Cathie Littleton Dan Jones | Chair David Emrick Maryann Emrick | Melinda Scott, Chair Ric Bell |
| FEBRUARY | JUNE | OCTOBER |
| David Ladd, Chair John Foote Felica Isaacs | Matt McCann, Chair Karen Summers Melinda Scott | Bill Benedum, Chair Tom Minner Debra Hay |
| MARCH | JULY | NOVEMBER |
| Chair Ric Bell Mike Jenkins Christa Jenkins | Felica Isaacs, Chair Tara Shoemaker Cathie Littleton | Joe Brackett, Chair David Emrick Maryann Emrick |
| APRIL | AUGUST | DECEMBER |
| Bill Benedum, Chair Tom Minner | David Ladd, Chair Joe Brackett Bob Minner Tara Shoemaker | Matt McCann, Chair Karen Summers Mike Jenkins Christa Jenkins |

It is that time of year to set the 2026 Usher Schedule for our Church. To volunteer, please contact:
Karen Summers - meemeesummers@yahoo.com
Regina Bogenrife - timandginabogenrife@yahoo.com

2026 Liturgist Schedule*

| | |
|------------------|--|
| JANUARY | Henry Comer |
| FEBRUARY | Sue Mosier Vinny Cover Nixon Gross Reagan Gross |
| MARCH | Ann Pickens |
| APRIL | Tony Reeder |
| MAY | Mikki Budd |
| JUNE | Bob Minner |
| JULY | David Emrick |
| AUGUST | Abby Kraus Ann Pickens Kate Hanna |
| SEPTEMBER | Sarah Clawson Noah Clawson |
| OCTOBER | Melinda Scott |
| NOVEMBER | Don Weldon |
| DECEMBER | Lorraine Terry |

**Please notify Gail Baker if you are not available to serve during these months—this was the order from 2025.*

Madison County Public Transportation Provider: Fayette Madison Transit



SERVICE HOURS AND FARES WILL BE CHANGING

| | |
|--|--|
| HOURS OF OPERATION: | STARTING JAN 1, 2026 |
| Monday through Friday: 7am-10am and 2pm-5pm | NEW FARES: |
| MISSION To serve the people in our service area by planning, providing, and maintaining a safe, efficient, reliable, and accessible transportation system. | \$2.00 one way within the city of London \$2.50 one way outside London but within Madison County. \$5.00 one way to Fayette County Out of county trips are \$3.00 per mile |
| VEHICLES All vehicles are accessible to accommodate mobility devices. | RESERVATIONS Advanced reservation is requested. Same Day and advanced reservations are scheduled as availability allows. To schedule a ride on our Transit, call 740-335-9628. |




www.londonfumc.org/church-directory

Contact Gail in the church office for the password. This is a good way to get addresses for mailing cards, or calling other members.



London First United Methodist Church App - Available in App Stores

Visit our website to easily download! www.londonfumc.org



Enjoy Sunday Brunch at The Butcher Block Restaurant and take your church bulletin with you! The Butcher Block is graciously giving back to our church! 10% of your Brunch guest check comes back to our church when you present your church bulletin to your server. Lots of great choices!!!

Thank you



The family of Claudia Justice would like to say thank you for the love, prayers and support given us. Your thoughtfulness means so much and is deeply appreciated. It is wonderful to know how much she was loved.

Note: Through the generosity of friends and family, new chairs were purchased in Claudia's memory for the new tables donated by Matt McCann for the Rudorah Welcome Parlor.

2026



| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Paul & Kirsten Gross | 4-Apr |
| Tony & Jill Jones | 4-Apr |
| Tony & Kim Reeder | 5-Apr |
| Joe & Christi Payton | 14-Apr |
| | |
| David & Christine Stewart | 2-May |
| Doug & Pam Dailey | 3-May |
| Scott & Keitha Stamper | 4-May |
| Rick & Sheryl Dickerson | 7-May |
| Travis & Candace Potts | 16-May |
| Dustin & Dawn Dickerson | 21-May |
| John & Glo Foote | 23-May |
| Robin & Laura Schoeller | 23-May |
| Dave & Jenn Heuser | 28-May |



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|-----------------------|--------|
| Jamie Davis | 15-Apr |
| Katherine Benedum | 16-Apr |
| Valerie Cox | 16-Apr |
| Felica Isaacs | 16-Apr |
| Adrian Terry | 16-Apr |
| Paula Adams | 17-Apr |
| Natalie Hunter | 17-Apr |
| Allen Cooley | 18-Apr |
| Nixon Gross | 18-Apr |
| Travis Potts | 18-Apr |
| Chloe King | 20-Apr |
| Lynn Dillion-Gyurcsik | 21-Apr |
| Jeff Roggenbeck | 21-Apr |
| Kenneth Garverick | 23-Apr |
| Janet Jackman | 24-Apr |
| Stephen Pronai | 25-Apr |
| Will Wilson | 25-Apr |
| Dylan Myers | 28-Apr |
| Dottie McCann | 30-Apr |



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|--------------------------|--------|
| Taylor Krauss | 4-Apr |
| Matthew Krauss | 4-Apr |
| Tadd Bailey | 5-Apr |
| Steve Hume | 5-Apr |
| Dylan Stewart | 5-Apr |
| Amy Minner | 8-Apr |
| Tom Straley | 8-Apr |
| Benny McClelland | 10-Apr |
| Twila Boyd | 12-Apr |
| Lillian Dillion-Gyurcsik | 13-Apr |
| Emily Minner | 14-Apr |
| Jessica Cooper | 15-Apr |



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|------------------|-------|
| Aaron Dunham | 1-May |
| Bonnie Chatfield | 2-May |
| Ethan Minner | 2-May |
| Marie Brunner | 4-May |
| Nell Oyer | 4-May |
| Kim Reeder | 4-May |
| Heather Price | 5-May |
| Ashleigh Boyd | 6-May |
| Nolan Cligrow | 6-May |



| | | | |
|----------------------|--------|------------------|--------|
| Pete Mosier | 8-May | Sterling Higgins | 26-May |
| Abby Reynolds | 10-May | Nathan Benedum | 27-May |
| Diane Slagle | 10-May | Jeanette Pass | 27-May |
| Sue Van Woerkom | 10-May | Lynn Daily | 28-May |
| Cindy Gross | 11-May | Mary Snell | 28-May |
| Connie Nance | 11-May | Tony Reeder | 31-May |
| Carrie Pronai | 11-May | | |
| Laith Terry | 11-May | | |
| Myron Warner | 11-May | | |
| Abby Dunham | 12-May | | |
| Grant Engle | 12-May | | |
| Cearah Miller | 12-May | | |
| Linn Van Woerkom | 12-May | | |
| Kris Craig | 13-May | | |
| Joey Roggenbeck | 13-May | | |
| Patrick Straley | 13-May | | |
| Sue McMahan | 14-May | | |
| Daniel Rumpz | 14-May | | |
| Noah Clawson | 17-May | | |
| Christa Jenkins | 17-May | | |
| Dan Jones | 18-May | | |
| Chelsee Pickens | 18-May | | |
| Ted Basinger | 19-May | | |
| Cathy Thum | 20-May | | |
| Ava Dillion-Gyurcsik | 21-May | | |
| Ashley Nolan | 21-May | | |
| Sarah Clawson | 22-May | | |
| Ryne Davis | 22-May | | |
| Ann Edwards | 22-May | | |
| Hannah Minner | 22-May | | |
| Molly Risner | 22-May | | |
| Corbin Yoder | 23-May | | |
| Elizabeth Werley | 25-May | | |



Ballroom Dance Classes at FUMC!!!

Mark Cohen, the instructor

Time2Dance with Mark was founded by Mark Cohen, a seasoned ballroom dance instructor with nearly 40 years of teaching experience. Mark's love for Ballroom dance began in the mid 80's, and he has since honed his skills to become a professional instructor in Columbus, Ohio. His commitment to excellence and passion for teaching shine through in every lesson he delivers. Mark's warm and friendly demeanor creates a comfortable learning environment for dancers of all levels, making Time2Dance with Mark the perfect place to start or continue your dance journey.

Group Dance Classes—Mondays at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall

Join our Group Dance Classes to learn new styles and meet new people in a fun and social environment. No partner required! \$25.00/person/month

Private Dance Lessons by appointment

Our Private Dance Lessons are personalized to your skill level and goals, providing one-on-one attention to help you improve your dance technique and confidence.

Staff

Resident Bishop.....Bishop Hee-Soo Jung
Olentangy River District Superintendent.....Dr James C. Wilson II
Senior Pastor.....Rev. Dave Leckrone
Executive Assistant, Tower Call Editor.....Gail A. Baker
Director of Youth Ministries.....Katelyn Hanna
Director of Music/Organist.....Jeff McConaughy
Financial Manager.....Tara Shoemaker
Custodian..... Sandy Fisher
Webmaster.....Brian Benedum

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