



# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## THE TOWER CALL August/September 2025

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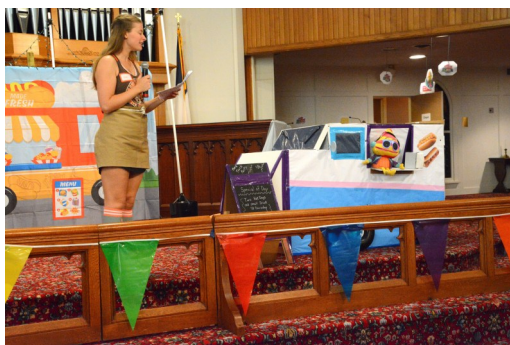
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for the password.  
[gail@londonfumc.org](mailto:gail@londonfumc.org)



With over 50 children registered, this year's VBS was a huge success! Each activity was teaching the children about the love of God for each of us in such a fun way! (more pics pg. 5)





## The Pastor's View

Reverend Dave Leckrone

Senior Pastor

Hi, everyone.

I hope you enjoy the pictures of Vacation Bible School that are within these pages. We had a great week, with 43 kids, nearly doubling last year's attendance. Maybe next year we can double again!

I want to express my thanks to all who volunteered over the course of that week. We had a great group of people leading the various sections, walking with the groups, monitoring the hallways. Everyone was smiling and enjoying themselves, and that makes a real impression on the kids. I thought it was a wonderful group of volunteer staff. Thanks to all who helped to make VBS week such a positive event.

Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the Kingdom of God.

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Dave*

Pastor Dave

Prior to VBS, several children volunteered to decorate one of the food truck props. On the last night, The Butcher Block had a real food truck and served all of the kids!







### *Youth Adventures:*

The youth group had an excellent mission trip to Nashville, TN. Three students attended along with three chaperones. We were able to serve a nonprofit called East Nashville Hope Exchange (ENHE) which focuses on helping children with their literacy.

This summer, ENHE had 103 kids from grades Pre-K through 5th. Our students helped the staff clean up after the kids and then assisted the teachers throughout their day. From 11:30 AM-1:00 PM each day, our students lead “reading buddies” which is time set aside for 1:1 reading and literacy games. During our lunch breaks, our group would have devotional time where we were able to refocus on our theme “EQUIP,” as problem solving acronym that is directly applied to Christian living. In the afternoons, the kids would have play time outside and our students would help facilitate that.

On Tuesday evening, we had a free night to explore Nashville and our group chose to go to Centennial Park to see the Parthenon. Overall, our students grew in their self confidence and spiritual journeys.

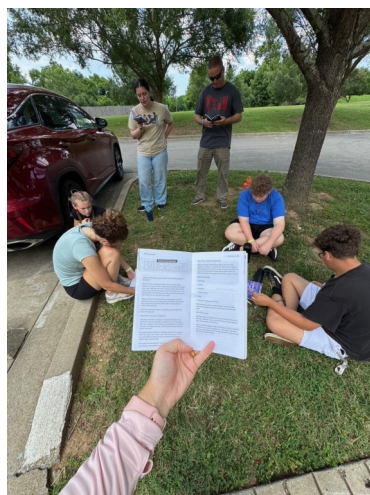
### *Looking Ahead:*

The youth group will resume its regular gathering beginning September 14, 2025.

On September 21, 2025 the youth group will head on over to the Renaissance Festival!

Thank you for your continued prayers over the youth; they matter and are effective!

~Kate



YOU'RE INVITED TO  
A CHURCH FAMILY POTLUCK  
TO BENEFIT  
NIGHT TO SHINE



SUNDAY, AUGUST 24TH

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

FRIED CHICKEN & BEVERAGES WILL BE PROVIDED

PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE!

A FREE-WILL DONATION WILL HELP SUPPORT THE  
2026 NIGHT TO SHINE EVENT!









## 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-7:30pm

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.



More than the coffee and goodies, the hour before and after the worship service is a time to fellowship with each other. The church provides the coffee (thank you Sharon Brackett!!!). We need volunteers to provide donuts, cookies, coffee cake or other baked goods. Contact Gail Baker if you will volunteer. 740-852-0462.



When a loved one passes away, it's completely normal to feel grief, no matter how recent or long ago it happened. Sometimes, it's really helpful to be with others who understand what you're going through because they've also lost someone they cared about. London First UMC has a grief group that's open to everyone in the community. It's a safe and supportive space where people can share their feelings and find comfort as they grieve, wherever they are on their journey.

Beverly Hume, a certified bereavement coach, will be leading the group. If you're wondering if this group is a good fit for you or have any other questions, feel free to reach out to her at 614-746-3962 or [revbev97@gmail.com](mailto:revbev97@gmail.com). The group meets most Wednesdays at 6:30 PM in the Rudorah Parlor.



Have you ever wondered how the beautiful flowers appear on our altar every Sunday? London First UMC has a long tradition of having fresh live flowers placed on the altar for worship. Fresh flowers are symbols of the resurrection and new life promised through Jesus Christ and they add much to a meaningful worship experience. Please consider taking part in worship preparation by sponsoring the flowers.

Please check with Gail Baker in the church office to reserve a date to provide the altar flowers. You are responsible for ordering the flowers from London Florist, or you may pick flowers up and bring them to the church on Sunday morning by 9:30am.



Tuna and boxed cereal are needed right now. Of course cash donations buy a lot more than dollars spent retail. But either way, we're grateful for the help.



Each day at the **H.E.L.P. House** is a little different from the next, but there are commonalities in what needs to be accomplished to serve our neighbors in need. We love our regular volunteers, but we always welcome those who can only volunteer occasionally.

There is a great description of the daily volunteer activities on their website:

**[helphousecommunityoutreach.org/Volunteer-Schedule.htm](http://helphousecommunityoutreach.org/Volunteer-Schedule.htm)**

**CONTINUAL PRAYER REQUESTS**

Evone Banks, Gladys Griffith, Joyce Hildebrand, Phyllis Miller, Sue Minner, Bea Riegel,  
Dave & Marty Shaw, Sally Sisterhen, Doris Spahn

**CURRENT PRAYER REQUESTS**

Avalee Adams, Carol Albright, Rachael Allen, Harriet Baker, Laura Beyer, Buzzy (Victoria) Biddinger,  
Kim Braddock, Jayden Clark, Becky Cress, Toni Daniels, Emily Davis, Bobby Dorn, Woody Draper,  
Allison Engle, Linda Finney, Phyllis Follrod, John Foote, Sr., Tylor Freeman, Nancy Giles, Carole Gordon,  
Jane Hackworth, John Harbage, TJ Franklin, Dee Heilman, Linda Holloway, Gary and Cindy Hoback,  
Roger Horsely, Gary Hunter, Claudia Justice, Ray Justice, Cody Leavens, Patrick Madden, Jessica Martin,  
Jerod McKenzie, Chuck Miller, Aiden Norton, Sue Osborn, Pauline Persing, Dylan Lee Prophater,  
Jeff Quatkemeyer, Michele Ramsey, Marco Ranalli, Steve Richmond, Miles Schrock, Diane Self,  
Jill Wyatt Setty, Julia Smith, Robert Stallings, David Stewart, Rob Suter, Diana Vick, Hayden Weese,  
Gretchen Wingert, Sandy Young, Heather Zollman

**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

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

**Sisters in the Lord**

Praying Women Warriors of Praise and Worship, Sister to Sister, Heart to Heart, Walking BOLDLY with the LORD! Faith, Fellowship, & Fun. Celebrating GOD's Blessings and the blessings of being a Woman of God and letting Our Lights Shine for GOD! We are Sisters in the LORD encouraging and inspiring one another at our Monthly gatherings! "Fuel for the fire!" Sharing the blessings of GOD! Walking Boldly where He leads! Sisters On One Accord with the LORD! On the 2nd Saturday of each month from 1-3pm the Sisters In The Lord (a gathering of Christian women of all denominations) meets at different locations in London. Locations will be announced when the schedule is set. Lunch is provided, fun door prizes, and a speaker, but most important is Praise and Worship of our Lord and King.

If you have questions about this group, see Mikki Budd. All women of the church are welcome to attend. No reservation required.

**The first Saturday of each month, everyone is encouraged to meet at the flag pole at the Madison County Courthouse at noon to PRAY for our Community.**



Please add the following 2025 dates to your calendar for the Men's Bible Study. The group meets in the Rudorah Welcome Parlor at 7am. All are welcome to join at any time! Dates for 2025:

8/9, 8,23, 9/6, 9/20, 10/4, 10/18, 11/1, 11/15, 11/29, 12/13,  
12/27



## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2025 USHER SCHEDULE

**JANUARY**

John Foote, Chair  
Debra Hay  
Cathie Littleton  
Dan Jones

**MAY**

Chair  
David Emrick  
Maryann Emrick

**SEPTEMBER**

Melinda Scott, Chair  
Ric Bell

**FEBRUARY**

David Ladd, Chair  
John Foote  
Felicia Isaacs

**JUNE**

Matt McCann, Chair  
Karen Summers  
Melinda Scott

**OCTOBER**

Bill Benedum, Chair  
Tom Minner  
Debra Hay

**MARCH**

Ric Bell, Chair

**JULY**

Felicia Isaacs, Chair  
Tara Shoemaker  
Cathie Littleton

**NOVEMBER**

Joe Brackett, Chair  
David Emrick  
Maryann Emrick

**APRIL**

Bill Benedum, Chair  
Tom Minner

**AUGUST**

David Ladd, Chair  
Joe Brackett  
Bob Minner  
Tara Shoemaker

**DECEMBER**

Matt McCann, Chair  
Karen Summers

It is that time of year to set the 2025 Usher Schedule for our Church. We have many usher positions that need filled. Anyone who is interested, please contact:

Karen Summers - [meemesummers@yahoo.com](mailto:meemesummers@yahoo.com)

Regina Bogenrife - [timandginabogenrife@yahoo.com](mailto:timandginabogenrife@yahoo.com)

We would like to thank everyone for their willingness to usher for our church.



## HELP NEEDED

LifeCare Alliance Meals-on-Wheels is seeking drivers to deliver meals in London, West Jefferson and/or Mt. Sterling. They are also seeking clients who may be in need of these services. Drivers are committed to keeping an eye out for the safety of clients. Meals-on-Wheels clients are even eligible for our senior pet care services, providing food and veterinary care for pets. A free box fan is available each summer to help clients "beat the heat." Clients receive a holiday gift for Christmas and special holiday meals throughout the year.

If interested, contact Steve Craig, 740-506-1002, or [Lifecarealliance.org](http://Lifecarealliance.org)



Kirsten Downing	1-Aug	Jane Roberts	23-Aug	Dave Ladd	9-Sep
Bradley Salyer	1-Aug	Rachel Stromquist	23-Aug	Ruth Peart	9-Sep
Jerry Reynolds	2-Aug	Matthew Lattimer	24-Aug	Becky Carson	10-Sep
Dana Engle	3-Aug	Melinda McKenzie	24-Aug	Jenn Heuser	10-Sep
Jenny Hildebrand	3-Aug	Landon McKenzie	24-Aug	Stefanie Cunningham	11-Sep
Kit Carson	4-Aug	Sean Pickens	24-Aug	Scott Higgins	12-Sep
Stacey McKenzie	5-Aug	Eric Ater	25-Aug	Conie Stephenson	12-Sep
Debby Jones	6-Aug	Jordan Benedum	25-Aug	Branson Cooper	13-Sep
Sammi Basinger	7-Aug	Phil Isaacs	25-Aug	Mark Gross	14-Sep
Sydney Basinger	8-Aug	Amaryllis Mersey	26-Aug	Christina Krugh	14-Sep
Casey Bell	9-Aug	Ann Pickens	26-Aug	Jill Leckrone	14-Sep
Eve Patterson	9-Aug	Lilly Studebaker	26-Aug	Lindsay Huffer	15-Sep
Mackenzie Long	10-Aug	Sara Studebaker	26-Aug	Allen Foucht	16-Sep
Sue Mosier	10-Aug	Grace Feyh	27-Aug	Brienna Weldon	16-Sep
Dorene Shaw	10-Aug	Joe Mosier	27-Aug	Angela Yoder	16-Sep
Diana Vick	10-Aug	Taylor Boyd	28-Aug	Shawn Patterson	17-Sep
Noah Basinger	11-Aug	Tom Cox	28-Aug	Liz Pronai	17-Sep
Rylee Davis	11-Aug	Austin Crumley	30-Aug	Rick Dickerson	18-Sep
Sullivan Minner	11-Aug	Lee Ann Miller	31-Aug	Ron Stewart	18-Sep
Jim Weimer	11-Aug	Kim Stamper	31-Aug	John Hay	20-Sep
Jana Bell	12-Aug			Terry Nance	20-Sep
Emily Davis	12-Aug			Guy Edmunds	22-Sep
Mackenzie Grimm	12-Aug			Barb White	22-Sep
Diane Yoakum	12-Aug			Anna Bennett	23-Sep
Keitha Stamper	13-Aug	Janet Hysell	1-Sep	Thomas Rhoden	23-Sep
Ashli Jasper	14-Aug	Susanna Lauer	1-Sep	Richard Stewart	24-Sep
Timothy Dillion	15-Aug	Ron Bolen	2-Sep	Amanda Boyd	25-Sep
Nancy Rowley	15-Aug	Steven Jackson	2-Sep	Stephanie Gross	25-Sep
Denise Bloomfield	16-Aug	Dylan Krauss	2-Sep	Cheney Gross	26-Sep
Faith Downing	16-Aug	Izzy McClelland	2-Sep	Beverly Hume	26-Sep
Janna Schoeller	16-Aug	Kevin Summers	2-Sep	Timothy Leach	26-Sep
Randy Crisp	17-Aug	Laura Eldridge	3-Sep	Candace Potts	26-Sep
Doug Dailey	17-Aug	Mark Boyd	4-Sep	Kirsten Gross	27-Sep
Carolyn Gibson	17-Aug	Amanda Grimmett	4-Sep	Dan Truxall	27-Sep
Lucas Young	18-Aug	Garrett King	4-Sep	David Cover	28-Sep
Jaydon Cooper	19-Aug	Sarah Lattimer	5-Sep	Stefanie Kelley	28-Sep
Glenn Feyh	19-Aug	Christy Mabe	6-Sep	David Stewart	28-Sep
Virgil Pace	20-Aug	Logan Pickens	6-Sep	Kevin Downing	29-Sep
Susan Shryock	20-Aug	Forrest Weldon	6-Sep	Clark Engle	29-Sep
Gavin Elliott	22-Aug	Alice Green	9-Sep	Kevin Gowdy	30-Sep
Jennifer Craig	23-Aug	Geoffrey King	9-Sep		
Lukah McKenzie	23-Aug				





Charles & Sandra Minner	6-Aug
Linn & Sue Van Woerkom	8-Aug
Doug & Gaby Downing	10-Aug
Steve & Paula Adams	11-Aug
Jeff & Dawn Kepner	12-Aug
David & Shirley Mans	13-Aug
David & Maryann Emrick	14-Aug
Matthew & Amber Krauss	14-Aug
Ric & Jana Bell	15-Aug
Gary & Beth Pearman	15-Aug
Bub & Madeline Holt	16-Aug
Richard & Fonda Stewart	18-Aug
Terry & Connie Nance	19-Aug
Donald & Chantal Weldon	20-Aug
Kevin & Beth Garverick	23-Aug
Mark & Cindy Gross	26-Aug
Aaron & Sarah Clawson	27-Aug
Larry & Karen Peters	27-Aug



James & Valerie Peart	5-Sep
Will & Susan Wilson	8-Sep
Joe & Jennifer Smith	13-Sep
Nancy & Harold Weeks	15-Sep
Jack & Nancy Rowley	21-Sep
Harlan & Angela Yoder	23-Sep
Dana & Cheryl Engle	29-Sep



On Sunday, November 2, 2025, we will rededicate our church. A church rededication is a ceremony where a church building is reconsecrated or blessed after a restoration. Rededication signifies a renewed commitment to God and His work, both for the church building and for the individuals within the congregation. Our District Superintendent, Dr James C. Wilson II, will preach.

Here's a little excerpt from a history of churches in Madison County: The Methodist Episcopal church of London was established shortly after the town was laid out. in either 1813 or 1814. The society worshipped in private residences, and belonged to a large circuit, which in 1819 had twenty-four preaching places. Its first church was erected on a lot at the corner of Walnut and Fifth streets, purchased from Patrick McLeue for eleven dollars. Its officials were William Erwin, Jonathan Min- shall, John McDonald, William Warner, Sr., William G. Pritchard, Robert Warner, David Watson, James Greenley and Amos G. Thompson. This was a log meeting-house with puncheon floors and seats of split rails and was the first church structure in London. For twenty years this humble building served the congregation. Then two lots were secured on the southwest corner of Second and Oak streets, where they built a new church about the year 1840 — a framed structure some sixty feet square, with a gallery and two upstairs classrooms. A small brick parsonage stood on the west side of the church. The congregation worshipped there another twenty years, when this building was removed to make way for a brick building, forty feet wide, In the fall of 1890, Rev. W. L. Slutz became pastor, coming from Bigelow, Portsmouth, and staying five years, during which time the old church and parsonage were sold, and the present edifice erected, costing about forty-five thousand dollars. It was dedicated on November 18, 1894. by Bishop Joyce.



[www.londonfumc.org/church-directory](http://www.londonfumc.org/church-directory)

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

### 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 McConnaughey  
Financial Manager.....Tara Shoemaker  
Custodian..... Sandy Fisher  
Webmaster.....Brian Benedum



### **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LONDON**

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Email: [fumc52@londonfumc.org](mailto:fumc52@londonfumc.org)

### **For Pastoral Needs:**

Pastor Dave Leckrone:

Office Phone (740)852-0462

[dleckrone@londonfumc.org](mailto:dleckrone@londonfumc.org)