



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE TOWER CALL December 2025 January 2026

Inside this issue:		<h2>An Important Message From Finance Chair Steve Adams</h2> <p>I am here to update our congregation on our general funds as chairperson of the finance committee. As you know, we just celebrated the major repairs and renovations to our building that has taken place. Our congregation generously donated almost \$1,000,000 to do major repairs on the masonry, and restore our beautiful stained glass windows! This project was completed without borrowing any funds! This speaks volumes about our congregation and its support of London First.</p> <p>As anticipated, during the fund raising efforts for the capital campaign, general funds offerings were down slightly and year to date, we have suffered a loss of over \$21,000 through the end of October, however, we have been able to meet all of our obligations due to diligent and frugal spending.</p> <p>To explain general funds are financed only from weekly offerings . The baked steak dinner income goes to the trustees account to keep our beautiful church in top shape. Expenses paid through general funds consists of salaries which make up almost 66% of income, apportionments which make up 13%, utilities for heat, air conditioning, telephones, and water of 12%. Other items paid include office supplies, copier lease, postage, advertising, cleaning supplies, and music licenses which makes up the remaining 9% of our total budget. I</p>
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 video on the website for
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 Our directory is online for
 members. Access it from
 our website—contact Gail
 for the password.
gail@londonfumc.org

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The Pastor's View

Reverend Dave Leckrone

Senior Pastor

Have you ever started a conversation by saying "to state the obvious?" It's an announcement that what follows is something so basic and clear that it really doesn't need to be said at all.

Well, let me state the obvious: without Jesus of Nazareth there would be no Christmas. This time of year we see signs that tell us Jesus is the reason for the season. That should be the most obvious thing in the world to anyone-but it isn't. You and I know the truth of it: We celebrate Christmas because it marks God sending his only begotten son into the world, to save us from sin and offer eternal life.

Our task as the church is to help people see what Christmas is all about. We do that in many ways-by the way we live, treat one another, deal with hardships. And we do it by talking about our faith, inviting people to church. But however we do it, we need to let people know the good news of Jesus Christ, who is truly the ground of our hope, and the truth that cannot be shaken. I hope that by our efforts, many more people can come to see this most obvious of truths: Jesus is the reason for the season.

On behalf of Jill, Ben and Kyra, I wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Dave". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Pastor Dave



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.



Youth Adventures:

The youth group had an excellent Trunk or Treat at the historical society. We want to thank the society for inviting the group to participate in their first annual Trunk or Treat; the group was excited to pass candy out of the caboose! The youth group painted pumpkins during their Halloween party. Additionally, they had a great service day helping Gail winterize her yard.

The youth group helped with the Old Fashioned Christmas Soup and Sandwich Café, held in our Fellowship Hall during the event. Proceeds will go to offset the costs of Kalahari.

The candy cane fundraiser is underway. All proceeds go to offset the cost of Kalahari for the students going.

Looking Ahead:

The youth group's Christmas party and gift exchange will be held on December 7, 2025.

Thank you for pouring into the students.

Kate

Message from Finance Chair Steve Adams (continued from page 1)

monthly offerings have averaged approximately \$22,000. of which \$24,800 has been needed to break even. In order to help plan for 2026, we will be sending out requests for you to complete and return with what your offerings can be for the year.

The one thing that I am confident about is that our congregation has always come through in supporting our church and I am prayfully requesting that these final weekly offerings will increase so that we can start 2026 out ready to meet our needs! We have a lot of momentum going into 2026 and I would encourage all of you to not only open your wallets but also invite and encourage new membership growth which we are already seeing.

In conclusion, if there are any questions about our general funds, please do not hesitate to contact me in person or through Tara Shoemaker, our financial secretary, who does an excellent job maintaining our financial records. Thank you and God Bless.



Poinsettias



The Worship Team will be decorating
the Sanctuary with poinsettias for

Christmas and receiving contributions for the Christmas Eve Altar decorations. The deadline for placing orders is December 18. The poinsettias will be on display in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve and will be available to take home following the 11pm Christmas Eve service. Please complete the form below, enclose your payment and drop-off or mail to the church or place on the offering plate. Make checks payable to FUMC and please indicate "Poinsettia" in the memo line. Please print!

One Poinsettia - Red, Pink, Red Glitter or White (circle one)

☐ In memory of ☐ In honor of ☐ In gratitude of ☐ In celebration of

Name(s) of person(s) _____

Given By (*as it will appear in bulletin*): _____

Second Poinsettia - Red, Pink, Red Glitter or White (circle one)

☐ In memory of ☐ In honor of ☐ In gratitude of ☐ In celebration of

Name(s) of person(s) _____

Given By (*as it will appear in bulletin*): _____

Third Poinsettia - Red, Pink, Red Glitter or White (circle one)

☐ In memory of ☐ In honor of ☐ In gratitude of ☐ In celebration of

Name(s) of person(s) _____

Given By (*as it will appear in bulletin*): _____

Altar Arrangement Donation

☐ In memory of ☐ In honor of ☐ In gratitude of ☐ In celebration of

Amount \$ _____

Name(s) of person(s) _____

Given By (*as it will appear in bulletin*): _____

Total Number of Poinsettias: _____ at \$15.00 each

Total Donation for Altar Arrangement \$ _____

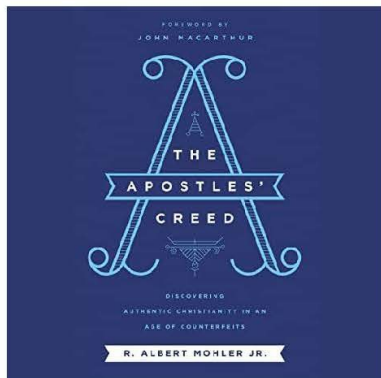
Total Enclosed for all purchases \$ _____
--

Your Name: _____ Phone Number _____

Your E-Mail Address: _____

If you need more space, please use back of this form.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Gail Baker at the Church, 740-852-0462 or gail@londonfumc.org. Mail to: FUMC, 52 N. Main Street, London OH 43140



Join us for a four-week Advent Bible Study. The study guide will be a deep dive into the Apostles' Creed. We'll be using "The Apostles' Creed, Discovering Authentic Christianity in an Age of Counterfeits" by R. Albert Mohler Jr.

We say it often on Sunday mornings. We often do it from memory. What does it really mean? Scott Stamper will take the lead on this study. Here is a quote from the author:

"I believe. These two words are among the most explosive words any human can utter. They open the door to eternal life and are the foundation of the Christian faith. Belief stands as the very center of Christian faithfulness and is where Christianity begins for the Christian. We enter the faith and find eternal life in Christ by responding to the truth with trust—that is, with belief.

But Christianity is not belief in belief. It is belief in a propositional truth: that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and savior of sinners. We do not believe in a Christ of our imagination but in the Christ of Scripture—the Christ believed in by every generation of true Christians. Furthermore, beyond belief in Christ stands belief in everything Jesus taught his disciples. Matthew recorded that Jesus instructed his disciples to teach others to observe all that he had commanded them (Matt. 28:18–20). Therefore, there is no Christianity without belief, without teaching, and without obedience to Christ."

We do have books for this study. The cost is \$10.00, but this is a free will offering. Please register by contacting Gail Baker (740-852-0462 or gail@londonfumc.org).

You can join in one session or all!

Tuesday, December 2	6:30-7:30pm Four Week Advent Study Begins
Tuesday, December 9	6:30-7:30pm Advent Study
Tuesday, December 16	6:30-7:30pm Advent Study
Tuesday, December 23	6:30-7:30pm Advent Study



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.



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



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 and for upcoming dates, reach out to her at 614-746-3962 or revbev97@gmail.com. The groups meets most Wednesdays at 6:30 PM in the Rudorah Parlor.



The Madison County Food Pantry, located at 125 S. Oak Street in London is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that has been in operation since 1981. There are NO paid staff, it is run by all volunteers. We are blessed to have a regular group of 8-12 volunteers graciously and consistently giving their time to deliver the mission of the pantry, but we are always in need of volunteers as demand continues to increase.

Behind the Scenes: What does it take to open the Food Pantry Wednesdays and Saturdays for 27, hours? We think you may be surprised!

Weekly: Each time we are open, it requires about thirteen people to man all the locations and cover activity areas for the distribution to our customers. 13 people X 2 times a week X 3 hours per day = 78 hours. This is just the beginning of what happens every week. The rest of the week food is picked up twice a week from Walmart, picked up from Kroger four times a week, and from Sheetz once per week. Twice a week, before a service day, everything is restocked to the line, which requires 2-3 people for three hours each. Distribution bags of frozen meat are made, also twice a week. Multiple times during the week a login to Mid-Ohio Food Collective's web site is required to order food. A recent "upgrade" to their system has changed what used to be a once-a-day activity to requiring multiple logins per day to procure food for distribution.

Monthly and As Needed: Twice a month, deliveries from Mid-Ohio are received with refrigerated and frozen items repacked and placed in our equipment for future distribution. The non-perishable items are repacked and readied for distribution during open distribution days requiring volunteers in addition to the 13 it takes for distribution. Other activities multiple times through the month are banking and accounting for all deposits and checks payable. Banking reconciliation as well as creation of financial statements is done monthly. Throughout the month, customer statistics are recorded and reported, in addition to records of each food pick up are recorded and uploaded to Mid-Ohio. Throughout the year, building maintenance is required, the Pantry web site is maintained, grant requests are written and submitted, Board of Directors meetings are held, newsletters are written, formatted, printed and mailed, and the list goes on.

Summary: Combining all the hours and allocating them to a weekly basis results in approximately 160 hours PER WEEK, all provided by volunteer labor. We are very fortunate to have dedicated people, many behind the scenes, that keep the wheels moving to make our twice per week distributions to our customers

Visit our website: madisoncountyfoodpantry.org

CONTINUAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Evone Banks, Bobby Dorn, Gladys Griffith, Joyce Hildebrand, Phyllis Miller, Sue Minner,
Bea Riegel, Sally Sisterhen, Doris Spahn

CURRENT PRAYER REQUESTS

Avalee Adams, Carol Albright, Rachael Allen, Harriet Baker, Laura Beyer, Kim Braddock,
Jayden Clark, Becky Cress, Toni Daniels, Bob Daugherty, Michelle Decoe, Diana,
Woody Draper, Allison Engle, Linda Finney, Michael Fisher, Phyllis Follrod, TJ Franklin, Tylor Freeman,
Nancy Giles, Carole Gordon, Jane Hackworth, John Harbage, Hope Hecht, Dee Heilman, Jenn Heuser,
Linda Holloway, Gary and Cindy Hoback, Roger Horsely, Gary Hunter, Dan Jones, Claudia Justice,
Jeannie Justice, Ray Justice, Cody Leavens, Jessica Martin, Cris Martinez, Jerod McKenzie, Chuck Miller,
Aiden Norton, Sue Osborn, Pauline Persing, Richard Peterson, Alicia Pullin, Jeff Quatkemeyer,
Michele Ramsey, Marco Ranalli, 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

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—Basic Training

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2026 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
Felica Isaacs

JUNE

Matt McCann,
Chair
Karen Summers
Melinda Scott

OCTOBER

Bill Benedum, Chair
Tom Minner
Debra Hay

MARCH

Chair
Ric Bell
Mike Jenkins
Christa Jenkins

JULY

Felica 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
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 -

Regina Bogenrife -



52 N. Main Street

London OH 43140

740.852.0462

www.londonfumc.org

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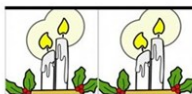
First United Methodist Church of London

*London's First
Congregation*

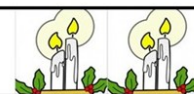


**FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

London, Ohio Est. 1813



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES



Christmas Eve, come join us as we

Remember and reflect joyfully upon God's

Great Gift to us - The Light of the World, Jesus Christ.

7:00pm and 11:00pm Candlelight Services

Special Sanctuary Choir performance

At the 11:00pm Service





MADISON COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

PRESENTS ITS GIFT TO THE COMMUNITY

Sounds of the Season

A Holiday Celebration of Music

Sunday, December 14, 2025

7:00 p.m.

host venue

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

52 North Main Street - London, Ohio

Vocal and Instrumental Selections

Audience Christmas Carols

*Organ selections on First Church's historic
Johnson & Son/Muller Pipe Organ and featuring the
newly installed Byers Memorial Deagan Tower Chimes*

**\$10.00 suggested donation benefitting
the fine arts scholarship fund**



Bob & Jen Minner	9-Dec
Aaron & Abby Dunham	12-Dec
Bill and Janet-Wood Jones	16-Dec
Eric & Marie Brunner	18-Dec
Rick & Lisa Davis	22-Dec
Steve & Beverly Hume	29-Dec
David & June Mohr	30-Dec
Gary & Billie Jean Hunter	6-Jan
John & Lee Ann Miller	10-Jan
Dan & Bev Eades	27-Jan



Katelyn Hanna	3-Dec
Cameron Jasper	3-Dec
Jeff Kepner	3-Dec
Annette Rinesmith	3-Dec
Donald Weldon	3-Dec
Richard Flax	5-Dec
Katie Dennison	6-Dec
Darlene Abner	7-Dec
Melissa Fellure	9-Dec
Abby Finney	9-Dec
Charles Johnson	9-Dec
Brandon Miller	10-Dec
John Foote	12-Dec
Dorothy Kellar	13-Dec
Mike Potts	14-Dec
Benjamin Risner	14-Dec
David Junk	15-Dec
Raymond Higgins	16-Dec

Dick Snyder	16-Dec
Bob Snyder	16-Dec
Douglas Finney	17-Dec
Sid Edwards	18-Dec
Addison Leach	18-Dec
Mark Weese	18-Dec
Andrew Bennett	19-Dec
Barb Lindsay	20-Dec
Ryan Crisp	21-Dec
Max Ford	22-Dec
Payton Rowley	22-Dec
David Mans	23-Dec
Alli Moore	23-Dec
Jan Potts	24-Dec
Debra Hay	26-Dec
Robert Higgins	26-Dec
Scott Stromquist	26-Dec
David Barker	27-Dec
Nancy Weese	27-Dec
Tom Davis	28-Dec
Quincy Gross	28-Dec
Jackie Barker	29-Dec
Lizzie Rumpz	29-Dec
Melinda Scott	29-Dec
Jim Shade	29-Dec
Vincent Cover	30-Dec
Christi Payton	30-Dec

Have you seen the Chrismon tree in our sanctuary?
 The decorations, called [Chrismons](#), are white and gold and are rich with religious symbolism.

- **Symbolism:**
- **White:** Represents purity and perfection.
- **Gold:** Symbolizes majesty, value, and glory.
- **Evergreen tree:** Represents eternal life.

Brandon Brock	1-Jan
Nick Adkins	2-Jan
Dalton Miller	2-Jan
Luke Peart	2-Jan
Noah Fellure	5-Jan
Ryan Finney	5-Jan
Owen Shoemaker	5-Jan
Fonda Stewart	6-Jan
Nancy Howard	8-Jan
KJ Rowley	10-Jan
Melinda Straley	10-Jan
Kaitlin Fellure	11-Jan
Craig Pass	11-Jan
Jack Payton	11-Jan
Myra Ferguson	13-Jan
Karen Peters	13-Jan
Christine Eades - Swisher	14-Jan
Kenley Jones	14-Jan
Judy Stilwell	14-Jan



We have extra programs from our November 2 service. Contact Gail in the church office for a copy! It's a wonderful keepsake with lots of history!

Nancy Bailey	15-Jan	Betsey Johnson	25-Jan
Linda Downing-Giglio	16-Jan	Baylee Semler	25-Jan
Hannah Risner	18-Jan	Doris Spahn	25-Jan
Jack Minner	19-Jan	Gary Hunter	27-Jan
Vera Patterson	19-Jan	Shirley Mans	28-Jan
Angie Stukey	20-Jan	Ellie Shoemaker	28-Jan
Cherie Mouser	21-Jan	Tyler Leach	29-Jan
Michael Turner	23-Jan	Neva Terry	29-Jan
Bradley Benedum	24-Jan	Mackenzie Minner	30-Jan



Please join us in the Rudorah Welcome Center at 7:00 AM on alternate Saturday mornings for some coffee and muffins for discussions around our faith. Here are upcoming meeting dates and topics

The Role of Prayer—December 20, 2025—Prayer is the lifeline of the believer. It is our direct line of communication with God, allowing us to express our thoughts, fears, and gratitude. Discussing the role of prayer in our lives can reveal how it deepens our relationship with God and influences our decision-making. It also provides a platform to share personal stories about answered prayers, struggles in prayer, and the transformative power of seeking God’s presence through conversation.

The Power of Gratitude—January 3, 2026—Gratitude shifts our focus from what we lack to what we have. The Bible teaches us to give thanks in all circumstances. This topic encourages discussions on cultivating an attitude of gratitude in daily life. Sharing experiences of thankfulness can inspire others to recognize God’s blessings, even in challenging times. The power of gratitude lies in its ability to transform our perspective and enhance our relationships with others and with God.

Living Out Your Faith—January 17, 2026—Faith is not just about belief; it’s about action. Living out your faith means embodying Christian principles in everyday life. Discussing how to apply biblical teachings in practical ways allows for rich conversations about ethics, choices, and integrity. It challenges us to consider what it means to be a disciple of Christ in a complex world. This topic also highlights the importance of community in supporting one another in living authentically.

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

For Pastoral Needs:

Pastor Dave Leckrone:

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