



London, Ohio Est. 1813

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## THE TOWER CALL June/July 2025

### Inside this issue:

<b>The Pastor's View</b>	2
<b>IGNITE! Youth Group</b>	3
<b>VBS</b>	4
<b>VBS Registration</b>	5
<b>Volunteer</b>	6
<b>Altar Flowers Food Pantry Update</b>	7
<b>Prayer Requests Sisters in the Lord</b>	8
<b>2025 Usher Schedule</b>	9
<b>Meals On Wheels Volunteers Needed</b>	
<b>Birthdays and Anniversaries</b>	10, 11
<b>Online Directory</b>	

### DOWNLOAD OUR APP!

You can download it from  
our website,  
[www.londonfumc.org](http://www.londonfumc.org)

There is an instructional  
video on the website for  
online giving -  
[www.londonfumc.org](http://www.londonfumc.org)

Our directory is online for  
members. Access it from  
our website—contact Gail  
for the password.  
[gail@londonfumc.org](mailto:gail@londonfumc.org)



### It's more than a meal...it's a tangible way to share Jesus' love!

Step One—Each meal costs 31 cents, so we needed to raise \$4,650 to cover the cost of the food. \$2,500 came from the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. We raised the additional funds with a free-will offering on Sunday March 23rd at a Carry-in-Dinner after church.

Step Two—Recruit 50 volunteers to pack meals, with 3-5 volunteers needed early to unload the food and supplies.

Step Three—We held our packing day on Saturday, June 7 from 9-Noon. Volunteers from Lifeline Christian Mission were on hand to help us set up and we watched an instructional video on the process. Pastor Dave blessed our mission in prayer. Then, we donned hair nets and gloves, and manned our stations! Rice, beans, dried veggies and protein powder were added to each bag. Each of the six teams had someone to weigh each bag and add or subtract rice as needed. Each team had a bag sealer, who sealed the bags and put a label on each one. Once 36 bags were filled, the packer on each team filled a case and labeled it. When prepared, each bag would provide six meals. Our teams were so efficient we were done packing—15,120 meals by 11am—Pastor Dave provided ice cream as we finished up.

Step Four—Load the cases of meals into the Lifeline Christian Mission truck. Clean up. The meals will be sent all over the world to feed those in need! It is so meaningful to know that our church in London is having a global impact!!!





## The Pastor's View

Reverend Dave Leckrone

Senior Pastor

Hi everyone.

Summer is a great time of the year, but the idea that it's restful may not be accurate.

Summer is usually a busy time for most folks. Memories take me back to "summer break" when I was in high school and college, and a good deal of my time was spent in the fields, making/hauling hay, mowing pasture and fixing fence. I'm breaking into a sweat just thinking about it.

And of course, these days there are a lot more camps than there were back then, for sports, 4-H, music, drama and on. This isn't a bad thing at all, just different. My word to you for summer of '25 is remember to take time for yourselves and your family to rest, whatever that word means for you. For some, rest is just that, a break from activity. For others rest is just the opposite, getting out and doing things or traveling.

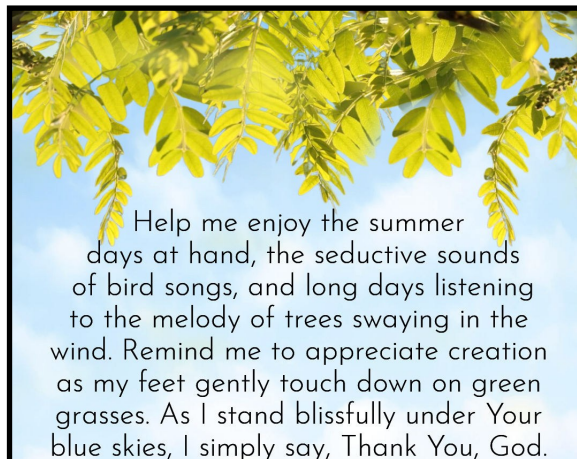
Everyone is different, and so I'll just remind you of Jesus words from Mark 9:35: "come away by yourselves and rest for awhile." He said this to the disciples after they had gone through a very busy time.

Whatever the word means for you, be sure to take time to rest this summer, and appreciate the blessings that God has given. I pray your time of rest will be refreshing.

Grace and Peace,

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

Pastor Dave





### ***Youth Adventures:***

The youth ended the school year with a high note with their pizza and ice cream party! The day after school was out, the youth engaged in a service activity of gardening for a church member.

The mission trip is June 22-27 to Nashville, TN.

There will be more summer activities for the youth to participate in coming soon.



### ***Looking Ahead:***

Consider volunteering for Vacation Bible School, July 13-17. Sign up online via the church website.

Please keep the 7 mission trip attendees in your prayers. We travel June 22-27.

The youth group will start up again for the 2025-2026 school year September 14, 2025. If you know any students interested in joining the group, please contact me!

*Thank you all for your light, love, and support for the youth.*

*~Kate*







## FUMC VBS:

**July 13-17, 2025**

[WWW.LONDONFUMC.ORG](http://WWW.LONDONFUMC.ORG)

### what to know

Drop students off by 5:30 PM.  
Dinner is provided.

Pick students up at 8:00 PM.

#### Location:

52 N Main Street

London, Ohio.

#### Volunteers:

Volunteers arrive at the church  
no later than 5:00 PM each  
night.

### contact

Katelyn Hanna

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



**Food Truck Party VBS** is based on Matthew 6:11 (NRSV): "Give us this day our daily bread." This verse reminds us that everything we have comes from God—but it also calls us to turn to God in prayer for our daily needs. Here, students learn important lessons about God's ability to provide. Students are guided each day by the food truck's Chef Kate and DJ Cupcake to learn about the Daily Special—a familiar prayer that teaches us to turn to God to meet our needs. Chef Kate, DJ Cupcake, and students set out to learn how we can depend on God to take care of us. Because God loves and cares for us, we, in turn, can love and care for the rest of the world. In this way the Church becomes the hands of God, ensuring that everyone's needs are met. Each session focuses on different ways God has met the needs of God's people and reminds us that God is still doing this today through us!

#### Schedule

- 5:00-5:30 PM - Check-in
- 5:30-6:00 PM - Dinner
- 6:00-8:00 PM- VBS Programming
- 8:00 PM - Pick-up

#### Stuff to bring

- bottle of water
- secure shoes (avoid sandals and slippers)
- hats and sunblock lotion (for outdoor play)
- change of clothes for emergencies (for younger kids)

#### Stuff not to bring

- food, unless they are for health reasons
- water balloons, guns, other water toys
- skateboards, roller skates, roller blades
- cell phones, handheld gaming devices, and other electronics
- anything that resembles a weapon

**\*Everything is free!**

\*Children ages 3-10 are welcome to participate.

You can register children and/or volunteer on our website: [www.londonfumc.org](http://www.londonfumc.org)



**FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH**

## 2025 VBS Student Registration Form



Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Family/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Last school grade completed \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Friends of your child at this church \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs/Allergies/Medical Information/Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Emergency Contacts

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of person(s) who may pick up this child from VBS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

----- (for church use only) -----

Assigned Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Are family members helping with VBS? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, where? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## 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.



Madison County Food Pantry News: Each month one of the Panty's sponsoring churches is asked to provide volunteers to assist with food distribution. May was FUMC's designated month and the Church really delivered! There were volunteers for almost every time the Pantry was open, and the help was MUCH appreciated!

As expected, demand for assistance from the Pantry has not stopped as reflected below for the period January through May 2025.

Pantry customers can be provided food once per month and some customers do come every month. The figures do include those multiple visits but reflect total families served throughout the period.

The total number of households served was 1371.

Number of seniors served (age 60+) 715

Number of adults served (18-59) 2649

Number of children served (birth-17) 1614

Total number of people served 4976

Current items needed at the Panty include canned tuna, crackers, and bagged or boxed breakfast cereal. Items can be dropped off at the Panty (125 South Oak Street in London) any Wednesday or Saturday morning from 9:00 to 11:45. Monetary donations, which go much further, can be mailed to the Pantry or made electronically through the Pantry website

**[www.madisoncountyfoodpantry.org](http://www.madisoncountyfoodpantry.org)**



**CONTINUAL PRAYER REQUESTS**

Evone Banks, 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,  
Bobby Dorn, Woody Draper, Allison Engle, Linda Finney, Phyllis Follrod, Tylor Freeman,  
Nancy Giles, Carole Gordon, Jane Hackworth, John Harbage, 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, 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, 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.

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY  
& FELLOWSHIP**

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:

6/28, 7/12, 7/26, 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)



Michael Turner & Debra Hay	2-Jun
Dick & Pat Snyder	3-Jun
Joe & Ann Haymaker	4-Jun
Ray & Claudia Justice	5-Jun
Mike & Jan Potts	9-Jun
David & Jackie Barker	12-Jun
Sean & Jody Pickens	12-Jun
Ron & Marilyn Stewart	12-Jun
Randy & Diane Crisp	13-Jun
Brandon & Courtney Brock	20-Jun
Mark & Melinda Elliott	20-Jun
Craig & Sue Pass	21-Jun
Glenn & Grace Feyh	23-Jun
Dave & Annette Rinesmith	24-Jun
Joe & Sharon Brackett	30-Jun



Eric Brunner	1-Jun
Kelley Clark	1-Jun
Jennifer Davis	1-Jun
Jack Rowley	3-Jun
Phyllis Miller	5-Jun
Karolyn Wilson	6-Jun
Chad Lattimer	7-Jun
Jacqueline Lauer	7-Jun
Kyle Long	7-Jun
Codey Myers	7-Jun
Bailey Young	7-Jun
Dustin Dickerson	8-Jun
Candi Edmunds	8-Jun
Nolan McKenzie	9-Jun



Parker Stewart	9-Jun
Mary Norton	10-Jun
Ashley Hammond	11-Jun
MJ Boyd	12-Jun
Mick Harris	12-Jun
Zachary Jasper	12-Jun
Jen Minner	13-Jun
Marty Shoemaker	13-Jun
Tim Bogenrife	14-Jun
Ned DeCamp	14-Jun
Joan McKinley	15-Jun
Kevin Garverick	16-Jun
Bryce Hamilton	18-Jun
Jason Benedum	19-Jun
Becki Grimmett	21-Jun
Roberta Byerly	23-Jun
Anna Cover	23-Jun
Sharon Reynolds	23-Jun
Barbara Andrix	24-Jun
Mark Elliott	24-Jun
Bev Eades	25-Jun
Kevin Lohr	26-Jun
Doris Minner	26-Jun
Emily Payton	26-Jun
Julianne Phillips	26-Jun
Jen Dennison	27-Jun
Noah Krauss	28-Jun
Tommy Boyd	29-Jun
Ernie Boyd	29-Jun



Jefferson McConnaughey	1-Jul	Allison Engle	16-Jul	Ivan Payton	31-Jul
Reagyn Semler	1-Jul	Kennedy Fellure	17-Jul	Jonah Payton	31-Jul
Aaron Mabe	2-Jul	Gregory King	19-Jul	Valerie Peart	31-Jul
Melinda Elliott	3-Jul	Rose Eckhart	21-Jul	Tara Shoemaker	31-Jul
Lucy Summers	3-Jul	Mike Grimmett	21-Jul		
Dustin Jones	4-Jul	Robin Ladd	21-Jul		
Diane Crisp	5-Jul	Larry Peters	22-Jul		
Hayley McConkey	5-Jul	Logan Minner	24-Jul		
Cynthia Boyd	6-Jul	Kristie Minner	24-Jul		
Apollo Downing	6-Jul	Laura Schoeller	25-Jul		
Brenda Fitch	7-Jul	Mandy Comer	26-Jul		
Austin Brown	8-Jul	Carolyn Snell	26-Jul		
Kelley Meredith	8-Jul	Charlie Summers	26-Jul		
Sally Warner	8-Jul	Karen Summers	26-Jul		
Justin Foucht	9-Jul	Kimberly Crumley	27-Jul		
David Mabe	9-Jul	Dave Heuser	28-Jul		
Marty Fellure	10-Jul	Courtney Brock	29-Jul		
Joe Haymaker	10-Jul	April Duffey	29-Jul		
David Mohr	11-Jul	Linda Finney	29-Jul		
Rheba Smith	12-Jul	Joe Payton	29-Jul		
Cheryl Engle	13-Jul	Ryan Ladd	30-Jul		
Gina Bogenrife	14-Jul	Hunter McConkey	30-Jul		
Annette Clevenger	14-Jul	Glo Foote	31-Jul		
Peggy Shoemaker	14-Jul	Sue Pass	31-Jul		
Abby Krauss	15-Jul	Miriam Patterson	31-Jul		



[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

### For Pastoral Needs:

Pastor Dave Leckrone:

Office Phone (740)852-0462

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



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

52 North Main Street, London, Ohio 43140

Telephone: 740.852.0462 Fax: 740.852.7606

Website: [www.londonfumc.org](http://www.londonfumc.org)

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