



London, Ohio Est. 1813

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE TOWER CALL October/November 2025

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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

Tickets for a few **raffle** items will be available October 12 and 19 right after church as well as at the event. Tickets are **1 for \$25 or 3 for \$50**.

Check or Cash. You don't need to be present to win.

Drop off silent auction items in the Youth Room or in Katelyn's office on Sundays—please label with your name.

Costa Rica

*Youth Mission Trip
Auction Fundraiser*

*October 19, 2025
5 - 6:30 PM
Fellowship Hall
Potluck dinner
Silent auction*

The youth group is accepting donations for silent auction items.

All are welcome to participate!

Please contact Katelyn Hanna,
Director of Youth Ministries,
Katelyn@londonfumc.org





The Pastor's View

Reverend Dave Leckrone

Senior Pastor

Hi everyone

You'll see on our church calendar that on Nov 19th we are hosting what I'm calling a Human Trafficking Panel. Human trafficking is a horrible evil that is much more prevalent in our society than many might imagine.

The evening of Nov. 19th is a time to learn such things as how traffickers use enticement, social media, and other ways to lure children into this terrible trap. Awareness is a huge tool in fighting this crime.

Our two speakers for the evening are Sandra Berchtold, a retired FBI agent and Team Adam consultant, and Ohio State Trooper Chad Lyons, who also has extensive experience fighting this crime. The evening runs from 7-8:30, and will be held in the sanctuary. It's open to all. Invited friends and neighbors!

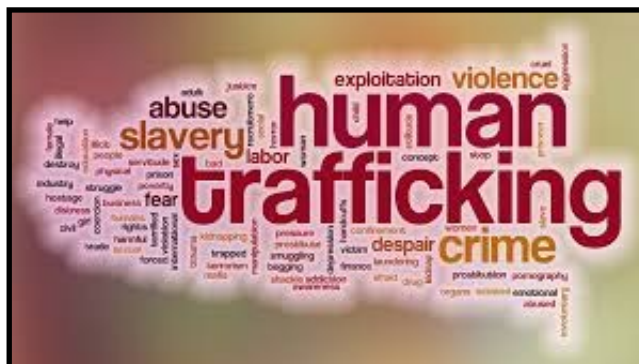
I hope to see you there.

I'm grateful to Nick Adkins for putting me in touch with Sandra and Trooper Lyons

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Dave

Pastor Dave





Youth Adventures

The youth group kicked off the year with a welcome-back party filled with games and food. This year, the students will be diving into the book of Psalms to learn some history and apply the wisdom to their lives. *Looking Ahead:*

- ◇ The youth group looks forward to hosting their mission trip auction on October 19, 2025, from 5-6:30 PM. The youth group is accepting auction items to be used in this fundraiser. Thank you to all those who are willing to participate. All proceeds will go toward lowering the cost of those attending the mission trip next June.
- ◇ On October 25, the youth group will participate in Trunk-n-Treat at the Historical Society.
- ◇ On November 30, the youth group is excited to continue the tradition of the church's role in the town's Old Fashioned Christmas.

Thank you for pouring into the students.

Kate



On the first Sunday of each month we celebrate Holy Communion. Taking communion reminds us to look back. When we eat the bread and drink the wine, we do so in remembrance of Jesus (Luke 22:19). More specifically, we're reminded of the sacrificial death Jesus was willing to endure on our behalf.

But we're also to look inward. The Apostle Paul says that "everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink of the cup" (1 Cor. 11:28). Communion reminds us that Jesus's death was necessary because of sin, our sin. And so, when you take communion, it's an opportunity for you to search your heart, confess your sin, and ask God to forgive you. The good news? He will!

If you are watching online, please have juice, water, etc., and bread or a cracker so that you can join us in Holy Communion.



**FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

52 North Main Street
London, Ohio 43140
Telephone: (740) 852-0462
Listed in the National Register of Historic Places

Upon this rock I will build my church!

— Matthew 16:18

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Plan to join us on Sunday, November 2, at our 10:00 a.m. service as we celebrate two milestones in the 130-year-old life of our church! It will be a very special day for us and for the entire community of London! Our District Superintendent, Reverend Doctor Jim Wilson, will be presiding over this special occasion, and a reception in Fellowship Hall will follow.

Our choir is working diligently on two very special anthems. Several friends and community members will be joining them, and a brass and percussion ensemble joining with our historic Johnson & Son/Muller pipe organ will accompany. The choir's offerings, along with the hymns, will be a marvelous praising of God's grace!

Milestone #1 – Re-dedication of our church building to the Glory of God in celebration of our successful capital campaign and the completion of the work it funded. Both the exterior masonry and stonework, and our stained-glass windows, have been restored (including the installation of storm windows)! Projects like these are huge accomplishments in the life of any congregation and each of us can be very proud that the entire project is complete and paid for in full. Indeed, worthy of a celebration!

Milestone #2 – Dedication of The Byers Memorial Tower Chimes. We will dedicate this gracious gift which has been given to the Glory of God in loving memory of George “Buddy” and Diane Byers by their children, Lynn, Beth, and George Jr. and their families. On this occasion, we will hear the chimes for the first time!

Our “new” tower chimes were manufactured in 1927 by the J.C. Deagan Company of Chicago, Illinois, and were installed at Central United Methodist Church in Springfield, Ohio, as a gift from its Ladies Aid Society.

How did they come to be at our church? This is an amazing story about saving something worthy of being saved that likely would have been lost forever. They were saved from the tower of Central UMC in 2021 shortly after the church closed. The building would soon be sold. One of our members made inquiries, and after discussion with the Conference office, they agreed that donating them to our church offered the best opportunity for them to be heard again. Over two weekends in August of that year,

Over, please →

volunteers from our church rescued them from a likely death. A great deal of muscle and sweat (and a thorough understanding of the laws of gravity!) went into dismantling them and hoisting them down a very narrow series of staircases. With the heaviest and lowest-sounding tubular chime weighing nearly 700 pounds, the task was not easy!!

J.C. Deagan manufactured about 439 sets of chimes between 1916 and 1958, with most being installed in the 1920s. They varied in numbers of solid bronze tubular chimes from 1 to 97. Most sets included 10 to 16. They were installed in churches, various municipal buildings, and public parks throughout the country. The closest surviving sets are in Bellefontaine, Newark, and at Capital University in Bexley. Sadly, many have been replaced with electronically produced sounds, scrapped, or simply demolished – gone forever. But happily, some still exist. They have been repaired or restored, and can be heard today. We are very fortunate that the Byers family funded the complete restoration and installation of our chimes. Our set includes 16 individual chimes, more than an octave of notes. Any hymn can be played on them! They will be operable either automatically or directly from the organ console, whenever a special occasion arises.

The chime sounds you currently hear emitting from our church tower are electronically produced and transmitted by speakers. Once you hear the sounds from our newly installed Deagan chimes, you will be amazed. They are actual chimes made from bronze... the “real deal.” Truly amazing sounds will replace the fake sounds, and each time we hear them, we will rejoice for the grace of God!

Please join us on Sunday, November 2, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. to celebrate these two milestone events, and feel free to invite friends!

In His Service,

Pastor David Leckrone

First United Methodist Church

A Little Church History

The following is taken from an article that was printed in the London Enterprise, the forerunner of the Madison Press, on Friday, October 17, 1930. The article traces the history of Methodism in Madison County, written by Mrs. Hasel H. Beach. This article humorously points out the difficulty the organ had in making its way into our church. This is in marked contrast to the important place the organ enjoys in our worship today.

THE FIRST MUSICAL INSTRUMENT IN THE LONDON M. E. CHURCH

So far as I am informed, no musical instrument was employed in the services of the London Methodist Episcopal Church until somewhere around (1870), prior to that time the hymns were led by what were considered good singers, and this lead was at once taken up by the general congregation.

Entering the church one Sunday morning I observed a very small box-like concern standing just in front of the altar on the rostrum that I at once recognized as a melodeon (I had been acquainted with one of the breed for a few years).

At the proper time the pastor informed us that the box was a melodeon, and that it might be of service in assisting the singers. After explaining the advantages of the stranger, he asked who would be the first to donate \$5 towards the purchase of the instrument.

Continued on page 7



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 or have any other questions, feel free to reach out to her at 614-746-3962 or revbev97@gmail.com. The group meets most Wednesdays at 6:30 PM in the Rudorah Parlor.



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.



You can see the melodeon in our Heritage Room, along with many historical items from our church!

Now the Bible had not provided for melodeons in the church, and the stir among the congregation seemed to indicate a somewhat general objection to introducing it, "Fiddling" on Sunday had been often denounced from the pulpit and most of the elderly people present appeared to look upon such a thing as a melodeon as an aggravation of even the "fiddle".

The leading singers, particularly, were not well impressed with the idea.

Finally, under the plea of the pastor, one courageous albeit benighted elderly brother said he would subscribe \$5.

As this good brother was well known to be always ready to subscribe, but eternally slow to make his subscription good, his readiness failed to create the enthusiasm desired by the pastor. But the next subscription was undoubtedly good, and a faint hope was manifested, at this juncture an elderly father in Israel Christian Slagle (George Clark's grandfather).

One of the best singing leaders arose in wrath and sternly announced that he would give \$5 if they would throw the unhallowed thing out the window. This was great encouragement to the leading singers, although it was well known that the throw-it-out-the-window brother played the "fiddle" six days out of the week, and that his daughter was taking lessons on a melodeon similar to the one put up for sale. But there was no mystery here, as everybody whose opinion was worth anything knew very well that the "fiddle", the Melodeon and such things were all right on a week-day but were invested with some sort of a satanic influence on Sunday. All the leading singers believed in this implicitly. But the congregation was not asleep, and began to suspect that the leading singers were fearful that their occupation was threatened. This decided the matter and the melodeon was purchased.

CONTINUAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Evone Banks, 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, Buzzy (Victoria) Biddinger,
Kim Braddock, Jayden Clark, Becky Cress, Toni Daniels, Diana, 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, Jenn Heuser, Linda Holloway,
Gary and Cindy Hoback, Roger Horsely, Gary Hunter, Claudia Justice, Jeannie Justice, Ray Justice,
Cody Leavens, Jessica Martin, Cris Martinez, Jerod McKenzie, Chuck Miller, Aiden Norton,
Sue Osborn, April Parker, Pauline Persing, Dylan Lee Prophater, Alicia Pullin, Jeff Quatkemeyer,
Michele Ramsey, Marco Ranalli, Steve Richmond, Frank Salyers, Miles Schrock, Jill Wyatt Setty,
Julia Smith, Nancy Snyder, Robert Stallings, David Stewart, Rob Suter, Alta Vance, 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
Caiden Craig—Basic Training

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

*Thank
you!*

Dear church family,

It's been 20 years since my dad, Jim Blakeslee, passed away from ALS-Lou Gehrig's disease. Every year since then, I have been passionate about fundraising and spreading awareness about this terrible disease. Thanks to all of you who donated this year, our church contributed almost \$900 to this year's walk!

Many thanks and blessings to all of you!
Liz Blakeslee

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2025 USHER SCHEDULE

JANUARY

John Foote, Chair
Debra Hay
Cathie Littleton
Dan Jones

FEBRUARY

David Ladd, Chair
John Foote
Felicia Isaacs

MARCH

Ric Bell, Chair

APRIL

Bill Benedem, Chair
Tom Minner

MAY

Chair
David Emrick
Maryann Emrick

JUNE

Matt McCann, Chair
Karen Summers
Melinda Scott

JULY

Felicia Isaacs, Chair
Tara Shoemaker
Cathie Littleton

AUGUST

David Ladd, Chair
Joe Brackett
Bob Minner
Tara Shoemaker

SEPTEMBER

Melinda Scott, Chair
Ric Bell

OCTOBER

Bill Benedem, Chair
Tom Minner
Debra Hay

NOVEMBER

Joe Brackett, Chair
David Emrick
Maryann Emrick

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 - meemeesummers@yahoo.com

Regina Bogenrife - timandginabogenrife@yahoo.com

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



**68th Semi Annual BAKED STEAK or
PORK TENDERLOIN DINNER**

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

MENU

***Baked Steak or Pork Tenderloin
Real Mashed Potatoes with Homemade Brown Gravy
Seasoned Green Beans, Homemade Cole Slaw
Homemade Dessert with Ice Cream
Roll and Beverage***

4pm-7pm (first come, first served)

**\$15.00 Adults
\$10.00 Children**

Drive-thru Only, Cash or Check

ALL ARE WELCOME!

INVITE YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!



**52 North Main Street
London, Ohio 43140**

Phone: 740-852-0462

E-Mail: fumc52@londonfumc.org

Website: www.londonfumc.org



Charlie & Karen Summers	1-Oct
Fred & Nell Oyer	2-Oct
Liz Blakeslee, Cathy Thum	3-Oct
Tom & Erin Davis	8-Oct
Denny & Jen Dennison	9-Oct
Randy & Edie Stroup	9-Oct
Benjamin & Molly Risner	11-Oct
Adrian & Lorraine Terry	15-Oct
David & Anna Cover	16-Oct
Virgin & Tina Pace	20-Oct
Guy & Candy Edmunds	25-Oct
Tom & Valerie Cox	28-Oct
Chad & Sarah Lattimer	29-Oct
Mike & Brenda Fitch	30-Oct

David & Dorothy Kellar	1-Nov
Kelley & Pamela Meredith	7-Nov
Joe & Sue Mosier	10-Nov
Tom & Melinda Straley	12-Nov
Dan & Dixie Trusall	17-Nov
Kevin & Kim Downing	19-Nov
Phil & Felica Isaacs	20-Nov
Henry & Mandy Comer	21-Nov
Bob & Nadine Daugherty	20-Nov
Sid & Ginny Edwards	22-Nov
Dave & Jill Leckrone	30-Nov

Chris Bell	1-Oct	Joe Brackett	22-Oct
Cathie Littleton	1-Oct	Marsha Hannah	22-Oct
June Mohr	1-Oct	James Cleaver	23-Oct
Brian Benedum	2-Oct	Tyler Fellure	23-Oct
Jordan Hildebrand	2-Oct	Brandon Fields	23-Oct
Karen Kuhn	2-Oct	Donovan Cooper	24-Oct
Susan Wilson	2-Oct	Pam Kelley	24-Oct
Remi Rinesmith	3-Oct	Lori Young	26-Oct
Courtney Bailey	5-Oct	Ginny Edwards	27-Oct
Will Pratt	5-Oct	Eric Young	27-Oct
Austin Conley	7-Oct	Lisa Davis	28-Oct
Dan Eades	8-Oct	Tom Hammond	28-Oct
Bill Jones	8-Oct	Sandy Lang	28-Oct
Terry Reynolds	9-Oct	Michael Fitch	29-Oct
Barbara Jeffers	11-Oct	Griffin Jones	29-Oct
Raelynn Krauss	12-Oct	Gene Babb	31-Oct
KD Lauer	12-Oct		
Ben Leckrone	13-Oct		
Dixie Truxall	13-Oct		
Bub Holt	15-Oct		
Robby Minner	15-Oct		
Janet Wood - Jones	15-Oct		
Michael Jenkins	16-Oct		
Doug Downing	17-Oct		
Tony Jones	17-Oct		
Claudia Justice	18-Oct		
Hurston Terry	19-Oct		
Kelly Besco	21-Oct		
Rick Davis	21-Oct		
		Robert Bogenrife	1-Nov
		Jessie Minner	1-Nov
		Scott Stamper	3-Nov
		Tyler Dickerson	4-Nov



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.



Robert Bogenrife	1-Nov	Jill Jones	10-Nov	Henry Comer	18-Nov
Jessie Minner	1-Nov	Zane Foucht	11-Nov	Piper Gowdy	18-Nov
Scott Stamper	3-Nov	Desaree' Long	11-Nov	Chris Shellabarger	18-Nov
Tyler Dickerson	4-Nov	Matt Rowley	11-Nov	Helen Studebaker	18-Nov
Gail Baker	5-Nov	Gavan Cooper	12-Nov	Chantal Weldon	18-Nov
Kenny Davis	5-Nov	Kyle Bell	13-Nov	Michael Ater	21-Nov
Kyra Leckrone	5-Nov	Greg King	13-Nov	Josie Cover	21-Nov
Sydney Miller	5-Nov	Robin (Jan) Schoeller	13-Nov	Tori Yoder	22-Nov
Kali Boyd	8-Nov	Edie Stroup	13-Nov	Paul Gross	23-Nov
Pam Dailey	8-Nov	Ric Bell	14-Nov	Avery Semler	23-Nov
Beth Garverick	9-Nov	Benjamin Davis	14-Nov	Garrett Weldon	23-Nov
Sandra Minner	9-Nov	Bill Kelly	15-Nov	Tim Wilson	25-Nov
Marilyn Stewart	9-Nov	Tina Pace	15-Nov	Lily McClelland	28-Nov
Mindy Foucht	10-Nov	Luca Schoeller	16-Nov	Adam Rowley	28-Nov
Madison Grimm	10-Nov	Gladys Griffith	17-Nov	Parker Clawson	29-Nov
				Reese Duffey	29-Nov



The Bible is rich with wisdom, offering timeless insights into life's most profound questions. In our men's Bible study, certain topics naturally spark deep, thought-provoking discussions. These topics challenge us, comfort us, and help us grow spiritually.

From faith and doubt to eternal life, the Bible covers every aspect of the human experience. Engaging with these themes allows us to explore our beliefs more deeply, understand God better, and reflect on our purpose in life. Let's explore some key Bible topics that can inspire meaningful dialogue.

On October 4 our topic will be "The Nature of God". Who is God? What are His attributes? Understanding the nature of God is foundational to Christian theology. The Bible reveals God as loving, just, merciful, and all-powerful. Discussing God's nature helps us grasp His character and how He relates to humanity. It also allows us to explore the mystery of God's essence and how His divine nature impacts our daily lives. Please join us in the Rudorah Welcome Center at 7:00 AM for coffee and muffins for this and future discussions.

Please add the following 2025 dates to your calendar for the Men's Bible Study. All are welcome to join at any time! Remaining dates for 2025: 10/4, 10/18, 11/1, 11/15, 11/29, 12/13, 12/27

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



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