



London, Ohio Est. 1813

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE TOWER CALL February/March 2026

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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

Holy Week is the most sacred time in the Christian calendar, marking Jesus' final days on earth and his ultimate sacrifice for humanity. It is a time of deep spiritual reflection, reminding believers of his journey of love, suffering and redemption. The countdown begins with Ash Wednesday.



FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

52 N. Main Street
London OH 43140
740-852-0462

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Ash Wednesday ~ February 18, 2026, 7pm

Ash Wednesday is the solemn first day of Lent, marking a 40-day period of prayer, fasting, and repentance before Easter, where believers receive a cross of ashes on their foreheads from burnt palm branches to symbolize mortality, penitence, and the call to turn back to God. The ashes signify humility and our finite nature, initiating a journey of spiritual renewal toward the resurrection.



Palm Sunday ~ Sunday, March 29, 2026, 10am

Christians remember the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday that marks the start of Holy week. We will consider what it meant for the people of Jesus who wanted him as messiah and what means to claim Jesus as Lord and King of our lives for today.



Maundy Thursday ~ Thursday, April 2, 2026, 6am-4pm

It was on the Thursday of Christ's final week before being crucified and resurrected that He said this commandment to His disciples. Jesus and his disciples had just shared what was known as the Last Supper and he was washing their feet when he stated:

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another" (John 13:34).



Good Friday Service ~ Friday, April 3, 2026, 7pm

This sacred service offers us the opportunity to feel the depths of Jesus' love for each one of us. Through music and the Word, we walk with Him from the garden to Calvary's Hill. The service concludes with us having left our Savior crucified, dead and laid in the tomb, inviting us to truly ponder His sacrifice on behalf of all of the world.



Easter Sunrise Service ~ Sunday, April 5, 2026, 7am

On Easter morning we come to celebrate the most glorious event in history. We come to celebrate our risen Lord and Christ, our salvation, forgiveness of sin, victory over death and the gift of eternal life. We come in the morning as did those who came to the tomb early that first Easter morning. We can only imagine the joy they felt as they learned of the resurrection of Christ from the grave. Not many hours before, they mourned the grisly death of Jesus. But their mourning turned to joy on that first Easter. The Sunrise service will be presented by the IGNITE! Youth Group.



Sunrise Breakfast ~ Sunday, April 5, 2026, 8am

All are welcome to join us in the Fellowship Hall to "break the fast" this Easter morning.



Service of Easter Resurrection ~ Sunday, April 5, 2026, 10am

The resurrection of Jesus, which Easter celebrates, is a foundation of the Christian faith. The resurrection established Jesus as the powerful Son of God and is proof that God will judge the world in righteousness. Join for this powerful service of worship, Scripture and song!
Christ has risen! Rejoice!



The Pastor's View

Reverend Dave Leckrone

Senior Pastor

Hi everyone

We have a somewhat early Easter this year, April 5th, and so I am sending the readings for Holy Week in this edition. As always we will have communion available on Maundy Thursday, March 30th, and a Good Friday service at 7:00. The youth group is presenting the Easter Sunrise service at 7:00, and a hot breakfast will follow at 8:00. I encourage you to come to the Sunrise service to support our youth group.

I hope these Holy Week readings will be helpful, and will bring to life the fact of our Lord's suffering, death and resurrection. We cannot say He is Risen!, without first taking the Holy Week journey with him.

Palm Sunday: John 12:12-19

March 30: John 12:1-11

March 31st: John 12:20-36

April 1st: John 13:21-32

April 2nd: John 13:1-17, 31-35

April 3rd: John 18:1-19:42

April 4th: John 19:38-42

Easter: John 20:1-18

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Dave".

Pastor Dave



Youth Adventures:

The youth group had a phenomenal time at the Kalahari retreat January 9-11, 2026. There were over 3000 students and leaders from 3 different states that came to this weekend retreat; it was the largest retreat per date. The speaker truly hit home on the topic of fighting the good fight and what it means in everyday life for school age students. Three of our students were even brave enough to share their salvation stories on camera! Overall, the group had an impactful weekend at the retreat. Thank you to all who helped the students make it there through the candy cane fundraiser and prayer!

Looking Ahead:

The youth group will go snow tubing, have a lock-in, participate in a service day, and prep for the Easter sunrise service.

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





EASTER

Order Flowers Today

We are now taking orders for Easter Flowers – Lilies, Tulips, Daffodils, or Hyacinths. The price is \$15.00 each. The deadline for placing orders will be **March 29**. The Easter Flowers will be on display in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday (April 5) and will be available to take home following the 10:00 a.m. service. Please complete the form below, enclose your payment and mail it to the church, or place it in the offering plate (both form and money/check together). If paying by check, please indicate 'Easter Flowers' in the memo line. Please print! You can also order online: www.londonfumc.org

One Lily – Tulip – Daffodil – Hyacinth (circle one)

In Memory

In Honor

In Gratitude

In Celebration

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

Name(s) of person(s) _____

Second Lily – Tulip – Daffodil – Hyacinth (circle one)

In Memory

In Honor

In Gratitude

In Celebration

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

Name(s) of person(s) _____

Third Lily – Tulip – Daffodil – Hyacinth (circle one)

In Memory

In Honor

In Gratitude

In Celebration

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

Name(s) of person(s) _____

Total Number of Flowers Ordered at \$15.00 each: _____

Easter Altar Arrangement Donation Amount \$ _____

In Memory

In Honor

In Gratitude

In Celebration

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

Name(s) of person(s) _____

Your Name: _____ Phone Number _____

Your E-Mail Address: _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____



Please join us in the Rudorah Welcome Center at **8:00 AM** on alternate Saturday mornings for some coffee and muffins for discussions around our faith. Here are upcoming meeting dates and topics

Community and Fellowship - Saturday, February 14

The Bible emphasizes the importance of community and fellowship among believers. We are called to support, encourage, and challenge one another in our faith journeys. Discussing community invites reflections on our own experiences within church groups or small gatherings. It allows us to share the joys and struggles of being part of a faith community. This topic underscores the need for connection, accountability, and the collective strength found in unity as believers.

Stewardship of Creation - Saturday, February 28,

Stewardship of creation reflects our responsibility to care for the Earth and its resources. The Bible teaches that God entrusted humanity with the stewardship of His creation, highlighting the importance of sustainability and respect for the environment. Discussing this topic encourages reflection on our daily choices and their impact on the planet. It opens conversations about how faith informs our views on environmental issues and inspires us to take action, whether through conservation efforts or lifestyle changes.

Temptation and Resilience - Saturday, March 14

Temptation is a universal struggle that every believer faces. The Bible acknowledges this reality and provides guidance on resisting temptation through the strength found in Christ. Discussing temptation allows for honest conversations about personal struggles and the ways we can support one another in overcoming them. This topic also explores resilience—how we can bounce back from failure and grow stronger in our faith. It reinforces the idea that while we may stumble, God's grace empowers us to keep moving forward.

The Fruits of the Spirit - Saturday, March 28

The Fruits of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—are vital characteristics that believers are called to exhibit. Discussing these attributes encourages self-examination and growth in our spiritual lives. Each fruit serves as a benchmark for our interactions with others. Conversations about the Fruits of the Spirit can reveal how we can cultivate these qualities in our daily lives and the impact they have on our relationships and communities.



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.



Madison County Food Pantry 2025

What happened: demand for services went up, food and items for distribution got harder to get, our partners at Mid-Ohio Food Consortium, Walmart, and Kroger were outstanding, and our donors really came through when we needed it.

Economic uncertainty, cutbacks in government grants, rising food costs, and a government shutdown all contributed to more people seeking help from the Pantry. For some it was an occasional visit and some needed to come multiple times though the year. The constant was that no one was turned away when they came. The Pantry served them all.

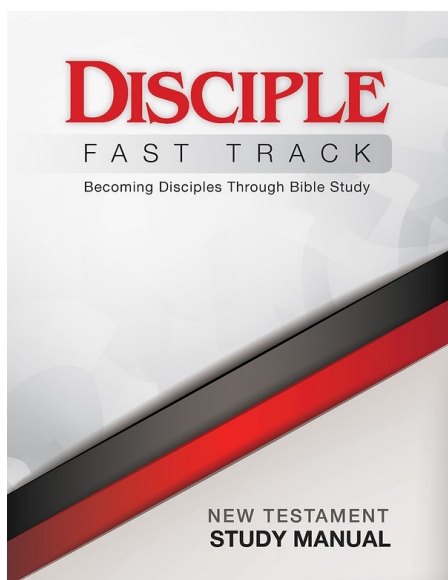
Our neighbors are always generous. This year, even without being asked, our Madison County community really stepped up with monetary and food donations, even more than past years. Thank you.

Full exiting customer shopping carts could not have happened without our wonderful volunteers. So many gave so much of their time, effort, and ideas to make it work. We are so appreciative of all you do.

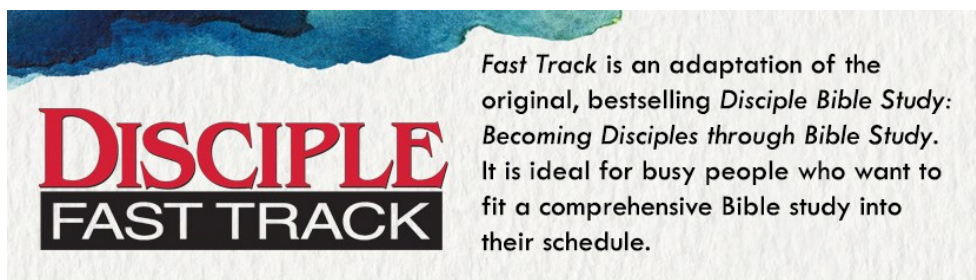
Entering 2026, the Pantry is ready to serve all who come for help, and we plan to send them home not only with shopping carts of food, but also with a smile. We'll do our best.

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!



This June we will begin this Fast Track Bible Study with Tara Shoemaker. It's been several years since her last Disciple Class. This is weekly for 12 weeks, and is in two parts. More details to follow!



CONTINUAL PRAYER REQUESTS

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

CURRENT PRAYER REQUESTS

Avalee Adams, Carol Albright, Rachael Allen, Harriet Baker, Laura Beyer, Ernie Boyd, Kim Braddock, Jayden Clark, Becky Cress, Toni Daniels, Bob Daugherty, Michelle Decoe, Diana, Woody Draper, Allison Engle Porter, Linda Finney, 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, Jeannie Justice, Ray Justice, Cody Leavens, Cris Martinez, Jerod McKenzie, Chuck Miller, Aiden Norton, Sue Osborn, Pauline Persing, Richard Peterson, Alicia Pullin, Jeff Quatkemeyer, 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

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

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 Vinnny 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.*

LONDON,
OH

FREE FOOD RESOURCES

24/7 Blessing Boxes

Take what you need, share what you can, any time of day. All boxes open to the public

- Cowling Park (City Box) 175 N. Main St
- Merri Mac Park (City Box) Jenkinson Ave
- Yelp Yard (City Box) E. Kenny Blvd & Elm St.
- Royal Cabinets (Private Box) 136 Maple St.
- London Church of the Nazarene (Private Box) 224 Elm St

The London Meal Network (Direct Connection)

- Post in the group: Need a grocery item or a meal today? Make a post! Our members often have extra servings or pantry items to share.
- Share Resources: If you have extra dinner, local restaurant deals, or garden harvests, post them here to connect directly with a neighbor in need.
- Real-Time Help: This is our community's fastest way to get or give help between pantry visits.

Free Community Meals

- Wednesdays: Free Community Meal at Royal Cabinets (136 Maple St). 5pm-6pm
- Thursdays: The Welcome Table at St. Paul AME Church (11 W. Center St). 5pm-7pm

The Caring Corner (London Public Library)

Available during regular library hours. No library card needed!

- Location: 20 E. First St | 740-852-9543
- Essentials: In addition to food, they often stock socks, jackets, and toiletries.

For the Kids: After-School Snacks

London Public Library: Free snacks for kids 18 and under.

- When: Every weekday, 3:15 pm – 4:15 pm.
- Location: 20 E. First St | 740-852-9543
- Details: Available inside the library—no library card required!

Local Food Pantries:

Madison County Food Pantry

- Location: 125 S. Oak St | 740-852-5822
- Hours: Wed & Sat 9-11:45 am.
- Eligibility: Serving zip codes 43140, 43151, 43153, and 43162 (Lilly Chapel).

Buckeye Community Schools Pantry

- Location: 238 Lafayette St.
- Hours: 4th Wednesday of every month | 11 am – 1 pm
- Details: Open to all community members. Offerings vary each month and are first-come, first-served.
- Note: Please bring a valid ID to register.

H.E.L.P. House Pantry

- Location: 122 East Center St | 740-852-1980
- Hours: Mon 4-6 pm, Wed 9 am – Noon, Sat 9-11 am.
- Eligibility: No residency requirements.

QUESTIONS OR TO ADD YOUR FREE LONDON LOCAL RESOURCE;
LONDON MEAL NETWORK, ON FACEBOOK



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.



Have you seen the beautiful new tables in the Rudorah Welcome Parlor? Thanks to Matt McCann for donating them.

New chairs have been ordered to go with those new tables in loving memory of Claudia Justice. Thanks to her family for their donations, and to those who made donations to the Memorial Fund in her honor.



Kevin & Diane Summers	9-Feb
Tim & Gina Bogenrife	14-Feb
Eric & Carol Semler	14-Feb
Bill & Joyce Benedum	21-Feb
Marty & Melissa Fellure	21-Feb
Dave & Robin Ladd	23-Feb
Gene & Sue Babb	26-Feb

Bryan & Cindy Shoemaker	6-Mar
Joe & Emily Payton	8-Mar
Kris & Jennifer Payton	11-Mar
Jim & Sara Weimer	19-Mar
Joseph & Angie Stukey	24-Mar
Scott & Brenda Higgins	26-Mar
Robert & Sharon Reynolds	26-Mar



Harold Weese	1-Feb
Liz Blakeslee	2-Feb
Mickki Budd	2-Feb
Colin Minner	2-Feb
Haley Rowley	2-Feb
Maddilyn Krauss	3-Feb
Tyler Hamilton	5-Feb
Joyce Hildebrand	6-Feb
Olivia Rinesmith	6-Feb
David Emrick	7-Feb
Katie Ater	8-Feb
Robert Kelly	9-Feb
Jessica Patterson	12-Feb



Christian Slagle	14-Feb
Nadine Daugherty	15-Feb
Diana Shaw	15-Feb
Greg Cooley	16-Feb
Max Price	18-Feb
Cindy Shoemaker	18-Feb
Christine Stewart	18-Feb
Renick Kelly	20-Feb
Stephanie Payton	20-Feb
Amanda Roe	20-Feb
Dawn Kepner	21-Feb
Dave Leckrone	23-Feb
Sheryl Dickerson	24-Feb
Natalie Dunham	24-Feb
Julia Dunham	24-Feb
Hannah Dunham	24-Feb
Randy Stroup	24-Feb
Charles Minner	25-Feb
Joe Payton	26-Feb
Lexi Craig-White	27-Feb
Drew Hildebrand	Feb-29



Sue Babb	1-Mar
Ellen Moore	1-Mar
Joan Buekers	2-Mar
Brenda Higgins	2-Mar
Frank Hildebrand	2-Mar
Julie Basinger	4-Mar
Reagan Gross	4-Mar
David Weese	4-Mar



Khaleb Comer	5-Mar	Caiden Craig-White	24-Mar
Madeline Holt	5-Mar	Ian Shoemaker	25-Mar
Evie Risner	5-Mar	Sally Sisterhen	26-Mar
Bryan Shoemaker	5-Mar	Steve Adams	27-Mar
Beth Pearman	6-Mar	Tom Minner	29-Mar
Pat Snyder	6-Mar	Caren Rarey	29-Mar
Nancy Snyder	8-Mar	Sharon Brackett	30-Mar
Savannah Comer	9-Mar		
Robert Minner	9-Mar		
Ryan Nolan	9-Mar		
Sara Weimer	9-Mar		
Maryann Emrick	10-Mar		
Jo Hedges	10-Mar		
Matt McCann	10-Mar		
Dave Rinesmith	11-Mar		
James Peart	12-Mar		
Savanah Garverick	13-Mar		
Lindsay Gray	13-Mar		
Amber Krauss	13-Mar		
Pamela Meredith	13-Mar		
Marilyn Scott	13-Mar		
Joyce Benedum	14-Mar		
Billie Jean Hunter	14-Mar		
Kory Downing	15-Mar		
Kory Downing	15-Mar		
Emerson Rowley	15-Mar		
Noah Cleaver	17-Mar		
Jimmy Cleaver II	17-Mar		
Bill Benedum	18-Mar		
Joe Smith	18-Mar		
Reed Rinesmith	19-Mar		
Jordan Grimmett	20-Mar		
John Miller	20-Mar		
Lorraine Terry	20-Mar		
Caty Daniels	21-Mar		
Robert Reynolds	21-Mar		
Ray Justice	22-Mar		
Rickelle Davis	23-Mar		
Chase Risner	23-Mar		



*Enjoy Sunday Brunch at
The Butcher Block
 Restaurant and take your
 church bulletin with you!
 The Butcher Block is gra-
 ciously 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!!!*



TIME2DANCE WITH MARK
 KEEP ON DANCING

Ballroom Dance Classes in our Fellowship Hall

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

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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
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Custodian..... Sandy Fisher
Webmaster.....Brian Benedum



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