

Mar / Apr 2025

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GREETINGS FROM PASTOR BOB!

Dear Church Family and Community,

I greet you all in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Exciting momentum is happening in the life of our church, and I am eager to share these wonderful updates with you. One of the most significant events coming up is our Lenten journey together. Below are some key dates for you to mark on your calendars:

- Ash Wednesday Service – March 5th at 7:00 PM
- Lenten Bible Study – Kicking off on Sunday, March 9th, for six weeks, meeting each Sunday at 10:45 AM in Asbury Hall.
- Palm Sunday – April 13th
- Maundy Thursday Service – April 17th at 7:00 PM
- Good Friday Service – April 18th at 12:00 Noon in the Chapel
- Easter Sunday (April 20th):
 - * SonRise Service at 7:30 AM in the Chapel
 - * Easter Breakfast at 8:30 AM in Asbury Hall
 - * Easter Service at 9:30 AM

Lenten devotionals are available in the Narthex to guide you through this season of reflection and spiritual growth.

Exciting Updates Around the Church!

Our Trustees have been working diligently to improve our church facilities. Some of the recent updates include:

- A fresh facelift in the Chapel with new paint, and the carpet and the pews cleaned.
- Asbury Hall has been painted.
- The kitchen and pantry have been deep cleaned.
- The women's bathroom near the Lounge has been remodeled.
- The Sanctuary has had all the pews and carpet cleaned.
- The Narthex has been refreshed to enhance our Radical Hospitality initiative, including a new coffee bar and weekly greeters.
- We are dedicated to fostering community fellowship and advancing

See “Pastor”, page 3



Dates of Interest:

Ash Wednesday.....	Mar 5
World Day of Prayer....	Mar 7
Lenten Study begins....	Mar 9
Palm Sunday.....	Apr 13
Maundy Thursday.....	Apr 17
Good Friday.....	Apr 18
Easter.....	Apr 20

Team Meetings

Leadership Team

The Leadership Team meets on the first Tuesday of each month in the Lounge at 7:00 p.m.

Worship Team

The Worship Team meets on the third Wednesday of each month in the Library at 6:30 p.m.

Trustees

The Trustees meet on the third Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September, and November in the Lounge at 7:00 p.m. The third Saturday of February, April, June, August, October, and December is the Trustee Work Day. See Bulletins for start times.

Interested in joining an existing team and sharing your talents? How about starting a small group or activity with those who have the same interests?

Contact the church office to let Judy and Pastor Bob know your interests and how to get started.



Out with the old, make room for the new. Stitches United can use the following items:

- ⇒ Cloth placemats—plain on one side
- ⇒ Sheets—any size, any color
- ⇒ Sew-in Velcro

Thank you in advance.
Stitches United



What are these teams? What are they about? What do they do? They are the many teams of fellow parishioners who brainstorm, plan, organize, carry-out the many ministries of First UMC. But YOU....YOU are the life of the church!

What are your talents? What do you like to do? Want to be a larger part of the life of the church? Want to share your thoughts, suggestions, and time? Inquire about the above listed teams to see where your time and talents can be utilized and shared with those inside and outside our walls. Here's who to ask:

Pastor Bob

Finance Chair—Andy Jeffers

SPRC—Sue Anne Martin

Worship—Regina Jeffers

Education—Donn Hellinger

Church & Community—Margaret McIntire or
Sue Willets

Trustee Chair—Chris Oaks

Nominations—Pastor Bob

Media/Marketing—Regina Jeffers or
Laurie Owens

Memorial/Scholarships—Ron Roby

We can't wait for you to join the team of your dreams!





EASTER:

The Day Love Won Over Death

“Pastor”, Continued

community together through VBS.

- New Co-Chairs for Church and Community Engagement: To better guide our events and projects in Asbury and Wesley Hall. We aim to meet every 4-6 weeks or so to strengthen our bonds and serve together.
- New Church Website & Logo: Launching mid-to-late March, enhancing our online presence and accessibility.
- Vacation Bible School (VBS) Relaunch: The Oasis space has been cleaned and prepped for activity.
- Social Media Growth: Our social media platforms continue to share the life and ministry of our church with the wider community.

As we enter this season of Lent, I encourage each of you to take time for reflection, prayer, and renewal. This is a time for us to deepen our relationship with Christ and embrace the grace He offers us. I invite you to join us in worship, study, and service as we journey together toward Easter. Let’s lift one another in prayer, encourage each other in faith, and walk hand in hand as disciples of Christ.

We are reminded in **Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)**: *“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”* May this be our guide as we commit to strengthening our faith and supporting one another in love.

I also invite you to share your gifts and talents within the church. Whether through music, hospitality, teaching, or outreach, your contributions help build a strong and vibrant community of faith. If you’re looking for a way to get involved, please don’t hesitate to reach out—we are stronger together!

Janet and I are incredibly grateful to be part of this amazing church family here at New Carlisle FUMC. We look forward to growing in faith together and seeing God’s plans unfold for our church and community. There is a place for each of you in the life of the church, and I encourage you to step forward with open hearts and willing hands.

Know that I appreciate each of you and keep you in my thoughts and prayers. May God’s grace shine upon you, and may we continue to challenge ourselves to grow in faith and serve with love.

Blessings, Pastor Bob

Prayer Requests

AS OF FEBRUARY 23, 2025

Eunice Underwood
Patrick Loudin
Charlotte Rogers
Bob Freeze
Dallas & Kim Hall
Dale Agren

Keeping near their homes:

Carolyn Gracy
Pat Johnson

Extended Care & Assisted Living

Marvin & Joyce Curry
Brookdale of Oakwood
Charles & Barbara Frazier
Wickshire
Sandy Hasting, Charlotte Rogers,
Norma Jean Hull
One Lincoln Park
Barb Lee
Brookhaven Retirement
Community
Roselyn Riley
Danbury Huber Heights
Connie Urban
Oakwood Village

Friends & Family

Janel Zimmerman’s sister
Shaffer family
Janel’s son-in-law’s father
Kay
Jerry Gracy’s friend
Dorothy
Sarah
Marilyn Seacrest
Michele Rivera
Elaine Pooler’s neighbors
Shannon Lewis
Elizabeth
Craig Mac Veigh
Bethel Churches United
Connie Hall
Faith

20th Anniversary Celebration

Guiding Shepherd Christian School is celebrating its 20th year as a school ministry. Our school has grown over the years from 11 kindergarten through sixth grade students to what we are today, a school that serves students from 5 school districts grades K through 12. God has blessed us over the last 20 years with the opportunity to not only provide students with an academic education, but to bring the word of God's Gospel into their lives each and every day. It has been an honor to serve the Lord in this mission.

Please join us on Saturday, April 12th as we celebrate the school. **An Open House will be held in Wesley Hall from 2 to 4 p.m.** We hope that many of our students, families, and friends, past and present, will take time to come and share their memories. Light refreshments will be served. Please share this information with anyone you may know that has been a part of Guiding Shepherd Christian School.

For more information, contact the school office at 937-845-3292 or Bambi Heck.

Stay Connected

If you are not receiving our important church updates via text or phone call?

To stay connected to your church family, please call the church office (Monday–Friday, 9AM–1 PM) at 937-845-8435 or email ncfirstumc@gmail.com to have Judy add you to our notification list.

NOTICE:

During the week of March 24, our back parking lot will be getting regraded.

Please be aware of the construction equipment and make arrangements to park elsewhere.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

One-Day Mission Trip with DS Jim Wilson

The Western Lakes District is taking a mission trip down to Matthew 25 Ministries again this year.

Join District Superintendent Rev. Jim Wilson on a bus trip to the Cincinnati area to volunteer at Matthew 25 Ministries, an organization that reaches out to the poorest of the poor and disaster victims around the world. Join the 92 United Methodist churches throughout our 13 county area as we unite in reaching out to others in the name of Jesus.

Date: Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Time: Passenger pick-up at: 8:00 a.m. Ginghamburg UMC
6759 S County Road 25A, Tipp City

Arrive at Matthew 25 Ministries at 9am;

Depart Matthew 25 Ministries at 3pm

Passenger drop-off at Ginghamburg UMC 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$15.00 per person (in cash payable upon departure) (cost includes bus transportation, gratuity, and lunch) No large bags or backpacks are allowed. Small purses are fine. Please wear closed toe shoes.

Registration: Contact Cortney creed@wocumc.org at the District Office to register. Deadline to register is April 1st or when the charter bus is full.



In January we lost one of our long time Professing Members to the Role of the Victorious, Ray Bunch. Ray joined the church in January 1976 so was an active member for almost 50 years. Ray had a very outgoing personality and was always cheerful. Over the years he served on many committees, like Pastor/Parish and Outreach. He also was a lay speaker for the congregation and served many years as a Sunday School teacher for adult classes.

As promised in the last Newsletter, here are the end of year statistics for those active in the church:

Professing (Full) Members (Have taken the vows of membership)	133
Baptized Members (Have been baptized)	20
Associate Members (Are active in church but member of another denomination)	2
Affiliate Members (Are active in church but member of another UM church)	3
Constituents (Are family of a church member or attend but not a member)	<u>71</u>
Total Active	227

As we start the new year, Jerry Gracy is now the membership secretary. Kim Vukovic and I will be helping him to keep the membership records updated. One of the near-term goals is to contact those members on the 2024 First Reading list for non-participation to find out their situation and how we could be of assistance.

Jess Underwood
Membership Secretary, retired

Join the Caring Connections Ministry!

We are launching **Caring Connections Ministry**, a team dedicated to visiting and caring for our shut-ins, those in nursing homes, hospitals, and those in need of connection. If you have a heart for sharing God's love through presence and compassion, we invite you to be part of this meaningful outreach.

- ◆ **Information Meeting:** Tuesday, March 18th at 7:00 PM
- ◆ **Location:** Church Library

At this meeting, Pastor Bob will lead an initial training session, discuss our approach, and review the list of those in need of visits. The team will gather **once a quarter** to assess needs and receive new resources to better serve.

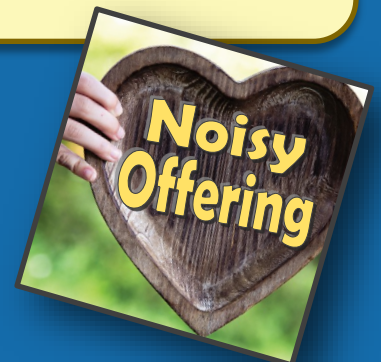
If you are interested, please **sign up in the Narthex**. Join us as we extend Christ's love and care to those who need it most!

For questions, see Pastor Bob.

March—Mission Meals

April—Stitches United

May—Habitat for Humanity



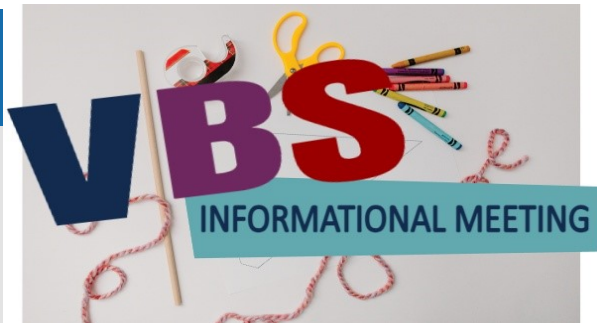
Birthdays

March

- 01—Michael Boor
- 02—April Welbaum
- 03—Michael Vukovic
- 04—Cindy Gracy
- 05—Pat Keiter
- 06—Phil Flory
 - Kevin Hall
 - Scott Owens
- 11—Janet Garrett
- 12—Kurt Brewer
- 18—Debbie Ross
- 19—Oakley Jeffers
- 20—Bradley Rogers
- 21—Patrick Loudin
- 25—Hillary Oaks
- 27—Judy Kindred
 - Emilia Mentz
- 29—Brian Welbaum

April

- 02—Bev Miles
- 03—Kimberly Vukovic
- 05—Amy Heck Fackler
- 08—Larry Johnson
- 17—Kim Clark
- 18—John Allen
 - Kaylee Welbaum
- 19—Donna Algren
 - Josephine Rogers
- 20—Rebecca Benson-Martin
- 26—Annie Mead
- 27—Scott Asbury
- 29—Madelynn Mentz
- 30—Ron Roby



We are bringing back a community VBS and we are excited about it. Did you know that surveys tell us that after VBS 95% of children were still singing the songs they learned around the house and in the car? This ministry latches on to the hearts of our children to help form their faith. Also did you know that 88% of parents said their children now ask to pray together before their meals?

These amazing outcomes happen through the faithful and caring dedication of our VBS volunteers. You will learn about their day, build trust, and have fun. You might even learn as much from them about Jesus' love as they learned from you.

We invite you to consider joining our VBS volunteer team to help form the faith of our children so they can practice it at home, at school, and beyond. We are hosting a VBS Information Session on Sunday after worship in Asbury Hall Sunday April 27th. We are also seeking a Director or Co-Directors to help facilitate this ministry with Pastor

Bob and Janet. If you have questions before this meeting, please call Pastor Bob @ 937-308-6800 or blybarger2@gmail.com



Breakthrough Prayer

God break open our minds, hearts and ears to your unlimited possibilities for our church and in our own lives. We will surrender and faithfully follow You into Your new and unknown future. May your will be done. In Jesus' name. Amen

March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h2>Noisy Offering Mission Meals</h2>						1
2 9:30a Worship 10:45a Sunday School 6p NA Meeting <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	3 11a GSCS—San 12p AA Meeting (Lg) 7p Girl Scout Unit Mtg (AH)	4 2-3:30p GSCS in WH 5p Dance 7p Leadership Mtg	5 6:30p Cub Scouts (WH) 7p Ash Wed. Service <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	6 2-3:30p GSCS in WH 4:30p Dance (WH)	7 9a Retired Men's Breakfast 2-3:30p GSCS in WH <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	8 <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
9 9:30a Worship 10:45a Lenten Study 6p NA Meeting <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	10 11a GSCS—San 12p AA Meeting (Lg)	11 2-3:30p GSCS in WH 5p Dance	12 6:30p Cub Scouts (WH)	13 2-3:30p GSCS in WH 4:30p Dance (WH)	14 9a Retired Men's Breakfast 2-3:30p GSCS in WH 5p Girl Scouts (AH)	15
16 9:30a Worship 10:45a Lenten Study 6p NA Meeting	17 11a GSCS—San 12p AA Meeting (Lg)	18 2-3:30p GSCS in WH 5p Dance (WH) 6:30p Scout Committee Mtg	19 6:30p Cub Scouts (WH) 6:30p Worship Team (Lib)	20 2-3:30p GSCS in WH 4:30p Dance (WH)	21 9a Retired Men's Breakfast 2-3:30p GSCS in WH	22
23 9:30a Worship 10:45a Lenten Study 3p Ray Bunch Memorial Service 6p NA Meeting	24 11a GSCS—San 12p AA Meeting	25 2-3:30p GSCS in WH 5p Dance (WH) 7p Trustees (Lg)	26 6:30p Cub Scouts (WH)	27 2-3:30p GSCS in WH 4:30p Dance (WH)	28 9a Retired Men's Breakfast 2-3:30p GSCS in WH	29
PASTOR BOB ON VACATION						
30 9:30a Worship 10:45a Lenten Study 6p NA Meeting	31 11a GSCS—San 12p AA Meeting					AH—Asbury Hall WH— Wesley Hall LG—Lounge Lib—Library San—Sanctuary

April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
AH—Asbury Hall WH— Wesley Hall LG—Lounge Lib—Library San—Sanctuary		1 2-3:30p GSCS in WH 5p Dance 7p Leadership Mtg (Lg)	2 6:30p Cub Scouts (WH)	3 2-3:30p GSCS in WH 4:30p Dance (WH)	4 9a Retired Men's Breakfast 2-3:30p GSCS in WH 5p Girl Scouts (AH)	5
6 9:30a Worship 10:45a Lenten Study 6p NA Meeting Communion Sunday	7 11a GSCS (San) 12p AA Meeting (Lg) 7p Girl Scout Unit Mtg (AH)	8 2-3:30p GSCS in WH 5p Dance	9 6:30p Cub Scouts (WH)	10 2-3:30p GSCS in WH 4:30p Dance (WH)	11 9a Retired Men's Breakfast 2-3:30p GSCS in WH 5p Girl Scouts (AH)	12 8-11a Trustee Work Day 9a-6p GSCS Anniversary Party (WH)
13 9:30a Worship 10:45a Lenten Study 6p NA Meeting Noisy Offering 	14 11a GSCS (San) 12p AA Meeting (Lg)	15 2-3:30p GSCS in WH 5p Dance 6:30p Scout Committee Mtg.	16 6:30p Cub Scouts (WH)	17 2-3:30p GSCS in WH 4:30p Dance (WH) 7p Maundy Thurs. Service (San) 	18 9a Retired Men's Breakfast 12p Good Friday Svc (Chapel)  2-3:30p GSCS in (WH)	19
20 EASTER 7:30a SonRise Svc. 8:30a Breakfast (WH) 9:30a Easter Worship 6p NA Meeting 	21 11a GSCS (San) 12p AA Meeting (Lg)	22 2-3:30p GSCS in WH 5p Dance (WH)	23 6:30p Cub Scouts (WH)	24 2-3:30p GSCS in WH 4:30p Dance (WH)	25 9a Retired Men's Breakfast 2-3:30p GSCS in WH 5p Girl Scouts (AH)	26
27 9:30a Worship 10:45a Sunday School 6p NA Meeting	28 11a GSCS (San) 12p AA Meeting (Lg)	29 2-3:30p GSCS in WH 5p Dance (WH)	30 6:30p Cub Scouts (WH)	Noisy Offering Stitches United		

Camplighter



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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

220 S. Main Street • New Carlisle, OH 45344
Phone: (937) 845-8435 or (937) 845-9796
Pastor Bob Lybarger
Judy Kindred, Secretary

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

March / April 2025

Join us!

Join us Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.
Bring a friend to church!

Know, Grow, Show

Our lives are centered on knowing God, growing in Jesus, and showing love in action.



Contact us:

Church: ncfirstumc@gmail.com
Pastor Bob: blybarger2@gmail.com
Church Website: www.newcarlisle-fumc.org



To like us on Facebook, login and search for **“First United Methodist Church New Carlisle Ohio”**



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