

THE CHURCH WINDOW

A Monthly Newsletter of the Loudonville United Methodist Church

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JANUARY 2026

By Pastor Kenn Curren



"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Isn't there more to life than food and more to the body than clothing? Look at the birds in the sky: They do not sow, or reap, or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you more valuable than they are? And which of you by worrying can add even one hour to his life?"

Matthew 6:25-27 (NET)

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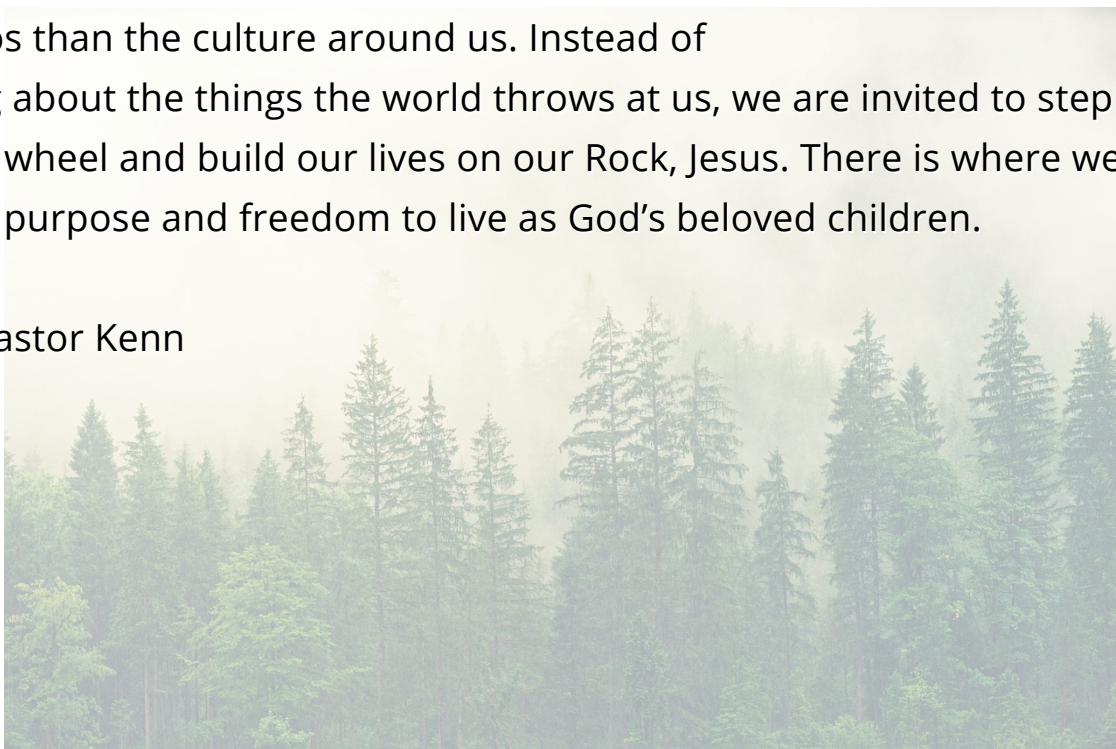
Let me ask you, when was the last time you worried about something? How did you handle it? It seems like we live in a culture full of worry. As we begin a new year, we often have worries, fears and insecurities about the things we cannot control.

Jesus says that there is no benefit to worrying. "Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?" If anything, worrying subtracts from our lives. Worrying is like being stuck on a hamster wheel - you are frantically moving and working hard, and yet not actually going anywhere.

Instead of worrying, Jesus invites us to redirect our energy and thoughts toward something better: "But above all pursue his kingdom and righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So then, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Today has enough trouble of its own." (Matthew 6:33-34, NET)

As those who live seeking the kingdom of God, we live under a different ethic and ethos than the culture around us. Instead of worrying about the things the world throws at us, we are invited to step off the hamster wheel and build our lives on our Rock, Jesus. There is where we find stability, purpose and freedom to live as God's beloved children.

Peace, Pastor Kenn





Loudonville UMC

Loudonville, Ohio

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

News from Your Community Meal Team

Upcoming Community Meals:

Jan. 6: Meatloaf (with some sausage), potatoes, carrots, Black Forest Dump Cake

Jan. 20: Sweet and Sour Chicken, rice, broccoli, Mandarin Orange Cake

(Meals are subject to change, based on donations)

As of December 17, we have served 1,998 meals! From our profits (and remember, this is intended to fill a need in our community, not necessarily be a fundraiser) we've been able to give \$150.29 to the General Fund, \$1,508.93 to our Kitchen Fund, and \$1,659.22 to Apportionments. And we still have a soup meal on Dec. 30! Using our Kitchen Fund profits, we've been able to add a mini split air conditioner to the kitchen and are looking forward to adding convection ovens.

We've been the thankful recipient of many donations from Walnut Creek Foods, and recently received a lot of sausage and other pork cuts from the Grimwood family. We look forward to serving some tasty meals using it in 2026. Additionally, the team thanks all of you who donated food or supplies, ate the meal or invited others. You are all amazing!

There have been lots of laughs, lots of reassuring Robin that it will all work out well, and lots of great friendships formed in this work. We currently have 23 people on our team, but are always looking for more to join. Just call or text Robin Hughes at 570-807-1970. Thanks again for supporting this mission of our church.

Governance Board

December 2025



Loudonville UMC

Loudonville, Ohio

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

- Money was dispersed from The Endowment Fund. \$1,500 was placed in missions. \$4,500 went into the general fund. \$4,500 went back into the Permanent Endowment. \$4,500 of Trustees money will go into the Building Fund. The church will need to start thinking of how to pay for a new roof in 3 to 5 years. The Board is still looking for volunteers to help brainstorm ways to raise \$80,000+
- 16 baskets for shut-ins have been assembled. They will be delivered as soon as possible.
- It was decided to give \$500 to the Loudonville Theater in the coming year to support the community.
- Pastor Kenn is looking into having a one night weekday church for families in our community who work weekends. He is going to use some of the ideas from the “Messy Church” which come from the book “Let the Children Lead”. Tammy Kindle will be helping him get in touch with families that are interested in this idea.
- Barb Burd and Eric Stitzlien will head up a group to find help for our church community who need help in their home. If you are interested in helping do jobs or in need of help please let the office know. Keep an eye out for more info into this new mission project.

East Ohio Conference News

The United Methodist Higher Education Foundation Board of Trustees has unanimously selected the Rev. Cara Stultz Costello as its next president and CEO, effective January 1, 2026. She will be the first female president in the 60-year history of the Foundation.

"It is a profound joy to assume the presidency of UMHEF, a ministry whose sixty years shine with God's faithfulness and the Spirit's sustaining presence," Stultz Costello said in a release issued by the Foundation. "Inspired by Philippians 1:6, I am confident that God, who began this good work in us, will carry it forward. With our United Methodist institutions of higher learning, Annual Conference foundations, connectional collaborators, and generous partners, we will continue to equip and empower students to follow God's call and participate in building a world marked by love, hope, and transformation."

Stultz Costello has served as the interim leader of the UMHEF since September following the death of Bob Fletcher and is being named to the position full-time after a nationwide search for the next president & CEO.

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung has announced his intention to appoint the Rev. Dan Bryant to serve as interim superintendent of the Central Valley District from January 1 to June 30, 2026. He has served in the East Ohio Conference since 1990 as the pastor of several churches, superintendent of the Mahoning Valley District, and dean of the Cabinet.

East Ohio Conference News

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung invites you to The Holy Land, the Holy People Trip to Israel scheduled for April 6 – 15, 2026. The tour will be led by The Society for Biblical Studies (SBC), an ecumenical, interfaith and inclusive organization. SBC seeks to renew the mission of the Church by making this experience contextual and grounding it in biblical faith. You are invited to participate in a ministry of reconciliation, to reach out across geographic, religious, ethnic and cultural boundaries to new horizons of mission. [Learn more and register by January 20.](#)

At 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 18 Bishop Hee-Soo Jung will be part of a special service honoring Rev. Dr. King at Clair UMC in Columbus. You are invited to attend in-person or via livestream. The theme for this year's celebration is "Bending the Arc: Building the Beloved Community in Our Neighborhoods".

Conference Council on Finance & Administration has approved local churches not being billed in 2026 for the flat rate, the 3% pensionable pay, and the 4% church match for the new Compass Clergy Retirement plan that begins January 1. The decision was made to give churches the opportunity to use some of the funds budgeted for Compass payments in 2026 on other ministry projects.

East Ohio Conference News

Learn best practices for responding as a volunteer in disaster situations on Jan. 17. Training includes how to interact with survivors, how to assist survivors recover belongings, how to tarp roofs, and how to safely remove debris. Successful completion of the training and a background check by United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is required to receive your credentials as a certified UMCOR Early Response Team (ERT) volunteer for three years. Cost of the training is \$25/person, which includes training materials, a t-shirt, lunch, and the required UMCOR background check. If you have questions about the training, please [e-mail Tom King](#), Disaster Response chairperson.

[Register on the Events Registration page of the EOC website by January 12.](#)

East Ohio Camps & Retreat Ministries thanks the families and local churches who encouraged and supported 673 youth to attend Summer Camp 2025. Six of our own youth attended.

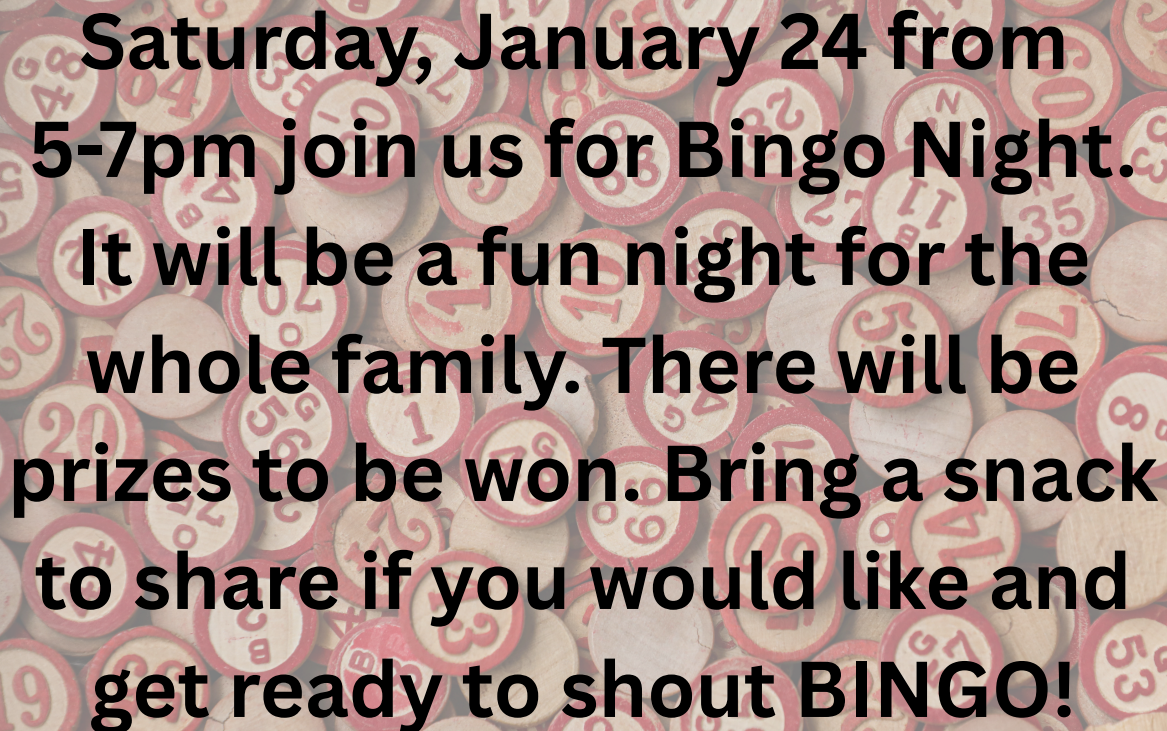




Operation Christmas Child Year-Round Shoebox Collection

February	Hair bands, clips and barrettes, hair brushes and combs.
March	For the older kids: Tape measures, flashlights with batteries, small tool kits, sewing kits, heavy bright colored thread.
April	Outdoor fun: small rubber balls, jacks, chalk, jump ropes, yo-yos, deflated soccer balls and pump
May	Individual packaged toothbrushes, including children's sizes, band aids for kids
June	Small dolls, matchbox cars, decks of cards, card games
July	Watch for the picnic supplies sales: any plastic cups, bowls, heavy plastic utensils, and any kind of refillable water bottles.
August	Shop the school supplies sales for small notebooks, pencils, pencil sharpeners, colored pencils, watercolors and crayons
September	Ball caps or sun hats
October	Collect any items yet needed. We'll send out a list.
November	Pack our boxes and pray for the children receiving them. Donate \$10 for shipping of each box.

Bingo Night



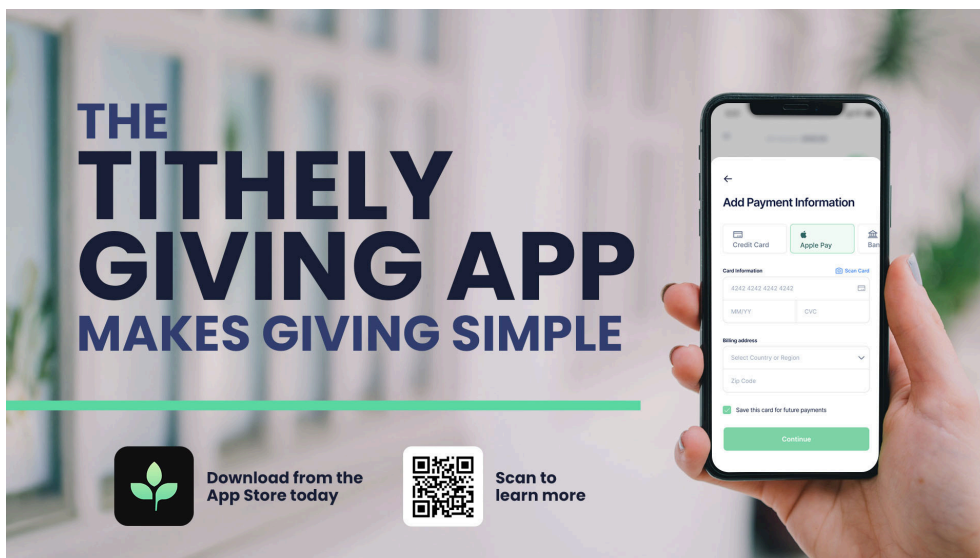
Saturday, January 24 from 5-7pm join us for Bingo Night. It will be a fun night for the whole family. There will be prizes to be won. Bring a snack to share if you would like and get ready to shout BINGO!

Script Report

In 2025, we ordered \$2625 worth of gift cards through RaiseRight, earning \$170.48 for the church's General Fund. Some people ordered using the app, in addition to our bulk order for Christmas. Thank you, all!

All together, the RaiseRight community raised over \$35 million (up from \$1.3 million last year) in over three million transactions, benefitting 15,325 organizations.

If you do not currently participate in this fundraising effort, but are interested, contact Robin Hughes at 570-807-1970.



We are excited to announce that giving to Loudonville United Methodist Church is easier and more convenient than ever! We have joined Tithely Giving.

Tithely Giving is an easy-to-use platform that will allow you to give online and on your phone. You can make both one-time and recurring gifts, give with a credit/debit card or ACH transaction, and even Cover the Fees (which will help your gift go even farther!)

Option 1: Give on the Tithely Giving App

Download the Tithely App from the App Store (iPhone) or Google Play Store (Android). Once you've downloaded the app, select Loudonville United Methodist Church and follow the steps listed below (for using a Giving Form).

Option 2: Give on Our Website.

Go to: <https://loudonvilleumc.com/give> to access a Giving Form on our church website. Just like on our app, you can also set up a recurring gift that makes your regular giving automatic.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or email us and we'd be happy to assist you further.

Thank you for your generosity. Your financial partnership helps to build the Kingdom of God in our community—and world.

Upcoming Events



Loudonville UMC

Loudonville, Ohio

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

01/06 Community Meal, 5pm

01/10 Lakeville UMC Food Pantry, 9am

01/12 Governance Board Meeting, 6:30pm

01/13 Perrysville UMC Meal, 5pm

01/19 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Office Closed

01/20 Community Meal, 5pm

01/24 Lakeville UMC Food Pantry, 9am

01/24 Bingo Fun Night, 5pm



Church Family

December Celebrations

Anniversaries

01/31 Butch & JUDY Pollard

Birthdays

01/01 Alicia Vaughan

01/02 PAM Kassinger

01/04 MARLENE Bookman

01/08 Betty Curren

01/11 ALAN Fair

01/11 TONI Fair

01/13 Andy Reidenbach

01/13 WALTER Burd

01/15 TIFFANY Gray

01/16 Henry Thompson

01/17 RON Fetzer

01/17 Barrett Yoak

01/18 Carson Donley

01/21 MIKE Beans

01/27 LUCY Ullman

01/29 DONALD McDaniel

01/29 Angela Sponsler

01/30 Collins Reidenbach

Serving in Worship

Liturgists

01/04 Jackson

01/11 Barb Burd

01/18 Cindy Maxwell

01/25 Kelly Fetzer

Greeters

01/04 Jackie and Dave

01/11 Karen and Ken

01/18 Tammy and Sandy

01/25 Nila and Patty