

# THE CHURCH WINDOW

A Monthly Newsletter of the Loudonville United Methodist Church

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS  
SPECIAL ISSUE:

*Community Meal - 3*

*Governance Board - 4*

*East Ohio Conference - 7*

*Events - 15*

*Church Family - 16*



FEBRUARY 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. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?**

**Matthew 6:25-27 (NIV)**

Continued...

When was the last time you experienced anxiety or concern? How did you respond to that situation? What actions did you take to address it? The culture we live in seems to perpetuate worry and fear. We try to convince ourselves that we can control those things that are out of our control.

When we engage in worry, we perpetuate it until we become ensnared in a cycle of apprehension. In our passage, Jesus identifies three areas that are susceptible to our worry: sustenance - will we have sufficient food and am I consuming appropriate nourishment? Appearance - can I maintain my current social standing or adhere to a specific lifestyle? The future - what uncertainties lie ahead?

Worrying is unproductive and unhelpful. There is no physical or mental benefit to worrying. In fact, worry decreases our quality and quantity of life. Instead of worrying, Jesus says we ought to redirect our energy towards something better - seeking first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.

Living as people of God's kingdom means that we live under a different ethic and ethos than the cultural norm. According to the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), we are called to live in a way radically different than the world around us. Jesus challenges us to reimagine life through the lens of the kingdom of God. "Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock" (Matthew 7:24).

Instead of worrying, Jesus invites us to step off the treadmill of anxiety and to begin building on the Rock. When we do this, we find stability, purpose and the freedom to live as redeemed and beloved children of God. "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:33).

Peace, Pastor Kenn



## **News from Your Community Meal Team**

### Upcoming Community Meals:

Feb. 3: Kielbasa/Kraut; Applesauce; Dirt Pudding OR  
Gingerbread

Feb. 17: Chicken Pot Pie; Cole Slaw; Dessert

(Meals are subject to change, based on donations)

### Final 2025 Numbers for Community Meal

2051 meals served; \$150.29 to General Fund; \$1567.61 to Kitchen Fund; \$1717.89 to Apportionment Funds. This meal is so successful because many people participate: donors, diners, cooks, servers, runners. Thank you all for contributing to the success of this mission of the LUMC!

# Governance Board

## January 2026



**Loudonville UMC**

Loudonville, Ohio

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

- Two new volunteers are helping with counting
- Amy Loveday has offered to help send updates and information about the church for the church through Facebook
- Ted Daniels is the new chair of SPRC and they will be meeting in Jan.
- The church has received an \$8000.00 grant to help pay for a bathroom off from the sanctuary. Jordan Lance has offered to meet with Shrock, Inc. to see if their original proposal is still available. Anyone willing to help with this project please contact the office.
- LUMC has been given \$1000 from New Hope Church. It was voted to put that money into the projects needed for the Messy Church, a Monday night church for busy families who work weekends and are looking for a nontraditional service. Anyone who would like to help with crafts, songs or meals please contact the office.
- The Help Us Help You forms can be accessed in the sanctuary or in the church office.

# **Pastoral Change News**



**To: LUMC Congregation:**

**From: Ted Daniels, Chair of Staff Parish Relations Committee**

**Re: Pastoral change**

**It's with mixed emotions, I am announcing that Pastor Kenn Curren has been appointed to Doylestown United Methodist Church, effective July 1. We want to wish Pastor Kenn and Betty the best in their exciting new assignment. At the same time, we are sad that they will be departing from our midst.**

**The Currens have left their mark in so many ways during their six years of ministry to the Loudonville United Methodist Church. They joined us amidst the uncertainty of the pandemic -- first meeting outside in Central Park and later in the "socially-distanced" sanctuary.**

**From the beginning, they led by example, focusing on hands-on outreach to our community, including the coats project, food bank, and growing our community meals to twice monthly. It's the basics of bringing the hands of Jesus to our neighbors.**

**They have encouraged those wanting to increase fellowship opportunities whether it was making the parlor more inviting for Sunday morning fellowship or promoting Saturday night social activities.**

**Pastor Kenn provided a steadying hand during the sometimes rocky waters of the cooperative parish experiment that was thrust upon us unexpectedly. In addition, we also instituted the "one-board" concept to streamline the administrative function of our church.**

**Continued...**

# Pastoral Change News



**Financially, our congregation is in the best shape that it's been in years. We have paid 100 percent of our district and conference apportionments the past several years.**

**Worship attendance has increased, and we have added new members, including young families who have immediately gotten involved.**

**But more importantly, beyond the financial and attendance statistics, I sense our congregation is experiencing a spiritual renewal. All the kids on the altar during the children's sermon is one such sign.**

**For those of us who have grown up in the United Methodist Church, frequent pastoral changes are the norm because of the itinerant pastoral system, where the bishop makes appointments. We have been fortunate to keep the Currens in our midst for the past six years.**

**Change is sometimes difficult, especially when it involves relationships. But our church's ministry is far bigger than just the pastor. The best way to honor Pastor Kenn's and Betty's ministry here is to continue to build on our positive momentum. Ministry is a series of hundreds of small acts -- inviting a friend, checking on a neighbor, offering a helping hand, teaching Sunday School, helping preparing a meal. We all can do our part in sharing God's love.**

**The Staff Parish Relations Committee will keep you updated as we learn more from the district superintendent about filling our vacancy. If you have questions or concerns, contact me or any other SPRC member.**

**Please keep this time of transition for our congregation in your prayers, including Pastor Kenn's and Betty's new adventure and the appointment of our new pastor.**



# East Ohio Conference News

## **Coffee Talk drop-in Conversations with new District Superintendent Dan Bryant**

DS Bryant is beginning to schedule drop-in conversation sessions throughout the Central Valley District. Stop in & say hello!

- February 1: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Dunkin Donuts (1501 Niles Cortland Rd SE, Warren, OH 44484)  
\*\*LOCATION CHANGED FROM LAST WEEK\*\*

## **Cooperative Parish News**

Tues., Feb. 24 a cooperative-wide men's group will meet at noon at Iron Pony in Lakeville (Rts. 3 and 179).

A cooperative-wide women's group will meet there at noon on Wed., Feb. 25.

# East Ohio Conference News

## **Bishop Hee-Soo Jung Invites All to Days in the Districts**

The bishop asks laity and clergy across the Ohio Episcopal Area to make plans to attend one of the five days in the districts in February and March. Participants at each gathering will connect with one another around the Ohio Episcopal Area 2026 Missional Direction & Five Strategic Pillars. The ones closest to us would be:

West Plains & Olentangy River Districts

Wednesday, March 4 @ Lexington Church of the Cross

Northern Waters & Central Valley Districts

Saturday, March 14 @ North Canton Faith UMC

For each of the days, clergy will gather at 9:30 a.m. for 10:00 a.m. worship followed by a Bible study led by Bishop Jung. Laity should arrive at 11:00 a.m. for a training session on laity leadership skills led by Julie Carter, director of Faith Formation & Lay Ministries. Laity who will travel with their pastor are invited to the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

Clergy and laity will eat lunch together at noon followed at 1:00 p.m. by a discussion with Bishop Jung and Conference leadership around the Ohio Episcopal Area 2026 Missional Direction & Five Strategic Pillars.

[Learn about Bishop Jung's Days in the Districts.](#)

[Register for each of the Days in the Districts.](#)



# East Ohio Conference News

## **Bishop Jung sends this message:**

Dear Beloved People of The Ohio Episcopal Area,

I write to you today with a heavy heart and a praying spirit as we witness the recent tragic deaths of two people in Minnesota. These losses are not isolated incidents. They are part of a wider pattern of fear-driven, indiscriminate immigration enforcement that has crossed moral and spiritual boundaries. Nothing can justify violence against human life.

As an immigrant myself, I know in my own body what it means to live under the weight of uncertainty, vulnerability, and being labeled. I also know that many who are called “undocumented” are not criminals. They are workers, parents, and neighbors who crossed borders because economic systems, political violence, and family survival left them no other choice. Today, families, industries, and entire communities in the United States depend on their labor and their lives. This is why we must continue to call for comprehensive immigration reform that reflects reality, justice, and mercy.

Scripture is unambiguous about God’s heart toward the stranger.

“When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the stranger. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the stranger as yourself” (Leviticus 19:33–34).

The crisis before us is not only legal or political – it is moral and spiritual. The United States is being tested at the level of its soul. Will we be a nation shaped by fear and exclusion, or a society rooted in hospitality and justice? Our faith reminds us that God is always found among the displaced, the vulnerable, and the unwelcome. Jesus himself was a refugee. Scripture tells us that his family fled violence and crossed borders to survive (Matthew 2:13–15). And our Lord teaches us plainly: “I was a stranger and you welcomed me” (Matthew 25:35).

# East Ohio Conference News

## **Bishop Jung sends this message: (continued)**

The church cannot be silent in such a moment. The Ohio churches are called again to be a people who build true human community – where dignity is protected, where the stranger is seen as neighbor, and where love is stronger than fear. Laws matter. Policies matter. But before all of that, the spirit of hospitality must shape our homes, our congregations, and our public witness.

Let us become communities of sanctuary – places where justice has a face, and mercy has hands:

We lift before you the names and faces  
of those who have died,  
and the families who now grieve.

Hold them in your healing light.

Make our churches places of welcome,  
where the stranger is no longer invisible,  
and the wounded find safety.

Let justice walk freely in our streets,  
and let compassion become  
the language of our nation.

Break the power of fear.

Restore the soul of this land  
through the love of Christ,  
who makes us all neighbors.

Amen.

# UMC NEWS

Last May, UMC Bishops developed a new vision statement: “The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.”

Just days ago, church leaders and scholars held a webinar exploring how Wesleyan theology shapes who United Methodists are around the globe. They also discussed how theology informs the denomination’s vision to “love boldly.” During the webinar, “theology” was described as “God speaking his word.” The panelists emphasized that the way United Methodists should respond to God’s love that they read about in Scripture is to share boldly that love with others in their contexts around the globe.

“If we look all around the connection, we see these little Holy Spirit-led sparks that are happening,” said Rev. Marian Royston, who works with [new and renewing churches in the North Alabama Conference](#). “It’s almost like we’re on the edge of a revival — if we’ll let it happen.” Royston continued, “I have this sincere hope that we will fan these little sparks into a flame, and that something big and beautiful and sustainable for the next generation will happen.”

The webinar is the first in a series of three ahead of the bishop’s Leadership Gathering in October. The next webinars, featuring different panelists, will focus on the Wesleyan teachings that inform the vision statement’s other components: “Serve joyfully” on Feb. 21 and “Lead courageously” on March 21.

The Commission on the General Conference has adopted the theme “Love Serve Lead: Empowered by the Holy Spirit” for the next General Conference, to be held May 8-18, 2028, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The theme builds on the new guiding vision statement for The United Methodist Church that was unveiled in May 2025.



## Operation Christmas Child Year-Round Shoebox Collection

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

# Welcome New Members and Confirmands



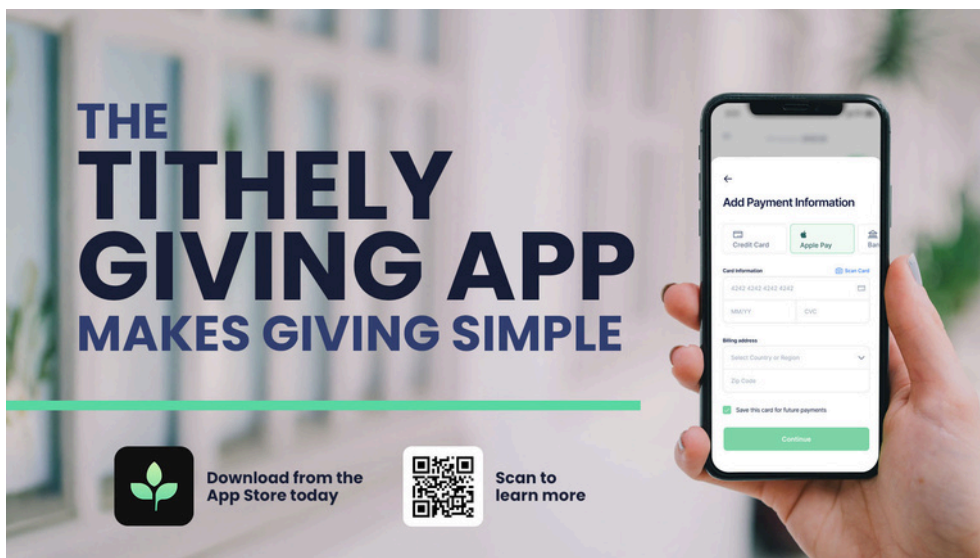
Beckett,  
Jackson,  
Henry,  
Harper,  
Caroline,  
Quinn

.....

Matt & Kara  
Armstrong,  
Eric & Julie  
Stitzlein,  
Scott & Amy  
Loveday,  
Jordan &  
Becky Lance,  
Andy & Kari  
Reidenbach,  
Laurie Bower







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

## Chili Cook Off – February 08

Mark your calendars for our annual LUMC Chili Cook-Off. Sunday, February 08 at Noon. Sign up to let us know you are bringing your best Chili. Everyone is invited to come taste the chilies to find out which one is the best.

02/02 SPRC Meeting, 6pm

02/03 Community Meal, 5pm

02/08 Chili Cook-Off, Noon

02/09 Governance Board Meeting, 6:30pm

02/10 Perrysville UMC Meal, 5pm

02/14 Lakeville UMC Food Pantry, 9am

02/17 Community Meal, 5pm

02/18 Ash Wednesday

02/28 Lakeville UMC Food Pantry, 9am

# Church Family

## February Celebrations

### Anniversaries

02/26 NORMAN & JODI Donley

### Birthdays

02/04 BARBARA Burd

02/04 JASON Burd

02/05 Kyrie Montgomery

02/06 SANDY Esto

02/07 ERIC Mitchell

02/09 Ava Scott

02/09 Ella Scott

02/10 Charlotte Pollard

02/11 Nate Sponsler

02/11 Shonica Swank

02/13 KELLY Samon

02/14 ERICK Lamachy

02/18 SCOTT Loveday

02/20 John Eicher

02/21 JOHN Baker

02/24 Tammy Kindle

02/26 STEVE Hughes

02/28 KATHY Daniels

02/29 Branch Vaughan

### *Serving in Worship*

#### *Liturgists*

***02/01 Linda Mehaffey***

***02/08 Kids***

***02/15 Robin Hughes***

***02/22 Walt Burd***

#### *Greeters*

***02/01 Jim and Sharon***

***02/08 Kids***

***02/15 Gene and Gail***

***02/22 Jackie and D***