

THE CHURCH WINDOW

A Monthly Newsletter of the Loudonville United Methodist Church

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MARCH 2026

By Pastor Kenn Curren



That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side."

Mark 4:35

One of my most cherished childhood memories is sitting on the porch swing, enveloped in the soothing symphony of rain and thunder. The porch provided a sanctuary of safety and security, allowing me to sway gently on the swing while observing the rain with a sense of reassurance.

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However, when a storm descended upon my bedroom at night, the experience was markedly different. Lying alone, the distance to my parents' bedroom seemed insurmountable. Storms, in contrast, become more bearable when we have someone nearby to offer comfort and companionship.

As followers of Christ, we frequently overlook the fact that we will still encounter storms in life. In the aforementioned verse, the disciples were preparing to embark on a journey across the lake, only to encounter a formidable storm. Despite their extensive experience as fishermen, it is reasonable to assume that they would have been accustomed to navigating boats in various weather conditions. However, when they encountered this intense storm and faced the risk of being overwhelmed, they sought assistance from Jesus.

Jesus gently rebuked them and inquired, "Where is your faith?" In essence, why were you apprehensive? Did you forget that the Savior is accompanying you through the tempest?

It is significantly more effortless to trust when the sun is shining than when the storm is raging. Remember, with Christ as your vessel, you can smile at the storm. Hebrews 13:5,6 assures us, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." Therefore, we confidently declare, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid."

Dan Crawford stated, "Christ said to his disciples, 'Let us go to the other side'—not to the middle of the lake to be drowned. Have faith in Jesus that you will reach the other side of whatever storm comes along, for he is riding the storm with you."

Peace, Pastor Kenn



Loudonville UMC

Loudonville, Ohio

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

News from Your Community Meal Team

Upcoming Community Meals:

March. 3: Cheese Lasagna, Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert

March. 17: Tuna Noodle Casserole, Peas, Brownies

March 31: Vegetable Soup or Broccoli Cheese Soup, Sides

(Meals are subject to change, based on donations)

Easter Flowers

Place your order for Easter flowers by March 01. Complete the form by Sunday, and submit your payment with the order form. Write “Easter flowers” on the memo line of your check, or enclose cash in an envelope marked “Easter flowers.”

Governance Board February 2026



Loudonville UMC

Loudonville, Ohio

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

- Volunteers are needed to solidify plans for the once a month Messy Church. If you are interested in planning meals or activities, picking music or dates and times, please call the office.
- The board approved a new position for the church that combines the office administrator and the treasurer's position. Please welcome Joe Heath to this new role.
- The church continues to try and find construction crews and or plumbers to help with the new ADA bathroom off from the sanctuary. If you are interested in the planning of this project, please call the office.
- Grayson Oswald presented updates on the Food Cabinet Project. Eric Stitzlein offered to be the contact person for the church as the project moves forward this Spring.

The image features a red-tinted photograph of a person wearing a white shirt with "VOLUNTEER" printed on it, holding a cardboard box. The box has a red label that says "FOOD" and the word "AID" is visible on the side of the box. To the left of the photograph, the text "UMCOR SUNDAY" is displayed in white and black.

**UMCOR
SUNDAY**

UMCOR Sunday

March 15 is UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Sunday. In 2025, UMCOR responded to 115 humanitarian crises around the world. These responses were strengthened by gifts to the UMCOR Sunday offering, which helps to cover administrative costs so that donations given throughout the year go directly to those in need. Together, we can strengthen and develop the church's global humanitarian response for on-the-ground relief and recovery efforts

Community and Cooperative

Community Good Friday Service

Friday, April 03 at 7pm the Loudonville-Perrysville community will have their Good Friday service at Perrysville UMC.

Cooperative Parish News

March 29: Palm Sunday: Combined Worship Services:

Loudonville UMC is invited to join Perrysville UMC at 9 am.

Lakeville UMC and Fairview UMC are invited to join Bigelow UMC at 11 am.

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.](#)

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.”

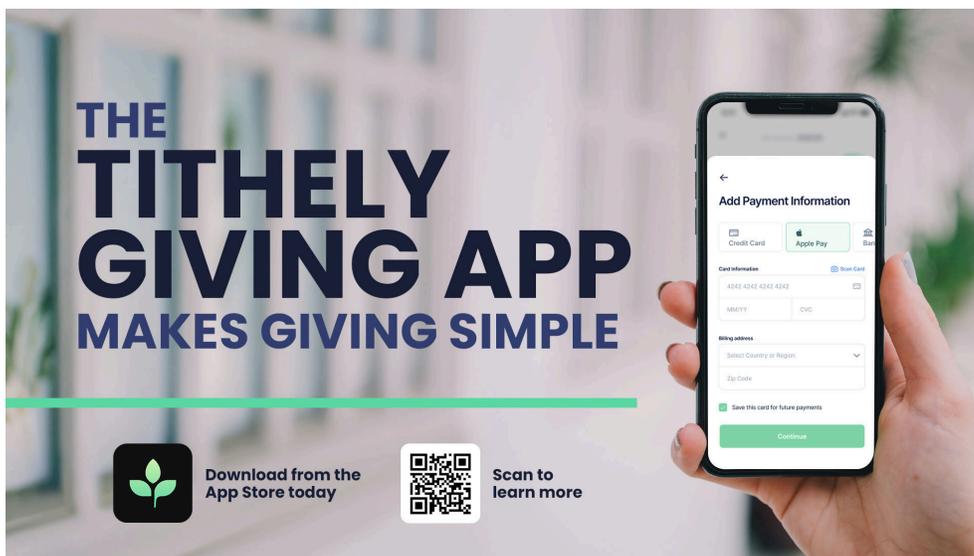
The webinar is the first in a series of three ahead of the bishop’s Leadership Gathering in October. The next webinars, featuring different panelists, will focus on the Wesleyan teachings that inform the vision statement’s other components: “Serve joyfully” on Feb. 21 and “Lead courageously” on March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

- 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.



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

Perrysville UMC Combined Service

Sunday, March 29 will be a combined service in Perrysville at 9am. We will not have a service here at Loudonville UMC that day.

03/03 Community Meal, 5pm

03/09 Governance Board Meeting, 6:30pm

03/10 Perrysville UMC Meal, 5pm

03/14 Lakeville UMC Food Pantry, 9am

03/17 Community Meal, 5pm

03/28 Lakeville UMC Food Pantry, 9am

03/29 Combined Worship at Perrysville UMC, 9am

03/31 Community Meal, 5pm



Church Family

March Celebrations

Anniversaries

03/12 ALAN & TONI Fair
03/20 JOE & CYNDI Janeczek

Birthdays

03/01 Jack Lance
03/02 FLORENCE Lowe
03/04 Jay Keating
03/04 HARPER Close
03/08 CINDY Strouse
03/10 NATHAN Donley
03/10 Dan Schrack
03/11 JIM Brewer
03/12 TOM Motz
03/12 SUSAN Beans
03/12 ADAM Close
03/13 LORI Oswald
03/14 Violette Wagner
03/14 Anneliese Bontatibus
03/15 Eloise Burd
03/16 PHYLLIS McClure
03/19 BRITTANY Rambacher

Birthdays - continued

03/20 SUE Uhler
03/20 GENE Heller
03/21 SALLY Warbel
03/21 TYLER Scott
03/26 EMMA Whitaker
03/28 RUTH Kauffman
03/28 ANNA Inscho
03/29 CINDY Maxwell
03/29 Sean VanHorn
03/31 KARA Armstrong

Serving in Worship

Liturgists

03/01 Quinn
03/08 Barb Burd
03/15 Cindy Maxwell
03/22 Kelly Fetzer
**03/29 Combined worship in
Perrysville UMC 9am**

Greeters

03/01 Karen and Ken
03/08 Tammy and Sandy
03/15 Nila and Patty
03/22 Jim and Sharon
**03/29 Combined Worship at
Perrysville UMC, 9am**