

THE CHURCH WINDOW

A Monthly Newsletter of the Loudonville United Methodist Church

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APRIL 2026

By Pastor Kenn Curren



**“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,
for by doing that some have entertained angels
without knowing it.” Hebrews 13:2**

Continued...

As Christians, hospitality should be our top priority. It's the foundation for all our other good qualities. The Greek word for hospitality, *philoxenia*, means "love of the stranger." Back in the Bible, life was tough, and people couldn't travel easily. One way to make the world feel bigger was to welcome those who came from afar into our homes.

Instead of feeling like we have to do something, "love of the stranger" is a chance to be blessed by seeing the world God loves. But that's not all! When we show love to strangers in church and our own lives, we actually meet Christ. So, hospitality is a gift that helps us grow and nourish ourselves, just like it does for our guests. When we open our homes and hearts to others, we turn ordinary places into welcoming and changing spaces.

This year, we've been busy making our church's spaces more welcoming and hospitable. With everyone's help, we're sharing meals with many in our community. We'll be there to see Grayson finish his Eagle Scout project and use our Hope Cupboard to make sure food is available all day, plus fresh fruits and cozy coats. Plus, we're working on getting a handicap-accessible bathroom in the sanctuary.

The heart of Christianity is all about love. It's through love that our faith truly shines. Let's nurture our love with acts of charity and open hospitality. You might not expect it, but just like Abraham and Sarah, who unknowingly welcomed three divine messengers, our guests could bring us unexpected blessings from God. Think about ways you can show hospitality in the coming months.

Peace, Pastor Kenn

News from Your Community Meal Team

Upcoming Community Meals:

March 31: Creamy Potato Soup with Bacon or Broccoli Cheese Soup, Sides

April 7: Sausage Gravy over Biscuits, Hash Browns, Vegetables, Orange

April 21: Bacon Cheeseburger Sliders, Cole Slaw/Pasta Salad, Cookies

(Meals are subject to change, based on donations)

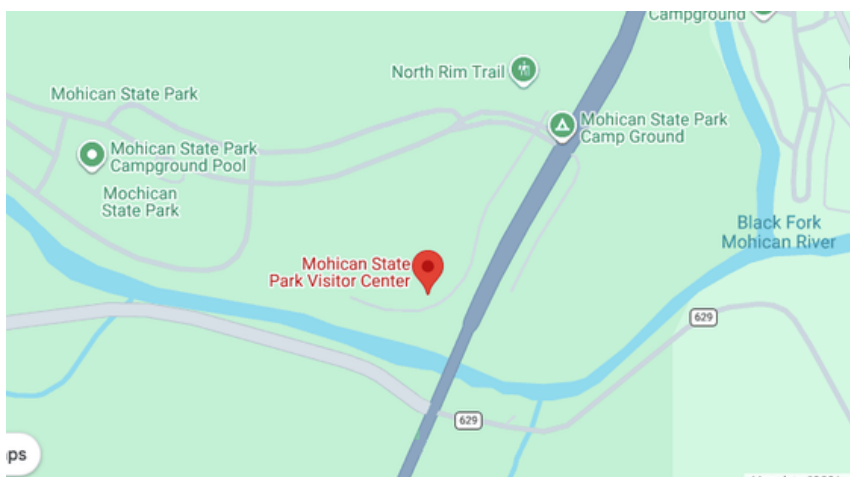




What is Messy Church?

It's church, but not as you know it! Once a month we meet in different locations to eat, play and worship together. Expect creative activities, songs, prayers and an entirely new way to express your faith!

Gather with us: Sunday, April 19
from 3-5pm at the Pavilion at
Mohican State Park Visitor Center,
3136 OH-3 Loudonville. Enjoy
games, crafts, songs,
conversations and a picnic dinner!



Claire Dalpra, of The Sheffield Centre said it best: "Messy Church is an all-age fresh expression of church that offers countercultural transformation of family life through families coming together to be, to make, to eat and to celebrate God."

Getting To Know You



Loudonville UMC

Loudonville, Ohio

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

In ceremonies on January 18, the United Methodist Church of Loudonville welcomed 11 new members. Here are brief sketches on the new members. Please welcome them.

SCOTT AND AMY LOVEDAY

Scott and Amy Loveday live in Millersburg with their two-year-old granddaughter, Amari. They moved to this area in 2000 after spending their childhoods in Cincinnati and Louisville, and their early married years in Knoxville, Tenn.

Scott is retired after a 34-year career as a financial analyst for the U.S. Dept of Housing and Urban Development. Amy spent her working years doing a variety of things including being a teacher, a children's ministry director, and a stay-at-home mom.

Scott is an avid golfer, and Amy an award-winning quilter. They spend their time together traveling, performing at local venues and events, and raising Amari. They have been members of the United Methodist Church all their adult lives, and landed at the Loudonville United Methodist Church after a five-year search for a new church home. The liturgical service, traditional music, large number of children, and warm congregation drew them into membership.

LAURIE BOWER

Laurie Bower came to the Loudonville United Methodist Church after a search of churches.

"I attended the Shreve Methodist Church for my entire life, and was baptized there in 2019," she said. "However, I had been looking for another church for several years when Amy Loveday suggested that I give the Loudonville Methodist church a try."

"I found it a great fit!" she concluded.

Laurie lives in Loudonville with her three cats, Uno, Indigo, and Gizmo.

She works as the office manager at Tru-Weld Equipment in Smithville.

Her hobbies include reading, sewing, spending time with her nieces and friends, and attending concerts and theater performances.

Getting To Know You



Loudonville UMC

Loudonville, Ohio

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ANDY AND KARI REIDENBACH

Andy and Kari Reidenbach live on the outskirts of Loudonville in a home built by her grandparents.

Kari works at Charles River in Ashland as a Senior HR Business Partner, a job where she says “I work to support others—something I love to do in life in general.”

Andy serves as the superintendent of maintenance for the Village of Loudonville, handling a range of responsibilities including street maintenance, maintenance of parks, buildings, and grounds, and with his team, supporting the village in every way asked of them.

The Reidenbachs have three children. They are sons Beckett, a sixth grader in the Loudonville-Perrysville Schools, and Ryder, a fourth grader, and daughter Collins, a second grader.

Kari explained that she and Andy were looking for a church that “felt more like home and was inclusive to all, a place we would find comfortable to attend.

“As part of the search, I called Kelly Fetzer, who I knew greatly loved her church and held similar beliefs on loving your neighbor,” she continued. “I asked her where she went, telling her we were just going to come and try it out with no promises or commitments that we would end up staying.

“We never looked elsewhere,” she concluded. “The Loudonville United Methodist Church felt like home.”

Kari extended her thoughts on feeling at home by noting “we are very passionate about our hometown and the people in it. Even in trying times, a little kindness, a little care, and a little time can make a HUGE difference in your community. That’s a belief we are trying to raise our kids up understanding!”

Getting To Know You



Loudonville UMC

Loudonville, Ohio

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JORDAN AND BECKY LANCE

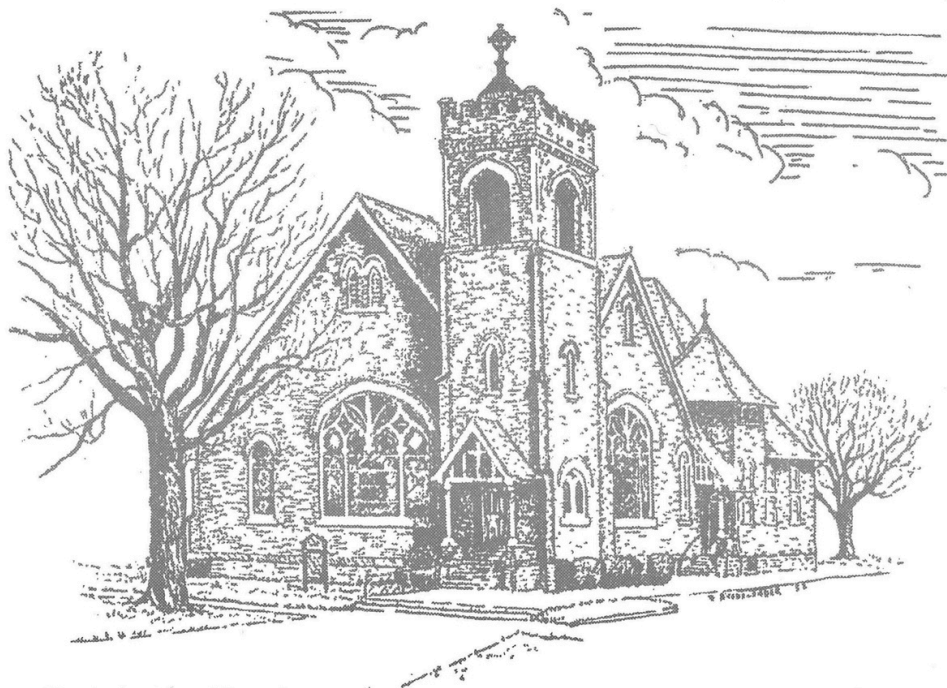
Jordan and Becky Lance live on the south side of Loudonville, near Bull Hill, with their three children: Jonathan, 8, a second-grader at the McMullen School; Micah, 6, in Kindergarten; and Jack, 3.

Jordan works for Conagra Brands as an International Sales Representative, and Becky is a Registered Nurse.

The Lances came to United Methodist Church after working on the school levy campaign with some of the other UMC families.

“Kari Reidenbach invited us, as she, Andy, and their kids had been attending for some time,” Jordan said. “We are very grateful that she invited us and welcomed us into the UMC family, along with everyone else.

“We are excited to be a part of the church and love all of the ways that UMC is involved in caring for the community,” he continued. “The care for the community is what sold us on UMC, and it is our hope for our family that we can serve alongside the other UMC church members in whatever ways we can.”



Getting To Know You



Loudonville UMC

Loudonville, Ohio

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ERIC AND JULIE STITZLEIN

Eric and Julie Stitzlein live northwest of Loudonville with their two children, Jackson, age 12 and a sixth grader, and Lyla, 8, a second grader.

Eric works at Charles River Laboratories in Ashland as Director of Business Optimization/Project Manager. He works with a global team to improve business performance and carry out project implementations.

Julie is a stay-at-home mom who is active in both the McMullen and Budd School's parent associations, serving as treasurer of both organizations.

Eric said that he and Julie "were looking for a family church, where we could all feel welcomed, included, and involved."

Since attending church, Eric has joined the governance board, and Julie helps often with preparing community meals.

The Stitzleins enjoy being outside and involved in the community. Eric loves coaching baseball, fishing, and traveling. Julie enjoys gardening and growing flowers.



Getting To Know You



Loudonville UMC

Loudonville, Ohio

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MATT AND KARA ARMSTRONG

Matt and Kara Armstrong live in Loudonville, up the hill from Stake's IGA in a home built 135 years ago. They enjoy walking to as many places around town as they can, but are tempted to move to the outskirts.

The Armstrongs have two children, Lailen, age 6 and in kindergarten, and Vaughn, 4, a preschooler.

Matt works as a sensory scientist for the J.M. Smucker Co. in Orrville, where he designs test plans, analyzes data about how people perceive food, and collaborates with the research and development department to develop and refine products to maximize consumer appeal and improve product quality.

He is also a member of Loudonville Village Council, Mohican Area Community Fund board, and on the Farmers Market / Christkindlmarkt Steering Committee.

Kara is a staff accountant at Mount Vernon CPA, handling bookkeeping, payroll processing, and other essential services. She also serves as race coordinator for the Mohican 5K, and is secretary of the Loudonville-Perrysville School Foundation.

The Armstrongs previously attended church in Ashland, but found themselves wanting to attend a church in Loudonville so they could be more consistent, attend church with families they see around town and school, and be more of a part of the Loudonville community.

“We were invited to a Christmas-time craft event at the church by Tiffany Gray, and had a really good experience, Matt said. “We had known several other families who are longtime members, and then we got to know Kari Reidenbach through the school levy campaign and decided these are the type of people we want to be around and who we want our kids to be around. We liked the organization of the church with Sunday school and adult time and then service together, and we really liked Pastor Kenn's message and decided to keep coming back.”

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

Rev. David Miller named new pastor for Loudonville, other cooperative parishes

Photo Caption:
Rev. David Miller (from left) with wife Krista, daughter Emma and son Isaac.



Community and Cooperative

Rev. David Miller named new pastor for Loudonville, other cooperative parishes

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung of the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church has appointed the Rev. David Miller to the Mohican Cooperative Parish Charge, effective July 1.

Some of the following reasons the bishop and cabinet felt Rev. David was a good fit for our congregations included:

- Gets engaged in the community,
- Is a good preacher and does well with pastoral care, and
- Does well with multigenerational ministry.

Rev. David is a third generation United Methodist minister. He's been a pastor for 25 years, serving mostly smaller congregations. He's joining us from Smith's Chapel United Methodist Church, down in Morgan County, not too far from McConnelsville, where he and his wife, Krista, have served churches in the area for 10 years. However, much of his ministry has been in the West Ohio Conference, including churches in Eden, Bloomdale and Alexandria.

He and Krista have two grown children: Isaac, who works at the Kroger in McConnelsville, and Emma, who is a sophomore at Muskingum University. He's been active in the local community, including coaching youth sports and he is a member of the Beverly Lions Club.

He's a full elder of the United Methodist Church, a graduate of Ohio Northern University, and graduated from Asbury Seminary in Wilmore, Ky.

An excerpt from his view of ministry:

" I believe the church is not the building, but the people and so we need to go and be church to the world. We need to think about church being a verb instead of a noun."

After church last Sunday, I asked Pastor Kenn and Pastor Tom Jones if they had any advice for us as we welcome a new minister. It was: "Love them. Moves are difficult on pastors too, filled with uncertainty about the future and sadness on leaving people you have grown close to. Just love them."

So please keep Rev. David and his family, and Pastor Kenn and Betty, along with our churches in this time of transition.

Ted Daniels
Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair

East Ohio Conference News

In early 2025 Bishop Hee-Soo Jung announced the creation of the Ohio Episcopal Area Task Team with eight members and two ex-officio staff members from each of the East Ohio and West Ohio Conferences. The role of the Task Team is to listen, discuss, and discern about forming a new, unified Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church.

According to Rev. Doug Anderson, Task Team Consultant, "The decision to create a new annual conference is not made by the task team, the Cabinets, or the bishop. That decision will be made by the Annual Conferences themselves in 2027."

Last summer 19 work groups were formed, each resourced by Conference leadership and comprised of up to 10 clergy/laity members from across both Ohio Conferences.

The members of one of the work groups invite you to anonymously complete an online survey so that your thoughts can be heard and considered. No personal identifying data will be collected. Your feedback will help inform future Conference staffing, structure, and culture so that the new unified Conference can best support local churches in the years ahead. Please Take a Moment to Share Your Thoughts:

[Complete the work group survey.](#)

[Visit the Ohio Episcopal Area Task Team page of the EOC website.](#)

East Ohio Conference News

The Ohio Episcopal Area is offering United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) Early Response Team (ERT) team leader training on Saturday, April 25 from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the East Ohio Conference office (8800 Cleveland Ave. NW, North Canton). Learn best practices for responding as a volunteer in disaster situations. Training includes how to interact with survivors, and help survivors recover belongings, tarp roofs, and safely remove debris. Successful completion of the training and a background check is required to receive your credentials as a certified United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) ERT volunteer for three years. If your UMCOR ERT certification is due to expire in 2026, you are eligible to recertify and you will not need to stay for the entire class. The cost for the class is \$25 and includes the training manual, an ERT t-shirt, and lunch. If you have questions about the training, please [e-mail Tom King](#), chairperson of the Disaster Response Committee.

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



EAST OHIO CONFERENCE
UNITED METHODIST VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

East Ohio Conference News

Summer Camp offers a week of spiritual formation to children and youth in grades 1 through 12. If you register for Summer Camp before April 15, you can save \$25/camper. If you have questions about Summer Camp, please [e-mail the Camps & Retreat Ministries office](#).
[Learn more and register for Summer Camp 2026](#).

All three camps (Aldersgate, Asbury and Wanake) are seeking people 18 years old through retirement who love God, people, and the outdoors to serve in mission this summer with the camp program. Residential and commuter positions are available, including camp counselor, lifeguard, program staff, food service, maintenance, and healthcare.
[Learn more and apply to be Summer Camp 2026 staff](#).

Obituary: Norman James Greenawalt, retired Elder, died March 4. A funeral service was held March 15 at 4:00 p.m. at Hempel Funeral Home (373 Cleveland Ave., Amherst, OH 44001).

Rev. Greenawalt is survived by sons Michael (Sharon) and Matthew (Catherine); daughter-in-law Sharon; 10 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. [Preceded in death by wife Nancy and son Mark]

Rev. Greenawalt served the following Ohio churches: Holmesville Federated, Spencer, Loudonville, Lakewood: Calvary, Covenant, Akron: Park, South Amherst, and Henrietta. He retired in 2001.

Memorial contributions may be made to Camp Sychar in Mt. Vernon, OH.

East Ohio Conference News

From Bishop Jung:

I was raised among the shadows of war. In my childhood village, many of the older boys grew up without fathers. Some had gone to war and never returned. Others simply disappeared into history's silence. Their absence shaped our lives. It was not just loss – it was a quiet, enduring grief that never found closure.

The Korean War, often described as ending in 1953, never truly ended. It paused. The armistice stopped the fighting, but it did not bring peace. Even today, millions of families remain separated, not knowing whether their loved ones are alive or dead.

War leaves behind more than ruins. It leaves unanswered questions that echo across generations.

I carry deep gratitude for the young Americans who sacrificed their lives during that Korean war. Their courage forged a bond between Korea and the United States that remains strong. But gratitude does not erase the moral weight of what war does to humanity.

Because I have seen its consequences, I cannot accept violence as a solution to human conflict.

[Read Bishop Jung's Soul Food article in its entirety.](#)

Bishop's Prayer for Peace

God of mercy, where war still breathes, let Your peace begin.

Where memories ache and names are lost, hold them in Your eternal light.

Where hands have learned violence, teach them again the work of healing.

Where enemies stand apart, open a way toward one another.

Christ, our peace, who said, "No more," disarm our hearts.

Before it is too late, turn us from destruction to life.

Amen.

UMC NEWS

The Office of Discipleship Ministries is exploring fun and creative ways to engage with you. One way they're doing that is through a new video series, *Between Sundays: Practical Discipleship for Everyday Life*. In it, they share who they are, what they care about, and how they hope to walk alongside local church leaders. In the first episode they explore how to shape a culture of discipleship. New episodes of *Between Sundays* drop every other Tuesday on YouTube. You can subscribe to the channel to receive each episode. You can also receive weekly resources, ideas, and field notes from the *Between Sundays* newsletter on Substack, designed to support everyday discipleship in your personal life, church and ministry.

[View Episode 1 of Between Sundays.](#) (From Robin: This features Rev. Beth Ortiz, Exec. Dir. of Office of Discipleship Ministries and has a goofy beginning, but stay tuned past the "Top Ten" list for real background on the office.)

[Visit the Discipleship Ministries Substack.](#)





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.

2026 SUMMER CAMPS

Register for Summer Camp today!



Scan to register.

Summer Camp Registration is Open!

Register now and make camp a
part of your Summer 2026 plans!



East Ohio Conference
The United Methodist Church





CENTRAL VALLEY DISTRICT WEST
EAST OHIO CONFERENCE
LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES COURSES
April 18 in Wooster, OH



The Central Valley West District Lay Servant Ministries (LSM) Committee will offer the following courses:

Introduction to Lay Ministry, the Basic Course: This course is foundational for all courses in Lay Servant Ministries. Participants are encouraged to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended and to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in their discipleship. **Book Required:** Lay Servant Ministries – Basic Course by Sandy Zeigler Jackson and Brian Jackson.
Discover Your Spiritual Gifts (Advanced Course):

This course helps participants understand spiritual gifts and how the church can use them to fulfill its mission and ministry. Participants will also learn what it means to be a spiritual leader and will be equipped to lead others in exploring and using their spiritual gifts. **Book Required:** Each One a Minister by William J. Carter. You will also complete a Spiritual Gifts Inventory which will be sent to you once you register for this course.

Ministry with the Forgotten: Dementia Through a Spiritual Lens (Advanced Course): This course is designed to help laity and clergy deepen their understanding of persons living with dementia and help all maintain their identity and worth as beloved children of God. Participants will discover what it means to carry each other's memories, joys, and diminishments together in community. Through loving practices that nurture and incorporate persons with Alzheimer's and dementia into the church's life and ministry, we experience a spiritual wholeness rooted in God's grace beyond our own strengths and capacities.

Book Required: Ministry with the Forgotten: Dementia through a Spiritual Lens by Kenneth L. Carder.

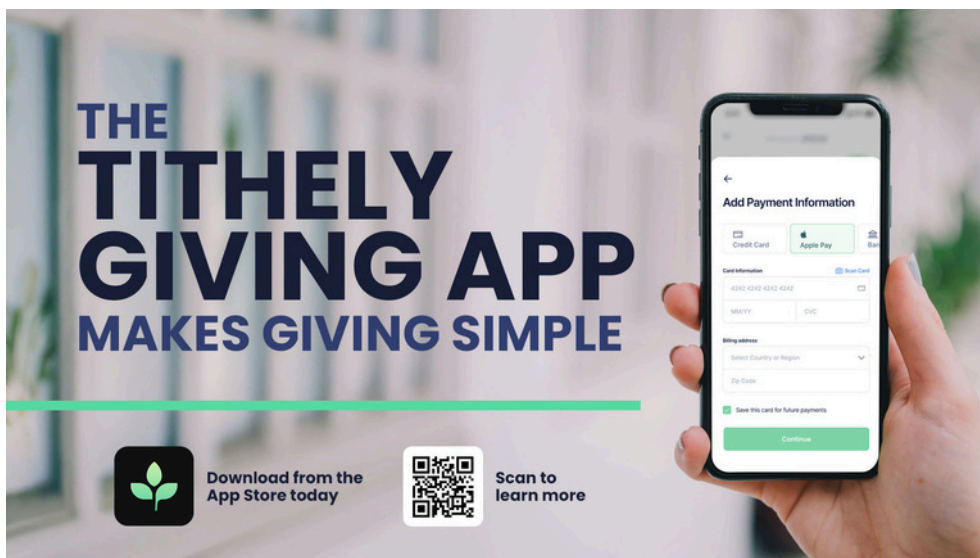
When: Saturday, April 18 from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Where:** Wooster United Methodist Church, 243 N. Market Street, Wooster, OH 44691 *** Check-In, pastries, and fellowship will be from 7:30 – 7:55 a.m. **Cost:** \$30, includes lunch and refreshments. **PLEASE ALSO NOTE:** You are responsible for purchasing your own course book. To receive the required number of course hours, you must read your course book, complete the exercises contained within the book and be prepared to participate in class. If cost is a barrier, first ask your church if they can sponsor you. If they cannot sponsor you, you may apply for a scholarship online at: <https://eastohio-reg.brtapp.com/LayServantTrainingScholarship>. Anyone can take any of these courses for spiritual growth, you do not have to be a member of a UMC or be seeking certification as a Lay Servant, Lay Speaker, or Lay Minister. It is our sincere

hope that you will join us for this opportunity of education and fellowship.

Questions? Contact Steve Gilson at gilsonsd@aol.com or (330) 264-7203.

Register using the QR code above or here:
<https://eastohio-reg.brtapp.com/CentralValleyLSMApr2026>

The last day to register is April 11



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

Save the Date: VBS July 13-15 6-8:30pm

03/31 Community Meal, 5pm

04/03 Community Good Friday Service, Perrysville
UMC, 7pm

04/07 Community Meal, 5pm

04/11 Lakeville UMC Food Pantry, 9am

04/13 Governance Board Meeting, 6:30pm

04/14 Perrysville UMC Meal, 5pm

04/19 Messy Church, Mohican Pavilion, 3pm

04/21 Community Meal, 5pm

04/25 Lakeville UMC Food Pantry, 9am

Church Family

April Celebrations

Anniversaries

04/02 ERICK & Regina Lamachy
04/05 JACK & JANE Campbell
04/19 JACK & Sheron Burgess
04/29 JOHN & CAROL Baker

Birthdays

04/03 Alexis Oswald
04/07 BOB Moritz
04/08 Sidney Portz
04/10 JACQUELYN Koch
04/10 LAURIE Bower
04/11 GAIL Hall
04/12 JODI Donley
04/12 Jonathan Lance
04/15 Matthew Kindle
04/18 JUDY Pollard
04/22 Grant Portz
04/22 Jaime Portz
04/23 BRETT Close
04/25 CAROL Baker
04/25 JARET Mitchell
04/27 CHEYRL Bird
04/27 DEBORAH Scott

Serving in Worship

Liturgists

04/05 Robin Hughes Easter
04/12 Kids
04/19 Walt Burd
04/26 Ted Daniels

Greeters

04/05 Jackie and Dave (Easter)
04/12 Karen and Ken
04/19 Tammy and Sandy
04/26 Nila and Patty