

THE CHURCH WINDOW

A Monthly Newsletter of the Loudonville United Methodist Church

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JULY 2025

By Pastor Kenn Curren



A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

Matthew 13:3-8 (ESV)

Continued...

This passage has always been a special part of my life. It was the theme of my week in licensing school back in 2008, and it was the first passage I ever preached on when I started my ministry journey. I think about it a lot. As followers of Christ, we're all called to spread love and kindness wherever we go. We are equipped with the seeds, and as the passage points out, we are to be extravagant with our sowing.

We also need to tend to the seeds growing in us. Two years ago, while exploring the Sequoia National Forest, where the trees were over 1,500 years old, I stumbled upon an eighty-year-old sequoia that was struggling to survive. It was being choked out by overgrowth from other trees and vegetation. Thankfully, the foresters intervened and cleared the area, allowing the sequoia to flourish. Just like these magnificent trees, we sometimes need to let go of unnecessary things and open up our lives to thrive. What are the things that hold us back from growing and reaching our full potential? Are they bad habits, negative relationships, or an unhealthy lifestyle that's choking our growth?

To grow healthy, both physically and spiritually, we need to be aware of the things that can hold us back. Just like a plant needs water, air, soil, and a weed-free space to grow, we need to be firmly planted to thrive. Just as the seeds in Jesus' parable were in danger of being uprooted, we too need to be rooted in our faith and purpose to avoid being swept away by challenges. Some seeds fell along the path, and the birds quickly devoured them. Some fell on rocky and shallow soil where their roots could not take hold. The sun scorched them and they soon withered away. Others fell among thorns and were choked out. But those that were planted in the good soil thrived and produced much fruit. It is my hope and prayer that we will come alongside one another, nurturing and caring for one another, so that we can produce much fruit in each of our communities.

Peace, Pastor Kenn



Loudonville UMC

Loudonville, Ohio

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

News from Your Community Meal Team

Upcoming meals

July 1: Salmon Rice Casserole OR Swiss Chicken Casserole;
Cole Slaw; Dessert

July 15: Ham Dinner with Dessert

July 29: Assorted soups and sandwiches

Upcoming Events for Youth and Children

July 19: Family Fun and Games, 5-8pm

August 9: Ice Cream Social at LUMC, 6-9pm

East Ohio Conference News

East Ohio Annual Conference Report 2025

Annual Conference was held June 11 – 14 at the College of Wooster, with 289 clergy and 312 laity in attendance. Allow me to say that I thought this year went much more smoothly than the past few, and it sure was nice to sleep in my own bed every night! Pastor Kenn and Betty, as well as Nila, were also in attendance. Nila was an equalizing member. First, let me congratulate you on your contribution of 12 Dignity and Home Care Kits. I asked for 11 and you exceeded my ask! Thank you!

Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings began with Worship in McGaw Chapel. We commemorated those clergy, spouses and laity who have passed since last conference. We commissioned or ordained five pastors in a service where Bishop Jonathan Keaton (EOC 1996 – 2004) delivered the sermon, and we intensely studied the Gospel of Mark, chapter 5, verses 35 – 43, the story of Jairus' daughter, raised from the dead by Jesus.

Plenary sessions (the real work) did not begin till after lunch each day, but we were at it till 8 and 9 pm. Bishop Jung, having accepted Christ as his Savior at the age of 16 at a church in Korea founded by Ohio missionaries, invited Bishop Kim from the Seoul, Korea Annual Conference to speak with us, and the two signed a Covenant of Ministry Partnership. We can expect the two conferences to share best practices and projects, and a group from Ohio has already been to Seoul, and a delegation came with Bishop Kim. We also had several West Ohio Conference representatives with us during conference.

East Ohio Conference News

Bishop Jung is serving both East and West Ohio Conferences and he would like to return to a single Ohio Conference (1956 was the last time Ohio was one Episcopal area), but it will need to be approved by both East and West, probably in 2027. Over 254 interviews have already happened regarding joining the two conferences, and more will happen, as well as lots of planning and coordination and listening sessions. We already have some staff serving both EOC and WOC. We voted to affirm Bishop Jung's Task Team's continued exploration of one Conference and to include them in our prayers. We are encouraged to view this as a transition, not as a change, since Bishop Jung is committed to visiting every UM church in Ohioland during his four years as bishop, and would like us to start 100 new faith communities: 40 in EOC and 60 in WOC. He would also like to see a Sunday School movement at every church.

In budget news, the 2026 budget will increase only 1.2 percent, but apportionments will remain at 2025 levels, as they figure out a new formula for figuring apportionments. With the current formula, and fewer churches since disaffiliation, local church apportionments would increase, which the Bishop's Cabinet did not want. Of the 399 churches in EOC, 204 gave 100 percent of their allotted apportionments – including Loudonville! – and 95 others increased their giving. Since we are a connectional church, our apportionments support services, churches and projects beyond our doors. Our shared ministry funds are: World Service and Conference Benevolence, Connectional Support Service Fund, Ministerial Pension and Hospitalization

East Ohio Conference News

Fund, Clergy Support Fund and Education Fund. Anything we give to UMCOR comes from UMCOR Sunday giving.

We also approved a 5 per cent increase to the minimum pastor salary across all ministry categories, and Pastor Kenn has been appointed to serve us for another year. Applause!

When Bishop Malone was serving us, we had a “Lift Her Up” campaign that sold lemonade to provide funds to send a woman (Louise Phyllis) to Africa University. The conference is looking for four local churches to “adopt” four new students at African University and provide a relationship of letters and prayer. East Liverpool UMC will “adopt” Louise Phyllis. Only \$7 from every person in the conference would allow us to send another student to Africa University. If you would like to donate, it is Fund #9168.

We approved the action of the Trustees, including sales, purchases and closures of churches and parsonages. We voted to use a portion of the closed church money for upkeep of our church camps, because needed repairs will cost more than their budget.

We passed five resolutions: one in support of forming an Ohio site of the Immigration Law and Justice Network and to recommend a “Welcoming Migrants Sunday” for UMC churches; the second calls us to affirm that apartheid is antithetical to the Gospel message (referring to Israel); the third asks us each, personally, to consider our personal role and purpose as a proclaimed follower of Jesus; the last two ask us to engage in public awareness campaigns and advocacy efforts to highlight the importance of

East Ohio Conference News

SNAP benefits and Medicare, and to urge our representative to not cut these programs.

We voted on four changes to the Constitution as included in our Discipline. The first was regionalization, which would allow some customization of other rules in the Discipline. The second says that people cannot be excluded from the UMC because of “gender” and “ability” in addition to race, color, national origin, status or economic condition. The third proposed change would make more explicit the UMC stand against racism, using words like “white privilege” and “colonization.” The final ballot was to change educational requirements for clergy members of annual conference to vote for clergy delegates to General Conference. The results of those Constitutional votes were not announced, as it takes a 2/3 aggregate majority to change the Constitution. We should know by late fall, when all Annual Conferences have met and voted.

I had two working lunches, learning about Creation Care (energy reduction, protecting water, gleaning fields) and Immigrant Care (some very active support groups for those facing deportation in Wooster and Orrville). On Aug. 20, we are invited to Green Church Training at Ashland UMC and to join Westminster Presbyterian in Wooster or Open Arms Hispanic Ministries in Orrville as they care for immigrants in our area. If those things speak to your heart, please let Pastor Kenn know.

It is my privilege and honor to represent you at Annual Conference, and I look forward to next year’s meeting again at Wooster June 11 – 13. Thank you!

Governance Board Meeting

June 2025

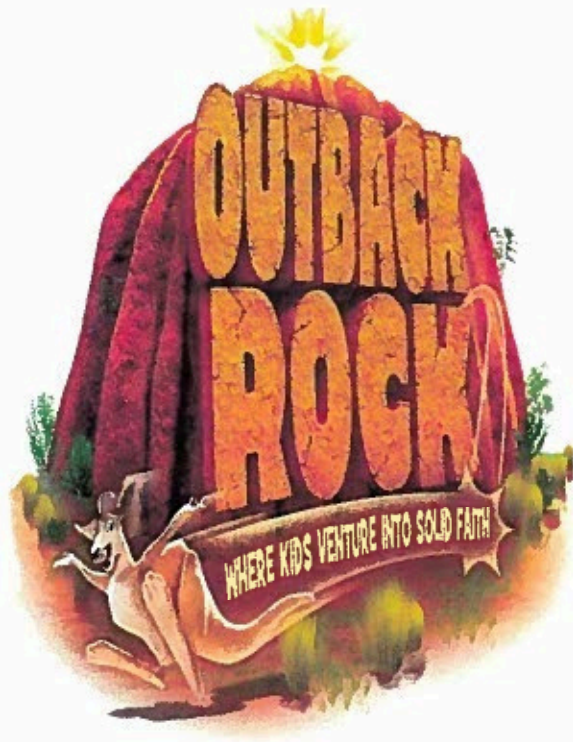
- The church roof will be repaired so that we can have time to write a grant and raise funds to pay for the cost of a metal roof.
- Mr. Gillette is looking for volunteers to help with the Vestibule ceiling.
- SPR continues to look for an organist/pianist. The church is grateful for Amy Loveday sharing her gifts and talents with us.
- Sunshine team is making visits and sharing sweets with shut-ins.
- Please let the office know if you are willing to help with grant writing for the new roof, handicapped bathroom, and other projects that have come up in the church.
- LUMC will have a Cooperative Parish meeting on July 21st at 6:00PM.
- Bishop Jung will visit on Sept. 8 with lunch provided at Perrysville from 12:00 to 1:00.





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.



THIS VBS ROCKS!

OUTBACK ROCK VBS IS HERE!!

LOCATION: TRINITY COMMUNITY CHURCH 127 S. UNION ST

VBS DATES: MONDAY JULY 28, TUESDAY JULY 29, WEDNESDAY JULY 30

FUN BEGINS AT: 6PM

ENDS AT: AROUND 8:30PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL: 419-994-4649 (PLEASE LEAVE MESSAGE)

Register at tcccloudonville.org



Loudonville UMC

Loudonville, Ohio

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Upcoming Events

07/01 Community Meal, 5pm

07/08 Perrysville UMC Meal, 5pm

07/12 Lakeville UMC Food Pantry, 9am

07/14 Connected Parent Cafe, 5pm

07/14 Governance Board Meeting, 6:30pm

07/15 Community Meal, 5pm

07/19 Family Fun and Games, 5-8pm

07/21 Combined Governance Board Mtg, 6pm

07/26 Lakeville UMC Food Pantry, 9am

07/28-30 Community VBS, Trinity Church 6-8pm

07/29 Community Meal, 5pm

Church Family

July Celebrations

Anniversaries

07/04 Kenn & Betty Curren
07/12 STEVE & ROBIN Hughes
07/14 Brad & HEATHER Carr
07/16 Craig & ANNA Inscho
07/19 James & JUDY Sabo
07/20 JOEY & CHERYL Raines
07/27 MATTHEW & MARRISA BURD
07/30 KEITH & Kaitlin Lemke

Birthdays

07/01 MATTHEW Burd
07/03 RON Pratt
07/03 CHIP Pollard III
07/04 ROBIN Hughes
07/06 JOHN Ullman
07/08 KYLE Nickles
07/10 Dustin Rambacher
07/13 RICK Pace
07/13 Christine Thompson
07/15 SALLY Truax
07/15 Caroline Thompson

Birthdays - continued

07/18 DAN Speck
07/20 KATHY Cates
07/20 Regina Lamachy
07/23 Robert Close
07/24 CLARA Donley
07/25 Thor Wagner
07/26 BILL Raines II
07/27 JOYCE Chipner
07/28 JESSICA Wagner
07/30 Clayton Burd

Serving in Worship

Liturgists

07/06 Barb Burd
07/13 Ted Daniels
07/20 Linda Mehaffey
07/27 Joey Raines

Greeters

07/06 Jackie and Dave
07/13 Gene and Gail
07/20 Karen and Ken
07/27 Tammy and Sandy