



LIBERTY LANTERN



VOL. 4, ISSUE 3

FEB. 28, 2026

THE LIBERTY QUARTET IS COMING!



SATURDAY, MARCH 21ST, AT 3:00 PM

Liberty UMC is thrilled to announce we will once again host the superb vocal talent of the Liberty Quartet. Celebrating their 30th Anniversary, this Gospel group travels many miles each year since their founding in 1995. Ministering in performances for churches, nursing homes, prisons and other ministries, they also sing at large conventions including the Gospel Music Fan Festival in Canada.

The concert will feature everything from high-energy performances to moments of contemplation, leading all who attend in a concert of worship that will bridge all generations.

Be sure to invite family, friends, and neighbors. If you have a social media account please feel free to share the information in a personal post or copy and share the information from the Liberty UMC website calendar: <https://libertyumcbuckeyeaz.org/events/free-concert-event/2026-03-21>. And watch for reminders you can share in the new church Facebook page (search the new page as LibertyUMCBuckeyeAZ)

This performance is free of charge though all are welcome to contribute to the love offering for the Quartet.

IT'S TIME FOR AG NIGHT SUPPORT ...

The Liberty Elementary School has asked us once again to support their AG Program. The event will be on Friday, March 27th and we need both bakers and volunteers this year.

Our support of the Liberty AG program is an annual favorite, and our bakers turn out an array of goodies that are always a big hit and a great part of the event fundraising.

As Erica, our Liberty PTO officer, relayed in her request, "It's amazing how much you guys have helped out and brought in for our PTO and we love it so much!"

This year along with baked goods we are also providing volunteers for their carnival event to be the smiling faces to pass out prizes! If you would like to volunteer for the carnival support beginning at 4:45 PM on Friday, March 27th, please check with Linda H.

The school is looking for baked items that can be sold as individual treats rather than whole baked items, like round cakes.

If you have questions about baked items, where and when to deliver, we will be announcing more details as the event draws near. We will also have an event reminder posted on the Liberty website calendar!

Linda H., LUWF / Mission Co-Chair

THANKS NATE!

Dear Liberty Family - This past fall we teamed up with the Buckeye High School work program for custodial services. While we appreciate the efforts of the student, the program was not a good fit for our needs.

A member of our congregation, Nathaniel (Nate) V. has agreed to perform these duties for us, in addition to the work he already does to take care of our irrigation and landscape needs!

Please join me in thanking Nate for his dedication and diligent work!

Be sure to let Nate know how much we appreciate all he does at Liberty!

Michele J.



NEWS FROM THE LIBERTY BUILDING PLANNING COMMITTEE...

The Building Planning Committee had their relaunch in October 2025, after Mike M., Advisory Council Chair, asked Annette B. to chair the committee. His directive was to work with *Trustees, the **Advisory Council, and the ***grant writing team to continue church members' good work in building maintenance /planning.

Members of the committee are our Pastor, Annette, Art, Michele, Richard, and Vern. Five meetings were held from October 2025 through February 24, 2026.

The first phase of committee work was to review and summarize all the building maintenance work completed for the past five years. Those five years of work were informed, in part, by a Survey of Needs that members completed in 2022. A full review of the work completed in the last five years was published in the Nov/Dec 2025 Liberty Lantern, a copy of that Liberty Lantern has been posted to the website for review.

The next phase of committee work was to review the 2022 survey results for all the needs that had not been addressed. The committee then chose one of the needs that could be partially or totally funded by external grants. "Doors and windows restoration" in the education wing and hall was selected based on trustee input and 2022 survey results.

Why "window and doors restoration"? Safety and energy efficiency are top reasons.

Liberty's windows and doors are as old as 60+ years. Windows in Memorial Hall are paned and many of the panes that have broken through the years were replaced with sheets of thin plastic. Windows can no longer be opened and allow pests, dust, and moisture to enter. Modern windows provide better protection and are more energy efficient. Doors on the education wing are interior grade doors. Replacing interior-grade access doors with exterior-grade doors is essential for safety, energy efficiency, and durability. Exterior doors provide superior insulation against heat and cold, reducing utility bills and HVAC wear. They also offer better security, weather resistance, and increased property value, while reducing noise levels.

Please note that church sanctuary doors (both primary entrance and emergency exit) are not included in the grant project because they are assigned to the trustee's management. This division of labor is based on a timelier need of the sanctuary doors. Grant funding is a lengthier process and unable to meet immediacy needs of the church's safety related to the sanctuary doors.

Annette presented the committee's decision to Advisory Council and requested Council approval to begin a grant writing process to fund "window and doors restoration". Council members voted yes to proceed with grant writing.

The granting organization is Oldham Little Church Foundation (<https://oldhamlcf.org/>). It is specifically for churches with 40-300 members. A small percentage of grants are selected; it is highly competitive.

Art and Michele obtained bids from Andersen Windows and Doors. A bid for approximately \$24,000 will be submitted with the grant. The timeline for submitting a grant is anytime during 2026. The team has set a goal for March 2026 for our submission.

The building/planning committee will meet on an as-needed basis March through August. Announcements will be made at church and in the Liberty Lantern. All church members are welcome to attend meetings.

Please pray for God's will and His blessing on this and future church maintenance efforts.

*Trustees are Art C. Terry S. and Vern R.
 ** Members of the Advisory Council are:
 Pastor Lind - Ministry
 Mike M – Chair
 Pete F. – Treasurer
 Barbara K – Finance Secretary
 Linda H. / Yoshiko F. – Mission
 Rachael S. – Education/Publications
 Michele J. – Worship / Council Secretary
 Claire M. – LUWiF / Lay Leader
 Brian V. – SPRC Chair
 Vern. R – Trustees
 Annette B. – Building/Planning, Grant Writing

UPDATE FOR THE LIBERTY CALENDAR...

Hand & Foot on Thursdays is moving to 4 PM!



Curious to learn more about Hand & Foot (or any other events scheduled at Liberty UMC?

Check out the calendar on the Liberty website: Libertyumcbuckeyeaz.org

IMPORTANT DATES AHEAD!



Hard to believe Holy Week is just around the corner and planning by the Worship Team is underway!

In case you need to put a reminder on your personal calendar for these dates - Palm Sunday (3/29), Maundy Thursday (4/2), Good Friday Vigil (4/3), our annual Easter workday (4/4) and, of course, Easter Sunday, April 5th.

Watch for sign-up sheets in the coming weeks.

LEFT OVER ICE CUBES & WATER BOTTLES ...

Now that the weather is turning 'warm' again, just a reminder - please dump leftover ice cubes or partial water bottles from Sunday refreshments on the silver-looking morning glory bush right outside Memorial Hall door (it is not on a drip line). Thank you!

PLEASE CONTINUE IN YOUR PRAYERS ...

Many of you have given your time, muscle and skills in the creation of our stained glass windows and that is why our stained glass art is so unique. It is created by this Liberty Family!



Handyman Bob Carlson and Nick making repairs to wood frame/supports

Many of you will have heard that our installation glazer, Brian McDermott, recently suffered a heart attack. Brian is home, recovering and thanks you for all your prayers.



We have been praying for someone younger to step in and learn the installation process and I am happy to report that our very own Nick V. has stepped up and is excited to learn the

old process of putty and glazing point installation needed for our windows.

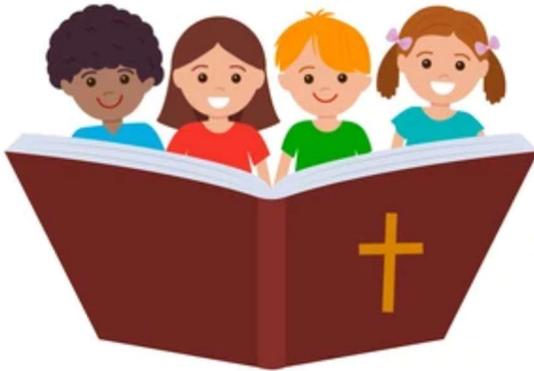
God truly answers prayers.



HEARTFELT THANKS ...

Have you seen the new banner on the fence? "Come for the Love" is a pretty apt description of what visitors can expect from Liberty UMC.

We have so much welcome and warmth to offer those who visit and, of course we hope visitors will choose Liberty UMC as a church home. One program that draws young families to a church is the Children's and Youth Education.



Our program has undergone a lot of changes in the last few years, from refurbishment and organization of the Sunday School and Nursery to new age related module based curriculum and play opportunities. And we aren't finished yet.

Our youth have completed the 2025-2026 Confirmation Class and have entered a period of contemplation and prayer about their next steps. Please keep Ashley, Zachary and Xavier in your prayers. Youth will be choosing their next set of study materials soon!

We want to pause and say, once again, thank you to all who have volunteered in the past three years, Kathryn E., Linda H., Barb K., Lynn M., Marla L., Michele J. and Ashley B. Hope we didn't miss anyone. Special thanks to our adult Confirm mentors, Mike M. & Linda H., who spent 11 months on our journey.

We want to give a special 'shout-out' to those individuals who organize and share the Children's Message during Worship each Sunday, Pastor Bob, Ann B., Claire M. and Marla L.

We also want to welcome and thank those 'new' volunteers who have or are dipping a toe into a preschool age Sunday class for perhaps the first time, Anne-Marie C., Robbie C., Annette B. and Joanna B.

If you'd like to volunteer for Sunday School, please see Rachael S. or check out the sign-up board in Memorial Hall!

HEY, WHERE IS THE MARCH CALENDAR?

Well ... we would like to invite everyone to visit the new Liberty United Methodist Church website. While we still have work to do to rebuild the information on our beautiful stained glass windows, our deep and wonderful history, the website has some great features.

One of the best new features is the Calendar. The calendar lets us have recurring events, such as Worship, Sunday School information, meetings and special occasions in a rolling format that updates as each event passes.

Take a moment and check it out!

CLASSIFIEDS



Need to beat the coming summer heat?

Could you (or someone you know) use a free, working window air conditioner?

There are two (2) window air conditioners available to church members, first come - first serve. Trustees report they are in working order. Please see Vern R. if you are interested in one, or both. His contact information is included in the church directory.

Need to contact the Liberty Lantern? Email us at LibertyUnitedMethodist1@gmail.com

See recent past issues on the website:

<https://libertyumcbuckeyeaz.org/pages/newsletter>