



United Church of Christ

The Church Messenger

July/August 2026

Pastor Karen
Griswold



Encouraging Word

Isaiah 55:12

"For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."



"Dear GOD,

Let us revel in summer.

Let us soak up the long days and warm sun.

May our feet walk upon sandy beaches and our heads rest on thick grass under blue skies.

May we listen to and marvel at the singing of the birds and stop to watch blissful children at play.

This summer, God, may our hearts open.

God help us to be present to all that is, so that we might best see all that might be."

~ David Johnson

Nursery

5	2
12	9
19	16
26	23
	30



Serving for July/August



Junior Church

5	2
12 Penny Higgins	9
19 Julie	16 Penny Higgins
26	23
	30

Sound

5 Dennis McIntosh	2 Dennis McIntosh
12 Elisa Lash	9 Elisa Lash
19 Ed Armentrout	16 Ed Armentrout
26 Ray Etgen	23 Ray Etgen
	30 Elisa Lash

Greeting & Announcements

July Penny Higgins

Aug Julie Wilcox

Videotaping

Jim Hoffman / Bec Smith

Young People's Moment

5 Nancy Hamilton	2 Nancy Hamilton
12 Penny Higgins	9
19	16 Penny Higgins
26	23
	30

Screens

5 Powells	2 Powells
12 Tim Wilcox	9 Tim Wilcox
19 John Edwards	19 John Edwards
26 Ed Armentrout	23 Ed Armentrout
	30 Brandy Powell

**We all serve with our presence in worship.
Please join us this Sunday.**



July



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- July 1 6:00 pm** Porch Talk
July 5 8:30 am Deacons Meeting
 Sacrament of Holy Communion
 Finance Team Meeting after Church
 2:30 pm Otterbein Greenhills Service
July 7 9:30 am Tuesday Mornings - prayer
 6:00 pm Church Board Meeting
July 8 6:00 pm Porch Talk
July 12 **Congregational Meeting**
July 13 - 17 6:00 - 8:30 pm Vacation Bible School
July 14 9:30 am Tuesday Mornings - prayer
July 15 6:00 pm Porch Talk
July 19 Education Team Meeting after Church
July 21 9:30 am Tuesday Mornings - prayer
July 22 6:00 pm Porch Talk
July 25 Community Ice Cream Social
July 26 Worship & Property Team Meetings
 after Church
July 28 9:30 am Tuesday Mornings - prayer
July 29 6:00 pm Porch Talk



August



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Aug 2 8:30 am** Deacons Meeting
 Sacrament of Holy Communion
 Finance Team Meeting after Church
Aug 4 9:30 am Tuesday Mornings - prayer
 6:00 pm Church Board Meeting
Aug 5 6:00 pm Porch Talk
Aug 10 6:00 pm Pastoral Relations Team Meeting
Aug 11 9:30 am Tuesday Mornings - prayer
Aug 12 6:00 pm Porch Talk
Aug 16 Education Team Meeting after Church
Aug 18 9:30 am Tuesday Mornings - prayer
Aug 19 September Newsletter deadline
 6:00 pm Porch Talk
Aug 23 **Confirmation Sunday**
 Worship Team meeting after Church
Aug 25 9:30 am Tuesday Mornings - prayer
Aug 25 6:00 pm Porch Talk
Aug 30 Property Team Meeting after Church

Anniversaries



July

- 11 Mark & Sandra Morris
 17 Graham & Ashley Higgins
 20 Jimmy & Kari Hoffman
 27 Zech & Grace Wilcox

August

- 4 Kevin & Dawn Wilbur
 19 Darin & Laurie Leach
 19 Chad & Rhonda Mullins
 21 Matt & Ashley McIntosh



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July

- 8 Virginia Gregg
 8 Grace Wilcox
 9 Carole Wilson
 9 Megan Hunter
 16 Kevin Williams
 17 Taylor Cook
 18 Gaye Earick
 18 Autumn Swartz
 23 Rose Michael
 23 Zech Wilcox
 24 Kenny Harr
 24 Patrick Harr
 31 Steve Tracey



August

- 3 Kristi Buck
 8 Nate Cook
 8 Delanie Baustert
 10 Cindy Williams
 14 Judy Harr
 14 Jessie Henry
 17 Michele Etgen
 18 Steve Buck
 20 Kadon McIntosh
 21 Everett Wilcox
 24 Kevin Wilbur
 27 Graham Higgins
 27 Harper Williams
 29 Mollie Etgen
 29 Chad Mullins
 31 Darry Plank
 31 Dennis Plank



Some people are making such thorough preparation for rainy days that they aren't enjoying today's sunshine. William Feather

For the Journey a note from Pastor Karen

For the Journey...

July/August 2026

Dear Friends,

Lately I have been watching the planets in the nighttime sky. What about you? Surely if you have been out and about past 9:00 p.m. you have caught a glimpse.

Venus and Jupiter shine first and as the night continues Saturn and Mars can be seen.

I have always been awed by the night sky. I remember my first visit to a planetarium when I was about eight years old. When the presentation concluded and the lights came up, I could not move. I wanted to stay and see it all again! Magnificat, stunning, mesmerizing are just a few words to describe the experience.



The June solstice is upon us. We are experiencing longer days....summer has arrived! I recently read an article on the NASA website that included the following...

Signs of the June solstice in nature

Where should you look? Everywhere. For all of Earth's creatures, nothing is so fundamental as the length of the day. After all, the sun is the ultimate source of almost all light and warmth on Earth's surface. If you live in the Northern Hemisphere, you might notice the early dawns and late sunsets, and the high arc of the sun across the sky each day. You might see how high the sun appears in the sky at local noon. And also, be sure to look at your noontime shadow. Around the time of the solstice, it's your shortest noontime shadow of the year. If you're a person who's tuned in to the out-of-doors, you know the peaceful, comforting feeling that accompanies these signs and signals of the year's longest day.

This year our Vacation Bible School theme focuses on the tropical rainforest. Rainforests are rich and restorative. They are life giving and life sustaining. Like God they provide a rich source of blessing! God has provided. God calls us to appreciate creation, weave kindness, and blessings, and be ready to step out into new adventures. Come join in the fun at VBS!

May we always look up, look down, and look all around, opening our hearts to the sacred gifts woven into this beautiful world. May we seek ways in which we are invited to take part in the everturning axis of good, adding our light to the light that already shines.

Psalm 148:3 "Praise God, sun and moon, praise God all you shining stars!"

Journey well beloved, journey well,

Pastor Karen



We have had 3 Walk and Talk sessions to date. The first session brought 4 participants, the second brought 5, and the third brought 8. We have had participants of all ages and walking levels. We walk together and "leave no person behind".

We have shared in fellowship combined with enjoying the outdoors and the neighborhood. Look for additional Walk and Talk opportunities in the future. For the time being, we will be taking a break for Porch Talk.

Julie Wilcox

Ongoing Prayer List

If you have any updates to the prayer list, contact
Kathy Etgen 937-597-8260 or office@wlucc.org.

Those Dealing with Ongoing Illness or Difficulties

Klara Pedersen	Rick Fullerton	Jamie Thomas
Chuck Buck	Trudy Bradley	Renay Fullerton
Marcus Taylor	Carol Edgecomb	James Kaelin
Christina Porter	Tony Grant	Lakyn Parrish
Deb Pattee-Chiles	Todd Harbour	Cheryl Wolford
Michelle Moffitt-Greene	Andy Smith	(Trimble's grandson)

Our Service Men & Women

Skyler Heilman	Zech Wilcox	Michael Ropp*
Corey Hartzler	Tracy Harr	Nick Burden
Samantha Ropp*	Darren McIntosh	James Powell

* Denotes Reserves



Lucille Burden	luburden@yahoo.com
Kathy Etgen	8ketgens@gmail.com
Phil Etgen	etgen645@hotmail.com
Lauren Flora	luflo1983@gmail.com
Penny Higgins	aphiggins89@gmail.com
Julie McIntosh	mcintoshja2010@hotmail.com
Rob Painter	rdpainter@centurylink.net
Darry Plank	planda31@yahoo.com
Andy Smith	ajsmith3768@yahoo.com
Julie Wilcox	zechy65@gmail.com
Tim Wilcox	zechy65@gmail.com
Bill Warner	wswarner60@gmail.com



A Word from Missionary Aide

Looking for ways to support local outreach during the summer? Stop by the church MISSION CORNER where you will find a list of agencies whose needs don't stop during the summer months.

God's work never takes a break.



"Laughter is a sunbeam of the soul."

Thomas Mann

Honoring Our Graduates of All Ages

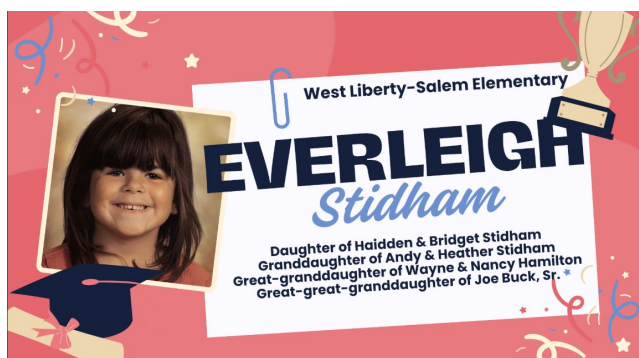
Pre-school



8th Grade



Kindergarten



"To love and be loved is to feel the sun from both sides." David Viscott

Honoring Our Graduates of All Ages

High School Graduates

 **West Liberty-Salem High School**

Taryn Bradley

**Traveling to Europe & Japan this summer
Will be working for a drilling company**

Taryn is the son of
Tyler & Trudy Bradley
He has been an active member of our
youth group for 5 years.



 **West Liberty-Salem High School**

Tristin Buck

Entering the Workforce

Son of Clint Buck
Grandson of Chuck & Carol Buck
Great grandson of Joe Buck, Sr.



 **West Liberty-Salem High School**

Taylor Cook

**Early Childhood Education
Bowling Green State University**

Daughter of
Nathan & Christy Cook
Graddaughter of
Jim & Thresa Hickman



 **Centerville High School - Centerville, OH**

Grant Daulton

**Systems Engineering
Minor: Business Administration
University of Dayton**

Son of David & Allison Daulton
Grandson of Scott & Karen Griswold



 **West Liberty-Salem High School**

Elle Heath

Entering the Workforce

Graddaughter of Gary Heath



 **West Liberty-Salem High School**

Dylan King

**Civil Engineering
Ohio Northern University**

Son of
David & Tara King
Grandson of
Peg King



**Cross Country & Track
at Ohio Northern**

 **West Liberty-Salem High School**

Brevin Loudon

**Finance & Business Administration
Minor: Marketing & Spanish
Heidelberg University**

Son of
Mike & Melissa Loudon
Grandson of
Dennis & Julie McIntosh



**Basketball & Track
at Heidelberg**

 **Clearview High School - NJ**

Lillian Pedersen

**Biology
Loyola University Maryland**

Daughter of Darren & Emily Pedersen
Graddaughter of Beverly Yoder



Honoring Our Graduates of All Ages

 **West Liberty-Salem High School**

Kaylee Powell

Architectural Studies
Kent State University

Daughter of
Brad & Brandy Powell
Grandaughter of
Jim & Thresa Hickman



 **West Liberty-Salem High School**

Naaman Stidham

Partner in the family business
Stidham's Painting & Roofing

Son of Andy & Heather Stidham
Grandson of Wayne & Nancy Hamilton
Great-grandson of Joe Buck Sr.



College

Masters in English
Ohio University

Logan Humphrey

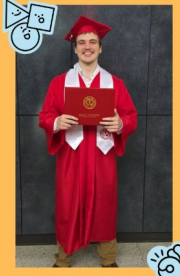
Daughter of Yvonne Humphrey



BA in Chemistry - Miami University
Works at Thermo Fisher Scientific
Plans to become a chemical scientist of
pharmaceutical drugs within the company

Jameson Legge

Son of Doug & Nikki Legge
Grandson of Judy & the late David Legge



BS in Recreational Therapy
Lindenwood University

Mollie Sandford

Daughter of Dawn Smith
Grandaughter of Barbara Trimble




LeAnn Rimes

The Small Group is planning a road trip to see LeAnn Rimes and the Columbus Symphony Orchestra at Picnic with the Pops on Saturday, July 18th. All are welcome. Tickets can be purchased through the CAPA website. Contact Denise Painter for information about a meet-up time and place.

Education Team

Junior Church / Young People's Moment Sign-Up

The signup sheets are still in the usual place on the Narthex Wall. The Schedule is for July and August. Please considering supporting Junior Church.

July - Use Your Voice (Theme: We Can Tell Others About Our Faith)

- 5 The Disciples Chose Helpers (Acts 6:1-7)
- 12 Lydia Shares Her Faith (Acts 16:11-15)
- 19 Paul and Silas Share Their Faith (Acts 16:16-40)
- 26 Paul Writes to the Philippians (Philippians 4:8-9, 13)

VBS Rainforest Falls



VBS is approaching! Please register your child soon!
Please use the below link or the QR code located on the
bulletin board in the back of the church.



<https://www.myvbs.org/west-liberty-ucc-methodist-and-cornerstone-faith-churches-vbs-2025-2026>



If you signed up to donate items for VBS this past Sunday please have those at the church by 7/5. A friendly reminder to ensure all expiration dates are for September or beyond as the food will be distributed when school starts up again. If you have any questions or wish to donate more please reach out to Autumn Swartz. We greatly appreciate everyone who has signed up to donate or support VBS so far this year!

May every sunrise bring you hope, may every sunset bring you peace.

New Electric Door Opener

A new electric door opener has been installed on the back entrance door. Here are just a few things to remember:

- You can still open the door manually, but it's a little stiffer than it was.
- There are 2 buttons inside and 1 outside. Just push and release. The door will close on its own.
- Don't hold the door open. If you're with someone that needs a few more seconds, push the button again.
- If you will be making a few trips and want to prop the door open, turn the lighted switch on the wall to the left of the door off, then turn it back on when you are finished.
- The lighted switch to the left of the door must be turned off if you are locking the building.



Community Ice Cream Social

The 28th Annual Community Ice Cream Social
Saturday, July 25th - 4:00 - 7:00 pm
202 West Newell St, West Liberty OH

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT
MICHELLE MOFFITT-GREENE

Menu includes: Noodles - sandwiches -
salads - desserts - homemade ice cream



To volunteer for any of the many work crews contact Tim Wilcox

With every rising sun we are given a new chance to paint the canvas of our lives
with vibrant colors. Colors of Hope, Love and Happiness.