



United Church of Christ

# The Church Messenger

March 2026

Pastor Karen  
Griswold



## Encouraging Word

Psalm 25:5

Guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.



## WHAT TO GIVE UP

### *A Lenten Reflection*

Give up complaining - focus on gratitude.

Give up pessimism – become an optimist.

Give up harsh judgements – think kindly thoughts.

Give up worry – trust Divine Providence.

Give up discouragement – be full of hope.

Give up bitterness – turn to forgiveness.

Give up hatred – return good for evil.

Give up negativism – be positive.

Give up anger – be more patient.

Give up pettiness – become mature.

Give up gloom – enjoy the beauty that is all around you.

Give up jealousy – pray for trust.

Give up gossiping – control your tongue.

Give up sin – turn to virtue.

Give up giving up – hang in there!



## Serving for March

### Nursery

1 Judy Legge  
8  
15 Julie/Olivia Wilcox  
22 Carole Wilson  
29 Michelle & Makayla Moffitt

### Young People's Moment

1 Scott Griswold  
8 Penny Higgins  
15 Carole Wilson  
22  
29

### Junior Church

1 Scott Griswold  
8 Julie & Olivia Wilcox  
15 Rob Painter  
22  
29

### Greeting & Announcements

Bill Warner  
**Videotaping**  
Jim Hoffman / Bec Smith

Please notice that we still need volunteers to for several dates

### Sound

1 Ray Etgen  
8 Elisa Lash  
15 Dennis McIntosh  
22 Ed Armentrout  
29 Elisa Lash

### Screens

1 Ed Armentrout  
8 Kaylee Powell  
15 Brandy Powell  
22 Tim Wilcox  
29 Ed Armentrout



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



 **March** 

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- Mar 1**    **8:30 am** Deacons Meeting  
Sacrament of Holy Communion  
Finance Team Meeting
- 3:30 - 5:00 pm** Scout Meetings
- Mar 3**    **9:30 am** Tuesday Mornings  
**6:00 pm** Church Board Meeting
- Mar 4**    **6:00 pm** Consider This - discussion
- Mar 5**    **10:00 am** Missionary Aide
- Mar 8**            **Daylight Savings Time Begins**  
**3:30 - 5:00 pm** Scout Meetings
- Mar 9**    **6:00 pm** Pastoral Relations Team meeting
- Mar 10**   **9:30 am** Tuesday Mornings
- Mar 11**   **6:00 pm** Consider This - discussion
- Mar 14**   **6:00 pm** Small group at Smith's house
- Mar 15**            Education Team Meeting  
**3:30-5:00 pm** Scout Meetings  
**5:00 pm** In Unison Youth Meeting
- Mar 17**   **9:30 am** Tuesday Mornings
- Mar 18**   **6:00 pm** Consider This - discussion
- Mar 19**            Newsletter deadline
- Mar 22**            Worship Team Meeting after Church  
Unity Youth Meeting  
**3:30 - 5:00 pm** Scout Meetings
- Mar 24**   **9:30 am** Tuesday Mornings
- Mar 25**   **6:00 pm** Consider This - discussion
- Mar 29**            Property Team Meeting after Church
- 3:30 - 5:00 pm** Scout Meetings
- Mar 31**   **9:30 am** Tuesday Mornings

**March Birthdays**



- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Rhonda Mullins     | 19 Sophia Van Houten |
| 3 Margaret Jacobs    | 19 Tara King         |
| 4 Aaron Morris       | 20 Dawn Smith        |
| 11 Luck Ridenour     | 21 Jill Klinger      |
| 12 Kaleigh Wilcox    | 22 Scott Earick      |
| 12 Isaiah Greene     | 24 Jay Cushman       |
| 13 Janet Fridenmaker | 24 Sandra Morris     |
| 13 Lucille Burden    | 25 Hudson Phelps     |
| 14 Scott Griswold    | 26 Tommy Zhang       |
| 15 Jennie Hoffman    | 28 David King        |
| 16 Grant Burden      | 29 Makayla Moffitt   |
| 16 Emily Stidham     | 29 Colton Burden     |
| 17 Omar Jacobs       | 30 Levi Kauffman     |
| 17 Dylan King        | 30 Brad Powell       |
| 17 Lucas Cook        | 31 John Detwiler     |
| 18 Vicki Lingrell    |                      |

**March Anniversaries**

- 6 Omar & Margaret Jacobs
- 7 Darry & Paula Plank
- 10 Rick & Judy Harr
- 20 Jim & Jill Hoffman
- 21 Ed & Nancy Grumman
- 21 Jeff & Linda Harr



There are no words to express how grateful our family is for the love, care, and support shown to us during Mom's illness and passing.

Pastor Karen was so faithful with her visits to the Columbus hospitals, Greenhills, and our homes, and her offering of such meaningful prayers.

The love shown to us by our church with all the cards, flowers, messages, and conversations of support will always be remembered.

Thank you and we love you all.

Darry & Paula  
and the whole Plank family



*"Often, it is through simple and unrecognized miracles that we are able to feel the warmth of hope and light."  
Rabbi Rafael Goldstein*



## For the Journey . . . . a note from Pastor Karen

### *For the Journey...*

March 2026



Dear Friends,

The wise young poet Amanda Gorman writes:

“There is always a light. If only we are brave enough to see it. If only we are brave enough to be it.”

The Epiphany season has the power to reveal the illuminating wisdom we need to keep going, to strive ahead, to see the light of God’s love.

The Lenten season calls us to an inward journey where God’s light has the power to heal, renew, and refresh. It is a time of reset.

A friend recently shared with me the wisdom of the “reset.” She explained that each time she veers off the path or goes down a road that leads to dark places she would rather not visit, she stops and does a reset. Reset: a time of reflection. A time to get to the core of who you really are. A time to remember the past, embrace the present, and commit to being a light to the future.

The season of Lent invites us to cultivate healing and wholeness in our lives, creating space for God’s transformative work within us. May this Lenten season be full of meaningful moments that nourish your soul and enrich your journey. May we bravely step out into the world bearing God’s light of peace, hope, and love.

I offer this prayer written by Robbin Brent, quote by William Sloane Coffin-

“The world is struggling mightily, and many are losing faith and hope. God, we know that You have all the strength the world needs. We pray that You will encircle us in your deep peace, abiding hope, and eternal love.” “The world is too dangerous for anything but truth and too small for anything but love.” Amen

Journey well Beloved, journey well,

Pastor Karen





OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE PRESENTS

## PROTECTING OLDER ADULTS FROM FRAUD & ELDER FINANCIAL ABUSE

*Fraud can be caused by a total stranger or someone you know*  
**FIND OUT HOW TO ...**  
 ... protect yourself from scams and financial exploitation  
 ... what steps you can take to avoid being a victim  
 ... how to properly report the crime if it happens to you.  
 Hear real-life stories from those who have investigated these crimes

**Join us for this free educational event**  
**1:30 p.m. Thursday, March 5**  
**in Foundation Hall**

RSVP by calling 937.465.0700  
 Leave your name, telephone number



**Otterbein Senior Life**  
 Green Hills  
 6557 US 68 South, West Liberty



### 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	Vicki Lingrell	Trudy Bradley
Dennis Plank	Renay Fullerton	Marcus Taylor
Carol Edgecomb	Christina Porter	Tony Grant
Lakyn Parrish	Andy Smith (Trimble's grandson)	

Our Service Men & Women

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

\* Denotes Reserves



## A Word from Missionary Aide

“When we talk about earth and land, we cannot do so without talking about body and soul. We are of the dirt. The dirt is our kin. We are creatures of the dirt.”

Rev. Dr. Willie Jennings, theologian

In the garden of life, Sowing Seeds of Kindness is the everyday work of Lutheran Community Services. On Thursday, March 5th, 10:00 am, we welcome guest speaker Kim Collum, Director of LCS. LCS has served Logan County residents for 50+ years. All are welcome to join us to hear more about this critical work.

Following the program and business meeting, a Lenten sacrificial lunch will be provided by the committee.

The project for March is children’s clothing. Donations of new or gently used clothing, new socks and new underwear for all ages, tots to teens, will be greatly appreciated and can be placed in the overflow room throughout the month.

Thank you to this congregation for your generous support of Missionary Aide monthly projects. It takes all of us working together in God’s garden. We are all connected, body and soul.



“It’s amazing how we can light tomorrow with today.”

Elizabeth Barrett Browning



## Missionary Aide News



February 12, 2026

President, Betty opened the February meeting and welcomed 8 ladies and our speaker. Mary had devotions from the book "In the Garden" - she shared the story of the "Rose of Sharon".

Program was "The Good Earth" with speaker Lyndon Roof from the Logan County Soil & Water. He mentioned many ways to be good stewards of our earth - the prevention of soil erosion, depletion caused by water and wind damage, crop rotation is a practice not only for farmers, but one gardeners can follow.

Lauren led us in singing "He Owns the Cattle". Business meeting - Judy reported \$717.19 in our treasury. Thank you note to be sent to the family of Joy Plank for designating Memorials to Missionary Aide. Sandra delivered 89 pairs of socks, 17 hats and 19 pair of gloves from the Sock & Mitten tree to Logan County Children's Services.

Seventeen Valentine bags were filled for our college kids and military.

Our March project is Shelter bags, items needed is posted in our Mission Corner.

Joys and concerns were shared, Pastor Karen led us in prayer. Meeting closed with the Aide Benediction. A delicious buffet was shared. Lauren & Judy were the committee for the day sharing chocolate covered valentine oreos as our favors.

Jane Moffitt, Secretary

*The Kindness of others is  
a genuine reflection of the  
Kindness of God*



To Our Church Family -

I can't thank you enough for everything you've done for us over the past 2 years, your prayers, cards, words of encouragement food, for our dinner. Don would say "I've got to work hard at getting better, because I have so many people praying for me."

Again thank you - You'll never know how much you all mean to me.

Blessings to ALL of you!  
Janie

"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness."

Desmond Tutu



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Tim Wilcox	zechy65@gmail.com
Bill Warner	wswarner60@gmail.com



## Education Team

### Junior Church along with Young People's Moment

We begin on March 1st with a 14 Week Session (QTR) titled FAITH IN JESUS

March Theme is Soar: Having faith requires trust. In this unit children will learn that Jesus is a great example for learning to trust in God. Along with seeing ways that Jesus trusted God., children will learn how everyday people, like Jarius and the disciples, learn to trust God as well.

For the adult leaders, weekly packets are divided into two age groups (3-6 & 7-12). We have a suggested agenda available to use each week which includes worship in the church setting downstairs, moving to the Youth room to watch a DVD on the session. This DVD has discussion questions and Trivia Review for the session. The education team will have it set up each week on the TV and DVD ahead of time. Afterwards they can move into the activity room or divide into two groups depending on group ages and size.

That was the easy part, now the hard part is getting recruits to lead. The packets are ready to go and a sign-up sheet is on the board in the Narthex.

Also, we have made a sheet for those looking for a suggestion for Young People's Moment during regular worship. It corresponds to the lesson downstairs.

We had a successful bake sale this month! Thank you to all who supported our youth through this event.



### **Unity (2nd grade and younger)**

Unity - On March 22nd we will have an event after church. Kids 2nd grade and younger and their parents are welcome to stay after church for a light lunch, a story, craft and more. Be sure to RSVP with Julie Wilcox if you plan to attend!

Mark your calendars! Vacation Bible School this year will be the week of 7/13. Additional information for registration, donations, volunteer requests, etc. will come as we get closer to Summer. If you have a desire to support VBS in any way, please reach out to Autumn Swartz to be added to our volunteer list.

*Be a hand that reached out, be a smile for those who have no reason to smile.  
Be a light for those who live in darkness.*