

United Church of Christ

The Church Messenger

November 2026

Pastor Karen Griswold

Happy Thanksgiving



Encouraging Word

Isaiah 12:4

"Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted.

A Neighborhood Parable



Fred Somebody, Thomas Everybody, Peter Anybody, and Joe Nobody were neighbors but they were not like you and me. They were odd people, and most difficult to understand.

The way they lived was a shame.

All four belonged to the same Church, but you would not have enjoyed worshiping with them - - - - Everybody went fishing on Sunday, or stayed home to visit with friends. - - - Anybody wanted to worship, but was afraid Somebody wouldn't speak to him, - - - So, guess who went to Church? uh, huh, – - - Nobody. Really Nobody was the only decent one of the four.



Nobody did the visitation. Nobody worked on the Church building. Once they needed a Sunday School teacher. Everybody thought Anybody would do it, and Anybody thought Somebody would do it, and you know who did it? That's right - - - Nobody.

It happened that a fifth neighbor (a non-believer) moved into the neighborhood. Everybody thought Somebody should try to win him for Christ. Anybody could have made an effort. You probably know who finally reached out to him. Nobody!

This little parable brings to focus again the fact that each of us is personally responsible for God's work. If we leave it for somebody, or everybody or anybody, nobody will do it! Let's work till Jesus comes.



Serving for November

Young People's Moment
1 Penny Higgins
8 Nancy Hamilton
15
22
29

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

Greeting & Announcements
Andy Smith

Videotaping
Jim Hoffman / Bec Smith

Junior Church
1 Penny Higgins
8 Julie / Olivia Wilcox
15
22
29



Screens
1 John Edwards
8 Ed Armentrout
15 Brandy Powell
22 John Edwards
29 Kaylee Powell

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

November

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov 1 **8:30 am** Deacons Meeting
Sacrament of Holy Communion
Finance Team Meeting
4:00 - 6:15 pm Scout meetings
Nov 3 **9:30 pm** Tuesday Mornings - prayer
6:00 pm Church Board Meeting
Nov 5 **10:00 pm** Missionary Aid meeting & lunch
Nov 6 & 7 **5:00 pm - 11:00 am** Boy Scout Lock-in
Nov 8 **9:00 am** Youth 2nd Sunday Breakfast
4:00 - 5:00 pm Scout Meeting
Nov 10 **9:30 am** Tuesday Mornings - prayer
6:00 pm Pastoral Relations Team meeting
Nov 11 **6:00 pm** Advent Devotional Study
Nov 15 Education Team Meeting after Church
4:00 - 6:15 pm Scout meetings
Nov 17 **9:30 am** Tuesday Mornings - prayer
Nov 18 **6:00 pm** Advent Devotional Study
Nov 19 Newsletter deadline
Nov 22 Worship Team Meeting after Church
Family Thankoffering meal
4:00 - 5:00 pm Scout Meetings
Nov 24 **9:30 am** Tuesday Mornings - prayer
Nov 25 **6:30 pm** Community Thanksgiving Eve Service
Otterbein of Green Hills
Nov 29 Property Team meeting after Church
5:15 - 6:15 pm Scout Meetings



We will begin a 4 - week Advent Devotional study on Wednesday, November 11th at 6:00 pm. We hope you can join us.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

Wednesday, November 25, 2026
at
Otterbein Green Hills
Foundation Hall

6:30 PM



6 Brad & Brandy Powell
19 Brett & Jessie Henry
19 Tommy & Rainie Zhang



1 Mark Morris
2 Mary Headley
2 Melissa Louden
3 Bev Yoder
3 Abby Dillon
5 Thresa Hickman
5 Lisa Tracey
6 Logan Humphrey
10 Weslee Klingler
13 Nola Van Houten
15 Ed Grumman
15 Ed Armentrout
19 Violet Higgins
23 Carla Stephan
25 Kynslie McIntosh
26 Rob Painter
27 Nick Nichols
28 Shelley Snyder
29 Gabe Swartz
29 Paislee Flynn

"The greatest source of happiness is the ability to be grateful at all times." Zig Ziglar

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

For the Journey...

November 2026



"For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies: Lord of all to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise."

This is the first line of the hymn "For the Beauty of the Earth" it is a hymn that we usually sing this time of year, but I am partial to singing it whenever I am feeling particularly grateful. I want to extend my sincere gratitude to everyone who works to make this church a welcoming inviting space. I see the movement of the Holy Spirit through your generosity of time, talent, and resources.

As we move into this season of change: changing leaves, early nightfall, and chilly air, we are reminded of the beauty of nature and life. I pray that you are able to pause to let those meaningful moments envelop you. Taking time to reflect and recharge is essential as we live in this world full of joys and challenges.

We are about to embark upon not only the season of Thanksgiving, but Advent is just around the corner---The first Sunday in Advent is November 30th.

I would like to share with you upcoming events:

We will be finishing our Wednesday evening class "Living Well in the Midst of Grief and Loss" on October 28th. This has been a meaningful time of sharing, scripture, and prayer.

Advent Bible Study/Devotional Time will begin on November 11th. Come join in to share a time of fellowship and discussion. Snacks will be provided!

November 25th at 6:30 p.m. will be the Thanksgiving Eve Service at Otterbein of Green Hills.

December 6th will be the Memorial Tree Service during worship.

December 13th will be the Children's Christmas Program.

Look for additions in the December Newsletter.

Please reach out to me if I can be of assistance to you, your family, and friends.

May you walk with the Spirit of God's love, as you live the compassionate life!

Journey Well Beloved-Journey Well,
Pastor Karen

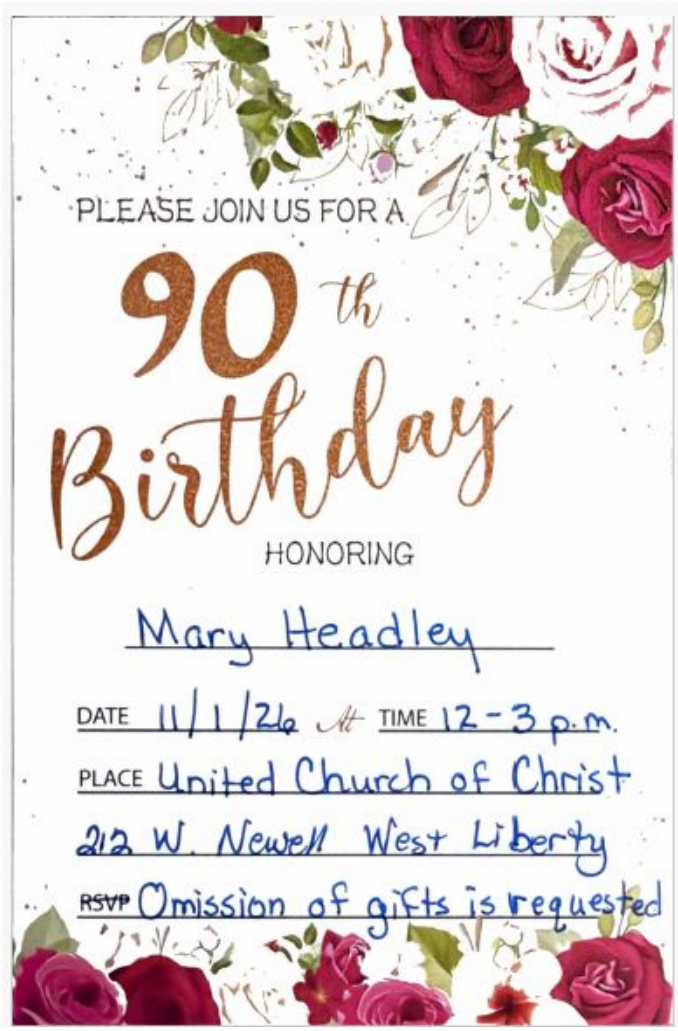
Thank you

WL United Church of Christ -
Thank you so much for your donation of clothes, school supplies, and money for needed supplies throughout the school year. I hope you know how much we appreciate your support for our school and students. It is because of donations like this that we are able to better care for our students and ensure their needs are met.

Ms Abbie Henry & Jen Douthwaite

Church DEACONS

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
Andy Smith	ajsmith3768@yahoo.com
Julie Wilcox	zechy65@gmail.com
Tim Wilcox	zechy65@gmail.com
Bill Warner	wswarner60@gmail.com



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
Carol Edgecomb	James Kaelin	Christina Porter
Tony Grant	Lakyn Parrish	Deb Pattee-Chiles
Todd Harbour	Cheryl Wolford	Emily De Luca
Dave Daulton	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

"You gotta look for the good in the bad, the happy in your sad, the gain in your pain, and what makes you grateful not hateful." ~ Karen Salmansohn



Missionary Aid News



October 1, 2026

Lauren opened the meeting with devotions from "In the Garden". She chose "Wheat" taken from "Parable of the Weeds" - Matthew 13:24-30. Wheat is mentioned several places in the Bible.

Minutes were read - treasurer reported $1,793.61. A thank you was read from West Liberty Salem. Birthdays and anniversaries were shared.

A motion was made to give $200 to the food pantry.

Lauren led us in singing "Sunshine in my Soul". Concerns and joys were shared. Pastor Karen led us in prayer.

Betty had the program. "Mary & Martha" - Sisters of devotion & hospitality (from Luke 10:38-42). We were asked who we gravitated toward? We need to be a little of each - a "Marty". Jesus went to Martha's house - Mary sat at Jesus feet, which was very brave as most generally, only men sat at Jesus's feet. Martha was distracted with serving. She was upset with Mary for not helping. Jesus reprimanded her "Martha you are troubled with things, but only one thing is necessary" we must decide what's important and what's not "Attention to the Heart" What is the one thing we need that cannot be taken away "Faith".

Meeting was closed with Aid Benediction. Eleven ladies enjoyed a delicious buffet. Nancy G. was committee for the day.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Moffitt, Secretary

LIVING WELL IN THE MIDST OF GRIEF AND LOSS

Living Well in the Midst of Grief and Loss has been a meaningful time together. We will hold our last class on October 28th. The Living Compass Ministry helps us intentionally seek wellness with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind and helps us reflect on our lives, on our relationships, and on the wholeness that is God's gift to us. The Living Compass material helps to focus on; personal wellness and wholeness, our relationship with God and others, and the support systems that are available to us. Thank you to all who attended and to Julie Wilcox for her leadership.

GRIEF SHARE

Grief Share is another valuable ministry that is helpful. Grief Share is no longer held at the Methodist church but fortunately the program continues at Otterbein Green Hills. The class is thirteen weeks in duration and is led by Chaplain Ken Neighoff. Chaplain Ken invites folks to join in the current session which is held Tuesday evenings at 6:30 at Otterbein Green Hills. Grief Share will also be holding a two-hour session titled "Surviving the Holidays" on Tuesday November 17th at 6:30 in The Training Room at Otterbein Green Hills. A Spring session of Grief Share will also be available starting in February, details to come. Please see Pastor Karen if you have questions about Grief Share.

"Be thankful for yesterday. Be grateful for today. Be hopeful for TOMORROW."
Roger Lee

Education Team

Junior Church

We continue with the Fall Quarter: Warm and Cozy - The stories are all about the many ways that God cares for God's people, shows children a variety of ways that God's love and care show up not only for the people in the Bible but for us today.

November "Run the Race"
"So then, with endurance, let's also run the race that is laid out in front of us." Hebrews 12:1
November 1 Joshua's Bravery (Deuteronomy 31:1-6; Joshua 1:1-9)
November 8 The Israelites Cross the Jordan (Joshua 3:1-4:24)
November 15 Ruth Helps Naomi Endure (Ruth 1:22)
November 22 Daniel Faces the Lions (Daniel 6:1-26)
November 29 Preparing for a King (Jeremiah 23:5-8)

Youth 2nd Sunday Breakfast

We continue to host a Youth 2nd Sunday Breakfast, the next will be November 8th at 9:00 am. The youth are working on a Christmas program which will be performed on December 13 during the Sunday Service. Additionally the youth will be shopping for Washington UCC, and will deliver those items in early December.

Family Thankoffering Meal

Please plan to join us for our annual Family Thankoffering Meal on Sunday, November 22. The potluck will be immediately following the service and we look forward to the enjoying the fellowship together.

The Worship team will be decorating the Church for Christmas after the meal. Any assistance would be appreciated.

New Youth Group chat for communications:

We have created a new group chat through the SportsYou app. Parents, please use code: EUYA-RJGB to join the group so you can receive communications on youth events, etc. We hope to use this platform for all levels, communications, events will be put on the calendar where you can RSVP and photos will be added here as needed. As we have communications/events we will specify in the posting what ages it corresponds to so please be sure to keep an eye out for this detail.

"When a new day begins, dare to smile gratefully."

Steve Maraboli