



United Church of Christ

The Church Messenger

November 2025

Pastor Karen
Griswold



Encouraging Word

Ephesians 5:19b-20

"Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."



The Gratitude Tree

This Thanksgiving, a family's cherished by long-abandoned tradition was lovingly resurrected. The old, oversized gratitude tree, made of brown construction paper and taped to the dining room wall, had not been put up since the kids had grown and moved away years ago. When everyone arrived home this year, they found the familiar trunk and branches waiting for them, and next to it, a basket of red, yellow, and orange paper leaves. The children, now adults, were hesitant at first, but soon, one by one, they began to write down the things they were thankful for. The leaves were soon filled with small, handwritten notes, each a quiet, heartfelt testament to the blessings in their lives, and as the tree filled up, so too did the room with warmth and quiet joy.

As the family gathered for dinner, the gratitude tree was the centerpiece, its branches overflowing with memories and thankfulness. The older relatives smiled as they read the younger generation's leaves, which spoke of friendship, health and a hundred little moments of kindness. The family had not felt so connected in years, and the simple act of sharing gratitude had mended fences and bridged gaps that time had created. In that coxy well-lit room, it was clear that the most important parts of the holiday were not the turkey or the pie, but the people and the love that bound them together.

Serving for November

Nursery

Nov 2
Nov 9
Nov 16
Nov 23
Nov 30



Young People's Moment

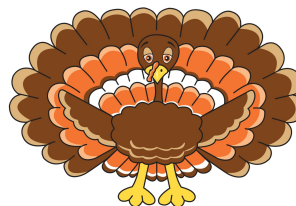
Nov 2 Scott Griswold
Nov 9 Rob Painter
Nov 16 Bill Warner
Nov 23 Penny Higgins
Nov 30 Nancy Hamilton

Sound

Nov 2 Ray Etgen
Nov 9 Elisa Lash
Nov 16 Ed Armentrout
Nov 23 Dennis McIntosh
Nov 30 Elisa Lash

Junior Church

Nov 2 Scott Griswold
Nov 9 Brandy Powell
Nov 16 Wilcox's
Nov 23 Brandy Powell
Nov 30 Brandy Powell



Greeting & Announcements

Andy Smith

Screens

Ed Armentrout / Kaylee Powell

Videotaping

Jim Hoffman / Bec Smith

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Nov 2 8:30 am** Deacons Meeting
Sacrament of Holy Communion
Finance Team Meeting
- Nov 4 9:30 am** Tuesday Mornings
6:00 pm Board Meeting
- Nov 5 6:00 pm** Consider This - discussion
- Nov 6 10:00 am** Missionary Aide
- Nov 8 6:00 pm** Small Group at Andy & Bec Smith's
- Nov 9 2:30-5:00 pm** Scout Meetings
5:00-7:00 pm United In Christ - youth
- Nov 10 6:00 pm** Pastoral Relations Team Meeting
- Nov 11 9:30 am** Tuesday Mornings
- Nov 12 6:00 pm** Consider This - discussion
- Nov 15** Benefit for Patty Kauffman
- Nov 16** Education Team Meeting after Church
2:30-5:00 pm Scout meetings
- Nov 18 9:30 am** Tuesday Mornings
- Nov 19 6:00 pm** Consider This - discussion
Newsletter deadline
- Nov 21 & 22** Scout Lock-in at the Church
- Nov 23** Worship Team Meeting after Church
2:30-5:00 pm Scout Meetings
- Nov 25 9:30 am** Tuesday Mornings
- Nov 30** Property Team Meeting after Church
2:30-5:00 pm Scout Meetings



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



- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Nov 1 Mark Morris | Nov 16 Ed Armentrout |
| Nov 2 Mary Headley | Nov 19 Violet Higgins |
| Nov 2 Melissa Loudon | Nov 23 Carla Stephan |
| Nov 3 Bev Yoder | Nov 25 Kynslie McIntosh |
| Nov 3 Abby Dillon | Nov 26 Rob Painter |
| Nov 5 Thresa Hickman | Nov 27 "Nick" Nichols |
| Nov 5 Lisa Tracey | Nov 28 Shelley Snyder |
| Nov 6 Logan Humphrey | Nov 29 Gabe Swartz |
| Nov 6 Haidden Stidham | Nov 29 Paisley Flynn |
| Nov 15 Ed Grumman | |



- | | |
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"The heart that gives thanks is a happy one, for we cannot feel thankful and unhappy at the same time." ~~ Douglas Wood

For the Journey a note from Pastor Karen

For the Journey...



Dear Friends,

One of the most touching stories of gratitude is presented to us in the gospel of Luke:

Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”

When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were Cleansed.

One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.” Luke 17: 11-19

We often hear this passage at Thanksgiving Eve Service or on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. It is a vivid illustration of a grateful and aware heart.

Jesus is good at sharing a message that has multiple meanings, and this passage is no different. We see how Jesus connects with the outcast men; those afflicted with leprosy. He is drawn to them and has compassion for them and heals them. Among those healed is a Samaritan. Jesus once again points to a person who is marginalized—a double dose of being ostracized! This man is overjoyed! He is cleansed, healed, made whole again! And what is the first thing he decides to do? Throw a party? Run to tell friends? No, he runs back to the source of healing. He runs to Jesus, offers thanks, and throws himself at the feet of Jesus! Wow! (He is the only one who offers thanks for healing.) Jesus recognizes his faith.

In this season of thanksgiving, I pray that you feel the blessing of God’s love surrounding you. May we be the ones who recognize the kingdom of God at work around us, in us, and through us. May we give thanks for the kingdom message Jesus has brought to us...a message of hope that breaks down barriers, includes the outcast, and calls us to heal the brokenness we encounter in the world. May we be faithful in advancing God’s kingdom.

I am thankful to be a part of this faith community!

Journey well Beloved---Journey well,
Pastor Karen





Thank you so much for the donation. It will be put to good use.

I also want to thank you for allowing me to share a little about our Affiliate and Restore. It helps when our community knows more about us and what we do.

Thank you
Kathleen Bow, Exec Dir.
Habitat for Humanity Logan Co.

Thanks Dear Wonderful Members
of West Liberty United
Church of Christ,

I don't know how to thank you enough for your endless warm thoughts and prayers. Your act of caring has touched my heart and helped in ways you will never know. I continue to improve and am now able to take care of myself & even walk. The Lord has answered your prayers and continues to bless me and my family with His infinite Grace, Mercy & Love.

God bless you all,
Mary Bahner

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	Michelle Moffitt	Mike & Sandy
Carol Edgecomb	Christina Porter	Alycia Brehm
Marcus Taylor	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

Thank you

WL United Church of Christ,

Thank you so much for your donation of snacks, school supplies, coats, clothing, and money for additional needs. Your generosity each year does not go unnoticed. Our school is blessed to have people like you that care about our students.

Thank you for your kindness and support!

Ms Abbie Henry
WL-S Elementary School
Counselor

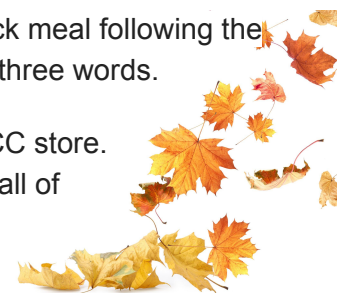


A Word from Missionary Aide



Mission/Outreach/Stewardship - three words synonymous with Missionary Aide. Three words that call us to see the need and serve, call us to step outside our comfort zone, call us to care for others as we care for ourselves. November 23rd is Thankoffering Sunday with a potluck meal following the service. Your gifts of support help Missionary Aide continue to respond to those three words.

Guest speaker Thursday, November 6 is Michele Neer, manager of the local MCC store. She will share how the work of the Mennonite Central Committee answers the call of those three words. A potluck lunch follows the 10 am meeting. All are welcome.



"No duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks." James Allen



Missionary Aide News



October 3rd, 2025

Betty opened our meeting, welcoming 12 ladies and one guest. Judy had devotions from our book "In the Garden". She used "The Grape Vine" from John 15:5.

Betty introduced our speaker, Alan Kauffman of Heavens Dew. They opened in May of 2021. From the beginning their desire was to bless the community. To care for all creation, including soil, plants, animals and fellow human beings in ways that glorify our Creator. They carry 2400 different products and have a very diversified recycling center, they focus on less plastic.

Lauren and Sandra led us in singing "For the Beauty of the Earth"

Business: Treasurer reported \$1,023.19. Thank yous were read. Carol reported that 32 bags were filled for their 1st day. WL Cares has emergency fund for medical, rent, car repairs, etc. This is overseen by Melanie Park. Voted to give \$100 to food pantry.

Betty explained Mission Corner - suggestions appreciated. The Missionary Aide banners have been hung in Fellowship Hall - Check it Out!!

Prayers and concerns were shared. Rosie led us in prayer. Meeting closed with the Aide Benediction. Sandra & Rosie were committee for the day.

Delicious buffett enjoyed by all!

Jane Moffitt, Secretary



Be sure to check out the wall hangings in the Friendship Hall.

← This one includes squares for each lady that attended the meetings for 2024 - 2025.

This one shows the program themes for 2024 - 2025. →

Thanks to Mary Headley for piecing and quilting & her niece Kathy Picklesimer for the printed blocks.



"The more we express thanks, the more gratitude we feel." Steve Goodier

Fundraiser Supper
Sat. Nov. 15th
for Patty Kauffman

4-7:00 PM  **Bake Sale**
at
United Church Of Christ
212 W. Newell St.

Silent Auction & Pie Auction



MENU 
Ham & Bean Soup
Vegetable Soup
Potato Soup
Chili
Pulled Pork Sandwiches
Cornbread, Dinner Roll
Cookies & brownies
Cost is by Donation


It's time to rally again West Liberty! A long time resident of West Liberty, Patty Kauffman has been diagnosed with Liver cancer and will undergo chemo treatments at the James Cancer Center in Columbus. Patty has served on West Liberty Council, Historical Society and as Church Secretary.
HER FIGHT IS OUR FIGHT !!

Please contact Bev Yoder to make donations for the silent auction or to help with food or donations for the event.

Please be Aware

Pastor Karen has learned through a committee that she is on that five SONKA ministers have been hacked online and there have been serious consequences. We don't have the full details of what happened at this time. It is believed that they are using information gained from the online presence (such as streaming services) to create these threats. If you receive any messages from Pastor Karen that doesn't seem right, please investigate them immediately. We would suggest that you call her directly. If you don't feel comfortable contacting her you may contact Tim Wilcox, moderator, or one of the Pastoral Relations team members (Denise Painter, Bec Smith, Dennis McIntosh). Be aware that she will never contact you needing money in any way or asking you to do anything that would seem out of character. Any money being collected will always be deposited through the church.

Meetings are taking place within the association to determine if congregations need to take actions within their congregations to prevent these threats from happening. We will keep you posted on the results of these meetings and what our board decides will be best for our church and congregation. I believe there is a great deal of love and trust amongst the members of this congregation, but be careful because there are people outside of the church who will try to take advantage of this situation.

THANK
YOU

To West Liberty United Church of Christ.

Enclosed you will find a cashiers check from the WL Mac-O- Chee Homemakers Club. As the club has disbanded after 66 years we wanted to donate a little something to the church for your years of generosity in allowing us to use the church for our monthly meetings. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Sincerely,
W.L. Mac-O-Chee Homemakers

Welcome New Baby Boy
Harrison Francis Roberts
Born October 2, 2025



Son of
Sydney & Andrell Roberts
Grandson of
John & Karrie Detwiler
Great Grandson of
Judy Legge



Grizwalkers (AKA Polish Resistance)

2025 Walk for Alzheimer's Thank You

This was the most successful walk we have ever participated in for the Grizwalkers! There were 18 members today in Dayton walking, 9 of them represented our Church. With your love and support the team raised \$3,534. We felt this from many as we received text messages of encouragement. We feel very blessed to be supported by so many who donated, walked, purchased and ate bread.

Thank you,
Co-Captains, Karen & Scott Griswold



By Brandy Powell

In Unison (3rd-7th grades) and Unity (2nd grade and younger)

On October 19, eight of our younger youth gathered for a fun morning. We enjoyed breakfast, had a short lesson on what a blessing can be, and decorated cards. Then the kids blessed their church family with the cards and a small gift. We will meet again in December to celebrate Jesus' Birthday - more info to come. Special thanks to Autumn Swartz who coordinated our fun morning event.



Upcoming Events:

November 9: United in Christ 5-7 pm

December 7: Christmas Program 10:30 am

December 14: Visit to Camp Washington UCC

CONFIRMATION CLASS



Emily King
not pictured





Nursery Volunteers Wanted

Looking for volunteers to stay in the nursery with our children. We have recently added a television in the nursery making it possible to streamline the Church service. Please consider helping out with the Nursery.



Music, Music, Music



Ephesians 5:19: *"Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord."*

It's that time of year to start thinking about special music for Christmas Eve. It doesn't matter if you sing a solo, sing in a duet, trio, quartet or choir. All are welcome and are enjoyed so much by the congregation. Please let me know by the first of December if possible so I can find the accompaniment for your song. If you want to sing with a recording that is fine too.

A big thank you to all who have been song leaders this year. I love hearing the congregation sing following your lead! We have a lot of singers who might not want to sing up front, but together you all make a joyful noise.

As for special music, thank you to all who have shared your talents this year. I've really enjoyed working with the youth who have stepped up and sang for us! Instrumental music is welcome as well, such as piano, organ, guitar, band instruments, etc. And please feel free to ask a family member or friend to sing for us. Just make sure you check the music calendar on the bulletin board to see which Sundays are open and who is playing the piano to make arrangements. If a particular Sunday is taken, please consider asking the pianist that week about singing for the offertory if you want to sing for a special occasion.

The choir has been awesome this year as usual. Anyone can sing with the choir - please let me know if you would like to be added to our text group so you know what the choir is singing and when they are singing. During Advent the choir will be leading Christmas carols before the service on Sunday mornings. Feel free to join us!

Rosie and I love serving you and I know Sue did too. We look forward to hearing from you!

— Sandra Morris



"Give thanks for a little and you will find a lot." Hausa Proverb