

# The Tower Call

First United Methodist Church  
of London

## All are Always Welcome!

March 2016

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### Recurring Bible Study Meetings

- Bible Study with Pastor Steve  
Wednesday Evenings at 7pm
- Men's Group  
1st & 3rd  
Saturday Mornings at 7:00am
- Women's Group  
Is currently on winter break

### A Lenten Special Event

*Dear Lord, may the love between us be strong.  
May the trust between us be whole. And may the words between us be true.  
May our eyes see one another. May our ears hear one another.  
May our hearts touch one another.  
And may our souls hold one another this day and forever. Amen.*



It's been a long time since we've done a potluck luncheon!!!

On Sunday, March 13 following the worship service, the **J Walkers** are hosting a Potluck Luncheon for the congregation. Let's face it - we have a great group of people who attend our church, so who wouldn't want to have more opportunities to spend time with each other? And what better way to do that than breaking bread with each other?

Dust off your cookbooks (perhaps your Bicentennial cookbook?) and find a favorite recipe or try something you've been meaning to try. Or whip up the dish your family always asks for! We'll need an assortment of salads, maybe a few soups, entrees, side dishes and desserts.

**There will be a prayerful Lenten aspect to this potluck. The J Walkers will be setting up seven interactive prayer stations around the Fellowship Hall which will be based upon the prayer we open with each Sunday morning (printed above). It's a different way to be reflective during the Lenten season.**

If you have questions, please contact Chez at 740-852-0462, or [fumc-chez@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fumc-chez@sbcglobal.net).



## A Note from Pastor Steven...

Dear Friends,

By now we are well into our Lenten journey having entered into that sacred time of self-examination and spiritual searching that will ready us to receive the wonders of Easter Resurrection. When we take seriously the invitation of Lenten disciplines we can sometimes come to feel our own smallness; our own sense of simply being one person out of billions throughout the world. And yet, our God calls upon us to use that seemingly insignificant voice of ours to make a difference in the world for the cause of Christ and the expansion of God's Kingdom. Realizing God's call upon our lives can appear overwhelming.

After all, we are only one person out of the more than 11.5 million that live in Ohio; just one of the 43,000+ that live in Madison County. We are just one little believer living in a rural county 28 miles from the state capital, 88 miles from the Queen City, 169 miles from Cleveland and Lake Erie. What possible impact can we have on the lives of the 787,000 people who live in Columbus, let alone the billions and billions who live on our planet? And yet, God calls us to do exactly that by following the example of Jesus, the One we call Savior.

Consider how small Jesus' world was over 2000 years ago. He grew up in the rural town of Nazareth which never had more than 400 residents. Only 65 miles due south was the capital of Jesus' world, Jerusalem. That great city had a population of only 40,000, except during the annual Passover Festival, when the population swelled to more than 250,000. At the time, Jesus could walk from Nazareth to Jerusalem in 2 or 3 days. He could walk to the Sea of Galilee in just a few hours, and walk its 33 mile circumference in a day. Jesus only had to walk a mere five miles to get from the fishing village of Capernaum to Bethsaida. In short, this one person named Jesus covered much less ground and encountered many fewer people than any single one of us. And yet, his obedience to God, his willingness to set the needs of God's people before his own, has had an enormous impact on the whole of humanity and history. In his life time the furthest distance he traveled from one place to another was no more than 100 or so miles. He had an impact on, perhaps, a few thousand people on his three year journey to Jerusalem and crucifixion. He was one person, in a small place with relatively few people, but what he did has transformed our world and has opened God's kingdom to innumerable people.

Now, consider our time. We likely encounter thousands of people in a week's time simply living out our day to day routines. We can travel twice the distance from Jerusalem to Nazareth in about 2 hours, as opposed to the 2 or 3 days it took Jesus to travel just one way. We can go Columbus, or Cincinnati, or Cleveland to an event of some kind and be in the presence of hundreds of thousands of God's people. In short, it is far easier for us to have an impact on the lives of others. We need only choose to follow Jesus' lead by putting the needs of the many before our own.

As we continue our Lenten journey toward Easter morning, let's each consider, not how insignificant we are, but rather how powerful we are. You see, the same Spirit that enabled Jesus to reach across time and space to touch the lives of the whole of humanity, is the same Spirit that now resides within each one of us. That Spirit is strong and can transform our insignificance into a voice that reaches far beyond our imagining. Following the example of Jesus, we, too, can have an impact on the whole of humanity and history. We need only see ourselves for what we are; children of God and joint heirs with Christ.

Blessings of Power,

Pastor Steve



Thank you to all who supported our carnations and candy fundraiser this Valentine's Day! We made a little over \$200 to put toward our mission trip and other youth activities.



Very BIG THANKS to Jack Rowley for driving us on our bowling adventure! And to Stephanie Mack for all her extra help!

March 6: J Walkers 6:30

March 11: Begin 30 hour fast on own at midnight

March 12: LOCK-IN!! Meet at church @ 9:00 for a day full of service activities, games, ice skating, and stuff!!

\*\*Bring sleep stuff to stay over at church and church clothes for Sunday!! NO FOOD.

March 13: Break our fast with communion and breakfast! Stay for church.

POTLUCK after the service with prayer stations!

March 20: Palm Sunday J Walkers 6:30

March 24: Maundy Thursday Service Hop. Meet at FUMC 5:45 for first service. Travel together to FPC at 7:20 for second service. \* Please bring \$3 for pizza between services.

March 27: Easter Sunrise service. Be at church at 6:30 am



**HOLY WEEK**  
  
**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**First United Methodist Church of London**



***Palm Sunday***  
**Sunday, March 20, 10am**

Christians remember the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday that marks the start of Holy week. The Prayer Champions encircling our church outside will enter waving palm fronds, followed by the children of our church who will process with palms.



***Maundy Thursday***  
**Thursday, March 24, 6pm**

Maundy Thursday is observed during Holy Week on the Thursday before Easter. Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper when Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples on the night before he was crucified. In contrast to joyful Easter celebrations when Christians worship their resurrected Savior, Maundy Thursday services are typically more solemn occasions, marked by the shadow of betrayal looming over Jesus.



***Good Friday Reverse Tenebrae Service***  
**Friday, March 25, 7pm**

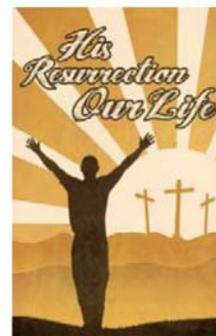
The word 'tenebrae' is Latin for shadows. The purpose of the Tenebrae service is to recreate the emotional aspects of the passion story. We begin with the church in darkness and, through scripture and meditation, we grow into the Light.

***Easter Sunrise Service***  
**Sunday, March 27, 7am**

On Easter morning we come to celebrate the most glorious event in history. We come to celebrate our risen Lord and Christ, our salvation, forgiveness of sin, victory over death and the gift of eternal life.

We come in the morning as did those who came to the tomb early that first Easter morning. We can only imagine the joy they felt as they learned of the resurrection of Christ from the grave. Not many hours before, they mourned the grisly death of Jesus. But their mourning turned to joy on that first Easter.

The Sunrise service will be presented by our Youth Fellowship.



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**Service of Easter Resurrection**

**Sunday, March 27, 10am**

Whether it is called Easter or Resurrection Sunday is not as important as the event and purpose of the resurrection. The resurrection of Jesus is the culmination of all things meaningful, faith and fact, in establishing a relationship with God.

Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection are God's provision for the perfect and final sacrifice to free humankind from their bondage to sin and death. With this gift, humankind is blessed with eternal life.

We need merely accept God's gift through faith in Jesus Christ.



**Easter Sunrise Breakfast  
will be served  
immediately following the 7:00am  
Sunrise Worship Service**



**Savory Methodist-style  
Breakfast Casserole**

**Fruit**

**Danish**

**Waffle Station with all assorted toppings**

**Orange Juice**

**Coffee/Hot Tea**

**Milk - White and Chocolate**

*Easter Sunrise Breakfast Leaders: Bryan and Cindy Shoemaker, Tim Wilson. If you feel called to help, please contact one of the leaders.*

**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

**SPRING BAKED STEAK AND PORK TENDERLOIN DINNER**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2016, 4-7PM**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR A VARIETY OF TASKS**

**THE SPRING AND FALL DINNERS ARE OUR BIGGEST FUNDRAISERS!!!**

## Ministry Teams Are Recruiting

Our church has five Ministry Teams: **Radical Hospitality** (Sue Mosier Team Leader), **Passionate Worship** (Stephanie and Kevin Mack Team Co-Leaders), **Risk-taking Mission and Service** (Dave and Robin Ladd Team Co-Leaders), **Intentional Faith Development** (Jenny Davis - Children's Education Team Leader and Sharon Brackett - Adult Education Team Leader) and **Extravagant Generosity**. (Henry Comer Team Leader) A few months ago you heard from each team prior to worship. Each of these teams is responsible for the many ministries of our church. For example, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and the current Lenten Study fall under the Intentional Faith Development Ministry Team.

Each team leader is currently recruiting team members. Please seek out the team leader of the Ministry Team which interests you. You can find more information about the teams in our website ([www.londonfumc.org](http://www.londonfumc.org)), the current directory, or ask any team leader.

There are other opportunities if joining a team doesn't work with your schedule - there are specific tasks which don't take much time...one and done. If you feel called to help, please reach out to a team leader.

## Risk-taking Mission and Service

### We Support the Madison County Food Pantry

During the winter please remember our ongoing collection of canned goods, cereals, peanut butter and personal toiletry items for the Madison County Food Pantry. The need in our community is great year around. Rarely does a week go by without 3 or more people requesting help from our church with food. We always refer those in need to the Madison County Food Pantry.



### We Support the Welcome Table

A few times a year we provide meals for a community dinner right here in London. If you can help, watch the bulletin for specific needs. You can talk with Cathie Littleton who coordinates our meals at 614-527-8812.

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Jerry Bales shared this with the Lenten Study Group and we thought it was worth sharing with Tower Call readers: **Grace** is when God gives us what we don't deserve. **Mercy** is when God doesn't give us what we do deserve.

## Radical Hospitality



Diving Dining is starting up again! Do you enjoy trying new restaurants or revisiting old favorites? Do you enjoy great company? If so, this group may be the perfect one for you.

Divine Dining was originally started by Gail Baker, who for 20 years, was the Executive Director of the Central Ohio Restaurant Association, and has a passion for supporting locally owned and operated restaurants. "It's not an easy business by any means, but the Central Ohio area is a hotbed of great restaurant entrepreneurs" says Baker. "Since losing my husband, Randy, and leaving the restaurant association for our church, I do miss getting around to take advantage of the many restaurants, new and old alike. It occurred to me I'd find no better group of people to dine out with than those I worship with. It would provide an opportunity to get to know my church family on a whole new level".

The first outing will be held on Sunday, March 7 at the Red Brick Tavern. We want to take advantage of the wonderful brunch buffet which isn't always available. At this gathering, we'll be asking for input for new locations to try. Some of the new restaurants already suggested include The Guild House, The Avenue Steak Tavern (two new Cameron Mitchell restaurants), Black Creek Bistro, La Tavola, Angry Bear Kitchen, The Whitney House and Firebirds Wood Fired Grill.

Not all restaurants are open for Sunday brunch - some of the outings may be scheduled in the evening.

For reservations, contact Cathie Littleton at 614-527-8812 or Gail Baker at 740-852-0462. There will also be a signup sheet in the Rudorah Welcome Center.

## Prayer Requests

**Continual:** Bev Dhume, Betty Garrett, Mildred Good, Caroline Blauser, Geraldine Henry, Connie Hunter, Sue Jackman, Virginia Richey, Georgia Smith, Harold Snell, Linda Snyder, Loretta Weimer

**Current:** Michelle Florida, Chere Grove, Dylan Lee, Sherry Rarey, Brandon Rinehart, Eunice Slyh, Shuna Smith, Doris Foster, Unspoken Request, Dick Hunter, Alice Hyman, George (Buddy) Byers, Ed Chatfield, Caleb (Tom) White, Abby Dunham, Luke Morris, Brian Benedum

### ***Serving on Active Military Duty:***

Captain John Crisp, Lt Tom Crisp, Sgt Matt Rowley, Lance Cpl Jonathan R. Williams  
*Please pray for the family and friends of those who have given their lives for our nation.*

## Staff

Resident Bishop.....Bishop Gregory Palmer  
Capital Area South Superintendent.....Rev. Kathleen Brown  
Senior Pastor.....Rev. Steven J. Rodgers  
Executive Assistant.....Gail Baker  
Director of Youth Ministries.....Chez Gorman  
Organist.....Michael Schreffler  
Financial Manager.....Tara Shoemaker  
Housekeeping.....Karen Lindsey

### For Pastoral Needs

Pastor Steven: Parsonage 740.852.1294.....or.....Cell Phone 614.371.0364

**For a calendar of meetings and events, visit our website [www.londonfumc.org](http://www.londonfumc.org)**

### **March Worship Leaders**

#### Liturgist

Sue Mosier

#### Ushers

Jack Rowley, Chair

Nancy Rowley

David Junk

Ric Bell

Michaele Budd

#### Acolytes

Alexis Craig

Caiden Craig

#### Sound & Video Technician

Brian Benedum

David Cover

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