



# The Tower Call

**First United Methodist Church of London  
All are Always Welcome!  
September 2016**

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## THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH IN PICTURES



A beautiful new crib has been placed in our church nursery! It is a welcome addition for the infants our nursery cares for on Sunday mornings. It was donated in loving memory of Keith Lewis (son of Aaron and Rachel Lewis) by grandparents Clarice and Dennis Lewis.



What a glorious day of music we had when an octet from St. Joseph's Cathedral in Columbus, and their amazing organist Dr. Richard Fitzgerald added so much to our worship service! Each song was a prayer! Special thanks to Kevin Lohr for once again bringing this group to us, and directing the octet.

## Recurring Bible Study Meetings

- Bible Study with Pastor Steve  
Wednesday Evenings at 7pm
- Men's Group  
1st & 3rd Saturday Mornings



## A Note from Pastor Steven...

Dear Friends,

Our Wednesday evening Bible study group is currently pouring over God's Word found in the Book of Proverbs, a book well worth everyone's attention. For within those verses we can discover exactly what it means to walk with our God in our day to day living. Seeking God's wisdom is, in truth, the faithful response of the believer. It is one thing to joyfully accept the benefits of our salvation, it is quite another to respond to that wondrous gift by committing ourselves entirely to the Lord, working to grow in our understanding of God's grace and our call to discipleship. The Book of Proverbs informs us of the goodness and joy of gaining wisdom from God, as well as

the consequences of living outside of God's grace. It gives us the reason for living wisely, constantly pursuing the Wisdom of our God.

*"For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk blamelessly, & guarding the paths of justice and preserving the way of his faithful ones. Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; prudence will watch over you; and understanding will guard you. It will save you from the way of evil, from those who speak perversely, who forsake the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness, who rejoice in doing evil and delight in the perverseness of evil; those whose paths are crooked, and who are devious in their ways" (Proverbs 2:6-15).*

In these days of uncertainty and confusion it seems we could all use God's Wisdom. At a time when we feel the need to question the trustworthiness of our leaders, our institutions, and our fellow human beings; a time when reverence and mutual respect appear to have taken a backseat to personal ambition and self-interest; a time where the once profane is now the norm and moral fortitude seems to have been lost to commercialism; I believe God is calling every believer to take a hard look at themselves, weigh their faith against their behavior, and take a stand in and for the Wisdom of the One who has provided everything. In truth, I believe that call upon our lives has always existed, but is being trumpeted now more than ever.

Do we have the conviction of faith to answer that call and seek to grow in our understanding of God and God's plan for the whole of creation, including our own lives? The consequences of walking away from the Lord are already being felt in the world in which we live. However, with God's Wisdom in our hearts we can and will turn things around. We can and will help our world return to the path of God's intention, bring to light the wonders of God.

*"Therefore walk in the way of the good, and keep to the paths of the just. For the upright will abide in the land, and the innocent will remain in it; but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the treacherous will be rooted out of it" (Proverbs 2:20-22).*

Blessings,  
Pastor Steven



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**Sept. 11- KICK OFF!** 6:00 Bring a towel! You will get wet! Families invited!

**Sept. 18- Jonathan Alder Days**

**at the Madison County Historical Museum** 12:00-5:00

The youth will be running the old fashioned games this year. YOUTH: There is a sign-up sheet on the youth board! EVERYONE ELSE: Come visit us at the Museum and learn a little about where we live!

**Sept. 25-Oct. 1- Global Week of Student Prayer**

**Sept. 28- SEE YOU AT THE POLE** before school, at the flag pole

**CORRECTION:** There has been a change in location for our 2017 summer mission trip! We will be headed to Rutland, **VERMONT!**

**Calling all 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders!** Join us the first Sunday of each month for JR J WALKERS! Beginning October 2<sup>nd</sup>, after the service in the youth room! Pizza and pop provided!!

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LONDON

The Last Great Golf Outing of the Season



Sunday, October 9, 2016, 3-7pm

Location:

The London Country Club
1199 Spring Valley Rd, London, OH 43140

Attend this golf scramble and invite a few of your friends to join you for a fun filled day of golf and fellowship.

Golf - 9 Holes - Individual \$75, Foursome \$250, Foursome with a hole sponsor \$350. If you don't golf you can sponsor a team of high school golfers.

Hole Sponsorship \$100 - If you choose to sponsor a hole, you are welcome to have a member or members of your organization to be present at the hole during the outing to greet golfers, hand out give-away items and/or conduct a contest at the hole.

Donate door prizes and silent auction items.

There will be skill prizes for: Longest Drive, Longest Putt, Closest to the Pin.

A beverage cart will be available on the course. Price includes 2 free drink tickets.

There will be a dinner at the end of the outing with a cash bar and silent auction items and prizes awarded.

Name

Address

Email

Phone

Method of Payment

- Check
Visa
MasterCard
American Express

Credit Card Number Exp. date

Signature

Names if a Foursome
[Empty table for names]

Sign up for:

- Single Golfer \$75.00
Foursome \$250.00
Hole Sponsorship \$100.00
Sponsor a high school team \$200.00
Donation, not golfing \$

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to FUMC and Mail to: FUMC, 52 N. Main St., London OH 43140

## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

### Things taken for granted...

As chairman of your church finance committee, I felt compelled to write down some of my thoughts as we struggle to meet our budget during this time of year. We are blessed to have a beautiful church to worship God but also to have each other to help support our mission, to give thanks in worship, and promote the Word of God.

It is certainly not fun to worry about whether or not we have enough funds to meet our monthly obligations. As I outlined in the August Tower Call, salaries for our church personnel represent almost 63% of our budget. Yet, we need each one of our staff in order to have the ministries of our church. Let's just ponder a moment about what our Sunday worship would be like without a pastor. Who would give the sermons and provide us with leadership as we worship our God? Who would be there each Sunday to "open the box" and provide our youth with inspirational messages each week? Who would lead us in prayer over our joys and concerns? Who would be there to visit us in the hospital or officiate at our weddings or funerals?

Or consider what would happen if we didn't have an organist or choir leader? Imagine a Sunday service without music? It would certainly be missed by all of us. Imagine no hymnals on Sunday or no music coming from our beautiful organ to lead us as we sing praises.

Or imagine what would happen if we didn't have air conditioning in the summer or heat in the winter? Can you imagine what it would be like without heat or air.

It may seem ridiculous to imagine doing without these things, but it is all too easy to take them for granted. And, it is also easy to forget that each require financial support. Our church exists due to the generosity of our congregation, following the faithful example of those who came before us, giving of themselves to support and sustain the beautiful place of worship we enjoy. God always provides and I truly believe this, however, he provides funds through US, the congregation. We all need to think of the blessings of our church as we make our Sunday offerings. I hope we can all visualize those blessings and be thankful for what we have, giving our all to support those blessings now and in the future. If we do, I am sure our church "financial concerns" will become a thing of the past and we can all concentrate on serving our God.

Steve Adams  
Chairman  
Finance Committee

## INVITE SOMEONE TO CHURCH!

As a part of our Spiritual Journey together, we are called to be an Inviting People. Starting today, every member of the congregation is asked to intentionally invite others to join us in worship each Sunday as we celebrate the Goodness of God together. As an easy, none-intrusive way of reach out to our friends and neighbors, small "Invitation Cards" are stacked throughout the church. Everyone is asked to take several to give to people you meet during the week, inviting them to come be a part of our weekly encounter with God in worship.

## THANKS

Thanks to all my friends at First Church for the beautiful cards, phone calls, and visits while I was in the hospital. These things mean so much and surely help in recovering from an illness. Special thanks to Pastor Steve for the visit and the prayer blanket. I used it every day. It felt as though God was wrapping his healing arms around me and comforting me. Thanks again. You are the best! Phyllis Miller

## Prayer Requests

### Continual

Bev Dhume, Betty Garrett, Caroline Blausner, Doris Foster, Mildred Good, Geraldine Henry, Ted Hunter, Connie Hunter, Sue Jackman, Virginia Richey, Georgia Smith, Harold Snell, Linda Snyder, Loretta Weimer

### Current

Shuna Smith, Dick Hunter, Rena Shankland, Lynda Junk, Hattie Jenkins, Caleb White, Jim McMunn, Andrew Kovaleski, Connie Hileman, Eric Brunner, Lenora Garverick, Karen Davis Cooper and Family, Bob Edwards

### Serving on Active Military Duty

Captain John Crisp, Lt Tom Crisp, Sgt Mathew Rowley (serving in Afghanistan),  
Lance Cpl Jonathan R. Williams

*Please pray for the family and friends of those who have given their lives for our nation.*

### **SHADOWS OF DOUBT**

**BY**

**JACQUIE D'ANGELO**

*When shadows of doubt  
Imprison the mind  
It's often about  
Our Faith left behind*

*We linger unsure  
Awaiting a clue  
We wish to secure  
A plan what to do*

*Relinquish your hold  
To secular thought  
Let Spirit unfold  
The Love that is sought*

## School-based Mentors needed

Becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister school mentor is one of the most enjoyable things you'll ever do. It will also be one of the most fulfilling things you can do. You will have the opportunity to help shape a child's future by empowering and encouraging them to achieve, beyond their expectations. The best part is that it is actually a lot of fun.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is looking for adults who have one hour per week to have a unique volunteer experience in our School-based mentoring program at London Elementary School. Mentors are an additional friend and a support to the children, someone to listen and encourage good behavior, school attendance and reinforce all the things the child is doing well. The thrust of the program is friendship, social emotional development, guidance and encouragement, to help each child have greater self-worth and achieve more.

It has been proven that students involved in the school based program develop a better attitude toward education, show higher achievement, have higher self-worth and reduce potential for negative outcomes.

The qualification to become a mentor is a desire to make a positive difference in a child's life. Big Brothers Big Sisters provides on-site supervision each week and will provide whatever support you may need.

To learn more about becoming a mentor and friend for a young student call Linda Shaffer at 888-877-2547.

## OUR NEW MINISTRY - SUFFICIENT GRACE

**Sufficient Grace, an important new ministry of our church.** is a non-profit organization that provides weekly take home meals to local elementary students in Madison County who likely won't have meals at home without this program. They are expanding their program this year to offer meals to children in London Elementary.

In the ten months that students are enrolled in school, they will have served over 44,000 meals. This is a completely volunteer run organization that depends on donations to make everything happen. We are collecting specific food items each month to ease their financial burden.

In September we are collecting packs of individual mac and cheese cups. There are boxes outside of the sanctuary and Chez's office to put donations! Let's fill them up!!!

## LUNCH AFTER CHURCH - CHEZ SENDOFF TO SEMINARY

After church on **Sunday, October 2** there will be a lunch in the Fellowship Hall in honor of our Director of Youth Ministries, Chez Gorman, who has begun her studies at the United Theological Seminary in Dayton (Pastor Steve is a graduate).

We're very fortunate that Chez will be commuting to classes, and will continue as our Director of Youth Ministries. We're so very proud of her! Come help us celebrate one of our own choosing to attend seminary!

**Staff**

Resident Bishop.....Bishop Gregory Palmer  
 Capital Area South Superintendent.....Rev. Dr. Timothy L. Bias  
 Senior Pastor.....Rev. Steven J. Rodgers  
 Executive Assistant.....Gail A. Baker  
 Director of Youth Ministries.....Chez Gorman  
 Director of Music Ministries and Organist .....Michael Schreffler  
 Children’s Choir Director.....Eryn Sandhage  
 Financial Manager.....Tara Shoemaker  
 Housekeeping.....Karen Lindsey

**September Worship Leaders**

Liturgist  
 Tom Minner  
Ushers  
 Michaele Budd, Chair, Rick Bell,  
 Regina Bogenrife  
Acolytes  
 Caiden Craig  
 Alexis Craig  
Sound & Video Technician  
 Brian Benedum, David Cover

**For Pastoral Needs:** Pastor Steven: Parsonage 740.852.1294.....or.....Cell Phone 614.371.0364



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