



The Tower Call

**First United Methodist Church of London
2017 - The Year of Deepening Faith
May 2017**

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52nd Baked Steak & Pork Tenderloin Dinner



Our potato prep team loves the potato peeling machine! It saves lots of time and wear & tear on their hands!

Some have volunteered all 52 dinners! Talk about dedication!



The steak and pork loin prep team has the hottest job in the kitchen, and they do it so well!



Recurring Bible Study Meetings

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

Here are a few of the 14 volunteers who scooped up slaw in one hour! Teamwork!





A Message from Pastor Steven...

Dear Easter People,

Easter morning has come and gone. We have celebrated the gift of Christ's Resurrection. Our sanctuary was filled with lilies and Easter blooms in all their brightly colored glory. Our worship experience was lifted on the sounds of our organist and our choir. We sang with gusto, praising God for the wonderful gift of Easter, joining our voices as the Body of Christ. We heard the Word spoken, heralding the Good News of Jesus Christ and his defeat of sin and death. And, we heard the Word preached, challenging us to accept and live out the fullness of Easter's gifts. It was a good Easter, good worship, good celebration of Christ's power in our lives on Easter.

But now what? Where do we go from here? How do we bring the joy of Easter into our living now that the greatness of the Holy Day is over? As is often the case, attendance and participation fall back to ordinary numbers on the Sundays after Easter morning. Though the Easter season last for 50 days and the Easter call upon our lives continues year round for the rest of our lives, we still fall back to our regular routines and our busy schedules. The beauty of Easter morning too quickly becomes a mere memory. The Holy Day becomes just another holiday, celebrated but soon forgotten as we live into the next one on the calendar. When that happens we unknowingly lose out on the true wonder of the gift of Easter; we miss the opportunity to truly live as Easter People.

Peter Gomes, author and theologian, writes *"...the resurrection is a continuing event which involves everyone who dares be involved in it. Easter is not just about Jesus, it's about you! Jesus has already claimed his new life. What about you? Easter is not just about the past, it's about the future. Your best days are ahead of you. The proof of the resurrection is in your hands and in your life."* These wise words beg the question: Do we know the resurrection, the Easter gift, to be a continuing event, or is it only a holiday? The question is pointed, it may make us uncomfortable, but it is an important question. It is important because the Easter gift, the resurrection of the Body of Christ depends on our answer. If we are those who "dare" to be involved in the unending life of the resurrection story then we are those who strive to live and love as the Body of Christ, actively participating in the transformation of the world for the cause of Christ. We are those who know to the center of our souls that the gift of Easter, proof of the enormity of God's love, is too important to take a back seat to anything else. We are those who, for love of God and love of neighbor, commit ourselves to living as agents of God's love, setting our resurrection-life as the singular most important priority in our lives. As Gomes said, proof of the glory of the resurrection is in our hands and in our lives.

I pray we have each received God's gift of Easter in a profoundly life changing way, a way that has led us to dare to be Easter People every moment of every day. I pray we realize the awesome nature of God's gift in the resurrection of Christ and us with him. I pray we see the Risen Christ in one another, freeing the resurrection from being chained to the past or relegated to being a mere holiday. Friends, such faith is the resurrection, the very resurrection of you and me because Easter IS about our future and the future of everyone, everywhere.

Blessings in the Colors of Easter,

Pastor Steven



The Youth Group of First United Methodist Church of London

May 7- Jr. J Walkers after worship, J Walkers @6:00

May 14- J Walkers @6:00

May 21- TRIVIA NIGHT!! @6:00

May 22, 23, 24- LOS MARIACHIS FUNDRAISER!!

May 28- No J Walkers

Please join us for our trivia night! Bring a dish to share and all your Bible knowledge! Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place!

EVERYONE WELCOME!!!!!!

Eat at LOS MARIACHIS in London anytime on the 22nd, 23rd, 24th, and J Walkers will receive 20% of your bill!! MUST HAVE THE FLYER WITH YOU!

ONLY 6 SUNDAYS UNTIL WE LEAVE FOR MISSION TRIP!! We are getting so excited to go on our second mission trip! We will be traveling to Rutland, Vermont with 15 kids and 5 adults! We are so thankful for all of your generous financial support as well as all of your prayers!!

A giant THANK YOU to everyone who donated at the Easter breakfast!! You all donated \$577 that will be put to good use in the lives of our youth!

Did you know the J Walkers are social media savvy? Follow us to keep tabs on what we have been up to and future plans!!

On Facebook, you can find us under J WALKERS. Follow us on Instagram @fumcjwalkers.





STORKS

*A Movie For The Whole Family To Enjoy On
Mother's Day Weekend!*



**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE
LONDON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Saturday, May 13, 10:30 a.m.
— \$5.00 —

Box office open 30 min. before the movie for ticket sales.

S T A T E

**Contacts for advanced ticket sales
and information:**

T H E A T E R

Henry Comer 614-270-2462

L O N D O N

Cathie Littleton 740-490-8671

**The ticket office at the State Theater
opens at 10:00 a.m. for this showing.**



SAVE THE DATE
July 15, 2017

25%
of proceeds will go
to Access Cowling.



Hole Sponsorships \$100

Needed: Volunteers, silent auction items, door prizes

Contact person: Henry Comer or Gail Baker
Phone: 740-852-0462
Email: fumc52@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.londonfumc.org

London Country Club
Saturday, July 15, 2017
Time: 8am
Shotgun Start

Keeping The Main Thing The Main Thing

By Rev. Dr. Tim Bias, Superintendent, Columbus Area South

There is a gospel hymn that says, "Like the woman at the well I was seeking for things that could not satisfy..."

Have you ever had an inward emptiness? I have. My life was filled with activity and busyness. Most all of it good, but I was not satisfied. Like empty calories that filled my stomach but failed to nourish my body; my heart, mind, and spirit were not being nourished by the good activity of my life.

It seems to me that, in our culture, there is no shortage of things, many of them good things, clamoring to take up residence in our hearts. If we open our hearts to them, we will be pushed and pulled by forces that quickly take control.

To live as children of God, and most specifically as Christ followers, our hearts need to be nourished with the presence of God. Against the attractions and anxieties that swirl about us, Jesus tells us to seek first the kingdom and righteousness of God (Matthew 6:33). This means to allow God to inform our lives through the witness of the scriptures, through Jesus Christ, and the witness of the saints through the ages. In this way, God becomes the center of everything.

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Keeping The Main Thing The Main Thing

By Rev. Dr. Tim Bias, Superintendent, Columbus Area South

(continued from page 5)

James W. Skillen writes, "The wisdom of Ecclesiastes teaches us that making ourselves the fixed point from which to view reality is a recipe for despair."¹

His words challenge us in the midst of a culture that is convinced that each individual is the source of what is right, wrong, and true. The result is often a do-it-yourself spirituality that tends to focus on personal fulfillment. How different from Jesus. Jesus assumes that the fixed point is God, who reveals wisdom to those who are as receptive as children rather than to those regarded as wise and learned (Matthew 11:25).

Our hearts will be filled with someone or something. That is why Jesus asks us to hunger and thirst for the righteousness of God. Doing so does not come naturally to us. In fact, it is natural for us to follow our own desires. So we begin always by inviting God to enter a heart that is instinctively non-receptive.

"It should not surprise us," writes Arthur Simon, "that prayer and time alone with God seem strange and out of place in a life that is occupied with many interests and responsibilities that make little allowance for anything so impractical. However, if the heart is to be properly filled, it must be emptied of things that leave no space for God, and give God access. Doing so means setting aside time for prayer and reflection. An empty prayer life reflects an emptiness in life, which is to say a cluttered and distracted heart."²

I hope you are allowing God access to your heart. It is my hope that you and I become so connected to God and to God's desire for us, that all the people around us become the focus of our care and hospitality. Those people may be our family, friends, neighbors or people experiencing grief or pain. It is my hope that those known or unknown to us, who may be hungry, homeless, imprisoned, victims of violence will be held close to God as we offer ourselves in risk-taking mission and service.

"If we genuinely love people," writes Richard Foster, "we desire for them far more than it is within our power to give, and that will cause us to pray."³

When our prayers are in order, everything else follows. When we pray, God helps us put our hearts and minds on things that matter. The action follows. Our hearts will be filled. I want my heart to be filled with a deep and abiding love for God and for you.

I pray that your heart will be filled with God's love as well.

How do you keep the main thing the main thing in your life?

¹James W. Skillen, *A Covenant to Keep: Meditations on the Biblical Theme of Justice*

²Arthur Simon, *How Much is Enough?*

³Richard Foster, *Celebrations of Discipline*

Prayer Requests

Continual

Carolyn Blausen, Bev Dhume, Betty Garrett, Mildred Good, Geraldine Henry, Phyllis & Ted Hunter, Connie Hunter, Sue Jackman, Virginia Richey, Georgia Smith, Harold Snell, Linda Snyder, Loretta Weimer

Current

Buddy Byers, Chris Carter, Madelyn Duffey, Bob Edwards, Connie Hileman, Shuna Smith, Dan Snell, Deena Townsend, Lisa Vroom, Caleb White, Gerald "Butch" Yakubik, Angie Yoder

Serving on Active

Military Duty

Captain John Crisp, Lt Tom Crisp, Drew Deck - Afghanistan, 82nd Airborne, Sgt Mathew Rowley

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

MISSION NEWS

- ◆ May is our Month to support the Madison County Food Pantry with volunteers. We need 2-4 people for each Wednesday and Saturday in May to help man the food pantry. Hours are from 9-noon. Contact Robin and Dave Ladd. Sign up sheet in parlor.
- ◆ We will be collecting peanut butter in the month of May for the food pantry.
- ◆ On Saturday June 24 we need volunteers to serve the Strawberry Festival Cobra Luncheon . Proceeds from the lunch support the pastors fund and the food pantry. Contact Rick and Cheryl Dickerson.
- ◆ West side Free store August 12th, 9am -1pm. We need 4 people to serve lunch 2 people to work in store and 2 people that will talk and pray with people in need. We will meet at church at 9 to leave for the free store which opens at 10, or you can meet us there - 51 S. Powell Avenue in Columbus.
- ◆ To help support the Free Store we will be collecting under garments and socks in July . Contact Robin and Dave Ladd.

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 OrganistMichael Schreffler
Children’s Choir Director.....Eryn Sandhage
Financial Manager.....Tara Shoemaker
Housekeeping.....Dale McNeal

May Worship Leaders

Liturgist

Liz Blakeslee

Ushers

David Emrick, Maryann Emrick
Howard Reynolds, Peggy Shoemaker

Acolytes

Elizabeth Cleaver, Logan Cleaver

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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Email: fumc52@sbcglobal.net

Graduation Sunday is May 14. Please contact the office with the name of your graduating senior so they can be recognized. fumc52@sbcglobal.net or 740-852-0462.