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March/April 2026 Newsletter

Learning to Live Like Jesus

"Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did."

– 1 John 2:6 NIV

To be a disciple means more than believing in Jesus: it means becoming like Him. The early followers of Christ patterned their lives after His: His priorities, His compassion, His obedience to the Father. In the Global Methodist Church, we call this holy living—a life shaped by grace, empowered by the Spirit, and devoted to love.

Scripture emphasizes that discipleship happens best in community. As we study The Word together and ask simple, powerful questions. First, "what is God saying?" and second, "what will I do about it? Once we answer these questions, it is then we begin to see our lives change. The goal is not just knowledge but obedience. This obedience takes root and we begin to produce fruit.

As we move through Lent and into Easter, may we recommit to living as Jesus lived. Every act of kindness, every prayer for a neighbor, every moment of surrender is part of the transforming work of grace. Christ not only saves us; He teaches us how to live.

Trusting in God,
Pastor Sean McLeod



Palm Sunday March 29th Worship @ 10am

Maundy Thursday April 2nd @ 6:30pm With Communion and Seder meal included in sermon.

Good Friday April 3rd

Easter Sunday April 5th Worship @ 10am with Communion



The Women of Woodlawn (WOW)

The Women of Woodlawn did not meet in January or February, but we will be meeting on March 18th at the church at 9:30am.

The church has received two thank-you notes that are on the bulletin board. One is from LifeWise for our missions offering and the other is from the Health Department thanking us for the hats and gloves from the Christmas tree. They will distribute to those in need.

Thank you for supporting these missions.

Looking forward to Spring!

Blessings to all,
WOW

- The mission offering for March** will be given to **LifeWise**
- The mission offering for April** will be given to **Back Packs**

3rdSundayBenefit

Just a reminder that **Woodlawn GMC** will continue to support **Jericho House** in mission every **3rd Sunday** but without a **meal**.

Also the Sponsor sheet is on the table in the Narthex for September 2025 to August 2026. Thank you

We appreciate your donations on each 3rd Sunday.

Blessings for all of **Woodlawn** and the **folks at Jericho**.
Phyllis Crall and **"The Kitchen Gang"**

March Mission is LifeWise (from their newsletter)

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17

At LifeWise Crawford County, this promise of new life is not just something we read about...it is something we witness. When a student begins to understand who Jesus is and what He has done for them, change begins. Truth replaces confusion. Hope rises where doubt once lived. Purpose begins to take shape. And often, that transformation does not stay with just one child, but it moves outward, touching families, friendships, and entire households. As Scripture declares, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (Acts 16:31) One life turned toward Jesus can open the door for many others.

As we enter into the first month of 2026, we are excited to share that as of January 31st, 447 students across Crawford County are hearing God's Word each week! Thank you Jesus!

As you look at the enrollment snapshot below, remember that each number reflects a story God is writing, and we are expectant for all that Jesus will continue to do through these students this year.

Where We Are At (as of January 31, 2026)

- Buckeye Central.....Serving 33 Students in Grades 1-3!
- Bucyrus.....Serving 66 Students in Grades 1-5!
- Colonel Crawford-----Serving 105 Students in Grades 1-5!
- Crestline.....Serving 35 Students in Grades 2-4!
- Galion.....Serving 92 Students in Grades 1-5!
- Wynford.....Serving 116 Students in Grades 1-5!

This is the beauty of what God does. He works through individuals – one heart at a time- to accomplish something far greater than we can see. A student who learns to walk with Christ can influence friends, encourage siblings, soften the hearts of parents, and reflect His light in ways that reach beyond the classroom walls. As Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

And through one transformed life, He can touch an entire community

April Mission is Backpacks

- Children living in low-income families are at greater risk of behavioral and emotional problems.
- Some of these problems may include impulsiveness, difficulty getting along with others, aggression, and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).
- Some emotional problems may include feelings of anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem.
- Parents dealing with low income often experience chronic stress, depression, and relationship challenges that often cause both social and emotional problems for children.
- Low-income families often live in less safe neighborhoods that contribute to children's developmental problems. Exposure to violence can place children at a greater risk for being a victim of injury, entry into the juvenile justice system, and even death.

Program Goals

- Continue providing weekend meals to students, with food insecurities, attending Crawford County Schools.
- Continue to recruit and retain volunteers.
- Continue to identify potential financial support and grant opportunities.

What's inside the Backpack bags?

Breakfast-cereal, granola bars, cereal bars, oatmeal, nutri grain bars, any type of breakfast bars and pancakes

Drinks-White and chocolate milk, hot chocolate and juice

Fruit-Any single serve fruit and applesauce cups

Vegetables-Any canned vegetables

Meals-Canned chicken or tuna, canned and boxed meals, pasta canned and boxed like Ravioli, Spaghetti, beef stew, chili, any canned soups-no bigger than 10.75 oz, mac and cheese boxed or individual, ramen noodles, boxes of spaghetti and cans of sauce-no glass jars, noodles or boxed pasta and peanut butter.

Snacks-Jello and pudding cups, fruit snacks, fruit roll ups, slim jims, peanut butter or cheese crackers, individually wrapped snacks-cookies, Teddy Grahams, goldfish crackers, pretzels and popcorn (Please no glass containers or any can over 15oz.)

How can you help?

Volunteer, pack bags/ stock shelves, collect food items, check with schools to help distribute, share our story, help look for funding, use your Kroger Plus card-designate rewards to the Backpack program, write a check-checks should be payable to the Bucyrus Backpack Program LLC.

Thank you letters:

Flat Rock

Dear Woodlawn, GMC, Bucyrus,

We are filled with hope and joy as a new year begins! Thank you for your recent gift of \$255.00. Your faithful generosity allows us to continue making a difference in the lives of those with disabilities.

Your support will help sustain many programs that will have a lasting impact on the lives of our individuals. These programs enhance life skills, create meaningful opportunities and experiences, and provide a safe and nurturing environment.

Wishing you many blessings in 2026! Thank you again for your kind and generous gift!

Yours in faith,

Karen L. Kilgo

President/CEO

Alpha Recovery 12-Step Program

Greetings Partners,

On behalf of Alpha 12-Step Recovery Program, I would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$4,357.00 during the calendar year 2025.

Since our inception in 2008, Alpha 12-Step Recovery Program has worked tirelessly to assist those individuals looking for support and guidance from their addictions. We are able to do so because of the thoughtful contributions from people like you.

As you know the cost of assisting those in need does not go away. Unfortunately, it grows higher every year. We hope for your continued support in the future.

The Alpha Recovery 12-Step Program is a 501© (3) organization; therefore, any donations are tax deductible.

Once again, thank you for your generous donation.

Sincerely,

Rev. Margie Maddox, CEO



March Birthdays

- 2 Pat Trout
- 5 Barb Spaid
- 10 Jerry Gerhart
- 11 Heather McLeod
- 24 Carson Heinlen
- 26 Mike Strouse
- 29 Nancy Gillenwater

March Anniversaries

- 13 Mike & Sherri Strouse

April Birthdays

- 1 Lyle Reffey
- 25 Ellie Rockwell

April Anniversaries

- 4 Tom & Pam Holtshouse
- 15 Jim & Nancy Gillenwater

- If there are any Birthday's or Anniversaries that need to be added to our Birthday/Anniversary calendar, please let me know and I will add them.

MINUTES

Church & Finance Counsel Committee

February 3, 2026

The Church & Finance Council Committee met together on Tuesday, February 3, 2026 with the following members present: Pastor Sean, Karen Scott, Barb Spaid, Tom Holtshouse and Carla Gerhart.

Pastor Sean started the meeting with prayer.

Pastor Sean led the meeting

Reading of the Minutes: Everyone was given a copy of the minutes and they were read silently. A motion by Tom Holtshouse was made to accept the minutes and Barb Spaid second the motion. All in favor said I.

The Treasurer's report: Financial Reports will follow with the most recent updates.

Pastor Sean: The new Worship planning is going well. We had a good worship meeting this afternoon and have planned through Easter. SPR meeting is later this month to fill out my annual evaluation. Have been working on home Bible study, inviting more people. I have been working on a personal study for spiritual formation and what it means to obey the teaching of Christ, and how as a Pastor I can do better. You need to know how to do it yourself before you teach others to do it. I think this year will be fun, the weather is getting better and living in the community I will be able to make more connections.

3rd Sunday Benefit Meal: Continue with donations and sponsorship.

Hospitality: There will be a potluck on July 26th when United in Harmony will be here.

Music: United in Harmony will be here on July 26th and will do the entire service.

SPR: Will be meeting toward the end of February.

Trustees: Nothing

WOW: Will be meeting in March

Worship: We had a meeting this afternoon. For Ash Wednesday Feb. 18th from 8-12 in the sanctuary you can come and receive your ashes Pastor will have some music playing in the back ground and then in the evening he will have an online devotional. Palm Sunday March 29th we will have the palm branches. Thursday April 2nd will be Maundy Thursday at 6:30 pm the Seder meal will be included in the sermon and there will be communion. Easter Sunday is April 5th with communion. Pentecost is May 24th.

Old Business: The trim that fell off will be taken care of when the weather is nicer.

New Business:

Pastor request a motion to accept the committee reports, Barb Spaid made a motion to accept the committee reports and Karen Scott second the motion, all in Favor said I.

Pastor requested a motion to adjourn the meeting, Tom Holtshouse made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Carla Gerhart second the motion, all in Favor said I.

Pastor Sean ended the meeting in prayer.

Respectfully submitted: Alice Donaldson

Financial News as of February 28, 2026

All bills are paid and current. This includes all medical, pension & disability income costs billed to us by the Global Methodist Church through the end of February.

As of February 28, 2025 our checking account balance was \$21,401.59. This is down from \$23,796.07 the prior month. The drop was because of paying \$1,283.87 for new office computer and unusually high gas and electric bills caused by our recent excessively cold temperatures. For January and February our gas bills totaled \$2,782.48 for church gas and \$367.12 for parsonage gas AND \$973.83 for church electric and \$253.98 for parsonage electric.

Because of the heavy amount of snow, year to date we have paid \$1,305 for parking lot plowing and sidewalk shoveling.

We have pending another boiler repair expense because one of our two boilers is not operating because of a bad circulating pump which is approximately \$1,000 plus labor estimated between \$200-300.

We have been trying to save enough monthly to be able to pay all of our 2026 Allegheny West Conference Connectional Giving and our Global Methodist Church expensing in March 2026, to take advantage of the 5% Full Payment discount on the Allegheny West Conference portion of these expenses. We estimate the total expense to be more than \$5,900. As of this date we have saved \$6,896.80 in our Memorial Savings Account towards this expense. This includes CD of \$2,096.80 which was allocated for this expense.

Our current Parsonage Fund Balance is \$7,964.64 plus additional \$50,000 CD reserve.

Patchworks... Since the beginning of our agreement Patchworks has paid a total of \$8,050 to help with utility and maintenance cost. As of 02/28/26 we have not yet received the \$350 payment due for February 2026.

Year to Date...For This Report as of 2/28/26

- Year to Date Regular & Online Offerings of **\$17,930.00** were **\$515.00** or **2.8% less than this same time last year of \$18,445.00.**
- Our average attendance (which is somewhat weather related & excluding the Sunday services that were cancelled) dropped from 33 to 25 per week.
- Total funds in the Richard & Thelma Hawkins' Scholarship Fund remain at \$8,047.94
- Our Capital Improvements & Replacement Account currently stands at \$11,329.84 plus \$25,000 reserve in an Edward Jones CD.

On December 2, 2025 our Administrative Council approved a Trustee recommendation to accept an estimate of \$6,000 from Mark Bishop of Bishop Painting to power wash the underside of carport (that has developed some mold issues) along with the laminated arches and the inside and outside gable ends of the carport and to repaint same as soon as weather and Mark's schedule permits in 2026. This expense will be taken from the (working) Capital Improvement & Replacement Fund which (excluding CD fund) we hope will be approximately \$12,000 by June 1, 2026.

The Capital Improvements & Replacement Fund was established to reduce the need for future borrowing for major expenses for such things as: eventual boiler and air-conditioner replacements, replacement of the deteriorating brick light columns at the end of the driveway, eventual roof replacements and the like. (Our church roof is 37 years old having been last replaced in 1989).

- Year to date we have received \$50.00 in Memorial Contributions for Marlene Malone.
- Our Undesignated Memorial Funds now stand at a **negative** \$6,332.04 because of the \$34,412.00 needed for the disaffiliation payment to the UMC in May 2023. This is an improvement from a negative \$8,643.46 balance this time last year.
- Our Total Memorial & Various Designated Savings & CD Account Funds Balance stands at \$105,856.78.

Total Mission & Evangelism Support Year to Date was \$1,564.80 and includes:
\$545.00 to Alpha 12 Step Recovery-Jericho House Project. 3rd Sunday Alpha Fund.
Other Mission Support Offerings included:

- TBD Back Pack Program (April Mission Offerings)
- 615 Blanket Mission (February Offering thru Church World Services)
- TBD Born (will Incl. \$300 from General Offerings & Sept Mission Offering)
- TBD Flat Rock Homes (December Mission Offering)
- 0 Hawkins' Scholarship Fund (Stopped being a Mission Offering in January 2023)
- TBD Help Me Grow (October Mission Offering)
- TBD Life Wise (March Mission Offering)
- TBD Designated Family In Need Christmas Eve Offering
- TBD Reffey Family Missionaries (August Mission Offering)
- TBD Mid-West Mission-Disaster Relief (June Mission Offering)

- TBD Salvation Army (November Mission Offering)
- 355 Samaritan's Purse (January & July Mission Offering)
- 50 Upper Room Publications
- TBD Voice of Hope (formerly known as Bethel House-May Mission Offering)

Total Income for all of 2026 year to date was \$22,731.80 vs. \$24,533.25 this time last year.

Thank-you for your continuing financial support of our Church. If you are unable to attend “in-person” services please continue mailing your offerings directly to the Church at 1675 Hopley Ave. Bucyrus, OH 44820.

On behalf of our Treasurer, Carla Gerhart, Finance Committee and Administrative Council, I **Thank you** for your faithfulness and ask that you continue to prayerfully look at your support level of our Church.

Tom Holtshouse
Finance Chairperson



MARCH 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
<p>1</p> <p>Worship @ 10 AM</p> <p>Holy Communion</p>	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p>8</p> <p>Worship @ 10 AM</p> 	9	10	11	12	13	14
<p>15</p> <p>Worship @ 10 AM</p>	16		18	19		21
<p>22</p> <p>Worship @ 10 AM</p>	23	24	25	26	27	28
<p>29</p> <p>Worship @ 10 AM</p> 	30	31				

APRIL 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
			1	2  Maundy Thursday 6:30 pm with Communion	3  GOOD FRIDAY	4	
5  Worship @ 10 AM Holy Communion	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12 Worship @ 10 AM	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19 Worship @ 10 AM	20	21	22  Earth Day	23	24	25	
26 Worship @ 10 AM	27	28	29	30			