

# THE CONNECTION

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Phone: (419)223-2881  
Pastor Paul Scannell  
February 11, 2026

## *Greetings from Pastor Paul*

Hello Everyone,

February is the beginning of Lent for 2026 and we have a Lenten devotion for you and your family, a Lenten calendar. Instead of giving something up for Lent, maybe try to add something new every day by following the calendar, and we will kick everything off with an Ash Wednesday service. You have two choices; you can attend Forest Park UMC on February 18th at 7pm or Elida St. Paul's at 7pm for the Ash Wednesday service. There will also be Maundy Thursday services at Trinity and St. Paul's, a Palm Sunday service here at Westside, a Good Friday praying the stations of the cross at Shawnee, and an Easter Sunrise service in the cemetery next to Shawnee UMC at 6:45am. We will also have our regular 9 am service celebrating Easter Morning.

Westside continues to look to the future as we seek to reach our community here in Lima and the surrounding area. We will have a Spring Bingo and I want to encourage you to attend, not to play bingo, but to interact purposely with the people who attend this event from outside the church. Play bingo too, have fun, and learn about our neighbors. Don't feel pressured into inviting someone to church, just learn who they are and what they are about and allow God to steer the conversation where it needs to go.

Camp Wesley in Bellefontaine will be operational this summer which means you can register your kids for camp and I also have access to scholarships through the conference for families who have financial need. Church camp is one way we can expose our kids to Christ in an atmosphere of safety and love. I encourage you all to take a look if you have children between the ages of 7 and 17 as Camp Wesley will have camping experiences for all of them. Go to <https://wesleycampandretreatcenter.org/> to find out the details.

We will have a special series during Lent as we discuss what the Bible says about foreigners and ask ourselves the question "Who Is Our Neighbor?" It will begin the 1st Sunday of March and run through Easter morning. I will be asking the hard questions about who is our Neighbor and how has God called us to treat them? I hope you will join us in person or online as we explore what it means to be Children of God in our world today. Until then I will see you in the mission field.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Paul

Pastor Paul is in the Westside Church Office from 10:00 – 4:00 each Tuesday. He can be reached at the church office phone (419.223.2881) his cell (734.660.1984) or email [4PastorPaul@gmail.com](mailto:4PastorPaul@gmail.com).

## **Bishop Jung's Days on the Districts**

Clergy and laity are invited to join Bishop Jung for his Days on the Districts!

Date: Sat, 02/21/2026 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Location is Lima Shawnee UMC

Laity Schedule is 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

A special training for laity on leadership skills, with the opportunity to make connections with others, will be held at 11:00 am for those wishing to attend. All laity are encouraged to participate. Laity are then invited for lunch at noon. From 1:00 - 3:00 pm, the bishop will lead a discussion on the Five Strategic Pillars of the Ohio Episcopal Area Missional Direction, followed by closing worship.

11:00 am Laity Training with Julie Carter

Noon Lunch for everyone

1:00 pm Bishop leads a discussion on the Five Strategic Pillars with Laity and Clergy

2:30 pm Closing worship with communion

3:00 pm Dismiss

REGISTRATION CLOSES ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16th at 5:00 PM.

Registration at

<https://www.westohioumc.org/civCRM/event/register?reset=1&id=2440>

We hope to see you there!

## THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO ARE SERVING

### Sunday, February 15, 2026

Worship Liturgist	Sally Leidy
Song Leader	Clarissa Frail
Pianist	Eileen Hartles
K.I.D.'s Connection	Michele Cole

### Sunday, February 22, 2026

Worship Liturgist	Phil Osmon
Song Leader	Pam Ditto
Pianist	Eileen Hartles
K.I.D.'s Connection	Jacqui Dill

***Thank You!***

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- The bare Christmas tree in the narthex of the church, is not neglected! February is the month we often think of all the things for which we are thankful. God has blessed each of us and you are invited to share your gratitude by decorating the tree with what you are thankful for on a heart and hang it on our tree. Let's fill that tree sharing with one another the bountiful blessings God has bestowed on us. The hearts are ready for your use in The Café!
- Watch the morning worship bulletin and the Connection for opportunities in the next several months to share with our immediate community. You might want to order a shirt that helps to identify you as a member of the church, too! This year we will be celebrating 25 years of ministry here at Westside.
- February 18<sup>th</sup> is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten Season. The Upper Room Gathering on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 will be studying Adam Hamilton's devotional book "Why Did Jesus Have to Die?" There are several open seats --- one waiting for you!

### PRAYER CONCERNS

Delores Gossard	Carol Blass (Otterbein)
Dave & Helen McElderry	Family of Jack Crabtree
Mike Blass	Ron & Lois Farley Family
Dallas Meffley	Maleeda Meffley
Alyssa Sifuentes	Estella Sifuentes
Tom Bodell	Dewey & Connie Taylor

## ***CONNECTION CORNER***

### ***BIRTHDAYS***

February 14 Deb Pedersen  
20 Beverly Shade  
21 Gene Aufderhaar  
27 Linda Frueh

### ***ANNIVERSARIES***

February 3 Dale & Lori Brookman  
18 Tom & Jan Avery

Greeting cards are in the Connection Café for your use. Help yourself to the one you need.

Carol Blass is now at Otterbein for rehab. If you would like to send her a note or card, you may send it to her attention at: Otterbein Cridersville, 100 Red Oak Dr, Cridersville OH 45806.

Also, please remember all of our shut ins:

Pat Bunn, Kessler Estates, 2075 N Eastown Rd 45807  
Loretta Hodges, Home, 1419 Wendell Ave 45805  
Dave McElderry, Home, 412 Lincoln Ave 45805  
Beverly Shade, Home, 2950 Jenny Pl 45805  
Dewey Taylor, Springview Manor, 883 W Spring St 45805

**FAMILY PROMISE MINISTRY AND THE C.U.P. (Church United Pantry)** Ministry are both in need of a variety of items. Baskets are in narthex for you to place donated items.

**C.U.P. Needs** February – feminine hygiene pads & bladder control products

**Family Promise Needs** Cleaning supplies; paper products; bath towels and wash cloths; men, women and children shampoo; lotions; snacks for children.

### **Important Dates for your Calendar**

#### **February**

14 6:00 p.m. Valentine's Day Benefit, Family Promise  
18 9:00 a.m. Upper Room Gathering, Connection Café.  
7:00 p.m. **Ash Wednesday** Service at Forest Park or St. Paul's UMCs.  
19 5:00 p.m. Serve dinner to Family Promise residents  
25 9:00 a.m. Upper Room Gathering, Connection Café.

#### **March**

8 Communion; Hospitality Sunday  
15 UMCOR Sunday

# Lent 2026

			<b>February 18</b> Ash Wednesday Attend service at Forest Park UMC or Elida St. Paul's 7:00 pm	<b>19</b> Fast from hurting words, instead say kind words	<b>20</b> Pray for your Church, Pastor and Staff	<b>21</b> Pray for the children of Westside
<b>22</b> Attend Church	<b>23</b> Fast from negative thoughts about yourself	<b>24</b> Call someone on the Prayer chain or on your mind and pray with them	<b>25</b> Pray for Children's Ministries, Youth Groups & Volunteers	<b>26</b> Fast from social media	<b>27</b> Pray for all children everywhere	<b>28</b> Spend 5 min in silence, listening to God, and giving Thanks to God!
<b>MARCH 1</b> Tell someone at Church you are going to pray for them this week (and do it)	<b>2</b> Compliment as many people as you can today	<b>3</b> Fast from worry and instead pray	<b>4</b> Pray for the Samaritan House Ministry	<b>5</b> Smile at everyone you see today	<b>6</b> Pray for a random person	<b>7</b> Spend time w/family or friends
<b>8</b> Sit in a different pew at church	<b>9</b> Apologize for a past wrong to a family member or friend	<b>10</b> Fast from people pleasing, Feast on pleasing God	<b>11</b> Pray for Lima Rescue Mission	<b>12</b> Fast from complaining, instead praise God for something	<b>13</b> Do a random act of kindness	<b>14</b> Do something you enjoy or makes you laugh
<b>15</b> Introduce yourself to someone new at church	<b>16</b> Pray for mission work & outreach in your church	<b>17</b> Fast from gossiping, instead spread the good news through your words	<b>18</b> Pray for Family Promise	<b>19</b> Fast from criticism	<b>20</b> Give something away for the benefit of another, time, talent, gift...	<b>21</b> Look for God sightings
<b>22</b> Sit as close to the front of the church as possible	<b>23</b> Take time to see those around you, particularly those you would ignore	<b>24</b> Reflect on those who have positively influenced your walk w/God	<b>25</b> Pray for Guiding Light Ministries (Lima Women in Crisis Ministry)	<b>26</b> Fast from the word can't	<b>27</b> Donate items to CUP or 5 Loaves Food Pantry	<b>28</b> Fast from anger
<b>29</b> Wave a Palm!	<b>30</b> Send a card of "Thanks" or "Thinking of You"	<b>31</b> Fast from words that do not glorify God	<b>APRIL 1</b> Do something out of your comfort zone for someone else	<b>2</b> Attend Maundy Thursday service at Trinity UMC or Elida St. Paul's 7:00pm	<b>3</b> Good Friday Stations of the Cross at Shawnee UMC 4:30pm - 7:30pm	<b>4</b> Spend time with God and reflect on Christ's sacrifice for you
<b>5</b> Happy Easter! Sunrise Service at Shawnee Cemetery 6:45 am	(Cont'd) Elida St. Paul's 8 am & 10 am Westside 9 am					