

THE CONNECTION

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Pastor Paul Scannell
April 8, 2026

Greetings from Pastor Paul

Hello Everyone,

A couple of things for the Connection for you, thank you to everyone who was present for Bishop Hee-Soo Jung's visit on the 6th of April. If you would like to see the visit it will be available on Elida St. Paul's Facebook page for a few weeks. We had a good conversation with the Bishop and he asked as many questions as he answered. It is a rare opportunity for churches like Westside and St. Paul's to get the undivided attention of the bishop. You all did a wonderful job of representing United Methodism here in Allen County. When I brought the Bishop Jung to see Westside after his time at St. Paul's, he was impressed with the facility and mentioned how nice of a building we have. He also tasked me (and by association, you) with the task of filling the pews with new Christians and you already are. I want to encourage you as he encouraged those of us who were present to stay the course and to have faith in God who will be with us. I know we can accomplish great things together here at Westside with the help of God.

The other thing I want to talk to you about is finances, you all have been doing a very good job of being faithful with your giving and I want to encourage you to keep it up. I had mentioned previously that the board had to make the hard decision to cut our mortgage payment to remain fiscally responsible and to not deplete our savings. After that announcement of decreasing our mortgage payment by \$1000 dollars per month someone came to me and said they thought we shouldn't cut our payment and offered to give an extra (above their regular giving) \$700 to the mortgage. Of course, I said yes! But I am wondering are their others out there who could give more to cover the other \$300 per month to keep us on track with paying down our debt? If this is something you feel led to do, please stop and have a conversation with me and I will help get you set up with the additional giving directly toward the mortgage. The sooner it is paid off the sooner we can be fully engaged in ministry in our community without the drain of debt.

We will be starting a new sermon series this week, God in Nature, and we will be looking at "God's Delight and Care for Nature" Sunday the 12th. I hope you will join me in person or online as we explore Nature and God in the weeks to come. 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.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO ARE SERVING

Sunday, April 12, 2026

Worship Liturgist	Gene Aufderhaar
Song Leader	Pam Ditto
Pianist	Eileen Hartles
K.I.D.'s Connection	Sally Leidy

Sunday, April 19, 2026

Worship Liturgist	Lonnie Pedersen
Song Leader	Pam Ditto
Pianist	Eileen Hartles
K.I.D.'s Connection	Michele Cole

Thank You!

Thank You!

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Thank You!

- Welcome *Avery Drew Sharp* born April 6th, Monday evening. Congratulations Eric and Emily and also grandparents Tom and Pam Ditto!
- We have updated our directory! Please pick up the new copy. One per family please.
- Westside is celebrating its 25th year! This Sunday, April 12th, we need you to vote on the color of our shirt. The design will be black on the shirt and will be available to see near the ballot basket. The colors available are Carolina Blue, Sport Gray, White, or Gold. The example of the color will be on your ballot. Circle the one you prefer. The majority vote wins.
- The Upper Room Gathering on Wednesday mornings at 9:00. A seat is waiting for you!
- Watch the morning worship bulletin and the Connection for opportunities in the next several months to share with our immediate community.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Delores Gossard	Tom Bodell
Dave & Helen McElderry	Jeff Newland
Carol Blass	Bianca Gonzales
Dewey & Connie Taylor	Lori Brookman

CONNECTION CORNER

BIRTHDAYS

April

18 Paul Scannell

18 Emily Sharp

27 Clarissa Frail

ANNIVERSARIES

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

*If there is a birthday or anniversary we are missing, please let the office know.

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: April – Soap & Body Wash. Non-perishable food items such as canned goods and dried food items are always needed.

Family Promise Needs: Office supplies: paper, three ring binders, folders, etc.; Gas Vouchers; Laundry supplies: detergent, bleach; Paper products: paper plates, paper towels, plastic eating utensils; Toiletries: deodorant, body soap, shampoo & conditioner, toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, feminine hygiene products, ethnic products; Baby products: disposable diapers, wipes, baby OTC meds; Bath towels & wash cloths; Over-the-counter adult medicine: Tylenol, Band Aids, Cough Drops, Alcohol Swabs; Bed pillows; Cleaning products: Trash Bags, Lysol spray, Lysol Wipes, Brooms, Mops; Gift cards for essentials: Walmart, Meijer's, Dollar General, etc. Or contact Family Promise to make a 'gift-in-kind' donation.

Important Dates for your Calendar

April

- 8 9am Upper Room Study
- 12 Communion
Hospitality
Vote for new shirt color
- 15 9am Upper Room Study
- 16 5pm Provide Dinner for Family Promise
- 19 Native American Ministries Sunday
- 20 7:30pm Leadership Team Meeting in the Narthex
- 22 9am Upper Room Study
- 23 Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen
- 29 9am Upper Room Study

Westside's Financial Report

The Leadership Team will publish the monthly report in the Connection each month. Our mortgage on the building is \$165,899 as of February 28, 2026. The March mortgage payment was \$4,215.

To meet the church budget the average monthly income needed is \$12,447.

For the month of March 2026:

Westside Offerings	\$ 9,790
Family Promise	4,930
Total Income for March	\$14,720 (over \$2,273)

Forest Park

United Methodist Church



Rummage

Sale

Home Made Baked Goods

315 S. Collins Avenue • Lima

April 24 & 25, 2026

8:00 am – 3:00 pm

• **Freewill Donation**

Proceeds go towards FPUMC Scholarship Fund and Missions Fund

gently used clothing, furniture, appliances, books, toys, kitchen items, cups, plates, silverware, tools, holiday items, knick-knacks, etc...

● gently used donated clean items accepted (NO TVs or Computers) ●

**Drop off items (Mon thru Wed) April 13 thru April 22
8 am to 4 pm at the FLC Entrance off Linden Street**

If you have items and cannot drop them off between 8am & 4pm, please contact the church office at 419.227.8445 to arrange a time to drop off your items.