

# THE CONNECTION

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Pastor Paul Scannell  
December 30, 2025

## *Greetings from Pastor Paul*

Hello Everyone,

I want to start by saying thank you to everyone who sent Christmas cards, gifts, and food of all kinds. Tomorrow is the day our kids are home to celebrate Christmas and hopefully they will eat and/or take home all the sweets. Your gifts and well wishes make Christmas a wonderful time for my family and me.

January is upon us and the beginning of a new year but I can't help thinking about all the great things that happened in 2025 but I am only going to talk about one. I am writing this the same day as the combined service at Westside church and oh my, what an event it was. 176 people gathered to worship together and recommit themselves to God. I stood in the pulpit and caught a glimpse about how the church could be (or as Debbie Pedersen said, the way it will be) and I was overwhelmed. I really did pause in awe of what I was looking at before I did announcements but then we began to sing. Go Tell It on the Mountain hasn't sounded that good to me in a long time. the harmonized voices of United Methodists as they sang and filled the sanctuary with praise. I know we cannot gather like that every Sunday because we are called to make each church like that right where we are. I hope you will work with me in 2026 as we continue to grow God's church here in Allen County.

We are going to be spending the next four weeks looking at four United Methodist Women of faith and how they grew the kingdom of God even when there were people around them who said they could not do the work they were called to complete. I hope you will take courage from their story and find something in each one you can use in your own personal faith journey. We will be looking at names you may know but at others you will not know, but in looking, we will see how Methodists have always followed God where they are led. Harriet Tubman, Helenor M. Davisson, Jarena Lee, and Mary Bosanquet Fletcher are the four women of Faith. I hope you will join me in January as we explore women of faith.

Be looking for and listening to God in your journey and 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).

## THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO ARE SERVING

Sunday, January 4, 2026

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

Sunday, January 11, 2026

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

***Thank You!***

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You were very generous during this holiday season. We were able to have nice gifts to share with the Family Promise parents through your contributions along with contributions from St. Paul's congregation.

The bare Christmas tree in the narthex of the church, you graciously decorated with hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, and hats. What a blessing that will be as we share them with the Family Promise families and the community schools. Christmas will continue to bless those recipients.

You have heard "many hands make for light work". How very true, an ample supply of goodies were shared with our guests who attended the combined Methodist Churches worship service here at Westside. What a blessing to have so many willing to share and to see so many friends—old and new—truly was a time of renewal and praise. If you were unable to be present, you will enjoy viewing the service on Facebook or YouTube at

<https://www.youtube.com/@WestsideUMCLima>

### PRAYER CONCERNS

Delores Gossard	Ed Scannell
Dave & Helen McElderry	Jack & Becky Crabtree
Richard Gaberdiel	Tom Bodell
Kelsey	Stan Brenneman
Family of Lois Farley (Vanessa Lee's mother)	
Family of Jerry Ditto (Tom & Pam Ditto's family)	

## ***CONNECTION CORNER***

### ***BIRTHDAYS***

January 1 JoEllen Cook  
1 Richard Gaberdiel  
2 Sonny Newland  
7 Pam Ditto  
11 Jessica Schelb  
13 Tom Ditto  
23 Jeff Crawford  
28 Kay Kunkleman  
28 Sue Osmon

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

**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** January – Shampoo, Canned food, dried food items are always welcomed

**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**

Dec. 31 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Upper Room Gathering in The Café

Happy New Year

Jan. 4 9:00 a.m. Worship Service and K.I.D.'s Connection

Jan. 7 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Upper Room Gathering

Jan. 11 9:00 a.m. Worship Service and K.I.D.'s Connection

Jan. 12 7:30 p.m. Leadership Team Meeting