

# THE CONNECTION

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Phone: (419)223-2881  
Pastor Paul Scannell  
February 25, 2026

## *Greetings from Pastor Paul*

Hello Everyone,

I want to spend some time here talking about camping ministry, over the last few years there have been no United Methodist Church camps in West Ohio for children. Last year because of our association with East Ohio Conference, camping was available but it was a distance for children to attend. I am pleased to announce the reopening of Camp Wesley here in Bellefontaine, Ohio for 2026 and if you have kids or grandkids between the ages of 7-17, I want to encourage you about giving camp a try. You can find information on Facebook at Camp Wesley or online at <https://wesleycampandretreatcenter.org/>. Send your kids to camp. It is a great place to continue growing in Love with God.

Did you play hand bells here at Westside? Would you like to try playing bells? Elida St. Paul's will be playing bells in Elida on Palm Sunday and they will begin practice on the 8th of March at 1pm. I know you won't be playing here at Westside but it will be an opportunity to play again and who knows, you may be just the thing that inspires them to play here one Sunday in the future.

We will be spending some time looking at a subject that has been in the news lately and seeing what the Bible has to say about it. I want to warn you it is going to be controversial, but I also want you to know the complexity of the issue leads me to believe there is no easy answer/solution. But I do know there are human beings (God's children) who are affected by the problem. How does God speak about these people and what are we called to do about it? I am speaking about foreigners/immigrants, I hope you will come to the conversation with an open heart because I will be spending the next 6 weeks as we slowly and methodically look at immigration in America. I also want to say as you discuss this topic among yourselves please give all sides respect, it is alright to have different opinions. Debating issues openly is one of the greatest things we have as Americans. I hope to see you in church as we go through Lent and 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).

## THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO ARE SERVING

### Sunday, March 1, 2026

|                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Worship Liturgist   | Gene Aufderhaar |
| Song Leader         | Pam Ditto       |
| Pianist             | Eileen Hartles  |
| K.I.D.'s Connection | Jessica Schelb  |

### Sunday, March 8, 2026

|                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Worship Liturgist   | Lonnie Pedersen |
| Song Leader         | Pam Ditto       |
| Pianist             | Eileen Hartles  |
| K.I.D.'s Connection | Sally Leidy     |

***Thank You!***

***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.
- 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         | Tom Bodell        |
| Dave & Helen McElderry  | Maleeda Meffley   |
| Mike Blass              | Dallas Meffley    |
| Carol Blass (Otterbein) | Alyssa Sifuentes  |
| Dewey & Connie Taylor   | Estella Sifuentes |
| Pam Flood & baby        |                   |

## **CONNECTION CORNER**

### **BIRTHDAYS**

February

27 Linda Frueh

March

6 Jane Stevens

8 Maggie Schelb

12 Helen McElderry

18 Karen Rader

20 Jacqui Dill

23 Lori Brookman

31 Tim Kunkleman

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

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** March – Toilet Paper

**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**

March

1 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal

4 9:00 am Upper Room Gathering, Connection Café.

8 Communion; Hospitality Sunday

10:15 am Choir Rehearsal

11 9:00 am Upper Room Gathering, Connection Café.

15 UMCOR Sunday

10:15 am Choir Rehearsal

# Lent 2026

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

# WESTSIDE SPRING B.I.N.G.O.

## BINGO

|   |  |  |   |  |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| <br>Turtle           | <br>Skateboard | <br>Easter Eggs  | <br>Butterfly   | <br>Yellow Chick   |
| <br>Watering Can     | <br>Snail     | <br>Birdhouse   | <br>Strawberry | <br>Dragonfly     |
| <br>Bumblebee        | <br>Lamb      | <br>FREE SPACE  | <br>Ladybug    | <br>Rainbow       |
| <br>Teddy Bear       | <br>Ice Cream | <br>Kite        | <br>Tulips     | <br>Squirrel      |
| <br>Baseball and Bat | <br>Umbrella  | <br>Jelly Beans | <br>Bluebird   | <br>Easter Basket |

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### WHO:

ALL WHO ARE AVAILABLE FOR FUN, SNACKS AND FELLOWSHIP

### WHEN:

**Saturday,  
March 28  
10 am—12 pm**

### WHAT:

IT'S TIME TO GATHER TOGETHER FOR SOME FUN AND FELLOWSHIP.

BRING A SNACK FOOD TO SHARE WITH EVERYONE. 2 HOURS OF TOGETHERNESS AS A BODY OF CHRIST.

### WHERE:

**Entrance at  
Westside UMC  
604 Gloria Ave,  
Lima, OH 45805**