

The Shepherd

March/April 2026

12 “Now, therefore,” says the Lord, “Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping,. and with mourning.” 13 So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm- Joel 2:12–13

As time goes on, it’s easy to drift from the love, joy, and gratitude we felt when we first recognized God’s love for us — when we first understood the weight of Christ’s sacrifice and the depth of His mercy. That moment when it hit us that the rejection, mocking, and suffering Jesus endured was not abstract; it was connected to the sin and brokenness in our own lives. Nothing reveals His love more clearly than the cross. And nothing stirs our love for Him more deeply than remembering it.

Yet our days fill quickly.

Work responsibilities. Family needs. Church commitments. Social obligations. The constant pull of what is urgent often overshadows what is eternal. Without meaning to, we begin to live “out of sight, out of mind” with the One who deserves our first attention, our deepest gratitude, and our whole heart.

Lent is the Church’s gentle way of saying: Come back. Slow down. Remember.

Not with guilt, but with honesty. Not with dramatic gestures, but with open hearts.

This season invites us to turn — not just from sin, but toward love. Toward the God who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in kindness. Toward the One who has never stopped pursuing us.

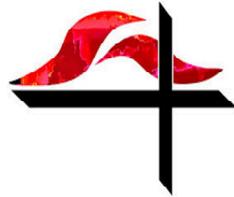
This Lent, I invite you to choose one simple practice — not to burden you, but to remind you that God is with you in every moment. It might be:

- A short prayer whispered each morning before your feet touch the floor.
- A verse taped to your dashboard or bathroom mirror.
- A daily act of gratitude.
- A commitment to worship each week with renewed intention.

Whatever you choose, let it be something that turns your heart — even briefly — toward the One who loves you more than you can imagine.

As we move through Lent, we reflect on Christ’s suffering and celebrate His resurrection. The God who calls us back also brings new life and hope. May this season draw us closer to Him, soften what has grown hardened, awaken what has grown weary, and prepare us to celebrate Easter with hearts made new.

Blessings,
Pastor Cyndi



**Columbiana First
UMC**

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Office Information
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Office Hours
Monday, Wednesday, & Friday
9:00am—1:00pm

Our Staff

***Pastor Cynthia Midlick**
cmidlick@msn.com

***Church Secretary**
Miranda Caldwell

Financial Secretary
Lisa Kauffman

***Custodian**
Bradley Moore

***Music Ministry**
Monica Detwiler

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

(If we have missed your special day,
please notify the church office to be
added to the list! 330-482-2382)

Kaitlyn Culp Mar 2
Robert Belding Mar 21
Ruth Williamson Mar 29

Dorothy Merreot Apr 5
Jay Williamson Apr 7
Tina Ambrose Apr 23
Richard Gorcheff Apr 25
Donald Leonard Apr 26
Gabriella Schweikert Apr 30

**If your birthday is in March
and April it is not on the list we
wish you also a very Happy
Birthday.**



Christiana House

Christina House launches text-only crisis line.

The Christina House Domestic Violence Program has launched a text-only crisis line. Persons seeking help or information about domestic violence can text 234-335-7908 24 hours a day. A trained advocate will reply to the text message and offer advice, a listening ear, or referral to other resources. Information about any of the Christina House's services is available through the text line. The crisis phone line is also available 24 hours a day for phone calls at 330-420-0036.

The Christina House program includes an emergency shelter, legal advocacy, case management, and referral to other community resources. The legal advocate offers information about and assistance with protection orders. To connect with the legal advocate directly individuals can call 330-420-0845 Monday through Friday from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm. Additionally, the Christian House offers community education about healthy relationships, teen dating issues, and domestic abuse. The community education specialist can be reached at 330-744-3320 ext. 206.

Christiana House Needs list

Paper Towels	Canned Goods	Stationary	Shampoo
Disposable Diapers	Baby Wipes	Kleenex	Deodorant
Dry Food Mixes	Bath Soap	Bleach	Hair Spray
Toilet Paper	Underwear	Light Bulbs	AA Batteries
Disposable Razors	Toothpaste	Toothbrushes	Tampons
Sanitary Napkins	Laundry Detergent	Cleaning Supplies	
Disposable Razors	Towels/Washcloths	Beauty Certificates	
Pajamas for Women/Children		Baby Clothes	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **In person Worship Services are on Sunday's at 10:30am**
- **Soup Sale for March, deadline for pre-orders is March 8th .Pick-up will be on March 12, 3:30 – 4:30 pm. This will be the last Soup Sale for the year.**
- **To order Easter lilies in honor or memory of loved ones, fill out the bulletin form and submit it to the offering plate or Miranda, our church secretary. Deadline for orders will be March 30th . Thank you.**
- **Holy Week services:**
 - Good Friday Service at 5 pm**
 - Maundy Thursday Service/Dinner at 6 pm. If you can come and join us. The Dinner will start at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary. Reservations will need to be made so that we have a count for how many we will be serving. To make reservations please call the church office 330 482-2382.**
- **Easter Service regular Worship Service time 10:30 am.**
- **Ham Dinner Drive-Thru, April 14th.**

Kids Club

The Kids' Club started this year with their New Year's resolutions and to always try to think before acting, What would Jesus do?"

The kids loved the lock-in at the YMCA in Youngstown which was a district event.

We went with 13 kids and 4 adults. Thank you to my drivers Katie. Adam & Jeff!

We will now be preparing for the lenton season and Easter.

Also thank you to Jeff and Nancy for their help at our meetings. Thank you to Ginny Neville for her monetary support and Brad for always having the lights on!

Our next meeting is March 3rd 6:00-7:30.

Karen Culp



Trustee Report

The main work is completed in the Parsonage.

Karen Culp is finishing up the hardwood floors and Bob and Rob McMurray have been working on the painting in the home.

The insurance company is working on finalizing the last of the payments.

Thank you to everyone who has helped with the parsonage repairs and remodel. Your time, skill, generosity, and care have made such a difference, and we are deeply grateful!

Good as New Shoppe

To continue to be in the consignment store even during the “winter” weather. Every weekend through March we will be holding various sales on our winter inventory to clear out space for spring and summer.

March 13 and 14 will be a special weekend for St. Patrick’s Day. Try and stop in for the coin search and a chance to win a special prize.

Give Marge a call if you would like to make an appointment to bring in items for donation or consignment. Thank you for your support of the store.

Marge & Linda

Store hours Friday 10-4

Saturday 10-3.

Store Phone Number: (330) 831-0399

United Methodists Women

Next breakfast at 10a.m. at the Dutch Haus is April 15th!

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

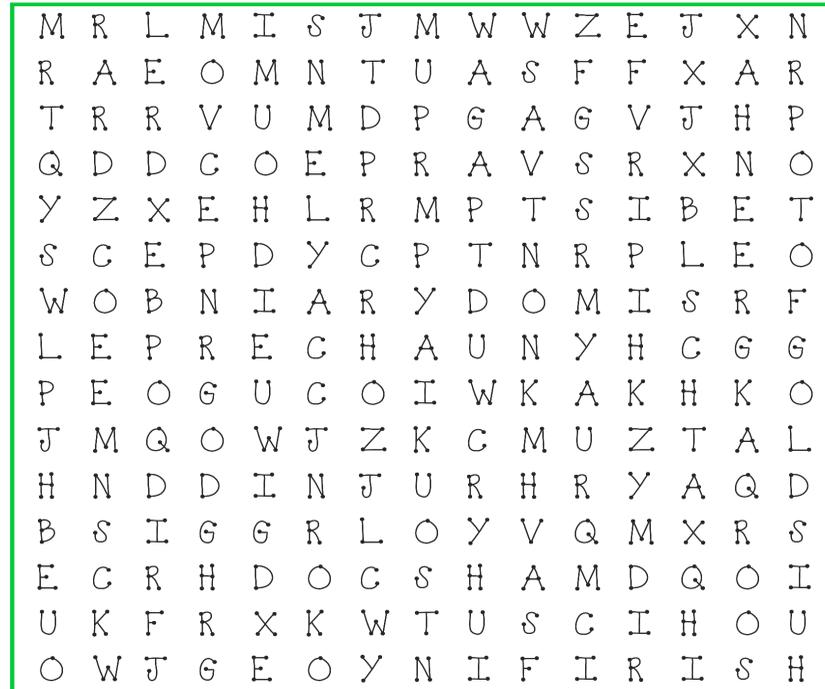
Trivia

- _____ 1. Which creature did St. Patrick drive out of Ireland
- _____ 2. Where was the first Saint Patrick's Day Parade held?
- _____ 3. When did the custom of St. Patrick's Day brought in America?
- _____ 4. Which American city holds the largest parade?
- _____ 5. In Ireland, what does the color green stand for?
- _____ 6. What type of creature is a leprechaun?
- _____ 7. Which profession does the leprechaun practice?
- _____ 8. Where was Saint Patrick born?
- _____ 9. When did St. Patrick die?
- _____ 10. Where is St. Patrick buried?
- _____ 11. Where did St. Patrick study religion?
- _____ 12. What was St. Patrick's birth name?
- _____ 13. What is St. Patrick's nickname?
- _____ 14. What color was originally associated with St. Patrick?
- _____ 15. What kind of plant is associated with St. Patrick?



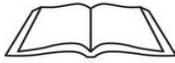
Shamrock	New York	Boston	420 AD
Hope	Fairy	1737	Wales
Downpatrick	Gaul	Snakes	Paddy
Maewyn Succat	Shoemaker	Blue	

ST. PATRICK'S DAY WORD SEARCH



CLOVER	GOLD
IRISH	JIG
LUCKY	MARCH
RAINBOW	SHAMROCK

GREEN
LEPRECHAUN
POTOFGOLD
STPATRICK



Easter Crossword

Use the clues to fill in the correct answers on the grid.



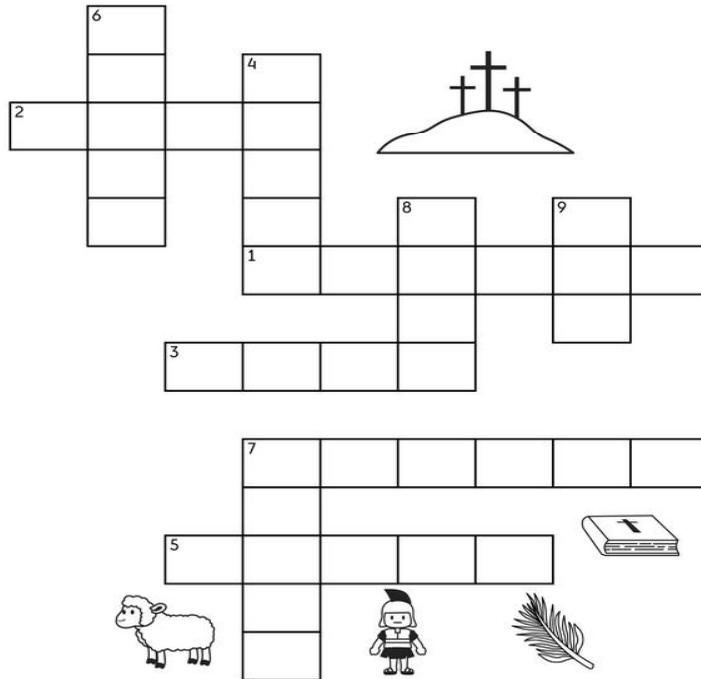
DOWN

- 4. The end of life
- 6. A religious symbol with a vertical and horizontal line
- 7. Belief in something without proof
- 8. A young sheep, typically one less than a year old
- 9. Recently made or come into being

ACROSS

- 1. A place where angels reside
- 2. A feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen
- 3. A vault for the dead
- 5. Holy book of Christianity
- 7. A plant that blooms in the springtime

He is **+**
Risen



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Fun Holidays

March

Mar 1 World Compliment Day



Mar 9 Napping Day

Mar 14 Pi Day



Mar 23 Puppy Day

Mar 25 Waffle Day



April



Apr 12 Grilled Cheese Day

Apr 10 Friday Siblings Day



Apr 13 Monday Scrabble Day

Apr 22 Jelly Bean Day



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