

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

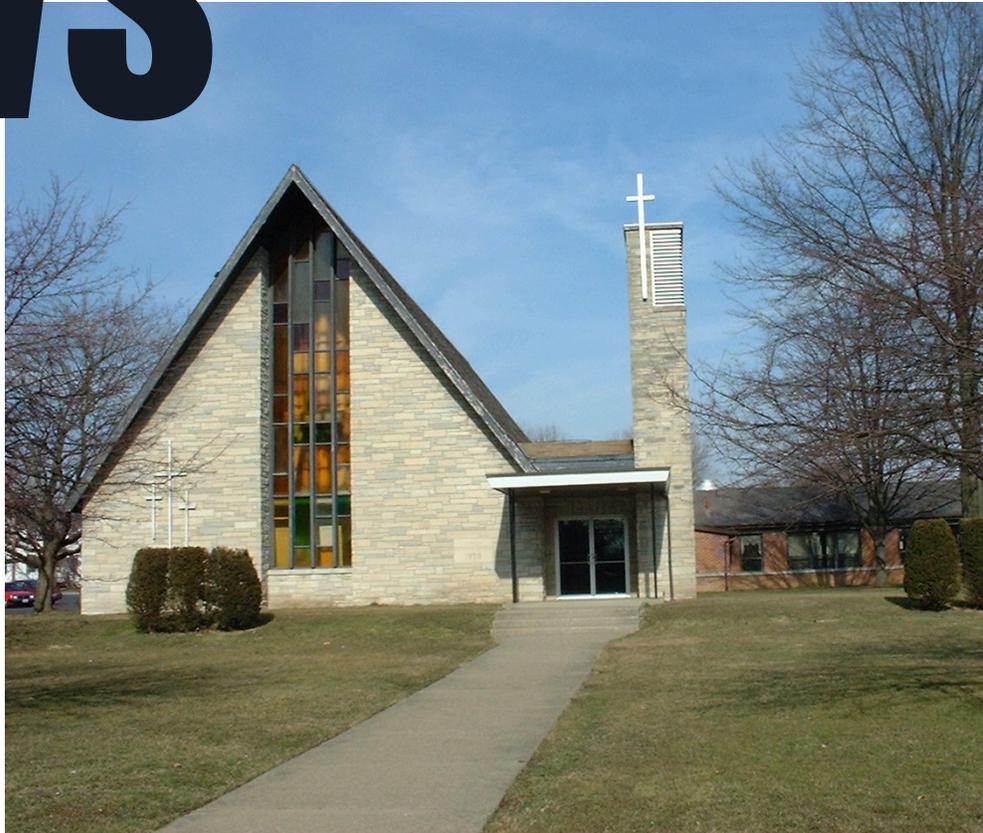
Good News

APRIL 2026



Smithville
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**TO LOVE
CHRIST
TO SERVE
CHRIST
TO SHARE
CHRIST
NO MATTER
WHAT IT
TAKES**



SMITHVILLE UMC

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from the desk of Pastor James



Dear Smithville UMC,

For the months of March, April, and May, I will be heading back to the core of our belief. I will be exploring the trinity in these newsletters. Of course, there is no way I can provide a full or filled out explanation in a newsletter. These articles will be more a few thoughts and reflections I have and by no means all encompassing. For the month of April, as we celebrate Easter, the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, on Sunday April 5, I will be reflecting on Jesus.

Jesus Christ is God incarnate, the Son of God, Son of Man, Christ the Messiah, our Lord and Savior. I have found that Jesus is also the easiest of the trinity for people to connect with. That is one of the reasons God came down incarnate. Jesus was fully human and fully divine. While we don't fully understand what that means as we can never fully understand the divine, we do tend to understand and connect with Jesus as human easier than God or the Holy Spirit.

Jesus walked, talked, and lived much like any human does. In a different time, and fully divine, but that is what helps us to connect. Jesus' greatest teachings are not just in his lectures, sermons, and parables. Jesus' greatest teachings are in how he lived out his faith. God came down, as Christ, to be an example for us to follow; one that we could connect with and live towards. Jesus did not just tell us what to do through lecturing, preaching, and teaching through parables. He showed us what to do. Jesus lived out ministry throughout his life and through his death.

In April, we celebrate Easter. It is the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. On April 3 we celebrate Good Friday, the death of Jesus, and Sunday April 5 the resurrection. Christ's sacrifice for our salvation is pivotal to our faith. And we can not allow it to overshadow the resurrection. Whether we say it or just build our theology on it, we sometimes get so focused on the crucifixion that we forget what the resurrection means.

We start looking for that moment when we can be a sacrifice like Jesus. Or perhaps we focus on the crucifixion and get caught up in asking why of the crucifixion, death, and pain, that we miss the mercy and salvation poured out. We miss the mercy, salvation and love poured out. We miss the glory in the resurrection and that Christ always knew the resurrection was going to happen. Jesus Christ chose, out of love for us, to show us just how far God is willing to go to be in relationship with us.

In April, let us work to reflect, nurture, and grow our relationship with Jesus Christ. Let's study the parables, sermons, and teachings of Jesus and all they reveal. Let us make choices and do the work it takes so that we may live a life like Christ. Let us grow our relations with Jesus Christ, as we remember how loved we are by Jesus. Amen.

from the desk of Pastor Aimee



Psalm 90:12 says,
“Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom.”

My dad told me, just before Aidan was born, that once you have kids, time seems to just fly by and years are gone in the blink of an eye. I didn't know how right he was until – well - until it happened! In our home, we are currently getting ready for spring break with Grace who is already a second grader!! It is a joy to watch her experience life and watch how she tackles things. These years of my life are flying by... just like dad said they would. Everything feels like it is in going in fast forward. Tim, my stepson is 28, Aidan, our other son, is almost 20 and Grace is already 7! It feels like Aidan just finished preschool and yet here we are heading into adulthood. This is a time of change and transition – of excitement and even a little sadness. Change is hard. Transitions are not always comfortable...but growth brings about changes. It all has happened lightning fast!

I think that is what Psalm 90:12 is trying to teach us. Life happens fast and we cannot afford to waste it. We need to have the knowledge of the fact that life is fleeting and the wisdom to know how to spend the little time we are given here in pursuit of things of eternal significance. When this life is over, what would you want others to say was your main contribution to their lives? What could your family say about you? Or your friends? Or your church? Or your community? Most importantly, what would God be able to say about you?

Here is what I hope for all of us my friends...I hope that when others look at our lives, they see a people of deep compassion. A people that can see past the façade of another person to care for and minister to the heart of the hurting and broken of the world. I hope that others will see in us a people that are more concerned with filling the empty stomachs of the hungry than filling our own bank accounts. I hope they will see a people that believe in the power of prayer and that walk unafraid where God is leading because we TRULY KNOW that God will do what He says He will do. I pray that we will love the least among us, care for the orphans and widows, visit the lonely, pray for the sick, seek out the lost and fight for what God says is worth fighting for until we take our last breath this side of Heaven. I hope that we take the command of Christ to “go into all the world and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit” so seriously that we give all we have and all that we are to that calling. I pray that when others look back on the mark that we leave, that that mark will cry out the unconditional love of Christ for them and the world.

Our time here is not so long...it is filled with challenges and joys...heartaches and triumphs. But for all of us, it happens fast. One day we are putting together toddler beds and going to Kindergarten orientation and the next we are watching our own children doing the same for their family. Life is brief...may God give us the wisdom to serve Him joyfully, faithfully, and without reservation for every beautiful minute of this wonderful, crazy fast adventure called life!

Offering and Attendance

Sunday, March 1, 2026—Offering

Loose Collection	103.00
General Fund.....	<u>3,292.00</u>
	\$3,395.00

Items Not in General Budget:

Building Fund	315.00
SS book.....	5.00
Easter flowers	<u>146.00</u>
	\$3,861.00

In-person Worship Service	41
ONLINE Worship Service views	273

Sunday, March 8, 2026 -Offering

Loose Collection	0
General Fund.....	<u>2,230.00</u>
	\$2,230.00

Easter flowers.....	86.00
Parsonage utilities.....	331.66
Moreland reimbursement.....	857.93
Building Fund	<u>175.00</u>
	\$3,680.59

In-person Worship Service	35
ONLINE Worship Service views	153

Lenten Service Offering.....\$413.00

Sunday, March 15, 2026—Offering

Loose Collection	-0-
General Fund.....	<u>2,305.00</u>
	2,305.00

Items Not in General Budget:

Building Fund	1,875.00
Rental.....	250.00
Flowers	36.00
Special refund comp.....	1,430.10
Special PIR.....	762.50
Liberty Prep.....	4,100.00
Sign.....	300.00
Apportionment.....	<u>35.00</u>
	\$11,093.60

In-person Worship Service	35
ONLINE Worship Service views	198

Sunday, March 22, 2026—Offering

Loose Collection	20.00
General Fund.....	<u>2,165.00</u>
	\$2,185.00

Items Not in General Budget:

Building Fund	1,725.00
parsonage rent	500.00
Sign Campaign.....	50.00
Lenten study.....	5.00
Buehlers	<u>285.00</u>
	\$3,243.00

In-person Worship Service	38
ONLINE Worship Service views	228

Smithville United Methodist Church Finances at a Glance Feb 2026

	Monthly Beginning Balance	Monthly Income	Rentals	Monthly Expenses	Monthly Ending Balance
General Fund	\$ 38,092.29	\$ 12,415.08	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 21,164.38	\$ 34,842.99
1 Paid of total 1713.21/ behind 1 Apportionment of \$1713.17					
Designated Accounts	\$ 41,836.30	\$ 260.00	\$ -	\$ 112.29	\$ 41,984.01
Building Fund	\$ 43,378.37	\$ 1,005.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 44,383.37

Yearly Financial Summary

	2026 Budget	Actual YTD YTD Monthly Income Needed for Budget	Actual YTD Usable Income - including rental	Actual YTD Expenses
	\$182,336.81	\$ 15,194.73	\$ 35,527.19	\$ 36,536.54

Investments	Last Month	Net Change	Current Month
General Reserve Fund	\$ 26,427.51	\$ 447.83	\$ 26,875.34
Mission	\$ 17,944.14	\$ 304.08	\$ 18,248.22
Education Grant	\$ 124,428.99	\$ 2,108.60	\$ 126,537.59
Total Investments	\$ 168,800.64	\$ 2,860.51	\$ 171,661.15

HOLY WEEK

SCHEDULE

PASTOR JAMES

Maundy Thursday, April 2, 7 PM
Church of the Cross

Good Friday, April 3, 7 PM
Smithville UMC

PASTOR AIMEE

Maundy Thursday, April 2, 7 PM
Moreland UMC

Good Friday, April 3, 7 PM
Oak Chapel Cantata

Easter Services
Sunday, April 5

Pastor James
Apple Creek & Moreland

Pastor Aimee
COTC & Smithville



He Is Risen

Invite someone to join
you for worship on
Easter Sunday!

Talk To Us

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Month's Events

MEETINGS

April 8 Missions at 6 PM
April 9 Finance at 7 PM
April 16 Adm Council at 7 PM
April 28 Trustees at 7 PM

RUMMAGE SALE

April 25
Scouts' Pancake Breakfast
Church Rummage Sale



STIRRUP COURAGE

Equestrian Learning Center

Stirrup Courage was full of occasions to celebrate in 2025, as it marked the 5-year anniversary of founding the program! We could not have built the nonprofit from just an idea into what it is today without the support of community members like your congregation who have chosen to be a part of this vision of bringing joy into the lives of children who are facing difficult life situations, by sharing a love of horses with them! Thanks to that generosity, we were able to use our 5th anniversary year to serve more children than any season before, with 52 children coming through the program in 2025!

Last year 110 guests attended our Celebration Banquet in February where 21 students who progressed to “star” levels of independent riding received medals.

Summer added 12 new students off the waiting list who were able to complete the Intro to Horse Care class. Celebrating our 5th anniversary, we held a carnival and cornhole tournament in August where prizes, food and laughter were in abundance.

To top it all off, we were thrilled to be invited to be part of the Wayne County Farm Bureau Tour in October. This was an amazing opportunity to connect with people in the community.

2026 ushers in a new program! As a result of a grant proposal, we will be offering cart driving. This new program will provide an alternative way to include children who are not physically and/or emotionally able to manage riding on horseback. The option to ride in a cart can allow a child to still participate in learning a horsemanship skill, with the option for a support person to sit in the seat alongside them as needed.

To catch a glimpse of the good that is happening between children and horses in our weekly lessons, listen to how parents and caregivers of our students describe their reasons for why they believe it is important for their child to participate in Stirrup Courage:

*“**Emotional Regulation** has improved and **empathy** towards animals! They look forward to riding and connecting with the horses and ask all the time when they get to go back! They are proud to be able to ride horses.”*

*“**J. thrives** in this therapy, she actually becomes willing to talk and **doesn’t stay in her shell.**”*

*“**C. loves** coming to horse. She doesn’t love a lot of things these days...but horse has remained an activity where she **feels welcomed, encouraged, loved, challenged, safe, and always has fun!**”*



SERMON CORNER

Preaching Schedule for
Pastor Aimee and Pastor James

April 5-19

Pastor Aimee- SUMC/ COTC

Pastor James- AC/Moreland

April 26

Pastor James- SUMC/ COTC

Pastor Aimee- AC/Moreland

April 5 Pastor Aimee

Easter Sunday

“Leaving Too Early”

John 20:1-23

April 12

Guest Preacher

April 19 Pastor Aimee

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus!”

John 15:11-17 and John 21:1-14

April 26 Pastor James

“You Too Are Forgiven”

John 18:15-18, 25-27 and John 21:15-17



Happy Birthday
April

Happy Anniversary

- 6 Cynthia Shull
- 10 Andrea Gerber
- 14 Barbara LaMoreaux
- 20 James Hohenshil
Stephanie Wright
- 21 Joyce Shrrrell
Ralph Gill
- 22 Michael Foy
Leia Miller

- 2 Steve and Kathy Buchwalter
- 11 Timothy and Jacklyn Becker
- 12 Kyle and Tami Krownapple
- 14 Ronald and Deborah Leach
- 16 Mike and Mary Ann Ickes
- 17 Brian and Amber Sayre]

March 12 Bishop Jung's visit

**Save The Date for
Ministries at Liberty Preparatory High School**

Baccalaureate - Thursday, May 21

Graduation - Friday, May 29