

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Good News

AUGUST 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



“Through Heavens Eyes”

This year of newsletters (Aug 26-June 27) I will be exploring how and where we see God at work in music. I will be choosing a different song each month and reflecting on where I see the Holy Spirit at work in the song and in the message it gives. As I explore these songs, there are three things we should always be mindful of: 1.) God is at work in music 2.) Not all of these songs are traditional hymns, some of them were not even originally intended for the church 3.) In any song, or art, there is always what the artist intended and what the audience is blessed with. All that is to say, I hope you will listen with me to see where God is at work in music whether the artist knowingly intended it or not.

The first song, and one I find myself listening to a lot, is “Through Heavens Eyes” from the *Prince of Egypt*. The *Prince of Egypt* is an animated movie that follows the narrative of Moses in Exodus. It focuses on his relationship with his “brother” Rameses who become Pharaoh. It is easily my favorite religious movie (partially due to nostalgia and partially because it’s so good). Part of what makes this movie amazing is the music and songs. After Moses has fled Egypt, he takes shelter in Midian. There Moses is having serious doubts about himself, whether he is worth anything, and if he has done anything worthy of note (we might say anything the Lord would be proud of). Jethro sings this song in response to Moses’ doubts.

“Through Heavens Eyes” is a song about how we all have self-doubt at times. We all wonder if we have done anything worthy of note, anything the Lord would be proud of. We, as humans, tend to look for earthly success and if we don’t have earthly success we feel like we have failed. The song reminds Moses, and reminds us, that God has a different understanding of success. If we take the time to look at our lives through heavens eyes (through God’s eyes) we will see we have done so much worthy of success. Jethro points out that Moses saved his daughters multiple times and has worked to care for others. He may not be a Prince of Egypt anymore and he may not have gold and power, but he has done good in God’s eyes.

Whenever I listen to this song, it reminds me to be mindful and reflective of how I am judging my life. It reminds me to take a few moments in prayer and reflection. To truly ask, what have I done that would be success in the Lord’s eyes? The Lord does not look at my earthly accomplishments. God does not judge me by how much money I have, what position at my job I have achieved, nor by how many things I own. The Lord considers it a success when I follow God. When I work to love the Lord my God and my neighbor as myself. That is success to God. I invite you to take 10 minutes this month, listen to “Through Heavens Eyes” and prayerfully ask, what have you done that would be worthy of honor in God’s eyes?



As a believer in Christ Jesus, I truly believe that one of the most important, powerful, and life changing gifts that God has given us, is the gift of prayer. It really is astounding to me that the Creator of the universe WANTS us to be in relationship with him! The One that created every star and planet and galaxy – the One that breathed life into every living thing everywhere – the One that is has no beginning and no end – that same God invites us to come to him in prayer. He genuinely wants us to draw near to Him. If you really stop to think about it, it is incredible. You (and I) have constant access to God. Not only that, but he has called us his children – his beloved – his chosen. He doesn't ask us to come to Him in a transactional way, rather He desires to hear from us the same way a parent wants to hear from their children. It delights the heart of our heavenly Father when we come to him. We were made to be connected to our Creator.

Believing that to be true, it is also true that so many of us struggle with prayer. We sometimes get caught up in thinking that we have to say certain things or not say other things. There are days, perhaps, when we are so busy that we “forget” to pray. Some days it feels like something we do to “check it off” our to do list. Perhaps there are days when spending time with God in prayer does not even cross our mind. I say all this NOT to make us feel bad for struggling with prayer, but to acknowledge that for many of us, prayer can be an after-thought instead of our most powerful asset. But be encouraged! Even the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray.

When I feel discouraged with my prayer life, I often go to John 17 and read Jesus' prayer. It is so comforting to see the heart of our Jesus being poured out to His Father in an open and honest prayer. But my favorite line of that entire text is verse 20 when Jesus says, “I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message.” Every time I read that I just stop and take it in. Jesus wasn't only praying for Peter and James and John. Jesus was thinking about and praying for you – and for me! All those centuries before we had even breathed our first breath or taken our first step, Jesus brought us to His Father for safe keeping. How breathtakingly beautiful to know we were prayed for by our Savior. And this reminder of how Jesus prayed for me reaches deep down into my heart and refreshes me. It gives me a renewed desire to talk to God, to rest in His presence, and to take others to Him for safe keeping as well.

As we continue together in ministry over this upcoming year, I want to encourage you not only as individuals, but as the body of Christ as well, to make prayer a priority. Throughout Scripture, we are urged to pray! The Apostle Paul, in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 encourages us to “Pray without ceasing.” In Romans 12:12 we are taught to “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer.” Philippians 4:6 reminds us to “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.” As we move forward on our journey of faith together, be assured that you are all in my prayers!

Offering and Attendance

Sunday, June 7, 2026 -Offering

Loose Collection	20.00
General Fund.....	<u>6,195.00</u>
	\$6,215.00
Sign Campaign.....	160.00
Apportionments.....	35.00
Building Fund	<u>540.00</u>
	\$6,950.00
In-person Worship Service	43
ONLINE Worship Service	views 227

Sunday, June 14, 2026—Offering

Loose Collection	-0-
General Fund.....	<u>2,830.00</u>
	2,830.00

Items Not in General Budget:

Building Fund	175.00
Sign Campaign.....	600.00
Parsonage rent.....	500.00
Parsonage cleaning.....	350.00
Gym Rental.....	<u>80.00</u>
	\$4,535.00

In-person Worship Service 41
ONLINE Worship Service views

Sunday, June 21, 2026—Offering

Loose Collection	-0-
General Fund.....	<u>1770.00</u>
	\$1770.00

Items Not in General Budget:

Building Fund	50.00
Pastoral (App Ck)	762.50
Pastoral (Moreland)	<u>418.33</u>
	\$3,000.83

In-person Worship Service 40
ONLINE Worship Service views 261

Sunday, June 28, 2026 -Service at Moreland

Sunday, July 5, 2026 -Offering

Loose Collection	-0-
General Fund.....	<u>5,775.00</u>
	\$5,775.00
Sign Campaign.....	360.00
Rental	100.00
Rental.....	200.00
OH Sch of Min.....	264.92
LP meal.....	225.00
LP Baccalaureate.....	225.00
Pastoral support.....	323.78
Building Fund	<u>240.00</u>
	\$7,713.70

In-person Worship Service 56
ONLINE Worship Service views 181

Sunday, July 12, 2026—Offering

Loose Collection	100.00
General Fund.....	<u>2,145.00</u>
	2,245.00

Items Not in General Budget:

Building Fund	250.00
Gym Rental.....	<u>80.00</u>
	\$2,575.00

In-person Worship Service 49
ONLINE Worship Service views 1,100

Sunday, July 19, 2026—Offering

Loose Collection	0
General Fund.....	<u>1,835.00</u>
	1,835.00

Items Not in General Budget:

Building Fund	50.00
Lib Prep Rental.....	3,950.00
Parsonage Rent.....	<u>500.00</u>
	\$6,335.00

In-person Worship Service 39
ONLINE Worship Service views

Finances at a Glance June 2026

	Monthly Beginning Balance	Monthly Income	Rentals	Monthly Expenses	Monthly Ending Balance
General Fund	\$ 34,070.26	\$ 10,852.16	\$ 998.33	\$ 17,629.74	\$ 28,291.01
6 Paid total \$10,279.06/ behind 0 Apportionment of \$1713.21					
Designated Accounts	\$ 44,260.66	\$ -		\$ 63.33	\$ 44,197.33
Capital Campaign	\$ 9,325.00	\$ 750.00		\$ -	\$ 10,075.00
HVAC	\$ 3,560.00			\$ -	\$ 3,560.00
Building Fund	\$ 49,508.37	\$ 765.00		\$ -	\$ 50,273.37

Yearly Financial Summary

	YTD Monthly Income Needed for Budget	Actual YTD Usable Income - including rental	Actual YTD Expenses
2026 Budget \$182,336.81	\$ 15,194.73	\$ 94,136.96	\$ 101,698.29

Investments	Last Month	Net Change	Current Month
General Reserve Fund	\$ 27,873.13	\$ (44.13)	\$ 27,829.00
Mission	\$ 18,925.70	\$ (29.96)	\$ 18,895.74
Education Grant	\$ 131,235.35	\$ (207.89)	\$ 131,027.46
Total Investments	\$ 178,034.18	\$ (496.75)	\$ 177,752.20

Month's Events

MEETINGS

August 6 SPRC 6 PM
 August 12 Missions 6 PM
 August 13 Finance 7 PM
 August 18 SPRC Consultation at Moreland 7:30 PM
 August 20 Worship 6 PM
 August 20 Adm Council 7 PM

Talk To Us

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MISSIONS SPOTLIGHT



The Pregnancy Care Center of Wayne County has two locations – 331 W. Liberty in Wooster and 1020 W. High Street in Orrville. The Pregnancy Care Center is a non-profit organization funded through private donations. Because of this, the Center can provide truly unbiased information and one-on-one, personal, compassionate care and support to women and families in Wayne County.

Last year, SUMC supported the Pregnancy Care Center through their Baby Bottle Campaign. Baby bottles were distributed on Mother's Day and collected on Father's Day. The mission was well received by the congregation and raised several hundred dollars for the Pregnancy Care Center. This year, the Mission Team wanted to try the Newborn Baby Basket Mission offered through the Center.

The initial goal was to provide two baby baskets to the Pregnancy Care Center - one for a baby boy and one for a baby girl. The Pregnancy Care Center provided a list of items needed for each basket – 18 items per basket for a total of 36 items for the two baskets. Items for each basket are:

- Newborn diapers
- Size 1 diapers
- Baby wipes
- Diaper rash cream
- Baby thermometer
- Baby aspirator
- Baby nail trim kit
- Baby comb/brush set
- Baby bath wash
- Children's Bible
- Pacifiers
- Baby bottles
- Burp cloths
- Baby hat
- Newborn outfits
- 0-3 month outfits
- Receiving blankets
- Quilted blanket



All items were claimed before everyone had a chance to pick an item. At that point, an impromptu decision was made to open a third basket for items on the Pregnancy Care Center's Urgent Needs list.

These items included:

- Diapers, newborn and sizes 3-6
- Pull-ups, sizes 3T and 4T
- Baby bath wash
- Baby wipes
- Sippy cups
- Baby bottles (name brand)
- Feminine products
- Baby Bibles

THANK YOU for your generosity!

Submitted by Patti Reinarts

August Mission Minute

Crusin' in the 'Ville:

The annual car show is our biggest fundraiser for missions and is planned for Saturday, August 8th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. this year. As you can imagine, there is plenty of work to do in preparation for the show. Here's how you can help:

- o Set-up
- o Tear down
- o Answering questions
- o Registering cars
- o Bake items for the bake sale
- o Make a cake for the cake walk
- o Donate food items for the lunch meal
- o Donate items to be included in a basket for the basket raffle
- o Donate a basket for the basket raffle

Sign-up sheets for the Car Show can be found on the mission table in the hallway. Michael Thompson is leading the Car Show subcommittee. Please see him with any questions you may have regarding the car show.

Liberty Prep Back-to-School Breakfast:

On Monday, August 17th, a 'Back to School Breakfast' will be dished up for the Liberty Prep students. Judy Davisson is working with Church of the Cross to learn ways we can partner with them to provide this meal for the students. Please let Judy know if you would like to help with this local mission.

Operation Christmas Child:

Operation Christmas Child is an international mission where shoeboxes are filled with items for children in need around the world. Marty Byall has been working behind the scenes with Elfie Salisbury on this international mission. Elfie will be visiting Smithville UMC on August 30th to speak to us about how we can send the love of Christ to a child in another country through a simple cardboard shoebox. Our goal is to fill 50 boxes in September. Our boxes will be added to boxes other churches are collecting and then all boxes will be shipped around the globe to children in need. Please note, Bibles written in the language of the recipient child will be added to the boxes prior to the child receiving the box. Shipping per box is \$10. The shipping fees will be covered by the Mission Team funds raised through both our annual Rummage Sale and the Crusin' in the Ville Car Show. Details, such as what to include as well as what not to include in the shoeboxes, will be included in a church bulletin soon. Please see Mary Byall with any questions you may have regarding this international mission.

Hygiene Closet:

The Hygiene Closet is open once a month from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month. Never knowing how many families will shop the closet each month, it is important to keep a healthy supply of hygiene items in stock. Each month, a list of needed items appears in the church bulletin. When you bring your items in, place them in the wooden chest in the hallway between the church and the narthex. The Mission Team appreciates the ongoing donations for our Hygiene Closet.

COMBINED SUNDAY SERVICES

May 3

Apple Creek UMC
269 W Main St. Apple Creek
9 AM
Pastor Aimee
Gospel of Matthew

August 2

Smithville UMC
243 N Milton S., Smithville
9 AM
Pastor Aimee
Gospel of Luke

June 28

Moreland UMC
138 Moreland Rd., Wooster
10:30 AM
Pastor James
Gospel of Mark

October 4

Church of the Cross UMC
5100 Cleveland Rd., Wooster
11 AM
Pastor James
Gospel of John

FELLOWSHIP TIME WILL FOLLOW EACH WORSHIP SERVICE



August 2

Combined service at Smithville UMC

Pastor Aimee Hare

"Gospel of Luke"

August 9

Pastor Aimee

"Messy People" (Rahab)

Joshua 2:1-24 & Hebrews 11:30-31

August 16

Pastor Aimee

"When the Voice of God Wakes You Up" (Lazarus)

Romans 8:31-39 & John 11:1-44

August 23

Pastor Aimee

"Joy Comes" (Mary Magdalene)

Psalm 103:8-13 & John 20:1-18

August 30

Pastor Aimee

"Really? You Want to Use Him?" (Matthew)

1 Corinthians 1:24-31 & Matthew 9:9-13

Preaching Schedule 2026-2027

August

Apple Creek UMC/Moreland UMC- Pastor James
Church of the Cross UMC/Smithville UMC- Pastor Aimee

September

Apple Creek UMC/Moreland UMC- Pastor Aimee
Church of the Cross UMC/Smithville UMC- Pastor James

October

Apple Creek UMC/Moreland UMC- Pastor James
Church of the Cross UMC/Smithville UMC- Pastor Aimee

November

Apple Creek UMC/Moreland UMC- Pastor Aimee
Church of the Cross UMC/Smithville UMC- Pastor James

December

Apple Creek UMC/Moreland UMC- Pastor James
Church of the Cross UMC/Smithville UMC- Pastor Aimee

2027

January

Apple Creek UMC/Moreland UMC- Pastor Aimee
Church of the Cross UMC/Smithville UMC- Pastor James

February

March Apple Creek UMC/Moreland UMC- Pastor James
Church of the Cross UMC/Smithville UMC- Pastor Aimee

March

Apple Creek UMC/Moreland UMC- Pastor Aimee
Church of the Cross UMC/Smithville UMC- Pastor James

April

Apple Creek UMC/Moreland UMC- Pastor James
Church of the Cross UMC/Smithville UMC- Pastor Aimee

May

Apple Creek UMC/Moreland UMC- Pastor Aimee
Church of the Cross UMC/Smithville UMC- Pastor James

June

Apple Creek UMC/Moreland UMC- Pastor James
Church of the Cross UMC/Smithville UMC- Pastor Aimee

Happy Birthday

- 2 Logan Shull
- 4 Patrick Miller
- 6 Cathy Rolf
Elfreide Lorenzen
Keith Peachey
- 8 Josh Nickles
- 12 Jordan Gingery
- 13 Kay Casterline
- 14 Steve Budhwalter
- 15 Rose Bauman
- 16 Jordan Vincent
- 20 Lisa Tilton
- 24 Nathaniel Gurich
Michael Ross
- 27 Aidan Dudley
- 31 Deborah Leach

Happy Anniversary

- 7 Allan & Rose Bauman
- 18 Garland & Sue Jackson



SMITHVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
PRESENTS
Cruisin' IN THE 'VILLE
CLASSIC CARS. COMMUNITY IMPACT.

SATURDAY AUGUST 8, 2026
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
RAIN OR SHINE
243 N. MILTON STREET
SMITHVILLE, OH 44577

REGISTRATION By Donation
ALL MONIES RAISED
SUPPORT LOCAL MISSIONS

- AWARDS
- CLASSIC MUSIC
- FOOD
- BASKET RAFFLE
- BAKED GOODS
- DOOR PRIZES
- DASH PLAQUES (FIRST 30 CARS)
- GAMES AND FUN

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT SMITHVILLE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AT
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★ ALL VEHICLES WELCOME! SPECTATORS TOO! ★