

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Good News

MAY 2026



Smithville
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



SMITHVILLE UMC

**243 N MILTON ST.
SMITHVILLE, OHIO 44677
330-669-2371
smithvilleum@gmail.com
www.sumc-ohio.org**

from the desk of Pastor James



Dear Smithville UMC,

For the months of March, April I heading back to the core of our belief. We have been 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 are a few thoughts and reflections I have, and by no means all encompassing. For the month of May, we will be reflecting on the Holy Spirit, as we celebrate Pentecost on Sunday May 24.

As we reflect on the trinity, and in this month the Holy Spirit specifically, it is important to reflect on the covenant. God, came down incarnate and sacrificed on the cross for us, the greatest act of salvation we know. Jesus calls us to follow the commandments to Love the Lord our God and Love our neighbor as ourselves. And, at the end of Matthew 28, if we do this and teach others to do so, Jesus promises to be with us always, to the end of the age. This is where we find the Holy Spirit. The Holy spirit is with us always. The Holy Spirit is with us now as we write and read this article, as we pray, as we go out into the world.

The Holy Spirit is sometimes the hardest of the trinity for us to understand. The Holy Spirit is at work with us and around us always. But the Holy Spirit, as a spirit, does not have as definitive a mortal comparison. We do not compare or call the Holy Spirit Father or Son. This makes it hard for us, as humans, to understand and connect with the Holy Spirit. We often say they will know we are Christians by our love. We make disciples by our actions. While it is by no means all encompassing (nothing I put on paper ever would be). Perhaps for a starting place, we can start to look for and see the Holy Spirit as we look for and see God at work in our world.

When we take the Sacrament of Communion, we know the Holy Spirit is at work as we remember and renew our covenant, our commitment to Jesus Christ and to love the Lord and love our neighbor as ourselves. As we work to connect with God through prayer, through song, through silence, through work, through care, we see and feel the Holy Spirit moving in the world and in us. As we work to love our neighbors, as we serve at the local missions, donate hygiene items, care for others, serve at the food pantry, help with the fundraiser meals. In all these things and so much more, we see the Holy Spirit at work.

As we enter the month of May, as we celebrate Pentecost, where do you see the Holy Spirit at work? Where do you See the Holy Spirit moving in your life? What is the Holy Spirit leading you to, supporting you in, guiding you to next?

from the desk of Pastor Aimee



Do you remember the moment you met Jesus? I don't mean the moment you first went to youth group or Sunday school or your first revival meeting. I'm not talking about the first Bible study you remember attending or the church dinner where you realized that carry-ins are the best. I am asking you if you remember the moment when Jesus changed your life forever? If your answer is yes, have you ever shared that life changing moment with others?

The book of John records the meeting of Simon Peter and Jesus. The introduction happens thanks to Simon Peter's brother, Andrew. In the first chapter of John, it is recorded that

“Looking intently at Simon, Jesus said, “Your name is Simon, son of John – but you will be called Cephas” (which means “Peter”).

I cannot imagine what that moment was like for Simon Peter. His brother had come to him and told him that “We have found the Messiah” (John 1:41). When Peter went with Andrew to meet Jesus, I would think that it would be Peter who would be “looking intently” at Jesus to see if this guy was really who his brother said he was. Did he “look” Messiah-like? Did he talk like, move like, think like, act like the Messiah should? As Jesus often does, however, he turned the tables on Simon Peter. Instead of being the one examined, he is the one checking out Peter. Can you even imagine what it would feel like to have Jesus look at you “intently?” What is it like to have the eyes of your Savior peering into yours? Did Simon feel like Jesus was looking straight into his soul? Did he feel vulnerable, exposed, “seen?” Did Simon's life flash before Jesus' eyes? I have so many questions! Whatever that moment between Jesus and Simon was like, it was a life changing one for Simon - a life changing moment that started with a name change.

It reminds me of when a couple gets married, We change our last name to show a shift in who we used to be to who we have now become. We were a single person who belonged to our family of birth. Now, as a married person, our name changed to show we now are chosen and belong with our spouse. We have become one with that person. We have, in the eyes of God, an inseparable bond. I think that is the kind of moment Jesus and Simon had here. Jesus looks him in the face and says, “You used to be yours, but now you are mine!” Everything changes for Simon from that moment on. He was no longer His own. He had a connection to Jesus that was going to change him!

You see, that is what Jesus does. He looks us in the heart, and calls us out. He says to us from the beginning that He will make us a new creation. He has the ability to see who we will become because of His great love – and the love of our Savior is a soul saving, heart changing, life altering love. It is a love that we are called to live in and to share. We don't get to decide who is worthy of that love. Christ tells us to “go and make disciples of all nations.” That leaves out no one. It means EVERYONE is loved by God and He wants them to hear the Good News! That is why Jesus looked at Peter and changed his heart. Peter was called by Jesus to love others and spread the Gospel...as are my friends! I know that we have not actually stood in the same room as Jesus and had him come over and look us square in the eyes. Yet the call of Jesus on our hearts is no less real than that of Peter's. Our passion and desire to serve, follow, love, and share Christ with the world we live in should be just as real also! May you always find yourself looking intently into the heart of Jesus!

Offering and Attendance

Sunday, April 5, 2026—Offering

Loose Collection	50.00
General Fund.....	<u>3,905.00</u>
	\$3,955.00

Items Not in General Budget:

Building Fund	505.00
Sign Campaign.....	75.00
Easter flowers	<u>100.00</u>
	\$4,635.00

In-person Worship Service	65
ONLINE Worship Service views	362

Sunday, April 12, 2026 -Offering

Loose Collection	20.10
General Fund.....	<u>1,850.00</u>
	\$1,879.10

Rental.....	180.00
Building Fund	<u>125.00</u>
	\$2,175.10

In-person Worship Service	37
ONLINE Worship Service views	255

Sunday, April 19, 2026—Offering

Loose Collection	20.00
General Fund.....	<u>5,310.00</u>
	5,330.00

Items Not in General Budget:

Building Fund	175.00
Pastor's Payroll.....	762.50
Parsonage Rent.....	500.00
Rental.....	100.00
Gym Rental.....	<u>240.00</u>
	\$7,107.50

In-person Worship Service	44
ONLINE Worship Service views	220

Sunday, April 26, 2026—Offering

Loose Collection	20.00
General Fund.....	<u>2,505.00</u>
	\$2,525.00

Items Not in General Budget:

Building Fund	175.00
Pastoral support	418.33
Parking Spaces.....	100.00
Rummage Sale.....	<u>1,371.65</u>
	\$4,689.98

In-person Worship Service	43
ONLINE Worship Service views	203

Smithville United Methodist Church Finances at a Glance March 2026					
	Monthly Beginning Balance	Monthly Income	Rentals	Monthly Expenses	Monthly Ending Balance
General Fund	\$ 34,842.99	\$ 12,297.38	\$ 4,850.00	\$ 12,667.29	\$ 39,323.08
	1 Paid of total 1713.21/ behind 2 Apportionment of \$3426.34				
Designated Accounts	\$ 41,984.01	\$ 805.00		\$ -	\$ 42,789.01
Building Fund	\$ 44,383.37	\$ 2,740.00		\$ -	\$ 47,123.37

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	\$ 33,831.67

Investments	Last Month	Net Change	Current Month
General Reserve Fund	\$ 26,875.34	\$ (1,483.58)	\$ 25,391.76
Mission	\$ 18,248.22	\$ (1,007.36)	\$ 17,240.86
Education Grant	\$ 126,537.59	\$ (6,985.23)	\$ 119,552.36
Total Investments	\$ 171,661.15	\$ (9,476.17)	\$ 162,184.98

THANK YOU

Do you notice something missing? Thank you to all who helped cut and remove the large tree by the road.



Thank you for your prayers, cards and visits for Elda. Elda has moved to assisted living and is doing very well in her new apartment style room. Her new address is:

Elda Imhoff
c/o The Avenue
Room 204
1700 E Smithville Western Rd
Wooster, OH 44691

Thanks again, everyone!
Larry and Peg

Thank you to all who donated and helped make the Church Rummage Sale another successful year! Over \$1,300 was raised!

Talk To Us

330-669-2371
smithvilleum@gmail.com

243 N Milton Street
PO Box 375
Smithville, Ohio 44677

www.sumc-ohio.org

Month's Events

MEETINGS

May 13 Missions at 6 PM
May 14 Finance at 7 PM

Liberty Preparatory High School

Baccalaureate - Wednesday, May 20
Graduation - Friday, May 29

MISSIONS SPOTLIGHT



God has called us to serve women in need, save children’s lives, and share His Gospel through our unique, accessible, and master-planned ICU mobile units. We believe in the life-changing salvation of Jesus Christ and know that, through Him, hope and renewed purpose can be found—even in the midst of unintended pregnancies.

Sometimes when a mom facing an unplanned pregnancy calls our national hotline, she isn’t just confused- she is determined to get an abortion as soon as possible. That’s what Kendra* said the day she made the call that would change more than one life. By the time she found the hotline number and called us, she had already tried to get an abortion. Care Net’s hotline coach listened to Kendra’s story and introduced the idea of adoption. Kendra decided that she would go forward with the pregnancy and place her baby in a loving adoptive home.

The Mobile Impact >>>

We help pregnancy centers, pro-life ministries, and churches expand their reach in their communities.

21,000
clients chose life
after seeing their baby on an ultrasound

1,600
clients make decisions for Christ

38
mobile units within 21 states



OPEN M is a nonprofit organization that serves more than 92,000 individuals annually with food health and employment services all designed to support stability and opportunity. Located in the Summit Lake Neighborhood of Akron, OPEN M leverages a community alliance of churches, businesses and more than 2,000 volunteers to offer programs to those in need.

Our 2025 Impact



Dispersed 30-day prescriptions with a retail RX value of **\$851,399**.



1.183 million pounds of food to over **91,654** participants.



Successfully placed **52 individuals** into roles in the public sector, healthcare and more.



Provided over **854 children** with gifts, pajamas, books and two-weeks amount of food.

SERMON CORNER

COMBINED SUNDAY SERVICES

<p>May 3 Apple Creek UMC 269 W Main St. Apple Creek 9 AM Pastor Aimee Gospel of Matthew</p>	<p>August 2 Smithville UMC 243 N Milton S, Smithville 9 AM Pastor Aimee Gospel of Luke</p>
<p>June 28 Moreland UMC 138 Moreland Rd., Wooster 10:30 AM Pastor James Gospel of Mark</p>	<p>October 4 Church of the Cross UMC 3100 Cleveland Rd., Wooster 11 AM Pastor James Gospel of John</p>

FELLOWSHIP TIME WILL FOLLOW EACH WORSHIP SERVICE



May 3
COMBINED SERVICE AT APPLE CREEK UMC
 Pastor Aimee

May 10 Mother's Day
 Pastor James
 You are Called as you Are! (Part 1)
 Exodus 3: 1-15 and Exodus 4: 1-17

May 17
 Pastor James
 You are Called as you Are! (Part 2)
 Mark 1: 14-20 and Mark 10: 17-31

May 24 Pentecost Sunday
 Pastor James
 How do we share the hope of God?
 Philippians 1: 1-11 and Philippians 1: 12-19

May 31
 Pastor James
 Being the Body of Christ Together
 Philippians 2: 1-11 and Philippians 2: 12- 18

Happy Birthday

MAY

- 2 Scott Williams
- 6 Merle Lautenschlager
- 8 Sue Jackson
Sue Sayre
- 9 Patty Reinarts
- 11 Emma Sayre
- 12 Emily Price
- 14 Marla Singer
Dawn Ross
- 15 Susan Schrock
Tami Krownapple
- 16 Matt Turner
- 17 Julia Lautenschlager
- 26 Larry Imhoff
- 27 Sandy Streets
- 31 Patricia Beichler

Happy Anniversary

- 4 Scott and Tami Buchwalter
- 6 Craig and Kristi Grimes
- 27 Gabe and Stephanie Wright
- 31 James and Patricia Beichler

Preaching Schedule for
 Pastor Aimee and Pastor James

April 26- May 31
 Pastor James- SUMC/ COTC
 Pastor Aimee- AC/Moreland