

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

good news

NOVEMBER 2025



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,

As we enter November, we continue to explore how we can understand our humanity within the framework of the five concepts of health: Physical, Volitional, Mental, Emotional, Spiritual. As human beings we experience all five of these, and we are all strong in some and weak in others. While we break them down to help us understand and work on them individually, we must always remember that they are connected in us and one will always affect the others. In the month of November we will be looking at the aspect of emotional health.

It is fitting that we look at emotional health in November, as we celebrate All Saints Sunday in the Church and Thanksgiving in the U.S. Emotional Health is rather straightforward, but for multiple reasons it tends to be ignored or at least not cared for. Often times in our world we are called to hide our emotions, to not show them, to bury them. We know this can be unhealthy and yet we can be tempted to bottle up our emotions until we explode. However, our culture suggests that we should keep our emotions inside and so, we sometimes do. A classic example of this cultural pressure can be seen in the phrase, "real men don't cry." However, when we read John 11:35, we see that Jesus cried at the loss of a friend. If Jesus Christ cries, it's ok for anyone to cry.

In our world, emotional health is also one of the least cared for areas of our health. We now have counseling and psychiatry, but these are relatively new practices. They were really founded in the last 150 years, compared to physical health that has been studied well for at least 500 years, and arguably far longer. And yet, how much of scripture focuses on emotions? Joseph's brother attacked him because they were jealous and angry. Moses was afraid to lead and follow his call. Esther had courage and stood up for her people. Remember the lilies of the field and lay down your anxieties. All of these call us to understand and relate to the emotions mentioned in scripture. They call us to realize and care for our emotional health.

On the first Sunday of November, we will celebrate All Saints Sunday and remember all those saints who came before us. We will cry and mourn at the passing of so many that we loved in this life. We will celebrate and rejoice at their lives having been with us and how they were a blessing to us. We will feel. Near the end of November, we will gather and celebrate Thanksgiving. We will remember all the things we have to be thankful for. We will rejoice. We will give thanks. We will feel thankful.

Throughout the month of November, we will have opportunities to be aware of our emotions and how we feel. As we enter this month, let us allow ourselves time to recognize how we feel and then give ourselves the grace to "feel" those feelings. Let us reflect in prayer on our emotions. Let us ask ourselves and God, what is one way we can work on our emotional health. What is one way, this month, we can be healthier?



Have you ever watched a bunch of little kids come out of school for recess? As soon as they know it is safe to leave their line, they BURST onto that playground! They run to their favorite playset or place to play, and they gather with their friends. They laugh, run, chase, and are totally focused on their play. They aren't thinking about the test they just took or the one coming up. They aren't worried about getting home to let the dog out or if they are going to have eat lima beans for dinner. They don't wonder what the taxes are going to be when they grow up or what the cost of health care will be. They are fully living in the moment they are in.

I think there are SEVERAL reasons that Jesus tells us to be like little children...their innocence, trusting natures, their undeniable joy and wonder about the world around them, their ability to ask questions fearlessly and soak in knowledge, as well as their beautiful way of living in the "now." Children are filled with a beautiful lightheartedness. They see a kitten, and they are immediately in love with it...they do not think of changing litter boxes, vet bills, and torn curtains. They see the rain fall and they want to go jump in the puddles without giving wet, dirty laundry or muddy footprints on the clean floor a passing thought. They see a grassy hill, and they want to run up it and roll all the way down it...they do not care about stains on new pants or crushing the manicured lawn. There is wonder and adventure in almost everything for them. When they hear how God shut the mouths of the lions for Daniel their imaginations can probably smell the breath of the lions...when they learn of Noah and the ark they hear the animals on board and smell the rain... when they hear how Jesus was raised from the dead, they run as fast as their feet can carry them to tell the disciples before Mary can even get out of the garden. Children give us an amazing glimpse of what the hearts of Jesus followers should be...full of possibility and believing that God can honestly do anything that He wants to do!

Do you, as a disciple of Jesus, consider yourself to be a person with "childlike" faith? Now before you answer that, I want you to really think about it.

If we were sitting in the sanctuary on a Sunday morning, and Jesus walked through the doors, how would you react? Would we sit there calmly until he came to us and addressed us personally? Would we walk over to him and patiently wait our turn in line to talk to Him? Or would we jump up off the pew and run as fast as we were able to get to him? I watch Grace when her daddy comes home from work. The second she realizes he is home; she runs across the room and looks out the window to see him. As soon as she sees him come through the back door, she runs back across the room and starts yelling for him. And as soon as she lays eyes on him coming around the corner into the room, her arms are up and she expects him to pick her up, squeeze her and start their play time. All her attention belongs to him and she wants to be wherever he is for the rest of the evening. She will not let him out of her sight. Is that how we feel about Jesus? Do we long to be in His presence, to hear His voice, to have him just be near us? Would we forget ourselves and jump up out of our seat to get to Him first if he walked into church?

When I was about 5, we had a wonderful Pastor. His name was Reverend Wilson, and I loved him dearly. Every Sunday I would run up to him after church, and he would scoop me up and give me a big hug and then he would let me shake hands with him as people filed by. I felt important and special to him. When Rev. Wilson left, and the new Pastor came, (which no 5-year-old understands why their favorite church buddy must move on) he had no idea how much I loved Rev. Wilson, and he did not know our Sunday routine. He was a nice man and would pat my head and then I would shuffle out the door with my grandparents. I felt much less special... I lost "my place" at the door and I lost a little bit of that joy I had on Sunday mornings. It sounds like a silly little thing, but to my 5-year-old heart, it hurt. And that is what steals our childlike faith and joy...hurt, pain, sadness, struggle, and strife.

cont. page 5 Pastor Aimee

Offering and Attendance

Sunday, October 5, 2025—Offering

Loose Collection	-0-
General Fund.....	<u>5,591.00</u>
	\$5,591.00
Items Not in General Budget:	
Building Fund	455.00
ASP Mission.....	150.00
Sign Campaign.....	<u>100.00</u>
	\$6,296.00
In-person Worship Service	44
ONLINE Worship Service	views 157

Sunday, October 12, 2025 -Offering

Loose Collection	-0-
General Fund.....	<u>2,285.00</u>
	\$2,285.00
Sign Campaign.....	560.00
Study books.....	37.00
Parsonage rent.....	500.00
Building Fund.....	<u>270.00</u>
	\$3,652.00
In-person Worship Service	52
ONLINE Worship Service	views 155

Sunday, October 19, 2025—Offering

Loose Collection	-0-
General Fund.....	<u>1,335.00</u>
	\$1,335.00
Items Not in General Budget:	
Payroll.....	762.50
Lib Prep.....	3,700.00
Gym rental.....	80.00
card reimbursement.....	26.36
Apportionments.....	35.00
Sign Campaign.....	<u>40.00</u>
	\$5,978.86
In-person Worship Service	46
ONLINE Worship Service	views 140

Sunday, October 26, 2025 -Offering

Loose Collection	-0-
General Fund.....	<u>3,375.00</u>
	\$3,375.00
Sign Campaign.....	70.00
Study books.....	18.50
Parsonage rent.....	500.00
Gyn rent.....	200.00
Pastor Appreciation.....	20.00
Flowers.....	35.00
Building Fund.....	<u>500.00</u>
	\$4,722.50
In-person Worship Service	49
ONLINE Worship Service	views

Smithville United Methodist Church Finances at a Glance Sept 2025

	Monthly Beginning Balance	Monthly Income	Rentals	Monthly Expenses	Monthly Ending Balance
General Fund	\$ 29,936.87	\$ 12,887.48	\$ 4,780.00	\$ 11,762.06	\$ 35,842.29
8 Paid \$13,705.36 behind 1 Apportionment of \$1713.17					
Designated Accounts	\$ 30,355.61	\$ 1,048.57	\$ -	\$ 477.69	\$ 30,926.49
Building Fund	\$ 32,130.03	\$ 1,205.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,335.03

Yearly Financial Summary

	YTD Monthly Income Needed for Budget	Actual YTD Usable Income - including rental	Actual YTD Expenses
2025 Budget \$196,057.00	\$ 16,338.08	\$ 160,925.57	\$ 168,142.23

Investments	Last Month	Net Change	Current Month
General Reserve Fund	\$ 24,921.36	\$ 495.33	\$ 25,416.69
Mission	\$ 16,921.47	\$ 336.33	\$ 17,257.80
Education Grant	\$ 117,337.56	\$ 2,332.12	\$ 119,669.68
Total Investments	\$ 159,180.39	\$ 3,163.78	\$ 162,344.17

THANK YOU!

Dear Smithville UMC,

I give great thanks for the wonderful and heartfelt cards I received for pastor appreciation month. I want to thank you all for the gift card I received that I will be using to buy groceries for the next while. It has been a joy and a privilege to be your pastor. I am looking forward to continuing to be your pastor as we continue to work to be the body of Christ. I give thanks for being blessed by you all and look forward to Loving Christ, Serving Christ, and Sharing Christ, no Matter What with you all in the years to come.

Thank You,
Pastor James

Dear Smithville UMC,

There are few words to express how grateful I am to be back with all of you. From the moment that you found out I was being called back to be one of your pastor's, you have made me feel like I was being "welcomed home" and that means more than you know. My heart was so full the day you celebrated Pastor Appreciation Month with me – I was deeply touched and sincerely thankful for the gift, the flowers, the candle, and all the delicious food you provided. Thank you for the abundance of love you have shown me! What a blessing it is to serve as one of your pastors.

In the love and service of Jesus,
Pastor Aimee

cont. Pastor Aimee

We get bumps and bruises from life and even after they fade physically, we let them stay in our heart, stealing our desire to live in fearless faith. But we don't have to do that! Jesus does not intend or desire for us to live lives that are bogged down and buried under past hurts. He offers us freedom and forgiveness and hope!

When I was about 21, I ran into Rev. Wilson again. The years had not changed him much and I remember my heart jumping at the sight of him standing in the doorway of a church I was getting ready to sing at. As I walked into that church with my grandparents, I remember him looking me in the eye and saying "It's been a long time little one." He wrapped me in a big hug and it was like I was 5 again. I was still special and he still knew me...all these years later! It was a beautiful moment I will never forget because it healed something in my heart. I look forward to another hug from Rev. Wilson when I get to Heaven, and I look forward to sharing with him how much he grew the faith of a small girl because he had time for her and loved her like Jesus would love her.

I do not know what it was that hurt you, but we all have things that have broken our hearts and changed us... hardened us....stole the childlike wonder God gave to us. I pray that during this season of giving thanks, that you will find a way back through what the years have piled on your heart and mind to a time when you could easily see and feel the love that God has for you. I pray that you can shed the hurt and burdens you have carried and feel the lightness of the yoke Jesus has for you. I pray your tears will be dried and that when the doors are opened, you will run to Jesus and let Him wrap you up in that hug He has been saving just for you. May you rediscover your childlike faith in our loving, forgiving, joy-giving, hurt healing Savior.

Talk To Us

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Hygiene Closet

Sunday, November 16, 4 PM

Month's Events

Meetings

Finance, November 13, 7 PM

Missions, November 19, 6 PM

Better Together.



**Christmas
IN EUROPE**

• NOVEMBER | **19** | 7:00 PM

Smithville UMC Fellowship Hall

TAKE A VIRTUAL TRIP TO EUROPE AND LEARN ABOUT THE UNIQUE
HOLIDAY CUSTOMS AND FOODS OF OTHER COUNTRIES

COOKIES & PUNCH RECEPTION
FOLLOWING THE MEDIA PRESENTATION

PRESENTED BY JERRI LYNN BAXSTROM
Retired foreign language teacher who based the presentation on her own photos



Thanksgiving Meal for
Liberty Prep
Monday, November 24

Pre cook date
Friday, November 21
3-5 PM at SUMC



Please join us for a

THANKSGIVING DINNER

Noon
November 23rd
Church of the Cross UMC

Sign up sheets at each church

JOIN US FOR A

Christmas

BENEFIT HANDBELL CONCERT

presented by Grace Ringers, Singers & Friends

HONORING NATIONAL GUARD  SILENT AUCTION
ITEMS & BASKETS

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 13 AT 1:30 PM**

LINCOLN WAY VINEYARDS
9050 WEST OLD LINCOLN WAY, WOOSTER, OH

Donations Will Benefit


WEST VIEW HEALTHY LIVING
BENEVOLENT CARE FUND

ON THE RISE BAR-B-QUE FOOD TRUCK
NOON-8 PM

REFRESHMENTS

NO RESERVATIONS NEEDED

MORE INFO CONTACT:
330-345-6472

SERMON CORNER



Christmas Poinsettias

We will be decorating the Sanctuary with a variety of colored poinsettias this Christmas. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia, choose and mark what color you prefer. The cost is \$13.00 each. Your money, accompanied by the order form may be placed in the offering plate or sent to the church office by Sunday, November 23rd . You may pick up your poinsettia after the Christmas Eve Service on December 24th. Poinsettias that are left after Sunday morning, December 28th will be taken to our shut-ins if not taken within the week. Thank you for helping us beautify our church this holiday.

Poinsettias @ \$13.00 each

___Red Poinsettia ___White Poinsettia
___Jingle Bells Poinsettia (red w/white)

November 2

All Saints Sunday

1 Corinthians 13, 15:12-31

"Faith and Resurrection"

Do we understand the resurrection better on All Saints Sunday than on Easter?

November 9

Veterans Sunday

Guest: Rev. Erin Guzman at COTC and SUMC

November 16

Romans 15:1-13

"Putting Others Needs Over Our Wants"

Are we willing to put our neighbors' needs over our preferences and wants?

November 23

Thanksgiving Sunday

1 Corinthians 1:1-10, 11:17-26

"We Break Bread as the Body of Christ"

We eat and give thanks as the Body of Christ and as a loving community.

Preaching Schedule for

Pastor Aimee and Pastor James

October 26, 2025- January 11, 2026

October 26 - November 23

Pastor Aimee- AC/Moreland

Pastor James- SUMC/COTC

November 30 - December 7

Pastor Aimee- SUMC/COTC

Pastor James- AC/Moreland

December 14 - January 11

Pastor Aimee- AC/Moreland

Pastor James- SUMC/COTC

Save The Date for

Ministries at Liberty Preparatory High School

Precook Date- Friday, November 21

Thanksgiving Meal - Monday, November 24

Back to School Breakfast- Monday, January 5

Baccalaureate - Thursday, May 21

Graduation - Thursday, May 28

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

2 Mary Christopher

3 Richard Beichler

7 Pastor James Lance

11 LeeAnn Caldwell

Scott Thompson

16 Zander Thompson

20 Beth Robb

23 Donna Holderman

27 Bernie Caldwell

29 Drew Thompson

20 Charles & Virginia Thomas

22 Ray & Martha Scaggs