The Chimes

Volume 30, Issue 6 - November 2026

301 W. Market St., Lima, OH 45801

Trinity United Methodist

"In the heart of the city, sharing the heart of Christ."



In other words….

Engage 419 – That is the name of the collaborative that we have formed between the congregations of Forest Park, Shawnee, and Trinity United Methodist Churches. This stems from a few realities that are quickly changing how we do church.

The biggest problem most congregations are facing is around finances and we are no different. Dwindling attendance equals dwindling resources, and the cost of clergy leadership is going up. Fewer and fewer congregations can afford a pastor across our connection (mostly due to rising insurance costs). Add to that reality infrastructure issues like the need to replace an aging boiler (our issue) or to replace a roof (Forest Park's challenge) and many congregations cannot keep up. We are experiencing some large congregations in our conference that are unable to maintain their buildings and are facing the reality of selling their churches (Grace UMC in Dayton and Williams Street UMC in Delaware).

The second major challenge is just the lack of clergy. In West Ohio appointment list at Annual Conference included 36 churches that had no pastor, 66 churches being supplied by lay persons and 96 churches being filled with our retired clergy. Now do not get me wrong, I love that our retired clergy continue to serve (I will no doubt be doing the same thing one day) and we have always relied on talented lay persons to help lead some of our smaller churches. But this represents 1/3 of our entire conference.

So, we need to consider how we can change before change happens to us.

In short, the collaborative is trying out an opportunity to make a more team-oriented approach to how we as the clergy, lead the three congregations. On paper, it can look startling; in practice, it can lead to new opportunities in how we all use our strengths. You can find a summary of the proposal in this edition of the Chimes. We will have some informational meetings to answer questions and concerns about how this will work on Sunday, November 8, after worship in the Sanctuary; and another one on Tuesday, November 10, at 6:30pm in the Parlor.

Nothing has been decided; we are not bound to anything.

But we do want to be prepared to be able to make a decision by August or September next year, so we can create financial savings and opportunities for growth in 2028 and beyond. I look forward to sharing more at the upcoming meetings and I am always available in the office for further discussion.

See ya in church!
-Pastor Jim

Pastor
Rev. Jim Nathan

Associate Pastor
Lori Wright

Director of Music
David Schneider

Church Accompanist
Dean Altstaetter

Church Secretary
Crystal Hunnaman

Find us online:

Facebook:
Trinity United Methodist Church, Lima, Ohio

Webpage:
www.limatrinityumc.org

Podcast:
Www.iheart.com
Lima Trinity UMC Weekly

The Center for Creative Child Care (CCCC)
Director - Christina Vorhes *Assistant Director* - Deidra Lambert

Phone: 419-227-0800 * Email: officetumc301@gmail.com

Literary Ladies Book Club - 2026-2027 Schedule - Meet at 10am in CR1

- November 20, 2026 - Here One Moment By Liane Moriarty
- December 2026 - Specific day to be determined
- Christmas Gathering Meal and Book Exchange Bring a new or used book for a book exchange.
- January 15, 2027 The Age of Innocence By Edith Wharton
- February 19, 2027 The Road Home By Tommy Tenny
- March 19, 2027 - The Names By Florence Knapp
- April 16, 2027 The Prophet By Kahlil Gibran
- May 21, 2027 Theo of Golden By Allen Levi
- June 11, 2027 Gathering to Select Books for 2027-2028

NOTES:

- Each participant is responsible for obtaining her own copy of the monthly selections.
- Be sure to check author names carefully when buying or borrowing books. There have been occasions when two different books have the same title and the authors' names are similar, yet they are two completely different books.

Upcoming Calendar Events at a Glance

- November 22nd - Succoth Booth - CUP Offering
- Poinsettia Order Forms will be available late Oct./early November
- December 24th - Christmas Eve - Musical Prelude 6:30pm Service at 7pm

Church Closed

- November 26 - 27th - Thanksgiving
- December 23 - January 1st
  Christmas & New Years

CCCC Closed - Church Office varies

The Free Store is now accepting:

We are in need of winter coats and boots for men (especially) and women. Also, towels, sheets, small toiletries, and plastic grocery bags. Thank you!

C.U.P. has asked for member churches to donate hygiene items

- January - Deodorant
- February - Toothbrush / Toothpaste
- March - Shampoo
- April - Feminine Products
- May - Toilet Paper
- June - Soap / Body Wash
- July - Deodorant
- August - Toothbrush / Toothpaste
- September - Toilet Paper
- October - Soap / Body Wash
- November - Deodorant
- December - Toothbrush / Toothpaste



◊ Keiko Hahn - Dec. 2 - 96 yrs.
◊ Patricia Harrod - Dec. 21 - 97 yrs.



◊ Brent & Sally Allen - Nov. 9 - 52 yrs.
◊ Bill & Margaret Boutin - Dec. 4 - 50 yrs.
Michael & Sharon Wildermuth - Dec. 19 - 50 yrs.

Better Together: Join Us for a District Laity Tailgate!

One of the gifts of being United Methodist is that we are connected. And sometimes the best way to strengthen those connections is simply to gather, share some food, hear one another's stories, and spend time getting to know each other.

You're invited to a District Laity Tailgate Gathering, a relaxed time created especially for laity to connect with others from churches throughout your district.

There's no complicated agenda. Just an opportunity to meet other laity, share what's happening in our churches and communities, build new relationships, and celebrate the ways God is at work among us.

Tailgate Gathering **November 14 | 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.**

Come enjoy: Faith | Fellowship | Food | Fun

Cridersville UMC
105 Shawnee Road
Cridersville, OH 45806

Whether you've been serving in lay leadership for years or are simply looking for ways to become more connected, there is a place for you at the tailgate. And bring your friends, there is a place for them too!

Come for the faith, fellowship, food, and fun, and leave with new connections and a reminder that we truly are better together.

We hope to see you there! *Blessings, Julie and the Board of Laity

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The Hallelujah Saints Band

Christmas Concert

December 4, 2026 at 7pm

Selfie-Booth

Sing-A-Longs

Located at Trinity UMC

Donations are accepted at the door

Questions? 419-605-8616

This event will also be livestreamed on Trinity's facebook page!

Member Lisa Hagerman and Lucy Altstaetter are apart of this band!

Thank you for supporting Missions!

In September, Trinity provided 19 Hygiene Kits for the Festival of Sharing which was sponsored by the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church. The value of the kits, along with the additional funds for processing and shipping represented a total of $323.00.

In October, the United Women in Faith honored 5 people with special mission recognition pins. The following volunteers have given their time and hard work, but more importantly, they have connected with people and shared the love of God through their service:

* Bob Johns for his dedication to the Sunday Morning Community Breakfast.
* Suzanne Plumb for her 30 years of service at the Churches United Pantry (C.U.P.)
* Missy Roush for providing meals for Family Promise, cookies for the Kairos Prison Ministry, and assembling kits for United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)
* Debbe Sullivan for shopping for the Sunday Morning Community Breakfast, preparing meals for
* Family Promise, baking cookies for Kairos, and providing kits for UMCOR.
* Penny Apkarian for her dedication to Trinity's Free Store located in Fellowship Hall.

2026 Turner Love Offering - Goal is $6,000.00

This year we will be gathering donations for 6 different missions. We hope to reach our goal of $6,000.00 during the season of Advent. There will be Christmas envelopes beginning November 29th available for Turner Love Offering donations. Any donations that are in these envelopes will go to Turner Love Offering. While we encourage the use of the Christmas envelopes, if you would like to use a regular envelope or are mailing in a donation, please make sure you write 'Turner" on the envelope or memo line.

- Center for Peace and Reconciliation (CPR) - a non-profit organization made of a diverse group of people committed to promoting peace, reconciliation, justice, unity, and love through programs that endorse education, equity, and empowerment. Established in late 2022, when they moved into their location behind the CUP ministry.
- Crossroads Crisis Center - a United Way Partner Agency serving women and men survivors of domestic violence, intimate partner violence, and family violence since 1980. Their mission is to enhance safety for survivors of domestic violence and their children by educating, advocating, and empowering individuals.
- Family Promise - a non-profit organization for families who, for whatever reason, are temporarily without housing. The ultimate goal of establishing sustainable, self-sufficient future with their faith based approach is all inclusive, offering a supportive environment. Trinity UMC provides a meal 4 times a year for the families staying at the facility.
- Our Daily Bread - a humble, faith based soup kitchen and ministry, providing a hot meal for the stomach and a helping of God's word for the soul. Open to everyone, they provide donuts and coffee in the mornings with a meal to follow. Trinity UMC has a team that serves at this facility every 1st and 5th Sunday.
- Samaritan House - a supportive emergency shelter program designed to help women become self-sufficient. Our on-site services, along with several area social service agencies, assist each individual with housing, along with personal, educational, and vocational goals. Lima's Samaritan House has been serving homeless women and children in Allen County since 1987.
- Pastor's Discretionary Fund - used throughout the year, at the discretion of the pastors, when Trinity is asked to help people with immediate needs.



November 22, 2026

The Succoth Booth will be on stage for worship service. Donations for CUP are asked to be brought up. Donations include but are not limited to, canned goods, and other nonperishable food items, as well as hygiene items, toilet paper and paper towels. Monetary donations are always accepted and should be made out to Trinity with CUP in the memo line or on the envelope.

After service, we invite everyone to stay and help us with the Hanging of the Greens! There will be a light lunch provided!



Engage 419: A United Methodist Collaborative - A Vision for Collaborative Ministry

Over the past several years, our Lima-area United Methodist churches have grown closer through shared worship, Bible studies, youth ministries, mission projects, and other ministries. These experiences have shown us the value of working together. Now we are deepening that collaboration and planning our path forward. Like many congregations, we face were pastors available to serve, fewer church members, and the continuing expense of maintaining our buildings. Planning together allows us to respond thoughtfully while strengthening our ministry and finding new ways to share God's love with our neighbors.

To build on these relationships and address our shared challenges, the pastors, with input from each congregation's lay leaders, developed Engage 419, a two-year collaborative ministry pilot involving Forest Park, Shawnee, and Trinity United Methodist Churches. Shared pastoral leadership and the development of clergy and lay leaders will strengthen existing ministries and create opportunities for new ones. The West Ohio Conference has approved the pilot, with some funding support from the Western Lakes District. A planning team of lay leaders from each congregation is being developed to work with the pastors in shaping the collaborative. This team will consider the needs of all three churches, work through practical questions, and bring recommendations to the congregations.

What Will Change and What Will Not

Engage 419 is not a merger. Each congregation will retain its identity, property, finances, traditions, local leadership, and worshiping community. What will change is how pastoral leadership and some ministries are organized. Our pastors and other leaders will increasingly work as one team across the churches, bringing their gifts to each congregation and our wider community. Throughout 2027, Lynda Lockwood, Jim Nathan, and Eva Marie Wolfe will continue providing pastoral leadership in preaching, worship, sacraments, and planning for the future, each pastor spending more time engaging and connecting across the congregations within the collaborative setting. Lori Wright, as Associate Pastor of Congregational Life, will focus on pastoral care, visitation, worship, and helping members stay connected. Her current appointment will expand to a role serving all three congregations. She will also help develop teams of members to share in caring for others. Camille Freking-Cover wills erve half-time as Associate Pastor of Worship and Outreach, focusing on contemporary worship, ministry across generations, community engagement, and developing new ministries.

Following Lynda's retirement at the end of 2027, Jim and Eva Marie will share overall pastoral leadership. Lori and Camille will carry expanded responsibilities in their areas of ministry. This approach will maintain weekly worship in each church while strengthening care and outreach and making thoughtful use of our combined resources.

Learning Together

As a pilot, Engage 419 gives us room to try ideas and learn from experience. We expect some ideas to work well, others to need adjustment, and some to be set aside. The planning team and pastors will evaluate what is working and recommend changes.

Each of us has a part in shaping this collaborative. As we worship and serve together, your ideas, gifts, and experiences will help shape how it develops. Please pray for our congregations as we take these next steps together to make disciples of Jesus Christ and serve our neighbors.

Jim has scheduled two meetings for congregation discussion and to ask questions after worship on November 8th (we will have a separate livestream for online viewers) and Tuesday, November 10th at 6:30pm in the parlor. We urge members to try and join us for one or both of these meetings.

September SLB Meeting

Finance:

- Capital Campaign funds will continue to be transferred to Edward Jones. These funds are being combined with our Capital Improvement Fund (previously Parsonage Fund) to help gain better interest. Total combined is about $158,000.00.
- Still working towards looking for ways to save with our insurance.
- Trinity pays about $230.00 a month for our phone services. After some digging, we found that we were paying for 7 lines and were able to cut it down to 5 giving us a savings of about $600.00 a year.

Trustees:

- The leaking window at the parsonage has been fixed with A&B Masonry. We are waiting weather conditions to see if there is still a leak or not.
- Showcase Masonry won an online vote and are scheduled to clean and repair the 2 sides of the building.
- The parsonage inspection was completed. The windows need new caulking and we are looking into solutions to improve the wi-fi service.

Personnel:

- Pastor Jim is continuing to soft-search and exploring local colleges for a new Youth Leader.
- Still looking at staff insurance options and possibly joining with the daycare (CCCC) who will begin offering their employees a 403B (non-profit 401K) through Wespath.

October SLB Meeting - Charge Conference

Finance:

- We have received $60,286.78 towards our Capital Campaign for the boilers. The Campaign asked for $150,000.00 and we only received pledges equaling to $95,670.00 giving us a difference of $54,330.00.
- We expect to be about -$8000.00 for Freedom School at the end of the year. Trinity will continue to be the fiscal agent for 2027 but have alerted Freedom Schools director that they will need a new agent in 2028.
- We are working with Bev Beery Insurance to find alternatives for staff insurance options.

Trustees:

- Our bus has sold for $3,500.00 and insurance has been cancelled.
- There was a leak in the roof overlooking the sanctuary balcony. Frost Roofing has repaired the issue and we have contracted Vinny Murino to repair the plaster. We are trying to hold off until it rains to make sure the leak is fixed.
- damage that the cleaning may cause and the extra funds we would need to appropriately fix those.

SPRC:

- Cleaning for Grace House is on neither of our custodians job descriptions. Family Promise used to clean when they occupied the building and when they changed locations the job was never added.

Connect (worship):

- Upcoming Dates:

  Nov. 22 - We will have the Succuth Booth/CUP donations during service. After will be Hanging of the Greens.
  Dec. 13 - Choir Cantata Dec. 20 - Joint Christmas Caroling (with Shawnee UMC)
  Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Service with musical prelude at 6:30pm, service beginning at 7pm.
  Dec. 27 - Joint service at Shawnee UMC Feb. 10 - Ash Wednesday Service at Westside UMC
  Mar. 25 - Maundy Thursday Service at Forest Park Mar. 26 - Good Friday Service at Trinity
  Mar. 28 - Shawnee will offer their Easter Sunrise Service with each church having their own separate Easter service.
  May 16 - Joint Pentecost Service at Faurot Park

Charge Conference:

- All items passed.
- Correction to the nominations sheet - add Sharon Wildermuth and UWF under the Missions section.

Next meeting is November 18, 2026 at 6:30pm in CR2. There will be NO meeting in December.

DUE NOVEMBER 30TH

Poinsettia Order Form

6IN. POT FOR $19.00 EACH

These will be delivered and placed on the altar and remain until our Christmas Eve service. We urge these to be taken after service or brought to the office to donate to our homebound members.

Name:

wish to order _____ poinsettia(s) at $19.00 each.

Total: _____ (cash or checks made out to Trinity)

DUE NOVEMBER 30TH

Poinsettia Order Form

6IN. POT FOR $19.00 EACH

You can mail or drop off this form to the church office or place it in the offering plate during worship service.

In honor of:	In memory of:
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2027 Pledge

Name(s)_____

Update Method of Contact:

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

I commit to support Trinity United Methodist Church in 2027 in the following ways:

Estimate of Giving

$_____ Per Week

$_____ Per Month

$_____ For the Year

$_____ Other

□ I am still praying about my financial commitment for 2027.

□ I consent to emailed donation statements. Statements are mailed out every quarter; we will only email you the first 3. The final end of year statement will be mailed for everyone regardless if you had paper or email the first 3 quarters.

* Please return your card by Sunday, November 15th.

Trinity United Methodist Church
301 W. Market St.
Lima, OH 45801
419-227-0800 / officetumc301@gmail.com

In the heart of the city,
sharing the heart of Christ.

Ministry Volunteer Opportunities

**Please check any boxes that you would be interested in volunteering for even if you checked the box last year. It is helpful for the church to know if it is an opportunity you would like to continue in 2027.*

**If filling this out as a couple/household - please write who would like to volunteer beside each checked box. If there is no name Crystal will assume both would like to volunteer.*

HOSPITALITY & CARE

□ Care Team (call or visit members)
□ Hospitality (food/drinks/set-up/serve for Sunday mornings, funerals, or special events)
□ Social Media Team
□ Roll up your sleeves (paint, clean, etc.)
□ Organizational Task Force

WORSHIP

□ Sunday morning volunteer (please circle which)
Greeter Usher Communion Attendance

□ Liturgist
□ Music (choir or instrumental)
□ Primrose Worship (2nd and 4th Monday at 3pm)

DISCIPLESHIP

□ Help with children or the Youth Ministry
□ Lead a retreat

MISSION & JUSTICE

□ Breakfast Ministry (Prepare/serve/clean up/lead music)
□ Family Promise meal provider (1 week a year)
□ Our Daily Bread (soup kitchen 1st Wednesday/month)
□ CUP (food pantry 129 S. Pierce, a few days every week, volunteer as many day(s) as you would like)
□ Habitat for Humanity
□ Center for Peace and Reconciliation

OTHER _____

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 7:30am Breakfast **10:30am Worship - All Saints Day** 12pm Radio Broadcast 1pm Hispanic Worship	**2** 10am MM Women 7:30pm LSOChoir Rehearsal	**3** 2pm Lima Music Academy	**4** 7am Men's Bible Study 11:30am Soup Kitchen 4pm TOPS	**5** 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	**6** 7pm Hispanic Worship	**7**
8 7:30am Breakfast 10:30am Worship - **Engage 419 Discussion** **No Radio Broadcast - Available on Podcast** 1pm Hispanic Worship **2pm Flute Rehearsal**	**9** 10am MM Women 2pm Primrose Worship 7:30pm LSOChoir Rehearsal	**10** 11am Worship Team Meeting 2pm Lima Music Academy **6:30pm Engage 419 - Parlor** **CCCC Picture Day**	**11** 7am Men's Bible Study 4pm TOPS 5:30pm Finance Meeting	**12** 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	**13** 7pm Hispanic Worship	**14**
15 7:30am Breakfast 10:30am Worship 12pm Radio Broadcast 1pm Hispanic Worship	**16** 10am MM Women	**17** 2pm Lima Music Academy	**18** 7am Men's Bible Study 4pm TOPS 6:30pm SLB Meeting **Lori Out on Vacation**	**19** 11am Staff Meeting 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	**20** **10am Literary Ladies** 7pm Hispanic Worship	**21**
22 7:30am Breakfast **10:30am Worship - Succoth Booth - Hanging of the Greens** 12pm Radio Broadcast 1pm Hispanic Worship **2pm Flute Rehearsal**	**23** 10am MM Women 7:30pm LSOChoir Rehearsal	**24** 2pm Lima Music Academy	**25** 7am Men's Bible Study	**26** **Office & CCCC Closed** 	**27** 7pm Hispanic Worship **Office & CCCC Closed**	**28**
29 7:30am Breakfast **10:00am Worship - 1st Sunday in Advent** 12pm Radio Broadcast 1pm Hispanic Worship	**30** 10am MM Women 7:30pm LSOChoir Rehearsal **Lori Back in office**	**1** 2pm Lima Music Academy	**2** 7am Men's Bible Study 11:30am Soup Kitchen 4pm TOPS **H Saints Band Set-up**	**3** **7pm H Saints Band Rehearsal** 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	**4** **7pm Hallelujah Saints Band Concert** 7pm Hispanic Worship	**5**

December 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 7:30am Breakfast **10:00am Worship - 1st Sunday in Advent** 12pm Radio Broadcast 1pm Hispanic Worship	**30** 10am MM Women 7:30pm LSOChoir Rehearsal **Lori Back in office**	**1** 2pm Lima Music Academy	**2** 7am Men's Bible Study 11:30am Soup Kitchen 4pm TOPS **Hallelujah Saints Band Set-Up**	**3** **7pm Hallelujah Saints Band Rehearsal** 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	**4** **7pm Hallelujah Saints Band Concert** 7pm Hispanic Worship	**5**
6 7:30am Breakfast 10:30am Worship 12pm Radio Broadcast 1pm Hispanic Worship **2pm Flute Rehearsal**	**7** 10am MM Women 7:30pm LSOChoir Rehearsal	**8** 11am Worship Team Meeting 2pm Lima Music Academy	**9** 7am Men's Bible Study 4pm TOPS 5:30pm Finance Meeting	**10** 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	**11** 7pm Hispanic Worship	**12**
13 7:30am Breakfast **10:30am Worship - Choir Cantata** 12pm Radio Broadcast 1pm Hispanic Worship	**14** 2pm Primrose Worship	**15** **7pm CCCC Christmas Program**	**16** 7am Men's Bible Study 4pm TOPS	**17** 11am Staff Meeting 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	**18** 10am Literary Ladies 7pm Hispanic Worship	**19**
20 7:30am Breakfast 10:30am Worship 12pm Radio Broadcast 1pm Hispanic Worship **2pm Flute Rehearsal** **2pm Joint Caroling**	**21**	**22**	**23** **CCCC Closed until 1/4/27** **Office Hours will vary until 1/4/27. Please email or call Crystal with any needs.**	**24** **6:30pm Musical Prelude** **7pm Christmas Eve Service**	**25** 	**26**
27 7:30am Breakfast **Joint Worship at Shawnee** 12pm Radio Broadcast 1pm Hispanic Worship	**28**	**29**	**30** 11:30am Soup Kitchen	**31**	**1** 	**2**