

*Garrettsville United
Methodist Church*



December 2025 Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

FALL IN LOVE WITH JESUS -

HE NEVER LEAVES YOU

Isaiah 43:2-5 New International Version

2. "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. 3 For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush and Seba in your stead. 4 Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give people in exchange for you, nations in exchange for your life. 5 Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west.

I think we all go through times in life when we question whether we are loved by God. They are usually the rough patches we go through. We look around us and we see the blessings others are experiencing and we look at our own lives and the problems we face, and we simply question. I think it's human nature.

But I want to show you something in this passage. We read all through the Bible about how God loves us and shows His love for us, including in Romans 5:8, where we read, "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." We have to agree that it is an amazing love that causes God to offer up His only son on the cross for people who didn't even know they needed Him and mostly ignored Him. But he did.

This passage that we look at this month is THE ONE AND ONLY TIME in the Bible where God openly says "I love you." And in it, He describes the emotions we feel when life hits us hard. If you do nothing else this month, meditate on this passage daily and spend time speaking with God about it.

Message from Pastor (con't)

God doesn't say "IF life gets hard" or "If you're having a bad day". He says "when". And what He wants you to take from that is that joyous moments are wonderful, but if all we experience in life is mountain top living, we cannot know how much we need God or how deep His love is for us. It is in the valley that we look up and cry out to God, and these valley times are not punishments....they are simply normal life.

God wants us to know He is there for us even then. Nothing is too difficult and nothing too ugly. He simply offers His presence in good times and in bad.

So come aside, dear ones, and rest awhile in God's presence. Seek Him out. He's waiting. Fall in love with Jesus, because he never leaves you!

Love You - Pastor Sandi

**Church Office Hours
Mon. - Fri. 9am-Noon**

Please call and leave a message.

Office Phone #:
330-527-2055

Pastor Sandi has office hours on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

The door is locked for security. Please ring the doorbell to gain entry.

Thank you for your patience

Website:

Garrettsvilleohumc.org

Email:

Garrettsvilleohumc@gmail.com

Facebook:

Garrettsville United Methodist Church

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SEPT. 7, 2025 - February 28, 2026

10am Garrettsville (Praise Music with Sunday School 9:45am)

MARCH 1 - AUGUST 31, 2026

10am Garrettsville (Praise Music 9:45am) with Sunday School

NEW: Friday, Dec 19th @ Windham

Blue Christmas, a quiet gentle service for those who've lost loved ones

JOINT SERVICES ON 5th SUNDAYS AT 10AM:

November 30, 2025 at Windham with Pot Luck to follow service

March 29, 2026 at Garrettsville

May 31, 2026 at Nelson

August 30, 2026 at Windham

November 29, 2026 at Garrettsville

December 19, 2026 at Windham

UPDATE Phone Numbers:

Elsie Norton (330) 646-8565 &

Cheryl Hall (330) 344-0741



Leah & Jack Schultz want to sincerely thank the 'Comfort Singers' for their uplifting voices! It is a very nice thing they are doing and very much appreciated.

****When a prayer need arises, please contact Linda Fall, our Prayer Chain Coordinator at 330-730-4672.**

THOSE IN OUR HEARTS NOT MENTIONED THIS DAY

THOSE FACING CHALLENGES:

Wade Johnston
Tommy Miller
Pam Montgomery
Benny Bailey
Mollie Lewis
Cody Stone
Elliot Thompson
Alex Washington
Rebecca Williams
John Sedensky, Sr.
Marie

CELEBRATING A JOY

OUR SHUT-INS:

Fred & Jane Bell
Ann Kalina
Belva Smith
Kay Smith
Roderick Nimitz
Joanne Kraft
Carrie Kraft
Janet Heiss

:FAMILIES IN NEED OF PRAYER:

Fran Michael Family
Bill Skinner Family
Jim Dennis Family

THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER:

Jack Schultz
Susan Dade
Matt & Ann Long
John Wolfe
Ken & Evonne
Kathy Schulda
Shannon Seiler
Kristina Cupples
Marie Elium



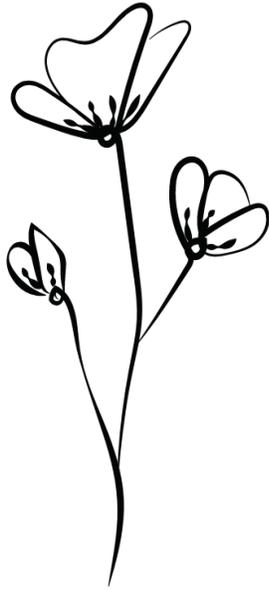
New: Advent Bible Study

“The Redemption of Scrooge”

**Monday Sessions: Nov. 24th, Dec.
1st, 8th and 15th in
the Pastor’s office**

Times offered: 10-11am OR 7-8pm

- **Monday at 1:00pm in the
Joint Parish Study at the Garrettsville UMC in Pastor’s office**
- **Wednesday at 6:00pm in the
Nelson UMC Fellowship Hall**
- **Thursday at 11:00am in the
Garrettsville UMC Fellowship Hall**



Grief Support Group

**The group will meet on 2nd and 4th
Sunday's of each month @ 2PM**

at the Garrettsville UMC

for approximately 1 1/2 hours and

**is open to any who have experienced
loss.**

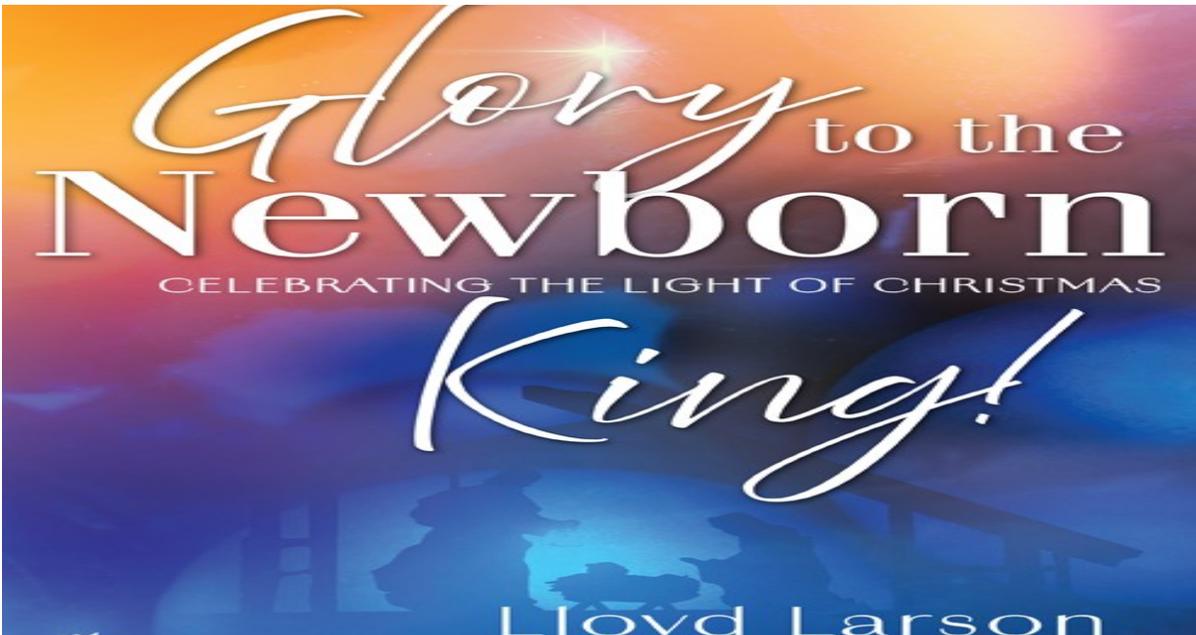
For more information,

**call Pastor Sandi at 440-228-3093 or the
Church Office at 330-527-2055**

Appletree Preschool

What fun it was for the Appletree Preschool students to help with collecting food for drive.





***GUMC MUSIC DEPARTMENT PRESENTS
CELEBRATING THE LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS***

With Chancel Choir performing:

‘Glory to the Newborn King’

by Lloyd Larson

Along with our Bell Choirs:

Chancel Bells I

Chancel Bells II &

Jesu Chimes

Please join us on

Sunday, December 21st @ 3pm



The Vision Committee

The Vision Committee have been communicating again this year with Safer Futures, a Portage County Shelter that houses and supports families who find themselves unsafe at home due to domestic violence. Suddenly seeking shelter means leaving most personal possessions and favorite toys behind. Christmas is an especially hard time to be away from home and the perfect time to bless these families with the love of Christ. See the list of items that are always welcome.

A bin labeled

“Safer Futures”

Will be available in the Narthex.

Please have donations in the church no later than December 21st.

Thanks you!

Lisa Schwan (330) 842-0886

Holiday Wish List

Ages 3—6

Fuzzy socks with grips
Soft blanket or throw
Warm hat and mitten set
Fun pajama set
Cuddly stuffed animal

Ages 7—17

Warm fuzzy socks or thermal socks
Hoodie blanket
Cozy pajamas (younger)
Flannel pants or joggers (older kids)
Soft throw blanket
Comfy beanie or knit hat

Warm scarf and gloves or mittens

Cute slippers or fuzzy slides

Lotion, lip balm, self care kit

Journal or coloring book (younger)

Journal or gratitude book (older)

Reusable water bottle or tumbler



Member Care Committee

You don't have to be alone for church services or other church events. The following people have volunteered their services of driving, to any Member of our church in need of a driver.

Volunteer Drivers available at this time are:

Shirley Cline 330-235-3240

Jane Parker 812-655-0908

John Parker 216-496-0422

Beth Drebus. 440-496-2060

(June, July & August
only)

Richard & Linda Fall 330-221-5918.

Thank you very much,
Kim Polifrone
Member care committee.

Outreach Committee

34 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are on their way.

34 children will be blessed with a box filled with joy.

34 families will hear the good news of God's love shown through gifts celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.

Let us pray for these 34 families:

Heavenly Father, you are Good and your message is Truth. Please, bless the families who will receive these good gifts of ours and let them feel your love in the truth of Christ's birth.

Amen



You're invited to:



**You are welcome to join the fun for
an evening of a lesson,
activities and a great meal.**

Hope to see you there.

**Next fun days are
Tuesday,
December 9th @ 5:30pm**

YOUTH GROUP REPORT



Grades 6 - 12 are welcome.

We meet on the
2nd & 4th Sunday of each month
at GUMC from 5 - 7pm

Bring a friend or 2!

Dinner included.

Men's Group Gathering

The Men's group met on October 25 to visit the Great Lakes Growers Greenhouse to learn about the hydroponic lettuce they produce. After the tour, they stopped at the New Hartville Hardware and finished up with lunch at the Amish Country Kitchen.



Men from Garrettsville, Nelson and Windham are invited to join them on their next adventure beginning next year. Contact Mark Ellerhorst for details @ 330-672-1009 or call the church office @ 330-527-2055.



Nursery Workers Needed

We would love to have more hands to care for our babies and toddlers on Sunday mornings!

Nursery Care Volunteer

We are looking to make a schedule to have the Nursery covered when needed during Sunday Worship. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please call the church office @ 330 527 2055. Leave your name and phone number or sign-up in the narthex at the welcome desk. We will contact you to see when you are available to help. Thank You!!!



Church Committees

WHAT DO THEY DO?

Do you know what our church committees are and what they do and their mission in our church? I just KNOW that every one of these committees is important and serves a great purpose in and through our church.

Church committees carry out the practical and administrative work of the church, allowing senior leadership to focus on spiritual guidance. They are run by volunteer members of the congregation and ensure the effective operation of ministries, finances, property, and outreach efforts. The specific responsibilities depend on the committee's purpose and the church's unique needs.

Each month, we will highlight a committee or two as to what they do and their mission in our church.

This month we'll highlight the **Trustee's Committee**.

Enjoy!

What' have our Trustees been up to?

Here's an update from them. Believe me, they work very hard to keep our church up and running!!!

Projects completed:

- **Updated the lights in the Harris Room to LEDs. No more dark cave! It's bright in there now.**
- **The 'Electric Circuits' binder in the office was updated. Among some things you'll see in the binder are locations of all smoke alarms, thermostats and all the emergency lights, as well as a record of the lights.**
- **The replacement batteries for emergency lights and the new LED lamps are completed**
- **Replaced an LED in the hall next to the music room**
- **The outside sanctuary doors have been refinished for another year**
- **Storm windows put back in the stained glass windows of the sanctuary**

Projects upcoming:

- **De-cluttering the furnace room off the Harris Room.**
- **8 lamps need to be replaced in the Wesley Room**

What Do a Trustee Do?

Recently, Lisa Schwan requested that Committee Chairs send the Newsletter a simple explanation of what their committees do. This is a hard working committee! They keep our church in shape.

The Trustees take care of stuff...

...by maintaining stuff so it works, and

...by fixing stuff when it breaks.

What we don't do:

We don't decide how the church gets used (there's a Pastor and several

Committees for that).

A thick book called "The Discipline" lays out in dense detail how the United Methodist Church and its congregations are to operate. Would you believe there is an article in the Discipline on "Powers and Limitations" of the Board of Trustees? It's Article 2533 (which suggests there are a bunch of other articles in the book). If a bit more detail about Trustee duties interests you, here are a few highlights from The Discipline.

Trustees (con't)

Article 2533.1

“...the board of trustees shall have the supervision, oversight, and care of all real property owned by the local church and of all property and equipment acquired directly by the local church...”.

That is, we maintain stuff and fix it when it breaks.

But the Trustees...

“... shall not violate the rights of any local church organization elsewhere granted in the Discipline [nor] prevent or interfere with the pastor in the use of any of the said property for religious services or other proper meetings or purposes...”

That is, we don't decide how the church gets used. However, in the case of a request by an outside group the Trustees should not...

“...permit the use of said property for religious or other meetings without the consent of the pastor.”

There are eight sections under Article 2533, which go into some detail about the required supervision and care. Some requirements seem directed at larger more complex churches than ours.

Article 2533.2

“The board of trustees shall annually [review] the existence and adequacy of the church's insurance coverages...”

Trustees (con't)

Article 2533.3

“When a pastor and/or a board of trustees are asked to grant permission to an outside organization to use church facilities, permission can be granted only when such use is consistent with the Social Principles (§§ 160-164) and ecumenical objectives.”

Article 2533.4

“The chairperson of the board of trustees ... the chairperson of the committee on pastor-parish relations, and the pastor shall make an annual review of the church-owned parsonage to ensure proper maintenance.”

Editorial Comment: the annual review is to ensure proper maintenance of the property by the pastor, and to ensure proper provision and maintenance by the church of the facilities due the pastor.

Article 2533.5

“Subject to the direction of the charge conference ... the board of trustees shall receive and administer all bequests made to the local church; shall receive and administer all trusts; and shall invest all trust funds.”

Editorial Comment: Our church has directed that these duties are delegated to the **Finance Committee**.

Trustees (con't)

Article 2533.7

“... the board of trustees shall, in consultation with the pastor ... evaluate the adequacy of the facilities that house the church’s permanent records, archival materials, and historical objects (§247.5), with particular attention to conditions that endanger them, and shall recommend to the charge conference a plan to correct any deficiencies.

So that’s what Trustees do. If you want to read the Trustee Powers article in full (page 743), or if you want some light reading before bedtime, find all 903 pages of The Discipline online with the link below.

(https://issuu.com/cokesbury/docs/the_book_of_discipline_of_the_united_methodist_church?fr=xKAE9_zU1NQ).

Pleasant dreams, Jay Bryne, Chairman

Trustee Members (2025)

Jack Schultz

Adam Berry

John See

Jeff Ellerhorst

Mike Polifrone

Pastor Sandi Dennis-Greenburg

2025 Poinsettia Order



**Deadline for orders and payment
Sunday, December 7th**

6.5" Red Poinsettia

\$8.00 ea. X _____ = _____

Given by: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Joy of the season: _____

**Place orders with payment in an
envelope in the offering plate, mail or drop off at the church
office between 9am and noon, Monday thru Friday:**

8223 Park Ave. Garrettsville, OH 44231

Make checks payable to:

Garrettsville UMC.

Thank you!



DECEMBER 2025

12/01: Luke Finney

12/02: Kathleen Berry

Jerry Clark

12/03: Donna Brys

12/04: Vivian Foy

12/06: Dennis Kirimi

12/07: Pat Singelyn

12/08: Kristin Prots

12/11: Jane Bell

12/12: Belva Smith

12/13: Shannon Oliver

Grayson Rose

12/14: Kay Smith

12/19: Jack Ellerhorst

Brian Owens

Kimberly Sheller

12/21: Lisa Schwan

12/22: Abby Collopy

Tom Shaffer

12/23: Lilliana Kirmi

12/29: Marcia Long

Matthew Long

Michelle McDowell

12/30: Khari Oliver

Julie Pilacik

12/31: Todd Hoover



12/09: Jeremy & Sarah Tarnowski

12/12: Richard & Linda Fall

12/20: Mark & Sue Ritts

12/21: Alan & Sue Andrews

Michael & Gail Mikula

John & Cheri Wolfe

12/22: Pat & Kristina Cupples

12/31: Michael & Heidi Parizeau



**The United Methodist Church of
Garrettsville
8223 Park Avenue
Garrettsville OH 44231-1223**

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

If you would like to submit articles, committee news or announcements for the next newsletter please provide by

December 22, 2025

Email: garrettsvilleohumc@gmail.com

Website: garrettsvilleohumc.org

Facebook: [Garrettsville United Methodist Church](#)

Submission by email is desired , however if email is not an option please feel free to provide a hard copy to the church office.

**Thank You,
Gale Lane, Secretary**