

Garrettsville
Methodist Church
Newsletter 2026



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Luke 24:1-12

The month of April begins with Maundy Thursday on the 2nd, Good Friday on the 3rd and Resurrection Sunday on the 5th. The three holiest days of the Christian year are encapsulated in the first few days of the month.

We sit down with Jesus and the disciples on Maundy Thursday, as the last supper, the Jewish Passover seder, and we watch and listen as he institutes the sacrament of communion: hearing him liken the breaking of bread and the pouring of wine to the brokenness he will endure on Good Friday. The backdrop is the celebration of deliverance from slavery in Egypt and the freedom that follows, the redemption that results from having the faith to step out and follow God in obedience to his command.

The seder would have lasted into the early hours of Friday morning. From there, knowing the nearness and pain of betrayal, Jesus takes his disciples out to the Mount of Olives, leaving them there under the trees to pray as he steps further into the garden to spend time alone with his Father. There he enters the deepest of agony, wrestles with the devil's taunting, and voices his obedience to the Father's will.... "Not my will, but yours be done". Coming out of prayer, he finds his disciples asleep (more than once), and the Roman soldiers approaching, beginning hours of abuse and taunting, including an illegal trial, scourging and crowing with thorns, all before being forced to carry his heavy cross through the winding streets of Jerusalem to the top of Mount Calvary, where he is crucified between two criminals. Not an easy process, Jesus eventual passing from this life took only three hours of intense physical struggle, being weakened by lack of sleep and the blood loss that stemmed from his scourging.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK (con't)

Saturday is silent as his body lied in a borrowed tomb.

Oh, but SUNDAY!

Sunday morning begins with the women heading for the tomb to anoint his body with spices. Because Good Friday was the Jewish Sabbath, Jesus was hastily delayed to rest in the borrowed tomb, and the normal burial rituals could not be performed. And so the women went to perform them on Sunday morning, because the Jewish Sabbath was over. This anointing would preserve and prevent a stench from decay.

But when they reach the tomb, they discovered that the huge stone that rested in front of it had already been rolled away, which had been one of their major concerns. And the tomb is empty. They are asked by an angel “why do you seek the living among the dead”. Mary sees Jesus and is told to go and tell the disciples about his resurrection.

Can you imagine the whirlwind of emotions that floods the women’s minds and hearts. The breathless rush and the disciples return to the grave. The realization that what Jesus had promised actually happened!

As we approach the Easter Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday), put yourself in the sandals of those early disciples, both the men and the women. Walk the dusty streets of Jerusalem. Be seated at the table. Share the bread and wine. Discover the pain of betrayal, the dullness of the disciples. Listen in on the lies and half truths of a trumped up trial. Witness the horror of the crucifixion. THEN you will understand the glory of the resurrection.

Jesus did not come so that we could gain heaven, but rather so that eternal life might be lived even here in the places where we live and work and worship, on the streets and in the marketplace. This Easter don’t concentrate on the reward of heaven, but rather on the opportunity to live abundant life here and now !

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

Please call and leave a message.

Office Phone #:
330-527-2055

Pastor Sandra 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

SPECIAL SERVICES

**Maundy Thursday: April 2
@ 7pm GUMC**

**Good Friday: April 3 @
7pm NELSON**

**EASTER: Sunday, April 5
regular worship hours**

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

MARCH 1 - AUGUST 31, 2026

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

**JOINT SERVICES ON 5th
SUNDAYS AT 10AM:**

March 29, 2026 at Garrettsville

May 31, 2026 at Nelson

August 30, 2026 at Windham

Nov 29, 2026 at Garrettsville

Dec 19, 2026 at Windham



****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 Elium
Adam Walker
Cheryl Hall

CELEBRATING A JOY

OUR SHUT-INS:

Ann Kalina
Belva Smith
Kay Smith
Roderick Nimtze
Joanne Kraft
Carrie Kraft
Janet Heiss

:FAMILIES IN NEED OF PRAYER:

Ben & Cheryl Singelyn
Family

THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER:

Jane & Fred Bell
Pastor Sandi Dennis
Jack Schultz
Susan Dade
Matt & Ann Long
John & Sherri Wolfe
Ken & Evonne Fox
Kat Berry
Esler Hyde
Shirley Cline
Jean Reichelderfer

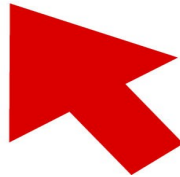
thank
you

Thank you
for all the ways
you make this world
a brighter one.

Dear Family - Thank you for
the lovely wedding gift! We
look forward to future travels!
Jim + Rusty + Sandra Dennis

Church Directory

UPDATE



Russ and Sally Hammel

11275 Center Street
Garrettsville, Oh 44231
Sally-sallyhammel8@gmail.com
Sally's cell-330-977-7062

Elsie Norton

12570 Hammock Lake Dr.
Winsor, Oh 44099

Michael Jajcinovic

1171 Bryce Ave.
Aurora, OH 44202

Cheryl Hall

1840 Rhodes Road
Apt 155
Kent, Oh 44240

Jerry Meade

8540 River View Rd.
Garrettsville, Oh 44231

Chloe Pfile

4532 Chaseline Ridge
Brunswick, Oh 4422

If you would like to request the 2026 GUMC Directory, please email Gale Lane at garrettsvilleohumc@gmail.com or leave a message at 330-527-2055 . For updates, also contact Gale.

The COMFORT SINGERS

meet every 3rd Sunday of the month to bring comfort or uplifting to those in need.

Please join them on Sunday, February 15th

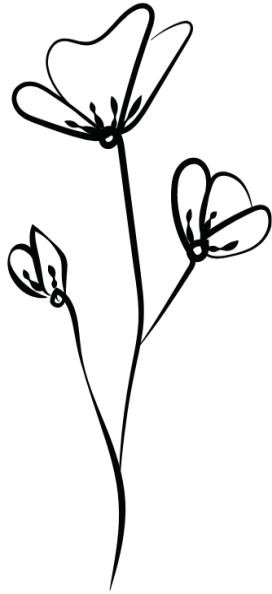
@ 3pm in bringing joy to others.

*If you know of anyone who needs comfort or uplifting,
please contact Jane Parker @ (812) 655-0908.*

Thank you Comfort Singers,
Jeanette Poole, and Stevie Byrne for your
visits to my home. Having those visits make
me feel like part of a warm Church Family!

The singing was great!

Much Love,
Carrie Kraft



Grief Support Group

**The group will meet each month at the
Garrettsville UMC for approximately 1 1/2
hours and is open to any who have
experienced loss.**

**Monthly Meetings:
Sunday, April 12 @ 2pm
May - December: meets the 1st Sunday of
each month @ 2pm**

Facilitator, Pastor Sandra (440-228-3093)

All are welcome!

Report from Finance Committee

Our annual Audit Report for 2025 was completed by John See & Stevie Byrne and sent to the District office.

A motion from Kathy C to give the Easter donations to the Food Bank and a second from Gail M. Motion passed.

A motion from Gail M to purchase a new computer monitor for the office and a second from Sally H. Motion passed.

Memorial Fund monies have been designated to purchase a new copier/printer/scanner. A motion from Sally H to purchase a color copier/printer/scanner along with additional toner and a second by Jack S. Motion passed.

**Respectively submitted,
Elaine Long**

Recent Trustees Happenings!!

Since the last Newsletter article was written (about new furnaces), it was discovered that the furnace in the parsonage had packed it in. Since we have had a lot of practice dealing with new furnaces, Trustees knew just what to do: replace the thing. So now we have three new ones working away!

In other news, John See has done a lot of work in the Harris Room area. That area of our old building was once a damp basement. When the last remodeling was done many years ago, a diversion channel leading to a sump pump was built. That channel silted up over time. John opened the walls and cleaned the channel. Items stored in closets along the wall were put on rolling carts up off the floor. So, with the cleaning, the carts and the dehumidifier, the Harris Room is staying dryer.

The usual spring maintenance projects are coming up. There are some walls that need painting or repair. The Harris Room furnace area will be cleaned up. We do have four needs which are not routine: We have had a leak in the roof over the office. We are looking to repair that problem and exploring the idea of employing regular maintenance of the roof. Light fixtures in the Sanctuary ceiling need to be repaired or replaced and LED lighting is being considered. The joints in the exterior brick of the Sanctuary are showing deterioration in places. The scope and cost of joint repair is being assessed. The steel steps outside the classrooms need to be scraped and painted.

Recent Trustees Happenings!! (Con't)

Update, March 26, 2026

Trustees have moved ahead on springtime projects. Lisa Schwan has taken the point on the brickwork repair of the Sanctuary. We anticipate the work will be accomplished in April, depending on the schedules of the mason and the church. John See has worked with Pally Roofing to clean the flat roof of the educational/office wing (trustees have gotten a little long in the tooth to be messing around on a roof) and to establish a twice-a-year inspection. (Pally did the repair on the roof of the west tower a while back and they did good work.) He has also been working with Scotchman Electric to refurbish the Sanctuary lighting. Fixtures will be repaired and updated with LED lighting. Fixtures will be rebuilt so that LEDs can be replaced without scaffolding being brought in. The Sanctuary work will also be done – we expect – in April. We are working to avoid unnecessary conflict with church activities. We are pleased to work with local vendors for our repairs.

Recently spring cleaning took place in the Sanctuary! We'd like to salute Mike Mikula for the great week-in and week-out work of keeping the building tidy. And just like your house, some spring cleaning was in order. So, woodwork and pews got the Murphy Oil Soap treatment, high places got vacuumed and wiped, pew cushions were taken off and vacuumed, and many other nooks and crannies got The Treatment. Cold air returns were cleaned. A heating vent was installed in the choir area at the front of the Sanctuary. Because Mike has done such a good job, and because a great crew showed up to help, what had been planned as a two-day project was done in one!

Thanks to Elaine Long, Linda and Dick Fall, Butch Seiler, Linda and Tom Fitt, Helen Louise Bouts, Denise and Mark Ellerhorst, Jay and Stevie Byrne.

Recent Trustees Happenings!! (Con't)

Fluorescent lights that failed have been replaced by our stock of lamps which were taken out during LED replacement work. There are a quite a few replacement lamps available, and if you notice a fixture with a burned-out fluorescent light, let a trustee know.

We are anticipating making donations to the Village Spring Cleanup. Items that cannot go in Spring Cleanup will be taken to the Portage Count Recycling Center on the first Monday of April (electronics, oils and paints).

We'll end with another comment about the furnace room off the Harris Room in the basement: our 150-year-old church sits on an underground waterway. That furnace room is damp, and we have to live with it. As a result, it cannot be used for storage.

Anything put in there for any length of time will deteriorate. This spring the remaining metal shelves in the space (used for cleaning supplies) will be changed out for plastic ones.

Submitted by

Jay Byrne



CHURCH BUILDING FUND

Our Building Fund needs to be replenished.

The reason for this is that we have purchased 3 new furnaces, fixed the elevator, and purchased a new hot water heater. If any donations above and beyond your normal giving could be designated to the building fund, hopefully we'll be able to move forward with upcoming projects.

Elaine Long,
Finance Chair

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 &
bring a friend!**

**Next fun day is
Tuesday,
April 14 @ 5:30pm**

YOUTH GROUP REPORT



Grades 6 - 12 are welcome.

We meet on the
2nd & 4th Sunday of each month
at GUMC from 5 - 6:30pm

Bring a friend or 2!

Dinner included.

We are currently teaching Sunday School to our High Schoolers on Sunday mornings during worship and on Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm.

Spread the word!

All are invited.

A graphic with a radial burst pattern of purple and blue lines emanating from the center. The text "High School Bible Study" is written in a white, cursive font across the center.

High School Bible Study

We are currently offering a Bible Study for high schoolers on Sunday morning during worship hour and again on Thursday evenings 6-7ish.

This is a great way to connect with other teens, discuss scripture, and grow closer to Christ together!



4/02	Janet Heiss	4/19	Jason Edwards
4/10	Jeremy Hill	4/21	Samantha Ensinger
	Mathew Hill	4/22	Stacie Oliver
	Sawyer Hill		Tom Fitt
	Rick Lane	4/25	Max Ellerhorst
	Jeremy Tarnowski	4/27	Tom Countryman
4/12	Christine Bell	4/28	Jordyn Blaze
	John See	4/30	Luke Carr
4/16	Vincent Gonzales		Jenifer Pavelko
	Chloe Pfile		



4/06 Jeff & Bethany Drebus

4/28 Tom & Kathy Countryman

4/29 Mike & Cindy Cooper



**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 to
Gale Lane.

Email: garrettsvilleohumc@gmail.com

Website: garrettsvilleohumc.org

Facebook: [Garrettsville United Methodist Church](https://www.facebook.com/GarrettsvilleUnitedMethodistChurch)

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, Web Designer & Newsletter Coordinator**