



Tower Tidings

First United
Methodist Church

FEB 2026

Pastor's Page

Blessings Church!

Soon we will enter the season of Lent, a holy time of self-reflection, repentance, and intentional preparation. Lent slows us down and calls us to look honestly at who we are, where we have been, and how God is shaping us for the journey ahead. This year, we are invited to walk through Lent together as a courageous congregation, growing in ministry of the gospel.

Scripture often uses the image of a tree to describe a life rooted in God's love—*"They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season"* (Psalm 1:3). As we imagine our life together this Lent, let us picture ourselves as a living tree, growing faithfully in Christ.

The roots of a healthy tree run deep. They are often hidden, but they are essential. During Lent, we tend our roots by making space for grief—personal and communal. We acknowledge losses we have carried, prayers unanswered, changes we did not choose. Courage does not mean ignoring grief; it means trusting God enough to bring it into the light, knowing that even here, God is at work.

From these roots rise the trunk, strong and steady. The trunk represents discerning our purpose—remembering who we are and whose we are. As a congregation, Lent invites us to listen again for God's call, to ask how Christ is shaping us to love God and neighbor in this time and place. Purpose grounds us when the winds blow and keeps us oriented toward the gospel.

From the trunk extend the branches, reaching outward. These branches remind us that we do not grow alone. We are called to walk with one another and our community—bearing one another's burdens, practicing compassion, and refusing to let anyone journey in isolation. Courageous faith shows up in presence, listening, and shared hope.

Upon the branches grow the leaves, catching light and offering shade. Leaves remind us of sharing power—creating space for new voices, honoring diverse gifts, and trusting the Spirit at work beyond our own preferences. Lent challenges us to loosen our grip on control and lean into collaboration, humility, and mutual care.

As the season moves on, we notice the buds, small but full of promise. These buds invite us into expanding our imagination—believing that God is not finished with us yet. Even when growth feels uncertain, God is already stirring new life. Lent invites us to dream faithfully and expectantly, trusting that resurrection is coming. Though Lent is a season of repentance, it is also a season of hope, pointing us toward the abundant life Christ promises.

Beloved, may this Lent be a season where we grow deeper roots, stronger faith, and wider love. May we have the courage to be honest, the patience to grow, and the trust to follow where God leads.

I am grateful to walk this Lenten journey with you.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Sarah



Worship
Sundays at
10 am

1500 N.
Water St.
Owosso, mi
48867

989.725.2201

Email:
firstumc@
owossofumc.org

Website:
Owossofumc.org

Rev. Sarah
Elliott,
Pastor



**Volunteers Sat. Feb. 14
Food Distribution**

**Karolyn Dawley
Chris & Teri Delcamp
Fred & Debbie Delcamp
Cindy Thompson
Jerry Hitchingham
Deb Bendall**

*Please arrive at 8:45 am
Thank you!*

All men are invited to the
MEN'S BREAKFAST
Sat. Feb. 7th at 8:30 am
in the church café.
The cost is \$8.
Please rsvp to James Downing
989-323-0079

All Singles Over Sixty are welcome to join
us for lunch on Tuesday, February 3rd, at
noon at 401 Restaurant in Corunna.



**Pledge cards are currently being received and play an important role in
helping the Leadership Team prayerfully plan for the 2026 financial
year. If you have not yet returned your pledge, please complete and
send in the enclosed card with your 2026 pledge information.**

Thank you for your generosity and faithful support of our ministry.

Owosso FUMC Mission Report for 2025

Thank you! Your caring hearts and generous gifts
have allowed us to do a lot of good for a lot of people
in 2025. By paying 100% of our Ministry Shares and
giving to the following ministries, we are again an
EngageMI church for 2025!

Our actions in 2025 included:

- Drive-thru Food Pantries for seniors were held at FUMC on the 2nd Thursday of the month for the first part of the year, then we changed to the 2nd Saturday.
- Food collection all year, with a special emphasis in November, where we collected 7 heaping shopping carts full, that was delivered to the Salvation Army.
- Breakfast bags were prepared all year to give to the Salvation Army for distribution.
- Toiletry items were collected for students at Owosso schools.
- Preparing week-end bags of food for some of our Noah's Ark families in November & December.

Our monetary donations included:

Local missions:

Homeless Angels Owosso Campus: \$100
Ministerial Association Warming Shelter: \$485

Angels Hands: \$215
Safe Center: \$635
Coins for Caring: \$905

(This is to help people who come to the church with requests for help with gas, rent, etc.)

Michigan missions:

Blue Water Free Store: \$100
Mobility Worldwide of East MI in Goodrich: \$120
NOAH Project in Detroit: We collected socks for them

U.S. missions:

Red Bird Clinic: \$215
Native American Ministries: \$15
Mobility Worldwide: \$100

International missions:

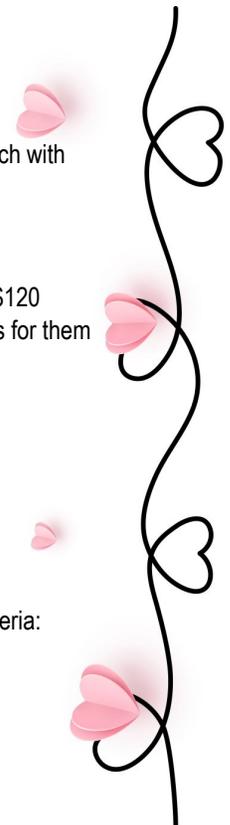
Heifer International Living Gifts: \$50
Babyfold at Old Mutare: \$50
Annual Conference Offering for Haiti and Liberia:
\$580 (from our Noisy Collection)
Gardens of Hope (for Haiti): \$185
World Communion Sunday: \$10

Missionaries:

Temba Nkomozepe, serving at Mujilla Falls
Agricultural Center: \$500

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief):

UMCOR Sunday: \$546
UMCOR U.S. Disaster Relief: \$945



Move beyond just being in the UMC!

Fully discover what sets us apart and empowers us to work for justice and spread God's love!

Across the Michigan Conference, many are seeking a deeper understanding of our identity, our history, and our mission. The 2026 Michigan Annual Conference, May 29-31, 2026, will focus on our UMC identity and include keynote speaker Ashley Boggan, General Secretary of Archives and History. **To prepare for the annual conference, we encourage every local church in MI to plan a study of Lacey C. Warner's book Knowing Who We Are.**

This book offers a clearer picture of our Wesleyan way of following Jesus, focusing on core values like God's full grace for everyone, Real-life transformation--how your faith leads to positive, visible change in your life, your community, and the world.

Whether you plan to attend the annual conference as an elected member or just want to learn more about what it means to #BeUMC and connect with fellow United Methodists across the state, we hope you'll participate in this book study, designed to help you clarify your beliefs, articulate your values, and strengthen your connection to The United Methodist Church.

An Online Option

We want to ensure every Michigan United Methodist has the opportunity to participate. Six online sessions will be offered via Zoom from February 24 to March 31.

Book: Knowing Who We Are by Lacey C. Warner

Contact the church office to have a book ordered.

Dates: Tuesdays, starting February 24 and through March 31 (6 sessions)

Cost: There is no cost to participate other than purchasing the book.

Times Options: Tuesdays 12-1pm in the church café

We will have the zoom available for you.

Tuesdays 6:30-8:00 pm directly through the Conference Zoom option

Purchase the book and read Chapter 1 before Feb. 24

Good Friday Community Choir

Owosso Area Ministerial Association invites you to raise your voices for a Good Friday service on April 3 at Owosso First United Methodist Church at 12:15 pm. Rehearsals Sunday afternoons at 3:00 pm at First Baptist Church 114 W. Mason St.-- March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 ~~~ Nola Bruder, Director 989-277-1184 Deb Grazier 989-277-4943

Community Craft Camp
Sat March 14 @ 10am - 4pm
First UM Church,
1500 N. Water St. Owosso
FUNDRAISER FOR MISSIONS
\$20 gets you a table, lunch, snacks, beverages.

BRING YOUR OWN projects and supplies.

- ◆ Knitting
- ◆ Crocheting
- ◆ Scrapbooking
- ◆ Card-making
- ◆ Quilting
- ◆ Sewing or other projects!



Call or email to reserve your space
989 725 2201
firstumc@owossofumc.org

Lay Servant Ministries Spring Classes
 Multi-Week Course
 Teaching Biblical Faith: Leading Small Group Bible Studies
 Class meets Feb 8, 15, 22;
 2pm - 5:15 at Pigeon First UMC

Lay Servant ministries Spring Classes
 We will be having Lay Servant Ministry classes on two Saturdays 9am-2:30pm
 February 28 & March 7 at Lake Orion UMC
 We will be offering:

- Basic Course for Lay Servants
- Discover Your Spiritual Gifts
- Teaching Biblical Faith: Leading Small Group Bible Studies

For more information visit the Eastwinds District website:
eastwinds.michiganumc.org



PRAYER list

- Those affected by gun violence, war & disasters

Church Family

- Fred Delcamp, surgery Jan 20
- Family of Gaile Passmore
- Family of Gail Rheume
- Family of Betty Pudvay, especially her husband, Pat
- Art Flanagan, surgery 12/3 brain bleed-at home
- JoAnn Messmer & family, her sister Gloria passed away
- Mark Keesler, nerve ablation
- Carol Ray, health issues
- Roger Elford, at Pleasant View rehab
- Ed Payne, home Hospice
- Diane Allen, cancer
- Rhonda Mullins, health issues
- John Downing, health issues
- Sarah Finnen, health issues

Family & Friends

- Ces Garcia, health issues, hospital
- RayAnn Black, aneurism back of head (Janet Keesler's cousin)
- John Mullins, POTS, recent fall
- Lois Smithers, cancer returned
- Dean West, cancer (nephew of Cathy Burkitt)
- Michelle Ardelean, kidney cancer (daughter of Clays)

Military

- Emily & Kory Alliton, Great Lakes Naval Base, Navy, Chicago (Sutliff)
- Todd Hofacker, California
- Yuka Peters, Washington State
- Cody Rozell
- John Schlaud, Marines, 5th
- Ryan Weaver, Army Reserve
- Capt. Tim Mapley, MI National Guard, deployed to Kosovo

Our Homebound

- Elaine Shepard, Oliver Woods, 1330 W. Oliver St., 3-12, 989-723-3074
- Jean Stanton, Oliver Woods, 1330 W. Oliver St., 4-15 989-251-6544
- Pat Pudvay, Oliver Woods 1330 W. Oliver St. Owosso
- Judy Helmker, 1694 N M52 #221,
- June Helvie, Memorial Healthcare 826 W. King St. LTC, Room 474

To reach Pastor Sarah for emergency pastoral care, hospitalizations or end of life visits, call or text 989-220-1710

Prayer requests can be submitted to the church office by phone 989-725-2201, or email firstumc@owossofumc.org



Noah's Ark Children's Center

We continue to actively recruit for the 2026–2027 GSRP/PreK for All school year. Our planned January event was canceled due to extremely cold temperatures to ensure the safety of our families and staff.

All staff members have recently renewed their CPR certifications or completed new certifications.

We remain committed to strengthening the quality of care we provide by offering ongoing monthly staff training focused on best practices and professional growth.

Ongoing staff development remains a valuable tool for maintaining consistency, safety, and quality across the program.

We will be hosting **Kindness Week** from **February 9–13**. We are currently accepting donations of blank cards, envelopes, stickers, stamps, and other materials that can be used by children to create cards and spread kindness within the community.

Jennifer Fuentes, Director

989-725-2202

director@naccpreschool.com

3	Brian Lawcock	15	James Mullins
6	Tori Luna	19	Alex Kelley
10	Kit Kuhlman	20	Patrick Elliott
11	Kelvin Alderman	27	Faith VanderMolen
		27	Matthew VanderMolen



Happy Birthday

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	
1 4th Sunday After Epiphany 9 am - Adult Sunday School 10 am - Worship with Communion	2 11:00 TOPS 12:30 pm Women's Circle / Cafe	3 12:00 pm Singles Over Sixty at 401 Restaurant 6:30 pm Nominations/Lay Leadership Team	4 8am-Coffee Club 9am - NACC Chapel 2:00-3:30 pm Bible Study/Café 6:30 Missions / Zoom	5 9am - Owo Area Min. Assoc.-Cafe	6 7pm AA	7 8:30 am Men's Breakfast	
8 5th Sunday After Epiphany 9 am - Adult Sunday School 10 am - Worship	Noah's Ark Children's Center - Kindness Week			11 8am-Coffee Club 2:00-3:30 pm Bible Study/Café 6:30 pm Worship Team	12 11 am Older Adult Ministry Team <u>Min Rpts. DUE</u>	13 7pm AA	14 9-11 am Senior Food Distribution
15 Transfiguration Sunday 9am - Adult Sunday School 10 am - Worship	16 11:00 TOPS	17 6:30 pm - Noah's Ark Board	18 Ash Wednesday 8am-Coffee Club 9 am - Kids Chapel Noon - Ash Service 2:00-3:30 pm Bible Study/Café 6 pm ASH WED SERVICE	19 6:00 pm Leadership Board	20 7pm AA	21 9 am Doing Justice Training / University UMC Lansing	
22 1st Sunday in Lent 9 am -Adult Sunday School 10 am - Worship	23 11:00 TOPS 6:30 Stephen Ministry / Zoom	Pastor at <i>Fresh Expressions</i> Continuing Education Conference		24 12-Bible Study Knowing Who We Are 6:30 pm C3 / Zoom	25 8am-Coffee Club 2:00-3:30 pm Bible Study/Café	26 7pm AA	27 7pm AA

First United Methodist Church 1500 N. Water Street Owosso, MI 48867	Estimate of Giving Card 2026
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Name (please print) _____ Phone _____

Yes! I/We will financially support First United Methodist's mission and ministry in 2026.
 I/We estimate my/our financial gifts to be *(Please choose one)*:
 \$ _____ weekly for 52 weeks \$ _____ monthly for 12 months
 \$ _____ one time gift \$ _____ other _____

I would like help setting up online giving.

Yes, I/We will financially support the church but are not able to make a specific commitment at this time.

I/We would appreciate speaking with the Pastor before making a commitment.

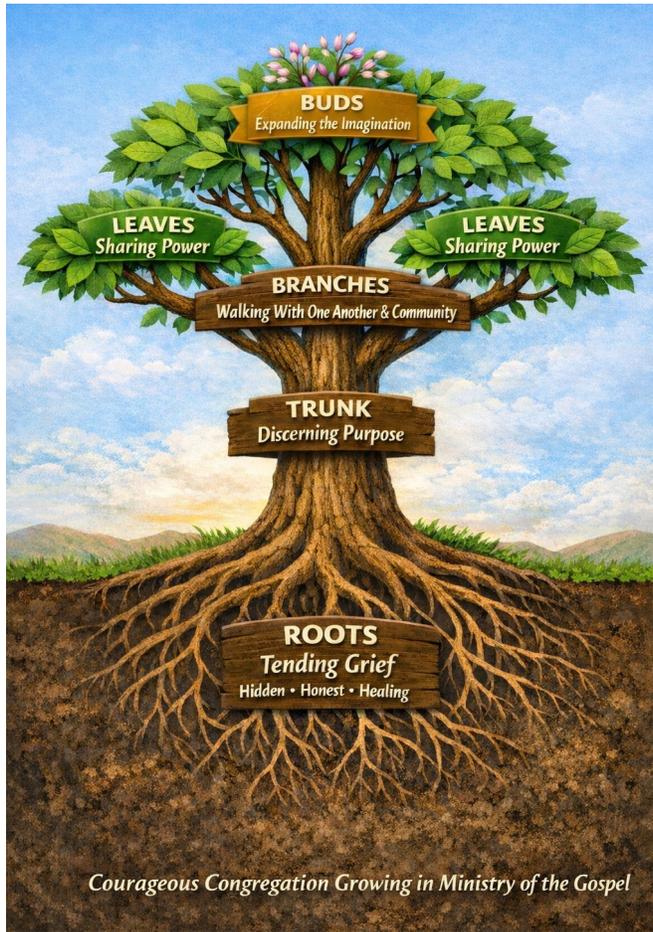
I/We will watch for more information on how I might give of my time and spiritual gifts.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please place card in offering plate or drop off or mail to church office. Thank you!



First United Methodist Church



Church Staff

Rev. Sarah Elliott

Karin VanderMolen,
Admin. Asst. &
Bookkeeper

Jon Carroll,
Building Supervisor

James Mullins,
Music & Audio/Visual
Coordinator

Jennifer Fuentes,
Noah's Ark Director

The MISSION of
Owosso First United
Methodist Church is to live
out our faith in Jesus Christ
through acts of love with
honesty, integrity, and
respect.

The VISION of
Owosso First United
Methodist Church is to be
Christ-centered, a welcome
and loving environment,
service-oriented, and
respectful of ALL creation.

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 Owosso, MI 48867