



Lithopolis United Methodist Church

Inviting people to be in relationship with Jesus and each other so that lives and communities are changed



Carl's Build volunteers gathering in front on one of the two homes built during the Wall Build in September.

Many Moments Changing Lives

By Charles Martindell

How important might it be for a person living with homelessness to receive needed clothes, or shoes, or a suitcase? Or what if a child moved to emergency foster care (is there any other kind?) and needed a ready supply of some of the basics? In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus reminds us that providing food for anyone who is hungry is the same as caring for Christ. But how do we do that? When tornadoes or hurricanes wipe out whole neighborhoods or communities, how can any of us make a difference in responses to such overwhelming need?



What if we as a church could join with one another, connecting to both our local community and neighborhood, while also touching lives in such far-reaching ways?

I ask because all of the above were part of how LUMC changed lives through the active sharing of Christ's love with others. In early August, a large team of servants from the church joined for this year's Trash & Treasure. Over \$10,000 was raised to support ministries we partner with to impact lives near and far. Along with the money raised and given away, many re-usable items were also distributed to mission partners that shared our giveaways with people in our own region and in many other places around the world.

Story continued on page 2.



Many Moments Changing Lives continued from page 1.

Here's a partial list of how we shared God's love through this annual ministry of the whole church that is led by the United Methodist Women. Thank you to everyone who prayed and served and gave!! This list represents many moments that also changed whole lives.

- Canal Winchester Human Services and Food Pantry
- UMCOR (the emergency response mission of the United Methodist denomination)
- Maple Street UMC Free Store - clothing and other goods left at end of the sale
- Perry County Children Services - suitcases and bags to be used by foster children
- Kind Hands 4 Paws - children's books to be used for fundraiser
- Local Outreach Volunteers (LOV), sex trafficking and homelessness outreach - purses, sports bras, socks
- Ohio Fuzzy Paws Shih Tzu Rescue - dog items and items for September auction
- Shoes donated through the Church of Methodist Boat of Grace in the Caribbean Virgin Island
- Shoes for persons living with homeless
- LUMC knitting Ministry yarn
- LUMC Children's Ministry items
- And several other local mission partners supported through donations of many items.



A note of thanks to friends of LUMC for all the beautiful cards and encouraging words sent to me after having back surgery. I am feeling better and stronger each day. God is Good!

**In Christian Love,
Patty Spence**

I can't thank you all enough for the prayers and words of encouragement you sent my way. You have no idea just how much they helped get me through these past few months.

**Thank you for being praying church!
Judy Scholl**

**Lithopolis United Methodist Church,
On behalf of our staff, we wanted to send our heartfelt thanks for the goodies you left our staff. We are so thankful to live in such a giving community.**

Thank you so much for your generous donation towards our lunch program, it's very much appreciated. Our community partnership means a lot to our staff and students!!

Bloom Carroll Intermediate School Staff

**Pastor Charles, Karen, Alex, and church family,
Thank you so much for the special prayers for Jessie when he became ill in church. Also, thanks to the three nurses who were right there with him until the squad got there (Wretha, Sandy, and Barb). God bless each and every one of you.**

**We are so blessed and thankful,
Jessie & Betty Mills**

Carl's Build

By Kimberly Weaver

In September, over 180 volunteers gathered for our second annual Habitat for Humanity Wall Build. Carl Spencer was an instrumental part in bringing this amazing service opportunity to our church and community. After his sudden passing last year, we felt it only fitting that this year's Wall Build be called "Carl's Build". It was a powerful day of celebrating the legacy Carl left and honoring the servant-leadership he provided here at LUMC. There were people of all ages and experience levels involved as we built the walls for, not one, but TWO homes! The first home was loaded and delivered to a veteran in Kentucky after we completed the walls. The second went to Lorena, a single mom in Zanesville, and her two children. Some from our church were able to travel with the walls and personally meet Lorena during the construction of her home. Carl's wife, Kathy, wanted to share a few words on what the build meant to her and her family. Here's a letter she wrote to our church family.



Lorena (6th from the left), her two children (7th and 9th from the left), and the volunteers helping with her home.

Last year when LUMC did the first wall build, Carl and I were at Cleveland Clinic. Charles texted Carl some pictures of the signs and said he needed Carl's help! Carl burst into tears and said, "I wanted to help build that house so bad." Then he added, "But it's not about me." And that's how Carl lived his life, selfless and serving – not about him. I told him we would build the next one together. And thanks to all of you, we built two houses!

It was a great but bittersweet day! Tears, laughter and hard work! Thank you to our wonderful church family and friends who made it happen!! Thank you to Jennifer Loeffler for leading the missions team, Charles and Alex for all their work, Norm and Melissa Tremblay for donating the shirts and who are going to continue the organization of the completion, Charlie Kennedy for doing the set-up, Ann Morrow for organizing the food, Tiffany for leading the little kids in "building" with Legos while their parents did the walls, Steve Stanford for the Carl's Build diorama, and all the other helpers along the way!

It's an honor and privilege to be a part of Lithopolis United Methodist Church and even greater – being Jesus's hands and feet, building God's kingdom.

It's my prayer that we all left there inspired, asking ourselves what kind of legacy we want to leave behind, continuing God's work!

I love you guys!
Kathy Spencer and family



The Carl Spencer family.

Mercy Rejoices Over Judgement

By Denise Price

This Fall, our Faith Knits group got together to make scarves for those in need within our community. Before distributing them, we prayed over the scarves in church, and then volunteers took them to various locations in our area. Denise was one of those who helped and we think you'll love her story.

I want to share with you about a wonderful interaction I had when I took one of the beautiful scarves that was made with such love here at the church. I took it to a homeless shelter in Lancaster and when I first got there, there was a beautiful sign out front that had a Bible verse on it. It was from James 2:13 and said, "Mercy rejoices over judgement". I'd actually read that Bible verse right before I left my house. It was a "God wink" moment and I absolutely love those moments. The shelter hadn't opened up yet and there was a homeless gentleman on the outside. We had the opportunity to talk for a while and had a really nice conversation. I gave him the scarf and he was so thankful. He wrapped it around his neck and got the biggest smile on his face. He said, "God bless you!" And I said, "God bless you too!" And then we hugged one another. I don't know, I felt like we shared more than just a scarf. We shared the love of Jesus.



Denise Price



Would you like to join our Faith Knits group in making a difference in our community through knitting or crocheting? We'd love to have your help! We're "working from home" over the winter to continue making scarves and squares (for Hospice lapghans). If you'd like more details, want to learn how to knit/crochet, or want to browse through the donated yarn at church, please contact Beth DeLong (beth.delong08@gmail.com) or Kimberly Weaver (kimberly@lithopolisumc.org).



Coming Through the Battlefield

By Judy Scholl

When I was a child, my mother told me that I needed to listen to my heart and I would find the right answers. She also said to be aware that I had two choices; to listen to the little devil on my left shoulder or the angel on the right. I have spent my whole life listening to the chatter between both of them. Of course, I make a lot of bad choices, but I also make some good ones.

I never really thought about the possibility of a time when I would be put to the test with my faith, to be told that I had become a victim of breast cancer. The time to make the choice of treatments was overwhelming to say the least. Once the choice to have a lumpectomy was made, I kept hearing a little voice saying, "this is not what you really want". I was angry. I was sad. I was miserable. But I kept convincing myself that I made the right choice.



Judy Scholl

The Battlefield of the Mind by Joyce Meyer was given to me to read. I soon came to realize that I was doing battle the wrong way. I needed to listen to my heart. For me, this was a huge challenge since I'm a person whose mind is so busy wandering around in circles. It was hard to get it to stay still for any length of time. I had to find a way to filter out all the clutter.

So, the battle began. It was so hard to shut down my mind. I prayed for the strength and courage to follow through with what my heart was telling me. Finally, I heard the answer..."mastectomy". There would be no turning back. I could feel the peace and calmness flowing through my body. That peace has remained with me to this day. God has blessed me to the fullest. I am cancer free.

I feel there is a reason that I was to take this journey. When I was recovering from my surgery, a little voice said, "now you are to share your journey with others". I have done so by using laughter instead of sadness. The outcome of this journey has taught me that faith, hope, and God's love are your armor to fight any battle that comes your way. Jesus has always been by my side; I just haven't always reached out for his hand. I sure do now. I have been blessed with special friendships, a wonderful church family, and a closer bond with God.

Everyone at the Bloom Carroll Intermediate School would like to extend a heartfelt thanks and gratitude to our community for their help in making the Veteran's Day Assembly a memorable event, not only for our veterans, but their families, friends, and students. We look forward to working with our neighbors and friends in the community again next year to make the Veterans' Day Assembly a wonderful reflection of the admiration and appreciation we have for these incredibly selfless individuals who have sacrificed for our freedom.

Bloom Carroll Intermediate Staff and Students





FINANCE FOCUS

Financial data thru September 30, 2019

Fund Balances

General	\$ 52,881
Building	\$ 67,943
Planned Replacement	\$ 104,778
Endowment	\$ 35,700
Other Designated Funds	\$ 34,311

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7 NIV

General Fund Activity

Contributions to the General Fund pay for general operating expenses of the church including: music expense, payroll expense, office supply expense, parsonage maintenance and utilities, church maintenance and utilities, and apportionments.

General Fund	Oct-19	YTD 2019		
Contributions	39,400	450,398		
Expenses	43,252	435,894		
Difference	(3,852)	14,504		

- YTD 2019 General Fund contributions have decreased 3.2% compared to 2018.

Building Fund Activity

Building Fund Income for October 2019 = \$4,511

Other Designated Funds

Designated Funds are funds that are contributed to LUMC for a specific purpose. Some examples are: Different Kind of Christmas, Local Missions, Conference Special Offerings, Memorials, and Youth.

Questions or Comments? Contact Amy Bratton, LUMC Treasurer
amy@lithopolisumc.org or 614-271-6242