

TOWER NOTES - FEBRUARY 2025

Prospect Street - A United Methodist Congregation

Volume 16, Issue 2



As we enter into this special month of February, I reflect once again (can you ever really reflect enough?) on this gift of love. Love is such a hard concept to understand in my opinion. And I think you all would agree with me. We can't help but love some folks more than others. It's just natural. When I say I love my neighbors, I would be lying if I said I loved them as much as I love my wife and kids. And this is where the many different kinds of love come in. I believe we know of romantic love and family love.

These kinds of loves are based on how we feel about people and perhaps how long we have known them and how close we have become with them. We favor them over other people based on these factors. How we are called to love our neighbor, I believe simply, boils down to seeing them as though they have value and worth. To love another is to see their human-ness. Often we de-humanize people by categorizing them into a larger group of people based on one or two traits. We de-humanize people and objectify people which goes even further than stereotyping. We objectify people when we deny them or become insensitive to their basic human needs and rights. The gospel story is amazing in regards of Jesus who saw the humanity in everyone. He dined with "sinners" who had been objectified. He healed the sick who also had been objectified. He forgave people who trespassed against him instead of judging them (again, objectification). And yet, he himself was objectified on the cross. The son of God who showed love to all who was shown so little himself in the end.

To love is to see one another's humanity which is to be empathetic with one another. To stereotype is to come to a judgement on someone else's life. When we judge, it is the same as drawing a line in the sand. I have no problem with drawing those lines that we need to draw. We have to at some point refuse to give another inch. The problem for many of us is that we draw that line way too far away from other people. To draw that line is to say, I have heard enough and I am done, I have made a judgement of who you are and my mind is set. In doing so, we limit and cut short people's lives and stories which are a part of their humanity. The further that line goes back, the less we are willing to compromise. But the truth is, you can't say you love your neighbor without showing some compromise. Of course, remember now, compromise is never a one way street. It's a street that meets in the middle. To love our neighbor is to be willing to go to the middle. For it is there that we will, in love, better understand one another and the humanity that exists within us all.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Josh Freshour". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Rev. Josh Freshour



- 1 Nancy Kimbel
- 3 James Hathaway, Keith Seckel
- 4 Diane Padrutt
- 5 Pam Larkin
- 6 Ben Criswell, Colby Long
- 7 Phyllis Heineman, Diane Row
- 8 Lynette Burris
- 10 Steven Carpenter
- 12 Lauren Frank
- 13 Gary Redd
- 14 Nathan Lambert
- 18 Quinn Wilson, Izzy Fassler
- 20 Judith Brumfield
- 22 Johanna Davidson
- 23 Art Barbour
- 24 Adam Miller
- 25 Charlene Spillman, Haley & Keeley Criswell, Angela Boyd
- 28 McKenna Haas
- 29 Doyle McGlothlin

*May God bless you with His boundless love, calming peace,
and heavenly joy throughout the coming year!*

Attendance

Date	Sunday School	8:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
December 24	Christmas Eve Services – 5:30 p.m. – 67		7:30 p.m. - 119
December 29	32	25	66
January 5	35	18	87
January 12	36	29	79
January 19	28	22	68
January 26	26	19	95

8:30 a.m. Greeters & Sound Board Schedule

Greeters – 8:30 Worship

February 2 – Mike & Linda Mills
February 9 – Gary & Sandy Redd
February 16 – Ginger Kauble
February 23 – Art & Marilyn Barbour

	Sound 8:30	Camera 8:30	Slides 8:30
1st Sunday	Nate Freshour	Linda Mills	Sam Freshour
2nd Sunday	Ben Criswell	Gary Redd	John Lewis
3rd Sunday	Ben Criswell	Lynn Mullins	Sam Freshour
4th Sunday	Ben Criswell	Pam Larkin	Judy Stambazze/Julie Kubbs
5th Sunday	Lleyton Holsinger		Sara McKenney

10:30 a.m. Liturgist, Greeters & Acolytes, Bell Ringers, & Sound Board Schedule

Liturgist – 10:30 Worship

February 2 – Faye Roszman
February 9 – Scout Sunday
February 16 – Mary Flach
February 23 – Colleen McCartney

Greeters & Acolytes – 10:30 Worship

February 2 – Janey Fassler
February 9 – Scout Sunday
February 16 – Pastor Joe & Joyce Miller
February 23 – Charlene Spillman & Mary Flach

Bell Ringers

February 2 – Allan & Janell O’Neil
February 9 – The Deeter Family
February 16 – John & Diane Row
February 23 – Mike & Linda Mills

	Sound 10:30	Camera 10:30	Slides 10:30
1st Sunday	Ben Criswell	Addyson Holsinger	John Holsinger
2nd Sunday	Aurora Roszman	Janey Fassler	Joe Miller
3rd Sunday	Ben Criswell	Sara McKenney	Trevinal McGlothlin
4th Sunday	Ben Criswell	Janey Fassler	Colin Boyd
5th Sunday	Lleyton Holsinger	John Holsinger	Sara McKenney

Hospitality Center

1st Sunday – Guiding Light Circle
2nd Sunday – Mary Flach
3rd Sunday – Serendipity Sunday School Class
4th Sunday – Martha Horne Circle
5th Sunday – New Beginnings Sunday School Class

Please pray for our Shut-In Members: Darlene Beveridge, Virginia Chaney, Nettie Criswell, Pat Flinchbaugh, Betty Hampton, Louis Hughes, Bob Lucas, Barbara Parks, Brenda Rider, and Trent Standley.

Sympathy Notes

We express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Ernest & Norma Denney. Norma was called to her heavenly home December 25th, 2024; Ernest was called to his heavenly home January 9th, 2025.

Directory Change

Louis Hughes, Kingston Residence, **Room 114**, 464 James Way, Marion, OH 43302

Team Meetings

The Prayer Team will meet on Sunday, February 2nd, after the second service.

The Board of Trustees will meet on Monday, February 3rd, at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

The Staff-Pastor-Parish-Relations Team will meet on Monday, February 10th, at 6 p.m. in the Upper Room

The Finance Team will meet on Thursday, February 13th, at 7 p.m. in the Upper Room

The **Sacrament of Holy Communion** will be served at both services on Sunday, February 2nd.

Sub Pick-up times are: Thursday, February 6th, from 5 – 7 p.m., Friday, February 7th, from 5:30-6:30 p.m., Saturday, February 8th, from 10 – 11 a.m., and after both services on Feb.9th. If anyone has an interest in helping to serve our Church with this fundraiser, and would like to join us prepping the subs on Tuesday, February 4th, at 5 p.m. to help slice and stack the meat and cheese, or Thursday, February 6th, at 10 a.m. and/or 5 p.m. to make the subs, it would be greatly appreciated. It really is a lot of fun making the subs and enjoying fellowship at the same time. Please see Pete or Judy Stambazze on what is needed. Thanks!

Save-the-Date – Happy 90th Birthday Open House for Phyllis Heineman February 7th, from 2 - 5 p.m. at her home, 1670 Union Park Circle.

Men's Prayer Breakfast will be held on Saturday, February 15th, at 8 a.m. There will be good food, devotions and fellowship! Please join this amazing group of men!

The **Valentine Caroling** is fast approaching! In 2025, we will be a blessing to others on Sunday, February 16th. A light lunch will be provided by the UWIF immediately after the second service. Then we will establish driving routes, pass out song books, and edible treats to deliver. Some of the songs in the booklet are: "You are my Sunshine", "Let Me Call You Sweetheart", "Oh, How I Love Jesus", and "Jesus Loves Me". Please consider joining this outreach ministry. All are welcome to make a joyful noise - families, children, and all ages of willing singers. There is a sign-up sheet in the Atrium!

Newsletter Deadline will be Thursday, February 20th, for our March 2025 Tower Notes!

Neighborhood Supper will be Friday, February 21st, from 5 – 6 p.m. as a Carry-Out Meal.

Free Community Breakfast will be held again on Saturday, February 22nd, from 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. This community outreach is sponsored by the Men's Prayer Breakfast group and the UWIF's S.K.I. Group. This breakfast is free and open to all (donations will be accepted). This will be a wonderful opportunity to get involved and support this effort to reach out into our community and build relationships with our neighbors and be fulfilled in sharing the love and grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Come one, come all to help, support or just have breakfast and fellowship. If you have questions, please contact Bill Bess at 740-360-3965. Hope to see you there.

Noisy Collection will be on Sunday, February 23rd, for our Vacation Bible School Fund.

We will collect for the **Salvation Army Food Pantry** on Sunday, February 23rd. Suggested donations: **Baker's Choices**. They are also in need of paper products and feminine products. Put your donations in the shopping cart in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you!

Laundry Love Ministry will be Monday, February 24th, at 4:30 p.m. at the Southtown Cleaning Village, 355 S. Main Street in Marion. If you would like to head up this ministry, please call the church office.

The **Monday Morning Bible Study** will meet every Monday at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

The **Flower Calendar for 2025** is hanging up in the hallway. The price for fresh flowers is \$46.95. Silk flowers are still \$5.00. Select your date to remember a loved one or to honor a family member or friend. Make checks payable to Prospect Street United Methodist Church.

Servant Opportunities

Saturday, February 8th, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Catered meal for the D.A.R. in our Fellowship Hall. Those helping will prep food, serve plates, and clean up after the meal.

Sunday, February 16th, Valentine Caroling - Right after the second service we will meet for a light lunch in the Fellowship Hall, securing routes, then off to sing to our members in nursing homes and the shut-ins. The entire event should be over by 3 p.m. Please prayerfully consider this mission project.

Monday, February 24th, and every last Monday of every month, approximately 4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Southland Cleaning Village on South Main Street. More servant volunteers are urgently needed. This ministry assists people with completing their laundry by supplying soap/dryer sheets and the quarters for the machines. The consumers do their own laundry; we just socialize with them while providing them with the financial means to have clean clothes. Nancy Kimbel would like a new leader for the group to step up and say, "Yes I can do that". ONE TIME A MONTH – think about it. All it costs you is your time and the ability to share kind gestures. If you want to know more, please give Erika or Nancy a call.

Sunday School

The **New Beginnings Sunday School Class** began studying the Gospel of Luke in late January. This 13-week study will run until late April, close to Easter, so there is plenty of time for you to join us without having missed much. And the timing is perfect to prepare our hearts for Easter. If you're not currently in a Sunday School class you're invited to give us a try. This class alternates quarterly between the Old and New Testaments and we try to make it interesting by seeing what the Bible really says, when stories in it occurred and how the Old Testament ties into the New. We do a recap of the prior week's lesson at the start of each class to catch up any who missed that lesson so you will know what's going should you decide to join us mid-stream. We have pretty consistent attendance so we might be doing something right. We meet in the basement, right off the elevator. Come join us. Dave McCartney

The **Young Adult Sunday School Class** meets in the Upper Room. Hollie Freshour is the facilitator.

The **Teen Sunday School Class** meets on the 3rd floor in the youth room. Rev. Brooke Hilliard is the teacher.

The ***Serendipity Sunday School Class*** will continue to study the sermon scriptures each week until Lent. We will pursue a stand-alone Lenten Study beginning March 9th by Andy Stanley. Please consider attending an adult Sunday School Class. Your spiritual walk will be enhanced by hearing others thoughts and sharing your thoughts. Come share the joy!



United
Women
in Faith

The ***Hilda Weiss Circle*** will meet on Monday, February 10th, at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The new president, Norma Stump, will co-host the meeting with Phyllis Heineman.

The ***Guiding Light Circle*** will meet on Tuesday, February 11th, at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Charlene Spillman and Linda Kear will be the hostesses and the program will be the Silent Meal.

S.K.I. Group – President Deb Welch states that the group will meet at hostess Sue Bess' home on Tuesday, February 18th, at 6 p.m.

The ***United Women In Faith Executive Board*** will meet Monday, February 24th, at 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank You Notes

Dear Church Family, please accept my sincere thanks, appreciation, and gratitude for all the loving support you have given me over the last 3 months. I have received many cards and phone calls. Visitors are always welcome! Thanks for the many kind gestures. I hope to see you all soon. With Praise to Him, **Neil Miller**

Thank you for giving to Red Bird! Your giving to Red Bird is important to all of the programs bringing hope to hundreds here in these mountains. We are grateful for your gift of \$1,000 for Mission General received September 16, 2024.

Prayer Team

Greetings from the Prayer Team! To begin, we would like to thank Dave Starnar. Dave has stepped off of the Prayer Team. We will miss his input and contributions. We are planning our Good Friday Prayer Vigil. It will be held on April 18th. Hours to be announced later. Also in the planning stages are plans for a "Prayer Station, during the Popcorn Festival and treat bags for Trunk-or-Treat. As we study prayer, we are looking for new ways to implement ways to pray. We want to incorporate everyone. Please remember to pray for us as we pray for you.

Education Team

Due to the cold weather, the Education Team did not meet in time to give you a report from our January meeting. Topics to be discussed include the Spring Fling/Easter Egg Hunt, VBS, and the VBS kick-off Carnival. I will share the pertinent dates as soon as possible after we meet.

If you were able to help with the carnival and/or VBS last year, I'm hoping you will be willing and able to help again this year. If you plan to be available for VBS this year, please let Colleen McCartney know ASAP. [Colleen's email: mrs.mcbasket2@yahoo.com or her cell phone: (740)802-0641. Thank you!

If you had a Background Check last year you do not need to repeat that process for this year. If you have not had a Background Check and plan to work with the children, please contact Erika in the office and she will help you with the necessary forms.

We are looking forward to a fun and fulfilling Spring and Summer with our children.



I Am A Man – Chief Standing Bear’s Journey For Justice, By Joe Starita. This book chronicles the Chief’s 600 mile walk to take his son back to true tribal land to be buried. It covers all types of trials and tribulations he encountered and overcame. It contains relevant pictures and several maps that add to the story line.

A Knock at Midnight, by Brittany K. Barnett. This book is riddled with “what, how can that be done!?!?” moments. This is an intense read and spans a story of hope, justice, and freedom among the many unjust plights.

Glory in the Margins by Nickki Grimes. This book of poetry is a delight. She writes poems for the whole Christian calendar. Her writings will make you think, take notice of scripture, smile, sing, and just be glad to be reading. All three of these books are on the United Women In Faith Reading Program List. I encourage any member of our church to give any one of these books serious consideration for a Sunday afternoon reading.

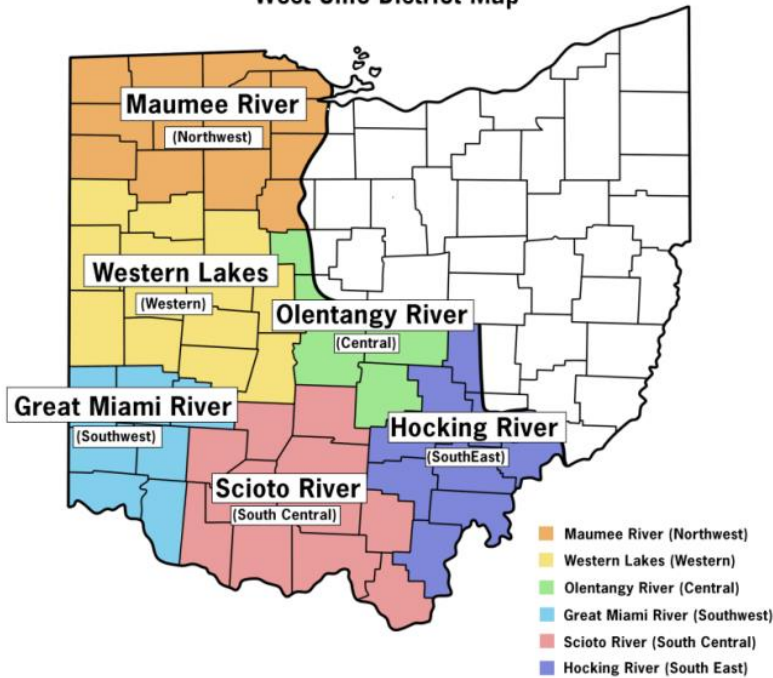


Happy February friends.

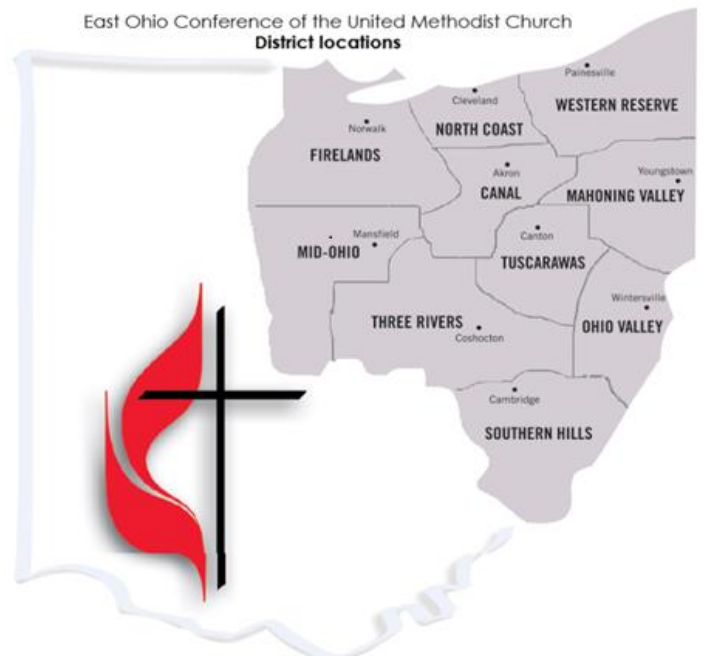
Did you know that our church is part of the West Ohio Conference? Did you know that our church is located in the Olentangy District of the West Ohio Conference? Here is some information that may enlighten. I'll just touch on some facts. Please feel free to discover more yourself at <https://www.westohioumc.org/>

West Ohio Conference - The United Methodist Church The West Ohio Conference includes more than 700 United Methodist Churches in 58 counties. Bishop Hee-Soo Jung serves as the spiritual and executive leader of the conference. **Unified in Diversity for Christ** - From the small town to the downtown, from county seats to the Capitol, from the flat farmlands to the rolling hills, the Olentangy River District is a diverse and unique area. In the same way, our congregations and spiritual leaders are a diverse group united by the love of God and the love of others. The Olentangy River District of the West Ohio Conference serves churches in Franklin, Licking, Fairfield and portions of Marion and Delaware counties.

West Ohio District Map



East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church
District locations



<p>Olentangy River District Office 32 Wesley Boulevard, Suite 100 Worthington, OH 43085 Phone: 380-222- 0600</p>	<p>Email: olentangyriver@wocumc.org</p> <p>District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Calvin Alston - calston@wocumc.org</p> <p>Regional Missional Specialist, Rev. Dr. Sara Thomas - sarathomas@wocumc.org</p> <p>Office Administrator, Diana Keefer - dkeefe@wocumc.org Office Hours: Monday thru Friday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm - Holidays Observed</p>
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The West Ohio Conference site tells of many workshops, online lectures and events. Here are some examples of information that you will find:

1.) Church and Community - What is happening to our sense of community? What is the impact of technology, particularly smartphones, on personal connections? Explore how the church can foster deeper, intentional relationships amidst society's fragmentation.

<https://www.westohioumc.org/olentangyriver/news/episode-355-church-and-community-fragmented-world>

2.) #BeUMC - #BeUMC reminds us of who we are and the principles we hold dear as a people of faith. Whether you're reconnecting with the campaign or joining for the first time, your involvement can help to spread the message of love, inclusivity, and community that defines The United Methodist Church. Want to participate? Please contact mkuhn@wocumc.org.

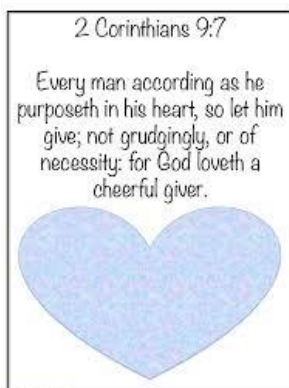
3.) Upcoming Zoom presentation: "Leadership Training - One Board Leadership Model": Tuesday, February 4, 2025

4.) Upcoming Webinar - "Clergy, You, Your Church, and Your Taxes!": Monday, February 10, 2025 11:00AM, CST

***On a side-note..let's talk a bit about stewardship. Financially, PSUMC could use a boost. Please consider these thoughts from gotquestions.org: "Although no tithe is demanded of the Christian, the New Testament talks about the importance and benefits of giving. We are to give as we are able. Sometimes that means giving more than 10 percent; sometimes that may mean giving less. *It all depends on the ability of the Christian and the needs of the body of Christ.* Every Christian should diligently pray and seek God's wisdom in the matter (James 1:5). Above all, offerings should be given with pure motives and an attitude of worship to God and service to the body of Christ. "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7)." I'll conclude with a quote by Jimmy Carter, "I have one life and one chance to make it count for something... My faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can with whatever I have to try to make a difference."



Blessings, Lynette



Church Finances

Check Requests will be processed on Fridays! If you need to have a check written, please bring your receipt with the purchase order to the church office. Purchase orders are available from the office or on the wall in the choir room. Erika will prepare the checks, and they will be signed on Fridays.

E-Tithing is an automatic withdrawal from your checking account and is remitted automatically to the church. We can set it up so it will deduct from your checking account on the 1st and/or the 15th of each month. Contact the church office for more information!

Kroger Community Rewards – Please enroll in the Kroger Community Program. Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com and all the details on creating an online account are there. Under Community Rewards make sure you search and select “Prospect St. United Meth. Chur” our Organization number is VF478. Thank you! If you have any questions, please call Erika.

If you have any question or concerns, please call Erika or see our Treasurer, Pete Stambazze.

Military Prayer List

Each Sunday a candle is lit for those in the military. Perhaps some of you are still using our military prayer list. I try to keep that updated. Here is the list I have now. If you know of others that should be deleted, or you would like to add someone, please let Norma Stump know. Her phone number is 1-267-387-1251.

ARMY	NAVY	AIR FORCE
Brandon & Page Chaney Jeremy Conn John Bradley Fausnaugh Kelly McDowell Jonas Meligan Drew Row Josh Stambaugh Waitman Kapaldo Luke Bushatz (National Guard, Alaska)	Michael Harbolt Brandon Litell Andrew Craig (Reserve in Nevada) Darren Mills (New Zealand)	David McGinnis (National Guard) Lydia Highfill
	MARINES	
	Willie Morris John Stertz Jr. Michael Sullivan	

February

Prayer List

Each Day, as you pray, please remember to include the people that are named within this newsletter – those celebrating birthdays, our service men and women, the various missions, and the people and activities listed in our prayer guide.

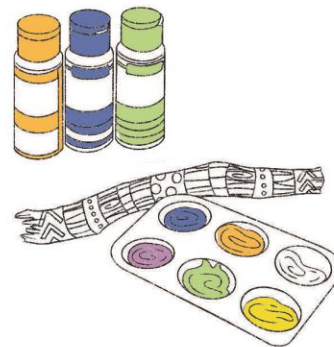
Please pray for:

1. Nancy Kimbel and Laundry Love Ministry
2. Those preparing and serving Communion this day
3. Keith Seckel and Karen Seckel
4. James Hathaway and Diane Padrutt
5. Pam Larkin and Debbie Welch
6. Ben Criswell and Colby Long
7. Diane Row and Phyllis Heineman
8. Lynette Burris and her Lay Ministry
9. Our organist and pianist
10. Steve Carpenter and Lauren Frank
11. The S.K.I. Group and the Guiding Light Circle
12. Gary Redd & Nathan Lambert
13. The Children's choir, as they practice this evening
14. Give thanks for the people who love you
15. Those sharing the Men's Prayer Breakfast at our church this morning
16. The Carolers, as they spread joy today
17. Our Country
18. Izzy Fassler and Quinn Wilson
19. Our choir, as they practice this evening
20. Your Neighbors
21. The kitchen servers and meal runners at our Neighborhood supper today
22. The servants offering the Community Breakfast to all who come to be fed
23. Our Sunday School Teachers
24. The Boy Scouts as they meet at our church this evening
25. Charlene Spillman, Angela Boyd, Keeley Criswell, Haley Criswell
26. The children in your life
27. The first person you thought about this morning
28. Your Primary Care Physician

February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Holy Communion 8:30 a.m. Praise Celebration 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship Prayer Team after church	3 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6 p.m. Board of Trustees 6:30 p.m. BSA Scouts	4 5 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. TOPS Weigh-In & Meeting 5 p.m. Sub Prep	5 7 p.m. Senior Choir	6 10 a.m. & 5 p.m. Sub Making 5 – 7 p.m. Sub Pick-Up 7 p.m. Children's Choir	7 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Sub Pick-Up	8 10 – 11 a.m. Sub Pick-Up Catered Meal
9 8:30 a.m. Praise Celebration 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship Ladies' Lunch 2 – 5 p.m. Personal Use of Fellowship Hall	10 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 1 p.m. Hilda Weiss Circle 6 p.m. Staff-Pastor-Parish Relations 6:30 p.m. BSA Scouts	11 1 p.m. Guiding Light Circle 5 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. TOPS Weigh-In & Meeting	12 7 p.m. Senior Choir	13 7 p.m. Finance Team 7 p.m. Children's Choir	14	15 8 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast
16 8:30 a.m. Praise Celebration 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship Valentine Caroling after church	17 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. BSA Scouts	18 5 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. TOPS Weigh-In & Meeting 6 p.m. S.K.I. Group @ Sue Bess' home	19 7 p.m. Senior Choir	20 3:45 p.m. Mobile Meals 7 p.m. Children's Choir Newsletter Deadline	21 5 – 6 p.m. Neighborhood Supper Carry-Out Meal	22 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. Community Breakfast
23 8:30 a.m. Praise Celebration 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship Salvation Army Food Pantry Collection Noisy Collection	24 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 2 p.m. UWIF Exec. Board 4:30 p.m. Laundry Love 6:30 p.m. BSA Scouts	25 5 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. TOPS Weigh-In & Meeting	26 7 p.m. Senior Choir	27 7 p.m. Children's Choir	28	

Beaded Wind Chimes



What you need:



What to do:

- 1) paint the stick (use painter's tape for a striped effect)
- 2) twist eye hooks into the wood
- 3) add strings of beads and tie to eye hooks
- 4) add two eye hooks on top and use jute string to hang up the wind chime

Add small bells on the ends of the string for extra sound!





Prospect Street
A United Methodist Congregation
185 S. Prospect Street
Marion, OH 43302

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SENT WITH A PRAYER AND A BLESSING TO:

Sunday Worship

8:30 a.m. *Praise Celebration*
9:30 a.m. *Sunday School*
10:30 a.m. *Traditional Worship*

Pastor: Joshua Freshour

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Church Phone: 740-382-6069

Web-site: www.prospectstreetumc.com

Pastor Josh: pastor@prospectstreetumc.com

Erika: secretary@prospectstreetumc.com

Fully wheelchair accessible!

Valet Parking!