EAST FAIRFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Lisa Courtwright

Organist: Ruth Rowley | Ministers: The Congregation
Pianist: Nancy Setinsek | Choir Director: Randy Hart

Sunday, March 8, 2026
Third Sunday in Lent

**Please stand in body or spirit as you are able*

Welcome! *You are invited to take this time to prepare for worship. In these moments, quiet your inner voice, become aware of being in community with others, and open your heart & mind to the leading of the Holy Spirit.*

GATHERING ***Morning Hymn -Keller***
God's Glory Is All Planned -Sheppard

CHRIST LIGHT ENTERS

MISSIONS AND MINISTRY UPDATES Deann Davis, Liturgist

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

WORDS OF PREPARATION AND CENTERING

PRELUDE ***Our Prayers We Praise -Martin***

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Wilderness-wanderers, holiness-seekers, listen for God's voice today:
"It's never too late to come home to God."
Although some of us may feel guilt or shame,
It's never too late to come home to God.
Although some of us may feel the weight of regret,
It's never too late to come home to God.
Although some of us may feel pride or resentment,
It's never too late to come home to God.
Here we gather as God's beloved children.
God is celebrating that we are home!
All: Let us rejoice with one another!

*OPENING PRAYER

God of grace, we confess to you today that we have not always used the gifts you have given us well. We have misplaced our priorities and squandered our blessings. Moreover, we have sometimes believed ourselves too far gone to seek forgiveness, to be loved, to change. This, too, has put distance between us. Today, we turn back to you, and we see you running to us with open

arms. Help us receive with joy your warm embrace, take our place at your banquet table, and be led into new life. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN "Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling" UMH #348

READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 103 (NIV) pg 485

*APOSTLES' CREED *see insert*

*GLORIA PATRI UMH #70

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

CHOIR ANTHEM "When I Think Of the Nail Prints" -Beall

OFFERING OURSELVES & OUR GIFTS
INVITATION
OFFERTORY ***The Solid Rock -Bradbury***
*DOXOLOGY UMH #95
*DEDICATION OF GIFTS

SEEKING GOD'S WORD

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS
PASTORAL PRAYER
THE LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" UMH #121

SERMON TEXT Luke 15:11-32 (NIV) pg 849
SERMON *It's Not Too Late to Be Forgiven* Pastor Lisa

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*CLOSING HYMN "Grace Greater Than Our Sin" UMH #365

SENDING FORTH WITH BLESSING

*BLESSING
LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES INTO THE WORLD

~ Go with joy to serve the Lord ~

As we conclude our service, please join us downstairs for a time to relax, continue conversations, and enjoy coffee and refreshments.

TODAY, MARCH 8

Livestream: Hannah Vollnogle Sound: Bill Rowley Computer: Vicki Freeman

Liturgist Next Sunday, March 15 – Jon Vollnogle

Please keep in mind that the service is live-streamed and recorded for public access. Please keep prayer requests brief and do not use last names or identifying details.

PRAYER REQUESTS March 8, 2026

To submit a prayer request call Denise at 330-457-2465 or 330-727-9832

If you desire a home or hospital visit call Pastor Lisa (440-339-6463)

Prayer Blankets: call Joyce Ward (330-692-3346)

John (Brent & Becky's friend) – 4-wheeler accident.
Ryan Houck (12 yr. old) – Passed away from rare disease.
Cameron (Cyndi's son) – In Reserves. Set to deploy.
Ryan (Bettianne's co-worker's son) – Deployed to the Middle East.
Bobby S. – Hip surgery.
Georgia – Health issues.
Anita M. – Health issues.
Family of John Scheel – He passed away Feb. 27, 2026.
Family of Carolyn Holsinger – She passed away suddenly Mar 1, 2026
Perry Bilsky (Denise & Anita's nephew) – Fighting cancer.
Margie (Cindy W.) – Two emergency surgeries after heart attack.
Nancy (Denise's cousin) – 2 blocked arteries in her head and an aneurysm in her neck.
Ken Robb – Passed away Feb. 18. Pray for the family.
Georgette – Had shoulder surgery.
Kristen (Anita Magill) – Hysterectomy in March due to cancer.
MaryAnne Hart – Passed away Feb. 13. Keep family in your prayers.
Sue (Kermit's Wife) – Select Specialty Hospital, Boardman. Some improvement
Rodney (Bud & Phyllis' son) – At Parkside.
Carrie (Wayne & Sue's daughter) – Surgery Feb. 20 to remove spot on kidney.
Sue C. – Recovering at home.

HOMEBOUND

Dolly K. Bill & Barb Anita M. Tom & Marie
Walt D. (Whispering Pines) Zelda C. (Whispering Pines)
Dorothy F. Esther C. Linda S.

IN MINISTRY

Lisa Courtwright Edie Boles Jeff Pellin

Ch Ph: 330-457-2465 **Pastor: 440-339-6463**
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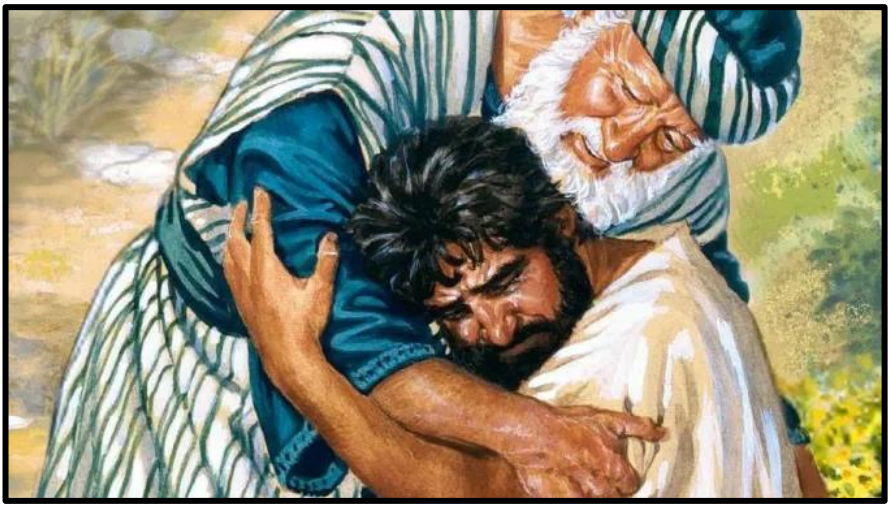
Website: www.eastfairfieldumc.com
CCLI # 1994841 CVLI #504 011 134

East Fairfield
United Methodist Church
Sunday, March 8, 2026

9:30 AM



Rev. Lisa Courtwright
440-339-6463
45675 State Route 558
New Waterford, OH 44445

"Working, playing, and praying together on our faith journey, to share Jesus Christ with everyone."

*APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Easter Flower Order Form

Deadline to order is March 16

(Easter is April 5)

Name

Phone | ENV #

How Many	Item Description	Cost Per Item	Amount Due
	Lily - Single (6” pot)	@ $ 9.25	
	Lily - Double (8” pot)	@ $19.25	
	Tulip – red	@ $ 8.00	
	Tulip – pink	@ $ 8.00	
	Tulip – yellow	@ $ 8.00	
	Tulip – orange	@ $ 8.00	
	Tulip – purple	@ $ 8.00	
	Hyacinth – blue	@ $ 8.00	
	Hyacinth – pink	@ $ 8.00	
	Daffodil	@ $ 8.00	
	Gerbera Daisy - pink	@ $ 9.25	
	Gerbera Daisy – yellow	@ $ 9.25	
	Gerbera Daisy - orange	@ $ 9.25	
	Hydrangea – blue	@ $15.75	
	Hydrangea - pink	@ $15.75	
	Azalea – red	@ $15.75	
	Azalea – pink	@ $15.75	
	Azalea – purple	@ $15.75	
		TOTAL	**$**

In Memory of

In Honor of

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Mar 8 **3rd DAY OF LENT** 9:30 Worship at EF 10:30 Coffee Time 10:45 Sunday School **4:00 4H** (Hannah Farmer)	**Mar 9** **1:00-4:00 Prayer Blankets** 6:00 Cub Scouts	**Mar 10** 8:00 Men's Coffee at East Fairfield UMC **-Ladies' Day**	**Mar 11** **6:00 Lenten Study at East Fairfield** 7:00 Choir Practice **7:00 Scripture & Suds at Brew Lounge**	**Mar 12**	**Mar 13** Pastor's Day Off Office Closed	**Mar 14**
Mar 15 **4th DAY OF LENT** 9:30 Worship at EF 10:30 Coffee Time 10:45 Sunday School	**Mar 16** 6:00 Cub Scouts **7:00 Leadership Board**	**Mar 17** 8:00 Men's Coffee at East Fairfield UMC	**Mar 18** **6:00 Lenten Study at East Fairfield** 7:00 Choir Practice	**Mar 19**	**Mar 20** Pastor's Day Off Office Closed	**Mar 21**
Mar 22 **5th DAY OF LENT** 9:30 Worship at EF 10:30 Coffee Time 10:45 Sunday School **5:00 Potluck Fellowship at Emmanuel UMC**	**Mar 23** **1:00-4:00 Prayer Blankets** 6:00 Cub Scouts	**Mar 24** 8:00 Men's Coffee at East Fairfield UMC **Newsletter Deadline**	**Mar 25** **6:00 Lenten Study at East Fairfield** 7:00 Choir Practice	**Mar 26** **9:00 Mailing Com. at EF** **7:00 Scripture & Suds at Sundog**	**Mar 27** Pastor's Day Off Office Closed	**Mar 28** **8:30-10:00 AM Caring for God's Lambs** Food Pantry at Trinity UMC
Mar 29 **Palm Sunday** 9:30 Worship at EF 10:30 Coffee Time 10:45 Sunday School	**Mar 30** **12:00 Joy Circle Lunch at EF UMC** **1:00-4:00 Prayer Blankets** 6:00 Cub Scouts	**Mar 31** 8:00 Men's Coffee at East Fairfield UMC	**Apr 1** 7:00 Choir Practice	**Apr 2** **Maudy Thursday** **6:00 Dinner** **7:00 Worship w/ Communion**	**Apr 3** Pastor's Day Off Office Closed **7:00 PM Good Friday Service at Centenary**	**Apr 4**

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE (March 1)

In-Person: 72
Online: 41

Update on Mission Giving for 2025				
FUND	**NAME OF FUND**	**NEED**	**RECEIVED**	**STILL NEED**
2	General Mission Fund	5,099	1,285	3,814
33	4C's	125	0	125
32	Cub Scouts	150	345	0
37	Way Station	150	0	150
22	Flat Rock	175	140	35
64	**Farmer to Farmer - Liberia**	**300**	**0**	**300**
13	UMCOR Sunday	Any Donation		
21	UMCOR – U.S. Disasters	Any Donation	5	
14	Blanket Sunday	Any Donation	65	
15	Peace With Justice	Any Donation		
16	World Communion	Any Donation		
17	Student Day	Any Donation		
46	Heroes & Halos	Any Donation		
63	InStep Program	Any Donation		
49	Caring for God's Lambs	Any Donation		
38	Operation Christmas Child Boxes ($118)			

Fund Balances as of end of January

Fund # 1	Ministry Operating	-11,315
Fund # 2	Mission Fund	521
Fund # 3	Building Fund	59,570
Fund # 28	Elevator Fund	3,083

Mission of the Month for March

Farmer to Farmer – Fund #64

Our mission is to provide technical and mechanized training in profitable and productive farming to Liberian farmers. Our work in Harrisburg, Liberia focuses on serving God, serving community, farming, education, working together, and building relationships.

4C's Item – Cereal

You Are Invited: Cooperative Parish Gathering

March 20 | 10:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. | Delaware, Ohio
Hosted at Asbury United Methodist Church

What if we paused to celebrate what God is already doing among us… and imagine what could be next? Join clergy and lay members from cooperative parishes across Ohio for a day to encourage, equip, and connect. This is for anyone invested in shared ministry—pastors, lay leaders, team members, and those simply curious about what God might do when we lean into collaboration.

Why Attend? Because cooperative ministry is not about scarcity, but shared strength. In the morning, we will worship together, celebrate ministry happening in cooperatives, hear from a panel sharing real examples, possibilities, and lessons learned, and create space to connect with others navigating similar questions. In the afternoon, you will choose one of two practical workshops:

Workshop 1: Building Redevelopment
Our buildings can be either an asset or a burden. This session shares honest, hands-on stories from faith communities doing the hard, hopeful work of reimagining sacred spaces. Not quick fixes. But faithful next steps. You will leave with practical insights, real-life examples, and thoughtful considerations for navigating the "wicked problem" of church buildings in the next generation.

Workshop 2: Better Together
How do embrace the missional synergy of a cooperative while remaining unique congregations? This workshop helps cooperatives explore their shared mission field, review community data, identify strengths and opportunities, discern what can be done together, and clarify practical next steps. This is a working session designed to move from conversation to action.

Cost: Completely free.
We want it to be accessible to every cooperative parish.

Make It a Full Weekend
We strongly encourage you to consider also attending *Laity Convocation,* happening Friday evening and Saturday in the same area. Laity Convocation is an exciting celebration of our lay folk so key in all ministries including cooperatives. This year's speaker Dr Ashley Boggan who is a stellar presenter makes this well worth the time!

Cooperative members who register for the Convocation and stay at the corresponding hotel may be reimbursed up to 50% of their hotel cost through the Office of Discipleship Ministries of Ohio.

This is not just another event. It is a moment to remember that we are not alone. Come celebrate. Come learn. Come imagine what God can do when we truly are better together.

We hope to see you on March 20.
DEADLINE is Wednesday, March 11.
Register for Cooperative Parish gathering as a team at
https://eastohio-reg.brtapp.com/CooperativeParishGathering

Faith United

A Cooperative Parish of United Methodist Churches

03-08-26
UPCOMING EVENTS

LENTEN STUDY: A BEAD AND A PRAYER
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 6:00 PM
at East Fairfield UMC

POTLUCK FELLOWSHIP – SUNDAY MARCH 22
at 5:00 PM at Emmanuel UMC

CARING FOR GOD'S LAMBS FOOD PANTRY
SATURDAY MARCH 28, 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM
at Trinity UMC

MAUNDY THURSDAY – APRIL 2 at East Fairfield UMC
6:00 Covered Dish Dinner
7:00 Worship Service

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE – APRIL 3
7:00 PM Worship Service at Centenary UMC

MEN'S COFFEE GROUP at East Fairfield UMC
meets on Tuesdays at 8:00 AM

(The second Tuesday of the month is Ladies' Day.)

The purpose of Faith United is to grow spiritually, learn and love together, and lead others to Christ.