



The CANTON, OHIO  
**CROSSROADS**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# CHRONICLE

*Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life*

March/April/May 2026

Christopher Dazey, *Editor*



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**Facebook & YouTube: CantonCrossroads**

**330-455-0153**

# FROM THE PASTOR



On Sunday, February 15, our congregation blessed the leaders of Crossroads. You will find a list of those leaders and a blessing to pray over them on the opposite page. I ask you to use this list and the blessing in your own prayers for the church. And it's a great reminder that everything we do is in the name of Jesus - his power sustains us!

As each leader came forward on Sunday, they received a wooden shim. Yes, a shim does make a great paint stirrer. But its real purpose is to help level things in a building. Living in an older home teaches us that everything eventually goes out of level. Door jams jam, counters don't line up and entire floors can develop a slope.

You could say that a shim helps heal our homes and our lives.

Bringing healing into the living of our days happens best when we are intentional about this work. Lent is a time when we examine ourselves to see where our doors are jammed or our counters are out of alignment. Once noticed, we can then see how we might use a shim to bring about healing.

Crossroads United Methodist Church and Canton For All People have faithfully gone about the work of building homes for several years now, and it is my prayer that this amazing ministry may continue to be blessed and grow. Though these two groups now stand separately, we will always be together in bringing healing to our souls and healing to all the world. Our shared way of Jesus allows for this good work.



Our leaders who received their shim could flip it over and see the phrase "Thin edge of the wedge - making room for God." This was an encouragement to open up some space in their hearts for God. The thin edge of the wedge can be used to open a small sliver of space - ever widening - to make room for more of God and the power of the eternal in all of our hearts.

You, too, can have a reminder of the shim or the wedge. This Lent, you could write down some ways to engage the healing work of leveling up. You could make an effort every day to widen the space that allows for more of God into your life - and thus the world!

So may the seasons of Lent and Easter bless you, and level your walk with God.

***The Reverend Mary Jo Yeakel***

# YOUR CHURCH LEADERSHIP

## ***Leadership Council***

**Ted Hall**

*Chair*

**Bill Rogers**

*Finance*

**Stephanie Bradford**

*Lay Leader & Annual Conference*

**Ron Leonard**

*Staff-Parish Relations*

*Lay Leader & Annual Conference Alternate*

**Jim Kennedy**

*Treasurer*

**Jim Groves**

*Trustee Chair*

**Renee Lilly, Kevin Crog,  
Jane Fleischer, Lisa Varavvas,  
Curt Rosenbery, Steve Shoop**

*All who take upon themselves the name of Christ are called into ministries of love and service. As these members of our community continue in their leadership, we pray the blessings of God and this community upon their endeavors. We recognize them as ambassadors of this congregation to the wider world, and dedicate them to service in the name of Jesus Christ. May God richly bless all of our labors together. AMEN.*

## ***Lay Leadership Throughout the Church***

**Jim Lindesmith**

*Men's Prayer Breakfast*

**Megan Smith**

*Crossroads Community Action*

**Beth & Paul Toalston,**

**Pam & Dean Kakos,**

**Nancy Miller, Steve Shoop**

*Sunday Morning Breakfast*

**Julie Smith,**

**Carissa Keller, Jane Fleischer**

*Children's Ministries*

**Karen Zotta,**

**Amy Rivers, Nancymae Scheurer**

*Women's Groups*

**Erin Ackerman, Lisa Varavvas,**

**Nancy Miller, Nancy Davis, Renee Lilly**

*The Village*

**Betty & Jim Kennedy**

*Diaper Ministry*

**Curt Rosenbery**

*Gibbs Food Ministry*

**Jim Kennedy, James Ackerman,**

**Sarah Smith, Lilly Shoff, Bode Stephan**

*Worship Support*

**Stephanie Bradford, Steve Shoop**

*Church Decorating*

**Karen Zotta**

*Handbell Choir*

**Jane Fleischer**

*Membership Coordination*



# The Holy Season of LENT

Most of the Gospel lessons this Lenten season are from John, and in this series of stories Jesus meets a different character every week - Nicodemus, a Pharisee; a Samaritan woman (the woman at the well); a blind man who has his sight restored; and Lazarus, who Jesus raises from the dead.

Be with us each Sunday morning in Lent as we journey with Jesus through these different meetings on his way closer to the looming cross, always in its shadow, and discover what we can learn from these encounters today.

## Palm Sunday The Sunday of the Passion

*Sunday, March 29, 2026*

*Good Friday at St Paul's Episcopal*

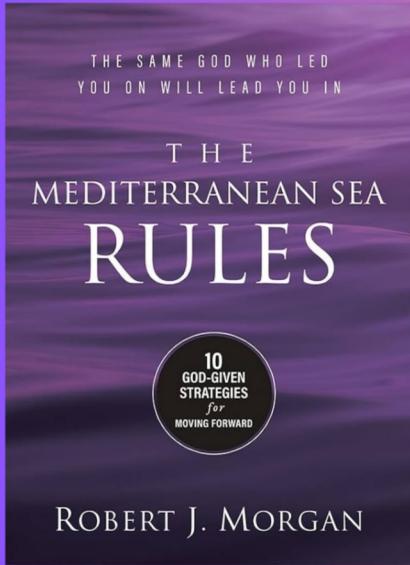
*Friday, April 3 - 7:00 pm*



Join us on Sunday, March 29 for this very special Palm Sunday/Passion service where we will follow the story of Jesus from his triumphant arrival into Jerusalem all the way through the Last Supper and the Passion.

We will take Communion together at the same moment in the Passion that Jesus and his disciples did, and then we will end in solemn silence as Jesus is crucified. This unique experience will take the place of our Maundy Thursday service.

Then we will join the congregation of St Paul's Episcopal Church on Good Friday at 7:00 pm for a combined service in their sanctuary.



ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED TO JOIN OUR  
WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP ABOUT  
THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA RULES  
BY ROBERT MORGAN

TUESDAYS IN LENT  
2:00 PM  
CONFERENCE ROOM

SEE AMY RIVERS OR  
PASTOR MARY JO  
FOR MORE  
INFORMATION



## Easter Flowers

**Easter flower order forms  
are available at**

**[cantonforallpeople.org/  
church/news-information/](http://cantonforallpeople.org/church/news-information/)**

*Form must be received  
by Palm Sunday, March 29,  
to be included  
in the Easter Sunday bulletin*



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## It's Time for Classes!

**New Member Class • Confirmation Class**

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*If you are an adult interested in taking our new member class,  
or if you would like someone in your family  
between the ages of 12 and 18  
to be confirmed in the church,  
please contact the church office to sign up for either upcoming class  
([office@crossroads120.org](mailto:office@crossroads120.org))*

*For more details about the classes,  
contact Pastor Mary Jo Yeakel or Jane Fleischer*

## Reverend Dr Bill Liming Named New Superintendent

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung is grateful to announce the appointment of the Rev. Dr. Bill Liming to the East Ohio Conference Cabinet. Dr Liming will serve as superintendent of the Central Valley District beginning July 1, 2026.



According to Bishop Jung, "Bill brings a deep calling to ministry, a pastor's heart shaped by faithful service in local churches, and trusted wisdom through his leadership across our Conference. He leads with spiritual depth and grace, building empathetic and authentic relationships with clergy and lay leaders alike. I

am confident his leadership will help strengthen the body of Christ for the mission before us."

We welcome Dr Liming to his leadership position!

## Happy Birthday March, April & May Birthdays

3/3 - Patricia Radosevic  
3/5 - Elizabeth Schnegg  
3/4 - Constance Monat  
3/6 - Suzie Rosenbery  
3/7 - Anna Leonard, Elaine Snyder  
3/9 - Jeremiah Konneh  
3/10 - Maya Polen, Chloe Slease  
3/11 - Lucas Ackerman  
3/13 - Darla Sible  
3/17 - Angela Ward  
3/18 - Hannah Miller  
3/19 - Kenneth Roach  
3/23 - Celeste Fensom  
3/24 - Julie Leonard, Annette Woods  
3/26 - Patricia Kuhn, Jennifer Stephan  
3/27 - Melanie Thomas  
3/28 - Jane Hursh  
3/30 - Amy Miller

4/2 - Gerald Dougan  
4/3 - Pauline Adams  
4/5 - Eyvonne Konneh  
4/6 - David Kliem  
4/11 - Jackie Tamargo  
4/12 - Robert Jenkins, Lenny Woods  
4/14 - Tessa Polen Benson  
4/15 - Roger Hegnauer, Terry Hogue  
4/16 - James Ackerman  
4/19 - Tina Perez  
4/22 - Kathleen Smith  
4/24 - Matt Keller  
4/26 - Lilly Brunoni  
4/29 - Timothy Miller, Robert Weise  
4/30 - Gillian Crog, Jennifer Peters

5/5 - Lynne Bonser, Janice Boswell, Lynette Klotz  
5/8 - Karen Croston, Russell Graber,  
James Groves, Curtis Rosenbery  
5/11 - Jeanne Coen, Connie Lewis  
5/12 - Paula Neff  
5/15 - Emma Detchon  
5/16 - Tim Lewis  
5/17 - Patricia Coen  
5/18 - Denette Edwards  
5/19 - Shirley Benedict, Thomas Chapman  
5/21 - Paula Kliem, Samantha Miller  
5/23 - Mark Ott  
5/24 - Kathleen Miller  
5/24 - Peggy Pelger  
5/27 - Joan Huff, Michael Smith  
5/28 - Inna Bagrich, Sandra Smith



Everyone is welcome to join our group!

Find out what we do and how you can help!

**March, April & May Meeting Dates TBA**

Contact Megan Smith for more information:

adchic0819@yahoo.com

## Men's Prayer Breakfast

**Every Wednesday at 9 AM**  
**Wesley Hall**

Each week, we offer our men's prayer breakfast in Wesley Hall. All men are always invited to this long-standing Crossroads tradition. You don't have to be a member of Crossroads to come, and we encourage you to invite your friends. We also offer dedicated parking spaces on Cleveland Ave, so there's no reason not to join us!



**United Women in Faith**

The First Tuesday of Every Month  
1:00 PM

JOIN US  
THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
FOR FOOD, FELLOWSHIP  
AND SCRIPTURAL DISCUSSION

Contact Nancy Mae Scheurer  
nbshymn@yahoo.com

**ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME**

Denny's Restaurant  
4646 Tuscarawas St W  
Canton, OH 44708

## Camp Wanake Work Day

Every Spring we have a very fun and rewarding Camp Wanake work day!

We will announce this year's date in the Chronicle Weekly email newsletter and the Sunday bulletin

Contact Jim Kennedy at [jk\\_ref@att.net](mailto:jk_ref@att.net) for more information

**Spend a Day in the District  
with Bishop Jung**  
Saturday, March 14, 2026  
Faith United Methodist Church  
Beginning at 9:30 am • Lunch Provided

Everyone is welcome to spend this day in North Canton with Bishop Hee-Soo Jung. Please contact Pastor Mary Jo if you would like to join her in attending!

## Our Weekly Email Newsletter

If you are not already on our weekly email news list, visit this link to sign up:

[cantonforallpeople.org/email](http://cantonforallpeople.org/email)

## Our Social Media Presence

We publish updates on our Facebook and YouTube pages regularly

You do not need to be registered or have an account at either site to see our public-facing information, so just point your browser to

[facebook.com/CantonCrossroads](https://facebook.com/CantonCrossroads)  
[youtube.com/@CantonCrossroads](https://youtube.com/@CantonCrossroads)

## Submit Your News

If you have an item for our Sunday bulletin, newsletter, email newsletter or Facebook page, please email it to Christopher Dazey at

[christopher@crossroads120.org](mailto:christopher@crossroads120.org)

## *A Chorus for a Cause* & *Harmony Ringers* *Concerts*

*Join our faithful choir members  
Karen Zotta and Paula Neff  
for several concerts this Spring*

**Visit**  
[achorusforacause.org](http://achorusforacause.org)  
&  
[harmonyringersofoh.org](http://harmonyringersofoh.org)  
**for the dates and times**

**Crossroads United Methodist Church**  
**120 Cleveland Ave SW**  
**Canton, OH 44702**



## **Our Crossroads Staff**

**The Reverend Mary Jo Yeakel**

*Pastor*

[maryjo@crossroads120.org](mailto:maryjo@crossroads120.org)

**Lilly Brunoni**

*Administrator & Custodial Engineer*

[office@crossroads120.org](mailto:office@crossroads120.org)

**Beth Polen**

*Director of Music Ministries*

[beth@crossroads120.org](mailto:beth@crossroads120.org)

**Christopher Dazey**

*Organist, Pianist & Carillonneur*

*Video Producer*

*Director of Publications*

[christopher@crossroads120.org](mailto:christopher@crossroads120.org)

**Kristina Belliveau**

*Finance Coordinator*

[finance@crossroads120.org](mailto:finance@crossroads120.org)

**Worship Every Sunday**  
**In Our Historic Sanctuary**

**10:00 am**

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**Crossroads Online**  
[facebook.com/CantonCrossroads](https://facebook.com/CantonCrossroads)  
[youtube.com/@CantonCrossroads](https://youtube.com/@CantonCrossroads)  
[cantonforallpeople.org](http://cantonforallpeople.org)

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**Contact the Church Office**

**330-455-0153**

**[office@crossroads120.org](mailto:office@crossroads120.org)**