The Spire

July 2026

EATON
METHODIST CHURCH

120 North Maple Street | Eaton, OH 45320-1826

Church: (937) 456-4670
www.eatonohmc@gmail.com
Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM
Pastor Jeff Jewell
A GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

PASTOR'S PAGE

I saw a post on Facebook recently that said: I'm so old, I remember America's 200th Anniversary. I know some of us here were around for the 175th Anniversary, and that is awesome. This kind of Anniversary is important for us as a nation. It is important because we have freedoms that many around the world do not have. We even have Liberty" (which means we can choose our own path in life) and that is denied for far too many. Today, we have politicians who want to control and track our population, with them in control. The Bible warns us about this in the "End Times". We are warned about those who "seek after power over others". Sounds like a politician. Let us pay attention to this in our elections.

God gave humanity the freedom to choose, even in our spirituality. The Angels in heaven are not given this choice. We can follow Jesus, or we can ignore him, or even fight against him. When we come to Christ, it means more to God than anything. If we were "programmed" to follow Christ, it would be expected. Pastors feel this way when the church to which they were sent, decide to like, appreciate, and follow their leadership. We all feel this way when we make a friendship. Someone else chooses to like us. That means a great deal, especially to someone who is new to a community.

The question is this: What are we doing with our freedom? Those who are regularly in worship, we know the answer. Those who's health prohibits them from worship, the church/Pastor need to keep them connected. Those who do not, by choice, attend worship are telling us (and God) that they are ignoring God. For whatever reason, these are the folks I hope we will make more of an effort to reconnect with Jesus.

The same is true with our country. There are people who apparently have decided to hate our nation. They protest everything from the President to anything the other political party does. They have the freedom to do that. They do not, however, have the right to disrupt traffic, loot, deface statues, and burn down buildings. Our nation is under attack which disturbs me greatly. Our nation fought against Communists and New York City elected a Communist Mayor. We fought against Nazis and Maine elected a Nazi for one of their Senators. The Devil has been busy. Our nation NEEDS all churches to pray that God take our nation back.

The Bible talks to us on several levels. Firstly, the Bible confronts us on a personal level. This is something we have all known. Secondly, the Bible confronts us as a church. This is most obvious in the seven letters to the seven churches in the Book of the Revelation. Thirdly, the Bible confronts nations and the whole world. We are pretty good and number one, but the church has been rather lax about numbers two and three. We might not remember our spiritual birthday (when we accepted Jesus as our personal savior) but we do have Pentecost (the Church's birthday) and the Fourth of July (our nation's birthday). As we celebrate, lets invite others to the "party" with God. Pastor Jeff

Grief Support Group

If you have suffered a loss and have concerns that don't go away, join us on the **third Wednesday of the month at 3 PM** in classroom #2 (off the parking lot). **July 15** is our next meeting. We would love to include you!

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Council met in June. A quick overview –
Finance report was reviewed. With a part-time Pastor in place, our finances are looking better. However, with up-coming repairs it is still tight. Community of Faith rental contract has ended as they will be meeting in their new facility.
Jeff Barney is assisting Josh Weatherly on Sunday morning with the sound and projectors. Jeff is also posting our information on the sign out front. Thank you Jeff Barney for stepping up and helping the Church in these areas.
Discussion over Emmaus groups and local area participation.
EMC Committees should meet bi-monthly and submit an article to the Spire. Meetings are open to everyone. Complete minutes are on file at the church office. Article submitted by Rita Jewell

RUMMAGE SALE NEWS

Rummage Sale – The rummage sale was a success this year bringing in a total of $1804.56. The committee would like to thank everyone for donating and/or working. We would also like to thank Annabelle and John Werts and Jordan Merrill for helping us set-up for the sale. They were a big help. A special thank you to Wendy Bolick for coming from North Carolina to assist with the set up and delivery. Remaining items went to Common Good and Goodwill here in Eaton.
Discussion by the committee to have another sale next year instead of waiting until 2028. (In 2028, the City of Eaton is scheduled to be doing construction on Maple Street.) Article submitted by Rita Jewell

MISSONS (FORMERLY OUTREACH)

The mission committee is collecting food items for the **HIT** Foundation's food pantry for their homeless and housing clients. There is a box at the elevator door for those items.

The committee is also collecting baby items for **BIRTHRIGHT** of Eaton, (crib sheets, 0-3 pajamas, baby lotion and wipes, etc.).

SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE

Help Local Students Start the School Year Ready to Learn!

For the 2026–2027 school year, **The Common Good** will once again provide school supplies to students in need. This program helps families facing financial challenges ensure their children have the tools necessary for a successful start to the school year. **Last Year, You Made a Difference!**

208 Eaton Community School students received school supplies through this program. **This Year, We're Preparing to Serve: 260 STUDENTS!**

Collection Dates **July 6-July 26.** See Church bulletin for complete details.

Hygiene Kits

In the fall, we will be collecting items for kits to be distributed to the local shelters and to the Common Good of Preble County. Items needed are: hand towel, washcloth, comb, toenail clippers, fingernail clippers, bath soap, toothbrush, adhesive bandages (standard size), one-gallon size resealable bags, toothpaste, floss, shampoo, baby wipes, and feminine hygiene products. If you are interested in donating, please look for additional information in the bulletin as it gets closer to the fall. If you have any questions, please contact Rita Jewell or Kim Barney.

JUL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	
			1 10:00 AM Bible Study RM 2 (P. Long)	**2**
5 **9:00 AM Sunday School** **10:00 AM Worship Service**	**6** Back to School Collection!	**7** 9:00 AM Quilt Club RM 2 (L. Aukerman) 10:00 AM Trustee RM 1 (J. Barney) 11:00 AM Garden Club Lunch	**8**	**9**
12 **9:00 AM Sunday School** **10:00 AM Worship Service**	*13*	*14*	**15** 3:00 PM Grief Support Group RM 2 (J. Jewell)	**16**
19 **9:00 AM Sunday School** **10:00 AM Worship Service**	**20** **CHURCH RESERVED**	*21* 6:00 PM Finance Team RM 2 (S. Shafer)	*22*	**23**
26 **9:00 AM Sunday School** **10:00 AM Worship Service** Last Day for School Supplies	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**

JLY

Thur	Fri	Sat
2	3 Office Closed	4 Happy 4th of July
9	10	11
16	17	*18*
23	24	25
30	31	

FIFTY-FIVE PLUS LUNCHEON

Thanks to all of you who joined us for our 55+ Monthly lunch meetings. We had a nice year and averaged around 30 people each time.

This past Season we heard about the Historical Society, Youth for CHRIST, the Preble County Senior Center, the Blu Sky's Cafe, Dr. Jane Palmer Smith, our local Chiropractor, and also Our own Carole Toothman who shared her passion for "Picking Up Sticks".

We sang Christmas Carols and sang Happy Birthdays. Most of all, we had Wonderful fellowship and thanked GOD for our many Blessings.

We look forward to September when we start meeting again **(Thursday 9/3/26 at Noon).**

If you have suggestions for speakers, please let me know. Thank you for all your support and the Best Committee ever of: Sandie Fudge, Steve & Carole Toothman, Cheryl Marcus, Jackie Brown, Linda Durham, Tom & Jane Harris, Joni Rizzolo. Also our Founder Phyllis Montgomery. Thanks to Sharon Smith for decorating our tables. Have a Blessed Summer, Donna Sue Donohoo

DEMENTIA CARE GIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

Come talk to others who are traveling this journey. The group meets the **2nd Tuesday** of each month, **6:00 PM** at the Preble County Council on Aging 800 E. St. Clair St. Eaton, OH. Contact Gary Ketron with questions.

MINISTRY TEAM (FORMERLY CONGREGATONAL CARE)

The Ministry Team has been busy! On Easter morning they served a Sunrise Breakfast after the Sunrise Service. Egg casserole, biscuits and gravy, coffee cake and much more were served with the help of others bringing food to share.

On Mother's Day May 10, 9:00-10:00 AM they provided food, friendship and conversation. Coffee Cake, Donuts and Coffee were provided. Everyone enjoyed themselves!

On Saturday May 30, 6:00 PM we served a Pot Luck Dinner with the church providing Ham sliders and Chicken Fingers. The Congregation supplied other pot luck side dishes. Music was provided by Pastor Jeff Jewell. Fun, Food and Fellowship was enjoyed by all! Join us on our next Pot Luck Dinner on the 5th Saturday August 29. More details to follow.

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

All Small Group Opportunities Will Resume in the Fall.

TRUSTEE NEWS

Over the past few years our church has been experiencing an ongoing problem with the boiler. The current boiler has an automated water fill system. Its primary function is to prevent the boiler from running out of water and dry firing and causing damage to the boiler. For some reason the current system kept failing to refill properly. Our contractor was constantly called to make repairs. The church tried several options but nothing seemed to work. We kept running out of water in the system. We figured there must be a leak somewhere but could not locate one. It was only by chance we found a leak.

Easter Sunday as many of you who were present found the elevator had quit working. The Eaton Fire Department was called to assist several people down the stairs. The following week the elevator repairman was called. During his call he advised us there was a lot of water in the elevator room. Upon investigation a large water leak was discovered in a section of pipe. We contacted our heating contractor immediately. They had to remove the old asbestos covering the water line and replaced a 6-foot section of water line. Between the cost to repair the elevator ($2200.00) and to repair to the water line ($4200.00) the church has spent over $6400.00 in maintenance cost this year.

The trustees have been exploring other options for a new heating system but at this time the cost is running into many thousands of dollars we do not have at this time. Please keep our Trustee's and Church Council in prayer as we search new ways to keep our church in good repair. Jeff Barney Trustee Chair

FINANCE

Finance Team: We have paid our Allegheny West Conference connectional giving of $6,305.99 and our Global Methodist Church connectional giving of $2,212.63 will be paid at a later date and before December 31, 2026. Since Pastor Jeff has been approved as our permanent minister, we have approved a 2026 church budget for the remainder of the year. We have been making bimonthly payments to the mission Fund and Building/Next Century Fund for loans borrowed from these accounts to pay our disaffiliation fees to the United Methodist Church. We approved sponsoring a youth soccer team this fall and spring 2027 thru the Eaton Soccer Club and we have requested that we sponsor Anna belle Werts team.

Offerings: April 2026 offering was $19,275.66 (April expenses were $7,415.47) and YTD offering thru April 30, 2026 $65,776.64 (YTD was $51,687.64); April 2025 offering was $17,940.81 (April 2025 expenses were $19,608.17) and YTD offering thru April 30, 2025 was $67,642. 79 (YTD expenses were $71,670.76) Report by Steve Shafer

MEDIA TEAM NEWS!

If you have not already signed up & have Facebook, please go to Eaton Methodist Church on Facebook and "like" our page. We have a daily Bible Verse and other announcements about what is going on at the church. For our younger church goers we also have an Instagram and X Account. If you have not, please visit our website at eatonohmc.org where we have lots of information about the church.

Eaton Methodist Church
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Eaton, OH 45320

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