

# THE VISITOR



The First English Lutheran Church  
*53 Park Avenue West (at Mulberry Street)*  
*Mansfield, Ohio*

Volume 65

APRIL 2023

Number 4

*"Pointing People to Jesus Through Intentional Relationships"*

THE VISITOR is published monthly by First English Lutheran Church, 53 Park Ave. West, Mansfield, Ohio 44902-1698. Church office hours: 8:30-4:30 Tuesday-Friday; closed Monday. Church phone: 419/522-0662. FAX: 419/522-0075. Website: [www.felc-mansfield.org](http://www.felc-mansfield.org), Early Learning Center phone: 419/522-7500.

**CHURCH STAFF**

Mr. Scott Berry, Organist and Senior Choir Director  
Mrs. Becky Pittman, Coordinator of Music and The Arts  
Mrs. Angela Murphy, Director Early Learning Center  
Nicole Goddard, Finance Director Jan Fisher, The Visitor Editor  
Faith Williams, Parish Secretary/Printer  
Dave Carew, Custodial/Maintenance  
Andy Kershaw, Property Manager  
Michelle Couch, Assistant Director Early Learning Center

**First Lutheran sponsored missionaries**

Go Missions International missionaries to Peru & Bolivia, South America:  
Nick and Shannon Kraft, and children Madison, Tanyon, Moises and Tucker  
World Mission Prayer League Missionaries Brian and Barbara  
Shadreck and Yamikani Chikoti, Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Ministries

**CONGREGATION COUNCIL OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

President <i>Rob Skropits</i>	Personnel <i>Teri Brenkus</i>
Vice President <i>Chad McFadden</i>	Property <i>Mike Anderson</i>
Secretary <i>Christopher Kaschube</i>	Social Ministry <i>Gary Lane</i>
Early Learning Center <i>Misty Grove</i>	Stewardship <i>Sandra Volz</i>
Christian Education <i>open</i>	
Worship <i>Cindy Russell</i>	
Congregational Life <i>Judy Santoro</i>	Youth Ministry <i>Ted Ellis</i>
Evangelism <i>Jan Fisher</i>	
SS Superintendent <i>open</i>	
Finance <i>Lu Blankenship</i>	
Women of FELC <i>Jan Fisher</i>	
Global Mission <i>Chris Cichanowicz</i>	

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

If you any questions about these changes, please contact Faith Williams at the church office. (419)-522-0662 or at [parishsecretary@felc-mansfield.org](mailto:parishsecretary@felc-mansfield.org)



We have made a commitment to focus on the following values and objectives:

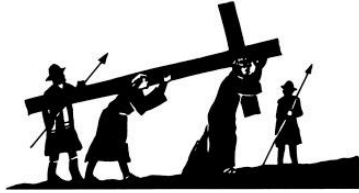
## **CORE VALUES**

- 1 Relationships
- 2 Standing on the Word of God
- 3 Sacrifice
- 4 Giving our Best to God
- 5 Worship Space
- 6 Worship Experience

## **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

- 1 Early Learning Center (ELC)
- 2 Align Ministries to Strategic Focus
- 3 Engaging Youth
- 4 Repurpose Staff Including Accountabilities
- 5 Create Culture of Engagement

# The Great Triduum



## — The Three Holy Days —

### **Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil**

Our celebration of the **Three Holy Days** begins with the **Maundy Thursday** evening communion service held at **7:00 P.M. on April 6, 2023** in the Nave. The service begins with an expanded rite of confession and absolution, which is followed by the usual lessons and sermon. Scripture readings focus on the institution of the sacrament of Holy Communion at the Last Supper of Christ and His disciples. Confession and forgiveness are an especially important part of this service, as we finally receive the absolution which was intentionally left out of the Ash Wednesday services. The service concludes with the dramatic stripping of the Altar in preparation for the Good Friday observance. There is no benediction at the close of the service, since this is only the first part of the Triduum observance.

The second segment of the Three Holy Days continues with the **Good Friday Tenebrae** service at **7:00 P.M. on April 7, 2023**. The service is based on the biblical account of Christ's Passion According to St. John. The reading is interspersed with hymn singing and the extinguishing of seven candles. The Christ candle is extinguished and removed from the sanctuary. A rough wooden cross is carried in procession. There is a time of reflection and adoration of the crucified Christ when any may come forward to pray at the kneeling rail. Once again there is no benediction; the service continues on Saturday evening.

The **Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday, April 8, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.** is both the conclusion of our observance of the Three Holy Days, and the first service in celebration of the Resurrection. This service reverses the events of Good Friday, and moves us from darkness into light. We will begin the service by gathering in the west parking lot where a Boy Scout troop will kindle the fire for us and we will light our Paschal Candle and process to our sanctuary. Hand candles are lit as we enter the nave, and are held for the singing of the Easter Proclamation. They are extinguished, and we hear a series of readings tracing the biblical history of our salvation from Creation, through the Exodus, promises of our salvation, and the three young men in the fiery furnace. We celebrate Holy Baptism and/or the renewal of our baptismal vows as a final cleansing in preparation for the celebration of Easter. The lights are raised, and the full Easter celebration begins with a service of Holy Communion, breaking the Lenten fast by receiving Christ's body and blood.

**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES & REPORTS**

Tuesday, March 21, 2023- 7:00 PM

***DRAFT COPY- Updated March 22 at 8:33 AM***

*Agenda approved by Dean Pastor Diana Seaman, March 20.*

Present: Rob Skropits, Gary Lane, Chad McFadden, Ted Ellis, Lu Blankenship, Jan Fisher, Chris Cichanowicz, Cindy Russell, Christopher Kaschube, Misty Grove, Mike Anderson, Teri Brenkus

Absent: Sandie Volz

The meeting was called to order by Rob Skropits at 7:05.

Devotion and prayer by Ted Ellis.

***Secretary, Christopher Kaschube:***

- Electronically presented the FELC Church Council minutes from the February 23 meeting for approval. **MOTION** (Cindy/Misty), seconded by to approve the minutes of the meeting. **MOTION APPROVED.**
- Provided correspondence with Pastor Diana Seaman.

***Executive Committee:***

- 87 Park Ave. West is requesting a new liquor license. Per ordinance, local businesses in the area must be notified, and may voice objections to the city, Council has no objection to the license.
- The Sunday School superintendent, Amy Skropits, **RECOMMENDS** to the Council that we hire Pastor Tim Hubert for Confirmation instruction to begin this fall. The superintendent recommends that Pastor Tim be paid, though he did not request payment. **RECOMMENDATION TABLED.**
- The Sunday School superintendent submitted a letter of resignation effective May 22 after 15 years of service. The Council is thankful to Amy Skroptis for her service, and regrettably accepts her resignation.
- According to our constitution, we must have a specially called meeting for election of the Call Committee. Rob Skropits makes the **MOTION** (Misty), that we hold a special congregational meeting to elect the Call Committee on May 7, following the previously scheduled congregation meeting that day. **MOTION APPROVED.**

### ***Music & Worship Committee, Cindy Russell:***

- Becky Pittman reported the Children's Chapel and Music are going well. They have combined the two together using puppet shows and the kids are loving it.
- She also reported that WNL chapel has been going well with music and Rick Warren videos.
- Youth Sunday will be April 16th. It will be a combination of the youth from FELC, the ELC Spring Sing and ELC teacher recognition.
- Myra Cordrey reported that her and Charles completed the CPR class with the FELC staff
- Bob Ball has inquired about holding an Active Shooter class at FELC. Date to be determined.
- We will be having the Easter Continental Breakfast. Lu has volunteered to head this up. Thank you Lu!
- FELC will be hosting the Community Good Friday Service at noon. Pastor Paul Lintern has agreed to be the lead pastor for this service.
- We will be having Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Saturday Easter Vigil Holy Week. All services will begin at 7:00pm.
- Pastors and their pay for the month of April are listed below:
  - April 2nd, Palm Sunday - Pastor Lisa Peterson - \$175. plus mileage.
  - April 6th, Maundy Thursday - Pastor Amy Little - no cost due to NALC guidelines.
  - April 7th, Good Friday Community Service at noon - Pastor Paul Lintern - \$175. plus mileage.
  - April 7th, Good Friday - no pastor needed, it will be a service of music and readings.
  - April 8th, Saturday Easter Vigil - Pastor Paul Lintern - \$200. plus mileage.
  - April 9th - Easter Sunday - Pastor Amy Little - no cost due to NALC guidelines.
  - April 16th, Youth Sunday - no pastor needed.
  - April 23rd, Pastor Nate Meiers - \$175. plus mileage.
  - April 30th, Pastor Kim Maurer - \$175. plus mileage.

- Attendance and Facebook Views for February:

	Attendance	Views
2nd	115	166
12th	111	149
19th	113	190
26th	102	Info not available
Ash Wed.	70	166

### ***Finance Committee, Lu Blankenship:***

- FELC has about 23 funds besides the endowment funds. These range in value from \$147 to \$40,000, all of which is sitting in our checking account. We are working diligently to reduce the number of funds. We submit the following recommendations:
  - A Campership Fund is showing a balance of \$147. This fund was once used to supplement children's costs to attend Camp Mowana, but this fund has not been used for some time. Finance **RECOMMENDS** moving this balance to the ELC Summer Camp Fund. **RECOMMENDATION APPROVED.**

- Finance **RECOMMENDS** moving the Maintenance Fund balance of \$1,303 and an Undesignated Memorial Fund balance of \$1,762 to the Major Capital Improvement Fund. **RECOMMENDATION APPROVED.**
- There is also a Sunday School Global Missions Fund that carries a balance of \$2,032. This fund has been sitting there for years. Recently, when Adult SS collects an offering, it has been going into that fund. There is no other SS fund since no offering is collected from the Youth SS Classes. We think the balance in this fund originated when SS did a special global missions project years ago. Finance **RECOMMENDS** adding this amount to our benevolence payments to our missions at the end of the first quarter. This would include the Krafts, Sorges, and Malawi. Jan (Chris C.) makes a **MOTION** that we **AMEND** the recommendation to send the \$2032 exclusively to the Krafts. **MOTION APPROVED.**
- Finance **RECOMMENDS** that, going forward, any/all Sunday School offerings go into the General Fund. **RECOMMENDATION APPROVED.**
- Finance **RECOMMENDS** that an Interim Pastor be called to work Tuesday, Wednesday, and Sunday (24 hours per week) for an Annual Contract of \$50,000 (plus mileage). Working 8 hours on Tuesdays and Wednesdays will cover ELC Chapel, Wednesday Lunches, Produce Distribution, and Senior Boxes. Since the Lunches are twice a month and Produce and Senior Boxes occur once per month, this should allow time for shut-in visits; and staff meetings may be held when this new schedule allows. Our constitution requires that we have a pastor attend council meetings or approve the agenda ahead of time, so the pastor will be expected to attend council meetings. Since Sunday generally won't be a full day, this allows a few hours of flexibility for attending meetings, sermon preparation, etc. **RECOMMENDATION NOT APPROVED.**

FYI.....Funds required for Property projects: (no action required)

Property Projects:				
		Property	ELC	
Secy Office Area	strip wallpaper, patch paint, bathroom	\$3,077		Richland Renovation
Ladies RR Undercroft	upgrade (checking on adjoining room)	4,992		Richland Renovation
Baby Room	patch paint, install required half wall		\$3,341	Richland Renovation
Undercroft Walls	patch, paint	\$5,276		Richland Renovation
Outside trim	scrape, paint, replace caulk around foundation	TBD		Richland Renovation
Chandelier	crank & related	\$2,185		Richland Renovation
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$15,530</b>	<b>\$3,341</b>	
Parking Lot	Replace asphalt	\$20,000		
	(may postpone parking lot for 1 year to allow above projects)			

Chandelier (smaller)	new cable, safer access	\$2,884	PAID	Richland renovation
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Property may put the parking lot work off for another year to cover the other items listed here.

## Investments:

Investments were at \$3,152,412 at the end of 2022

By the end of January, we had **gained** \$92,996

By the end of February, we had **lost** \$62,828

**Net gain YTD = \$30,169**

YTD 02/28/23	Actual	Budget	Difference
<b>General Operating Fund (GOF) (including ELC):</b>			
Income	\$110,117	\$102,618	\$7,499
Expenses	\$163,795	\$143,506	\$20,289
Difference	-\$53,678	-\$40,888	
<b>Early Learning Center (ELC):</b>			
Income	\$56,175	\$57,400	-\$1,225
Expenses	\$52,128	\$56,328	-\$4,200
Difference	\$4,047	\$1,072	
<b>General Operating Fund (GOF) (excluding ELC):</b>			
Income	\$53,942	\$45,218	\$8,724
Expenses	\$111,667	\$87,178	\$24,489
Difference	-\$57,725	-\$41,960	

### ***Global Missions Committee, Chris Cichanowicz:***

- Peru & Bolivia:
  - Please remember our Lenten offerings, go to the Krafts. Give generously if you are able.
  - They are still hoping some from our church will attend the IMMERSE camp this summer from July 30 - August 5. Anyone from age 16 on up is welcome! No one from our church has been there yet.
  - Nick, Maddy and two Go Missionaries went to the jungles of Ecuador for a week to be with their Wambis tribe friends. They delivered Bibles, glasses, and Days for Girls kits.
  - They want to apply for endowment funds, but need help doing this from someone in our church if possible.
- Malawi:
  - 900 children continue to be fed 6 days a week.
  - Our university students are back in school and doing very well. Two more are awaiting sponsorship.
  - All other programs are doing well.
- The Far Side:

- Brian and Barb left in March to return to the Far Side.
- They still manage to continue their missionary work with technology and ask for your prayers to continue so the translation of the New Testament into the native language will be completed soon.

***Stewardship Committee, Sandie Volz: No Report***

***Evangelism Committee, Jan Fisher:***

- On Tuesday, March 14 we began the first of three New Member instruction classes. Pastor Lisa Peterson has agreed to teach these classes to seven people who aspire to be members of FELC. Those people are: Steve and Chris Mayglothling, Rich and Debra Riei, Gary Andrews, Erna Clark, and James Joseph. The next two classes will be held on Tuesday, March 21, and Tuesday, March 28 all from 3:30 to 4:30 PM in the Emmaus Room. I will be asking several of our members to serve as mentors to these new members. New members will most likely be welcomed in May or June. Pastor Lisa would like to have Council representatives available to attend the next new members class.
- We continue to have weekly visitors which is wonderful! I am sure that they are always warmly welcomed.
- We have Senior Boxes on March 28, in Feb. we served 91 grateful people. We begin Free Produce Distribution on Tuesday, April 11, 2023. This will be year eight.
- Jan will distribute cards to our members that have not attended in the last six months. Thanks to Faith Williams, who made a beautiful new card to send out.

***Women s Ministry, Jan Fisher:***

- We continue to be very successful in holding our Women's Bible Study on the second Monday of each month at 1:00 PM.
- Luther Fellowship continues to be quite popular with our octogenarians. In February we had a fun afternoon of bingo, and on March 20 we will be hearing personally written stories by Beverly McKeehen. We meet at 2:00 PM in the Emmaus Room.
- We recently began an Arts and Crafts Night in the evening. On March 14 a group of seven gals hand made nineteen small Easter goodie boxes which were then filled with candy. Our communion deacons will take them to our shut-ins. It was a great project!

***Early Learning Center, Misty Grove:***

- From Angie Murphy:
  - The ELC had been approved for a summer time reading grant through Altrusa of Mansfield. We will be receiving \$822.35 worth of books from this grant.
  - We have also been awarded the Richland Foundation grant for \$1,212.31 for our summertime art programs.
  - We had 211 items ordered through our fundraiser. Money earned from the fundraiser will help pay for the ELC end of the year party.
  - The ELC staff and children will attend church on April 16th for our annual Spring Sing and egg hunt. The egg hunt will be immediately following the church service. All church children are welcome to join us.
  - Muffins with Moms will be on Monday May 15th. We would like to thank the women's ministry for offering to bake 6 dozen muffins.
  - We are looking for someone that is over 18 that would like to be a one-on-one aid to one of our 4 years old. They would be paid through another agency. It is a total of 67 hours from June to August. See Angie for more information.

- From Becky Pittman:
  - The ELC classes continue to learn and practice their many songs about Jesus for our Spring Sing on Sunday, April 16th! This is our FELC designated Youth
  - Sunday, also. All of the youth at church will be involved in the worship in some manner.
  - The ELC kids are learning about Daniel in the Lion's Den during Chapel on Wednesday mornings. Puppets, a felt board and Children's Bibles are all used to help the classes learn the story.

***Youth Committee, Ted Ellis:***

- A number of youth went to lunch and then to Wedgewood to play bingo with the residents.
- At our meeting on 3/19 we discussed taking the youth to the ARK encounter in July. This is still in the planning stages.
- The youth will be volunteering to work on the new Habitat for Humanity project.
- The youth will be working on the Twinsberry Tree Farm, along with a pool party, campout, and wreath making activity.
- There is early discussion about potentially traveling to the NALC youth event, and 'Reach Mansfield' in 2024.

***Property Committee, Mike Anderson:***

The Property Committee did not meet in March. However Andy shared the following items with me and I will pass them along to you.

- Items for the elevator repair are starting to show up. Work will proceed as soon as all the needed parts arrive.
- The State is requiring a barrier in the baby room to separate the babies from the cribs. So we have contracted with Richland Renovation to put up a half wall for \$1,534.00. Angie has grant money to cover this expense.
- The baby room has water damage to the walls, Andy has a quote to repair and paint the baby room for \$ 3,341.00, again Angie has grant money to cover that expense.
- Andy is still in the process of getting quotes to paint the exterior trim, gutters and galvanized caps above the doors.
- The Air Conditioners in the Pastor's office and the 3rd floor offices have been completed.

***Social Ministry Committee, Gary Lane:***

- Wednesday Noon Lunch continues to serve 25-30 lunches twice a month. Items given out include shampoo, conditioner, etc.
- 95 Senior Boxes with cheese and 90 produce bags were handed out.
- We are starting to make plans for the 'Easter In the Park' drive thru. We will continue with bags of candy and cookies.

***Personnel Committee, Teri Brenkus:***

- Our committee met in January and February but have not met in March for multiple reasons. We are working out the details on the pastor's and janitor's job descriptions along with updating the employee handbook. We hope to have everything finalized in the next few months.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

- Potential action item from Jan/Cindy:
  - Pastor Paul Lintern contacted Cindy and Jan about asking FELC if we could support the upcoming initiative “Jericho Wall” by designating \$700 of financial support. They are contacting many local churches and businesses, intending to raise \$52K to complete this project which is a wall of “remembrance and recovery.” It will be located on West Dickson Ave., between Third and Fourth Streets, east of First Christian Church. I will bring a flier with me to the council.
  - Cindy’s and my proposal is that we could get activation of two Thrivent Action Team cards which could be used to purchase paint, wood, and other materials. In addition to that we could publicize about donating to Jerichowall and anyone who cares to contribute can donate online or mail a donation to Mansfield Rotary Foundation, P O Box 3916, Mansfield, OH 44907. This way Nicole doesn’t have to be involved and the Service Ministry Team has already planned for this year’s financial support and it will be kept in place.
  - For further information go to [www.jerichowall.info](http://www.jerichowall.info).
  - Cindy and I are open for discussion before we ask for a vote.
  - Further discussion on how to proceed will take place in the next month.
- Discussion regarding the need of an interim pastor, our options, expectations, and financial compensation.
  - Rob made a **MOTION** (Misty) that we offer an Interim pastor a compensation package of \$66,560 for working approximately 32 hours per week on Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Exact details of the job description will be provided by the Executive Committee when a candidate is identified.. **MOTION APPROVED.**

Notes:

April Coffee Fellowship and Council Devotion: Personnel Committee

April Council Meeting is Tuesday, April 18, 7:00 PM

**MOTION** by (Gary/Chad), to adjourn. **MOTION APPROVED.**

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer at 9:25 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Christopher J. Kaschube, FELC Church Council Secretary*

## **NOTICE TO THE CONGREGATION:**

**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING  
WILL BE HELD FOLLOWING WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, MAY  
7, 2023. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND PLAN TO  
ATTEND.**

## **What a wonderful and generous personal outreach!**

This week two different families within our membership made a shopping trip to Walmart and Dollar Tree. They very generously purchased a whole list of personal care items that the “homeless or displaced kids” in the Mansfield City Schools often need as they get moved place to place. They delivered their purchases out to Raemelon administration building on Cook Rd. where they were gratefully and graciously received. These purchases all go to the City Schools SAFE program. Below I’m sharing an article that I found on the Mansfield City Schools website. Since we are a downtown church, serving many areas of mission, I think you might enjoy reading this.

Taken from Mansfield City Schools webpage published next to a picture of those listed:

Looking over donations from the Mansfield Association of Realtors are Phil Mitchell of Mansfield City Schools; Barbara Murray, association CEO, and Superintendent Brian Garverick.

The Mansfield Association of Realtors has made a major donation of hygiene products, shoes and clothing to benefit Mansfield City Schools 'homeless students and their families.

The supplies were presented on Wednesday by Barbara Murray, chief executive officer of The Mansfield Association of Realtors.

“We are very pleased to make this donation,” Murray said. “Realtors don’t just buy and sell houses. We are about our communities. We care and we are involved.”

The supplies will benefit students and families aided through Mansfield City Schools S.A.F.E. program (Student Achievement through Family Engagement). Phil Mitchell, S.A.F.E. co-coordinator, said the donation of hygiene products, shoes and clothing are just as important as the contributions of school supplies made each year by the Altrusa Club and other organizations and individuals.

“We serve more than 200 homeless students and their families,” Mitchell said. “Whether they are living in shelters or are staying with family or friends, there is a constant need for soaps, shampoo, toothpaste and other personal-care products that the Mansfield Association of Realtors has provided. The clothing and shoes also will be very much appreciated.”

Murray said donations were collected over five or six weeks as part of the association’s STARS program – Standing Together, Affiliates and Realtors Strong. Affiliates, she explained, included businesses and groups with which Realtors work regularly.

“We select four non-profit organizations every year and work to give them what they need,” Murray said. “What it comes down to is where we live. Where would any of us be without community?”

“Kids are special. We’re very glad to be a part of helping homeless students and their families.”

# March Of Prayer 2023 continues into April....

**Come and Pray! 6 p.m. unless otherwise noted**

For Information: Paul Lintern, 419-571-9920, linternpau@AOL.com.

**Follow on Godsfield Community Facebook Page**

Saturday, April 1 — Come Together in One Accord, 525 W. Cook Rd. Sunday, April 2 — MIMA, Oasis of Love, 190 Chester Ave., **4 p.m.** Monday, April 3 — First Christian, 200 W. Third St., at Jericho Wall Tuesday, April 4 — Providence Baptist, 112 W. Sixth St.

Wednesday, April 5 — GracePoint Lexington, 1887 W. Cook Rd.

Thursday, April 6—Main Street United Methodist, 230 S. Main St. , **7 P.M.** Friday, April 7 — Grace Episcopal Church, 41 Bowman St., **7 P.M.** Saturday, April 8 — First English Lutheran, 53 PAW, vigil, **7:00 P.M.** Sunday, April 9 — Kingwood Center — **7 A.M.**

## **MANSFIELD IS GODSFIELD**

**COMMUNITY WIDE GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE APRIL 7, 2023.**

We are the host church on Friday, April 7 for the community wide Good Friday service to be held in our sanctuary. The service begins at 12:05 PM and will be lead by Pastor Paul Lintern, with many others joining in. Please plan to support this community wide service as we prepare ourselves and our families for Jesus' resurrection

**Good Friday**



ELC

## Little People BIG News April



### **Flashback into March**

Assessments on the children have been completed. Our books have been delivered from the Altrusa grant. Thank you to all who ordered from our fundraiser! We are in discussions on plans for the funds.



### **A Peek into April**

We will be closed on Good Friday, April 7. We are planning on our families joining us for service on April 16<sup>th</sup> for our Spring Sing. Summer camp registration has begun. We are looking to hire for the summer; if you know of anyone who is interested, please send them our way!

**Angie Murphy, Director**

**Michelle Couch, Assistant Director**

## Within the Fold



The Wednesday Noon Lunch donations for March were \$5.00.

Dear Women of FELC,  
Thank you so much for the Valentines Day card and the gift card.  
It always makes my day to hear from you all.  
Sincerely, Mitchell Pittman

Kathy Hoecker's sister-in-law sent this to Women's Ministry:

Dear Kathy and the ladies at First English Lutheran Church, Just want to thank you all for praying for my pelvis fracture and the healing that is going on. I know God is in charge and He is giving me the patience to endure. God is the great healer, and most of all — He listens to each and every prayer. The thing that I have learned the most is “Not in my time, but in His!” Whenever I use your blanket I will think of you precious ladies who have lifted up your prayers to our Father for me! Thank you so much, Karen Hoecker  
Psalm 27:14 Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart, and wait for the Lord!

A great and user friendly way to receive DAILY DEVOTIONS written and supplied by NALC is to text: ReadingTheWord to 24251. They will respond back with a link and devotions will come to your phone every morning. They can be read and/or audible. You can also get devotions from our felc-mansfield.org website by selecting the NALC logo button.

## PUB THEOLOGY STARTING UP AGAIN IN MAY!

We will restart Pub Theology on Tuesday, May 9 at 6:00 PM at the Old Bag of Nails on Lexington Avenue. Hope to see you there. Everyone is welcome to join in this fun evening of fellowship!

## **Worship and Music Committee**

Praise God for His faithfulness to FELC! We happily report that we have supply pastors scheduled through June 4 so please plan to have some wonderful worship going into the summer months. We also say Thank You to all who supported 35 Easter flowers for the chancel; Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. You are appreciated!

**Cindy Russell**  
**Worship Committee Chairperson**

## **Congregational Life**

Thank you to everyone who has joined in providing meals for Fastnacht and also for Lenten Soup Suppers. You are awesome in the Lord! *It takes a team and we are all part of a great team!*

## **Social Ministry**

Please see Gary's report. Plans are being made for Spring.

If you have Thrivent products you might want to consider creating a missional project in 2023 to find a use for your two Thrivent Action Team cards. Those cards are a huge outreach blessing, and it's above and beyond your church tithe! Many options are out there: clothes for school kids, personal hygiene supplies for various ages, blanket drive, school supplies in the fall, food for the hungry, the sky's the limit as you plan to help others! If you are searching for an idea for outreach, check with Jan Fisher!

**Gary Lane, Social Ministry Chairperson**

## **YOUTH**

***Referring to the NALC Youth Gathering information below, there are many options for adults to volunteer as teachers, chaperones and other helpers. Check the NALC website for more information. You have a year to plan.***

- **Save the Date: July 1st to July 4th 2024** – the NALC National Youth Gathering. The theme will be "We Belong." The gathering will be held in Boerne, TX. It's not too early to start planning for our youth to attend!

## **Women's Ministry**

## **Women's Bible Study**

Once again Barbara Justice taught our Bible Study from the book "Seamless". Thank you, Barbara!



Seven ladies were present for the study. We met at the church in the Emmaus Room on March 13 to further our study on Seamless. We are learning more about Abraham, Sarah, Esau, Jacob, etc. For April we will be studying the scripture on pages 51 to 59. We will meet again in April on the second Monday, April 10 at 1:00 PM in the Emmaus Room. Mary Schwartz will be hostess. All ladies are encouraged and welcome to join us!

**APRIL Funeral Squad D: Pat Heichel, Linda Hughes, Lana Conry, Mary Schwartz**

## **LUTHER FELLOWSHIP**

Twelve of us "oldsters" who are truly young at heart, met on Monday, March 20 to hear personal life stories shared by Beverly McKeehen. Beverly is somewhat of an "animal whisperer." Beverly's stories were interesting and amazing when you hear how closely she has interacted with nature and God's animals. We surprised Beverly by inviting her former co-worker and longtime friend, Marian Feltner, to join us. It was a fun afternoon. If you are on Facebook, check out the pictures that are shared from this lovely afternoon fellowship. Plans were discussed for some spring and summer gatherings. Maybe a bus trip and we might lower the age limit! Ha ha! A game time is being planned for April, so bring your Yahtzee, your euchre cards, your Trash Train dominoes, whatever you enjoy! We will gather at 2:00 PM on Monday, April 17. We will have some snacks to enjoy, maybe even popcorn!

## **Arts and Crafts Night**

Our gathering on Tuesday, March 14 at 5:45 PM was a big hit. We made small Easter boxes and filled them with some candy for our shut-in. The communion deacons gladly delivered the little pastel boxes for us! A great and fun project!

Our craft for April will be making greeting cards to be used by the church for birthdays, healing, and simply special notes of love. We will gather on Tuesday, April 11 at 5:45 PM in the Emmaus Room. Supplies will be provided, and to make it easy please bring along a snack to share. Questions, please contact Jan Fisher or Chris Mayglothling.

# Global Mission



## **MALAWI:**

- 1) Three additional university students are waiting for sponsorships.
- 2) The "seed" money is now given by the original beneficiaries to ensure that there is responsibility and giving back to the project by imparting the knowledge they have gained to others.
- 3) DAYS for GIRLS INTERNATIONAL received a grant to continue the work that was started by the "First Lady". DFGI is engaging Kanyenyeva Wala to do the work and paying the women for their labor. They have been tasked to provide 570 supreme kits.
- 4) The well project is complete!

## **THE FAR SIDE**

- 1) Continuous prayers for the Islanders to be committed comprehension test readers to help with the translation of 1 & 2 Corinthians. These are the last two New Testament books to be tested for the Islander language.

## **PERU AND BOLIVIA**

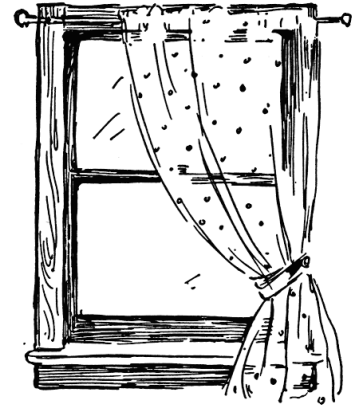
- 1) Just a reminder that our Lenten offerings will be sent to the Krafts.
- 2) Nick and Shannon are celebrating 25 years as missionaries! They have been through good times and troubled time, but the Lord has always provided, and they continue to be a blessing to others.
- 3) The Krafts would like you to join them in a fun adventure by volunteering for their next IMMERSE ENGLISH CAMP which runs from July 30 - August 5. Call Dan Caesar at 1-360-969-0378 for details.

Respectfully submitted,

**Chris Cichanowicz**

**Global Mission Chairperson**

## Becky's Views.....



Mark your calendars! Invite your family! Bring friends! Youth Sunday is on April 16<sup>th</sup>! Our FELC kids will all participate during the service, and our ELC kids will bless our congregation with their annual "Spring Sing!" Jesus LOVES the little children!!

The hand bell choir played beautifully in March! Would you like to join us in April??? We will rehearse at 5:30 on Wednesday, April 12th, 19th and 26th, and we will play during the worship service on Sunday, April 30th. We would love to have you!

I am thankful for our Children's Church volunteers who are willing to minister to our kids during worship! Would you like to become part of this rotation? The prep work will be done for you. The kids LOVE it, and so do Mom and Dad!!

Chris Mayglothling does an amazing job preparing the crafts every other month. We are looking for another volunteer to do the prep those opposite months. Is this a gift you would like to share? Please talk to me if you are interested.

If we have just THREE more volunteers sign up to provide a breakfast during Sunday School for our Jr. and Sr. High youth, we will be able to fill up the rest of the school year! Would YOU be willing to feed our kids? They are so appreciative, and they are always hungry. Please let me know if your answer is YES!

*1 Corinthians 12:27 "Now YOU are the body of CHRIST, and each one of YOU is a PART of it!"*

**Becky Pittman, Coordinator of Music and the Arts**



## **COMMUNION AT WEDGEWOOD ESTATES AND ARBORS AT MIFFLIN**

**Wedgewood Estates at 2:00 PM and Arbors at Mifflin at 3:30 PM.**

This important offering of worship and communion will continue on the third Wednesday of each month and YOU are invited to join in with your support and attendance. If you have questions check with the church office.

In APRIL we will offer communion at Wedgewood Estates and Arbors at Mifflin on Wednesday, APRIL 19, 2023. We are grateful to Gary Lane and Larry Lantz for their dedication to this ministry!

If you know of a member who cannot attend church services and would like to have a communion deacon bring communion to him or her at home, please contact Larry Lantz @ 419-756-5506 or call the church office at 419-522-0662.

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The **men's group** will gather again on Saturday, April 29. Men, please put this on your calendars for the **last Saturday** of each month. Gather at 9:00 AM in the Emmaus Room to further your fellowship plans. Donuts and coffee will be provided.

## **A Beautiful Way to Share Crosses**

Following Easter we are inviting everyone to purchase your favorite cross whether it be made of metal, wood, or even resin or plastic. Dimensions should be no smaller than 2 in. x 4 in. and no larger than 6 in. x 10 in.

The men of the church are going to fabricate a large wooden framed board covered in fabric. Every cross that is donated to beautify this board will be displayed on the board with a small metal plate affixed below it, denoting the family or person's name. This beautiful cross embellished board will be displayed in our Narthex for all to enjoy. It will be a work in progress as new people join our church, and we plan on having it mounted and on display by Trinity Sunday, June 4, 2023. There will be a pictorial example on the poster table if you have questions.

## **FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION BEGINS ON APRIL 11 FOR 2023!**

THIS IS OUR NINTH YEAR OF OFFERING FREE PRODUCE TO OUR COMMUNITY. OPEN TO ALL AND WE HAVE REVISED THE HOURS JUST A BIT: 10:30 AM TO 12:30 PM, ALWAYS ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH, APRIL THROUGH NOVEMBER. COME TO OUR WEST PARKING LOT AT S. MULBERRY ST AND PARK AVE. WEST! OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE THERE TO LOAD YOUR CAR! PLEASE SHARE THIS NOTICE WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

## **FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH, 53 Park Ave. West will be offering SENIOR BOXES 4th Tuesday of month, year around.**

The Greater Cleveland Food Bank has a program called "Senior Boxes" whereby anyone 60+ who falls in the "low income" guidelines can register and then pick up a 30# box of non-perishables including 2# of cheese, and a 15# box of pre-packaged produce. This is a year round distribution, next date for distribution is **Tuesday, April 25, 2023. Age is a qualification, so please bring your current identification card complete with date of birth and proof of income.** Please come to the east side of our building at 53 Park Avenue West, 44902, between 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM to get registered and pick up your Senior Box of non-perishable food. There is NO COST to you for this food.

## **Memorial Donations**

### **Memorial Fund**

*In memory of Marilyn Miller*

*Given by: Mary Schwartz, Ted & Karen Ellis*

*In memory of Wilbert Esler*

*Given by: Rich & Becky Olechnowicz, Ted & Karen Ellis*

### **Wednesday Noon Lunch**

*In memory of Ruth Hughes*

*Given by: Gail Elder*

### **Building Maintenance Fund**

*In memory of Henry Keultjes*

*Given by: Mary Schwartz*

### **Stained Glass Window Fund**

*In memory of Marilyn Miller*

*Given by: Sandra Volz, Bob & Linda Eyerly, Elizabeth Pritchard*

### **Malawi Orphan Care Project (food)**

*In memory of Henry Keultjes*

*Given by: Doug & Vicki Hobson*



## **Pastoral Acts**

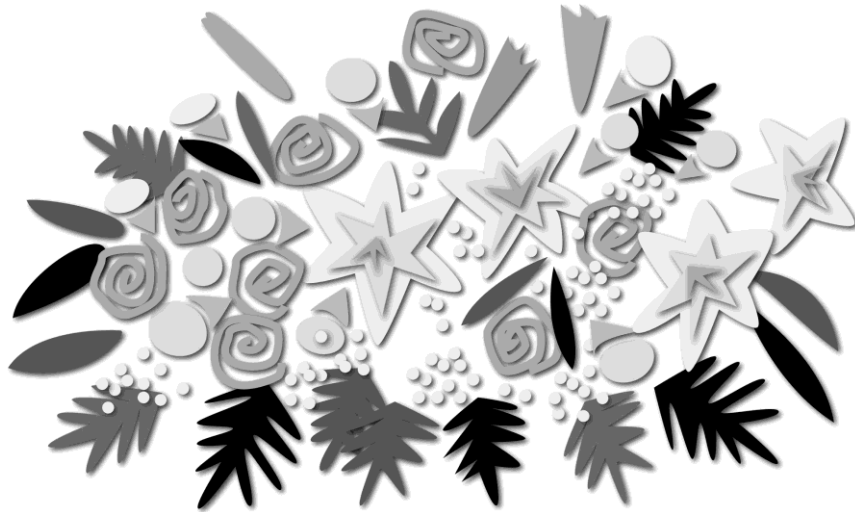
**None**



Wilbert Esler  
Marilyn Miller  
Jim Hannewald

March 3, 2023  
March 8, 2023  
March 19, 2023

We remember in our prayers the family and friends of those who have recently lost loved ones through death. We pray for Christ's gifts of healing and peace during this time of loss and sorrow that they may be comforted with the Promise of the Resurrection through faith in Christ Jesus our Risen Savior.



# Altar Flowers

The following opportunities are available for the donation of Altar Flowers. Please consider purchasing flowers in honor **or** in memory of a loved one. Please call Faith Williams at the Church Office (419-522-0662) to reserve one of the dates listed below or to check the availability of other upcoming dates. **OR** you can sign up to sponsor flowers by filling out the Altar flower Sign Up Form on the table in the Narthex. Flowers are \$40.

*April 16, 2023*

*April 23, 2023*

*April 30, 2023*

*May 7, 2023*

*May 14, 2023*

*May 21, 2023*

*May 28, 2023*

## ***Evangelism for Today's World***



### **How very exciting to be hosting a New Members class during March!**

Pastor Lisa Peterson has been interacting with our new members class of six people, holding three class sessions on Tuesday afternoons in March. The sessions have been very informative about Lutheran doctrine and theology. (It's amazing the things you forget from catechism days.)

Each New Member was supplied with a copy of the Augsburg Confession and a copy of Luther's Small Catechism, plus some other material related to the faith of our Lutheran denomination.

On Sunday, May 7, 2023 we will be welcoming into membership the following people:  
**Erna Clark, Gary Andrews, Steve and Chris Mayclothling, and Rich and Debra Riei.**

*Note: Senior Boxes will be available year round, once every month on the fourth Tuesday. Spread the word, 60+ can apply with low income guidelines! You must be a resident of Richland County and low income is a qualifier. If you register at FELC then you MUST pick up your goods at OUR location.*

- **April Senior Boxes will be available on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM.**

***Jan Fisher, Evangelism Chairperson***

# April 2023 Volunteers

## Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship (Nave)

### ACOLYTES

April 2: Cory Garn  
April 9: Gabe McFadden  
April 16: Lydia McFadden  
April 23: Lily Garn  
April 30: Ava Zehe

### ALTAR WORKERS

Scott and Jodi Mumaw

### ASSISTING MINISTER

Chris Kaschube

### COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Personnel Committee

### COMMUNION PREPARERS

April 2: Ken & Debbi Suzuki  
April 6: Ted & Karen Ellis  
April 8: Charles & Myra Cordrey  
April 9: Jen Rogers & Lana Conry

### COMMUNION SERVERS

April 2:  
Wine West: Pat Heichel  
Wine East: Myra Cordrey  
Intinction: Tricia Volz  
April 6:  
Wine West: Heather McFadden  
Wine East: Chris Cichanowicz  
Intinction: Jan Fisher  
April 8:  
Wine West: Gary Lane  
Wine East: Jan Fisher  
Intinction: Alicia Schulz  
April 9:  
Wine West: Lana Conry  
Wine East: Elizabeth Volz  
Intinction: Lu Blankenship

### GREETER

Lu Blankenship

### USHERS NAVE

Greg Hughes & Pat Smith  
Lana Conry & Justin Grove  
*Alternate: Tim Ludwig*

### LAY READERS

April 2: Chris Kaschube  
April 9: Alicia Schulz  
April 23: Stacey Crall  
April 30: Chris Cichanowicz

### PASTORS' PRAYER PARTNERS

Chris Cichanowicz  
Mary Schwartz  
Lowell Weeks  
Jan Fisher

### PEW PAD GLEANERS

April 2: Ronda Rehm  
April 6: Lana Conry  
April 8: Cindy Hill  
April 9: Brenda Eyerly  
April 16: Linda Hughes  
April 23: Stacey Crall  
April 30: Lana Conry

### PROPRESENTER

April 2: Teri Brenkus  
April 6: Cindy Russell  
April 7: Isaac McFadden  
April 8: Peyton McFadden  
April 9: Cindy Russell  
April 16: Justin Crall  
April 23: Allison Weeks  
April 30: Teri Brenkus

### SLING STUDIO

April 2: Suzanne Rippel  
April 9: Tom Sarbach  
April 16: Suzanne Rippel  
April 23: Todd Heichel  
April 30: Todd Heichel

### SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAKFAST

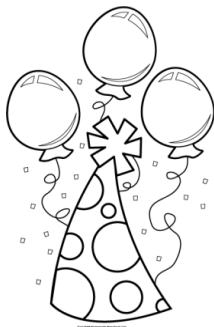
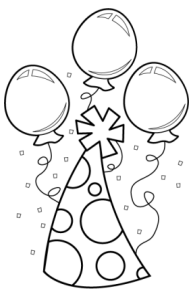
April 2: Alicia Schulz  
April 9: N/A  
April 16: N/A  
April 23: Amy Skropits  
April 30: Lu Blankenship

### SOUND BOARD OPERATORS

April 2: Ed Farner  
April 9: Ed Farner  
April 16: Ed Farner  
April 23: Ed Farner  
April 30: Ed Farner

## April Birthdays:

Name (First Last)	Address Block (current as of today)	Birth Date
James Murphy	1120 Laver Rd Mansfield OH 44905	04/02
David Williams	855 Vanderbilt Dr. Lexington OH 44904	04/03
Rachel Shupp	744 Pulver List Rd Mansfield OH 44905-2547	04/04
Brad Wolfe	236 Bowland Ave. Mansfield OH 44907	04/05
Clarence Lauthers	35 Woodside Blvd Lexington OH 44904	04/05
Richard Prater	1478 Brookpark Dr Mansfield OH 44906-3504	04/06
Norma Jean Cushing	322 Boston Ave Mansfield OH 44906-1951	04/08
Shirley Shupp	1128 Crestwood Dr Mansfield OH 44905	04/08
Louise Dickson	455 Logan Rd # 35 Mansfield OH 44903-2103	04/16
Malachi McFadden	1190 Timbercliff Dr Mansfield OH 44907	04/19
Virginia Shasky	3440 Stein Rd Shelby OH 44875	04/19
Judy Gleason	400 Davis Rd Mansfield OH 44907-1122	04/21
Gabriel McFadden	1190 Timbercliff Dr Mansfield OH 44907	04/23
Glen McLaughlin	P O Box 1767 Mansfield OH 44901-1767	04/24
David Carew	1080 Briarwood Rd Mansfield OH 44907-2310	04/27
Marilyn Calver	360 Westgate Dr Mansfield OH 44906-2953	04/28
Grady Heichel	4222 State Route 42 S Lexington OH 44904	04/29
Jean Worley	2673 Lexington Ave Mansfield OH 44904-1425	04/30



## Prayer Requests



To be put on the printed prayer listing: If you would like the church family to know of your joy or concern, please notify the pastors or call Faith Williams (419.522.0662) in the church office to be added to the list. Please call again when it is appropriate to have that prayer request deleted.

We also invite you to use our two prayer chains. Your request will be shared with a small group of prayer warriors via phone call chain.

**Mary Schwartz is now heading up the prayer chain. Please call Mary to activate the prayer chain.**

**Her home # is: 419.747.2600 or cell # is: 419.566.3113.**

**Prayer is very powerful!**

A great and user friendly way to receive DAILY DEVOTIONS written and supplied by NALC is to text: *Reading TheWord to 24251*. They will respond back with a link and devotions will come to your phone every morning. They can be read and/or audible.

You can also get devotions from our felc-mansfield.org website by selecting the NALC logo button.

NALC.org offers a great devotional option. "[TheNALC.org](http://TheNALC.org)" Check it out!



**Find us on Facebook:** First English Lutheran Church  
Podcasts of weekly sermons are no longer on the website:  
felc-mansfield.org.

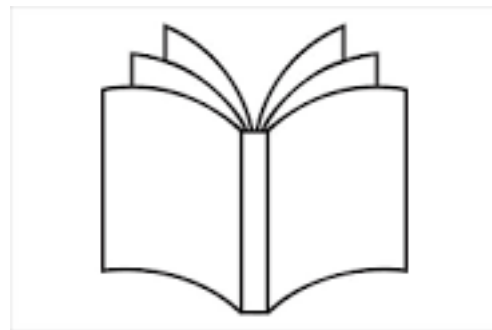


Please refer to **YouTube** to view past sermons.  
And please check out our new FELC mobile friendly website  
[felc-mansfield.org](http://felc-mansfield.org) where you can be directed to online worship via Facebook and YouTube

## **BULLETIN INFORMATION DEADLINE!**

**Need to get information in the bulletin for a meeting or an announcement?**

**Send details to Faith Williams at [parishsecretary@felc-mansfield.org](mailto:parishsecretary@felc-mansfield.org) or phone the church office at 419.522.0662.**



Weekly deadlines are noon on Wednesday for bulletins pertaining to that particular weekend. Bulletins are assembled at 8:30 A.M. on Thursdays each week.

**Nicole Goddard, Finance Director, may be reached by calling the church office at 419-522-0662 or email her at [NGoddard@felc-mansfield.org](mailto:NGoddard@felc-mansfield.org)**

**MAY 2023 Visitor Newsletter Deadline: TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2023**

**Assembled and mailed: THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023.**

PLEASE EMAIL ALL ARTICLES TO: [newslettereditor53@yahoo.com](mailto:newslettereditor53@yahoo.com) or leave in the mail slot marked Visitor Editor. Volunteer editor Jan Fisher can be reached at 419.589.2820.

### FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH E-MAIL AND WEB SITE

Scott Berry	<a href="mailto:sberry@felc-mansfield.org">sberry@felc-mansfield.org</a>
Becky Pittman	<a href="mailto:bpittman@felc-mansfield.org">bpittman@felc-mansfield.org</a>
Angela Murphy	<a href="mailto:cds@felc-mansfield.org">cds@felc-mansfield.org</a>
Nicole Goddard	<a href="mailto:ngoddard@felc-mansfield.org">ngoddard@felc-mansfield.org</a>
Faith Williams	<a href="mailto:parishsecretary@felc-mansfield.org">parishsecretary@felc-mansfield.org</a>
Jan Fisher, Editor	<a href="mailto:newslettereditor53@yahoo.com">newslettereditor53@yahoo.com</a>
Andy Kershaw	<a href="mailto:propman@felc-mansfield.org">propman@felc-mansfield.org</a>

**Visit our web site at: [www.felc-mansfield.org](http://www.felc-mansfield.org)**

**Find us on Facebook at First English Lutheran Church.**

During this interim time if you have a pastoral emergency please call the church office: 419.522.0662

## **CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS AND THEIR DEDICATED EMAIL ADDRESSES:**

**President: Robert Skropits**  
**president@felc-mansfield.org**

**Visitor Editor:**  
**newslettereditor53@yahoo.com**

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**vicepresident@felc-mansfield.org**

**Personnel: Teri Brenkus**  
**Personnel@felc-mansfield.org**

**Secretary: Chris Kaschube**  
**secretary@felc-mansfield.org**

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**musicworship@felc-mansfield.org**

**Early Learning Center: Misty Grove**  
**elc@felc-mansfield.org**

**Property: Mike Anderson**  
**property@felc-mansfield.org**

**Global Mission & Stephen Ministry:**  
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**globalmissions@felc-mansfield.org**

**Social Ministry: Gary Lane**  
**social@felc-mansfield.org**

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**finance@felc-mansfield.org**

**Youth: Ted Ellis**  
**youth@felc-mansfield.org**

**Stewardship: Sandie Volz**  
**stewardship@felc-mansfield.org**

**Evangelism/Witness & Women of  
FELC: Jan Fisher**  
**evangelism@felc-mansfield.org**

**Christian Education:**  
**Christianed@felc-mansfield.org**

**(Revised Feb 24, 2023 jf)**  
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APRIL 2023 VISITOR