

# March 2026 Steeple Bell



The 2026 Winter Olympics are in the books, and we experienced some amazing competition from athletes all over the world. Without training, sacrifice (time, body, and mind), and support, none of the olympians could have competed, much less won bronze, silver, or gold. The dedication and effort are truly awe-inspiring, though we saw only brief moments of competition, not the grueling work they put in over many years. In a world that was thoroughly familiar with the ancient Olympic games, Paul several times uses images of athletic competition in communicating spiritual truth.

In 1 Timothy 4:8 he says “For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.” This Lenten season we are invited

to take up serious, spiritual, godly training that will benefit us in this life and the life to come. By prayer, fasting (giving something up and/or taking up something new), helping others, worshiping, and reorienting our lives around God, we train ourselves to follow Christ more closely.

In terms of physical training, “gains” is a term sometimes used to describe the impact of training: a new milestone in how much we’ve lifted, the number of repetitions, physical changes of the body, or achieving a goal. If we expect to make spiritual gains, we have to put in the work, but we also have to lean on God and others to help encourage, challenge, and motivate us. Make a commitment before God to a spiritual “gain” this Lent, pray for his strength and guidance, and enlist a close spiritual friend to help you stay on track.

Lent is a time to refocus and reenergize our spiritual lives, but may we also strive earnestly in all seasons to see “gains” in our spiritual lives. May we be able to say as Paul does in 2 Timothy 4:7 “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown (victor wreath) of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.”

*Blessings,  
Pastor Jason*



## Monday, March 30 - Friday, April 3

Holy Week Services at First Baptist Church

12:00 pm Noon Service

12:30 p.m. Light Lunch

## Thursday, April 2

6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service  
sanctuary at Brandenburg UMC

## Friday, April 3

6:30 pm Good Friday Service  
sanctuary at Brandenburg UMC

## Sunday, April 5 - Easter Sunday

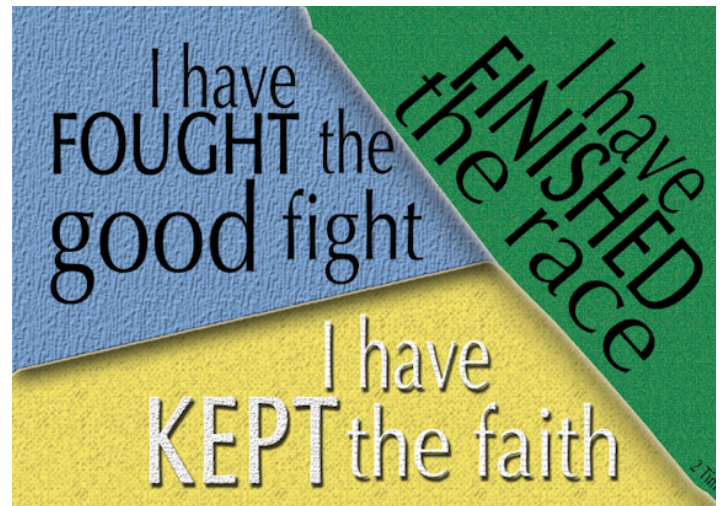
7:00 am Sunrise Service on Sanctuary Steps

7:30 am Easter Breakfast  
sausage, biscuits & gravy, juice and coffee served from 7:30 - 11 am

9:00 am Contemporary Easter Service, FLC

10:00 am Easter Egg Hunt for Children

11:00 am Traditional Easter Service, Sanctuary



# Early Response Training Saturday, March 7

Disaster Early Response Team training will be held Saturday, March 7, 8:30 am-4:30 pm., at Brandenburg UMC. This is a rescheduled training from the one postponed earlier this year. If you registered before, you don't need to do so again. For new registrations:  
<https://kyumc-reg.brtaapp.com/2026ERTTrainingMar7>

If you plan to attend, please advise Kevin Chesnut or Pastor Jason as soon as possible.

Kevin Chesnut  
BUMC Disaster Response Coordinator/Lead  
Cell: (931) 206-3532  
Email: [Kevin.chesnut25@gmail.com](mailto:Kevin.chesnut25@gmail.com)

# Communion Offering for March UMCOR Sunday



Our communion offering for March will go to UMCOR Sunday.

Serving on mass-response and individual levels, The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is ready to reach out immediately whenever and wherever God's people are in need. The UMCOR Sunday offering allows UMCOR to respond rapidly to disasters such as devastating cyclones, earthquakes, floods, hurricanes and typhoons, war and civil strife and outbreaks of disease.

Your offering offers hope through prayers, physical help and financial support. It also works in many ways to assist people who strive to feed and support themselves and their families, to learn new skills, to obtain better health care and to survive and to work toward a fuller life.

## Mission Notes



Blessings on Blessings! The month of March finds many wishing for luck. How wonderful we, as the chosen children of our Savior, don't need to be lucky. We are blessed!

Let's extend our blessings forward and come out Saturday, March 14, to serve from 10 am to noon cleaning, sorting, and stocking at the Clothes Closet. The Meade County Clothes Closet/Food Pantry is community business that is open for all to shop; for those unable to afford necessary items, however, the Clothes Closet/Food Pantry will donate items to them.

Storm season is approaching, so I encourage everyone to donate, shop, or simply volunteer so in our high season of need, families will be able to care for their families.

If there are ever any questions, feel free to contact me at (270) 925-6608 by phone or text.

Many blessings because it's better than luck.

*Charlotte Shepard  
BUMC Mission Team Chair*

# Meade County Food Pantry Rotating Donation Schedule

In their January meeting, members of the Meade County Ministerial Association decided to reinstate the Rotating Donation Schedule for the Meade County Food Pantry. Following is a list of items BUMC is asked to donate each month during 2026:

March	Dried Beans (1-pound bags)
April	Canned Meats
May	Shampoo & Conditioner
June	Deodorant & Toothpaste
July	Cereal Bag, Oatmeal
August	Soups
September	Ravioli & Spaghetti's
October	Canned Vegetables
November	Rice (1-pound bag)
December	Peanut Butter & Jelly



## SWIFT Gatherings

(Sisters Worshipping  
in Faith Together)

### Winter Ladies' Study

**Tuesday, March 10**

6:30-7:30 p.m. Family Life Center

**The theme is Getting Prepared**

Bring your Bible and a copy of your favorite recipe

Our objectives are to deepen our spiritual walks, foster fellowship, and strengthen relationships among the women in our church.

Light refreshments and childcare provided.

## Congregational Life Team Update

– Lesley Wilson

The Congregational Life Team will host a spring coffee on Tuesday, March 17, for the Under the Son staff, parents and grandparents. We hosted a similar event last fall, and it was well attended and much appreciated.

On Easter morning (Sunday, April 5), the team will host Easter morning breakfast (sausage, biscuits & gravy, juice and coffee between 7:30 and 11 a.m.

On Sunday, April 12, BUMC will celebrate Confirmation Sunday with a shared service at 10:30 a.m. The Congregational Life Team is coordinating a celebratory meal in the Family Life Center immediately following the service. Stay tuned for additional information.

The BUMC women's ministry SWIFT (Sisters Worshipping in Faith Together) will hold its March gathering on Tuesday, March 10. The theme will be "Getting Prepared." The April gathering will be April 14. The theme will be "Walk the Walk."

If you are interested in being involved with the Congregational Life Team, please contact Lesley at [leswilson1991@gmail.com](mailto:leswilson1991@gmail.com)



It is almost that time again for our annual Bake Sale to support Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. But this year we are going to do something a little different. You may get a call asking for you to make a cake or pie, but this year we are going to have them as a silent auction. Bidding sheets listing the item will be displayed in the hallway near the office for you to bid on each item beginning Sunday, March 8, and it will be up until it ends on Sunday March 15. We will also be having a live auction in between services starting at 10 o'clock on Sunday, March 15. We will have such items as: 6 tickets to Holiday World theme park in Indiana, a Cajun dinner with Pastor Jason (prepared by him and seasoned to your liking). We may have baskets with gift cards from local businesses, a possible lottery ticket basket etc..

If anyone in the congregation would like to donate any professional services or tickets to an event, please contact me with details.

On another subject, I've been asked if we bought things year-round for the shoeboxes. Yes we do! If you see any really good sales and would like to purchase and donate items for the shoeboxes, you may drop them off at the church office, and we will store them until we're ready to build the shoeboxes.

Please keep in mind the following items are not permitted: bars of soap, liquids of any kind, candy or gum. If you have any questions regarding this, you may talk to Mary Lou Lotz or Mary Plemmons. Thank you for your support of this great ministry.

**Mary Lou Lotz**  
Samaritan's Purse Project Leader  
419-674-8195

## Community Assistance Opportunity

The Believers Sunday School Class is collecting underwear and stretchy pants for the Meade County Schools Family Resource Centers. All sizes from Child's Small to Adult's XXXL are needed as every school said they need these items. For Meade County High School, primarily female clothing is needed. Navy, black and gray pants are preferred. All donations can be dropped off in the Believers Sunday School classroom (Room 206).



Happy March and spring forward weather!

Spring, for me, is the most beautiful season of transformation. The dullness of the winter begins to fade away, and the bright colors of newness that come with spring begin popping up all around us. I think it was no mistake that the season of Lent, even though the death of Jesus is dark and hard, happens in the spring season when the newness begins to appear. Spring prepares us for the rest of the seasons just like Lent is meant to prepare us for the cross.

That is exactly what we are learning in youth this month. We are doing a series called The Final Words of Jesus, but looking at them through a new lens. I encourage you to have conversations with your youth about what we are discussing on Wednesday nights. Their depth

and insight is inspiring!

Looking ahead:

- March 6–7 Spring Retreat
- March 9 Feeding America in Elizabethtown for our serve night of the month
- March 25 The Tribe will prepare the halftime meal

If you are available on March 9, we could use some hands and some drivers going to Feeding America. We are leaving about 4:30 p.m. from the church and will return about 8:00 p.m.

If you would be willing to bake us some snacks to take to the spring retreat on March 6–7, that would be greatly appreciated! The kids love them!

As always, thank you for trusting me with your most precious gifts.

*In Christ,  
Kelly Wilson*

## The Tribe's February Serve Night – Meade County Clothes Closet





*"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."* - John 15:5

*Melissa Vowels*

As we enter March, we begin in prayer for our children who are participating in our confirmation classes. This is a meaningful season of learning, reflection, and growing in faith. These children are making the most important decision in their life. Please join us in lifting up each child by name:

Michael, Max, Ripken, Luke, Twyla, Jackson, Adrian, Case and Caleb

We ask God to guide their hearts, strengthen their understanding, and surround them with love as they continue their journey toward confirmation.

Throughout March, we will focus on what it means to grow in our faith - learning to trust God, spend time in prayer, read Scripture, and live out our beliefs

through kindness and love. The children will explore stories of Jesus and His disciples that help them understand how faith grows over time.

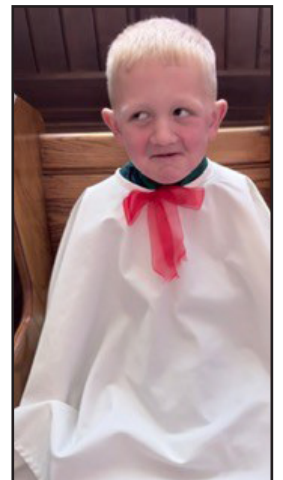
**What's Happening in Children's Ministry in March and April:**

- Wednesday nights - Halftime meal, music and a lesson
- Sundays - Children's Church at 9:00 and 11:00 am.
- Sunday School and confirmation classes at 10:00 am.
- Spring Break - March 27 - April 3
- No Halftime Activities on April 1
- Palm Sunday: March 29 - Children will carry palm branches during both services
- Easter Egg hunt: April 5 - 10:00 am
- Confirmation Sunday: April 12

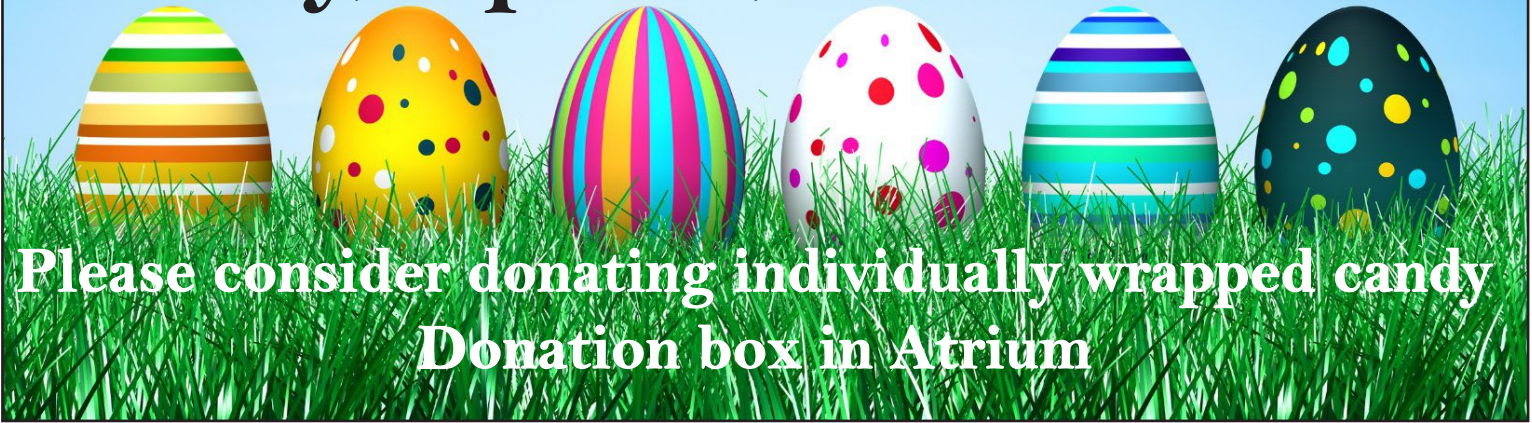
**How you can Partner with Us**

- Pray for our children
- Donate candy for our Easter Egg Hunt
- Volunteer to teach or assist a class

*In Christ's Love,  
Melissa*



# TWIGS Easter Egg Hunt Sunday, April 5, 10:00 am



Please consider donating individually wrapped candy  
Donation box in Atrium



## Under the Son Spotlight

Happy Spring!

“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” Psalm 118:24

This month will be filled with shamrocks; animals and rainbows, the cross, easter eggs, and learning about faithfulness!

Toddlers will focus on the color Yellow.

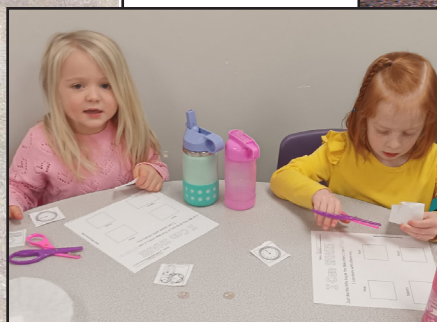
Three-year-olds will be introduced to numbers 14, 15 and 16.

Pre-K will continue to learn diagonal letters working with M, V, W and X.

During our Bible story time, the students will hear the story of Noah. They will learn that Noah was faithful and obeyed God. We will also talk about how God keeps his promises and sent a rainbow as a reminder of his promise to never flood the earth again.

Students will also hear the Easter story. The students will learn that we celebrate Easter because we remember that Jesus, God’s only son, loves us and died on the cross for our sins.

*Blessings,  
Heather Dumont  
Under the Son Director*



## MARCH CALENDAR

### Regular Weekly Events:

**Sunday, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

- 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School/Small Groups - all ages
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

**Monday, March 2, 9, 16, 23**

6:00 p.m. Scouts

**Tuesday, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**

10:30 a.m. Sisters in Christ (BUMC Library)

**Wednesday, March 4, 11, 18, 25**

- 7:00 a.m. Brothers in Christ
- 5:45 p.m. Halftime Fellowship Meal
- 6:30 p.m. Classes and Groups - all ages
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, March 12, 26**

10:00 a.m. Sisters in Christ

**Saturday, March 7, 14, 21, 28**

7:00 a.m. Brothers in Christ

### Current Events:

**Thursday, March 5**

6:30 p.m. ManUp Meade County, Zion Grove Church

**Saturday, March 7**

7:00 a.m. FLC Reserved - Disaster Relief Training

**Tuesday, March 10**

6:30 p.m. SWIFT Ladies' Bible Study  
Theme: "Getting Prepared"

**Saturday, March 14**

10:00 a.m. Clothes Closet Service Day

**Sunday, March 15**

12:15 p.m. Leadership Council

**Saturday, March 21**

3:00 p.m. FLC Reserved - Blue & Gold Banquet



**MEADE COUNTY**

**Thursday, March 5  
Meal & Fellowship at 6:30 pm  
Service at 7:00 pm  
Zion Grove Church  
7050 Brandenburg Rd, Ekron**

## SERVING ON SUNDAY IN MARCH

### Contemporary Service (9 a.m.)

Greeters:

Atrium: Duke Dahmen, FLC Entrance: Janet Dahmen

Ushers: Chad Barley contacts ushers

Communion Servers: Pastor Jason, Sandy Horan,

Mary Lou Lotz, Mary Plemmons

Welcome Center: Pat Carlson

### Traditional Service (11 a.m.)

Greeters: Atrium: Melinda Stickle

Sanctuary Entrance: Sarah Tupman

Ushers: Ron Barger contacts ushers

Communion Servers: Pastor Jason, Jackie Bruington

Tellers: Mary Beth McQuary, TBD

Welcome Center: Melinda Stickle

Follow-up for First-Time Guests: Peggy Darnall

### Hospitality: Provide food/Staff cafe

March 1 - Scott & Amy Bogard

March 8 - Joy Adams

March 15 - Joan Wilson/Jackie Bruington

March 22 - Lesley Wilson & Barb Thompson

March 29 - Jane Slinger

### Halftime Cooks

March 4 - Melinda Stickle

March 11 - Janet Dahmen

March 18 - Rhonda Mucker/Charlotte Shepard

March 25 - The Tribe



*Bringing Hope to Children Since 1871*

## Fifth Sunday Offering

Sunday, March 29, will be a Fifth Sunday. Our special offering on this day will go to the United Methodist Homes for Children and Youth. This offering is vital in supporting the ministry to abused, neglected and hurting children and youth. It enables us to help give hope to these children for a brighter future.

Please give generously and help our Methodist Homes offer these children a chance to live in God's grace and abundant love.

# THE STEEPLE BELL

Brandenburg United Methodist Church  
215 Broadway  
Brandenburg, KY 40108

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**ORGANIZED 1829**  
**MARCH 2026 EDITION**  
**PASTOR: Jason Brock**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP: 9:00 and 11:00 A.M.**



(2) Justin Barley, Jessie Moore (4) Ava Frank (5) Mack Wilson (6) Lesley Wilson  
(7) Rachel Nelson (9) Adam Papp (12) Joy Trotter, Joan Wilson  
(13) Theresa Cook, Lawson King, Ben Wilson (16) Nicki Smith  
(21) Morgan Smallwood (24) Austyn Pierce (26) Ilene Aebersold, Thomas Saylor  
(28) Sharon Haynes (29) Jake Fackler, Ben King (30) Jennie Neff  
(31) Paul Corley, Amy Hamilton, Michael Smith

## Follow us on Social Media!



Brandenburg United Methodist Church



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online giving

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SECRETARY'S E-MAIL ADDRESS: [Sandy.Horan@bburgumc.org](mailto:Sandy.Horan@bburgumc.org)

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