

Those who served today included:
Nursery: Emily Neu and Antoinette Neu

Liturgist: Brenda Hall

Ushers: Brent Clinehens, Earl Carruthers, Rick Lunsford, Terri Thompson,
Emerson Watkins, and Kent Witt, Jr.

Pastoral Staff

Lead Pastor: Rev. Lee Carlson
937-492-9136 ext. 101 or lcarlson@sidneyfirst.com

Associate Pastor: Rev. Eileen Hix
937-492-9136 ext. 111 or ehix@sidneyfirst.com

Pastoral Care and Assistant Organist: Rev. Jane Madden
937-658-2059 or jmadden@sidneyfirst.com

Children and Nursery Director: Abby Wagner
937-492-0812 or awagner@sidneyfirst.com

Interim Youth Director: Isaiah Pleiman
937-7103861 or ipleiman@sidneyfirst.com

Worship Director and Organist: Cari Beth Noah
937-538-6757 or cnoah@sidneyfirst.com

Support Ministry

Prayer Chain: Church Office and praynow@sidneyfirst.com

Choir Director: Frank Fahrer
937-726-6857 or fffmusic@hotmail.com

Church Secretary: Jeanne Huffman
937-492-9136 ext. 104 or jhuffman@sidneyfirst.com

eGiving and Financial Information: Diana Schutte
treasurer@sidneyfirst.com

Facility Scheduling: Jill Burden
937-492-9136 or jburden@sidneyfirst.com

Media Director: Pam Fultz
703-973-5031 or pfultz@sidneyfirst.com

Mission Coordinator: Diana Schutte
937-603-4027 or dianajschutte1@gmail.com

Social Media and Women's Ministry: Betsy Martin
937-638-4969 or bmartin@sidneyfirst.com

Stewardship/Giving Records: Donna Gross
937-492-9136 ext. 135 or dgross@sidneyfirst.com

Assistant Organist: Nikki Iames
937-726-6222 or nfahrer03@yahoo.com



www.sidneyfirst.com

SEVEN LAST WORDS:

**Today You Will
Be With Me In
Paradise**



Sidney First Methodist Church

230 East Poplar Street, Sidney, Ohio 45365 ☎ (937) 492-9136
www.sidneyfirst.com ☎ www.facebook.com/Sidney1st

March 16, 2025, 9 a.m.

Welcome

Please sign the pew pad then pass it down your row and back.

Prelude

“Near the Cross”

arr. Ritter, Nikki Iames

“Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross”

arr. Doane, Sidney First Choir

*** “Majesty”**

No. 63

Children’s Moment

Children up through 5th grade may go to Level 5 for Sunday School. You may reunite with your children on Level 5 following the service. Children are always welcome to stay in the sanctuary.

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

No. 304, v. 1

Prayer of Joys and Concerns

The Lord’s Prayer, No. 700

We invite you to come forward and talk with a prayer partner or pray at the kneeling rail.

* Please stand in body or spirit

Offering

“A Lenten Meditation”

arr. Broughton, Nikki Iames

*** Doxology** No. 682



“Soul on Fire”

arr. Hamby, Sidney First Choir

Living Word

Luke 23:32-43, p. 810

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

Message

Seven Last Words:

***Today You Will Be With Me
In Paradise***

Pastor Lee Carlson

*** “When We All Get to Heaven”**

No. 616, vs. 1, 4

Leadership Blessing

Benediction

“Amen”

Sidney First Choir

Postlude

“On That Bright, Golden Shore”

arr. Moore, Nikki Iames

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Nursery: Rose Schutte and Zach Pleiman

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www.sidneyfirst.com



Sidney First Methodist Church

RELAX

Make yourself at home. Grab a cookie and coffee.

LISTEN TO MUSIC

We will sing some songs. Feel free to participate as much or as little as you want.

HEAR THE MESSAGE

The pastor will pray, read from the Bible, then help us see how the message applies to our lives.

PASS THE BASKET

During a song, we will invite people to give an offering. Feel free to participate in a way you feel comfortable. We have several options for giving, please check the back of the announcements for more information.

RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

The first Sunday of every month we serve communion and everyone is welcome to come forward and receive.

GOT KIDS

We provide fun, age appropriate settings for your children in Kidz First. The Contemporary service is designed for adult application and attention span—so we're pretty confident your kid would prefer our rooms designed for their specific age in Kidz First.

Sidney First Methodist Church

230 East Poplar Street, Sidney, Ohio 45365 ☎ 937-492-9136
www.sidneyfirst.com ☎ www.facebook.com/Sidney1st

March 16, 2025, 11 a.m.

Welcome

Please sign the pew pad then pass it down your row and back.

Leadership Blessing

“Love of God”

“Gratitude”

Offering will be taken at this time.

Children up through 5th grade may go to Level 5 for Sunday School. You may reunite with your children on Level 5 following the service. Children are always welcome to stay in the sanctuary.

Prayer Song

We invite you to come forward and talk with a prayer partner or pray at the kneeling rail.

“Nearer My God to Thee”

Living Word

Luke 23:32-43, p. 810

Message Seven Last Words:

Today You Will Be With Me In Paradise

Pastor Lee Carlson

“Build Your Kingdom”

Sending Out

NOTES: _____



Seven Words
Today You Will Be With Me In Paradise
Luke 23:32-43

1. Introduction:

“Then [the criminal] said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’ He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” Luke 23:42-43

2. An Opportune Time:

When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.” Luke 4:13

- a. The _____ of Jesus becomes an opportune time.

“And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, ‘He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!’ The soldiers also mocked him...saying, ‘If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!’” Luke 23:35-37

“One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”” Luke 23:39

- b. Jesus refuses to save himself in order to save _____.

3. A Deathbed Conversation/Conversion:

“Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” Luke 23:43

- a. ...in Paradise.

- i. Paradise: a Persian word meaning enclosure, park or _____.

“And I know that this man – whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows – was caught up to Paradise.”

2 Corinthians 12:3-4

“To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.” Revelation 2:7

- ii. C.S. Lewis’ and a place he called _____.

- b. ...you will be with me...

- i. The thief on the cross (criminal/robber) no doubt knew the pain of _____.

- ii. Can you imagine his _____ when Jesus looked him in the eye and said, *“you will be with me.”*

- iii. The phrase *“you will be with me”* is what the Bible is all about; it’s the _____ Jesus came to live and die.

c. Today...

- i. The repentant criminal joined Jesus in God’ Kingdom _____ ...but what does this mean?

- ii. We must remember Jesus’ concept of “_____” is very different from ours. (2 Peter 3:8)

d. I Tell You the Truth...

- i. Everyone one of us needs a place to stand, a _____ place for developing a world and life view.

- ii. Like a compass or a level, that place to stand must be trustworthy and _____. (John 14:6; John 8:31-32)

4. Conclusion:

“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Luke 23:42

“Salvation is not a blessing which lies on the other side of death...It is not something at a distance: it is a present thing, a blessing which, through the free mercy of God, ye are now in possession of...”

John Wesley

- a. Imagine...the _____ news...Imagine the _____ news...

“I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands.” Isaiah 49:16

- b. If you can imagine all that, then you can _____ to grasp the power of Jesus’s words from the cross to the lost, the poor in spirit, those who feel all alone, and those who carry crushing burdens of shame and guilt.

- c. In showing the world a glimpse of God’s _____, you and I extend Jesus’s invitation to be with him in Paradise.

- d. Who do you know that needs to see a glimpse of God’s kingdom through you this week? _____

GREEN THUMB GARDENING PROJECT...

We are collecting seeds for the Jackson Area Ministries project, so would you consider donating two packs of seeds? **ALL types of vegetable and herb seeds are needed. Corn and green bush beans in bulk** are greatly appreciated. Tomato plants and potatoes were already provided. The seeds you donate today will help the unemployed, senior citizens, and low and fixed income families help themselves. Monetary donations are also appreciated and help to pay for shipping the seeds. Make checks payable to SFMC and mark in the memo line "Green Thumb Project." Collection boxes are located in the Narthex at the back of the Sanctuary, Gathering Place (Level 4), and outside the Church Office (Level 3). **Deadline for collection is Tuesday, March 25.**



EASTER CANDY NEEDED...

KidzFirst needs small individually wrapped and sealed candy for all the fun activities the kids will be doing during the Easter Egg—Stravaganza! Please place your donation in the blue barrel located in the Gathering Place.



EASTER FLOWERS...

Help us decorate for Easter services. Order flowers in memory of or in honor of your loved ones. We ask that you complete the form, include your payment with check made payable to SFMC, and drop off at the office prior to **Friday, April 4.**

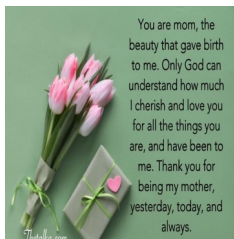


EASTER GREETING TEAM...

We need your help! Because Easter tends to be a larger gathering, we could use a few more volunteers to help greet people coming to worship. If you can help, please call the church office at 937-492-9136 or let Winky New know you're available for the 9 a.m. service and Lee Fearnley for the 11 a.m. service.



FEED THE NEED...This month, we are helping **AGAPE** with their needs, which are: **LARGE DIAPERS AND WIPES, CEREAL, PEANUT BUTTER, CANNED FRUIT & VEGETABLES, BAKED BEANS, CANNED TUNA FISH & CHICKEN, SPAGHETTI SAUCE, AND MAC & CHEESE.** Please place your items in the mini grocery carts located in the Gathering Place (Level 4) or the Narthex at the back of the Sanctuary.



SEEKING TEAM CAPTAIN...A Team Captain is needed for our Cancer Relay for Life team. Responsibilities include attending local meetings; organizing fundraisers; collecting monies; assisting with survivor/luminaria registration; and in August, setting up a booth the night of the Relay. **Questions:** Contact Judy Johnson at 937-638-9797.

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR...are placed in memory of Donna Gross's mom, Betty Hageman, and in celebration of Donna's birthday. It's been a tradition for Donna to give her mom flowers on her own birthday in appreciation of giving her life. Because Betty is with Jesus, we get to enjoy the flowers!

Happy Birthday, Donna, and many more!

"This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it." ~Psalm 118:24

March 16, 2025

Sidney First Methodist Church

Our Biblical Mission: To know Christ intimately and to follow Him into the world to make disciples.

Our Vision: Learning to have an intimate, passionate, life changing relationship with Jesus and sharing His love with all people.
www.sidneyfirst.com



news for the pews...

NEXT WEEK'S MESSAGE...

✝ Seven Last Words, *My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?*

SAVE THE DATES...

- ✝ March 18, 6:30 p.m.—Walking Through Holy Week Bible Study
- ✝ March 19, 1 p.m.—Walking Through Holy Week Bible Study
- ✝ March 19, 6:30 p.m.—Women's Bible Study
- ✝ March 19, 6:30 p.m.—The Foundry: Men's Bible Study
- ✝ March 20, 7 p.m.—Ignite Worship a Healing/Prayer Service
- ✝ March 23, 12:15 p.m.—Pizza with the Pastors
- ✝ March 25, 6:30 p.m.—Church Council Meeting
- ✝ March 29, 6 p.m.—Chili Cook Off Fund Raiser
- ✝ March 30, 10 a.m.—One Combined Service and Carry In

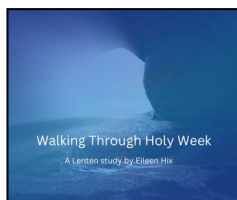
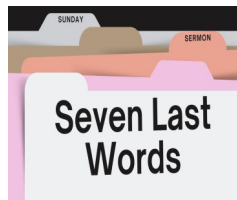
HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE...

- ✝ April 5...9 a.m. to noon, Easter Stravaganza at Julian Lamb Park
- ✝ April 13 to 18...Walk Through Holy Week Prayer Stations
- ✝ April 17, 7 p.m....Maundy Thursday Service in Fellowship Hall
- ✝ April 18, 7 p.m....Good Friday Services
- ✝ April 20, 7 a.m....Sunrise Service at Tawawa Park Gazebo
- ✝ April 20, 9 a.m....Traditional Service
- ✝ April 20, 11 a.m....Contemporary Service

~For more information on upcoming events, visit www.sidneyfirst.com | Events | Upcoming Events, and scroll down until you see the Monthly Church Calendar.

WALKING THROUGH HOLY WEEK...A continuing Lenten Bible study put together by Rev. Eileen Hix. Come **Tuesday, at 6:30 p.m.** or **Wednesday at 1 p.m.** There is no book to buy. Please bring your Bible.

FAMILY EASTER EVENT...Join us at Julian Lamb Park on **April 5 at 10:30 a.m.** for a fun-filled family Easter Stravaganza. There will be crafts, an Easter story walk, Easter egg hunt, and more!



3 WAYS TO GIVE



IN PERSON
TITHING ENVELOPE



ONLINE
SIDNEY.FIRST.COM
CLICK ON GIVING



TEXT
TEXT YOUR AMOUNT TO
937-500-5531

In Person. Place your gift in the offering plate during worship.
Online. You can give a one-time gift or set up a recurring payment.
Text. On your mobile, text any dollar amount to 937-500-5531.

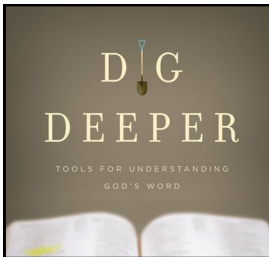


PIZZA WITH THE PASTORS...Sunday, March 23 at 12:15 p.m. If you are new to our church, here's an opportunity for you to get to know our pastors and have some pizza too. It's an easy first step for anyone who is checking out Sidney First and wants to learn more about who we are and what we believe. You can share a little of your own story and how you found us. And, you can ask Pastors Lee and Eileen any questions you may have. Please RSVP to the church office at 937-492-9136.



CHILI COOK-OFF FUNDRAISER...Saturday, March 29 at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall (Level 1) Men, do you think you have the best chili recipe? Prove it! Bring your best dish and join in the competition. The cook-off competition is for men—but the eating and judging are open to everyone, so bring your friends, family, and definitely your appetite!

It's free to come and eat, and the only cost is voting for your favorite chili.
Remember, Jacob's chili was so good, Esau sold his birthright for a bowl... what's yours worth?



DIG DEEPER: WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY...Ladies, let's dive into Scripture together! This Women's Bible study will challenge and encourage us as we grow deeper in faith and community.

✝ **Monday at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.** (Led by Betsy Martin)

✝ **Wednesday, March 12 at 6:30 p.m.** (Led by Amanda Shaffer)

Free and open to all women! Come for the fellowship, stay for the Word! Who's joining us?



CHURCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE!...The church softball season is right around the corner and we need players. If you would like to join our team (18 and older), please contact Greg Bowers at 937-622-0923.

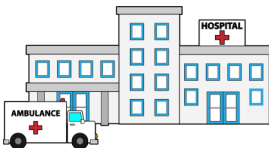


THE FOUNDRY: MEN'S MINISTRY...The men of The Foundry meet every **Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.** in the Big Room (Level 6) for Bible study. Right now, they're diving into the book of Joshua. Bring your Bible. This is a free study, open to all men looking to grow in faith and community.

Step into The Foundry. Be shaped. Be strengthened. Become the man God created you to be.

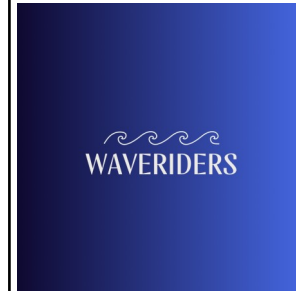


A WALK THROUGH HOLY WEEK PRAYER STATIONS...Have you ever wondered what it would have been like to walk through Jesus' last week as one of the disciples? This year, we are offering an immersive experience to do just that! Beginning on Palm Sunday, join us for service to witness Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, and then join us during Holy Week and complete your journey, from the Garden at Gethsemane to the empty tomb. You can go through on your own time, or join us for guided tours—the choice is yours! Hours for this experience are: Palm Sunday (4/13) 12-6 p.m., Monday—Friday (4/14-4/18) 9 a.m.—6 p.m.; guided tours Wednesday (4/16) 6-8 p.m. Please call the church office or see Amanda Shaffer or Eileen for more information!



SICK OR HOSPITALIZED...Due to HIPAA privacy laws, hospitals will not notify Sidney First when parishioners are admitted. It is helpful if families contact the church directly.

Discipleship Corner:
**BE LONG
LIEVE
COME**
#BETHECHURCH



DISCIPLESHIP CORNER...This is our prayer focus for our first week of Lent: Heavenly Father, I come before you with a humble heart seeking your mercy and grace. As we marked Ash Wednesday, I was reminded I must depend on you. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Help me to turn away from sin and draw closer to You in prayer, fasting, and love. Guide me through this Lenten season that I might grow in faith, see your will, and walk in the footsteps of Jesus. Amen

Kidz Sunday Activities—Preschool through 5th Grades

- ✝ **9 a.m. Jr. Church...**Kidz are dismissed from service to learn about Jesus' love and the Bible. They may be picked up on Level 5.
- ✝ **11 a.m. Traditional Sunday School...**With a twist, Kidz learn about Jesus and the Bible through lessons and activities.
- ✝ **Children's Packets...**Kidz attending the 9 or 11 a.m. service in the Sanctuary may ask a member of the Hospitality Team for a Children's Packet.
- ✝ **Nursery...**Staffed by experienced caregivers and located on Level 3. (Your child is welcome there at anytime before or during the service. Infant to four years.)
- ✝ **Sundae Sunday School...**March 30. Enjoy an ice cream Sundae at Sunday school!

Kidz Wednesday Activities—Preschool through 5th Grades

Dinner is served at 6 p.m. each Wednesday

- ✝ **Cool Kidz...**6:30 to 8 p.m. (Level 5) (Pre-school to 3rd grade)
- ✝ **Waveriders...**6:30 to 8 p.m. (Level 5) (4th and 5th grades)
- ✝ **Waveriders Overnight...**April 4 & 5, 7 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. next day
- ✝ **April 16**—No Cool Kidz or Waveriders

Call Abby Wagner with questions about Kidz Activities at 937-492-0812.
www.facebook.com/kidzfirstsidney

Family Event at Julian Lamb Park

Easter Egg—Stravaganza...April 5, 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Children/Youth Cancellations...Sidney First does not follow **any school schedule** for Wednesday evening cancellations. If an activity is cancelled, such as Kidz First or Youth (Crossfire), it will be posted on Facebook and you will receive a One Call Now.

Crossfire Youth Activities—6th through 12th Grades

Dinner is served at 6 p.m. each Wednesday

- ✝ **Wednesdays, 6:30 to 8 p.m.**—Crossfire (Level 2)
- ✝ **April 16**—No Youth Programs

Call Isaiah Pleiman for questions about Youth Activities at 937-710-3861.
www.facebook.com/sidneyfirstyouth