

Those who served today included:

Liturgist: Donna Ankney

Today in the Nursery: Elizabeth Huffman Saunders & Karen Gates

Next Week in the Nursery: Elizabeth Huffman Saunders & Katrina Bowers

Ushers: Brent Clinehens, Earl Carruthers, Rick Lunsford, Terri Thompson,
Emerson Watkins, 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

Pastor of Congregational Care: Don Freisthler
937-492-9136 or dfreisthler@sidneyfirst.com

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

Youth Ministry Director: Isaiah Pleiman
937-710-3861 or ipleiman@sidneyfirst.com

Worship Ministry 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: Amanda Shaffer
937-492-9136 ext. 100 or ashaffer@sidneyfirst.com

Church Treasurer: Diana Schutte
937-492-9136 ext. 115 or treasurer@sidneyfirst.com

Facility and Scheduling: Jill Burden
937-492-9136 ext. 105 or jburden@sidneyfirst.com

Media Director: Pam Masson
pmasson@sidneyfirst.com

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

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

Assistant Organist: Nikki Iames
937-726-6222 or nfahrero3@yahoo.com

Assistant Organist and Men's Choir: Rev. Jane Madden
937-658-2059 or jmadden@sidneyfirst.com



www.sidneyfirst.com

JESUS ASKING

**“The Movement from
Self-Improvement to
Transformation”**

Sidney First Methodist Church

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

March 1, 2026, 9 a.m.

Welcome

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

Celebration of Retirement

Donna Gross

Prelude

“The Brightest Trumpet”

arr. Ritter, Cari Beth Noah

* “O Worship the King”

No. 11 vs. 1,2

* “Majesty”

No. 63

As we sing Jesus Loves Me, children up through 5th grade are invited 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.

“Living Hope”

No. 560 vs. 1,2

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

Prayer of Joys and Concerns

The Lord’s Prayer No. 700

*Please stand in body or spirit

Offering

“Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”

arr. Bock, Cari Beth Noah

* **Doxology** No. 682



“I Will Sing Praise”

arr. Martin, Sidney First Choir

Living Word

Matthew 17:1-9 p. 745

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

Message

Jesus Asking:

The Movement from Self-Improvement to Transformation

Pastor Lee Carlson

Communion

Communion is open to all who wish to be in a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. The elements will be served in the pew. Please wait until all have been served so that we may commune together. Please ask an usher if you prefer gluten-free communion. You may dispose of the cups as you leave the Sanctuary.

*“Have Thine Own Way, Lord”

No. 343 v. 1

Benediction

Postlude

“Postlude in G”

arr. Kihlken, Cari Beth Noah

If you’re a guest with us today, please visit the Welcome Center after the service to connect with us.

Those who served today include:

Today in the Nursery: Rose Schutte, Alexis King, Avery Luginbill

Next Week in the Nursery: Kristina Guisinger, Montana Peacock

Pastoral Staff

Lead Pastor: Rev. Lee Carlson

937-492-9136 ext. 101 or lcarlson@sidneyfirst.com

Associate Pastor: Rev. Eileen Hix

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937-726-6222 or nfahrer03@yahoo.com

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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 1, 2026, 11 a.m.

Welcome

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

Celebration of Retirement

Donna Gross

“This Is Amazing Grace”

“I Know A Name”

“Graves Into Gardens”

Offering will be taken at this time.

As we sing *Jesus Loves Me*, children up through 5th grade are invited 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

“Lord I Need You”

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

Living Word
Matthew 17:1-9 p.745

Message

Jesus Asking:

The Movement From Self-Improvement to Transformation

Pastor Lee Carlson

Communion

Communion is open to all who wish to be in a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. The elements will be served by intinction. Receive a piece of the bread and dip it in the cup. The station closest to the piano is gluten-free.

“The Heart Of Worship”

“Trust In God”

Sending Out

If you're a guest with us today, please visit the Welcome Center after the service to connect with us.

NOTES: _____



Jesus Asking

The Movement from Self-Improvement to Transformation

Matthew 17:1–9

1. Introduction: *“Who do you say I am?”*

2. Up the Mountain: From Knowledge to Knowing

“After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.” Matthew 17:1

a. _____ is not a solo climb. It is a shared ascent.

“My people are a rope of sand.” George Whitefield

b. Spiritual awakening requires _____.

3. The Transfiguration: From Self-Improvement to Transformation

“There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.” Matthew 17:2

“Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.” Matthew 17:3

“Peter said to Jesus, ‘Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.’” Matthew 17:4

a. We have reduced _____ to self-improvement.

b. _____ cannot fix self.

c. Transformation is _____ breaking through to you.

4. The Voice: From Activity to Receptivity

“This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!” Matthew 17:5b

a. Transformation is not self-_____.

b. We become who and what we _____.

5. Face Down and Touched: From Fear to Intimacy

“When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified.” Matthew 17:6

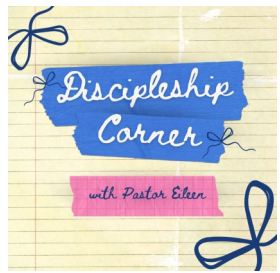
“But Jesus came and touched them. ‘Get up,’ he said. ‘Don’t be afraid.’” Matthew 17:7

a. Jesus’ glory doesn’t crush them, it _____ them.

“When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.” Matthew 17:8

b. Self-improvement ends with you staring at _____...transformation ends with you staring at _____.

c. What are you beholding? _____



Discipleship Corner

Simple Ways to “Give Something Up” for Lent

“40 Bags in 40 Days” Idea (Very popular & meaningful)

Each day of Lent, remove one bag/box of items from your home to donate or discard.

As you declutter your home, God declutters your heart.

You can pray daily:

“Lord, as I release these things, help me release anything that keeps me from fully following You.”

People often say this practice:

- reduces stress
- increases generosity
- creates spiritual clarity

Reminder: Lent isn't about punishment; it's about making space for God.

Lent is not about losing something, it is about finding Someone, Jesus!

Lord, As I walk through these 40 days, help me release anything that distracts me from You.

Empty my hands so I can receive Your grace. Quiet my heart so I can hear Your voice.

And draw me closer to You each day. Amen.

Kidz Sunday Activities—Preschool & 4 years old 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.)

Kidz Wednesday Activities—Preschool & 4 years old 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)

Overnighter May 1 & 2

For questions about Kidz activities, call Abby Wagner at 937-492-0812.

www.facebook.com/kidzfirstsidney

Crossfire Youth Activities—6th through 12th Grades

Dinner is served at 6 p.m. each Wednesday

✝ **Crossfire**—Wednesday, 6:30 to 8 p.m. (Level 2) 6th through 12th grades)

For questions about Youth activities, call Isaiah Pleiman at 937-710-3861.

www.facebook.com/sidneyfirstyouth



3 WAYS TO GIVE



IN PERSON
TITHING ENVELOPE



ONLINE
SIDNEYFIRST.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.

March 1, 2026

Sidney First Methodist Church

Our Biblical Mission: Inspiring people to learn, live, and love like Jesus.

NEXT WEEK'S SERVICE

Pastor Lee Carlson—Jesus Asking: How can I Be Transformed Part One

UPCOMING

- ✝ **Sunday:** 10:15 a.m.—Adult Sunday School (after 9 a.m. service)
- ✝ **Monday:** 6:30 to 8 p.m.—Men's Bible Study
- ✝ **Tuesday:** 7 to 8 a.m.—Men's Bible Study (Church Library)
- ✝ **Tuesday, February 17-March 24:** 6:30 to 8 p.m.—Financial Freedom
- ✝ **Second Tuesday of each month:** 9:30 a.m.—Blanche Wilhide Circle
- ✝ **Wednesday:** 6:30 a.m.—Koininia Men's Fellowship at the Alcove
- ✝ **Wednesday:** 6:30 to 8 p.m.—The Garden Women's Bible Study (Level 6)
- ✝ **Wednesday:** 6:30 to 8 p.m.—The Foundry Men's Bible Study (Level 6)
- ✝ **First Thursday of each month:** 7 p.m.—Dorena Circle
- ✝ **Saturday, February 28:** 9:30a.m.—Lenten Study: “On the Road to the Cross”
- ✝ **Monday, March 2:** 6:30p.m.—Lenten Study: “On the Road to the Cross”
- ✝ **Thursday, March 12-Sunday, March 15** Men's Emmaus Walk

SPRING AWAKENING! Saturday, March 7, 9a.m. to 1p.m. This year our speaker will be Connie McEldowney from Rustic Hope. We will also have worship, fellowship, crafts and more!. Childcare is available by RSVP. Tickets are \$15, and lunch will be provided.

2026 FOUNDRY CHILI COOKOFF. The Foundry Men's Ministry will host the 2026 Foundry Chili Cookoff on **Saturday, April 11 at 6p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Come enjoy good food, good fellowship, and good-natured competition. The event is free to attend and eat—votes are \$1 each. Think your chili has what it takes? Enter to compete for this year's trophy: a 9-lb. forged steel anvil. Entry details will be shared as the event gets closer. All are welcome. Bring your appetite and join us.

FUNERAL HOSPITALITY HELP NEEDED Are you interested in helping with hospitality for funerals? If so, please call or stop in the office to sign up! We'll need to know your availability, as well as your preferred method of contact. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus!

SMALL DEVOTIONAL GROUP Steve Whittenberger would like to invite all who are interested in going over the readings from the Everyday Gospel devotional book to join him on Sunday mornings. No need to sign up—just show up at 7:15a.m. in the Gathering Place!



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THE WALK TO EMMAUS is a wonderful experience of Christian growth and renewal. It's an opportunity to meet with Jesus as you take a three day inspirational journey with other believers. The Walk can result in a grace-filled life; lived, and shared with others. If interested in learning more about Emmaus, please contact Rev. Eileen Hix at 937-492-9136. The next **Mens's Walk is March 12-15, 2026**. Please pray for our team members, Rick Brubaker, Jeff Noah, Tim Mikolajewski, Mitch Paulus, Brent Clinehens, Pastor Lee Carlson and Rev. Eileen Hix.



NEW BIBLE STUDY: SET FREE—GOD'S PLAN FOR FINANCIAL FREEDOM It's not too late to join this Bible study focused on biblical stewardship, financial freedom, and living counter-culturally according to God's Word. There are no videos or outside curriculum; this study is Scripture-based. Participants are encouraged to bring a Bible they can read and understand. Bibles will be provided if needed. Scan the QR code to the left to join the discussion on Telegram!. **When:** Continuing through March 24 **Time:** 6:30 to 8p.m., **Where:** Level 6 Foundry Room, **Cost:** Free

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD YEAR-ROUND COLLECTION For the month of March, donations of "WOW" items (baby dolls, balls etc.) are being collected. You can drop items off in the church office. Thank you for helping share love and warmth through this ministry! Contact Abby Wagner with questions.

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 it off at the office or put it in the collection plate prior to **Thursday, March 5**

ITS MATCH DAY! The Community Foundation of Shelby County is again sponsoring Match Day from now until **Wednesday March 4..** Gifts will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$5,000. Church Missions benefit from the funds collected. SFMC will use this year's match money to help fund 6 community outreach events this year, and to continue the renovation in the Tabernacle.

GREEN THUMB GARDENING PROJECT We are collecting seeds for the Jackson Area Ministries project, so please start looking for them in your favorite stores. They need **ALL types of vegetable and herb seeds. Corn and green bush beans in bulk** would be greatly appreciated. Tomato plants and potatoes have already been provided. You will be helping the unemployed, senior citizens, low and fixed income families help themselves. Monetary donations would also be appreciated to help pay for shipping the seeds. Make checks payable to SFMC and mark in the memo line for "Green Thumb Project." Collection boxes will be located in the Narthex at the back of the Sanctuary, Gathering Place (Level 4), and outside the Church Office (Level 3) next week. **Deadline for collection is Monday, March 23.**

LOOKING FOR A LENT CHALLENGE? The **40 Bags in 40 Days** (starting Feb. 18, 2026) is a Lenten decluttering practice where you remove one bag of clutter daily to simplify your home. It encourages intentional living, reducing waste, and donating items, offering a spiritual focus on letting go of excess.



SPRING MISSION OPPORTUNITY SOUTHERN OHIO, JACKSON AREA MINISTRIES MARCH 29-APRIL 3

Cost is \$250, which includes registration, building materials and food. Be Jesus' hands and feet by building, cooking, cleaning, and witnessing. You will be blessed by being on the team! *No special skills needed.* Projects to be determined later. **For more information, contact Paul Soliday at 937-489-9380.**

EASTER BIBLE STUDY—ON THE ROAD TO THE CROSS

This study allows you to experience Easter through the eyes of the everyday people who witnessed the triumphal entry, saw Jesus drag his cross to Calvary, and cried through Christ's last words. Join Rev. Eileen Hix starting **Saturday, February 7 at 9:30 a.m. or Monday, February 9 at 6:30 p.m.** as you travel on the road to the cross. Call the church office to register for the study. Book fee is \$10.

SIGN UP TO PUT FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR Would you like to honor a loved one, wish someone a happy birthday, or announce another special occasion? We have **March 1,8,22** open to purchase flowers for the altar. Just call the office at 937-492-9136

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES TO: The family and friends of Virginia "Jinny" Shreves on her passing. Jinny's viewing will begin at 1pm today, followed by the funeral service at 3:30pm. All are invited to attend.

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?'" - John 11:25-26

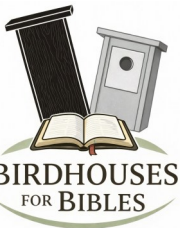
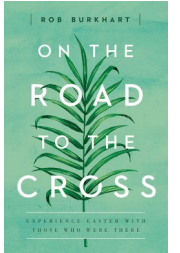
EASTER CANDY NEEDED KidzFirst needs small individually wrapped and sealed candy for all the fun activities the kids will be doing on Easter Sunday. Please place your donation in the blue barrel located in The Gathering Place. The deadline for all donations is March 22.

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.

WORSHIP WORKSHOP Thursday, March 19 This is all about progress—vocally and musically. We'll focus on improving vocal technique, creating harmonies, enhancing musical elements, and tightening our overall band sound. Whether you sing or play, this is a place to grow your skills and strengthen the way we lead worship for God and our church.

- ✚ 6 to 6:45 p.m. Vocals Workshop—If you sing please come!
- ✚ 6:45 to 7:30 p.m. All group—vocals and instrumental Workshop. Please attend this to put together some musical elements that will enhance our leadership as a group.

Dress comfortably and be ready to have some fun while we refine our gifts for worship! We will meet in the Sanctuary. If you know someone who wants to join the team, they are welcome too! This might be a nice entry into our worship team. Pass the word!



Order Easter Flowers

Please help us decorate the church for Easter services.
Orders and payment can be made in the Church Office
or through the offering. Thank you for your generosity.



PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____

Phone: _____

<u>Flower</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Paid</u>
Tulips	\$10	_____	_____
Hyacinths	\$10	_____	_____
Lilies	\$15	_____	_____
Total			\$_____

In Memory Of: _____

In Honor Of: _____

(Please Check One)

_____ I will pick up my flowers after the 9 a.m. Easter Service.

_____ I will pick up my flowers after the 11 a.m. Easter Service.

Make checks payable to SFMC

DEADLINE TO ORDER FLOWERS: Thursday, March 5

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