

Those who served today included:

Liturgist: Chris Geuy

Today in the Nursery: Elizabeth Saunders

Next Week in the Nursery: Krista Guisinger & Karen Gates

Ushers: Greg Bowers, Ryan Hall, Dennis Grandey, Don Lauth

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

Office Administrator: 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

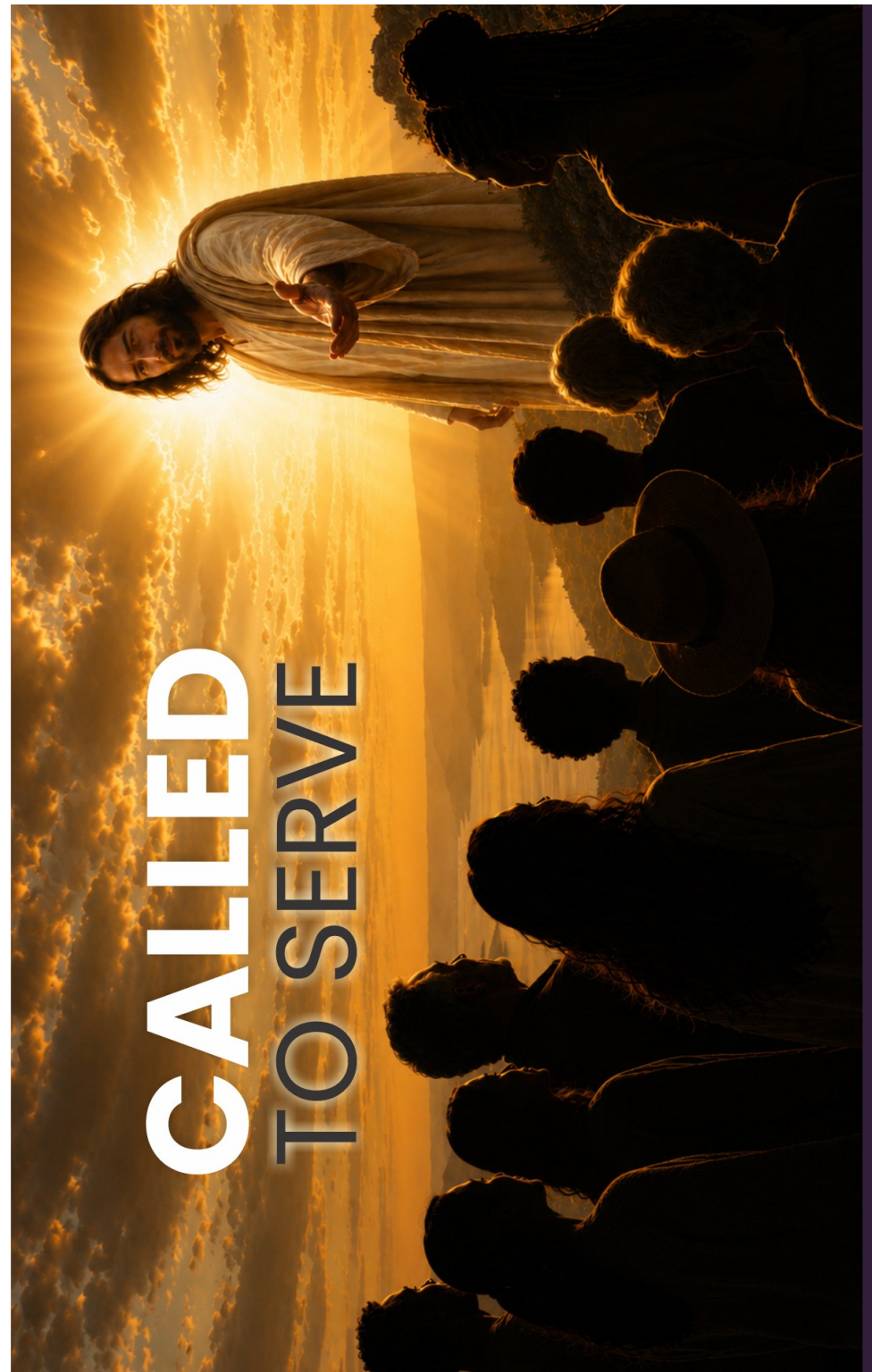
Stewardship/Giving Records: Melissa Bowers
937-492-9136 ext. 135 or mbowers@sidneyfirst.com

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



Sidney First Methodist Church

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

May 31, 2026, 9 a.m.

Welcome

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

Prelude

“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

arr. Scott, Cari Beth Noah

***“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”**

No. 3 v. 1, 4

***“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”**

No. 44 v. 1, 3

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.

“There’s Something About That Name”

No. 134

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

“Trust In You”

Amanda Shaffer

***Doxology** No. 682

Special Music

“Available”

Amanda Shaffer



Living Word

1 Samuel 17:13-37 p. 235

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

Message

Called: To Serve

Pastor Lee Carlson

***“Here I Am, Lord”**

No 589 vs. 1, 3

Benediction

Postlude

“Take Time To Be Holy”

arr. Noah, 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: Krista Guisinger, Rose Schutte, Portia Hill

Next Week in the Nursery: Rose Schutte & Elizabeth Saunders
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937-492-9136 ext. 101 or lcarlson@sidneyfirst.com

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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. Children are ALWAYS welcome to stay in the sanctuary—but 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

May 31, 2026, 11 a.m.

Welcome

However you feel most comfortable, you are invited to worship freely today. Whether you choose to sit quietly, stand in reverence, lift your hands, or move with joy, know that your expression of worship is welcome here. Let this be a space where you can respond to God in a way that is genuine and meaningful to you.

“That’s Who I Praise”

“Raise A Hallelujah”

“Holy Forever”

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

“I Speak Jesus”

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

Living Word
1 Samuel 17:13-37 p.235

Message
Called: To Serve
Pastor Lee Carlson

“Do Something”

Sending Out

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

NOTES: _____



Called
"To Serve"
1 Samuel 17:13, 17-37

1. Genuine Care & _____

"I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I, too, may be consoled by news of you. I have no one so like myself (Timothy) who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. All of them are seeking their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But Timothy's worth you know, how like a son with a father he has served with me in the work of the gospel."

Philippians 2:19-22

2. The In-between Years

a. David's _____

- i. _____ done for Christ is insignificant.
- ii. The greatest opportunities in your life will often grow out of faithful service in _____ things.

b. David's Great _____

- i. The only reason David was standing within earshot of Goliath was because he was _____ serving.
- ii. His giant-sized opportunity came through _____ obedience.

c. _____ From The Story

- i. God uses _____ acts of obedience.
 - ⇒ *"I am a connector to the power of Christ."*
 - ⇒ No matter what you do for your full-time job, you are a _____ member of the Kingdom of God.
- ii. God's divine plan for your life is rooted in doing what God has given you to do right _____.

d. David's Big Moment Came Through _____ Service

3. Conclusion

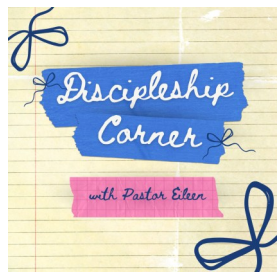
a. The Karate Kid and Good _____

- i. _____ the fence.
- ii. _____ the floor.
- iii. _____ the car.

"I didn't come here to paint the fence, sand the floor, and wash the car. I came to learn how to fight." (Danial San)

b. God Is _____ You

c. Reflection Question: What is God calling you to do today that may be preparing you to reach your divine destiny? _____



Discipleship Corner: Year of Community

May Theme: Serving Together

"Serve one another humbly in love." Galatians 5:13

Serving is one of the clearest ways we reflect Christ and strengthen community. This month, we are reminded that when we serve together, we grow together.

Week 5 – Faithful in Small Things

Scripture: "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much." Luke 16:10

Discipleship Focus: Many meaningful acts of service seem small, but in God's hands, they become holy. Faithfulness in everyday moments shapes discipleship.

Practice This Week: Look for one simple act of service each day: a note, a prayer, a chore, a kind word, a helping hand.

Prayer: Lord, help us to be faithful in the small things. May everyday acts of love become seeds of grace in others' lives. 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)

Kidz activities will resume on Wednesday, September 2. Be sure to check out VBS and Camp Union for summer activities!

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)
- ✚ **Saturday, June 20—Slip-N-Slide Day @ Bernards Pond, 11am-3pm**

Be sure to check online for the summer schedule! www.sidneyfirst.com/crossfire

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
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.

May 31, 2026

Sidney First Methodist Church

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

NEXT WEEK'S SERVICE

Rev. Eileen Hix: Called: To Generosity

UPCOMING

- ✚ **Today, Sunday May 31:** Membership Exploration Luncheon following second service
- ✚ **Sunday:** 10:15 a.m.—Adult Sunday School (after 9 a.m. service)
- ✚ **Tuesday:** 7 to 8 a.m.—Men's Bible Study (Church Library)
- ✚ **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 Refinery Women's Study (Study—Level 3)
- ✚ **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, June 6:** 9:30-11 a.m.—Daring Women of the Bible (Study—Level 3)

WELCOME! Whether this is your first time or you've been visiting for a while, we hope you feel at home here. We'd love to meet you—please stop by one of the Welcome Desks in either the narthex or the gathering place after the service. There, you can learn more about our church, ask any questions, and connect with our team. Plus—we have a Winans gift card for you! We're so grateful you're here today, and we look forward to getting to know you!

SAVE THE DATE On **Sunday, June 14**, there will be a Time Capsule dedication in between services. We will be placing the time capsule back behind the cornerstone, weather permitting. Afterwards, we will celebrate with cupcakes in the gathering place. Please plan to attend.

SERMON SERIES: "CALLED" The sermon series *Called* explores the divine invitation God places on every believer's life through service, generosity, and discipleship. In *Called To Serve* (1 Samuel 17:13, 17–37), we see David answering the call with humility and courage, faithfully serving even before stepping onto the battlefield. In *Called To Generosity* (Luke 10:30–37), the parable of the Good Samaritan reminds us that being called by God means showing compassion and extending love beyond comfort and boundaries. Finally, in *Called To Make Disciples* (Matthew 28:16–20), Jesus commissions His followers to go into all the world, sharing the gospel and leading others into a relationship with Him. Together, these messages reveal that God's call is not passive but active—calling us to live with purpose, serve faithfully, love generously, and impact others for Christ.

GRADUATION SUNDAY We want to honor our high school and college graduates on **Sunday, June 14** at both worship services. If you are a 2026 high school or college graduate, please contact the church office no later than Wednesday, June 10.

FOOD COLLECTION On **Sunday, June 7**, we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the FISH food pantry. Please bring your canned goods to your preferred service, and the kids will collect them during service! Thank you for your support!

CONGRATULATIONS! We would like to thank Lisa Whittenberger for her years of service here at the church, and wish her the best of luck in her retirement!! Join us on **Sunday, June 7**, as we celebrate Lisa!



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD YEAR-ROUND COLLECTION

For the month of May, donations of personal care items are being collected. Please do not send liquids—shampoos, conditioners, toothpaste are not allowed. 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.

GARDEN BIBLE STUDY Join us on the 6th floor on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8pm as we continue to dive into the first book of Psalms (1-41) and grow deeper in God’s Word together. There is no cost, just bring your Bible (we’re happy to provide one if you need it!). All ladies are warmly invited to come, connect, and be encouraged. Questions? See Amanda Shaffer.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is coming June 15-19, 2026, from 9 am to 12:15pm. Registration is now open—you can do so by scanning the QR code! Want to volunteer or provide supplies for the week? Please see Abby Wagner or reach out to her at awagner@sidneyfirst.com!! Thank you for your support!!



PRAY FOR VBS Please join us as we pray for our VBS volunteers this week. *Lord, please bring volunteers to serve at VBS. Fill their hearts with your love and patience to be poured out upon the kids. Give them strength, health, and an overwhelming joy to serve! We pray that our volunteers are given the opportunity to help children experience you and that they would grow closer to you! Amen.*

LIFT IT UP MUSIC MINISTRY Mark your calendars for **Saturday, August 15** at 7pm for this year’s Lift it Up concert featuring Disciple and the Band Jaren. This is a **FREE** concert held at Sidney High School. If you have any questions, you can see Angie Mentges for more information or scan the QR code to the left.



SUMMER OF SINGING AND MUSIC!! This summer, while our choir takes a break, we still want to be blessed by the beautiful voices and music from our talented congregation at the 9 am Traditional Worship Service. If you love to sing or play an instrument, please contact Cari Beth Noah at 937-538-6757.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SERVE? Children’s ministry has several ways you can get involved! They are seeking nursery volunteers for both services and summer Sunday School teachers. Whether you can serve once a month or every Sunday, if you feel called to work with children, please contact Abby Wagner for more information or to get signed up. *“Start children off in the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.” - Proverbs 22:6*

SATURDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY—12 DARING WOMEN OF THE BIBLE Join us as we explore the lives of bold and faithful women in Scripture! This 12-week study begins **Saturday, May 16**, from **9:30-11am**. Books are \$15. You can sign up by calling or stopping by the office. Come be encouraged, challenged, and inspired in God’s Word!

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY Jerry Husemann will be offering a 12-week Bible study titled “The Promise of Heaven” by Dr. David Jeremiah. This study will begin Thursday, May 28, and continue until August 13 from 6 to 7:30 pm. Please call or stop in the office to sign up. Books are \$12 and can be picked up in the church office.

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR today are given anonymously in gratitude and praise to the glory of God. *“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” — Matthew 5:16*

REFINERY WOMENS BIBLE STUDY Join us every Wednesday from 6-8:30 pm in the study (Level 3). This group is currently studying the book of Nehemiah—a story of rebuilding, perseverance, and faith in action. Each week, we’ll read one chapter together, discuss it, and apply it—staying aligned with the same Scripture the men are studying in the Foundry. This creates a shared rhythm of being in the Word across home and church, while growing alongside one another. No book required, just bring your Bible. Need one? We’ll provide it. Join us at any time.



FOUNDRY BIBLE STUDY The Foundry is continuing their walk through the book of Nehemiah—a real story of leadership under pressure: facing opposition, solving problems, and getting people moving in the same direction. If you’re interested in courage, leadership, and faith that shows up in real life, join us. No book required. Just bring your Bible. Need a Bible? One will be provided.



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!

MOBILIZE: A DAY OF DISCIPLESHIP AT SIDNEY FIRST Please join us **Sunday, June 28** for a day focused on disciple-making with Jon Wiest of Mobilize the Church. Jon will be preaching during both Sunday services. Immediately following the second service, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a shared meal, followed by a 4-hour discipleship training. This training is designed to help you take your next step in living out your faith—specifically, how to intentionally invest in the people already in your life: family, coworkers, and neighbors. Lunch will be provided, and SOAP journals will be available to support continued growth after the event. This is a free event open to adults and youth (6th grade and up). For an accurate lunch count, please RSVP through the church office.



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 **Women’s Walk is June 4-7, 2026**. Please pray for our team members, Trena Hershberger, Victoria Bemus, Kate Burden, Kelly Swarts, Pastor Eileen Hix, and Pastor Jane Madden.

CAMP UNION REGISTRATION Camp Union is an overnight, summer camp facility where children and young adults (Kindergarten through College age) can have the opportunity to experience the love of God, out in the country, away from city lights, and the distractions of technology constantly buzzing and beeping. Various sessions are offered all summer long. If interested in sending your child to Camp Union, Abby Wagner has registration forms in her office (Level 5), or you can go online at <https://www.campunion.org> to register. Limited spots available. No walk ins. Everyone must preregister. If you have any questions or need additional information, please talk to Abby at 937-492-9136 or awagner@sidneyfirst.com.



NEW HIRES We are pleased to announce that **Kate Burden** and **Elizabeth Saunders** have been hired as our new part-time custodians. Please join us in congratulating them and welcoming them to our church staff. We are grateful for their willingness to serve and look forward to all they will bring to our church family!





MIRACLE OFFERING 2026

"Partnering Together for the Gospel in the Democratic Republic of the Congo"



Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of Jesus!

We are once again asking our churches, clergy, and lay members to participate in a Miracle Offering during Annual Conference 2026.

The Allegheny West Conference has entered a mission partnership with the West Congo Conference in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Together with the North Carolina Conference, we are helping support a growing annual conference that spans 25 of the DRC's 26 provinces.

THE NEED IS TREMENDOUS.

- 192 congregations
 - 48 prayer places preparing to plant churches
 - Only 1 church building
- Served by:
- 18 ordained elders
 - 4 ordained deacons
 - 218 lay preachers

The average wage in the DRC is approximately \$1 per day.

OUR 2026 MIRACLE OFFERING GOAL

\$160,000

Your generosity will help meet urgent and practical ministry needs through the Allegheny West / Democratic Republic of Congo Mission Partnership.

HOW YOUR GIFT WILL HELP



CLEAN WATER
\$50,000



1,000 water filters at \$50 each, providing clean drinking water for families and rural communities.



MOTORCYCLES
\$13,500



10 motorcycles to help Presiding Elders travel throughout their ministry circuits.



TRANSPORTATION
\$35,000



One dependable used SUV for Conference Superintendent Rev. Henriette Okolo as she travels across the conference.



EDUCATION
\$19,950



Support for:

- 4 doctoral students
- 1 master's student
- 7 bachelor's students

This funding will help train future leaders and strengthen ministry across the conference.



MICRO-BUSINESS LOANS
\$10,000



A revolving fund providing grants up to \$500 to help sustain churches and pastors through local business development.



PARTNERSHIP ESCROW
\$30,000



Bridge funding to support ministry needs while direct relationships are built between Allegheny West and West Congo circuits.

WE ARE ALREADY SEEING GOD MOVE!

- Three small churches have already raised enough to purchase motorcycles.
- One congregation gave 100% of their Easter offering to the Miracle Offering.
- A small group committed to funding a pastor's education.

Amazing generosity is already making a difference.



HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Please bring your offering with you to Mt. Vernon. Offerings will be collected during the:

Global Mission Partnership Worship Celebration

Thursday, June 25 • Annual Conference

"God bless you in advance for your generosity!"

Jeff Greenway
Conference Superintendent



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"God bless you in advance for your generosity!"

Jeff Greenway
Conference Superintendent

YOU ASKED FOR IT

SIDNEY FIRST METHODIST • SUMMER MESSAGE SERIES 2026

A few years ago, I was having a conversation with a gentleman, and he asked me the question, "What do you think happens to someone when they die?". He was wrestling with this question due to the death of his spouse a few weeks earlier. He was a man of faith, but amid his grief he was seeking some assurance.

As I recently reflected on that conversation, the Holy Spirit challenged me with this thought: "What other questions do the people at Sidney First Methodist have, if given the opportunity to ask?"

So, I am asking each of you to answer this question...

with a question of your own.

I will use your questions to help plan our 2026 Summer Message Series — "You Asked For It."

YOUR QUESTIONS CAN CENTER AROUND:



What would God say?
How would God respond?
What do we believe based on
scripture, tradition, reason, and experience?

YOU CAN SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS BY:



Filling out this form and turning it in

OR



Emailing: youaskedforit@sidneyfirst.com



PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS BY JUNE 7, 2026.

I will make every attempt to answer each question, but please understand if I am unable to get to all of them. I can't wait to hear from you and embark on this journey together!

MY QUESTION(S):

Name (optional): _____



YOU ASKED FOR IT

SIDNEY FIRST METHODIST • SUMMER MESSAGE SERIES 2026

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Filling out this form and turning it in

OR



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I will make every attempt to answer each question, but please understand if I am unable to get to all of them. I can't wait to hear from you and embark on this journey together!

MY QUESTION(S):

Name (optional): _____

