



# First United Methodist Church

LONDON, OHIO

THE REDEDICATION OF FIRST CHURCH

*and*

DEDICATION OF THE  
BYERS MEMORIAL TOWER CHIMES

Sunday, the second day of November  
Two thousand twenty five

*Listed in the*  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Page 3 features the 1895 photograph of First Church, which appeared in the *Inland Architect and News Record* journal, acknowledging Crapsey & Brown Architects, Cincinnati, Ohio, as the designers. The building to the east is Trinity Episcopal Church in its original location.

It was moved across Fourth Street and placed atop the undercroft as it appears today. Our parsonage was constructed in 1915. The educational wing was constructed in 1962. It attached to the original building on the wall that is shown here in brick.



M. E. CHURCH, LONDON, OHIO.  
CRAPSEY & BROWN, ARCHITECTS, CINCINNATI, OHIO.



*The Rededication of*  
**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**OF LONDON**  
*and*  
*Dedication of the*  
**BYERS MEMORIAL TOWER CHIMES**  
Sunday, November 2, 2025 ~ 10:00 a.m.

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**Chiming of the Hour**

*~ Let us quiet and prepare our hearts and minds to worship the Lord. ~*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude**

*My Spirit Be Joyful* from *Cantata 146*  
Eric Knorr and Chris Jeffery, *trumpets*

J.S. Bach (1685 – 1750)  
arr. E. Power Biggs (1906 – 1977)

**Choral Introit**

*The Lord God Omnipotent Reigneth*  
*Revelations 19:6-7*

George Thalben-Ball (1896 – 1987)

The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.  
Let us rejoice and be glad,  
And give honor unto Him. Alleluia!

**Call to Worship** *(stand)*

*Leader: Serve the Lord with gladness.*

**All: Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise.**

*Leader: O Come, let us worship the Lord and bow down.*

**All: Let us kneel before God our Maker.**

*Please remain standing to sing the processional hymn. The Choir and Clergy enter.*

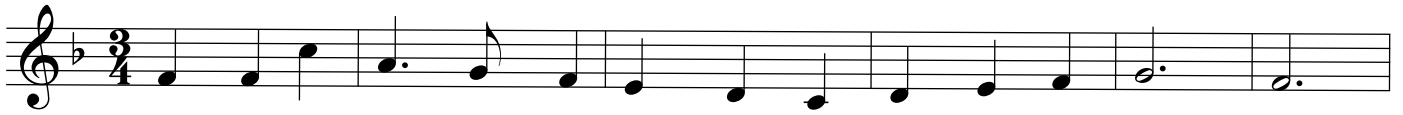
**Processional Hymn** *(remain standing)*  
*see next page*

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

*Tune:* LOBE DEN HERREN  
Setting by Robert A. Hobby  
Joachim Neander, 1650-80  
*Tr.* Catherine Winkworth, 1827 – 78, *alt.*

# Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN



*All:* 1. Praise to the Lord, the Al-might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!  
*All:* 2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous - ly reign - ing  
*Choir Alone:* 3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy work and de - fend thee;  
*All:* 4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal - va - tion!  
 bears thee on ea - gle's wings, e'er in his keep - ing main - tain - ing.  
*sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy here dai - ly at - tend thee.*  
 All that hath life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



All ye who hear, now to his tem - ple draw near;  
 God's care en - folds all, whose true good he up - holds.  
*Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do,*  
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain;



join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
 Hast thou not known his sus - tain - ing?  
*who with his love doth be - friend you.*  
 glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him.

**Affirmation of Faith** (*remain standing*)

*The Apostles Creed*

(Traditional)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the

Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is

now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men. A - men.

*(be seated)*

**Children's Moments**

Reverend David Leckrone

**Presentation of the Building**

Tim Wilson, Chair, Board of Trustees

*On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I present the First United Methodist Church of London for rededication as a place for the worship of God and the service of all people.*

**Rededication of the Building** *(stand)*

Reverend Doctor James C. Wilson II  
*District Superintendent, Olentangy River District*

*Dear friends, rejoice that God so moved the hearts of our ancestors that this house has been built for praise and prayer. Let us now rededicate it for service and celebrate its holy use.*

*Leader: To the glory of God the Father, who has called us by his grace;  
To the honor of his Son, who loved us and gave himself for us;  
To the praise of the Holy Spirit, who illumines and sanctifies us;*

**People: We dedicate this house.**

*Leader: For the worship of God in prayer and praise;  
For the preaching of the everlasting gospel;  
For the celebration of the Sacraments:*

**People: We dedicate this house.**

*Leader: For the comfort of all who mourn;  
For strength to those who are tempted;  
For light to those who seek the way;*

**People: We dedicate this house.**

*Leader: For the hallowing of family life;  
For teaching and guiding the young;  
For the perfecting of the saints;*

**People: We dedicate this house.**

*Leader: For the conversion of sinners;  
For the promotion of righteousness;  
For the extension of the Kingdom of God;*

**People: We dedicate this house.**

*Leader: In the unity of the faith;  
In the bond of Christian fellowship;  
In charity and good will to all;*

**People: We dedicate this house.**

*Leader: In gratitude for the labors of all who love and serve this church;  
In loving remembrance of those who have finished their course;  
In the hope of a blessed immortality through Jesus Christ our Lord;*

**People: We dedicate this house.**

## Prayer of Dedication

Reverend Leckrone

*Accept, O God our Father, this service at our hands, and bless it to the end that this congregation of faithful followers may make manifest your church, the pillar and ground of truth; and so may this house be the place where your honor dwells, that the whole earth may be filled with your glory. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.*

*(be seated)*

## Anthem

### *O How Amiable*

Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872 – 1958)  
Psalms 84 and 90, with *St. Anne* (Isaac Watts, 1719)

O how amiable are thy dwellings: thou Lord of hosts!  
My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord:  
My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house,  
And the swallow a nest where she may lay her young:  
Even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: They will be alway praising thee.  
The glorious Majesty of the Lord our God be upon us:  
Prosper thou the work of our hands upon us.  
O prosper thou our handwork.

*O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.*

## Presentation of the Byers Memorial Tower Chimes

Tim Wilson and Reverend Leckrone

*The Deagan tower chimes are presented for dedication. They have been placed to celebrate the lives of George “Buddy” and Diane (Noland) Byers by the Byers family.*

## Dedication of the Byers Memorial Tower Chimes *(stand)*

*In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we dedicate these chimes to the praise of Almighty God.*

*Leader: To the glory of God the Father, who has called us by his grace;  
To the honor of his Son, who loved us and gave himself for us;*

**People: Praise ye the Lord!**

*Leader: We dedicate these chimes to the cultivation of a high art: to an appreciation of the great music of the Church, and to the development of the language of praise, which belongeth both to earth and to heaven.*

**People: Praise ye the Lord!**

*Leader: We dedicate these chimes to thanksgiving on festal occasions, and to such inspiration in the service of song that all people may praise the Lord.*

**People: Praise ye the Lord!**

*Leader: We dedicate these chimes to the healing of life's discords, and the revealing of the hidden soul of harmony; to the lifting of the depressed and the comforting of the sorrow; to the humbling of the heart before the eternal mysteries and the lifting of the soul to abiding beauty and joy by the gospel of infinite love and good will.*

**People: Praise ye the Lord!**

*Leader: These chimes are received as a sacred trust and are dedicated to the glory of God. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

## Prayer of Dedication

*Leader: Most loving God, without you no words or works of ours have any meaning. Accept the gift of these tower chimes as a symbol of our devotion. Grant us your blessing, as we dedicate these chimes to your glory, that they may be an enduring witness before all your people, and a sign of the ongoing newness that your Spirit brings to our lives. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.*

*(be seated)*

## Call to Gather Our Tithes, Offerings, and Promises

### Offertory Anthem

### *Upon This Rock*

John Ness Beck (1930 – 1987)

Matthew 16:18,19 – Song of Solomon 2:11-13 with *Aurelia*

Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

I will give thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

And whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven.

And whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Lo, the winter is past; the rain is over; the flowers appear on earth; the time of the singing of birds has come.

Arise and come away; arise!

*Please stand upon cue from the director to sing the hymn.*

## The Church's One Foundation

*Aurelia*

1. The church-'s one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;  
2. Yet she on earth hath un - ion with Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,  
she is His new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the Word.  
and mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion with those whose rest is won.  
From heav'n He came and sought her to be His ho - ly bride;  
O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we,  
with His own blood He bought her, and for her life he died.  
like them the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here be - low:

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Je - sus Christ, whose power up - lifts! Praise the Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

## A Prayer of Dedication

Gospel Lesson *(remain standing)*

Luke 19:1-10

*(be seated)*

## Sermon

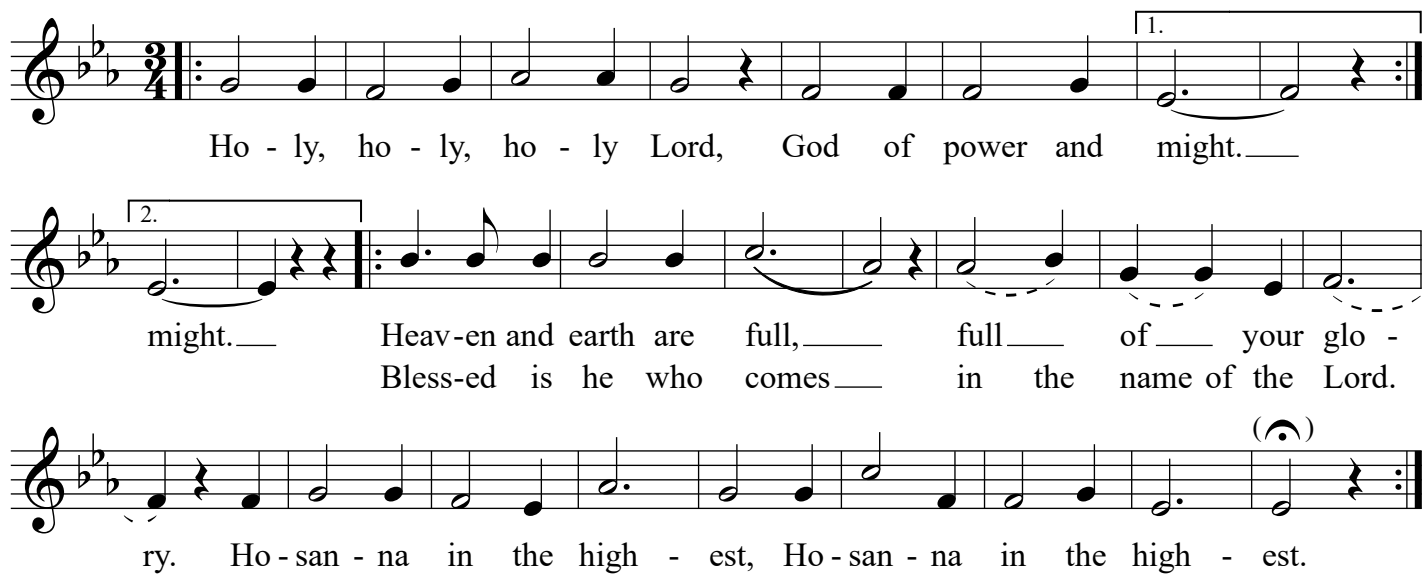
*The Story of Zacchaeus*Reverend Doctor James C. Wilson II  
District Superintendent, Olentangy River District

## Communion

*Pastor: The Lord be with you.***People: And also with you.***Pastor: Lift up your hearts.***People: We lift them up to the Lord.***Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.***People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.***The pastor gives thanks appropriate to the occasion, remembering God's acts of salvation, and concludes:***And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:**

## Holy, holy

From *Deutsch Messe*, Franz Schubert;  
adapt. Richard Proulx



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might.\_\_\_\_

1.   
 2.   
 might.\_\_\_\_ Heav-en and earth are full,\_\_\_\_ full\_\_\_\_ of\_\_\_\_ your glo -  
 Bless-ed is he who comes\_\_\_\_ in the name of the Lord.

ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The pastor continues the thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes:*

**And so, in remembrance of these, your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.**

## Christ has died

From *Deutsch Messe*  
arr. Charles H. Webb



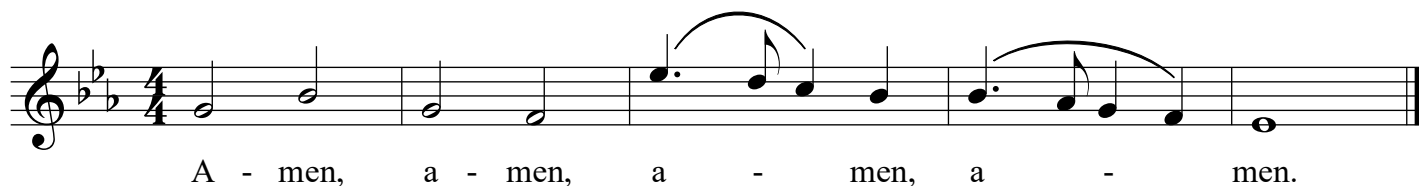
Christ has died,\_\_\_\_ Christ is ris - en, Christ\_\_\_\_ will come a - gain.

*The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding:*

**All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.**

## Amen

From *Deutsch Messe*  
arr. Webb



A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men.

## Prayer after Communion

### Closing Hymn *(stand)*

### *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

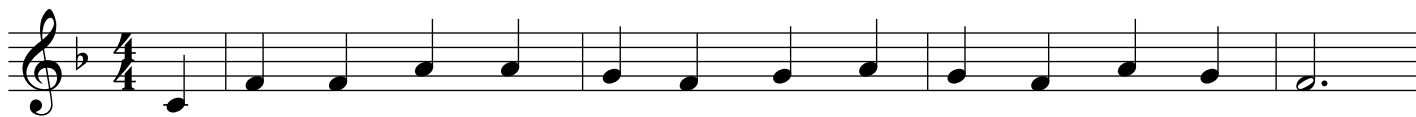
*Tune: CORONATION*

Setting by Jeremy J. Bankson  
Oliver Holden, 1792

Edward Perronet, 1779; John Rippon, 1787, *alt.*

## All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

*CORONATION*



*All:* 1. All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;  
*Choir Alone:* 2. Ye cho - sen seed of Is - real's race, ye ran - somed from the fall,  
*All:* 3. Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe on this ter - res - trial ball,  
*All:* 4. O that with yon - der sa - cred throng we at his feet may fall!



bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of \_\_ all.  
hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of \_\_ all.  
to him all maj - es - ty \_\_ as - cribe, and crown him Lord of \_\_ all.  
We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown him Lord of \_\_ all.



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord \_\_ of all.  
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord \_\_ of all.  
To him all maj - es - ty \_\_ as - cribe, and crown him Lord \_\_ of all.  
We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown him Lord \_\_ of all.

### Benediction *(remain standing)*

### Choral Benediction *(remain standing)*

### *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*

Peter C. Lutkin (1858 – 1931)

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord lift his countenance upon you, and give you peace.  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. Amen.

*(be seated)*

### Organ Postlude

### *Fugue in E-flat Major, BWV 552 ("Saint Anne")*

J.S. Bach

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*Please join us in the lower level Fellowship Hall for a reception following the postlude.  
Please use the Fourth Street stairs or the elevator.*

## MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

The Reverend Doctor James C. Wilson II, District Superintendent, Olentangy River District, *Officiant*

The Reverend David Leckrone, *Senior Pastor*

Katelyn Hanna, *Director of Youth Ministries*

The First United Methodist Church Sanctuary Choir

Jefferson McConnaughey, *Organist and Director of Music*

Kevin Lohr, *Guest Conductor*

Laith Terry, *Crucifer*

Parker Clawson and Chase Risner, *Acolytes*

## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SANCTUARY CHOIR

### Soprano

Cynthia Adcock\*  
Regina Bogenrife  
Sharon Brackett  
Laura Eldridge  
Brenda Higgins  
Melissa Lawson\*  
Ruth Peart  
Jennifer Ruhlen\*  
Carolyn Snell

### Alto

Brynne Adkins\*  
Valerie Cox  
Danielle Fredette\*  
Sherry Holland\*  
Tara Shoemaker  
Shannon Treynor\*  
Susan Wilson  
Sandy Young

### Tenor

Michael Budd  
Gregory Duncan\*  
William Ruhlen\*  
Tim Wilson

### Bass

Steve Adams  
Albert Adcock\*  
Greg Cooley  
Zach Gerhardt\*  
Layton Kortman\*  
Stan Moran\*  
Joe Mosier  
Paul Oswalt\*  
Jamie Peart

*\* Friends joining the First United Methodist Church Sanctuary Choir*

## INSTRUMENTALISTS

Eric Knorr, *trumpet 1*

Chris Jeffery, *trumpet 2*

Max Roach, *trumpet 3*

Tony Weikel, *trombone 1*

Scott Jones, *trombone 2 & tuba*

Felicia Dellis, *timpani*

*With special thanks to John Wobbe, Musical Pit Solutions*

## SOUND AND VIDEO

Brian Benedum ~ David Cover

## USHERS

Joseph Brackett, *Lead Usher for November*

Dave Emrick, Krista Jenkins, Mike Jenkins, Matt McCann, Melinda Scott, Karen Summers,

## COMMUNION STEWARDS

Dorothy McCann, *Chair*

Gail Baker, Dave Emrick, Valerie Peart, Marilyn Scott, Melinda Scott, Tim Wilson

## RECEPTION

Sue Mosier, *Chair*

Krista Jenkins, Ann Pickens, Keitha Stamper, Scott Stamper, Melinda Straley

## ALTAR FLOWERS

*Altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God in honor of the members and friends of First Church for their financial support, prayers and dedication to this Capital Project and in loving memory of*

*George "Buddy" and Diane (Noland) Byers.*



52 North Main Street  
London, Ohio 43140  
Telephone: (740) 852-0462

*Listed in the National Register of Historic Places*

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

November 2, 2025

*Dear Members, Friends and Guests:*

On this historic day, we celebrate the present and past life of our church. Perhaps more significantly, we really are celebrating its future. Our historic church has been strengthened by the restoration of all exterior masonry, making it stable for many years. In a way, this stability strengthens our faith and trust in God because it provides a space for us to do His will. Our restored stained-glass windows are stable, too; and they will continue inspiring our church family and community for years to come. Their depictions, with radiant colors, serve as a constant reminder to “look up and lift up.” This simple phrase, from Luke 21:28, is found in the parlor window. How can anything else more beautifully offer us inspiration to encourage our dear ones to look up in challenging times and to lift each other up when discouraged than this window? Ours is a beautiful house of God.

Today, we dedicate the Byers Memorial Tower Chimes, in loving memory of George “Buddy” and Diane (Noland) Byers, given by the Byers family. Just like our stained-glass windows, these “new” Deagan chimes will offer inspiration each time we hear them. To their resting place in the tower at our church, we will “look up and lift up” our eyes to God. We thank the Byers family for this magnificent gift to our church.

For 131 years, our church has stood at the corner of North Main and Fourth streets. It serves as a beacon of light for thousands of people. It has survived a depression, a tornado, and countless other events of the past. It has given endless spiritual support to many men and women who served during times of war. Many members were graduated from London High School in this building, and later, they returned to exchange wedding vows. Many loved ones have been bid farewell at funerals and memorial services. Our church will be here, marching on with time. Our gifts, the very ones we celebrate today, help ensure that our church will survive through many more moments like these.

As one of the foundation buildings of London, First Church provides a place where we learn, grow, and work together in a Christian lifestyle. Sunday school, bible study groups, mission projects, and community meetings are just a few of the ongoing ministries that our church offers. Church events, such as our vacation bible school, fall and spring dinners, and banquets, involve the entire church family, at all age levels. We firmly believe we are “the church of the open door and the hand of friendship.”

Most importantly, our church has been a place where people come together for one common cause, which fulfills its true meaning for existence...to worship God and Jesus Christ.

Our 2022 Capital Improvements Campaign affirms to God that we take Christian pride in keeping His house in good order. Let us always remember that our church building serves as a catalyst for each of us; it assists our strength to do good will throughout the community and world as disciples of Christ.

We extend our deep gratitude and appreciation to the fine craft persons who brought their skills and talents to our church. Their dedicated, hard work is a gift from God.

Your Capital Improvements Committee and Board of Trustees have supported this project from its inception. Thanks to each person who has served, and continues to serve, on these committees for their continuing cooperation.

In conclusion, thank you for your time, talent, monetary giving, and most importantly, your prayers. Let us all rejoice in God for continued blessings and goodness that our creator has, and continues to bestow, upon us.

*In Christ,*

Mr. Joe Brackett, Mr. Scott Higgins,  
Mr. Jamie Peart, Mr. Bryan Shoemaker,  
Mrs. Sue VanWoerkom, Mr. Tom Straley,  
Mr. Jim Weimer, Mr. Tim Wilson

*Board of Trustees, First United Methodist Church, London, Ohio*



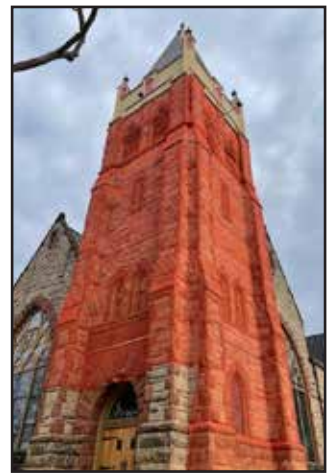
# EXTERIOR MASONRY AND STONE REPLACEMENT

Before the pandemic, our trustees became aware of significant issues that needed serious attention. Stones were falling from the tower and the coping stones atop the gables were loose, deteriorated and eroded. Temporary plastic netting was installed to prevent injury while quotes for repair were obtained.

The trustees decided to employ Lee Restoration Company (Delphos, OH). They presented what we thought to be the best proposal for the project. Their quote was considerably less than another company and included the same exact work plus quite a bit more.

*Exterior building restoration included:*

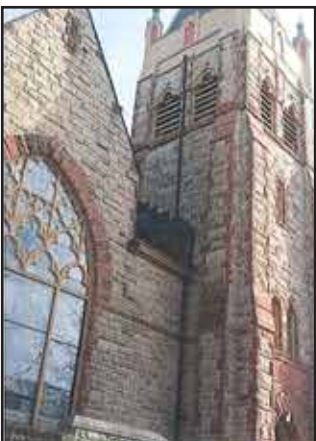
- Removing and replacing unsalvageable brick, face stones, thrust blocks, and stone quoins
- Chiseling stone back to a common depth
- Repointing the entire original building
- Stone consolidation and masonry water repellent
- Replacement of the tower louvers
- Exterior painting of high areas, steeple, trim, etc.



*Orange netting  
shielding passersby from  
falling stones*



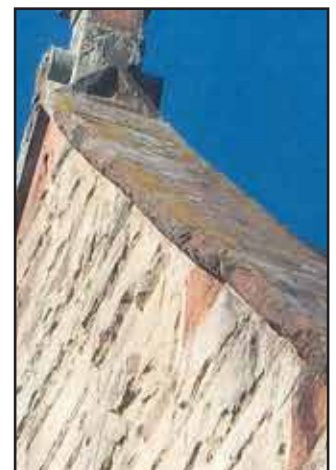
*Photographs above and below  
showing deteriorated stones and  
failing mortar joints*



*Photographs above and below  
showing eroded coping stones on  
the Main Street gable*



*Main Street gable showing new coping stones and  
finial; tower stones replaced or chiseled*

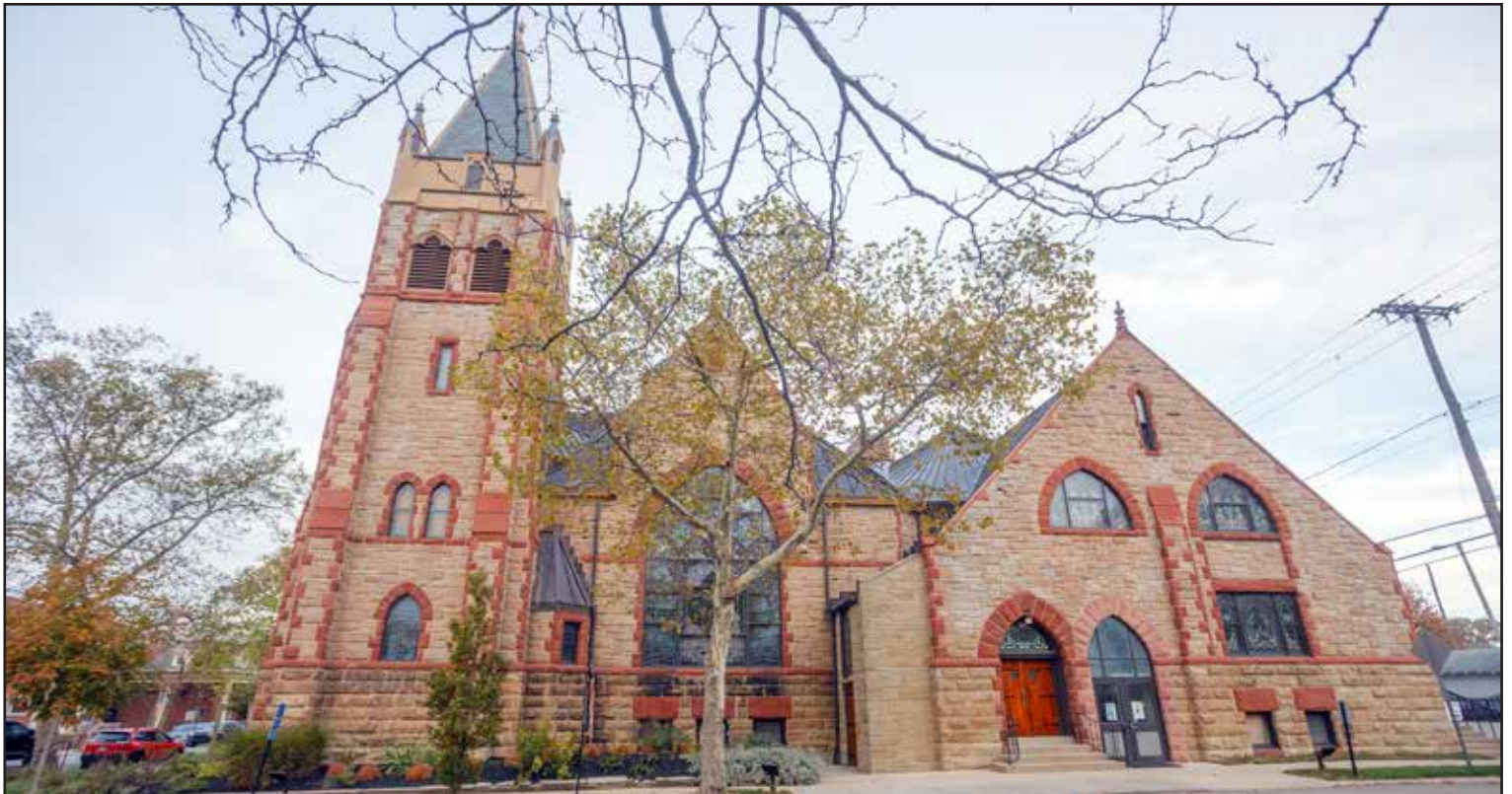




*Fourth Street tower with newly installed louvers and storm window on its sanctuary window*



*Main Street view of tower with refinished entrance doors and our National Register plaque and cornerstone*



*Panoramic view of the Fourth Street elevation showing restored masonry and stained-glass windows with their new storm coverings*

# STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

Most of our stained-glass windows have not received any restoration work since the church was built. The current project included complete removal and re-leading of the stained glass, stripping and repair of all wood framing (tracery), reinstallation, repainting, and weatherization with storm windows. Much of the tracery (the decorative wooden portions of the larger windows), was in dire need of attention. It is important to note that during a previous project in 2009, the lower portions of the three large sanctuary windows had been removed, re-leaded, and restored. They didn't require further work other than being stripped and repainted. The current project included complete restoration of the upper portions. The balance of the windows received the same restoration work.

The pictures and notes below and on the following two pagers are from the proposal presented by Window Creations (Fort Jennings, OH) to the board of trustees. They depict the significant deterioration of the wood tracery of the large sanctuary windows. Without repair, the windows likely would have collapsed on themselves.



Most of the Fourth Street window had dry rotted wood due to being exposed to the elements and sun over the years. We repaired and replaced areas of wood as necessary to fix these issues.

Here, you can see that the wood framing components are literally pulling away from each other. If this issue wasn't addressed, the stained glass would have slid between the wood layers when being reinstalled. The deteriorated framing caused the entire frame to be weak. These areas were all fixed within the woodworking budget.



## FOURTH STREET WINDOW



Here is an example showing paint that seems to be in satisfactory condition. But upon further investigation, we found that the paint was hiding woodwork that was rotted all the way through.



Here you can see that almost all the woodworking and repairs have been completed on the Fourth Street window. Not all repairs are visible because they are within the framing construction, which provided structural integrity to the entire window system. Once painted, the window will be cosmetically pleasing.



# MAIN STREET WINDOW

In the picture below, the wood framing that once held the stained glass in place is completely rotted. It is very important to fix this problem after the glass has been removed.



These pictures show deterioration to the center beam of the Main Street window. The rot went through all three layers of wooden structure, requiring all three to be replaced. Without close inspection, the deepest layer (the third layer) could have been missed. The only complete way to repair this beam was to remove the glass from the area below the beam, replace the beam entirely, and re-install the lower glass.

Here, the (unpainted) finished product, once put back together, is visible.



# AFTER RESTORATION



# CAPITAL PROJECT WORK BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees is happy to report some projects not included in the Capital Project are completed and others are pending. **No money from the offering plate or general fund** is ever used for building repairs and maintenance. The list below, and the photographs, describe recent accomplishments. The expense of these projects is covered by Board of Trustee funds. Proceeds from our spring and fall dinners, and interest from the restricted funds that have been bequeathed to the church for building use are the only funds used for needed improvements to our historic building.

**1. Air conditioning:** Two new air conditioning systems in the educational wing have now been installed, replacing 29 year old units that had failed.



*New Carrier air conditioner and heat pump*

**2. Walnut doors:** The six walnut entrance doors have been completely refinished. They were sanded to the bare wood, sealed, and topped with three coats of marine grade gloss finish. All hardware was repainted with rust proof paint. *They look absolutely stunning.*



*Our beautiful, solid walnut entrance doors have been refinished*

**3. Ground level window casings:** Each casing has been stripped, repaired, and painted. This project was not part of the Capital Campaign.

**4. Fourth Street parking lot fences:** These fences have been repaired and painted. The fence that encloses the air conditioners and refuse receptacles have been cleaned and stained.



*Fourth Street parking area fences have been repaired and painted*

**5. Educational wing doors:** The new doors installed in the educational wing have been painted with rust proof paint. They look beautiful. The old doors from 1962 were rusted and beyond salvage and allowed so much heating and cooling to escape.



*New entrance doors to educational wing, both east and west doors, have been replaced*



*Lower level hallway in process*



*All ground level window casings have been repaired and painted*

# SANCTUARY CHANDELIERS AND CHANCEL SPOT LIGHTS

A sincere thank you is extended to Aaron Clawson, Parker Clawson, Laith Terry, Nixon Gross, and Lorraine Terry for assisting trustees Joe Brackett, Eric Brunner, Bryan Shoemaker, Scott Higgins, and Tim Wilson with lowering, cleaning and re-lamping the sanctuary chandeliers.

Our cast bronze chandeliers are original to the building when London received electricity from 1906. They replaced natural gas light fixtures.



*Laith Terry, Parker Clawson, Nixon Gross, Scott Higgins, and Aaron Clawson in the attic*



*Laith Terry changed bulbs in the chancel spot lights, shown with Joe Brackett, Nixon Gross, and Bryan Shoemaker*



*Trustee Eric Brunner repairs two ceramic bulb sockets in a chandelier*



*A chandelier being tested before being hoisted back into position*



*Lorraine Terry cleaning a chandelier after being lowered from the attic by her son and friends*

# BYERS MEMORIAL TOWER CHIMES

## J.C. DEAGAN TOWER CHIMES OF 16 NOTES

*by Tim Wilson*

Today, we are dedicating this gracious memorial gift, which is given to the Glory of God in loving memory of George “Buddy” and Diane Byers by their children, Lynn, George III, Beth, and their families. It is quite suited to how I knew Buddy and Diane: it isn’t inanimate, but rather is observed only when special attention is directed to it. Buddy and Diane were anything but inanimate. Rather, they were sharp, dynamic, exciting, and fun people ~ always there and eager to visit with me, and to be heard. This gift isn’t a cold, still monument. Instead, it is a living memorial that can be heard. Its golden voice rings out its beautiful message every day of the year. This is how I knew Buddy and Diane Byers.



*Buddy and Diane Byers*

Our “new” chimes were manufactured in 1924 by the J.C. Deagan Company (Chicago, IL) and installed at Central United Methodist Church in Springfield. This was a 10-chime set. Deagan manufactured about 439 sets of chimes between 1916 and 1958; most were installed in the 1920s. They varied in size from 1 to 97 solid bronze tubular chimes. Most sets comprise 10 to 16. Sadly, many have been replaced with electronic sounds, scrapped, or demolished ~ gone forever. Others that have been repaired or restored can be heard today. The closest surviving sets are in Bellefontaine, Newark, and at Capital University. We are very fortunate that the Byers family funded the complete restoration and installation of our chimes. It once again will share its golden voice with our church and our community.



*The former Central United Methodist Church*



*16 chime Deagan system from  
an original sales brochure*

Ours is a 16-chime set that is operable either automatically or manually, directly from the organ console. It is comprised of the ten chimes from Central and six additional chimes from a system once located in St. Mark's United Church of Christ (New Albany, IN). Dating from 1926, their system was removed and stored in 1996. When Central ordered their chimes in 1924, it included only ten chimes and a little keyboard that was used to actuate them. A former pastor of Central told me that a devout husband and wife team came daily to play them from the little keyboard at 12:00 noon for decades. Through negotiation with our installer, we agreed that our system would include these additional six chimes and their strikers. The fortuitous possibility of including these additional chimes was thrilling because with them, our system would be nearly unlimited in the number of melodies it could play. Having only ten tones of the musical scale is limiting to the range of tunes that can be played. With 16 tones (13 semi-tones of the a complete scale plus three higher tones), nearly any tune can be played. The installation quote would be for a 16-chime set.

The chime sounds you have heard up to today are electronically produced and transmitted by speakers. There is no comparison in the sound from real chimes made from bronze to electronics! Their voice is far-reaching and powerful, yet stately, beautiful, and mellow, in a way that electronics cannot simulate.



*University loudspeakers  
from the 1950's*



*Abandoned sanctuary at Central UMC*

Our chime story is an interesting one about saving something worthy of being saved. We saved them from Central UMC in 2021 shortly after the church closed. It would soon be sold. After the closure, the Miami Valley District offered its contents for sale. In March (2021), our youth pastor at the time, Reverend Seth Evans, invited me to look. I eagerly accepted and arranged to meet him. Upon going through the building, I thought it looked like its congregation just turned off the lights, locked the doors, left, and abandoned everything. It was a sad moment for me.

We ended up in the sanctuary. I noticed the 1964 Moller pipe organ and a 7-foot Steinway grand piano, both still in their places. Then I saw it... a little keyboard! I immediately recognized what it was. Even though it looked like a child's toy, I knew better; it activated a set of Deagan chimes. I had completely forgotten about the Deagan chimes here at Central! We walked to a room close by where we found an electronic chime system that replaced the Deagans. At that very moment, those electronic chimes began to peal the time. Its sterile, lifeless electronic sound was eerie... the system was still operating even though the church was abandoned.

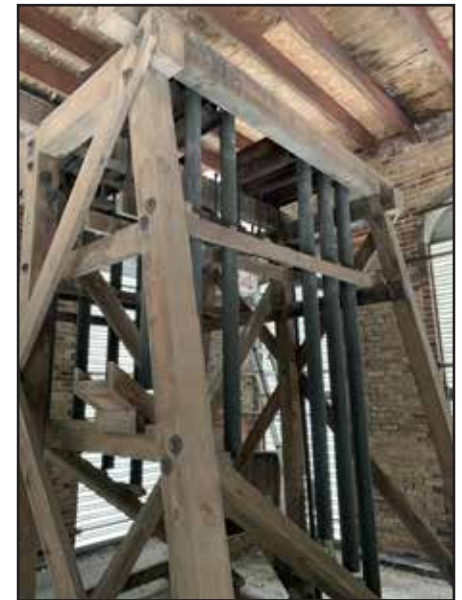


*The little keyboard*

With the little keyboard in mind, I looked for a switch to activate the chimes but found nothing. I was disappointed not to find the switch or see the chimes. It didn't seem right to nose around much more, but I prayed they were still in the tower. While driving back to London, I thought of nothing but them! I called Pastor Leckrone and told him my story. Whom shall I call at the Conference office? He suggested Bill Bronson. I soon had the opportunity to inquire about the fate of the chimes, but he had no idea what I was even talking about. I welcomed the opportunity to educate him. My question was simple: Were they planning to sell the building and if so, would they consider donating the chimes to our church? He didn't know but was willing to find out.

Our journey began in March (2021). I called and emailed Mr. Bronson weekly. His reply was the same: "Still going through the chain of command." April, May, June, and July came and went. No news. Finally, in August, I received a call from the Director of *Closed Church Operations*. Someone's job really has this title? I was dumbfounded. She shared good news. The Conference would donate the chimes to our church! And then the zinger: we had only two weeks to get them out because the building had been sold. Panic immediately set in! Having such little time instilled plenty, but having nothing more than a wing and a prayer to ever get them installed caused even more. At most, we had the chimes and all we had to do was get them out... in two weeks!

I called fellow member Linn VanWoerkom. He was quite excited to have a look and to consider what it would take to get the ten chimes and their strikers out... within two weeks. We ascended the tower and there they were, still hanging on their cast iron cradles on a very precarious stand with compromised wood. The chimes and strikers appeared to be in good shape. I finally found the switch to the power, turned it on, and scrambled down the precarious small ladder as fast as I could to the little keyboard to hit a few notes! They pealed and I was overcome with joy. *They worked!*



*Our first time seeing the 10 chimes in the tower at Central*



*Rotten, split beams on the chime rack;  
it would have eventually failed  
because the tower roof was leaking*

I immediately rallied the troops. Trustee Jamie Peart was on board to help. Amazingly, he had the next two weekends free and *voluntold* his son Luke to help. Over two short weekends in August (2021), Linn, Jamie, Luke, Kevin Lohr, Paul Richards, Ryan Boyle, Blake and Madison Hall, and I rescued the chimes from inevitable death. A great deal of muscle and sweat ~ and a thorough understanding of the laws of gravity ~ went into dismantling them, hoisting them down a small access hole, and down a series of narrow staircases. With the



*Looking down from the first level of  
the tower; this small doorway led  
to the balcony level*



*More stairs! Blake and Madison Hall,  
Luke Peart, Ryan Boyle, Jamie Peart, and  
Kevin Lohr*

heaviest, lowest-sounding chime weighing over 750 pounds, the task was monumental. Once out, they were stored in Linn's barn until spring (2022), when we moved them to the third bay of the church garage.

At some point in this process, I communicated with Top Rung Tower Chime Company about installing the chimes. Shortly after that, Jeff Crook of Chime Master (Lancaster, OH) contacted me. He had purchased Top Rung's business and assets and wanted to know if we planned to move forward with the project. After



*Four chimes and a striking  
mechanism at balcony level;  
of course, the stairs to the first  
floor had a turn*

an on-site preliminary consultation, he told me the chimes could easily be installed in our tower. He sent a proposal that included erecting a new rack that would straddle our existing ringing bell, restoring the striker mechanisms to our ten chimes plus the six additional ones, and installing them... and a quote. Though it seemed reasonable to me, given the amount of work and expertise it would require, it was a considerable sum. Panic returned when I recalled having nothing more than that wing and a prayer to get them installed.



*Proceeding downstairs to the first floor  
after the turn in the staircase;  
Luke Peart, Ryan Boyle, and  
Linn VanWoerkom*



*Loading the largest chime in Linn's stock trailer;  
six volunteers were needed to carry the  
750-pound cast bronze chime:  
Madison and Blake Hall, Jamie Peart, Ryan Boyle,  
Kevin Lohr, and Paul Richards*



*Three striking mechanisms on the sidewalk*

Enter the kind-hearted and ever-philanthropic Buddy Byers. In the fall (2023), an employee of Buddy's arrived at my office. He had been sent with a message: "Mr. Byers would like to see you." But no reason was given! I had no idea why Buddy wanted to see me, other than perhaps a kind visit. November 7 at The Bluebird was scheduled. Upon arriving, Buddy addressed his thought straight-on. He wanted to know what he could do for the church, and shared that it "meant so much to Diane because she loved the church. What do you need for the building?" We discussed a few possibilities and I asked if I could gather up some specific details about the various projects we discussed.

Diane passed away on September 11, 2022. Valerie Peart and I happened to visit her just the day before. It was a blessing to visit with my dear friend. It is a memory that I will cherish forever.

After preparing a letter with a list of potential projects for Buddy's consideration, I hand delivered it to him and sent a copy to Lynn, his daughter. One of the projects was the installation of the chimes. I visited Buddy a few days before Thanksgiving (2023). He told me that he and the family would be happy to fund the restoration and installation of the Deagan chimes because he thought Diane would have enjoyed hearing them. Buddy passed away on December 6, 2023.



*Five chimes and six strikers loaded in Linn's stock trailer*



*Hooded cover of a striking mechanism*

Lynn, George, and Beth knew of Buddy's wish to fund the chime project and told us to proceed. Our *wing and a prayer* became Buddy and his family. They not only funded their actual restoration and installation, they also funded the expense of a consultation with a structural engineer, the necessary reinforcement of the tower, and the erection of a base for the chime rack. A contract was signed with Chime Master and they picked up the ten electric striker mechanisms in the spring (2024) for a full, museum-quality restoration.

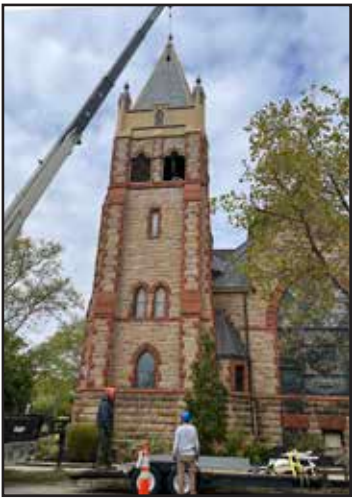
Soon, installation plans began. David Mars (Mars Property Service) erected the base for the rack earlier this summer. This base and its support structure are vitally important to equal distribution of additional weight in the tower.

Chime Master began erecting the rack and installing the chimes and strikers on October 15, 2025. A crane (with thanks to Lee Restoration) was needed to hoist the rack components, chimes, and their strikers up through the Fourth Street louvered opening of the tower. They finished just this past Friday (October 30), not a moment too soon for today's celebration!



*New base for the chime rack*

After a few pictures appeared on social media, Carl Zimmerman, treasurer of the World Carillon Federation, contacted me to inquire about the installation. He wanted to include the details in their Deagan database and shared, that to his knowledge, our Deagan installation is the only one to save, relocate, and reinstall a set anywhere in the United States in the last 25 years!



*Wood chime rack being hoisted into the tower*

The chimes are operated by Chime Master's proprietary Advanced eXperience bell ringing system. This leading-edge technology in bell ringing automatically governs both the hourly toll and the playing various melodies. They're also operable from the console of our Johnson & Son/Muller pipe organ. Much thanks go to our friends at Muller Pipe Organ Company (Croton, OH) for their expertise in the solid-state technology that makes this possible. Also, I thank CIRES Electric (Springfield) for executing all electrical needs for the project. Though we have the little keyboard, which will be displayed at the church, it won't be functional to our chimes. Perhaps someone, someday, will see it and realize that there is a set of Deagan tower chimes at FUMC in London!



*One of the larger chimes being hoisted*

On behalf of our entire congregation, I offer my sincerest gratitude and thanks to the Byers family for this magnificent gift, given to the Glory of God. With these chimes our church is an ever-present beacon to our congregation and to our community. The time-marking peal is a community time guide. Their sound is a daily messenger of peace and solace, and a continual source of pride and inspiration to high thoughts and noble deeds to everyone who hears them. *Thank you!*

## Installation





*One of the original striking mechanisms from Central  
before restoration*



*The same striking mechanism  
after restoration*



*The new chime rack with chimes in the assembly room at  
Chime Master of Lancaster, Ohio*

DEAGAN

# 1894 LONDON TIMES NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

## REPORTING THE OPENING OF OUR CHURCH

This is an exact reprint from the London Times article that appeared during the week of November 18-25, 1894. It reported the detailed opening for the first time of our church.

### DEDICATED TO THE LORD

THE FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
OF LONDON

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Beautiful and Impressive Ceremonies  
Attending This Joyous Occasion.

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### COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF THE MAGNIFICENT NEW TEMPLE OF WORSHIP.

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History of the Project From Its  
Inception to the Consummation  
of the Work.

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DEDICATORY SERVICES CONDUCTED BY  
BISHOP JOYCE, ASSISTED BY OTHER  
PROMINENT DIVINES.

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MASTERLY SERMON BY THE BISHOP -  
REMARKABLE SUCCESS OF DR. MOORE'S  
FINANCING EFFORTS - PRINCELY  
DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH.

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"The building of a church marks an epoch in the religious life of any community" were the opening words of Bishop Joyce at the first public service in the new Methodist Episcopal church of London last Sunday morning. Truly it is a beautiful temple of worship which has been erected in this city. The completion and dedication of the handsome structure, free from all indebtedness, is a source of gratification and joy to every public spirited citizen of London and Madison county. Those who have contributed and aided in the construction of this magnificent church have built not for their generation alone, but have completed an edifice from which shall go forth good and wholesome influences for years to come.

In last week's issue of the Times appeared Miss Mary Warner's excellent paper, prepared for the farewell service in the old church. In that interesting article the history of local Methodism was detailed, including

the erection and dedication of the old church and the pastors and presiding elders who have served on this charge.

### HISTORY OF THE PROJECT.

The story of how the new church came to be built is one of interest. The project was long talked of, but in the spring of '92, the question to be decided was whether to repair the old church or build a new one. A committee was appointed to solicit funds for repair purposes. The pastor, Rev. W.L. Slutz and many other favored building a new church. The ultimate result was that the report of the committee on repairs is still in their hands. The pastor encouraged by many of the most liberal givers, prepared a subscription list and solicited subscriptions on the condition that \$20,000 should be raised before anything definite should be commenced. Rev. Mr. Slutz succeeded in raising about \$21,000, of which sum nine families took \$1,000 apiece and one family \$2,000. This report was made to the quarterly conference in session July 4, 1892. The enterprise being so large the members hesitated about entering upon it. After much discussion it was put to vote and, thought perhaps not generally known, it was decided to build by a bare majority of one vote. The trustees were instructed to procure an architect, adopt plans and proceed with the construction. A number of competitive plans were submitted and those of Crapsey & Brown of Cincinnati, were adopted.

The question of location was a most important one. Several locations were viewed and discussed until finally the present one on the corner of Main and Fourth streets was selected. A building committee consisting of Rev. W.L. Slutz, J.W. Durlinger and Horace G. Jones was appointed to have charge of the construction of the proposed new edifice. The brick parsonage was exchanged for the corner lot belonging to Palmer C. Smith, the church giving a difference which amounted to about \$1,200 after the sale of the Smith house. The adjoining lot belonging to Sam'l Sidner was purchased from the Exchange bank at a cost of \$3,000. The old church, chapel, lot, etc., were sold to a stock company

for a sum equal to the price of the Sidner lot. The church was now without a parsonage. Mr. J. Swetland came to the rescue by donating an eligible lot on Elm street onto which the Sidner house was moved and refitted at a cost of \$2,000 including the putting in of a furnace. It will be seen therefore that the amount of the parsonage lot donation, the parsonage repairs and balance paid to P.C. Smith, the three items amounting to \$3634, had first to be paid out of donations before commencing to build a church.

The lot selected was the most eligible site for a church edifice which could have been found in the city and its present value is not less than \$10,000. The contract for construction was let about Holiday time '92 to A.A. Fletcher & Co., of Cincinnati, and ground was broken in the spring. The foundation was laid and the formal laying of the corner stone occurred August 31, 1893. At this time a large company assembled and Dr. Moore handled the finance, securing \$4,000 and the promise of two memorial windows. Rev. Fletcher Wharton, of Delaware, Dr. Van Auda and other prominent ministers were present. The ceremony was performed and the pastor laid the corner stone. From this time on the enterprise progressed slowly but surely until the final completion of the structure about one year from the time of laying the corner stone.

Throughout the entire work the pastor, Rev. Slutz, has been the moving spirit, calling into action the loyal support of the church. To his enthusiastic, energetic efforts, his splendid executive ability, clear headedness and untiring zeal belongs, first of all, credit for the enterprise brought to such successful consummation. Undismayed by obstacle, seemingly almost immovable and with an unwavering faith in the ultimate success of the difficult undertaking, Rev. Slutz cheerfully and steadfastly led the movement through to a successful issue. In his efforts, he found able assistance and loyal, earnest support in the individuals and official boards who labored with him as well as the united help and cooperation of a generous willing membership.

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW CHURCH.**

The building is of Gothic style. The foundation is of blue limestone while the range work as high as the base of the windows is of buff Amherst trimmed with Lake Superior red sandstone. There are three entrances to the building. The main entrance is at the corner of

Main and Fourth streets, also one on Main and one on Fourth, thus affording ample opportunity for the assembling and passing out of audiences in a short time.

The auditorium occupies the western part of the interior and is 60x60 feet with a small but handsome gallery in the rear. The position of the organ is in the northeast corner facing the main entrance. The pulpit and choir platform is in front and to the right of the organ and so situated that persons seated in the lecture room, when it is desired to throw it open, are as near the speaker as those in the auditorium. The seats are leather upholstered divans or folding chairs, fixed in a stationery manner, and arranged in a circular form so that each person in the audience is seated on a direct line with the speaker. The furniture, which is elegant, was purchased of the Grand Rapids Furniture Company.

The platform is supplied with a carved oak pulpit, adjustable to different heights on which is placed a large and elegant Bible, the latter being the donation of Mrs. Susan Dungan. The other furniture consists of a sofa and two chairs together with the pulpit chairs used in the old church. These have been nicely recovered and make a splendid appearance, which, together with the old bell, whose sweet tones have been heard for so many years, and will continue to resound from the new steeple, form links which connect the present with the past.

At the altar rail is an exquisite pure white-marble baptismal font, the gift of Mr. George Jones, of Chicago.

The ceiling is in panel work, beautifully and delicately frescoed in floral designs by the distinguished artist, Will. H. Peters of Peoria Ill. A fine skylight in the form of a Maltese cross admits light from a dome.

The lecture room, or Sunday school room is to the east of the auditorium and separated from it by a partition which can be raised or lowered very easily, being hung on balanced wire cables. This partition is lathed with steel lath and plastered and frescoed on either side in harmony with the respective rooms of which it forms a wall when lowered. This is an excellent feature of the church, as the partition, when raised is entirely out of the way and at sufficient height that all persons in the gallery may see the speaker. The room is 50x70 feet with circular gallery passing around three sides. It will accommodate about 700 persons. All the space below the gallery is divided into class rooms which separate from the lecture room proper by folding

shutters and from each other by sliding partitions. Of these rooms the one on the south is the Epworth League parlor, spacious and convenient. In addition to furnace registers, the parlor has a grate which gives it a home-like and comfortable appearance. The north-west room is set apart for the infant department of the Sunday school. To this room and also to the Epworth parlor there are separate entrances. The room is seated with successive rises of small chairs to accommodate about one hundred children. When the auditorium lecture room and class rooms are all thrown together, the entire seating capacity is about fifteen hundred.

At the right hand of the south entrance is a library room - a splendid room awaiting the donation of a suitable library. In the north wing of the building there is a vestry room, communicating with choir and pulpit platform, and furnished with a grate and mirror mantel. To the north is a beautiful room for the Kings' Daughters, and above the vestry there is a splendid room, similarly furnished and designed for the pastor's study.

The carpeting of the new edifice was done by the Ladies' Aid Society at an expense of \$1,200. The designs are in harmony with the other handsome furnishings, and present a beautiful appearance, showing excellent taste in the selection.

The basement is entirely finished and cemented throughout. The part under the auditorium is reserved for the furnace and fuel rooms, water motor, cold air ducts, etc. The portion beneath the lecture room is handsomely finished with toilet rooms, large dining hall capable of seating three hundred persons, and a convenient and splendidly equipped kitchen with water service and sewerage.

The entire building is heated with the Bennett & Peck hot air furnaces. The rooms are lighted with gas, the two main rooms being supplied with large Bailey reflectors. There are also a large number of pendant and bracket lights furnished by the Cleveland Gas Light Co. As in all probability London will have an electric light plant before many years, the lights have all been arranged so that a transference to the electric system can easily be made.

### MEMORIAL WINDOWS.

The windows of the church have been reserved for separate description. On the right hand side of the front entrance hall is a window given by the ladies of the

church and congregation in memory of the departed wife and daughters of the pastor, Rev. W.L. Slutz, who has been so sorely bereaved within the past few months. The window although not as large as some of the others, is certainly one of the prettiest in the church. The name of Mabel, enclosed in a wreath of pink Marischal Neil roses appears on the left, and on the right is the name of little Helen wreathed in pansies, her choice flowers. At the bottom is the name of Mrs. Julia M.C. Slutz above which is a beautiful crown, full jeweled.

There are three large memorial windows in the auditorium. The one on the north was placed there by Judge and Mrs. Harrison of Columbus. The design of the lower part is very lovely, being the "Angel of the Advent" in a garden of flowers with wings outspread as if bringing a message of light and peace. The upper part of the window contains various emblems in rich color. The window was made and placed in position by C.E. Lamb of New York. All other windows of the building were purchased from the Artistic Glass Painting Co., of Cincinnati represented by D.E. Livermore. The glass for the entire church cost a little in excess of \$3,000.00 and are elegant design, the emblems were chosen by the donors and the building committee.

The west window was donated by Judge Lewis, of Portland, Oregon, in memory for his mother, Mrs. Abigail Lewis, who for seventy years was a devoted member of the M.E. church. The central design is the ark of the Covenant on which are resting the tables of stone. Above all an anchor and other handsome figures are shown in great detail.

The south window was the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Watson in memory of their parents. The beautiful window was appropriately designed by Mrs. Watson. In the center is a log cabin representing the early pioneer homes of the father of Mrs. Watson. Here we find a beautiful figure of David, the Shepherd Boy with crook in hand guarding the sheep near by. The natural scenery depicted here attracts the attention of every beholder. The mountain in the distances and pure waters of the Jordan are grand. In the top of the window is the sea of Galilee over the surface of whose water is a perfect representation of a sailing vessel. The window presents a charming appearance.

The windows in the Epworth parlor are exquisite, bearing the motto "Look Up, Lift Up" and the seal and emblems of the League in glass. This lovely window was

donated by the London Chapter No. 1116 Epworth League of this city.

The west window in the south entrance hall was donated by Mrs. Eliza Jones of Oak street. It bears the emblem of the W.C.T.U. and a bunch of roses tied with the white ribbon.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT.**

Following is given in more detail the finances connected with the undertaking and the total cost:

Cost of the church.....	\$30,505.95
A.A. Fletcher & Co., contractors extra	
on stone work.....	150.00
Crapsey & Brown, architects .....	885.25
Bennett & Peck, heating and ventilating .....	840.00
Bailey Reflector Co.....	317.41
Electric Fixtures.....	39.85
Cleveland Gas Light Co. ....	192.02
Will H. Peters for frescoing .....	452.50
Grand Rapids Furniture Co.....	2,679.00
Pavement, steps, curbing, grading.....	905.91
Water service, sewerage labor, etc.....	161.30
Superintendence.....	34.00
Glass .....	700.00
Mantels .....	325.00
Insurance and sundry expenses.....	522.00
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$38,761.19</b>

Amount paid on lots and parsonage more than receipts from old church,	
chapel parsonage and lots .....	\$3,668.49
Pipe organ \$2,750 less a donation by the builders,	
Johnson & Son, \$450.....	\$2,300.00
Carpets, etc. Ladies Society .....	\$1,200.00
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE PAID.....</b>	<b>\$45,924.68</b>

Received from subscriptions and	
donations .....	\$25,606.25
Subscriptions which will be paid .....	\$140.00
Paid by Ladies society .....	\$1,200.00
Total.....	\$26,945.25
Amount needed and raised.....	\$18,978.43

In addition to this were donated the memorial windows, beautiful font and bible on which we do not place an estimate.

**RECITAL AND CONCERT.**

On last Thursday evening the doors of the new church were for the first time opened for a public entertainment. The occasion was a pipe organ recital by Mr. Clarence Eddy, of Chicago, and concert in which the following persons, all of whom are well known in London, took part: Mrs. G.W. Spahr, Columbus; Miss Fannie Cartzdainer, Miss Ollie Bridgman and Mr. G.A. Dodds of this city; W.S. Putnam, Springfield; and Mr. George Brown, of Yellow Springs. A splendid audience, representative of London, assembled to greet this exceptionally fine array of talent. The novelty and beauty of the interior of the building, with the wonderful strains of harmony and melody, combined to render the place one of complete enchantment. Mr. Eddy is a pipe organ player of national reputation and deservedly so. He rendered six numbers according to the program announced last week. Mr. Eddy pronounced the instrument which is run by a water motor to be a very fine one and all that could be desired for the requirement of the church. His playing was a rare musical treat. Miss Cartzdafner delighted the audience of each appearance but especially were the soprano solos "Fear Not Ye O Israel" and "Angels Even Bright and Fair" appreciated and both were heartedly encored. She certainly added much to her already great popularity at home by her brilliant and charming performance of Thursday evening. Miss Cartzdafner sings in a prominent New York City church and her hosts of friends in this city were greatly pleased to be permitted to hear her again.

Mrs. Spahr and Miss Bridgman both possess powerful and sweet contralto voices which were employed with wonderful effect. Mr. Brown's tenor singing requires to comment and Messrs. Dodd's and Putnam sustained their parts in an admirable manner. The new proceeds of the entertainment were in the neighborhood of \$200.00.

**RECEPTION.**

On Saturday evening the church was again thrown open and everybody invited to attend the reception to the Bishop and visiting ministers. The ministers present at the dedication, most of whom attended the reception were as follows: Bishop I.W. Joyce, Dr. David H. Moore, editor of Western Christian Advocate; three former pastors - Rev. I.F. King, Columbus; J.W. Peter of Hamilton, O; and J.W. Dillon, of Lancaster;

also Presiding elder W.D. Cherrington and Rev. D.C. Thomas, Delaware, O.; Rev. Willis V. Dick, pastor of Spencer Chapel, Ironton, O.; Rev. S.H. Crosby, West Jefferson; and Rev. W.C. Holliday of Columbus. Prof. Adams, organist of Gray's Chapel, Delaware, was present and presided at the pipe organ. Several vocal selections were rendered and the evening was one of thorough enjoyment to the large company which assembled.

### **DEDICATION DAY.**

The weather was perfect, all that could be desired and the day seemed made for the joyous occasion. By half past ten an audience of probably 1200 persons had assembled from London, vicinity and neighboring towns. The music for the occasion was furnished by a select choir consisting of Mrs. Mae Bridgman Weaver, Misses Wildman and Ollie Bridgman, Mrs. Colburn Farrar and Messrs. Brown, Thomas and Dodds. Prof. Adams manipulated the organ.

### **MORNING AND AFTERNOON SERVICES.**

After scripture reading by Rev. King and prayer by Ref. Dillon the choir sang a beautiful anthem. Rev. Thomas read the second lesson, followed by the financial statement made by Rev. Slutz, who showed that about \$19,000 was still to be raised. Rev. I.M. Joyce then preached a most excellent sermon from I John, 4:7, and for an hour, the large audience listened with rapt attention. The work of taking subscriptions was then commenced under the direction of Dr. Moore and before the service closed about \$13,000 had been pledged.

An afternoon young peoples' service was held conducted by Presiding elder Cherrington. The Epworth Guards, about twenty in number, marched to the church and presented a soldiery appearance. The boys have been drilled by J.M. Boyer and M.C. Slutz. Addresses were made by Bishop Joyce, Dr. Peters and other and some additional money was raised.

### **A MAGNIFICENT GIFT.**

A still larger number of persons thronged the main room and galleries in the evening than in the morning. The service was commenced in a manner not announced, yet which made the occasion memorable. The bishop in a most happy and touching manner made public news of another magnificent act of generosity on

the part of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Watson, who already had done so much for the cause near their hearts. Mr. and Mrs. Watson have decided to leave their handsome residence property to the church for parsonage purposes after they have passed to their beyond. This property, which is located on the south east corner of Main and Fourth streets opposite the new edifice, is valued at not less than \$15,000. This announcement was wholly unexpected and created great enthusiasm. The church resounded with fervent amens and repeated singing of the doxology, and every heart united in the wish that the generous donors may long be spared to the church and community for whose welfare they have done so much.

### **THE CHURCH DEDICATION.**

The remainder of the evening service could not fall in interest and success after so grand an opening. Rev. J.A. Ewalt, pastor of the Presbyterian church this city, read the scripture lesson. A balance of \$5,500 yet remained to be raised and Dr. Moore, instead of preaching as announced, called for subscriptions, using a blackboard exercise to assist. The solicitors worked busily in the audience until the last dollar of the indebtedness was wiped out. Then was indeed a time of rejoicing.

The impressive ritual of dedication was then pronounced. S.W. Durflinger, president of the board of trustees, made the formal presentation; the declaration was read by Dr. Cherrington, followed by the prayer of dedication by Bishop Joyce.

A short session of Thanksgiving was held in which most of the visiting ministers made appropriate speeches. The pastor, Rev. Slutz was called out and gave a brief but neat minute talk. The doxology was again sung and thus pronouncing of the benediction closed the opening day of the new epoch of London's religious worship.



**THE NEW FIRST M.E. CHURCH EDIFICE**

Office of the Mayor  
London, Ohio

# Proclamation

## Honoring the First United Methodist Church of London, Ohio

**WHEREAS**, for over two centuries, the First United Methodist Church of London, Ohio, established in 1813, has stood as a magnificent beacon of faith and fellowship, its history inextricably woven into the very fabric of our beloved community; and

**WHEREAS**, this sacred structure is recognized nationally for its historical significance, being proudly listed in the National Register of Historic Places, a true landmark that connects generations past, present, and future; and

**WHEREAS**, the devoted congregation, known for its tireless spirit, is coming together on Sunday, November 2, 2025, to celebrate two remarkable milestones, a testament to their faith and dedication to preserving their rich heritage; and

**WHEREAS**, the first milestone is the joyful re-dedication of the church building to the Glory of God, marking the successful completion of a profound capital campaign that has restored the very soul of the building, preserving the exterior masonry and stonework, and the beautiful stained-glass windows for years to come; and

**WHEREAS**, the second, deeply touching milestone is the dedication of The Byers Memorial Tower Chimes, a gracious and heartfelt gift given to the Glory of God in the loving memory of George "Buddy" and Diane Byers by their cherished children and their families; and


**WHEREAS**, these extraordinary tubular chimes, a vintage set manufactured in 1927 by the J.C. Deagan Company of Chicago, are a tangible link to history that were lovingly rescued by dedicated volunteers from the tower of a closed church, saving them from being lost forever; and

**WHEREAS**, through the generosity of the Byers family, this rare set of 16 individual bronze chimes has been fully restored and installed, bringing an authentic piece of history to London; and as the tubular chimes ring out, they allow the community to hear the genuine, magnificent sound of bronze, preserving this amazing legacy for generations to come, with truly amazing grace.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Mayor Patrick J. Closser, on behalf of the residents of The City of London, do hereby proclaim our deepest gratitude and recognition to the First United Methodist Church of London, Ohio, for their profound commitment to their historical home and for the inspiring, selfless effort to preserve and share the rare and authentic sound of The Byers Memorial Tower Chimes, which will enrich the life of our city for generations. I encourage all citizens to share in this celebratory day, a moment of local history and heartwarming dedication, and to listen with joy for the magnificent new voice of our historic London landmark.



*In witness whereof I have hereunto set my  
hand and caused this seal to be affixed*

  
Mayor

Date: November 2, 2025



First United Methodist Church  
52 North Main Street  
London, Ohio 43140