



CARROLLTON FIRST UMC

THE YELLOW BRICK CHURCH + THE BRIDGE

Sunday, March 23, 2025

Third Sunday in Lent

Interim Pastor – Rev. Brandon Keck

Bkeck@carrolltonfirstumc.org

CFUMC Vision Statement:

We are *following Jesus* and *sharing His love* by **praying, serving** and **encouraging** all people so they may be in a closer relationship with God.

As we begin worship today, please remember we are in God's presence. Let us set our eyes, our hearts and our minds on Jesus. Please join in singing, listen attentively to the announcements, scriptures and sermon, and allow our time to be filled with the Holy Spirit. We ask that you please refrain from visiting and talking during worship. Please help make this a meaningful and powerful service for everyone.

*Please keep praying for our church
every evening at 8pm*

CHURCH CALENDAR

YBC = Yellow Brick Church, TB=The Bridge

Mar 23 Worship 9am YBC, 10:30am TB

Mar 24 Krills Home Study resumes March 31

Mar 25 Coffee and Christ 10am CC Coffee Co.

Mar 25 Kids for Christ 3:15-5:15 Carrollton Elem

Mar 25 UMC Kidz Club 6-7pm

Mar 25 Pathfinders 6-7pm

Mar 26 Jesus Shaped Life 6-7 @ YBC

Mar 27 Lenten Study 12-1pm

Mar 27 Kingdom Youth 5:30-7pm YBC

Mar 27 TOPS 5:30

Mar 30 Worship 9am YBC, 10:30am TB

Camp Sunday!

OFFICE HOURS: Please call or email to make sure someone is here to assist you.

People of Prayer

Faithful God, our guide and sustainer, as we offer our gifts, may they bear fruit for your kingdom. In this solemn season of Lent, we remember your call to repentance and renewal. Help us tend the soil of our hearts so that we may grow in faith and bear witness to your grace. Use us to bring hope to those in need and light to those in darkness. May we live as your fruitful servants, trusting in your abundant mercy. *In the name of Christ who calls us to new life, we pray. Amen.*

*from <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning>

Eggstravaganza Preparations Underway!

This annual community event is **Saturday, April 12 from 9am-11am** at the fairgrounds

Carrollton First UMC is responsible for **500 filled plastic eggs**. You can use prewrapped candy, stickers, small toys, etc. *Please turn in eggs to the Yellow Brick Church by Sunday, April 6.*

Keep in Touch Cards: Please take a couple minutes to remind these individuals of the love of their family here at Carrollton First UMC and the love of Jesus. Cards will be at Yellow Brick on March 16 and 23 and at The Bridge on March 30 and April 6.

Sermon Series: John Wesley's 22 Questions

11. Do I pray about the money I spend?
12. Do I get to bed on time and get up on time?
13. Do I disobey God in anything?
17. How do I spend my spare time?



Blended Worship: 9:00am @ the Yellow Brick Church

Accompanist: Becky Dickerhoof

WELCOME VIDEO/ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE (in unison)

**Light of Christ, Shine on our path,
Illuminate our darkness and Lead us to the heart of God**

PRELUDE

OPENING PRAYER

*OPENING HYMN *Come, Christians Join to Sing* #158 UM Hymnal

*HEARING THE WORD **Ecclesiastes 5:1-3**

*GLORIA PATRI **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES/OFFERINGS/TESTIMONIES AND PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE-Pastor Brandon

Dismissal to Yellow Brick Kidz – Meghan Hill

SCRIPTURE

Luke 15:11-24

MESSAGE

Sweet Freedom

Rev. Brandon Keck

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

*CLOSING HYMN

Freely, Freely

#389 UM Hymnal

BENEDICTION

What got your attention? What is God saying to you? What are you going to do about it?



Casual, Contemporary Worship: 10:30am

Music – Autumn Boettner, Carl Leonard,
Dave Dickerhoof, Becky Dickerhoof

Welcome/Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Praise and Worship

Hearing the Word

Ecclesiastes 5:1-3

Congregational Prayer/Offering:

Please complete your Communicator Cards and drop in the Offering bucket

The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Children's Message – Francie Krills

Dismissal to Bridge Kidz- Francie Krills

Scripture

Luke 15:11-24

Message

Sweet Freedom

Rev. Brandon Keck

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Worship

Dismissal with Blessing

Work Day at Camp Aldersgate

Saturday, April 26 from 9am-noon!

We will be painting the maintenance shop, moving bunks, planting flowers, and doing trail maintenance! Coffee and donuts in the morning and a hot lunch at 12:30! People are welcome to come for all or a portion of the morning! If anyone has tools that would help these projects, they are welcome and encouraged to bring them. Any questions can be directed to Meredith Mateer or Brad Boughman.

Mission Support Spotlight

Carroll County Coats for Kids – Carrollton First UMC provides space and support for this local program. In 2024, **560 coats** were handed out in 2 days. Funds from the church are provided as approved by our Mission chair or Discipleship Board. For example: In 2024, Carrollton First UMC gave \$1,450 to purchase additional coats. *This program is housed at Yellow Brick – you can drop off NEW hats, gloves, and coats at any time throughout the year or monetary donations made out to Carrollton First UMC with Coats for Kids in the memo line.*

Flowers for Easter

Please pick up an order from outside the sanctuary space or give the office a call 330-627-7671 or send an email to office@carrolltonfirstumc.org Tulips (colors vary), Hyacinths, Daffodils \$10 each; Easter Lilies \$11 each. Please include information on the wording for the bulletin. In memory of or in honor of, and your name. **Deadline to order SUNDAY, MARCH 30.**

Feeling Nudged to Share Your Musical Gifts?

The Bridge Band is looking for musicians and singers to join us **on a rotational basis**! This is not a weekly commitment - we will ask you to join on a rotation as your schedule allows. *Interested? Please see Autumn.*

Prayers and Praises:

*****Please submit updates*****

We will begin the policy again of listing a name/concern for 3 weeks and then if we don't have an update, the name will be removed.

For our Interim Pastor, Rev. Brandon Keck

For the New Lead Pastor God's is calling to our church

For those dealing with any form of addiction, for their recovery and prayers for their families.

For upcoming surgeries

For our schools, our children, our nation

For our military veterans and active military

Helping Children with Loss – Kara Corbett, Grief

Recovery Method Specialist, is offering a 4-week course for adults to help children deal with grief from death, divorce, pet loss, moving, and other losses. The course will be held at Yellow Brick on **Mondays, April 28-May 19** from 6-8:30pm. Please register before April 25. Introductory cost is \$60 and includes all materials. For more information, visit <https://www.griefrecoverymethod.com/grms/kara-corbett> or contact the office for Kara's phone number.

Carrollton First UMC on SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay connected sharing your experience at our church, during an outreach ministry or through a virtual event

Website: www.carrolltonfirstumc.org

Facebook: CarrolltonFirstUnited

YouTube: CarrolltonFirstUMC

Online giving available through tithe.ly

<https://www.carrolltonfirstumc.org/giving>

Mailing Address: 253 South Lisbon St., PO Box 85
Carrollton, OH 44615

Submit news, announcements & prayer requests to office@carrolltonfirstumc.org or call (330) 627-7671

Our church bulletin is also available on our website and on the YouVersion Bible App; find it under Events

Prayer and Praise requests- please email the church office with information to be shared. Please make sure you have permission from the family.

Sick Calls - If your loved one is in the hospital, nursing home or homebound and they would like a visit from our pastors, please call or email the office.

Marriage - Please call the office for information. Arrangements should be made at least six (6) months prior to the wedding. Before scheduling your reception venue, confirm that the pastor officiating and the church are available. (Weddings at Carrollton First UMC must be officiated by one of our current pastors).

Baptisms - Baptisms are scheduled on an individual basis. Please call the office to make arrangements.

Funerals and Funeral meals - Please have the funeral director contact the office before the date and time is decided and before the information is published in the newspaper. Meals can be provided following the service, please contact the church office to go over details.

Bulletin News Deadline - Wednesdays at noon in writing.

Interested in Becoming United Methodist? - Please call the church office about Membership Classes.

Birthdays

Mar 23 Terry Latynski

Mar 24 Jackson Kidd, Riley Kidd

Mar 26 Jeannine Miller, Danny Wingerter

Mar 28 Paul Craft

April 1 Vicki Ray, Kenna Roudebush, Ella Miller

April 4 Tom Hanna, Addy Pettit, Jaxon Shreve

April 5 Marcy Albrecht, Mike Yoder

April 6 Sam Dickerhoof

April 12 Dick Baker

April 15 Bill Hutchison

April 17 Eric Miller

April 25 Tritt Troyer

April 26 Cindy Henderson

April 29 Lynn Fairclough

Strategic Plan Update

Dear Carrollton First UMC family,

The Leadership Board of Carrollton First UMC approved our Strategic Plan for 2025 on February 4, 2025. This vision for our church has many facets for short, mid-range and long-term goals and I would like to briefly highlight how we are starting to live into this plan.

In the first 90 days we are seeking to grow our ministry team by adding a permanent accompanist for our Yellow Brick worship service and nursery care for many activities we host. Music is one of the most important parts of worship and having a dedicated individual who can easily step in and play the piano and organ is a must. We have been utilizing the gifts and talents of current members but they have made it known that help is needed. Further, having a staffed nursery at both the Bridge and Yellow Brick would also help to enhance our worship experience to allow parents with young children to feel ever more present in the service as they would not have to worry about their children causing interruptions.

We are also working to update our signage around our facility to make our space more user friendly and appealing to visitors and guests. This also includes improving the technology which we use to facilitate worship and communicate with members and the surrounding community. Discipleship is extremely important for our congregation to be equipped to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in our community and therefore we are continuing with implementing our usage of the 3DM program. This April, Kelsey and Devin Pitts and I will be attending the 3DM Immersion in New Haven, Indiana. This is a program that can help participants live into a Christ filled life.

A related goal is to provide more opportunities for members to participate in local missions. At the end of April you are invited to join in mission at Camp Aldersgate where we will help to get the camp ready to welcome children and youth this summer. We are also exploring other opportunities to get into the community to be the hands and feet of Christ. This could mean a trip to the Urban Mission in Steubenville or other individual projects here in Carrollton.

There are also many long-term goals that are related to improving our facilities, worship spaces and the ways in which we seek to make an impact in our community. The Leadership Board will continue working toward keeping you informed of the vision and work of our congregation. You can contact the church office for a copy of the 2025 Strategic Plan and I would love to have one-on-one conversations about the great possibilities that are in the future for Carrollton First UMC. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly to discuss, brainstorm and dream about what God could be doing through our faith community.

In Christ, Pastor Brandon

Carrollton First UMC's Discipleship Board met Thursday evening, March 6, 2025 and voted to begin a search for Nursery Workers and an Accompanist/Pianist.

NURSERY WORKERS - Carrollton First UMC is looking to hire 1-2 nursery workers to care for our young children, ages 0-4. Hours will typically be during Sunday morning worship for both locations and Tuesday evenings during Bible Study; additional hours during special services will also be required. (A full job description is available from the office.) If you or someone you know is interested, please send resume, cover letter and 3 references to office@carrolltonfirstumc.org

ACCOMPANIST/PIANIST – Carrollton First UMC is seeking a gifted musician to provide piano, keyboard or organ accompaniment for worship services and other occasions in support of the music ministry of the church. Hours will typically be Sunday mornings during worship services, rehearsals with various groups as needed and special services throughout the year. (A full job description is available from the office.) If you or someone you know is interested, please send resume, cover letter and 3 references to office@carrolltonfirstumc.org

Bible Studies and Support Groups

- **MEN'S GROUP** – Meet the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month at 8am. Please reach out to Brad Boughman with questions.
- **Pathfinders** –Our study is held Tuesdays from 6-7pm at YBC. This is a family friendly group. All are welcome. Reading and discussing portions of Scripture each week. Contact Kathy Cramer with questions.
- **Stitched with Love** –We meet the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month at 10am at the YBC. If you would like to spend some craft time with other believers in Christ – join us! Next date: **Thursday, April 3.**
- **Krills Bible Study**: Monday nights at 6:30pm at Bill & Francie's home. Our next study Adam Hamilton's "Final Words" will begin on March 31st. Contact Bill and Francie with questions.
- **Coffee & Christ** † Tuesdays at 10am at the Carroll County Coffee Company. We will be discussing different people, Biblical principles, and places each week. We are open to any Biblical topics you would like to discuss. Contact Francie Krills with questions.

CAMP SUNDAY – Sunday, March 30

Meredith Mateer, Director at Camp Aldersgate, will be sharing about the fun and wonderful activities the children can experience at camp! She will be at both Yellow Brick and The Bridge.

Please come, learn and ask questions!

Summer Camp Registration is open!

<https://www.eocsummercamps.org>

Carrollton First UMC will pay \$200 toward the cost of one of these camps for youth who attend worship, Yellow Brick Kidz, Bridge Kidz, Kingdom Youth, UMC Kidz Club, etc. *Camps our church will help pay for are Camp Aldersgate, Wanake, Asbury, ReachOut and Lakeside Institute.* Please contact the office for details.

Plus – **new this year** – do you have a friend who you would like to invite to go to camp? We have a new mission outreach to help make that possible! Contact the office.

Interested in volunteering? Helpers needed Sunday afternoons for check-in. Contact Meredith at director@campaldersgate.org for information.

Women's Spiritual Growth Program

is designed to permit yourself quiet time and share mutual presence with God in quiet Biblical settings around YBC. My experience of listening to God fully as a daughter began with James 1:5-8 in 2002. The journey still continues today. This program was designed based on my trials/errors, failures/triumphs along the way. Sisters in Christ, come join me as you learn: The art of submerging yourself into Scripture and of listening to God. *Norma Boughman*, Certified Lay Servant for Carrollton First UMC
We are actively taking registrations for this **May 3, 2025** event. It is 9am-3pm. The cost is \$10.00 to cover food/supplies and due that day.

Lenten Study with Pastor Brandon

Join Pastor Brandon for a 6-week Lenten Study using the book "The Final Days" by Matt Rawle.

Thursdays, March 6- April 10 at noon in the Multi-purpose room at YBC.

Jesus Shaped Life - Wednesdays from 6-7pm. This session, we will be diving into the topic of Angels—what the Bible says about them, both holy and fallen. It will be a 13-session study, meeting every Wednesday through May 21 ♦ Rotating Locations—Contact Kelsey Pitts each week for the address.

Kingdom Youth Group meets every Thursday 5:30-7pm at the Yellow Brick for grades 6-9. See the posted schedule at either location or reach out to Kelsey Pitts.

UMC Kidz Club – Meet Tuesdays at the YBC, from 6:00-7:00pm. Our club is open to 3 y.o. (must be potty trained) through 5th grade students. If you are interested, please contact Meghan Hill.

Children's Ministry Team

We are excited to have so many children in our services and are looking for dedicated people to give brief Children's Message on Sunday mornings or to teach in our Yellow Brick Kidz or Bridge Kidz areas (learning and fun activities for children ages 4-5th grade). We would love to have you join our team! **Please contact Michayla Wendell for more information.**