

Test Message - April 2026 Newsletter

From Church Office <firstchurchlima+live.com@iccontactmail.com>

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First Evangelical & Reformed Church
Informer Newsletter, April, 2026

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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From the Pastor

The crucifixion of Jesus Christ is one of the most iconic events in human history. Rarely does a single event transcend time and culture as this one has. But why? The answer lies in who Jesus claimed to be. He proclaimed that He had the authority to forgive sins, to heal the sick, the hurting, and the dying, and to offer not only a renewed life but eternal life.

Yet the crucifixion remains merely a historical event unless we seek the truth of who Jesus is. As we begin to uncover the reality of Christ, we are often confronted with our own frailty and our deepest needs. The story of the cross then moves beyond history and becomes something deeply personal. It becomes an invitation—an invitation for each of us to encounter the risen Christ in our own lives.

Only when we have such an encounter does the empty cross and the empty tomb breathe life into our souls. Without understanding who Jesus was—and who He is for us—we risk missing the depth of Christ’s love and sacrifice. But when we begin to grasp the overwhelming embrace of Christ for each of us as individuals, our hearts come alive with the joy that only He can give.

Holy Week, from Palm Sunday to Easter morning, carries us through an emotional journey of profound events. It begins with the triumphal entry on Palm Sunday. Then comes the

CALENDAR

Please click the Bible to view important events. (Anniversaries and Birthdays.)



Sunday School, 9 AM
Worship, 10:15 AM

April 1, 2026
Ladies Aid at noon here at the church for dessert and fellowship.

April 2 2026
Maundy Thursday service at 7 PM at Market Street Presbyterian.

April 3, 2026
Good Friday Tenebrae Service here at 7 PM.

April 5, 2026 Easter

cleansing of the temple on Monday, when Jesus drove out those who had turned God's house into a marketplace. Tuesday brings further teaching and the growing plot to kill Him. By Wednesday, the seeds of betrayal have been planted. On Thursday, the day of Passover preparation, Jesus gathers with His disciples for the final meal.

The tone of the evening changes dramatically when Judas leaves the table. At the center of the Passover meal is the remembrance of blood and the sacrifice of a lamb. Yet as the meal concludes, Judas goes out to begin the process that will lead to the arrest of the true Lamb of God, who will be taken from the safety of the fold and led to slaughter.

Peter will deny knowing Him. Jesus will not defend Himself before His accusers. Instead, He silently endures the beatings, the scorn, and the shame of the brutal crucifixion. From the cross, three powerful words are spoken in our English translation: "It is finished."

Yet the story is far from over.

Jesus spoke of the final battle that still lay ahead—the defeat of death itself. Death, the ultimate enemy, represents the separation of humanity from God. In the days that follow, Christ confronts the greatest enemy humanity has ever known. And He rises victorious.

Now we find ourselves preparing to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. The joy of our freedom from sin and death comes entirely through the work of Christ. Our salvation, our love for God, and our lives filled with hope and glory are all because of Him.

So let us celebrate. Let us give thanks. And let us remember the pain, the sacrifice, and the triumph of Jesus Christ.

Amen. Pastor Ed

Member Spotlight

Kimberly "Kim" Coon is our Member in the Spotlight this month.



Her family members are her husband Ted, daughters Jodi (Cincinnati), Julie (Lima), Emily (Findlay) and sons Grant (Lima) and Lucas (Michigan). Roy and Sue Coon (deceased) are her in-laws who were long time active members here. Jack and Helen Gross (deceased) are her parents. She has a sister, Deb Kleman (Lima), Pam Gross (Lima) and a brother Shawn Gross (Lima).

Sue has been a member at First Evangelical & Reformed Church for 33 years. She was married here by Rev. Ron Fruth

Breakfast at 9 AM and Worship at 10:15 AM with Communion

April 7, 2026
Bible Study at Alicia's at 7 PM. This is every Tuesday unless otherwise noted.

April 9, 2026
Elder meeting, 4 PM here.

April 12, 2026
Gathering Meal following Worship service.

April 13, 2026,
Trustees meet at 6 PM and Consistory meets at 7 PM.

April 18, 2026
The Men's Breakfast is at 8:30 AM here at the church.

April 22, 2026
Earth Day

April 24, 2026
Arbor Day

LENT SERVICES

Maundy Thursday Service is on April 2nd, and will be held at the Presbyterian church at 7 PM. The address is 1100 W. Market Street in Lima. All are welcome!

The **Good Friday** Service will be held April 3rd, here at First E & R, 320 W. Wayne Street, Lima, Ohio. The service begins at 7 PM. All welcome!

Easter Sunday, April 5, at 9 AM we will have breakfast downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. There will be no Sunday School on Easter. At 10:15 AM we will have our Easter service with Holy Communion.

in 1992. All five of her children were confirmed here. Her service to the church includes being a Deacon, Church Secretary, VBS teacher/coordinator, Sunday School teacher, Youth Group co-leader (Ted was the other leader), Power Point producer, Facebook coordinator, Videographer for live Facebook and financial/offering counter.

She was previously employed as an Elementary School teacher and prior to that was an executive secretary. She took an early retirement after she was unable to work due to medical issues. Her hobbies and interests are anything creative! She loves to draw, work with resin, diamond art, crocheting and loves camping and traveling.

Thank you Sue, for all you do. You are much appreciated.

Colossians 3:23-24 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

Important Notice! Please come to the Gathering Meal on April 12 as we will be discussing some important issues concerning our church. We need your input!



OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Ladies Aid** will meet on April 1, for Dessert and Fellowship here at the church at noon. Andrea Brunk will be our speaker. All are welcome!

Our **Gathering Meal** is April 12, following the worship service downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish to share.

The **Men's Breakfast** is Saturday, April 18, 2026. They meet every third Saturday of every month at 8:30 AM in the church Fellowship Hall for breakfast. All are welcome to attend.

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