

Test Message - May 2026 Newsletter

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

Date Tue 4/21/2026 1:40 PM

To firstchurchlima@live.com <firstchurchlima@live.com>

First Evangelical & Reformed Church
Informer Newsletter, May, 2026

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Elder Ted Coon, 419-233-3589
Elder Patricia Offenbacher, 419-371-1505
Elder Charles Chevront, 419-234-8266
Church Office: 419-222-6700
Church Email: firstchurchlima@live.com
Church Website: www.firstchurchoflima.com

IN THIS ISSUE

Church Contact Info
Devotional
Announcements
Upcoming Events
Calendar w/Birthdays &
Anniversaries

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK!

Over the past six months, many of you have welcomed Jodi and me to worship with you, join in Sunday School, and participate in Bible study. During this time, I also had the opportunity to complete a book titled *Rebuild the Porch*. Some of you have received a beta reader copy to review and reflect on, while for others, this may be the first time you're hearing about it.

As we move into the season of spring cleaning and renewal, I'd like to share a simple idea from the book—something for each of us to consider.

In many ways, we each have three "porches" in our lives: The porch of our home. The porch of our heart. The porch of the Church—the porch of the Kingdom of God. There was a time when the front porch was central to daily life. It was where people gathered in the evening to enjoy the shade, the breeze, and the company of others. Neighbors would stop by during a walk, conversations would carry from porch to porch, and community happened naturally. The porch was a place of rest, openness, and connection.

But times changed. We moved indoors. Porches disappeared, and with them, many of the simple rhythms of community. Neighbors became strangers, and connection became less personal.

CALENDAR

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



Sunday School, 9 AM
Worship, 10:15 AM

May 5 and 12, 2026
The Bible Study in
Philippians is at
Alicia's at 7 PM.

May 6, 2026
The Ladies Aid
Mother's Day Lunch
is at noon here at
the church.

May 7, 2026
Elder meeting here
at 4 PM.

May 7, 2026
National Day of
Prayer. The Allen
Co. observance

As this happened, something deeper was affected—the porch of the heart.

When life brought hurt or hardship, we began to close ourselves off. Instead of inviting others in, we guarded our hearts. We hide our struggles, carrying pain quietly and alone. Even as new ways of “connecting” emerged, our relationships often became more shallow. With each storm of life, the porch of the heart grew a little colder.

And as our hearts withdrew, many also stepped away from the Church. Some left entirely, while others remained at a distance. The threshold of the Church—and our closeness to God—seemed farther away.

Yet the Church is meant to be the porch of the Kingdom of God—a place of hope, healing, forgiveness, strength, and guidance. It is where we are invited to draw near, to cross the threshold, and to enter into God’s presence.

So the question becomes: Which porch do we begin with?

That answer is different for each of us. But the journey starts with a decision—to rise from where we are and take an honest look at the porch that shapes our lives.

Will we approach the porch of the Kingdom and seek the Master Builder to restore what has been worn or broken? Or will we try to rebuild on our own?

One truth remains certain: The porch of God is always open. And the sign still reads, “Welcome.”

Pastor Ed



takes place at the Civic Center from 11:45 AM and 1 PM.

May 10, 2026
Mother's Day

May 11, 2026
Trustees meet at 6 PM and Consistory meets at 7 PM.

May 16, 2026
The Men's Breakfast is at 8:30 AM here at the church.

May 24, 2026
Pentecost
We will have Communion.

May 25, 2026
Memorial Day
The Church office is closed. The office will be open Tuesday - Thursday, 9 AM - 3 PM.



Happy Memorial Day!
Celebrate! Honor!
Remember!

Dear Lord, lift the hearts of those for whom this holiday is not just diversion, but painful memory and continued deprivation. Bless those whose dear ones have died. We remember with compassion and heartfelt thanks, those who have died serving their country. Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Ladies Aid** will meet on May 6, 2026, for our Mother's Day Carry-in lunch at noon, here at the church. Officers will provide meat dishes, drinks and rolls. Please bring something that has special

MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Ariana Allen is this month's Member in the Spotlight.

Her family members include her mother, Taminka Malloy, father Randall Allen, Grandmother Charlene Malloy, Aunt Mariska Collier and cousin Corbin Phillips.

Ariana has been baptized and confirmed here at First Evangelical & Reformed church. She has participated in Sunday School and Worship services. She graduated from Lima Senior High School in the Spring of 2023 and was honored in our Graduate Recognition service. Her favorite aspect of the church is the genuine excitement of worship.

She is currently employed by Honda. Her hobbies and interests are doing her nails, reading and watching TV.

Romans 12:10-13 NIV

Be devoted to one another in love.

Honor one another above yourselves.

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.



meaning to you that was your Mother's or Grandmother's. We will share why it was special to you. All are welcome!

The Bible Study meets on Tuesday, May 5 and 12, at 7 PM at Alicia's house. We will be studying Philippians. When we are done with this study, we will adjourn for the summer. See you in the fall!

The Men's Breakfast is Saturday, May 16, 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.

*First Evangelical & Reformed
Church
www.firstchurchoflima.com
Email: firstchurchlima@live.com*

320 W/ Wayne St.
Lima, Ohio 45801
Office Phone: 419-222-6700

Update Email Address

This message was sent to firstchurchlima@live.com from firstchurchlima@live.com

Church Office
First Evangelical and Reformed Church
320 W. Wayne St
Lima, Oh 45801

iContact[®]
Engage. WOW. and grow your audience