Love God - Learn God - Live God

THE CALLER

The United Methodist Church of Berea ◆ 170 Seminary Street ◆ Berea, Ohio 44017
(440) 234-3525 Phone (440) 234-3078 Fax www.umcb.org

Volume 15, No 1 ***January 2014***

Way back in 1980 or 1981, while I was serving Oak Chapel, a church just outside of Wooster, I received a call from a former parishioner in Palmyra. "Would I be willing to conduct a memorial service for his deceased uncle." "Of course." While United Methodist Ministers are not to expect an honorarium for memorial services, this fellow insisted. $100.00! At that time a fortune for a minister receiving just above minimum salary. Free money!

I went out and bought something I had wanted for years: a shortwave radio. Now I could listen to the BBC World Service. I would tune to the appropriate frequency, listen for a moment to the static , then hear cathedral bells playing; after that, "This is the BBC World Service." Then the BBC's signature tune, "Apples and Oranges," then the time stamp: "12:00 Greenwich Mean Time," and then the news of the day.

The BBC is not broadcasting to North America anymore. It's more efficient to listen via computer. And the signal is clearer. And now there is video. I suppose it is better, but somehow, the character has been lost.

Anyway, Rita bought me an Ipad a few months ago, and so now I go to the BBC every day to see what's happening in the world. What's happening is this: Switzerland, one of the wealthiest nations in the world, is considering giving every citizen a living wage—enough for food on the table and a roof over their heads. On the liberal side, it's a matter of fairness; on the conservative side, it would eliminate welfare payments. Everyone would receive enough money from the government to live.

That would leave everyone free to decide: Do I want to work, and if I want to work, what is it that I want to do? What is important to me? What makes for the fullest of life?

There is the question for us. In this new year of 2014, what will I decide to do? What is God calling me to do? Where is life in its fullness? Think on these things.

Happy New Year! Rev. Skip Myers

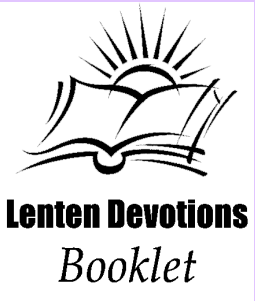
January 12th - Join us for Two Events

Mission Festival in Wesley Hall from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Learn about our mission opportunities that we sponsor both "inside and outside" the church.

UMW Sunday Please join us at the 11:15 AM worship service to hear Betty Spencer, who is the East Ohio Conference Spiritual Growth Chairman and a member of the Summit County Collaborative Agency on Human Trafficking. Betty Spencer will speak on ***"Considering Our Care for Ohio's Children."*** She will visit some of our Sunday School classes at the 10:00 AM hour.

Join us for the UMW potluck in Fellowship Hall after the 11:15 Worship Service. The meat will be provided, just bring a dish to share. Betty Spencer will be taking questions at the potluck.

Loose Change Offering for UNICEF in November 2013 collected $458.97. WOW! Thanks to all who helped with this special mission offering.



Growing and changing to be more like Christ is the purpose of our life's journey. What better time than Lent to pause and reflect on the ways we can manifest Christ-likeness in our lives. Becoming more aware of Jesus' character traits and how we demonstrate His traits in our daily living is the theme for our 2014 Lenten Devotional Book. As we journey through Lent this year, we invite you to share your thoughts, your experiences, your actions as you strive to become more like Jesus. Council members will be in the Narthex throughout the morning of **Sunday, January 12**, to assist you in choosing a date for your devotional. We encourage your participation.

Thank you for sharing! Adult Council

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE INTERCESSORY PRAYER TEAM!

In order to begin the New Year with a current prayer list, we are requesting updates on your previous prayer requests. You may use the pew prayer request cards, call the church office or contact Pastor Skip, John Kappeler, Sandy Marek or Sharon Johnson. Also, we hope you made a resolution to join the Intercessory Prayer Team on Tuesdays in the Sacristy, at 9:15 AM to about 10:45 AM.

WE BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF PRAYER! We also believe what the Scripture tells us, that "*Whatever we ask for in prayer, with FAITH, we will receive.*"

***Financial Update*: <u>2014 Operating Fund Budget</u>** Prepared by Joanne Mansfield and Roger Reeves

Last month the Church Council approved a balanced 2014 Operating Budget of $481,059. A summary is shown below. A detailed copy is available from the church Finance Office.

The budget was approved after prayerful consideration and discussion of the individual operating committee chair persons' requests. It also represents a change in policy. For the last few years, expenditures over income were taken from the unrestricted endowment fund. This year, and in the future, these expense overages will reduce the amount of our denominational apportionment payments. This will allow our unrestricted endowment to grow as planned as the construction loan is repaid and under our policy cover a growing portion of our operating expenses. Our goal is to reach our objective of paying 100% of the denominational apportionments.

We plan to continue to operate with a balanced operating budget to assure a long-term viable church that allows us to "Love God, Learn God and Live God."

United Methodist Church of Berea
2014 Operating Budget Summary

Our New Budget

Income:	
Giving	$430,500
Christmas & Easter Giving	18,000
Catch-Up Sunday	5,000
Building Use Donations	7,120
Merrimak Rental	12,600
Endowment Contribution, as per policy	7,839
Total Income	$481,059

Expenses:	
Clergy, Lay, Music, Custodial Staffing	$282,073
Christian Education	12,855
Programming	8,819
Church Office	17,851
Denominational Apportionments	56,480 *
Mission Partnership	1,250
Church/Parsonage Maintenance & Supplies	28,100
Church/Parsonage Utilities	46,316
Insurance, Real Estate Taxes/Assessments, Licenses/Inspections	27,315
Total Expenses	$481,059

* Denominational Apportionments budgeted at 75% of Conference asking.

COSROW Corner – January 2014

Jesus was preaching respect for women long before any one mentioned "feminism". In the Biblical story of "the woman at the well" Jesus treated this member of the outside racial group - a Samaritan - with dignity and understanding. As we face a new year, may God touch our hearts and our understanding with the love that Jesus taught us by his example. As John Shelby Spong reminds us in his *"Jesus for the Non-Religious"*, Jesus had female disciples. Paul also used the talents of women when our church was new. Let us resolve to make this New Year one of tolerance for both sexes.

Submitted by Jo Swanson

Church Family Prayer Concerns

Florence Baker
Eileen Bell
Esther Berger
Fran Bobo
Georgianna Bonds
Lenora Cool
Bob & Donna Dial
Barbara Donahue
Marie Douglas
Bob Ferrell
Laurie Garvin
Betty Green
Pat Harf
Jane Jeffrey
Marilyn Jelinek
Mary Letts
Clint Lunt
Dorothy Novak
Tom Oakley
Lois & Ray Pagel
Dorothy Wheaton

Our Sympathies to:

- Jeanette Sheneman and the Nolan family on the death of Barbara Jean Goforth who passed away on November 21, 2013.
- Jim and Dottie Walters on the death of Dottie's mother, Hanka Steblecki who passed away on December 14, 2013.
- The family of Louise Druhot. Louise passed away on December 14, 2013 at the Renaissance Health Center. A memorial service date at the Renaissance has not yet been determined.

Families come in many shapes and sizes, but there is one essential attribute for all, a caring and supportive spirit. Our church family surely has this spirit! Thanks so much to Pastor Skip and to Bruce Forster for their kind, reassuring visits when John found himself in the Cardiac Care Unit following his heart attack. Thanks so very much, too, for your cards, calls, visits and expressions of concern. They've been a wonderful part of healing!

Betty and John Miller

I want to thank all who were able to attend Nancy's Memorial Service. It was a very heart-warming tribute to my wonderful wife. Particular thanks to those who chose to make a donation to the church in Nancy's name. I have asked to direct that money to the Bell Choir, Music Department and the Quilters.

Phil Gehring

Thank you for the outpouring of love with cards, food, phone and personal messages when Mother passed away. A special thank you to Skip and Irene for their support and help as we planned the service. We are blessed to have such a caring and loving church family.

God bless you all, Barbara Swartz, Tom Tanner and families

Each year our members always amaze us with an outpouring of Christmas wishes expressed in cards, cookies, plants, random acts of kindness, and the list goes on. The Staff at UMCB wants to thank each of you for your thoughtfulness and recognizing our work throughout the year!

Appreciation:

- The following groups/individuals donated snacks for the Fellowship Hour on Sunday mornings. A special thank you to Brian & Eleanor Long and Wendy & Larry Jelinek for cleaning up after Fellowship Hour.

Children's Council	United Methodist Women
Creation Care	Robbie Robinson
arise!	NEWSingers
Homebuilders	Adult Council: Judy Talarzyk, John & Carol Kappler
Dawn Rollins	Nancy Schillace
Abigail Circle	Swaddling / Warren Families
Seitz Family	Gehring Family
Bread Ministry	

- The following individuals helped with hosting "**Family Promise**" the week of December 8-15th.

Terry Macha	Ann Donahue	Jeanette Kiracoff
Nancy Schillace	Sandy & Tom Marek	Bobbie DiNolcola
Maureen Bender	Barbara Swartz	Sedona Strick
Jesper Zuber	Jeanne Allen	Rachel Swaddling
Caleb Warren	Paul Warren	Jill Bush
Barb Kuri	Joanne Mansfield	Collin Sheppard
Lisa Sheppard	Dave Ulman	Cass Beckman
Brian Williams	Mark Williams	Lin & Dean Rowland
Mary Jane Weaver	Two Girl Scout Troops	

Submitted by Missions Committee

Faith & Life Lecture Series

The Faith & Life Lecture Series is free and open to the public, however registration is recommended. http://www.bw.edu/academics/rel/registration/

"Being Faithful in a Religiously Complex World" by: Dr. Paul F. Knitter, Ph.D.

How does one remain personally and intellectually faithful to one's own religious commitments and values in a world in which so many other people are following so many other commitments, often with differing values? While religious diversity has always marked the history of humanity, today we are much more aware of, even bumping into, other religious believers as never before. In these presentations/discussions, we will explore inter-religious dialogue as a necessity, a complexity, and an opportunity, giving particular attention to the Buddhist-Christian dialogue. The BW "Faith & Life Lecture Series" will take place in February.

The first lecture will discuss ***"Without Buddha I Could Not Be a Christian"*** and will take place on Wednesday, February 19 at 7:30 PM in Lindsay-Crossman Chapel, 56 Seminary St., Berea. The second lecture will focus on *"**The Necessity and Possibility of Interreligious Dialogue"*** and will be held on Thursday, February 20 at 10:00 AM in Lindsay-Crossman Chapel, 56 Seminary St., Berea. The final talk will be a panel discussion covering, **"*The Promise and Perils of Religious Pluralism*",** on Thursday, February 20 at 2:00 PM in Strosacker Hall, Sandstone 3, 120 E. Grand St., Berea.

Paul F. Knitter is the Paul Tillich Emeritus Professor of Theology, Religions and Culture at Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York. Dr. Knitter is a leading theologian of religious pluralism. Knitter's journey into interfaith dialogue began in 1964 when he was a seminarian in Rome and experienced the Second Vatican Council firsthand, at a time when the Roman Catholic Church declared its new attitude towards other religions. He is the author of "Without Buddha I Could Not Be a Christian."

Read & Grow Group

The Read and Grow group will be showing the video "BULLIED" on Monday January 13, 2014 in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited. We will meet at 6:45 PM and begin the video at 7:00 PM A short discussion will follow. We hope you will join us.

"BULLIED: A Student, A School and a Case that Made History" is a 38-minute Southern Poverty Law Center Teaching Tolerance Documentary. "This is the story of Jamie Nabozny. His ordeal began in 6th grade and only got worse in high school. Years of unrelenting bullying took its toll. But Jamie decided to take a stand against the bullying he endured and that which he knew others students endured. He went to court and fought for the right to be safe at school, even if you are gay. His inspiring story offers hope for millions of gay and lesbian students who still don't feel safe at school.

January is cookie donation time for the USO (United Service Organization). The USO provides cookies for our men and women entering military service at the Military Entrance Processing Station on Emerald Parkway and at the airport USO Center. Please place your cookies labeled "USO" in the church kitchen on Sunday, January 26, or no later than 8:30 AM on January 28, when the cookies will be delivered to USO for distribution.

Thank you. Carol Kappeler, 234-5985

HOMEBUILDERS SUNDAY SCHOOL –ALL ARE WELCOME
10:00AM IN THE PARLOR

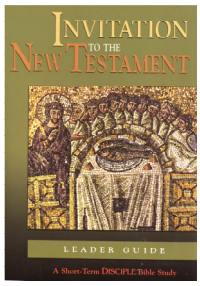
Homebuilders Christian Fellowship

January 5 Youth and Our Church with Sarah Johnson
January 12 Discussion of public charter schools in Ohio
Insights on the structure and management of public charter schools in Ohio from the perspective of a current board president for two Mosaica schools in Cleveland.

January 19 Discussion of the Impact of social economic status on Literacy development for children. Social economic status and early literacy development play a very critical role in the development of reading skills for children. Hear what positive teaching strategies and positive interactive parent/family initiatives can make large improvements on literacy development for all children.

January 26 Book Review "*The Zealot*" with Jo Swanson

Invitation to the New Testament A Short-Term DISCIPLE Bible Study - Starts January 19th



This 8 Session survey of the New Testament uses bible study to challenge participants to consider the implications of the story of Jesus for their own lives and their communities or faith. Class members are invited to study afresh this story of Jesus to learn more about their calling to discipleship and to the community.

The eight 90-minute sessions will begin on Sunday evening, January 19th, at 6:00 PM, concluding on Sunday, March 9th. The cost of the student book is $13.00 and the deadline for registering is Monday, January 13th. A minimum of six participants is required. If you are interested, please contact Deaconess Karen Caldwell.

Parents Night Out (PNO) January 10th from 6:00 to 10:00 PM sponsored by Adult Council

What is PNO? It is a Co-Op program that provides an opportunity for parents to have a planned evening to themselves. We will have games, movies, etc for the children. If we have enough interest, we would like to schedule a once a month PNO.

24th Annual Baldwin Wallace University/Berea Community

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION

January 19-24, 2014

SONGFEST 2014

Sunday, January 19, 4 p.m.

United Methodist Church of Berea, 170 Seminary St., Berea

A gospel music celebration featuring BW's Voices of Praise and Berea-Midpark High School choirs and other performing artists.

ANNUAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

Monday, January 20, 9 a.m.

Mt Zion Baptist Church, 572 Pearl St., Berea

A reflective celebration featuring music, readings, an inspirational talk by "Realizing Your Potential" program director, Susan Malone, and a delicious breakfast.

CANDLELIGHT MARCH

Tuesday, January 21, 6:30 p.m.

Berea-Midpark High School, 165 East Bagley Rd., Berea

The MLK Candlelight March will begin at the Berea-Midpark High School and move westward on Bagley Road ending at BW's Center for Innovation and Growth (CIG) at 340 Front St. Refreshments will be served with a brief reflection after the march.

CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS – VIDEO PRESENTATION

Wednesday, January 22, 7 p.m.

Berea Branch Library, 7 Berea Commons, Berea

A reception showcasing short videos that celebrate the ideals and legacy of Dr. King prepared by students from Berea-Midpark High School and BW's Upward Bound program.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: MICHELLE ALEXANDER

Thursday, January 23, 8 p.m.

Kleist Center for Art & Drama, 95 East Bagley Road, Berea

Acclaimed civil rights lawyer, legal scholar and author, Michelle Alexander exposes with bold candor racial injustice in the criminal justice system. Part of "Enduring Questions: The Mark Collier Lecture Series."

MLK DAY OF LEARNING

Thursday, January 23, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

BW and Berea-Midpark High School students host educational and interactive activities based on Dr. King's legacy and the Civil Rights Movement. Visiting fourth grade students gain an understanding of his vision. Not open to the public.

CHAPEL WORSHIP SERVICE

Thursday, January 23, Noon

Lindsay-Crossman Chapel, 56 Seminary St., Berea

All are welcome to worship and honor the memory of Dr. King.

"YOUR FEET: MY SHOES"

Friday, January 24, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Strosacker Hall, Student Union, 120 E. Grand St., Berea

People of Color United hosts an interactive maze displaying common issues and "isms" we face in today's society, stimulating greater awareness and understanding.

COMMEMORATING MLK AND THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

BW Ritter Library, 57 East Bagley Road, Berea

Artifacts and books from the Rev. Dr. Paul and Josephine Mayer Rare Book Room will be on display through February 2014. Items include facsimile copies of artifacts from the March on Washington, along with rare books that have inspired freedom through the ages, as well as works from Pulitzer Prize winning cartoonist Edward Kuekes.

BW BALDWIN WALLACE UNIVERSITY

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration is sponsored by Baldwin Wallace University in conjunction with the Berea community and the Campus/Community MLKing Week Committee 2014.

All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

For more information, call ACES at 440-826-2157.

We are offering a First Aid / CPR Training class at The United Methodist Church of Berea.

Date: January 11, 2014 (Saturday)
Time: 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Location: 3rd Floor, Room 31-32
Instructor: Edward Brewer

Please call the church office by January 9th to register. 440-234-3525 ext. 100

Ideas to "*UPCYCLE*" your Christmas cards

You may be wondering – what can I do with all those pretty Christmas cards people sent me besides recycling them (the ones without glitter or 'add on' decorations)? You can turn them into gift tags, place cards, a holiday card pinecone ornament, recipe cards, or postcards.
Source: 7Gen blog; author: greenwrite. http://www.seventhgeneration.com/learn/blog/topics/holidays

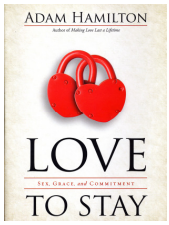
Submitted by Wendy Jelinek, Church & Society

Presented by: Deaconess Karen Caldwell

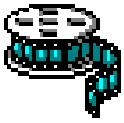
This is an Invitation for lunch and time to follow with conversation about marriage.

Consider: Love to Stay
Date: January 26 at 12:30 PM in the Parlor

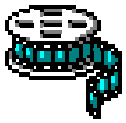
If you need Childcare, let Vivien Swadding know your needs in advance.



Movie and Discussion on Friday January 31
Time and Location: 7:00PM in the Gathering Place



The Title of film to be announced. **** Snacks Provided *****



Facilitator: Professor Joe Tarantowski

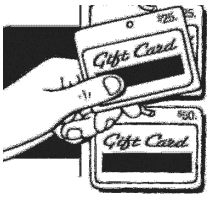
Save the date: April 26, 2014 Crop Walk for Hunger (and fun run).

For many years our church participated in a Crop Walk. We are bringing this mission walk back to the area. Please join us on Saturday, April 26 at 9:00 AM at Coe Lake.

Sponsored by Missions Committee Watch for more details.

Gift cards for many businesses are available all year. Order blanks are on the bulletin board outside of the parlor. Place your order, along with a check to United Methodist Women, in the slot on the door of the Finance office.

Cards are ordered on Monday and delivered the next Sunday. This is an ongoing fundraiser for our UMW. You may also contact Marilyn Smith at 440-243-4165 for more information.



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The United Methodist Church of Berea
170 Seminary Street
Berea, OH 44017

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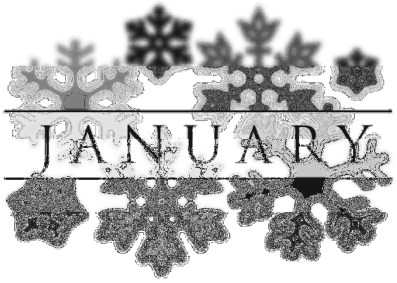

DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY

NOTE: If you wish to discontinue receiving this newsletter, please contact the church office to remove your name from the mailing list.

This issue of the Caller was mailed on December 23, 2013.

SCAN
Food Pantry Needs

SCAN will receive food and paper products from our church on January 5, 2014.

Loose Change Sunday is January 12 and will go to:

UMCOR
United Methodist Committee On Relief

The Equal Exchange Coffee Table is open the first Sunday of the month.

EQUAL EXCHANGE
FAIRLY TRADED