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## 2019 GENERAL CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 23-26, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

A special session of the General Conference has been called for February 23 – 26 in St. Louis, Missouri with the purpose of receiving and acting upon a report from the Commission on a Way Forward and recommendations of the Council of Bishops.

The Commission on a Way Forward was brought together after the 2016 General Conference in order to engage in deep conversations about human sexuality and the unity of our denomination. These conversations have recognized that significant differences exist among United Methodist people regarding our interpretations of scripture and our theological tradition and how we apply those interpretations to matters of human sexuality, including same-gender marriage and the ordination of LGBTQ persons. If you would like to read the final report from the Commission on a Way Forward, please contact Pastor Nathan ([nhowe@umcb.org](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org)).

The following information about the 2019 General Conference is adapted from a FAQ put together by our East Ohio delegates to the General Conference:

### **What is the General Conference?**

The General Conference is the primary legislative body of The United Methodist Church and the only body that speaks officially for the church. The General Conference meets once every four years, with the next session scheduled for 2020 in Minneapolis.

### **Why has a “special session” of the General Conference been called for 2019?**

The purpose of the 2019 General Conference is to receive and act upon the report of the Commission on a Way Forward, which was given the task to do a complete examination and propose possible revision of every paragraph of *The Book of Discipline of The UMC* concerning human sexuality and to explore options that help maintain and strengthen the unity of the church.

### **What will be considered by the 2019 General Conference?**

The following three plans will be presented by the Commission on a Way Forward:

*The One Church Plan*, which would allow decisions about whether to ordain LGBTQ persons or to allow same-gender weddings to be made closer to the conference and congregational level, respectively. This plan would remove the restrictive language against the practice of homosexuality as currently contained in *The Book of Discipline* and give assurances to pastors and conferences who in good conscience cannot perform same-gender weddings or ordain LGBTQ persons. This plan has been recommended by the Council of Bishops.

*The Traditionalist Plan*, which would affirm the current language in *The Book of Discipline* and seek to create swift and strong penalties for violations and create exit plans for churches and clergy who disagree.

*The Connectional Conference Plan*, which would allow conferences to choose among three connectional conferences for affiliation. The connectional conferences would align based on theology or perspective on LGBTQ ministry, whether traditionalist, progressive, or allowing for a variety of approaches. This plan would require multiple amendments to the denomination's constitution.

*(continued on next page)*

## THE CALLER



In preparation for the 2019 General Conference, our Council of Bishops has encouraged all United Methodists to pause and pray each day from 2:23 to 2:26 (am or pm), a segment of time chosen to represent the dates of the special session (Feb. 23 to Feb. 26). The following is a recommended format for four minutes of intentional prayer:

**Invitation:** Begin with a moment of holy silence for centering, settling, and focusing.

**Minute #1: Prayer of Adoration**

Good and great God, we recognize and celebrate that you are loving, kind, and faithful. You are everywhere in this world and beyond. You are as close as our next breath. With John Wesley, we rejoice knowing, “Best of all, you are with us.” *Silence, concluding with, “Hear our prayer, O God.”*

**Minute #2: Prayer of Thanks**

God of grace, we thank you that you hear us when we pray and are ever ready and able to act in ways beyond anything we could ask or imagine. Thank you for our brothers and sisters around the world, and especially for those who have offered to serve by attending the special session of General Conference. Thank you for ordering our steps and preparing a way. *Silence, concluding with, “Hear our prayer, O God.”*

**Minute #3: Prayer of Confession**

Forgiving God, we confess that we have allowed fear and distrust to place distance between us and our brothers and sisters in the body of Christ. Forgive us for making idols out of our own thoughts, voices, and opinions. Thank you for forgiving us and for your perfect love that casts out all fear. *Silence, concluding with, “Hear our prayer, O God.”*

**Minute #4: Prayer of Asking**

God of peace and wisdom, from this time forward, may we walk with you in trust and peace, and with our brothers and sisters in the love and unity you desire. May we truly sing together in harmony a song of praise that draws all to you. Even now, may you bless those who attend the special session of the General Conference, assuring them of your love, filling them with your wisdom, preparing them with your peace. May they and we become more sensitive to the voice of your Holy Spirit, so that all we do will please you and bring you glory. *Silence, concluding with, “Hear our prayer, O God.”*

All these prayers we offer in the name of the Risen Christ, Amen.

For more information, please contact Pastor Nathan at [nhowe@umcb.org](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x101.

2019 GENERAL CONFERENCE



### FEBRUARY 2019 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY

| February 3, 2019<br>Fourth Sunday after<br>the Epiphany   | February 10, 2019<br>Fifth Sunday after<br>the Epiphany   | February 17, 2019<br>Sixth Sunday after<br>the Epiphany  | February 24, 2019<br>Seventh Sunday after<br>the Epiphany   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p><b>Jeremiah 1:4-10</b><br/>Psalm 71:1-6<br/>(UMH 794)<br/>1 Corinthians 13:1-13<br/>Luke 4:21-30</p> | <p>Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)<br/>Psalm 138<br/>(UMH 853)<br/>1 Corinthians 15:1-11<br/><b>Luke 5:1-11</b></p> | <p><b>Jeremiah 17:5-10</b><br/>Psalm 1<br/>(UMH 738)<br/>1 Corinthians 15:12-20<br/>Luke 6:17-26</p> | <p><b>Genesis 45:3-11, 15</b><br/>Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40<br/>(UMH 772)<br/>1 Corinthians 15:35-48, 42-50<br/>Luke 6:27-38</p> |

The Lessons in **bold** are the Whirl Lessons for Sunday Children’s Formation Classes.



## CATCH: A CHURCHWIDE PROGRAM FOR INVITATIONAL EVANGELISM

SUNDAYS, FEBRUARY 3 - 24, 10 AM



Our congregation's goals for 2019 include:

- increasing engagement with our local community;
- developing and implementing a comprehensive plan for hospitality and welcoming ministries; and
- creating a process to help all people connect with the life of The UMC of Berea and the discipleship pathway.

To help us live into this important work this year, please prayerfully consider participating in a church-wide study called, "Catch." Pastor Nathan and Pastor Carrie will facilitate our learning, and we will meet on Sunday mornings at 10 AM beginning February 3.

For more information, please contact Pastor Nathan at [nhowe@umcb.org](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x101 or Pastor Carrie at [cantczak@umcb.org](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x105.

# SWEETHEART DANCE

## FREE WEDDING DAY & SWEETHEART DANCE

FEBRUARY 16, ALL DAY, WORSHIP SPACES & 6 PM, WESLEY HALL

We are so excited to be offering weddings *and vow renewals* free of charge on February 16<sup>th</sup>! Keep an eye out for a complete schedule of weddings if you would like to come and support the newlyweds! There are still limited spots available for both weddings and vow renewals. Contact Pastor Carrie for details.

If you'd like to be a part of the planning and wedding hospitality team, please contact Pastor Carrie at [cantczak@umcb.org](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x105.

We also want to encourage our congregation to join us for a family friendly, all-ages Sweetheart Dance at 6 pm that day. We will dance the evening away, enjoy refreshments, and celebrate the many ways we experience God's love! Dress-up if you wish, or come as you are!

No need to RSVP to the dance, just come with your dancing shoes, your family and friends!

How can you help make this happen? We need cooks and bakers to bring finger-foods/appetizers, cookies, and brownies in sets of 1-2 dozen. See the sign up board in the Sanctuary Narthex or contact Mary Potts at [marypotts328@yahoo.com](mailto:marypotts328@yahoo.com) or 440-234-0701 to let us know your plans.

CHURCH FAMILY PRAYER CONCERNS



Serving in the Armed Forces

Bruce Akins  
 Betty Atherton  
 David Beckman  
 Heidi Blue  
 Fran Bobo  
 Jo Boggs  
 Jean Brenneison  
 Donna Dial  
 Cleda Fletcher  
 Laurie Garvin  
 Pat Harf  
 Helen Hignett  
 John Kappeler  
 Janice Kavander  
 Joyce McGee  
 Marcie Metz

Betty Miller  
 Tom Moore  
 Rev. Cal Myers  
 Donna O'Brien  
 Esther O'Hearn  
 Barb Rochford  
 Lou Russell  
 Barbara Scoon  
 Jeanette Sheneman  
 Natalie Teare  
 Carol Thompson  
 Victoria Thomson  
 Kathleen Wargelin  
 Margie Weisbarth  
 Kenneth Williams  
 Eva Williamson

Chad Droney  
 Nikki (Myers) Droney  
 J.D. Ferut (*Grandson of Gerry & Jo Boggs*)  
 Ryan Hopkins  
 Bill Lambert (*Son-in-law of Corky Cline*)  
 Ben Lebrun  
 Matthew Metzger  
 Zachary New (*Grandson of Bob & Jackie King*)  
 Jeff Patrick

CONNECTING, INVITING, & WELCOMING



We reach out in Christian sympathy and love...

...the Wargelin Family on the passing of Tom Wargelin on December 26, 2018. A Memorial Service was held on Saturday, January 12, 2018 at 3:30 PM in the UMCB Sanctuary.

...the Kavander Family on the passing of Betty Kavander on December 31, 2018. A private Memorial Service was held at A. Repepi & Sons Funeral Home.



Helen Hignett  
 c/o Pat Reinicke  
 880 Algonkin Trail  
 Lima, OH 45805

A full list of the Prayer Concerns is available on the Sanctuary Narthex Table.

To receive Prayer Concerns by email, please email Beth in the church office at [info@umcb.org](mailto:info@umcb.org).

If you know of someone needing care or a visit, please contact the church office ([info@umcb.org](mailto:info@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x100) or Pastor Nathan ([nhowe@umcb.org](mailto:nhowe@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x101).

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



Hello Readers,

We are looking for these books which have been checked out for several months, so please search your shelves and return them to share with others:

- Sally Ride*
- I Am Malala* (two copies)
- 50 Women Every Christian Should Know*
- Bus to Corinth*
- The White Umbrella*
- Strong Was Her Faith*

- Outcasts United*
- Uprising: A New Age is Dawning for Every Mother's Daughter*
- This Will Be Remembered of Her*
- On This Spirit Walk*
- Faith and Struggle on Smokey Mountain*
- Key United Methodist Beliefs*

Questions about this or other UMW programs, please contact Betsy Meikle at [meiklebj@juno.com](mailto:meiklebj@juno.com) or 440-243-5767.




## 2018 Ministry Report

By God's grace, we are making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world! Your generosity—through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness—have made a real difference in our life together and in the lives of our neighbors. Thank you!

Here's just a small sample of the big difference you helped to make in 2018. Together, we:

- ❖ welcomed **4** individuals into the life of the church through **baptism**;
- ❖ welcomed **16** individuals into the life of this congregation through **professing membership**;
- ❖ welcomed an **average of 199** individuals into our **weekly Sunday morning worship** gatherings;
- ❖ welcomed an **average of 60** individuals to our **monthly Messy Church** gatherings;
- ❖ nurtured an average of **39 adults** and **38 youth and children** in **Sunday morning Christian Formation classes and small groups**;
- ❖ celebrated **the lives of 16 saints** from The UMC of Berea whose lives on this side of death came to an end—but whose impact continues to be experienced among us;
- ❖ sent out **36 missionaries** into ministry in Baldwin, Louisiana (UMCOR Sager Brown) and in Rochester, Pennsylvania (Youth Work Mission) in addition to countless missionaries who serve throughout our local community in a variety of ways and places each and every week;
- ❖ completed **construction of new restrooms and a new serving pantry** attached to Wesley Hall, both of which will help support ongoing and new ministries;
- ❖ in addition to meeting our congregation's operating expenses in full, we also participated together in the larger body of Christ by **giving nearly \$100,000 in 2018** to support transformative mission both locally and globally, including:
  - **\$78,962 to support 100% of our Shared Ministry Goal in 2018**;
  - **\$4,864 on "special giving" Sundays**, including Human Relations Day, UMCOR Sunday, Native American Ministries Sunday, Peace with Justice Sunday, World Communion Sunday, and United Methodist Student Day;
  - **\$5,312 to support other UMC-related missions**, including the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) in its ongoing response to natural disasters both nationally and internationally;
  - **\$4,563 to support local mission partnerships** with Berea Community Outreach, OhioGuidestone, SCAN, Hanson House, and Grindstone Elementary School; and
  - **\$4,637 to support our global mission partnerships** in Guatemala and Cambodia.

(For a full 2018 financial report, contact Joanne Mansfield  
at [jmansfield@umcb.org](mailto:jmansfield@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x103.)

Thank you for your generous participation in God's world-transforming work in 2018, and may God's abundant blessings continue to be at work in us and through us in 2019!

Shalom,  
Pastor Nathan and Pastor Carrie

## FEBRUARY 2019 - THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BEREA

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday  |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| <b>3 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany</b><br>8:00 AM Traditional Worship<br>9:00 AM <i>arise!</i> Worship with Praise Band<br>10:00 AM Christian Formation for All Ages<br>11:15 AM Traditional Worship<br>2:30 PM Hapkido<br>5:00 PM Youth Group "Gather"   | <b>4</b><br>10:00 AM Theater & Dance<br>11:00 AM Survivors Fellowship/Lunch at Mateo's<br>7:00 PM SW Community Chorus<br>7:00 PM Staff Parish Relations Committee<br>7:30 PM Volleyball   | <b>5</b><br>8:00 AM Theater & Dance<br>9:00 AM Quilters<br>9:00 AM Bible Study<br>10:00 AM BW Yoga<br>10:00 AM Intercessory Prayer Team<br>1:30 PM Staff Meeting<br>6:00 PM Cub Scouts #107 pack meeting<br>7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous<br>7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous<br>7:00 PM BW Women's Chorus<br>7:00 PM Cub Bible Study<br>7:00 PM Girl Scout 70535   | <b>6</b><br>10:00 AM Hanson House TBI Support Group<br>10:00 AM Theater & Dance<br>4:30 PM Girl Scouts #70628<br>5:30 PM Pickleball<br>6:30 PM Girl Scouts #71489<br>7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous<br>"Conscious Contact"<br>7:00 PM Bible Basketball<br>7:00 PM Evening Prayers   | <b>7</b><br>8:00 AM Theater & Dance<br>10:00 AM BW Yoga<br>10:00 AM Hanson House TBI Support Group<br>1:00 PM Sanctuary Res'd #70020<br>5:00 PM Girl Scouts #70325 / #70020<br>5:30 PM Eagle Scout Review<br>6:00 PM Girl Scouts #70815<br>6:00 PM Handbells<br>7:00 PM Chancel Choir<br>7:00 PM NEWSingers<br>7:00 PM Square Dancing<br>7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous             | <b>1</b><br>10:00 AM Theater & Dance<br>5:30 PM McMillin Dinner for Eight<br>6:30 PM Girl Scouts #71718<br>8:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous<br>8:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous | <b>2</b><br>10:00 AM Theater & Dance<br>10:00 AM UMW Executive Board<br>6:00 PM Theater & Dance<br>6:30 PM Girl Scouts #71008<br>6:30 PM Girl Scouts #71718<br>8:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous |
| <b>10 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany</b><br>8:00 AM Traditional Worship<br>9:00 AM <i>arise!</i> Worship with Praise Band<br>10:00 AM Christian Formation for All Ages<br>11:15 AM Traditional Worship<br>2:00 PM Cub Scouts Pack #107 Blue & Gold<br>2:30 PM Hapkido<br>2:30 PM Worship at Parkside Villa<br>5:00 PM Youth Group "Grow"<br>6:30 PM Boy Scouts #228 | <b>11</b><br>10:00 AM Theater & Dance<br>11:00 AM Survivors Fellowship/Lunch at Red Lobster<br>6:00 PM BW Staged Reading Rehearsal<br>6:30 PM Girl Scouts #71305<br>6:30 PM Girl Scouts #77113<br>6:30 PM Read and Grow Book Club<br>6:30 PM Stephen Ministers<br>7:00 PM SW Community Chorus<br>7:30 PM Volleyball | <b>12</b><br>8:00 AM Theater & Dance<br>9:00 AM Quilters<br>9:00 AM Bible Study<br>10:00 AM BW Yoga<br>10:00 AM Intercessory Prayer Team<br>1:30 PM Staff Meeting<br>6:00 PM BW Staged Reading Rehearsal<br>6:30 PM Girl Scouts #71392<br>7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous<br>7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous<br>7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous<br>7:00 PM BW Women's Chorus<br>7:00 PM Cub Bible Study<br>7:00 PM Discipleship Collaborative<br>7:00 PM Girl Scouts #71257 | <b>13</b><br>10:00 AM Hanson House TBI Support Group<br>10:00 AM Theater & Dance<br>12:00 PM Investing with Limited Resources<br>5:30 PM Pickleball<br>6:00 PM BW Staged Reading Rehearsal<br>7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous<br>"Conscious Contact"<br>7:00 PM Bible Basketball<br>7:00 PM Evening Prayers<br>7:00 PM Girl Scout leader meeting | <b>14</b><br>8:00 AM Theater & Dance<br>10:00 AM BW Yoga<br>10:00 AM Hanson House TBI Support Group<br>1:00 PM Sanctuary Res'd #70020<br>6:00 PM Boy Scout District Roundtable<br>6:00 PM BW Staged Reading Rehearsal<br>6:00 PM Handbells<br>6:30 PM Girl Scouts #70568<br>7:00 PM Chancel Choir<br>7:00 PM NEWSingers<br>7:00 PM Square Dancing<br>7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous | <b>15</b><br>CALLER SUBMISSIONS DUE<br>10:00 AM Theater & Dance<br>6:30 PM Girl Scouts #71718<br>7:30 PM BW Staged Reading Performance<br>8:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous  | <b>16</b><br>Free Wedding Day<br>6:00 PM Single Volunteers<br>6:00 PM Sweetheart Dance<br>7:30 PM BW Staged Reading Performance   |

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday   |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>17 Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany</b><br>8:00 AM Traditional Worship<br>9:00 AM <i>arise!</i> Worship with Praise Band<br>10:00 AM Christian Formation for All Ages<br>11:15 AM Traditional Worship<br>2:30 PM Hapkido<br>4:00 PM Messy Church<br>6:30 PM Boy Scouts #228           | 18<br>10:00 AM Theater & Dance<br>11:00 AM Survivors Fellowship/Lunch at The Berea Depot<br>7:00 PM SW Community Chorus<br>7:30 PM Volleyball                            | 19<br>8:00 AM Theater & Dance<br>9:00 AM Quilters<br>9:00 AM Bible Study<br>10:00 AM BW Yoga<br>10:00 AM Intercessory Prayer Team<br>1:30 PM Staff Meeting<br>7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous<br>7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous<br>7:00 PM BW Women's Chorus<br>7:00 PM Cub Bible Study   | 20<br>9:30 AM UMW Circle<br>10:00 AM Hanson House TBI Support Group<br>10:00 AM Theater & Dance<br>4:30 PM Girl Scouts #70028<br>5:30 PM Pickleball<br>6:00 PM Hanson House Caregiver Support Group<br>6:30 PM Girl Scouts #71489<br>7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous "Conscious Contact"<br>7:00 PM Bible Basketball<br>7:00 PM Boy Scouts Troop Committee Meeting<br>7:00 PM Evening Prayers | 21<br>8:00 AM Theater & Dance<br>10:00 AM BW Yoga<br>10:00 AM Hanson House TBI Support Group<br>1:00 PM Sanctuary Res'd<br>5:00 PM Girl Scouts #70325 / #70020<br>6:00 PM Girl Scouts #70815<br>6:00 PM Handbells<br>7:00 PM Chancel Choir<br>7:00 PM NEWSingers<br>7:00 PM Square Dancing<br>7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous | 22<br>10:00 AM Theater & Dance<br>6:00 PM Girl Scouts #71008<br>6:30 PM Girl Scouts #71533<br>6:30 PM Girl Scouts #71718<br>8:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous   | 23<br>10:00 AM Theater & Dance<br>6:00 PM Girl Scouts #71008<br>6:30 PM Girl Scouts #71533<br>6:30 PM Girl Scouts #71718<br>8:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous   |
| <b>24 Seventeenth Sunday after the Epiphany</b><br>8:00 AM Traditional Worship<br>9:00 AM <i>arise!</i> Worship with Praise Band<br>10:00 AM Christian Formation for All Ages<br>11:15 AM Traditional Worship<br>2:30 PM Hapkido<br>5:00 PM Youth Group "Go"<br>6:30 PM Boy Scouts #228 | 25<br>10:00 AM Theater & Dance<br>11:00 AM Survivors Fellowship/Lunch at Bagley Grill<br>6:30 PM Girl Scouts #71305<br>7:00 PM SW Community Chorus<br>7:30 PM Volleyball | 26<br>8:00 AM Theater & Dance<br>9:00 AM Quilters<br>9:00 AM Bible Study<br>10:00 AM BW Yoga<br>10:00 AM Intercessory Prayer Team<br>1:30 PM Staff Meeting<br>6:30 PM Girl Scouts #71392<br>7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous<br>7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous<br>7:00 PM BW Women's Chorus<br>7:00 PM Cub Bible Study<br>7:00 PM Girl Scouts #71257 | 27<br>9:00 AM Caller Assembly<br>10:00 AM Hanson House TBI Support Group<br>10:00 AM Theater & Dance<br>5:30 PM Pickleball<br>7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous "Conscious Contact"<br>7:00 PM Bible Basketball<br>7:00 PM Evening Prayers  | 28<br>8:00 AM Theater & Dance<br>10:00 AM BW Yoga<br>10:00 AM Hanson House TBI Support Group<br>1:00 PM Sanctuary Res'd<br>5:00 PM Girl Scouts #70325 / #70020<br>6:00 PM Handbells<br>6:30 PM Girl Scouts #70568<br>7:00 PM Chancel Choir<br>7:00 PM NEWSingers<br>7:00 PM Square Dancing<br>7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous | 28<br>8:00 AM Theater & Dance<br>10:00 AM BW Yoga<br>10:00 AM Hanson House TBI Support Group<br>1:00 PM Sanctuary Res'd<br>5:00 PM Girl Scouts #70325 / #70020<br>6:00 PM Handbells<br>6:30 PM Girl Scouts #70568<br>7:00 PM Chancel Choir<br>7:00 PM NEWSingers<br>7:00 PM Square Dancing<br>7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous | 28<br>8:00 AM Theater & Dance<br>10:00 AM BW Yoga<br>10:00 AM Hanson House TBI Support Group<br>1:00 PM Sanctuary Res'd<br>5:00 PM Girl Scouts #70325 / #70020<br>6:00 PM Handbells<br>6:30 PM Girl Scouts #70568<br>7:00 PM Chancel Choir<br>7:00 PM NEWSingers<br>7:00 PM Square Dancing<br>7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous |

**Staff Phone Extensions/Emails**

**100- Church Office/Beth Barner**

ebarner@umcb.org  
(Office Manager)

**101 - Rev. Dr. Nathan Howe**

nhowe@umcb.org  
(Pastor)

**102 - Mark Williams**

mwilliams@umcb.org  
(Facilities Manager)

**103 - Joanne Mansfield**

jmansfield@umcb.org  
(Finance and Membership Secretary)

**104- Music Staff Office**

**105 - Rev. Carrie Antyczak**

cantczak@umcb.org  
(Pastor of Christian Formation and Outreach)

**Church Office Hours:**

**Monday - Friday, 9 AM - 3 PM**

*The church calendar seems to change on a daily basis,*

*Please check our online calendar ([www.umcb.org/upcoming-events/](http://www.umcb.org/upcoming-events/)) for the most current events and more information.*



LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING

The Loose Change offering in January was \$221.50 collected for UMCOR Sager-Brown. *From the UMCOR Sager Brown Staff: Thank you for your kindness, time, and compassionate care. We are extending our warm Christmas greeting to you and your family. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.*

The Loose Change offering on February 10, 2019 will be collected for the Southwest Community Access Network (SCAN) Hunger Center.

*As part of the Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland, The SCAN Hunger Center in Berea serves families in need of nutrition assistance twice a month, providing food for three days worth of meals help fill gaps in other services in the area. S.C.A.N. Hunger Center serves the Southwest communities of the greater Cleveland are including Berea, Strongsville, Olmsted Township, Olmsted Falls, Brook Park, Middleburg Heights, and Columbia Township.*



CELEBRATING GOD'S LOVE

Placed in the Sanctuary Narthex beneath the Memorial Book is our book honoring friends, family members, and other special people. Their names are beautifully engraved in the book for different reasons. It may have been a baptism, marriage, graduation, or an anniversary. It could have been an act of kindness or a task well done.

Take a look at it when you have time and if there is someone you would like to honor, fill out the card found in the Narthex and return it to the church office. Donations are used to further church needs and programs.

The Memorial Committee

Dear Church Family,

This week the third booklet on grieving has arrived. All three have been so appreciated. The chapter titles go right to the issues with which I have been dealing, letting me know that I am not alone in my needs.

A special thanks to Beth Reams for being the means by which the booklets have been sent. Her beautifully written notes take time and are an important part of the gift.

Thank you, my church family, for your caring support as I miss John.

Betty Miller

On January 6, 2018, a special offering as taken for the Peace with Justice Fund 9029 as part of our participation in Migrant Sunday.

Your contributions of \$741.50 will support the East Ohio Conference in its efforts to work toward justice with migrant communities.

Thank you to all who gave so generously.

Many thanks to Sam Allen for selecting UMCB to be the beneficiary of his Eagle Scout Project. Sam designed, raised funds, solicited help, and carried out a plan for new landscaping in the north lot. They increased the size of a planting bed and added shrubs near the alley, and also leveled the grassy area by adding and raking topsoil. Congratulations, Sam!



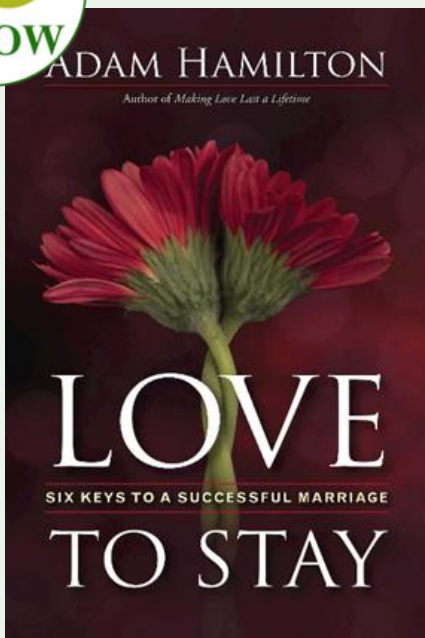
LOVE TO STAY - MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT CLASS

FEBRUARY 24- APRIL 7, 5 PM, TENTATIVELY ROOM 25

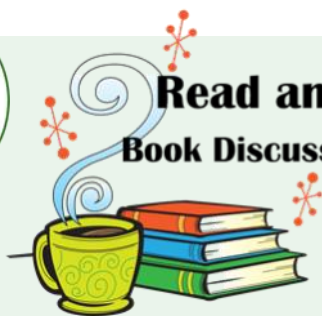
Couples of all stages (engaged, newlyweds, or married many-moons) are encouraged to join us for our first marriage enrichment group. We will be using Adam Hamilton's series *Love to Stay*. We will explore how, with God's help, we can make love last. Drawing upon a survey of thousands of couples and singles, interviews with relationship and marriage therapists, the latest research in the field, and wisdom from the Bible, Hamilton looks at what it takes to create and sustain healthy, meaningful romantic relationships across the course of a lifetime. Come for encouragement, support, heart-felt conversation, and most likely a bit of laughter. Registration encouraged by contacting Pastor Carrie. Childcare available upon request. This group meets at the same time as youth group, as well.

If you have questions or to register for this group, please contact Pastor Carrie at [cantczak@umcb.org](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x105.

TEACHING & LEARNING ...







**Read and Grow  
Book Discussion Group**

SECOND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH  
6:30-7:45 PM  
PARLOR

For **February 11**, read **Before We Were Yours** by Lisa Wingate.  
(Please note this is a change of book.)

*Based on one of America's most notorious real-life scandals—in which Georgia Tann, director of a Memphis-based adoption organization, kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country—Lisa Wingate's riveting, wrenching, and ultimately uplifting tale reminds us how, even though the paths we take can lead to many places, the heart never forgets where we belong.*

For **March 11**, read **Killer of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Beginning of the FBI** by David Grann. *A true-crime story begins in 1921 with the murder of a Osage woman named Anna Brown. The Osage, driven from their land in Kansas to a rocky, untillable parcel in Oklahoma, ironically had become the richest people per capita in the world due to vast oil reserves under their land. But most Osage, like Ana, were deemed "incompetent" to manage their wealth and so were assigned white "guardians" to do so. And when a white man married an Osage woman, he had control of the funds. It's not a leap to see that this system invited abuse – and far worse. By 1923, 24 Osage had been murdered, along with several people investigating the crimes. It was all about the money.*

For more information or to answer any questions you may have, call Janet Mallarnee **440 235-7331**, Betsy Meikle **440 243-5767** or Jan Harlamert **440 243-7126**.

TEACHING & LEARNING TOGETHER



**YOUTH GROUP**

SUNDAYS, 5-6:30 PM  
RM 31-32  
(UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

OPEN TO 7TH-12TH  
GRADERS

**February 2-3 (Sat-Sun), 7 pm**  
Lock-In - Gather: Fun & Faith

**February 10**  
Grow: Way Forward Listening Session

**February 17**  
Messy Church & Mentoring

**February 24**  
Go: Blessing Bags

For more information about these events,  
contact Pastor Carrie at  
[cantczak@umcb.org](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x105.



SATURDAY, MARCH 2  
9 AM – 1 PM, WESLEY HALL  
(CHECK-IN BEGINS AT 8 AM)

This half-day workshop is designed to help congregations catch a vision for strengthening their caring ministry by equipping laypeople as caregivers. During this event, participants also will develop basic caregiving skills they can use right away. Sessions include: *Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief, An Introduction to Stephen Ministry, and How to Care in a Distinctively Christian Way.*

For more information about the workshop and how to register, contact Orley Aten at [bigoaten@aol.com](mailto:bigoaten@aol.com) or 440-238-5136.

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN

The National Women's Alliance is meeting to celebrate this anniversary year of "the vote". Note that the U.S. has more women in national offices than ever before! Celebrate the voices of women!!! Ohio ratified the "vote" in 1919.

Submitted by Jo Swanson



# THE CALLER



## HOMEBUILDERS

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10 AM, PARLOR



### Upcoming Topics

January 13, 20, & 27: "Religion in America" with Dr. Hugh Burtner

February 3: "State of The United Methodist Church of Berea" update from Rev. Nathan Howe

February 10, 17, & 24 and March 3 & 10: Topics on Aging with Rev. Linda McCowen

March 17, 24, 31, and April 7 & 14: Lenten Study with Rev. Linda McCowen

**All are welcome to join us!**

Questions? Please ask Linda McCowen: 440-234-7211 or [ismccowen@gmail.com](mailto:ismccowen@gmail.com).



TEACHING & LEARNING TOGETHER

## LENT SNEAK-PEAK

Lent begins Ash Wednesday, March 3. Start prayerfully considering how you might grow in God's grace this Lenten season.

### **Sunday Groups (At 10 AM unless otherwise stated)**

**Animate - Bible** - (Room 12) the last in the Animate series, will be led by Claire Powel. Whether or not you've taken an animate course before, you're welcome to join us! This is an idea class for those curious about the Bible and it's place in faith life, whether new or experienced in Bible study.

**Disciples Path** - (TBD) will be offered by pastors during this season as well. The class encourages participants to deepen their relationship with Christ and the Church. This class is recommended for those considering joining the church.

**9 AM Lectio-Divina** - (Parlor) continues to meet and welcomes new friends. What is Lectio-Divina? It is a spiritual practice of scriptural reading, meditation and prayer intended to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God's word. It does not treat scripture as texts to be studied, but as the living word. The group reflects on passages from worship that day.

**Homebuilders** - (Parlor) will present the study, *Entering the Passion of Jesus*, by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine. The study will walk through the last days of Jesus, with context for time, place, and culture. Come to discover more about Jesus' last week, and more about our own faith journeys. Class will be led by Linda McCowen.

**FaithLink** - (Library) will continue to meet and discuss current issues from a faith perspective. Come for respectful conversation and insight from your faith community.

**Parents Group** - (Room 26 - Parent's Cottage) for parents of tots - teens, meets on the second floor each week. Come for support, encouragement, and a bit of laughter as we all journey together in this calling of parenthood.

### **Weekday Groups**

**Lenten Yoga** - (Time, Location TBD) stretch your body and soul as we prepare for Christ's sacrifice and redemption. Yoga practice is a wonderful spiritual practice to center your whole being in prayer. All levels and ages are welcome.

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study** - (9 AM, Room 13) will also be using the study, *Entering the Passion of Jesus*, by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine. Rev. Linda will lead. Come to either or both studies to deepen your understanding of the passion and redemption of Christ.



## GETTING AHEAD UPDATE

Our newest mission project with St. Matthew's UMC in the Hough neighborhood of Cleveland is off to a great start! With about a dozen participants and a handful of children, 10 UMCB missionaries got to know new friends as we served dinner and provided childcare for the participants learning about resources to escape of the cycle of poverty.

Next month, we will be serving meatloaf and side dishes, February 12. We will be cooking together before hand.

Thank you for your support of this mission!

If you'd like to help cook, contact Pastor Carrie at [cantczak@umcb.org](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x105 or Jan Harlamert at [janharlamert@yahoo.com](mailto:janharlamert@yahoo.com) or 440-243-7126.

## SCAN FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3 & THE 1ST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

SCAN would appreciate donations of canned fruit and vegetables. Please make sure all donations are non-perishable, unopened, and still within the "sell by" date. Donations may be brought to the SCAN cupboard between the Sanctuary and Library.

Prefer to make a monetary donation? Monetary donations can be made anytime by marking "SCAN" on your check or envelope and placing it in Joanne Mansfield's mailbox or the offering plate.

Thank you for your generosity.

For more information, please contact Marilyn Foster at [fosterkm@wowway.com](mailto:fosterkm@wowway.com) or 440-243-5689.



## BOOK BUDDIES STARTING SOON

Did you know reading aloud to children has these benefits?

- \* Increases vocabulary and an understanding of language patterns.
- \* Instills moral lessons and heroic values.
- \* Read aloud to your kids, and inspire their heroic imagination. ...
- \* Improves test scores. ...
- \* Instills a lifelong love of reading.

Also, mentors who read to children increase their sense of worth and belonging to the community.

Beginning soon, we will begin "Book Buddies" again at with our partner school, Grindstone Elementary. Come to read to or with a Kindergarten or First-Grader who could benefit from a reading buddy. Commitment is once a week for half-an hour through May. This such a fun way to make a big impact on our community.

If interested, contact Pastor Carrie for an application at [cantczak@umcb.org](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x105.



## DONATION NEEDS QUICK REFERENCE

We hope you find this list of items being collected in February. helpful when you do your shopping.

- ◆ Canned fruit - especially those other than peaches and mandarin oranges (SCAN)
- ◆ Canned vegetables - especially those other than green beans (SCAN)
- ◆ Soaps (SCAN)
- ◆ Detergents (SCAN)
- ◆ Softeners (SCAN)
- ◆ Hand cleaner such as Purell (SCAN)
- ◆ Toilet paper (SCAN)
- ◆ Paper towels (SCAN)
- ◆ Napkins (SCAN)
- ◆ Kleenex (SCAN)
- ◆ **Friend to bring to Messy Church with you!**

**The Caller**

The United Methodist Church of Berea  
170 Seminary Street  
Berea, OH 44017  
[www.umcb.org](http://www.umcb.org)

**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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**DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY**

NOTE: If you wish to discontinue receiving this newsletter, please contact the church office (440-234-3525 or [info@umcb.org](mailto:info@umcb.org)) to remove your name from the mailing list.

**Our Mission**

*Our mission is to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

We live into our mission by:

