



For weekly updates on events and activities,
please subscribe to our weekly e-mail newsletter at www.umcb.org.



Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/UMCBEREA

SUNDAY MORNING STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

LECTIONARY STUDY GROUP: SUNDAY MORNINGS, 9 AM, PARLOR

Beginning February 2, we will be meeting in the Parlor and studying the parables of Jesus through the lens of AJ Levine, a Jewish scholar. Some of you may know her through previous Lenten and Advent studies. How would Jewish audiences have heard the parables? And how do they challenge us this day? Our book is **Short Stories by Jesus** and costs \$12. Beginning March 15, we will begin **The Way of Grace**. The author writes that we will explore the way of grace through the lens of eight encounters between Jesus and various persons described in John's Gospel. Bring your Bibles and your questions. You don't have to be a Biblical scholar - we're not!

COVENANT BIBLE STUDY: SUNDAY MORNINGS, 10 AM, PARLOR

The Covenant Bible Study has been meeting for over a year to study the morning's lectionary and would love for others to join us. We meet for about 30-40 minutes so that we can get on to our next activity, whether it is Sunday School or errands. We read the scripture passage once and we listen for a phrase that pops out to us individually. Then, after hearing the Word a second & third time, we ponder what is God telling each one of us to do through that phrase? We have great discussions each week and are always amazed at how the Spirit is talking to us through that day's lectionary. Looking forward to seeing you!

If you have any questions about the Lectionary Study Group or the Covenant Bible Study, please contact Linda McCowen at **440-234-7211** or lsmccowen@gmail.com.

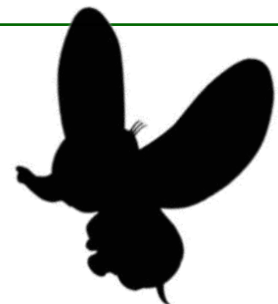
LENTEN STUDY: SUNDAY MORNINGS BEGINNING FEBRUARY 23, 10 AM, FELLOWSHIP HALL
Join us for our Lenten Study Sundays at 10 AM in Fellowship Hall - **Simon Peter: The Flawed But Faithful Disciple** by Adam Hamilton. Peter was just an ordinary guy who heard and followed God's extraordinary call. Discover how you, too, have special gifts, talents, and abilities that God can use to make a difference today.

For more information, please contact Pastor Carrie at **440-234-3525 x105** or cantczak@umcb.org.



MESSY CHURCH - DUMBO

FEBRUARY 16
4 - 6 PM, FIRST FLOOR



Dumbo teaches us so much about love, compassion, inclusion, and more. Join us for an afternoon of fun, food, and friends. Please be sure to invite your friends and neighbors! Messy Church cards are available outside of Room 12. These are easy hand-offs to remind your friends of when and what Messy Church is.

For more information, please contact Carolyn Williams at weaseltv@msn.com or **440-570-2913**.





Youth Mi-Bro-Be

Middleburg, Brookpark, and Berea Area Youth

ECUMENICAL YOUTH GROUP

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

5-6:30 PM

WESLEY HALL

Exciting news! A group of area churches are gathering in the beginning stages of organizing an Ecumenical Youth Group for Middleburg, Brookpark, and Berea area students. We are thrilled to be the host church location for this new ministry.

We will have our first meeting of this youth group **February 23rd from 5-6:30 pm at our church** with the hope that Sunday evenings once a month will be a good time slot moving forward. We will play wild and crazy youth games, eat pizza (obviously), and have a short devotion based off of the Sermon on the Mount (theme: "...what Jesus said").

Wesley Hall Doors will be unlocked. There is no cost to students.

There are at least four other churches joining us, and interest seems to be growing. We hope that with several churches involved we will have a large group of teens who will feel comfortable inviting other school friends. Chances are, our youth already know youth attending these other churches from school. We also hope that we can share our different faith experiences and create a more diverse faith experience.

For more information, please contact Pastor Carrie at **440-234-3525 x105** or cantczak@umcb.org.

FEBRUARY YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR

(Open to 7th - 12th Graders)

February 16 - Messy Church

4 - 6 PM, First Floor

See page 1 for more information.

February 22 - Chili Cook-Off

4-6 PM, Fellowship Hall

See page 5 for more information.

February 26 - Youth Mi-Bro-Be

Ecumenical Youth Group

5-6:30 PM, Wesley Hall

See left column for more information.

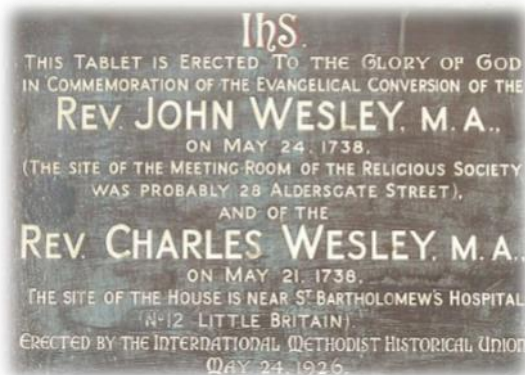
For more information, please contact Pastor Carrie at **440-234-3525 x105** or cantczak@umcb.org.

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN

A time to look back and forth!

It was Susanna Wesley who suggested her sons, John and Charles develop a "method" for their religious services which were so much more warm and personal than those of The Church of England. And so was begun the "Wesleyan Movement" which spread throughout England and eventually to the United States. John's "Aldersgate Experience" in which his "heart was strangely warmed" has carried down through the ages to us. As their mother said, "You must not think like the rest of the world."

Jo Swanson





THE CALLER

READ & GROW DISCUSSION GROUP

THE SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH, 6:30-8 PM, PARLOR

Join our **Read and Grow** on the second Monday of each month. We start with Joys and Concerns, Devotions, Discussion, and end with Prayer.

February 10: **Educated** by Tara Westover (A memoir)

Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent.

March 9: **Somewhere in France** by Jennifer Robson

Lady Elizabeth Neville-Ashford wants to travel the world, pursue a career, and marry for love. But in 1914, the stifling restrictions of aristocratic British society and her mother's rigid expectations forbid Lilly from following her heart.

The entire reading list can be found at:

<http://www.umcb.org/adult-faith-opportunities/>.

For more information or to answer any question you may have, call Janet Mallarnee at 440-235-7331, Betsy Meikle at 440-243-5767, or Margaret Proctor at 440-243-9498.

COMING SOON!

2020 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

GO:

*Go Out into the World in Service.
How has God Called You to Serve?*

The publication team is hard at work getting this year's Lenten Devotional ready for distribution. Physical copies will be available on Sunday mornings starting **February 23** and the full PDF will be available on our website.

**Would you like the devotions
in your email each morning?**

No problem!

If you receive either the weekly e-newsletter or Caller by email, you do not need to do anything. The devotions will automatically be emailed to you daily.

If you do not receive those publications but would like to receive the devotions daily in your email, sign-up on our website at:

<http://www.umcb.org/adult-faith-opportunities>

An Evening with Terry Pluto Hosted by the Institute for Learning in Retirement

Wednesday, February 19
7 - 9 PM, Sanctuary

ILR is hosting a program on Wednesday, February 19 from 7 - 9 PM at The United Methodist Church of Berea with guest speaker, Terry Pluto. Terry is a sports writer for the Plain Dealer and covers the Indians, Browns and Cavs. He will speak in the Sanctuary and during refreshment time in Fellowship Hall will have books to sell and autograph. There is a limit of 50 reservations available to members of The UMCB for \$10 each.

Mail checks made out to **Baldwin Wallace University** to:

**ILR at Baldwin Wallace University,
Attn: Judy Luff
275 Eastland Rd.
Berea, OH 44017**

Please include your email or phone number with your check. There will be a sign-in sheet that evening in lieu of tickets being mailed.



GOD GAVE US BODIES A WORKSHOP FOR ALL AGES

SATURDAY, MARCH 7
10 AM - NOON
FELLOWSHIP HALL & SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOMS



Coming soon!

We are happy to host a program for all ages to talk about sexuality, identity, gender, and more.

The morning portion will be for adults and youth and serve as a Gender and Sexuality 101 workshop focusing on learning respectful vocabulary, while children enjoy a fun movie and games in a separate space. Lunch together will bring us back together. After lunch, parents and young children will attend a short body safety and education workshop. Meanwhile, parents of youth will have a roundtable discussion about raising teens, and teens will have their own sexuality and relationships workshop.

More details to come. We need support volunteers to make this event happen – we are inviting the public for this important event.

For questions or to volunteer to help, please contact Pastor Carrie at
440-234-3525 x105 or cantczak@umcb.org.

TEACHING & LEARNING TOGETHER



UPDATE & TRAINING

TUESDAY, MARCH 3
7 PM, FELLOWSHIP HALL

We love children, youth, and vulnerable adults. Please join us for a training on our updated Safe Sanctuary Guidelines which aim at creating a safe and welcoming faith community. This training should last around 45 minutes. Afterwards, youth ministry leaders are invited to stay for a youth ministry training. Elementary Sunday School training will take place in the fall, though teachers are encouraged to complete their Safe Sanctuary training now.

For more information, please contact Pastor Carrie at
440-234-3525 x105 or cantczak@umcb.org.

FAITH AND BACON
BUILDING UP THE FAMILIES
IN OUR FAITH
COMMUNITY...
OVER BACON.

SUNDAY, MARCH 1
11 AM, FELLOWSHIP HALL

Parents, kids and youth (PreK-12th grade) are invited to join us for breakfast – with bacon! – and conversation about growing up in faith together.

Please come and share your experiences. It's not only about what you can learn, but what others can learn from you.

Questions?
Please contact Meredith Kurtz at
mgekurtz@gmail.com or
440-793-6104.



CHILI COOK - OFF

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22
4-6 PM, FELLOWSHIP HALL

Do you have the best chili around? We'll taste it and let you know! All chili chefs are invited to a chili cook-off! Come to compete, come to eat, and come to support the Youth Work Mission! We'll also have a dessert auction! Tasters are asked to make a \$5 donation to Youth Work Mission, and enjoy as much chili as they'd like!

Who's playing in the concert? YOU! Bring an instrument, or just your voice, as we share in some community music. Contact **Nev Eilbeck** at **440-234-7714** to sign up to share a tune or two!

For more information,
please contact Pastor Carrie at
440-234-3525 x105 or cantczak@umcb.org



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26
NOON, CHAPEL
7PM, SANCTUARY

The season of Lent—40 days of preparing for Easter—begins on Ash Wednesday, this year on February 26. Join us in worship in the Chapel at noon for an abbreviated worship service or in the Sanctuary at 7 PM for a worship service including music and Holy Communion. Both worship services will include the imposition of ashes as a sign of our mortality and intent for our hearts and lives to be changed.

CONNECTING, INVITING, & WELCOMING



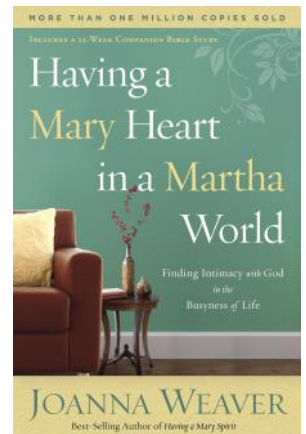
SATURDAY, MARCH 14
9 AM - 4 PM, GATHERING PLACE
COST = \$10/PERSON

Ladies. tired of snow and winter blahs? We would like to invite you to a one day Women's Retreat on March 14 in the Gathering Place.

We will be focused on the book: **Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World** by Joanna Weaver. (No need to buy the book... some of us have the books already.) We will be led by Deaconess Sherri Buehl!!!

The low cost of the Retreat is \$10 for your lunch and snacks!
The basic time schedule will be from 9 AM - 4 PM!

This is a sample of the Bible Study that will be starting the Wednesday after Easter.



Need more information?

Please contact Mary Lynn Swartz at **440-409-5931** or marylynn482@gmail.com.



CHURCH FAMILY PRAYER CONCERNS

Bruce Akins
 Orley Aten
 Betty Atherton
 Dick Baker
 Dave Beckman
 Heidi Blue
 Jean Brenneison
 Donna Dial
 Clede Fletcher

Pat Harf
 Carol Heskett
 Janice Kavander
 Joyce McGee
 Betty Miller
 Rev. Cal Myers
 Donna O'Brien
 Esther O'Hearn
 Donald Powers

Lou Russell
 Russ Sanderson
 Barbara Scoon
 Carol Thompson
 Victoria Thomson
 Kathleen Wargelin
 Bob Warner
 Gloria Wharton
 Eva Williamson



SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES

J.D. Ferut (*Grandson of Gerry & Jo Boggs*)
 Ryan Hopkins
 Ron Krueger (*son-in-law of Georgiann Baesal*)
 Bill Lambert (*Son-in-law of Corky Cline*)
 Ben Lebrun
 Zachary New (*Grandson of Bob & Jackie King*)
 Jeff Patrick

WE REACH OUT IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY AND LOVE TO

The Goepfert Family. Carol Goepfert went on to rest in God's eternal peace on Saturday, December 21. A Memorial Service was held on Saturday, January 4.

Joan Dietz and the Dietz family. Walter Dietz went on to rest in God's eternal peace on Wednesday, January 8. A Memorial Service was held on Saturday, January 25 at 11:00 AM.

Jack Sayler and the Sayler family. Marge Sayler went on to rest in God's eternal peace on Thursday, January 16. A Memorial Service will be planned for a later date, possibly April 2020.

A full list of Prayer Concerns is available on the tables at the back of each worship space.

To receive Prayer Concerns by email, please email Beth in the church office at info@umcb.org.

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

FEBRUARY 2020 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY



CONNECTING, INVITING & WELCOMING



SAHRING GOD'S LOVE

<p>Sunday, February 2 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany</p>	<p>Sunday, February 9 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany</p>	<p>Sunday, February 16 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany</p>
<p><i>Micah 6.1-8</i> <i>Psalm 15(UMH 747)</i> <i>1 Corinthians 1.18-31</i> <i>Matthew 5.1-12</i></p>	<p><i>Isaiah 58.1-9a (9b-12)</i> <i>Psalm 112.1-10 (UMH 833)</i> <i>1 Corinthians 2.1-12 (13-16)</i> <i>Matthew 5.13-20</i></p>	<p><i>Deuteronomy 30.15-20</i> <i>Psalm 119.1-8 (UMH 840)</i> <i>1 Corinthians 3.1-9</i> <i>Matthew 5.21-37</i></p>
<p>Sunday, February 23 Transfiguration Sunday</p>	<p>Wednesday, February 26 Ash Wednesday</p>	
<p><i>Exodus 24.12-18</i> <i>Psalm 99 (UMH 819)</i> <i>2 Peter 1.16-21</i> <i>Matthew 17.1-9</i></p>	<p><i>Joel 2.1-2, 12-17</i> <i>Psalm 51.1-17 (UMH 785)</i> <i>2 Corinthians 50.20b -6.10</i> <i>Matthew 6.1-6, 16-20</i></p>	

LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING

The January Loose Change Offering for UMCOR Sager Brown totaled \$172.00.
The Loose Change Offering on February 9 will be collected for SCAN Food Pantry.

On January 19, a special offering as taken for the Human Relations Day .

Because of your contributions of \$540, we will have the opportunity make an impact in communities where people struggle because they don't have the tools or resources to reach their God-given potential. The special offering supports neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy in the United States and Puerto Rico through United Methodist Voluntary Services, and work with at-risk youth through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.

Thank you to all who gave so generously.

Thank you to the Monday morning volunteers who help make *SENSE* from Sunday morning's offering *CENTS* (and dollars & checks, too):



Nancy Crone

June Demmerle

Jan Harlamert

Jean McKeon

Marilyn Smith



Joanne Mansfield



FREE WEDDING DAY & SWEETHEART DANCE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

WEDDINGS: 10 AM - 4 PM, CHAPEL, SANCTUARY

DANCE: 6 -8:30 PM, WESLEY HALL

We are excited to host our second annual FREE wedding day! Couples are invited to register for a time-slot for their ceremony, so we can celebrate God's love with them and bless them as they start their lives together. Later that day, we invite our whole community to join us for a Sweetheart Dance. Let's show our newlyweds some love and support by celebrating this important moment with them! Please bring an appetizer, dessert, or snack to share. (Finger foods please so we do not need utensils.)

Please sign-up to donate food items and/or help with decorating, see the board in the **Sanctuary Narthex**.

For more information or to volunteer for hospitality, please contact Pastor Carrie at **440-234-3525 x105** or cantczak@umcb.org.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, COMPASSION, & JUSTICE

FEBRUARY E-BIT ("ENVIRONMENTAL TIDBIT") FROM CHURCH & SOCIETY

As our furnaces are running more now in these winter months, here are a few tips to keep you warm and allow you to save energy too.

- ❖ Replace the filter every one or two months, depending on your specific furnace, the presence of allergens (e.g. pets in addition to people) in your home and the density of the filter. Be sure to check the filter once a month - if it's dirty, change it.
- ❖ Schedule a furnace tune-up with a qualified HVAC contractor.
- ❖ Reduce the temperature on your thermostat when you will be asleep or out of the house. Reducing the temp on the thermostat by 10° to 15° for eight hours can save you around 10% a year on your heating and cooling bills.
- ❖ For more information, please visit :

<https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/fall-and-winter-energy-saving-tips>.

Wendy Jelinek



SCAN FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

February's SCAN Food Pantry Collection will take place on Sunday February 2. Foods requested include:

- nutritious breakfast cereals
- canned stews
- soups with meat and vegetables
- canned green vegetables
- canned mixed fruit.

Monetary donations are also gratefully accepted. Just mark your envelope or check "SCAN" and place it in the offering plate.

For more information, please contact Pastor Carrie at **440-234-3525 x105** or cantczak@umcb.org.



For more information about these events and all that UMW has to offer, please contact Betsy Meikle at meiklebj@juno.com or 440-243-5767.

FEBRUARY CIRCLE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19
9:30 AM, PARLOR

UMW LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, MARCH 21
2:30 PM, FELLOWSHIP HALL

Our Speaker will be Ron Isgro. He will be speaking about his 2019 Coast to Coast bicycle adventure to raise money for Southwest Hospice in memory of his wife Carol. Of course, lunch will be served.

UMW SPRING GARAGE SALE

APRIL 22-24, 2020

It's not too early to start sorting and putting aside a collection of items for our sale!

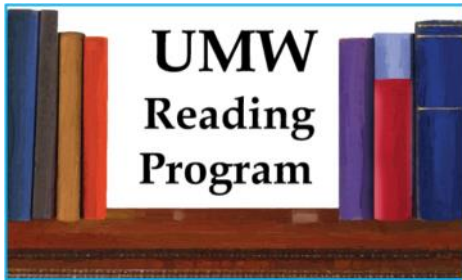
Donations will be accepted starting the afternoon of Sunday, April 19 and continue through the morning of Wednesday, April 22.

The sale will start Wednesday, April 22 in the evening and continue through Friday, April 24.

There will be plenty of opportunities to help, with more information to come.

Thank you in advance.

UMW



Sadly, so many of the books in our UMW reading program are lost! Every year we purchase books to share with the church, but they need to be returned so that everyone can benefit from them. Please check your shelves at home to see whether you can find any of these lost books:

2019 books

Where Do We Go from Here?

by Martin Luther King, Jr.

Escape from the Green Mansion

by Christine Taylor

The Same Sky by Amanda Eyre Ward

The Soulmaking Room by Dee Dee Risher

2018 books

The Book of Joy by Dalai Lama

Hospitable Planet by Stephan A. Jurovics

Hiding in the Light by Rifqa Bary

50 Women Every Christian Should Know

by Michelle Derusha

Bus to Corinth by Ladine B. Housholder

2017 books

Sally Ride by Lynn Sherr

Love Casts out Fear by Brother Nathan

2016 books

I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai (2 copies)

The White Umbrella by Mary Francis Bowley

Key United Methodist Beliefs

by William J. Abraham

Uprising: A New Age Is Dawning

by Sally Armstrong

2019 MINISTRY REPORT

In 2019, in order to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, we committed to engaging more fully with our community, giving greater attention to ministries of hospitality and welcoming, and developing processes to connect all persons with our discipleship pathway. Thank you for your generosity and participation in this work in 2019. You have made a real difference in our life together and in the lives of our neighbors!

Here's just a small sample of the fruit of our ministry together in 2019. Together, we:

- ❖ welcomed **3** individuals into the life of the church through **baptism**;
- ❖ welcomed **12** individuals into the life of our congregation through **membership**;
- ❖ welcomed an average of **83** individuals to our monthly **Messy Church** gatherings;
- ❖ celebrated the lives of **16 saints** from our congregation whose lives on this side of death came to an end but whose impact continues to be experienced among us;
- ❖ sent out **41 missionaries** in ministry in Cambodia, in Baldwin, Louisiana (UMCOR Sager Brown), and in Colorado Springs (Youth Work Mission) in addition to the countless missionaries who serve throughout our local community every week;
- ❖ completed **construction of Wesley Hall** and the hallway surrounding it, which will help support ongoing and emerging ministries; and
- ❖ in addition to meeting our congregation's operating expenses in full, we also participated together in the larger body of Christ by **giving nearly \$110,000 in 2019** to support transformative mission both locally and globally, including:
 - **\$73,737** to support 100% of our Shared Ministry Goal;
 - **\$4,590** 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;
 - **\$4,941** to support other UMC-related missions, including the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR);
 - **\$3,183** to support local mission partnerships with Berea Community Outreach, OhioGuidestone, SCAN, Hanson House, and Grindstone Elementary School; and
 - **\$22,180** to support global partnerships in Guatemala and Cambodia.

God has been doing great things in, among, and through us in 2019! Now, as we continue living into our mission in 2020, please remember our commitments to growing as disciples through **five essential practices**:

Worship, growing a life of gratitude by praying 5 times daily and "getting an A" in worship attendance, worshipping with the community of faith at least 47 Sundays;

Study, growing a life of learning by reading scripture 5 days each week and participating in a small group for encouragement and accountability;

Continues on next page

Serve, growing a life of justice and kindness by practicing 5 intentional acts of kindness each day and participating in service projects with the congregation;

Give, growing a life of generosity by pursuing 5 acts of radical generosity each month and growing toward a tithe in our giving to support the life of the church; and

Share, growing a life that bears witness by praying for 5 individuals who are not yet disciples and inviting five people this year to some gathering in our life together.

May God's grace continue to bear fruit in our life together!

Shalom,
Pastor Nathan

2020 CHURCH COUNCIL ROSTER

Through the waters of our baptism, God calls each of us to be faithful disciples, to grow to maturity in faith, and to engage actively in the ministry of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. As we engage in this ministry together, servant leaders among us are called, equipped, and entrusted with the vital task of managing and deploying God's gifts through our congregation in the ongoing work of transforming our community and world. The Church Council is entrusted with the specific role of planning, goal-setting, implementing and evaluating the overall ministry of the congregation to fulfill its mission and vision. All meetings of the Church Council are open to all participants in the life of the congregation, but with deep gratitude for God's calling on each of our lives, the following are those servant leaders who serve as members of the Church Council in 2020.

Chairperson:	Greg Rentsch
Lay Leaders:	Terry Kurtz, Greg Rentsch, Margaret Proctor
SPRC Chairperson:	Tom Marek
Finance Chairperson:	Carol Anne McCleery
Trustees Chairperson:	Dave Ulman
Treasurer:	Jan Harlamert
Finance Secretary:	Maryann Herron
Lay Member of the AC:	Don Moody
UMW Representative:	Betsy Meikle
Worship Committee:	Nancy Buehler
Adult Ministry:	Claire Powell
Youth Ministry:	Margaret Proctor
Children's Ministry:	Meredith Kurtz
Mission Committee:	Laura Rushton
Church and Society:	Wendy Jelinek
Messy Church:	Carolyn Williams
Stephen Ministry:	Orley Aten
Members At-Large:	Von Smith, Chuck Dixon, Bill Pierce, Ron Teutsch

The Caller

The United Methodist Church of Berea
170 Seminary Street
Berea, OH 44017
www.umcb.org

**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 157
BEREA, OHIO**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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) 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:

