

The United Methodist Church of Berea + THE CALLER



MARCH

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

Lent 2024 1

Holy Week 2-3

GATHER

Sharing Our Joys & Concerns 4

Showcase 5

UMCOR Sunday 5

2024 Leadership 5

GROW

Thursday Bible Study 6

Read & Grow 6

GriefShare 6

Soul Care Retreat 6

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

GO

Palm Sunday Brunch 7

Messy Church Easter 8

Dinner Church 8

Food Donations 9

Metanoia Needs 9

Adult Mission Trip 10

Africa University 10

Creation Justice 11

Habitat Open House 12

UMW

(Easter Butterfly Form - Insert)

LENT 2024

ENGAGE OUR FAITH
(A MID-WEEK SERVICE OF REFLECTION & RESET)

WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 6, 13, & 20, 7 PM, THE CHAPEL

During this season of Lent we will be offering a regular Wednesday night service in the Chapel at 7PM as a way to reflect, reset, and stay engaged in our walk with Christ. The service will vary from week to week with offerings of communion, group engagement, moments of reflection, times of prayer, as well as other spiritual practices and moments.

LENTEN PRAYER

THURSDAYS, MARCH 7, 14, 21

8 AM & 7 PM, ONLINE AT [FACEBOOK.COM/UMCBerea/LIVE](https://www.facebook.com/UMCBerea/LIVE)

Lenten Prayer will be offered on Thursday's of Lent, both in the morning at 8 am and in the evening at 7 pm. It will follow a similar format to the prayer time offered during Advent where we prayed, read scripture, reflected, and explored various spiritual practices and disciplines together.

If you have questions regarding our Lenten Worship & Fellowship opportunities, please contact Pastor Steve at sknisely@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x101.

COLOR, CROCHET, OR KNIT YOUR WAY THROUGH LENT!

SUNDAYS, 10 AM, WESLEY PARLOR
(IN THE HALLWAY ADJACENT TO WESLEY HALL)

Join the Mandala group in during Lent to add some color, texture, and reflection to your Lenten journey! In addition to those who wish to color using the **Reflections on Prayer** packet, those who crochet or knit are invited to work on one of "God's Cozy Blankets" for The UMCB Prayer Shawl/Blanket Ministry. After sharing a short devotion, scripture, and prayer, everyone will meditate in silence with their chosen art.

Questions?
Please contact **Rev. Linda McCowen**
at lsmccowen@gmail.com
or 440-234-7211.



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY - MARCH 24

TRADITIONAL SERVICE - 9 AM, SANCTUARY OR ONLINE AT
[FACEBOOK.COM/UMCBEREA/LIVE](https://facebook.com/UMCBEREA/LIVE)

MODERN SERVICE - 11 AM, WESLEY HALL

Wave Your Palms

MAUNDY THURSDAY - MARCH 28

7 PM, SANCTUARY OR ONLINE AT [FACEBOOK.COM/UMCBEREA/LIVE](https://facebook.com/UMCBEREA/LIVE)

Come join us as we commemorate words and actions from the final meal that Jesus had with his disciples before his death and resurrection. We will take communion, engage in a ritual of washing of hands, share in the words of Christ, and prepare for the other services of Holy Week.

GOOD FRIDAY - MARCH 29

NOON, MEET AT THE UMC OF BEREA
12:30 PM, WORSHIP SERVICE IN SANCTUARY

Join the Berea Area Churches as we carry the cross through our neighborhood, followed by a brief service at 12:30. We will begin and end at our church. Please help us be good hosts by letting Pastor Carrie know if you can help with hospitality.

7 PM, SANCTUARY OR
ONLINE AT [FACEBOOK.COM/UMCBerea/LIVE](https://facebook.com/UMCBerea/Live)

Good Friday is a day that is centered upon the cross and the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. This service will reflect upon those events and upon the pain of the cross.

HOLY SATURDAY - MARCH 30

7 PM, SANCTUARY OR ONLINE AT [FACEBOOK.COM/UMCBerea/LIVE](https://facebook.com/UMCBerea/Live)

This day remembers the period of time that Jesus spent in the tomb. This night's service will ask us to consider various theological themes associated with this event and how it relates to our lives.

EASTER SUNDAY - MARCH 31

SUNRISE - 7 AM, CHAPEL

TRADITIONAL - 9 AM, SANCTUARY OR
ONLINE AT [FACEBOOK.COM/UMCBerea/LIVE](https://facebook.com/UMCBerea/Live)

MODERN - 11 AM, WESLEY HALL

This is the day we have all been waiting for when we get to celebrate with joyful hearts and proclaim that "He is Risen." The faith of the early Christians was centered around proclaiming how the risen Lord has gained victory over death. We join in that grand tradition and join the chorus of Christians world wide and throughout history who worship the risen Christ.



SHARING OUR JOYS & CONCERNS

MEMBERS

Bruce Akins	Nancy Leeseberg
Molly Arthur	Elenore Long
Cass Beckman	John Marting
Barbara Beihl	Christine McMillin
Heidi Blue	Betty Miller
Carol Bodle	(Renaissance)
Jean Brenneison	Lou Russell
Lee Brenneison	(Westlake Villages)
Hugh Burtner	Russ Sanderson
Wilda Donegan	Linda Short
Neven Eilbeck	Pat Slater (Renaissance)
Molly Force	Joan Smith
Carol & Bruce Forster	MaryLynn Swartz
Jan Heter (Arden Courts)	Kathleen Wargelin
Larry Jelinek	Sam Weaver
Dorene Larkey	Patty Worthem

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Wanda Baulin (sister of Wilda Donegan)
Marc Bittinger
Vicki (friend of Jean Brenneison)
Terre Christian (Pastor Carrie's mother)
AmyMarie Dziak (daughter of Marlynda Dziak)
Spencer Gehring
Sylvie Isgro-Schicker
David Knisely (father of Pastor Stephen Knisely)
Isaac Kowicki & Oliver Lawrence (great nephews of Cindy Osborn)
Anne M. (friend of MaryLynn Swartz)
Sean (brother of Bobby Meadows)
Julie & Aaron Mansfield (family of Joanne Mansfield)
Paul & Kathryn and children (family of Christine and Andy McMillin)
Sean McNichol (friend of the Knisely family)
Joann Mraz (friend of Nancy Schillace)
Dick Schuerger (friend of Debby Hass)
Chet Talarczyk (husband of Judy Talarczyk, Renaissance)
Alan Wohlfield (family of Pam Antczak)

If you, your family member, or friend would like to be removed from the prayer list, please let the church office know at info@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x100.

MEMBERS AT HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Shirley Bedford (Independence Village)
Ann Benson (Western Reserve-Medina)
Janice Kavander
Roy Miller (Western Reserve-Medina)
Pat Sarka
Marilyn Smith (Renaissance)
Ruth Vrana (Generations, Strongsville)
Mary Jane & Sam Weaver (Generations)

MILITARY

J.D. Ferut (grandson of Gerry & Jo Boggs)
Ryan Hopkins
Bill Lambert (son-in-law of Corky Cline)
Josh Lambert (grandson of Corky Cline)
Ben Lebrun
Zachary New (grandson of Bob & Jackie King)

WE REACH OUT IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY AND LOVE TO...

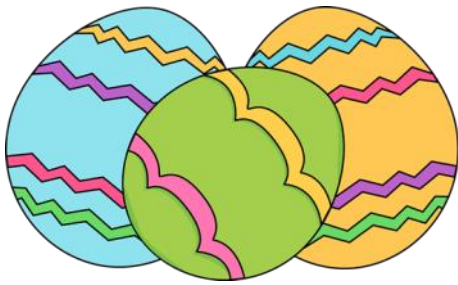
... to the Family & Friends of Vivien Swaddling, who went on to rest in God's eternal peace on Saturday, February 3. A Memorial Service was held on Saturday, February 17.
... to Marilyn Smith and the Family & Friends of Von Smith, who went on to rest in God's eternal peace on Wednesday, January 31. A Memorial Service was held on Monday, February 5.

PASTORAL CARE & PRAYER REQUESTS

Please contact **Pastor Steve** sknisely@umcb.org, 440-234-3525 x101) or **Pastor Carrie** (cantczak@umcb.org, 440-234-3525 x105) if you would like to schedule a time to talk or if you have a specific prayer request.

You can also submit prayer requests at umcb.org/worshipresources or by emailing the church office at info@umcb.org.

To receive prayer concerns by email, visit umcb.org/communications.



AN “EGG-CELLENT” SHOWCASE

The showcase between the narthex and the education wing has a new display for the Lent/Easter seasons. Please stop to take a look.

The showcase is available to anyone who would like to install a display. Church groups and/or individuals are encouraged to share information and projects with the congregation. I am available to help in the organization and installation.

Cass Beckman



SUNDAY, MARCH 10

Working in more than 80 countries worldwide, the United Methodist Committee on Relief provides survivors of devastating hurricanes, storms, wars, and other crises with temporary relief and long-term education, training, & support. UMCOR spends 100% of designated gifts on the projects that donors specify. none of these designated gifts support administrative or operating costs.

On UMCOR Sunday, the special offerings received support UMCOR's administrative costs. These gifts lay the foundation for UMCOR to share God's love with communities everywhere.

Please consider giving generously.

2024 CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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 mission of making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. As we do this, servant leaders among us are called, equipped, and entrusted with the vital task of exercising God's gifts through our congregation.

The Church Council is one of those teams we entrust with this ministry of servant leadership among us. Its ministry includes setting goals and implementing and evaluating the total life of the congregation in fulfilling our mission and purpose. The Church Council acts as the administrative body of the charge conference, meets every other month, and consists of chairpersons from other committees in addition to at-large members.

For 2024, these are those servant leaders entrusted with the ministry of our Church Council:

Chairperson: Margaret Proctor

Lay Leader: Nancy Buehler

SPRC chairperson: Barbara Peterson

Finance chairperson: Carol Anne McCleery

Trustees chairperson:
to be named by the Board of Trustees

Treasurer: Cindy McCowen

Finance Secretary: Maryann Herron

UMW President: Betsy Meikle

Discipleship Collaborative representative:
Rebecca Zeiter

Stephen Ministry representative: Orley Aten

Church and Society chairperson: Wendy Jelinek

Missions Committee chairperson: Laura Rushton

At-large members:
Bill Pierce, Chuck Dixon,
Greg Rentsch, Judy Warnsman



THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAYS, 6:30 PM, VIA ZOOM

Can you believe that we will be starting another new book this month? This series is called Companions in Christ...The Way of Forgiveness! We will be studying, subject like Facing our Anger, Transforming Anger, Living in God's Blessing. Anyone can join us and we love to hear others opinions on these subjects!

Come join us!

For more information, please contact

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



WEDNESDAYS, 6:30 PM, VIA ZOOM

-OR-

FRIDAYS, 1:30 PM, ROOM 13

We have started out new sessions and have wonderful ladies sharing with us. We have some emotions coming and have already found companionship in friends. Have you ever wondered about self care, or grief and your friendships, being stuck in grief?

Come join us, either on Wednesdays Nights on Zoom or Friday afternoons in Room 13.

For more information, please contact

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



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

MONDAY, MARCH 11

6:30-8 PM

ROOM 13

OR VIA ZOOM

We will meet to discuss
Sister Effect by Susan Mallory.

For more information, please contact
Betsy Meikle at meiklebetsyj@gmail.com
or 440-243-5767.



United
Women
in Faith

Soul Care

Soul Care Retreat Manual

SAVE THE DATE - SATURDAY, APRIL 13
8:30 AM – 3:30 PM, THE UMCB PARLOR

Soul Care retreats are for people of all ages, ethnicities, and cultures who desire spiritual renewal. By seeking wellness for our whole selves, we can deepen our understanding of self and the divine. This new approach to enrichment is a welcoming event focused on giving care to the whole person: mind, body, and spirit.

You're invited! Let us gather for a time of fellowship and spiritual renewal. Take this opportunity to leave your to-do list behind with your dirty clothes in the hamper and dirty dishes in the sink. Make time for YOU as we experience a Soul Care Retreat with learning, sharing, laughing, and relaxing.



We cannot accomplish our ministry goals here at UMCB without your collective effort and support. I just want to thank everyone for your willingness to listen and be a part of the recent financial discussions here at UMCB. I think we all have become better aware of our financial situation throughout this process, we have taken the first steps in normalizing financial discussions, and I have personally observed an abundant response from the congregation in your desire to help. All of this has better positioned our church for the future that God has planned for it.

Thank you,
Pastor Steve



PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH



Sunday, March 24
10 AM, FELLOWSHIP HALL

Bring a dish, bring a friend, bring a donation
for our community mission project!

Join us on Palm Sunday between the services for a potluck brunch which will benefit "Love Your Neighbor Day" this fall. At this meal, we are excited to share with you our plans to host a day full of hands-on service opportunities that will bless our community. Bring a dish to share if you are able, and participate in the love offering to fund this community-wide mission project.

Questions? Please contact Pastor Carrie
at cantczak@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x105.





MESSY EASTER

Where will we go next?

Join us as we explore Easter traditions from around the world



EASTER AROUND THE WORLD

MARCH 17, 4 PM, WESLEY HALL

Join us for our annual egg hunt PLUS a special Messy Church celebration of how Easter is celebrated around the world! Get ready to get your passport stamped on this epic Easter journey!

Extra volunteers for this event are greatly appreciated! This is one of our most popular Messy Church Events and we need help with nation stations, egg hiding, and hospitality!

To get more information on how to help, please contact **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x105.



Dinner Church ICE CREAM FIRST SUPPER

Bring Snacks to share!



March 24, 5 pm

DINNER CHURCH -THE ICE CREAM FIRST SUPPER & INTRODUCTION TO FRESH EXPRESSIONS

MARCH 24, 5-7 PM - FELLOWSHIP HALL

5 PM: Celebrating the Last Supper with Jesus later that week, we'll celebrate The Ice Cream First Supper and reflect on our past year's journey with Jesus.

Bring savory snacks and appetizers to share after our ice-cream first course!

6 PM: Kids and Teens will then enjoy a special Easter movie - together! Meanwhile, adults will then begin a new journey - where we explore what it means to be and make disciples of Jesus.

Volunteers needed for a special set up.

Contact **Pastor Carrie** at cantczak@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x105.

OUR FOOD MINISTRIES

Our congregation has always been generous in caring for those who are food insecure. The Missions Committee would like to update you on this ministry.

What do we collect?

We continue to accept donations of all non-perishable food, and household necessities (like soap, detergent, paper products). The United Women in Faith (UMW) promote a monthly themed donation suggestion. This month will be soup or ready-to-eat canned meals. (For details, see page 12.)

Where do donations go?

All of these donations are given to Second Mile Ministries which serves our area with a food pantry and more. On very rare occasions, a neighbor will come by the church in need of emergency food assistance. Pastors are given the blessing of the committee to give from what is currently available.

Where do we put donations?

General donations go to "Mother Hubbard's Cupboard" which is next to the sanctuary in a closet. Please put items on the shelves so as to keep them in good condition for donation. Donations for the themed donation with United Women in Faith should go in a bin near the outreach board. Please stay tuned though - we are in the midst of creating a consolidated giving point for all mission donations.

Are there other opportunities to help those in need of food?

Yes! We provide meals for those who are unhoused with the Metanoia Project throughout the winter months.

If you'd like to help cook or serve, please contact **Laura Rushton** (jalaurush@gmail.com).

Each year, we also sponsor a community meal that takes place at St. Paul's. We usually do this in September. We also look forward to providing meals for children over the summer. Our week to serve will be in July.

What if I need help?

If you are in need of food assistance, please contact one of our pastors who will help you get in touch with Second Mile Ministries, Berea Community Outreach, and other organizations which are blessed to help you.

Peace and Blessings, The Missions Committee

Additional Metanoia Needs



WE NEED STUFF!

- ALL DAY RTA PASSES
- HAND WARMERS
- COFFEE
- CREAMER
- SUGAR
- THERMALS (ADULT M-XXL)



- THICK WINTER GLOVES
- LARGE RUBBER GLOVES
- TO-GO BOXES
- DISH SOAP
- SPONGES
- BLEACH
- GARBAGE BAGS

HAVE A DONATION?
CONTACT KAIT@PROJECTMETANOIA.ORG OR 216-338-0181.
OR CHECK OUT OUR AMAZON WISHLIST!



2024 ADULT MISSION TRIP TO UMCOR SAGER BROWN

From February 25 - March 8, twelve volunteers from The UMC of Berea and the Jefferson Ohio UMC will travel to UMCOR Sager Brown in Baldwin, Louisiana.

The team includes:

Buck Caldwell, Janet Mallarnee, Laura Rushton, Ruthann & Russ Simon, Harland & Lorraine Waid, and Tom & Lorna Westlake.

They will participate in a variety of tasks at the supply depot including the verification & assembly of hygiene and disaster kits (packing the kits to be ready to send where needed), community outreach, campus repairs & lawncare, and the once-a-month food distribution program.

Please keep our adult mission team
in your thoughts and prayers
while we travel and serve others.

The learn more about UMCOR Sager Brown at
umcmmission.org/umcor-supply-depots/.

As many of you know, I am currently in Zimbabwe with other leaders of the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church celebrating the building of a women's dorm at Africa University. Africa University is an institution supported and endorsed by the United Methodist Church and the dorm was successfully funded through the generosity of the churches of the East Ohio Conference. The construction of this building provides a safe and stable environment for women to learn and grow. I wholeheartedly believe that lives have been saved and lives have been changed through this project. I cannot wait to share with you all the work that God is doing here and the ways in which the United Methodist Church is making disciples on the continent of Africa.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Steve



MARCH LOOSE CHANGE SUPPORTS AFRICA UNIVERSITY'S LIFT HER UP CAMPAIGN

Your loose change this month will benefit our mission campaign to fully fund a young woman's college education at Africa University, a United Methodist supported school.

You can support this mission by dropping your change in the offering plate, mailing an offering to the church, or donating electronically at umcb.org/donate using the "other" box and designating it as "loose change offering".



CAREFUL USE OF GOD'S RESOURCES – ENERGY USAGE REDUCTION

As each of us was created by God in His image, we are called to care for all of His creation
– each other and the Earth on which we live.

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." Psalm 24:1

As you may know, the United Methodist Church encourages us and our communities to work to reduce greenhouse emissions through our thoughtful reduction in use of energy and/or use of renewable energy sources. Reduction of emissions will have the biggest positive impact on reducing the earth's temperature. The warming of the planet causes more harm to those who are least responsible for creating emissions, for example, families who live next to a power plant or farmers in California. ([United Methodist Church Social Principles 2016](#), umc.org/en/content/social-principles-the-natural-world)

In the Great Lakes region, the temperature has increased by over 2 degrees Fahrenheit and is affecting the ecosystems of the lakes. Scientific models show that the number of days with high temperatures eg. greater than 90 degrees Fahrenheit in our region are expected to increase. (Dr. Donald Wuebbles speaking on "Climate Change and the Great Lakes" FaCT lecture 2/10/24)

United Women in Faith, through their [Just Energy 4 All](#) at uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/just-energy-4-all/ initiative, is concerned about energy consumption and its effect on creation too. Their website provides resources such as ways to advocate for systemic change, a fun quiz about energy and a link to the **US Energy Information Administration** (eia.gov/). On the EIA site, you can see what types of energy sources are used in Ohio or other states and information about those energy sources. It was cool and encouraging to see how many companies, like Whirlpool, in Ohio use wind turbines or solar power!

As we have all experienced, the cost of most things have gone up over the last couple of years. If we can find ways to save money and be stewards of God's creation, why wouldn't we? There are resources to help fund solar panels for homes and if you are not able to install solar panels you can easily choose a supplier that uses some or all clean energy sources. For example, I have an electric supplier uses 100% renewable sources to generate the electricity. I also chose the carbon neutral contract through my natural gas supplier. Resources for choosing your energy supplier can be found at **NOPEC** at nopec.org/residents or **PUCO** at energychoice.ohio.gov/. NOPEC is an energy supplier that buys energy in bulk (aggregates) for residents of their member communities. *Hint:* when looking for natural gas rates, either through NOPEC or PUCO, they are usually lower in the summer.

Other resources you can explore are the following. [Solar United Neighbors](#) at www.solarunitedneighbors.org/co-ops/ohio/cuyahoga-late-2023-solar-and-storage-co-op/ (a group that works with/for residents to have the right to install solar and reduce the cost of installing it through a co-op model and offer educational sessions and resources on their website) and [US Solar Energy Credit](#) at energy.gov/eere/solar/homeowners-guide-federal-tax-credit-solar-photovoltaics If you were ever interested in solar, now is good time to explore this option. Solar United Neighbors co-op for Cuyahoga County is accepting members and the federal residential solar energy credit is a tax credit gives participants are eligible for a 30% tax credit.

If you are interested in other activities or information, visit umcreationjustice.org or reach out to **the Church Office** at 440-234-3525 x100 or info@umcb.org.

Submitted by Wendy Jelinek for Church & Society / Creation Justice



You are invited to an
Open House!

Congratulations Miss Linda
on the purchase of your new home!

Celebrate our newest affordable Home!

Hosted by:

Habitat for Humanity In Wayne County, Inc.

@ Linda's new home:

669 Bever Street Wooster

Open House: Thursday March 7th 11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

A short key presentation ceremony will be taking place at 12:00 p.m.

Interesting in Carpooling?
Contact Pastor Carrie at
cantczak@umcb.org or
440-234-3525 x105



CIRCLE NEWS

MONTHLY ON THE THIRD WEDNESDAY
9:30AM IN THE PARLOR

Once a month on the third Wednesday, UMW Circle meets for fellowship, devotions, and a brief program. We gather to celebrate our mission work, plan our activities and events, and share our joys and concerns.

Please join us...we would love to see you! We are looking forward to the rest of the year and would like to include you in our plans. Stay tuned for details about our plant sale (a cooperative effort with the Creation Care committee), Garage Sale, and Spring luncheon.

MMM, MMM, GOOD! SOUP'S ON!

DONATIONS MAY BE PLACED
IN THE MARKED BOX
ACROSS FROM THE GATHERING PLACE

UMW is collecting canned soup, crackers, and peanut butter. Please place your donations in the marked box across from the Gathering Place.

Items will be delivered to Second Mile Outreach.

Thanks for your generosity and support.



REMEMBER OR HONOR A LOVED ONE
BY SUPPORTING A STUDENT AT AFRICA UNIVERSITY THIS EASTER.

This Easter, we are inviting you to give missionally and fill our worship space with symbolic new life in the form of seed paper butterflies. Each butterfly will represent a donation made in memory or honor of a person of your naming. The funds donated will support our effort to fully fund a young woman's education at Africa University. This is just the beginning of our effort to make this dream mission a reality. Please stay tuned for more on this mission this spring!

(There will also be simple and modest flowers as well, bringing to mind the simplicity of what Mary, a student of Jesus, would have brought to the tomb.)

Request butterflies by **Friday, March 15** online at www.umcb.org/donate or by using the forms below. Your donation can be made by a check mailed to the church or online at www.umcb.org/donate with the memo "butterfly".

A full list of those remembered or honored will be included in the Easter bulletin as well as the April Caller.

After Easter, we invite you to come take your butterfly from our display or request it be mailed to you. You can then plant your butterfly to enjoy lovely spring flowers. (Directions will be included for planting.)



Butterfly Request Form

All forms and payments are due to the church office by Friday, March 15.

If donating online, please put the amount in the "other" category and specify "butterfly" as the description.

If mailing a check to the church office, please write "butterfly" on the memo line.

Name(s): _____ Phone or Email: _____
(in case we have questions)

My donation is made in

memory of: _____

honor of: _____

After Easter, I wish to... ☐ take my butterfly from the church display.

☐ request that my butterfly be mailed to me.

(Please consider including the additional cost of postage in your donation.)

Mailing Address: _____
