

The United Methodist Church of Berea + THE CALLER



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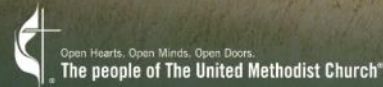
Easter Butterflies - INSERT

**SPECIAL
SUNDAY**

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

"We stand together on sacred ground with grateful hearts, knowing that the One who promises is faithful and true."

—REV. DELANA TAYLOR, LOCAL PASTOR FROM THE OKLAHOMA INDIAN MISSIONARY CONFERENCE



NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY IS APRIL 14

For thousands of years, the space where we prayerfully gather was under the care of the Erie and Kaskaskia (native-land.ca/). Their presence in this region is remembered and woven into the history of our community.

That history with the Native American people that is complicated and still painful for many. Many Native American communities have been marginalized, live in extreme poverty and have lost the land they were forced to live on. High school graduation rates and quality of housing falls much lower than the national average in Native American communities.

How do we, informed by history and called by Christ, offer them living hope? We do it by pouring into the Native American pastors, congregations, and seminary students. Our giving may support a Native American seminary student's tuition, provide continuing education for pastors enrolled in the Native American Course of Study, secure a grant to churches who need to restore their worship space, assist the work of the annual conference's Committee on Native American Ministries, and much more.

On Native American Ministries Sunday and every day, we are encouraged to participate in repairing past harm and moving forward with awareness and respect, celebrating and embracing the contributions of First Americans. Please consider giving generously.

(credit: resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/umcgiving/special-sundays/native-american-ministries-pastor-and-leader-kit)



The United Methodist Church General Conference

| CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

CONNECTING, INVITING, & WELCOMING

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH APRIL 23-MAY 3

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church meets this month in Charlotte, NC from April 23 to May 3. The following is a description of what the General Conference is and does: *“As the highest legislative body of The United Methodist Church, General Conference holds the power to revise The Book of Discipline and The Book of Resolutions while also initiating amendments to the denomination’s constitution. General Conference normally meets once every quadrennium or every four years. The Council of Bishops may also call a special session to address a specific topic. Only two special sessions have been called since The United Methodist Church formed in 1968.”*

Due to the pandemic and the resulting safety and logistical issues, the 2020 General Conference was postponed. So, we have not had a General Conference convene for eight years. As a result, there is much to discuss. The United Methodist Church has been in a period of transition with disaffiliations and disagreements over the ordination, marriage, and full inclusion of LGBTQ+ people. We anticipate that these matters will be addressed and that some sort of legislation will be passed. It is our hope that the United Methodist Church can maintain unity, while also becoming fully inclusive (at least in the North American context). Please be in prayer for the delegates and everyone who will be participating in this important, historic, global, and uniquely United Methodist process.

As an addendum, please be careful that you utilize reliable news sources for your info on General Conference, as the major networks rarely possess a complete knowledge of the full picture. Nor do they usually have a detailed understanding of our theology, or of the intricacies of UMC policy and polity. So, I would recommend UMC sources of information, such as the conference website or UMC.org. On a final note, disaffiliations will be in discussion during General Conference. I am pleased that we here at UMCB have not considered leaving the UMC. Regardless of where people might stand on a myriad of theological, ethical, and social issues, we have been committed to staying together in the UMC, in unity, and part of one body of Christ. I want to say that I am personally committed to staying UMC and I believe that we all can be united in Christ together throughout whatever changes take place at General Conference and in the future.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Steve

(Cited from <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/what-is-the-general-conference>)



SHARING OUR JOYS & CONCERNS

MEMBERS

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

MEMBERS AT HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

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

WE REACH OUT IN

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY AND LOVE TO...

- ... to the Family & Friends of Mary Lucas, who went on to rest in God's eternal peace on February 26. Mary may be better known to you as Mary Gentner, former staff member of The United Methodist Church of Berea.
- ... to the Family & Friends of Barbara Donahue, who went on to rest in God's eternal peace on February 27. A Memorial Service was held on Saturday, March 9.

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)

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)

CONNECTING, INVITING, & WELCOMING

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.



SAHRING GOD'S LOVE



Prayers for our Messy Church Team presenting Celebrate the Mess!

Mary, Janet, Hope, and Pastor Carrie are off this month to Chicago to lead and teach a session at the national Messy Church Conference!

Please pray for them as they share the wonder of Messy Church with others!



Graduate Recognition Sunday!

Sunday, April 28
10 AM, Gathering Place

Join us at 10 am in the Gathering Place on April 28 to celebrate all of our graduates!

If you or someone you love is graduating from any level of education, please let Pastor Carrie know **ASAP** (cantczak@umcb.org or 440-234-3525 x100) so we can celebrate your achievement and pray blessings over you on your next steps!



Messy Easter

SAHRING GOD'S LOVE





CONFIRMATION Retreat

April 27, 9-2 pm at UMC Berea
Recommended for Confirmation
on May 19, 2024

CLAIMING
FAITH



ARE YOU READY TO TAKE YOUR
CONFIRMATION VOWS?

CONFIRMATION RETREAT SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 9 AM - 2 PM

Our last Confirmation retreat for this year will be at the church on April 27.

Please hold our confirmands and their teachers in prayer as they explore their membership vows and prepare for Confirmation. We will celebrate Confirmation on **May 19** during both services.

YOUTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE JUNE 7-8, KALAHARI IN SANDUSKY

Youth 4th grade and up are invited to join us for Youth Annual Conference at Kalahari Sandusky June 7-8!

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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 1!
JUNE 17-21, 9:30 AM - 12:15 PM, THE UMC OF BERA

VOLUNTEER TRAINING
THURSDAY, MAY 16, 6 PM, LOCATION TBD

Let's explore the Beatitudes and stories of Jesus with our favorite pup family. We'll have games, activities, and story time all inspired by your favorite Australian family.

Come join us as we learn about being Healers of God's Creation. 🤗



VBS is open to preschool - 3rd grade (completed).

Recommended donation is \$25/child, with \$50/family cap. No family is turned away.

Older kids (4th grade and up) want to join the fun?

They can join us as junior helpers for a discounted price (\$10).

Children & Youth Helpers register here: <https://forms.gle/52GUwcMhEWzyRdG16>

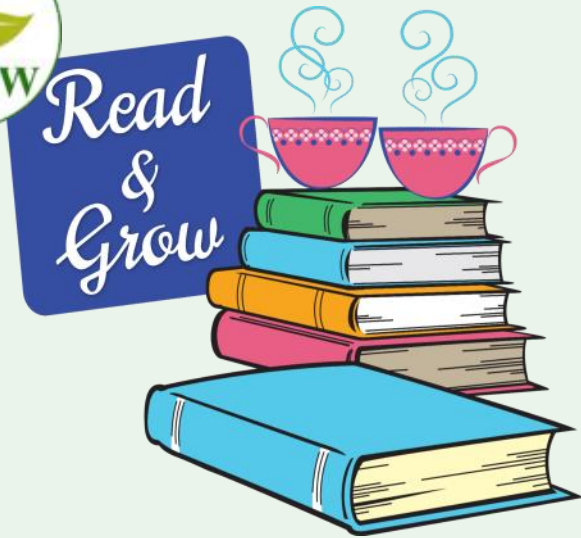
Volunteers make VBS PAWsible!

Join us for a memorable VBS where kids will get to know Jesus and Church community!

Training will be May 16 at 6 PM.

Register as a volunteer here: <https://forms.gle/Ebjig2HqnyoFfCGA>

Hosted by United Methodist Church of Berea, Christ United Church, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church.



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

MONDAY, APRIL 15

(DELAYED ONE WEEK DUE TO THE SOLAR ECLIPSE)

6:30-8 PM, ROOM 13 OR VIA ZOOM

Molly Force will lead the discussion on **Lands Girls**.

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

TEACHING & LEARNING TOGETHER



GRIEF SHARE

WEDNESDAYS, 6:30 PM, VIA ZOOM

-OR-

FRIDAYS, 1:30 PM, ROOM 13

As this session of GriefShare is coming to its end, we are reminded of our losses but also of all we gained - new or refreshing memories, ways to control or at least slow down painful memories. We have been encouraged with new friends, new stories, and even the ability to laugh and feel okay about that. Pray with us as we start a new 'normal' life without precious loved ones and know that we can continue on ...

For more information about future GriefShare sessions, please contact **Mary Lynn Swartz** at marylynn482@gmail.com or 440-409-5931.

COME ONE! COME ALL!

JOIN THE THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY!

THURSDAYS, 6:30 PM, VIA ZOOM

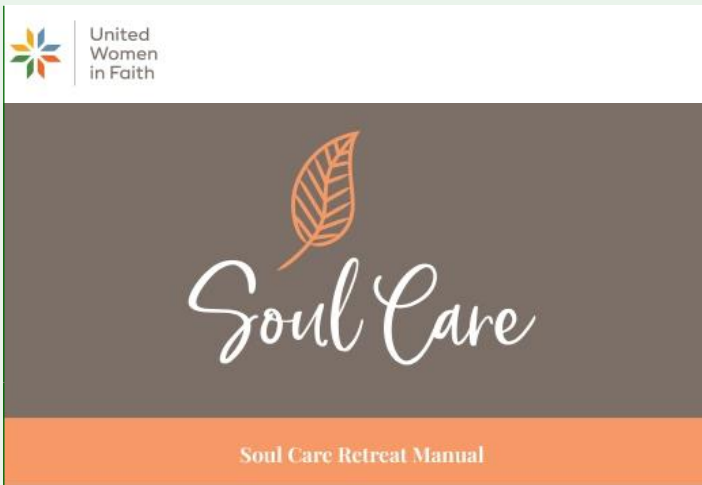
Men, women, and teenagers, join us as we learn more about forgiveness through Jesus. We are using the book **The Way of Forgiveness!** We will be studying such topics as receiving God's forgiveness and seeking reconciliation.

Come join us on Zoom on Thursday nights at 6:30 PM.

For more information, please contact **Mary Lynn Swartz** at marylynn482@gmail.com or 440-409-5931.



TEACHING & LEARNING TOGETHER



REGISTRATION ENDS APRIL 6

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM, THE UMC OF BEREA 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.



Soul Care Retreat Registration

Saturday, April 13, 8:30AM – 3:30PM
The UMC of Berea Parlor
Cost: \$25.00 per person w/Lunch
Registration ends April 6

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.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Dietary Restrictions: _____

Email: _____



UMW GARAGE SALE

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 10 AM - 2 PM, WESLEY HALL

Spring has sprung and UMW is ready to celebrate. On Saturday, May 18, UMW is sponsoring a Garage Sale in Wesley Hall from 10 AM - 2 PM. Stop in, shop, have lunch, and visit with friends.

Spring cleaning?

We have you covered. Donate your goodies to our sale. Please deliver, price, set up and remove your items. (No clothing please.)

Ready to work in the garden?

We have you covered. Once again, we will be selling J & J plant coupons (\$19).

How about a picnic?

We have you covered. Shop, stay and buy a chicken dinner (with a side dish and slice of pie).

To reserve a table (or two or three), please contact **Nancy Buehler** at 440-234-7613 or nbuehler75@gmail.com.

All proceeds will benefit UMW missions, locally and globally.

Thank you for your support and encouragement.



THINK SPRING!

PLEASE PLACE YOUR DONATIONS IN THE DESIGNATED BOX BY ROOM 13.

Time for a picnic and lighter meals.

UMW is collecting canned meat and boxes of Betty Crocker Suddenly Salad.

All donations will be delivered to Second Mile Outreach.

Thank you for your generosity and support.

UMW CIRCLE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17
9:30 AM, THE PARLOR

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

Please join us... we would love to see you!



APRIL 21, 4 PM, COE LAKE PAVILION

Meet us at the Coe Lake pavilion for creation care themed activities, games, and scavenger hunts in the wild of Coe Lake! Be sure to bring your friends to this special community event that will not only celebrate Earth Day but will also remind us all of our calling to care for creation.

This is a joint ministry of Messy Church and our very own Creation Care Team!

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, COMPASSION, & JUSTICE



DINNER CHURCH & FRESH EXPRESSION NEIGHBORHOOD PRAYER WALK

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 5-7 PM
BEGINNING IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

It's our last potluck meal of the year, but the beginning of a new adventure as we explore what it would be like to take the message of Jesus into our community - outside the walls of our church!

Join us for a shared meal, followed by prayer walks (and drives) around our community. We will listen closely for where God is calling us to being a "Fresh Expression" of church community.

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

APRIL LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING

This month's loose change will benefit our fall mission day - "Love Your Neighbor Day". Funds will help purchase needed items to complete our mission projects for the day. We look forward to working with our congregation and community in this shared experience of loving our neighbors!

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".



APRIL'S LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR PROJECT:

SUPPORTING THE EARTH DAY FESTIVAL CLEAN UP WITH SUSTAINABLE BEREA

SATURDAY, APRIL 20
COE LAKE GAZEBO

Come join Berea community volunteers to clean up Coe Lake from fishing lines, cigarette butts, cups, trash, etc. Bring your own gloves, bucket or bags. Some supplies will be provided as well as coffee and baked goods.



Watch for more details in upcoming e-newsletters and bulletins!



The Creation Justice Team will also be hosting a table representing The UMC of Berea during Sustainable Berea's Clean Up Day. Be sure to visit them!



CELEBRATIONS ON SUNDAY, APRIL 21
AND SATURDAY, MAY 18

Earth Day is celebrating its' 54th year this April 22. The United Methodist Church selects a Sunday each year, usually the closest to Earth Day, to celebrate a Festival of God's Creation. We will be celebrating **twice** this year, once on Sunday, April 21 and again on Saturday, May 18.

On the Festival of God's Creation, **April 21**, the Creation Justice Team will be hosting the coffee hour between services in the Gathering Place. There will be plenty of goodies to eat as well as ideas to share. We will have a couple of tables set up to share some tips, ideas and display some new eco-friendly household products.

Our Earth Day project will be held on Saturday, **May 18**. So please save the date. The Creation Justice Team will be sponsoring a clean-up at The UMC of Berea from **9 AM to NOON**. We hope to be outdoors but if weather prohibits, we will work inside. We will have another plant sale, same as we had at the Creation Justice Fair. Members will be asked to bring in off shoots of plants from their gardens or their house plants. More details will come in the May Caller. Proceeds of our plant sale will be donated to Brookdale Orchard. To make it convenient for you, this is also the day of UMWs garage sale and lunch.

We look forward to seeing you!

On behalf of Creation Justice Team,
Barb Dawson (440 885-1672)



As many of you know, I had the amazing opportunity to visit Africa University in March to celebrate the official opening of the Bishop Tracy S. Malone women's dorm which was built at Africa University through the visionary leadership of our Bishop and through the generous giving of the East Ohio churches. While I was there, I was able to meet with students who would be living in the dormitory that will provide them with stability and safety while pursuing their education.

The university began in 1898 from a mountaintop vision that saw African people learning in the valley of Old Mutare, Zimbabwe. That dream has since become a reality as approximately 2500 students are currently enrolled in this Pan-African university. The university is "a United Methodist related institution." As such, the United Methodist Church provides significant funding and support to the institution. Our weekly giving at UMCB goes toward apportionments that are then directed to the university. Africa University is supported by initiatives such as the *Teach, Reach, Bless Campaign*, as well as through special giving. While at the university, we learned that the school has a large farm which provides food for the students, and anything extra can be sold to provide funding for the school. However, due to reduced funding since the pandemic, the farm is not able to operate at an optimal level and needs approximately \$150,000 dollars to return to full productivity. If you are interested in how you might contribute to this specific mission just ask Pastor Steve.

Our church is doing our part as our Easter Butterfly mission donations will be going to help the students at Africa University. We will begin a campaign called *Lift Her Up* which provides funds to help a female student move from a refugee camp and provide them a 4-year education at Africa University. The total cost to accomplish this for each person is approximately \$26,000. If just 260 people would generously give \$100 over the course of numerous years we can personally and dramatically change the course of a precious life. I envision that we will get to know and will be able to follow the life of this special student. To get us started, I will commit to the first \$100 dollars of the campaign. This last month I preached about our connectedness. We are all part of one body of Christ, and we are responsible for our neighbor in Zimbabwe, just as much as in Berea. We can make a difference and I am so proud of the United Methodist Church for its support of Africa University, as well as the schools, orphanage, and hospital that also inhabit Old Mutare. They are a manifestation of compassion and care for our neighbor, as well as a poignant example of what can be accomplished when we are willing to dream and work together.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Steve

*The seed paper butterflies that decorated our altar on Easter represent donations made in memory or honor of a loved one. The generous donations totaled over **\$1300**. These funds will support the important ministry of Africa University (see previous page or more information).*

*May the flowers that grow from these butterflies remind you of
God's beauty and grace abounding in our congregation, and around the world.*

Butterflies have been given in Loving Memory of:

Edwin & Margaret Arthur by Molly Arthur

Gerry Peters by Molly Arthur

Harry & Marie Gregg by Karl & Cass Beckman

Virden & Roberta Beckman by Karl & Cass Beckman

Our Parents, Harold & Virginia Akins and Jack & Lea Brenneison by Jean Brenneison

My brother, Richard Akins by Jean Berenneison

Our Friend, David Breakey by Jean Berenneison

Vivien Swaddling by Karen A. Caldwell

Von Smith by Karen A. Caldwell

Barbara Scoon by Karen A. Caldwell

Vivien Swaddling and Sherla Sanderson by the Choir.

Carol Hemker, Pat Reese, Linda Donahue, Barb Rochford, Carol Isgro, Lydia Proctor, Nick Wik, Dick Vale, Laurie Garvin, Karen Maslyk, Charlotte Harlamert, Carol and Maclyn Ball, Carol Geopfert, Boyd Warnsman, Mary Pendell, Mary Gay, Ruth Haber, Bruce Hardy, Harriet Adams, Nancy Gehring, Paul Swaddling, Harriet and Dan Lansell, Jim and Carolyn Miser, Dr. John Robinson, Dr. Warren Berryman, Dr. Margaret Scharf, Dr. Warren Scharf, Gloria Wharton, Ken Williams, Roger Smith, Dean Rowland, Genie Scott, Eldon Roe, Helen Miller, Beth Lansell, Ron Leeseburg, Jo Ann Boggs, Carol Thompson, Georgia and Allan Swanson, and Cal Myers by the Choir.

G.L. Moore & Dr. Edgar Moore by Molly Force

Ms. Nancy Edmondson by Molly Force

Iris & Bill McCleery by The Girls

Carol Thompson by Carol Heskett

Marilyn Jelinek by Larry, Wendy and Keli Jelinek

Helen & Edward Jelinek by Larry, Wendy and Keli Jelinek

Frances & John Kubicek by Larry, Wendy and Keli Jelinek

Mary Vlach by Larry, Wendy and Keli Jelinek

John Kappeler by Carol Kappeler

Helen Mallarnee by Martha Mallarnee

Kayla Haller by Bobby & Kathy Meadows

Sharon Garrigan by Bobby & Kathy Meadows

Bobby Meadows, Sr. by Bobby & Kathy Meadows

Michael Kurz by Bobby & Kathy Meadows

Carol Hemker by Sara Phillips

Linda Donahue by Sara Phillips

Barb Rochford by Sara Phillips

Butterflies have been given in Loving Memory of (continued):

Sherla Sanderson by Sara Phillips
Lydia Proctor with love by Margaret Proctor and her family
Steve, Beverly, and Alice Holland with love by Margaret Proctor
Carol Hemker with love by Margaret Proctor
Jan Harlamert with love by Margaret Proctor
Rev. Dr. Calvin R. Myers with love by Margaret Proctor
Vivien Swaddling with love by Margaret Proctor
Dean Rowland by Lin Rowland
Philip Rowland by Lin Rowland
Bob & Donna Rowland by Lin Rowland
Ray & Virginia Greenough by Lin Rowland
My parents - Bob & JoAnne Hahn by Laura Rushton
Roger Smith by Joan Smith
Arthur J. Swartz by Jerry & MaryLynn Swartz
Jim & Marilyn Swartz by Jerry & MaryLynn Swartz
Verna Hallock by Jerry & MaryLynn Swartz
Family members who have passed by Jerry & MaryLynn Swartz

Butterflies have been given with love in Honor of:

Carol Kappeler by Clayton Allen
Sam & Mary Jane Weaver by Clayton Allen
Amelia S. Caldwell & Jordan Fodor by Karen A. Caldwell
Stephen Ministers by Karen Caldwell
Orley & Julie Aten by Molly Force
Roy Mallarnee by Martha Mallarnee
Nancy Buehler by Sandy Marek
Carol McCleery by Sandy Marek
Laura Rushton by Sandy Marek
Barb Peterson by Sara Phillips
Debbie Page by Sara Phillips
Pat Nixon by Sara Phillips
Cindy Misiak by Sara Phillips
David Proctor with love by Margaret Proctor and his family.
Dr. Barbara MacGregor from Margaret Proctor
My church family at United Methodist Church of Berea by Margaret Proctor
Skylar Rowland by Lin Rowland
Family & Friends by Lin Rowland