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**2024 EAST OHIO ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The 2024 East Ohio Annual Conference took place from Thursday, June 13 to Saturday, June 15 at the John S. Knight Center in Akron. The theme for this year was **“Faith, Hope, and Love”** with the Scriptural basis of Isaiah 40:31 (NRSVUE) *“But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”*

I will say that this year’s Annual Conference was more positive and hopeful as disaffiliations have concluded, and the church appeared more unified. At the conference we engaged in spirited worship, shared about our ministries, and participated in holy conferencing.

For a detailed recap of the events and decisions that were made, please visit <https://eocumcnews.com/2024/06/17/annual-conference-2024-faith-hope-love/>.

I will report that Rev. Carrie Antczak participated as liturgist during the Thursday morning worship. She did a wonderful job. I personally spent a significant amount of time at the Africa University table providing information about AU and collecting money for the Lift Her Up Campaign. The East Ohio Conference raised seven thousand dollars over three days, which is enough to take a young woman out of a refugee camp and provide them with one year of tuition and expenses. Rev. Linda McCowen joined us throughout the week and she helped construct the prayer room at the convention center with Pastor Carrie. Cindy McCowen successfully served her first year as Lay Delegate. Our other Lay Delegate Jeff Zeager was not feeling well and was unfortunately unable to join us. Overall, Annual Conference was a time when we all could gather as a church, see old friends, make new ones, and realize that we are a part of something greater than us. I truly have hope for our future.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Steve



**JULY SUNDAY PREVIEW**

I must say that I have been greatly encouraged by how our summer combined and blended worship has been going so far. It has been a wonderful celebration of unity and of God’s love and grace. I want to make you aware that we have some special worship opportunities in July.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Steve

**PASTOR STEVE’S ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY AT THE UMCB**

***July 7, 10 am, Wesley Hall***

This service will look like the other summer services; however, your pastor might be excited, as it will be a celebration of our one year together. I am grateful for all of you and am proud to serve here at The UMCB. After the service we are planning on having root bear floats in the Gathering Place.



**PULPIT EXCHANGE**

***July 14, 10 am, Wesley Hall***

We will be doing a pulpit swap with Sandusky Trinity UMC. Rev. Ted Buehl is the current pastor of Trinity UMC and will be coming back to his home church (UMCB) to preach. I think this will be a real treat as you are able to celebrate his ministry and call. Likewise, Sandusky Trinity is my home church. It is where I was baptized, confirmed, and was provided with my Christian (and distinctly Wesleyan) foundation. This will be my first time preaching there and I am looking forward to it.

**OUTDOOR WORSHIP**

***July 21, 10 am, Front Lawn (weather permitting)***

We will be worshipping outside on our front lawn (weather permitting), and afterward we are having a potluck. We have invited Rev. Hoyte Wilhelm and the North Olmsted United Methodist Church to join us.



**MESSY CHURCH**

***July 28, 10 am, Wesley Hall***

Join us as we celebrate our 8th Anniversary of our Messy Church Ministry. Experience the joy of Messy Church for yourself in this special Messy Church worship service.



**CONNECTING, INVITING, & WELCOMING**



### A WALK IN THE PARK

**Sunday, July 7, 4 pm, Columbia Reservation  
(25145 Royalton Rd., Columbia Station)**

We would like to revive our tradition of monthly Sunday afternoon walks at local parks, with a walk Sunday July 7 at 4 pm at Columbia Reservation (25145 Royalton Rd., Columbia Station). This is an opportunity to exercise our God-given bodies in God's beautiful creation while getting to know each other informally.

No need to plan ahead or RSVP,  
just show up in the parking lot by 4 pm.

Most of the walking will be on level trails and participants can adapt or shorten the walk as they see fit. Families are most welcome but no dogs, please.

Questions? Contact **Katie Flinn** at  
[kathryn.flinn@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn.flinn@gmail.com) or **607-273-3950**.

CONNECTING . . .



### RECEIVED AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*"Tell them to do good, to be rich in the good things they do, to be generous, and to share with others."*

1 TIMOTHY 6:18

*Thank You*  
T H A N K Y O U

For Giving Faithfully 100%  
of the 2023 Apportioned Shared Ministry  
Funds



BEREA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EAST OHIO CONFERENCE  
BISHOP TRACY S. MALONE

*A. Moses Ramirez*  
A. Moses Ramirez, Kessler  
General Secretary and Treasurer  
General Council on Finance and Administration

*Michael McKee*  
Bishop Michael McKee  
President, General Council on  
Finance and Administration

653083

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.  
The name of The United Methodist Church®

North Coast  
Rev. Bruce Hitchcock

Amelia Sowder Caldwell and Jordan Clark Fodor were married on June 8 in our Sanctuary. They appreciate all the love and support that they have had over the years from UMC of Berea. Please continue to hold them in your prayers as newlyweds.

Their new address is 1266 W. 106 Street, Cleveland, OH 44102

The Creation Justice Team THANKS everyone that helped with our plant sale in May.

- ◇ Those who dug out and separated their outdoor plants
- ◇ Those who trimmed and rooted their indoor plants
- ◇ Everyone who purchased the beautiful plants
- ◇ All who hosted our table

Through your generosity and actions, we raised \$175.25 which we are donating to the Brookdale Orchard, an inner-city community orchard in Cleveland. THANKS UMCB!!

The Creation Justice Team  
Barb Dawson, 440 885-1672

SAHRING GOD'S LOVE



SHARING OUR JOYS & CONCERNS

This list is updated periodically by removing names that have been listed for a significant time without any contact or new information. It is not our intention to remove anyone still in need of prayers. If you notice your name or that of a loved one has been removed and further prayers are needed, please contact Pastor Steve or the church office. Conversely, if you, your family member, or friend would like to be removed from the prayer list, please let the church office know. Thank you.

- Wanda Baulin (sister of Wilda Donegan)
Shirley Bedford (Independence Village)
Barbara Beihl
Ann Benson (Western Reserve-Medina)
Heidi Blue (Pleasant Lake Villa)
Carol Bodle (Renaissance)
Jean & Lee Brenneison
Hugh Burtner
Terre Christian (Pastor Carrie's mother)
Rev. Rollin Conway
Phoebe Cooke (granddaughter of the Thuraus)
Wilda Donegan
Eileen Stevens Doud (daughter of Paul Harlamert)
AmyMarie Dziak (daughter of Marlynda Dziak)
Neven Eilbeck
Bruce Forster (Parkside)
Carol Forster (Vitalia)
Spencer Gehring
Jan Heter (Arden Courts)
Sylvie Isgro-Schicker
Larry Jelinek
Marc Knipper (friend of the Swartz Family)
David Knisely (father of Pastor Steve Knisely)
Dorene & Ron Larkey
Samantha Lombardo (friend of Tom Marek)
Elenore Long
Helen Madis (Renaissance)
Julie & Aaron Mansfield (family of Joanne Mansfield)
John Marting
Christine McMillin
Paul & Kathryn and children (family of the McMillins)
Sean McNichol (friend of the Knisely family)
Betty Miller (Renaissance)
Roy Miller (Western Reserve-Medina)
Janet Neal (friend of Jill Bush)
Lou Russell (Riverview Pointe)
Russ Sanderson

- Pat Sarka
Linda Short
Pat Slater (Renaissance)
Joan Smith
Marilyn Smith (Renaissance)
Chet Talarczyk (husband of Judy Talarczyk, Renaissance)
Ruth Vrana (Generations, Strongsville)
Mary Jane Weaver (Generations)
Kathleen Wargelin

WE REACH OUT IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY AND LOVE

- ... to the Family and Friends of Jerry Boggs who went on to rest in God's eternal peace on Saturday, June 15, 2024. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, July 20 at 11 am in Wesley Hall.
... to the Family and Friends of Nan Leeseberg who went on to rest in God's eternal peace on Thursday, May 30, 2024. A Memorial service was held on Sunday, June 23 .
... to the Beckman Family. Karl's brother, Clark went on to rest in God's eternal peace.

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.

SHARING GOD'S LOVE



# Blue-Attitudes Vacation Bible School 2024

SAHRING GOD'S LOVE





THE CALLER

# Blue-Attitudes Vacation Bible School 2024



**GOD SAYS I AM...**

		
Beautiful Ecclesiastes 3:11	Accepted Romans 15:7	Bold I John 5:14
		
Redeemed Galatians 3:13	Protected 2 Thess 3:3	Courageous Deuteronomy 31:6
		
Kind Luke 6:27	Strong Isaiah 40:13	Loyal John 15:13



SAHRING GOD'S LOVE



THE CALLER

# Blue-Attitudes Vacation Bible School 2024

SAHRING GOD'S LOVE





**JOIN THE THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY**

**Thursdays, 6:30 pm, via Zoom**

We are currently studying the Proverbs and enjoying it. We are learning to live wisely! Have you ever thought about ‘avoiding the fool’ or even perhaps thinking about when we use good or bad words and how that effects others?

Come join us on Thursday nights on zoom and give us your thoughts about these suggestions.

Everyone is welcomed !!!

For more information or to be added to our list and receive the Zoom information, please contact **Mary Lynn Swartz** at [marylynn482@gmail.com](mailto:marylynn482@gmail.com) or **440-409-5931**.

As water reflects the face,  
so one's life reflects the heart.

PROVERBS 27:19, NIV



**GRIEF SHARE**

**Mondays, 6:30 pm, via Zoom**

Our newest Griefshare zoom meeting is filling a lot of Summer needs, We have some awesome people. We are learning how to use our feelings. Usually, at some point in the meeting, we will have some smiles and even a giggle or two. Our new friends are finding out that they can share and they can feel okay about sharing. Together, we learn that others are feeling the same ways and have the same doubts!

Please join us!

For more information, please contact **Mary Lynn Swartz** at [marylynn482@gmail.com](mailto:marylynn482@gmail.com) or **440-409-5931**.

**WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL GIFTS RETREAT**

**Coming in November**

Ladies, Women, Young Ladies, would you like a Saturday off from everything to learn what your Spiritual Gifts are?

Coming in November, we will have a one day retreat to learn about our Spiritual Gifts and how we can share them with others.

Stay tuned for more Information on this Retreat!

Questions? please contact **Mary Lynn Swartz** at [marylynn482@gmail.com](mailto:marylynn482@gmail.com) or **440-409-5931**.







## THE CALLER

**AUG 1, 1PM - AUG 2ND, 10AM**

**@ CHRIST UNITED CHURCH**



### CHRIST-LIKE CHRONICLES TWEEN CAMP

*Thursday, August 1, 1 pm - Friday, August 2, 10 am*

*Christ United Church, 23114 West Rd, Olmsted Falls, 44138*

Join us for a Narnia adventure as we explore what it means to live like Christ. We'll explore our own stories, as we learn about God's story. It's also an overnight camp out! Geared for 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade, but older students are welcome! Camp is located at Christ United Church on West Rd.

Registration is now open! <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdTAZNuc0fKpRAYJWp9B2lfSzHgZ3yBVipmZ1tlx4lpqu9KdQ/viewform>

Volunteers needed. Please contact **Pastor Carrie** at [cantczak@umcb.org](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) or 440-234-3525 x105.

TEACHING & LEARNING TOGETHER



## Community Needs Survey



**How can we serve you?**



**Thank you for helping us love and support our community!**

Our Discipleship Collaborative team is beginning a community needs survey for Berea and surrounding suburbs.

You can help us learn how to better serve our community by completing **AND** sharing this survey. We appreciate your help!

Use the QR code, or go to: <https://forms.gle/ohS6Nhgii72cxRMK7>.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT . . .



## JULY LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING

Your loose change offerings this month will support Hanson House - a traumatic brain injury support group with a long and strong relationship with our church.

What services does Hanson House provide?

- Recovery/relearning routines and habits of effective living.
- Assistance by peers and community volunteers that foster independent living.
- Match marketable skills to employment opportunities or match skills to volunteering opportunities that benefit the community.

There are many TBI survivors, but currently only one Ohio organization that operates on the Clubhouse model. It is our joy to host and support Hanson House.

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](http://umcb.org/donate) using the “other” box and designating it as “loose change offering”.

Thank you for your generosity!



## ENJOY EQUAL EXCHANGE THIS SUMMER!

***First Sunday of each month,  
11 am (following the 10 am service),  
Outside the Parlor***

*How does some refreshing peppermint iced tea sound? You can easily make some with Equal Exchange tea.*

That, along with all our other favorite teas, coffees, cocoa and chocolates, will be for sale this summer on the first Sunday of each month after the combined 10 am worship service.

Thanks for your continued support of a fair wage and healthier work and living environment for farmers and for all God’s children!

## SAVE-THE-DATE: LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR DAY OF SERVICE

***Saturday, September 21***



Plan on joining us now for a day full of local service projects for **all ages and all abilities**. Learn about our mission partnerships, serve with us completing hands-on projects. Check out our Service Fair and learn how you can grow in your service all year long with our congregation. This is a great opportunity to bring friends with you!

Stay tuned for registration opening next month!

Let **Pastor Carrie** know to look for you at [cantczak@umcb.org](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) or **440-234-3525 x105!**



**“FEED THE KIDS”**

***Food Collection & Monetary Donations Accepted Now***

***Bag Packing***

***Sunday, July 14, 11 am, Gathering Place***

***Bag Distribution***

***Monday July 15, 5 pm, Christ United Church  
(23114 West Rd, Olmsted Falls, 44138)***

It’s our turn to help “feed the kids” this summer by providing three days worth of meals to our food insecure kids. Please help in these ways as you are able:

1. Donate food. We will need:

- breakfast items (like pop tarts or cereal),
- lunch items (like individual serve pasta, easy mac, etc.),
- dinner items (like cup-o-noodles, canned meat, soup, etc.),
- fruit cups/pouches, and snacks.

*Keep in mind that easy to prepare or zero-preparation foods make it easier for children.  
We are preparing at least 100 bags so the need is great!*

2. Donate monetarily through the church finance office or online at [umcb.org/donate](https://umcb.org/donate). Be sure to designate your gift for “Feed the Kids”
3. Help bag up the food at 11 am on Sunday, July 14. Let’s beat last year’s record - we packed 100 bags in 21 minutes! Many hands make light work!
4. Help distribute the bags to families on July 15 at Christ United Church (23114 West Rd, Olmsted Falls, 44138). Distribution begins at 5 pm.

For more information or to sign up for the bag distribution on July 15, please contact **Pastor Carrie** at [cantczak@umcb.org](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) or **440-234-3525 x105**.

**YOUTH MISSION DAY**

***Postponed until August - Watch for information coming soon!***

Youth 4th grade and up are welcome to join us for a day of local mission and local fun! We are partnering with Berea Community Outreach and others, to make a day full of making a difference in our community.

If you’ll be attending or helping, please let **Pastor Carrie** know at [cantczak@umcb.org](mailto:cantczak@umcb.org) or **440-234-3525 x105!**

Gather. Create. Give.

*Sewing,  
Crocheting,  
AND Knitting*

**A New Ministry Opportunity**

### **GATHER. CREATE. GIVE. - A NEW MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY**

I am so excited to share a new ministry at UMCB. This will be an expansion of the Prayer Shawl Ministry. We don't have a lot of details yet, but we do have lots of ideas! Have you ever been part of a sewing circle? Or a group where you gather to do crafts? It's fun, isn't it! Just imagine having a room where you can go to learn about sewing, or to gather with friends as you tackle a new sewing project and make things for charity.

We've been talking about it for months and now we have a room - Room 34 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor! It is easily accessible by elevator. We'll gather in our sewing room and create. We'll knit, crochet, sew and we will give away what we have made. Pillow cases for hospitalized kids (<https://caseforsmiles.org/>), clothing protectors for a nursing home, the list of possible projects is endless. We also want to have sewing workshops for the youth in our community. No, you do not need to be an expert seamstress to join us! We're all about learning and sharing and having fun while we create items to give away.

What do we need and when do we start?

- We need people from UMCB and people from the community! People to create and people to help us lead sewing workshops for youth. Several of us are already bringing in sewing supplies and planning sewing projects!
- Of course, we need your prayers.
- People have already graciously offered us supplies (thank you!!!). We'll let people know other needs soon.
- The prayer shawl ministry has already started meeting in Room 34. Group sewing dates will be publicized well before they happen.

If you are interested in participating or have items you'd like to donate, I'd love to talk with you!

Please see me (**Rev. Linda McCowen**) at church on Sunday mornings before or after our blended worship service or contact me at **440-234-7211** or **Lsmccowen@gmail.com**.

## THE PORCH MINISTRY FOR BALDWIN WALLACE STUDENTS

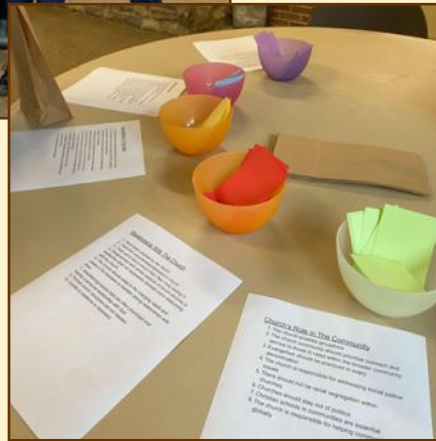
*The mission of our ministry is to connect students to the life and love of God through fellowship, discipleship, and social justice. At the core, the ministry seeks to serve as a platform for people of all backgrounds and identities to explore or reintroduce themselves to Christianity.*



**Above:** Retreat Participants

**Middle:** Salient Identities reflection activity

**Right:** Elizabeth Philpot sings with Pastor Steve



**Annual Retreat:** The annual retreat is a celebration of the end of the academic year for BW students. Attendees reflected on life experiences and their spiritual growth throughout the year. Students enjoyed a group meal, music selections, meaningful dialogue and a reflective nature walk alongside Pastor Stephen Knisely.



**Blessing of the Brains:** Blessing of the Brains is an event for students to seek prayer and encouragement during finals week. Students from all backgrounds and identities are welcome at this event to share their joys and concerns about the academic year. Student ministers engage in table conversations to create relationships with students and facilitate prayer over final exams and returning home to family.

**Praise Party:** The Praise Party is the ministry's largest annual event. The intention of the event is to gather students who are already believers of Christ, as well as newcomers and those exploring religion. The event is intended to foster fellowship and fun in a contemporary style that appeals to the current generation. The first annual Praise Party included a DJ, food catering, game hosting stations, and student speakers who shared powerful testimonials. to build relationships with the BW community.

**Left:** Campus ministry partners share about their organization.

**Right:** Students dance to the "Church Clap" song.



## THE PORCH MINISTRY FOR BALDWIN WALLACE STUDENTS

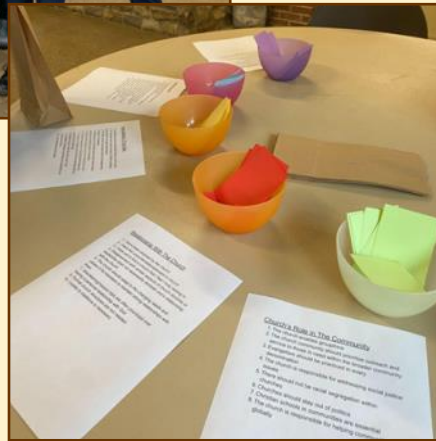
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