



Dear Union Avenue UMC Church Family,

Happy New Year! I have shared with you before that instead of a New Year's resolution, I ask God to give me a guiding word for each new year. This year my word is **presence**. I want to be more present – to God, to myself, and to the people around me.

Over Christmas break I became ill with Covid and spent most of my vacation in quarantine, away from my family. At first, I was too sick to care. When I felt a little better after a couple of days, it felt nice to have a break from responsibility and just rest. But soon I started to feel like I was missing out - not just on seeing my family in Michigan, but also spending time with my kids and husband. Even though we were in the same house, I missed them.

I'm not telling this story to garner sympathy. I simply want to say that those days away from my family right before the new year gave me perspective. It reminded me how good the simple, day-to-day things are: helping my kids in the mornings, snuggling during bedtime stories, watching a show with my husband after the kids go to bed.

Your day-to-day life may look different than mine, but you might also struggle to be where you are in any given moment. If the word presence feels good to you, I encourage you to join me on the journey of becoming more present in 2024 – to God, to yourself, and to the people in your life. If you feel led in a different direction, ask God to give you a word to guide you in the coming year. Pray that God will give you what you need to live into that word, and to continue growing in love.

I pray that you have a blessed 2024, and I look forward to journeying through it with you!

In Christ's love,



Pastor Becky



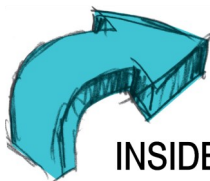
PASTOR BECKY'S SCHEDULE UPDATE — JANUARY & FEBRUARY:

Pastor Becky will be taking Mondays off instead of Fridays.

Updated drop-in office hours for January/February are:

Tuesdays – 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM (11:15 AM – 1:00 PM on 4th Tuesdays)
Wednesdays – 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM Thursdays – 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

If you need to make an appointment outside of these hours, contact the church office.



INSIDE:

1. Pastor's Page
2. Events, New District
3. Milestones, History, Christmas Eve
4. Missions
5. Apple Dumplings
6. Faith in Action
7. Calendar

NEXT ISSUE:
February deadline:
Tuesday,
January 16

YOUTH GROUP

Our youth group for grades 6-12 meets twice a month. We will meet on Sunday, January 7th from 6-7:30 pm and Sunday, January 21st from 11:15 am-12:30 pm at church. Lunch will be provided on January 21st. Please notify Pastor Becky if your student has any dietary restrictions.



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

10:00-11:00 am, Wednesdays | Pastor Becky is offering a weekly Bible study. Each week we will study the scripture that Pastor Becky will preach on the coming Sunday. No preparation is required, and each session will stand alone so feel free to drop in whenever you are available.

3RD FRIDAY YOGA CHURCH

6:30 pm, Friday, Jan. 19 | Join us for gentle yoga, prayer and meditation. Bring a yoga mat if you have one, or use one of ours.

BOOK CLUB

7:00 pm, Monday, February 12 | *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett is our next book pick. *Tom Lake* is a meditation on youthful love, married love, and the lives parents have led before their children were born. Both hopeful and elegiac, it explores what it means to be happy even when the world is falling apart. Patchett combines compelling narrative artistry with piercing insights into family dynamics.

COPELAND OAKS

MINISTRY TO CRANDALL

10 am, Tuesday, Jan. 9 | Crandall Medical Center residents are invited to join us for our next service. Other Copeland Oaks residents are invited to come, visit with residents, help them to/from the dining hall and sing the hymns with us.

UNION AVENUE COPELAND OAKS RESIDENT GATHERINGS

10:00-11:00 a.m., Tuesday, Jan. 23, Williamsburg Lounge | Union Avenue Copeland Oaks residents are invited to join Pastor Becky and/or Pastor Scott, and other Union Avenue friends for devotional thoughts, singing and lots of conversation. We look forward to seeing you!

OUR WIDER CONNECTION

FIRST NEW CENTRAL VALLEY DISTRICT EVENT

3:30 pm, Saturday, January 27, at North Canton Faith UMC, 300 9th St. NW, North Canton

On January 1, Union Avenue UMC became part of the new Central Valley District as part of a transition from 10 to four districts in the East Ohio Conference. Everyone is invited to participate in the first gathering of our new district for a time of worshipping, connecting, and celebrating together with Bishop Tracy S. Malone, the superintendent team and leadership in each district, and Conference staff.

CENTRAL VALLEY DISTRICT INFO

Office: 8800 Cleveland Ave. NW, North Canton OH 44720 (East Ohio Conference building)

Superintendents: Rev. Edgar Brady, Rev. Cara Stultz Costello District Administrator: Megan Myers

Phone: 330-499-3972 ext. 202; Email: centralvalley@eocumc.com

Office hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

JANUARY Birthdays

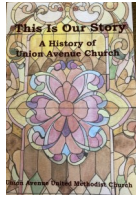
3 – John Rasile
4 – Dawn Denny

7 – Jed Mewborn
8 – Shirley Miller

10 – Jenni-Jo Kinser
10 – Steve Kramer
10 – Jean Smith
11 – Larry Snodgrass
15 – Tom Rickels
15 – Abbey West
17 – Sue Sheets
21 – Diana Priest

22 – Mary Jane Sampson
24 – Betty Ann Schaper
25 – Tedi Spotswood

*Contact the office to have
your birthday listed here.*



THIS IS OUR STORY: A HISTORY OF UNION AVENUE CHURCH

We still have a few copies of our new history book available in the church office for \$10 each.

CHRISTMAS EVE





THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Thank you, Union Avenue United Methodist, for once again supporting our Giving Tree! You have generously provided gifts for 37 children in 19 families through your donations.

Above: Wrapped gifts sorted and ready for pick up.

Just think of all those kids (and parents!) who had big smiles on their faces on Christmas morning. **YOU** made the Christmas wishes of many children come true. What a blessing!

Once again our church (along with help from Boy Scout Troop 101 and Cub Scout Pack 52) were the generous “givers” who provided for a total of 22 children in 12 families at the A-FIRST permanent housing project in addition to 8 kids in four preschool families and also 7 kids in three community families.

In addition, a \$25 Giant Eagle gift card was given to the preschool and community parents while \$25 ALDI gift cards will help A-FIRST residents. Many thanks to the good folks at Union Avenue UMC for helping those who are currently struggling, making their Christmas brighter.

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY—JANUARY 14

Human Relations Day is our day to **celebrate everyone’s potential** to do great things.

It’s our day to **empower those living on the margins of society.**

It’s our day to **invest in at-risk youth.**

It’s our day to **make a difference together.**

When we give from the heart, we receive unexpected blessings, especially the joy of making a difference in someone’s life. In the United Methodist Church we have six annual giving opportunities to share beyond our regular gifts through church-wide Special Sundays with offerings.

The 1972 General Conference established Human Relations Day to “recognize the right of all God’s children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with each other.” In the difficult years since the pandemic began in 2020, inequality and injustice have been greater than ever.

- Every one of God’s children deserves justice and equality.
- Every one of God’s children deserves to open doors to success.

We celebrate on the Sunday before the observance of the Rev. Martin Luther King’s birthday because as United Methodists, we believe in the development of better human relations. We seek to empower others to become the whole persons God intended.

The offering for Human Relations Day is allocated to provide funding for:

- United Methodist Community Developers
- United Methodist Voluntary Services Program
- Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program

All of these programs strengthen United Methodist outreach to communities across the United States and Puerto Rico, encouraging social justice and work with at-risk youth.

Apple dumplings sales set record this year

Back in 2002 during the annual East Ohio Conference at Lakeside, all the delegates were given a dollar from the conference treasury with a challenge to raise money for missions.

That year, our Union Avenue United Methodist Church participants pooled their money to buy a few apples and flour to make apple dumplings to sell. From that point the project has grown beyond expectations, and since taking on the project in 2008 the United Methodist Men have surpassed the \$100,000 income mark!

Our loyal volunteers working Monday and Tuesday mornings rolled out 6,252 apple dumplings to set a new annual sales record of \$9,570 which puts the total 15-year income at \$108,079.

To produce those dumplings this year, they used 65 bushels of Empire apples from Arrowhead Orchard, as well as 28 gallons of milk, 450 pounds of pastry flour, and 54 cans of Crisco.

Among the local nonprofit organizations to benefit from the dumpling project are the Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity, the Alliance Community Pantry, the Salvation Army, the Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter, Clothed in Righteousness, the YMCA and YWCA, Raiders Cove, and our own monthly free spaghetti dinners at Christ United Methodist Church.

Margaret Brown oversees the dumpling making in the kitchen and loyal volunteers included Dick and Nancy Bashore, Keith Brown, Randy and Ryllis Chandler, Ted Clark, Lea Hough, Barb Gaughan, Susan Headley, Jeanne LeMieux, Clyde Lepley, Carla McIntosh, Jed and Cheryl Mewborn, Walt and Donna Mozzochi, Mike Patterson, Donna Rickels, Rick Sampson, Marissa Scott, Lynda Slack, and Karen Wilson.

Weekday volunteers who sold dumplings from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. were Paula Hochradel, Jenny Lowman, Betty Clark, Jim Lackey, Ron and Diana Priest, Bill and Penny Downs, Sue Sheets, Carole Wilson, Sue Goris, and Kathy Kramer, and substitutes were Linda Brady, and Jo Van Fossen.

Helping schedule and organize the supplies and coordinate the project for the United Methodist Men were Keith Brown, Clyde Lepley, Jed Mewborn, and Mike Patterson.

Administrative assistant Chris Lamb and our custodian Dale Brown's support also was invaluable.

See next page...





Apple dumpling sales (top, below left) fund spaghetti dinners on the first Tuesday of each month (below right, bottom). Volunteers are seen here at both projects.



FAITH IN ACTION





SUNDAY WORSHIP:
9:45 a.m. - Church and
facebook.com/uaumc
11:00 a.m. - 91.1 FM

C - Church: Z - Zoom, F - face

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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Union Avenue Administrative Council: Chairperson – Clyde Lepley (+Ushers); Lay Leader – Len Slack; Annual Conf. – Dana Bericchia; Financial Secy. – Chris Cochran; Treas. – Tyler Kinser; Secy. – TBD; UMM – Jed Mewborn, interim; Historian – Karen Perone.
At-Large: Kathy Butcher, Pat Gates, Mark Harper, Linda Miller (2024) Dick Bashore, Kathy Kramer (2025) Jim Bales, John McIntosh (2026)

Committees: Kirk Miller (Trustees, Tech); Kevin Redinger (Finance); Patti Brimlow (Counting); Rev. Becky Weamer (Lay Leadership); Kathy Kramer (SPRC); Brad Goris (Endowment); Will Stolicny (Social Min.); Kay Hettler (Missions); John McIntosh (Preschool); Kim Lewis (Worship); Lynda Slack (Altar Arts); Carla McIntosh (Communion/Prayer); Margaret Brown (Social Hour/Meals)

<p><u>SUNDAY SCHOOL</u> <u>and SOCIAL HOUR:</u> Kids - 9-9:30 Social Hour - 9:00 Adults - 11:00</p>		2 4:30pm Spaghetti Dinner (at CUMC)	3	4	5	6
7 EPIPHANY 9:45am Worship (C, F) 11am 91.1 FM, HOLY COMMUNION 6pm Youth	8	9 10am Service at Crandall	10 10am Bible Study 6pm Praise Team	11 10am The Hour (Z) 6:15pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir	12	13
14 9:45am Worship (C, F) 11am 91.1 FM	15	16 CIRCUIT RIDER DEADLINE 11am Cong. Care 5pm Preschool 6:30pm Finance	17 10am Bible Study 6pm Praise Team 7pm Trustees	18 10am The Hour (Z) 6:15pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir	19 6:30pm Yoga Church	20
21 9:45am Worship (C, F) 11am 91.1 FM 11:15am Youth	22	23 10am UA at Copeland Oaks	24 10am Bible Study 6pm Praise Team 6:30pm Admin. Council	25 10am The Hour (Z) 6:15pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir	26	27
28 9:45am Worship (C, F) 11am 91.1 FM	29	30	31 10am Bible Study 6pm Praise Team	<p>PASTOR BECKY'S OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 9:30–1 (4th Tu 11:15-1), Wednesdays 11-1:30, Thursdays 9:30-12 To schedule other times, 419-528-9586 or pastor@unionavenueumc.org.</p>		



**UNION AVENUE
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

*A United Methodist Church
practicing Safe Sanctuary
through the child
protection policy*

Rev. Rebecca Weamer
Elder and Lead Pastor

Tyler Kinser
Treasurer

Rev. Scott Hayward
Minister of Pastoral Care

Christine R. Lamb
Administrative Assistant,
Membership Secretary

Dale Brown
Custodian

J. Kim Lewis
Director of Music

Christine K. Cochran
Financial Secretary

Pam Harlan
Preschool Director



Kirk Miller
Preschool Treasurer

Cindy Saari
Preschool Custodian



UNION AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Phone: 330-823-9270

Email: office@unionavenueumc.org

Website: unionavenueumc.org

Social media: facebook.com/uaumc,
instagram.com/unionavenueumc

Rev. Becky Weamer
Elder and Lead Pastor
Church 330-823-9270

Rev. Scott Hayward
Minister of Pastoral Care
Home 330-526-6887
Cell 419-618-0952

Chris Lamb, Admin. Asst.
Office hours: M-F, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

SUNDAY: 9:45 a.m. in Sanctuary and facebook.com/uaumc; 11 a.m. on WRMU 91.1 FM