

Dear Union Avenue Family,

Greetings in Christ! As we continue in the season of Lent, I pray that you have found some ways to open your heart more fully to God. If you have not chosen a daily spiritual practice for Lent, it's not too late! You might consider a ten-minute morning walk, or a few minutes of morning or evening prayer. Even short practices like these can help you to see God more clearly in the world and people around you.

My son Daniel and I have been reading a beautiful children's Bible called *The Peace Table* together each night. Towards the end of the book there is a selection of prayers – some for morning, some for evening, and some for different occasions, like going to school, or tough days, or being out in nature. Last night we turned to the evening prayer page, and I asked him to choose a prayer. He ran down the list with his pointer finger, saying "Eeny, meeny, miny, moe, catch a tiger by it's toe," until he landed on one. We read it, and then he wanted to pray another. The second prayer he chose was titled "Glad, Sad, Sorry" – a children's version of Saint Ignatius' Examen prayer. We shared with God and one another one thing we were glad about from the day, one thing that made us sad (in Daniel's case, angry), and one thing we were sorry about (a confession). I told Daniel we should change the prayer's name to "Glad, Sad, Sorry, Help!" We each asked for God's help with something in the coming day (for both of us, it was for patience when we get angry).

This moment of reading scripture and praying together doesn't take much time – maybe 15 minutes total – but I can feel it making a difference, for both Daniel and me. It's an opportunity to reflect together on our day, and on our emotions and our choices. I wonder: Is there someone that you can reflect on your day with? Someone who can pray for you, and you for them – even if it's just a 5 or 10-minute phone call each day? You could do this with your spouse, or a grandchild, or a friend. This is the kind of small practice that I think, over time, can make a huge impact in your relationships – both with the people around you, and with God.

If you decide to try this, please let me know how it goes! As always, I am praying for all of you – for peace, and to know God's love, and to experience Christ's joy, today and always.

In Christ's Love,



Pastor Becky

PASTOR BECKY'S DROP-IN HOURS (WEEK OF 3/3*):

Tues. - 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Wed. - 11 AM - 1:00 PM

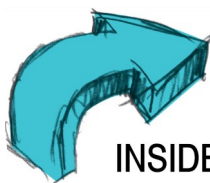
Thurs. - 9:30 AM - noon

Pastor Becky is available outside of these drop-in hours.

To schedule an appointment, contact the church office.

Monday is Becky's Sabbath.

**See bulletin or call to confirm office hours later in month.*



INSIDE:

1. Pastor's Page
2. Holy Week/Easter, Easter Flowers
3. Events, New Series
4. Missions
5. Thank you, Milestones, Phil Gehm
6. Around Union Avenue, Finance
7. Calendar

NEXT ISSUE:

**April deadline:
Friday,
March 15**





COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES

7:00 pm, Sundays, March 3, 10, 17, 24 | The Alliance of Churches invites everyone to attend this year’s community Lenten services with 11 other participating churches. Host churches are listed below. Each evening’s message will be brought by the pastor of another participating church.

See the Fellowship Hall bulletin board for the flyer with complete details.

- March 3 - Grace Community Church, 13245 Edison St.
- March 10 - Trinity Episcopal Church, 1200 S. Union Ave.
- March 17 - Alliance Friends Church, 1307 W. State St.
- March 24 - Alliance First Christian Church, 1141 W. Beech St.

HOLY THURSDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

7:00 pm, Thursday, March 28 | Join us for our Union Avenue Holy Thursday service as we observe Jesus’s final hours.

COMMUNITY GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

7:00 pm, Friday, March 29 | This year’s community Good Friday service will be held at Christ United Methodist Church, 470 E. Broadway St.

EASTER

9:45 am, Sunday, March 31 | You, and your family and friends, are invited to join us here at Union Avenue for our Easter worship service. Our Easter celebration will feature special music, a Children’s Moment, and more.



2024 EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

List number of each you are ordering. Plants are \$11.50 each:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| _____ Easter Lilies (white) | _____ Tulips |
| _____ Daffodils | _____ Hyacinths |
| _____ Total number of plants | |



_____ Amount enclosed (1 = \$11.50, 2 = \$23, 3 = \$34.50, 4 = \$46)

IN MEMORY of: _____

IN HONOR of: _____

GIVEN by: _____

_____ **I will pick up after the Easter service.**

Place this form and payment in offering plate or turn in to church office. — **Orders due March 11**

NOTE: Some flower supplies are limited. It is possible we might need to substitute other flowers.



YOUTH GROUP (GRADES 6-12)

Our youth group will meet Sunday, March 10th from 6-7:30 p.m. All youth are invited to join the congregation for our observances of Holy Week, and our Easter celebration (details on page 2).

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 drop in whenever you are available.

3RD FRIDAY YOGA CHURCH

6:30 pm, Friday, March 15 | Join us for gentle yoga, prayer and meditation. Bring a yoga mat, or use ours.

BOOK CLUB

7:00 pm, Monday, May 6 | *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.

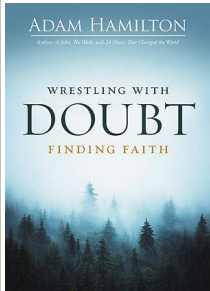
COPELAND OAKS

MINISTRY TO CRANDALL

10:00 am, Tuesday, March 12 | Crandall Medical Center residents are invited to join us at 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, March 26, 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!



WRESTLING WITH DOUBT, FINDING FAITH WORSHIP SERIES—BEGINS APRIL 7th

We are offering a six-week worship series based on Adam Hamilton's book, *Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith*. We will look at some of the biggest faith questions people ask, and talk about how to find God in the midst of our questions and doubts. Our adult Sunday School class, The Gathering, will study the book alongside the series. If you cannot attend The Gathering but would like to order a copy of the book, please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate. Checks can be made payable to Union Avenue UMC with "Wrestling with God" on the memo line. Books are \$14.00.

Name _____ No. of books @ \$14.00 _____ = \$ _____

Phone or email _____

ORDERS DUE MARCH 10TH

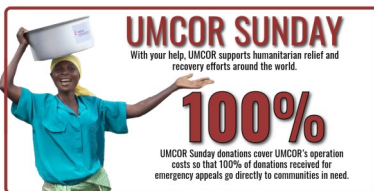


RAIDERS COVE THANKS YOU!

Thank you again, Union Avenue, for coming through with much generosity to support local needs. Our neighbors, Mount Union students, will benefit from your gifts of snacks, food items, and toiletries. In addition, \$120 has been donated.

These will be greatly appreciated by students who visit the Raiders Cove, Mount Union's pantry. Items will be delivered early this month and will help students finish the school year. We are so thankful that our members continue to find ways to support Mount Union!

UMCOR SUNDAY — THROUGH MARCH 10



UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) supports the administration and

operational needs of UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) so that **100%** of our donations to various Advance missions throughout the year go **directly** to the mission area.

Giving guides are available at the back of the sanctuary with fun giving suggestions such as give 5 cents for every hairbrush you have in your house. Or perhaps you would like to donate your loose change. Mark your envelope with "UMCOR Sunday" and your name. If it is more convenient for you to donate via check, be sure to write "UMCOR Sunday" on the memo line. The final collection is Sunday, March 10.



EASTER OFFERING — MARCH 31

The Easter Offering this year will be divided among many worthy causes:

- \$500 to our Bishops' Discretionary Fund to be used for outreach missions
- \$500 for Dollar General gift cards for A-FIRST kids' birthdays
- \$500 to the YWCA's Diversity Walk to be held in September. Our donation will sponsor the walk and go toward permits, food, and activities.

If there is money above the \$1,500 total for the three funds listed, it will be split evenly between:

- Clothed in Righteousness to assist those who homeless and also the underserved in our community
- YWCA's SARTA bus pass grant program. The SARTA grant matches dollar for dollar any donations given to this program. A 31 day bus pass costs \$45, and there is great need for these passes for those without transportation in Alliance.

Please help support the Easter Offering, March 31. If you donate with a check, please write "Easter Offering" on the memo line.

OTHER SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES: YWCA TRANSITIONAL AND SHORT-TERM HOUSING

The YWCA has purchased a building on South Union Avenue for transitional/short-term housing. Dishes, tables, lamps, beds, etc., are needed to furnish the facility. Call 330-823-1840 to arrange donations.

TEACH REACH BLESS CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The Bishop Tracy S. Malone Hall of Residence for Female Students was dedicated on the campus of Africa University on February 26. Special offerings from East Ohio Conference churches, including Union Avenue, made the building possible.

Dedication video: <https://vimeo.com/916828578>

Thank you

Thank you very much for praying, for the cards, and for the visits from the pastors.

Joyce Lackey

Thank you for your generous donation! Donations like yours help us provide food for Alliance community members all year long. We distributed over 755,000 pounds of food.

Alliance Community Pantry

3 – Gene Dawson	6 – Mike Patterson	13 – Barb Gaughan
5 – Karen Currey	7 – Mary McGeehen	13 – Carole Snodgrass
10 – Sandy Rodman	11 – Jessie Canavan	13 – Steffani Vickers
		14 – Cricket Slack
		17 – Anna Leforte
		17 – Elaine Miller
		19 – Joyce Lackey
		22 – Kay England
		23 – John Armitage
		27 – Sandy McLachlan
		29 – Mark Harper

Deaths
IN THE CHURCH FAMILY

Our hearts and prayers go out to the family of:
Robert Albrich — February 9



IN REMEMBRANCE

Union Avenue said goodbye last month to our beloved Director of Music Emeritus, Rev. Phillip S. Gehm. Phil passed away January 29th, age 91. He became the Union Avenue organist in 1966. In 1989, he was appointed Director of Music as well as organist. He retired after 44 years of service.

Phil’s funeral, held here at Union Avenue on February 10th, was fittingly musical. Kim Lewis, our current Director of Music, and our Chancel Choir played and sang some of Phil’s favorite pieces*. His notes about the music for his funeral said, “I’ll be watching!”



****Phil’s Favorite Music***

- God of Grace and God of Glory
- A Mighty Fortress is Our God
- My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
- Creation Will Be at Peace
- Make Me a Channel of Your Peace
- Nimrod (No. 9 of the Variations on an Original Theme)
- ...and others



AROUND UNION AVENUE

Photos:

Top left/right- Thanks to the Union Avenue UMC youth group and adult volunteers for making our 2024 Superbowl Subs on February 11th!



Lower right-

On February 18th, we welcomed students from Mount Union's Social Responsibilities class. Abby Schroeder, the Director of the Regula Center of Public Service and Civic Engagement shared about the upcoming service trip, as well as Dr. Steve Kramer, who started the course.



STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE

STEWARDSHIP MONTHLY REPORT – JANUARY 2024

We are off to a great start in 2024. We have received advance payment of the annual pledge commitments from several members already. This really helps with planning the work we will be able accomplish in 2024. This month, the United Methodist Men's group distributed \$5,000 of the proceeds from last year's projects, which many of you participated in, to support local mission partners in the Alliance area. We are doing Gods' work and impacting lives in our local community!

	January	Year-to-Date 1/31/24	Last Year at 1/31/23
Operating Income Donations Received	\$ 37,377	\$ 46,566	\$ 40,037
Operating Expenses	\$ 29,401	\$ 29,401	\$ 26,540
Net	\$ 7,976	\$ 17,164	\$ 13,497
Additional Contributions Received			
Missions / Benevolences	\$ 6,234	\$ 6,234	\$ 602
Directed Giving - Specific UAUMC Needs	\$ 187	\$ 187	\$ 758
Building & Maintenance	\$ 220	\$ 220	\$ 1,175
Memorials & Endowments	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ -
Total Gifts Received	\$ 44,118	\$ 53,307	\$ 42,572
Operating Fund Balances			
Specific Purpose Encumbered Funds Held Balance	\$ 69,145	\$ 102,992	
Operating Reserve Balance	\$ 22,000	\$ 18,086	
Available Operating Account Balance	\$ 56,065	\$ 25,916	



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

C - Church, Z - Zoom, F - facebook.com/uaumc

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Union Avenue Administrative Council: Chairperson – Clyde Lepley (+Ushers); Lay Leader – Len Slack; Annual Conf. – Dana Bericchia; Financial Secy. – Chris Cochran; Treas. – Tyler Kinser; Secy. – rotates; UMM – D. Bashore, K. Cochran, B. Hawkins; Historian – Karen Perone. At-Large: Kathy Butcher, Pat Gates, Mark Harper, Linda Miller (2024) Dick Bashore, Kathy Kramer (2025) Jim Bales, John McIntosh (2026)</p> <p>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>						
3 9:45am Worship (C, F) 11am 91.1 FM, HOLY COMMUNION	4	5 4:30pm Spaghetti Dinner (at CUMC)	6 10am Bible Study 6pm Praise Team	7 10am The Hour (Z) 6:15pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir	8	9 Begins 3/10: 
10 9:45am Worship (C, F) 11am 91.1 FM 6pm Youth	11 8:30am UMU Coffee Cart	12 10am Service at Crandall	13 10am Bible Study 6pm Praise Team 6:30pm SPRC	14 10am The Hour (Z) 6:15pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir	15 CIRCUIT RIDER DEADLINE 6:30pm Yoga Church	16
17 8am UMM Breakfast 9:45am Worship (C, F) 11am 91.1 FM	18	19	20 10am Bible Study 6pm Praise Team 7pm Trustees	21 10am The Hour (Z) 6:15pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir	22	23
24 PALM SUNDAY 9:45am Worship (C, F) 11am 91.1 FM	25 8:30am UMU Coffee Cart	26 10am UA at Copeland Oaks	27 10am Bible Study 6pm Praise Team	28 10am The Hour (Z) 7:00pm MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE	29 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00pm COMMUNITY GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE	30
31 EASTER 9:45am Worship (C, F) 11am 91.1 FM 	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.		SUNDAY SCHOOL and SOCIAL HOUR: Kids - 9-9:30 Social Hour - 9:00 Adults - 11:00			



**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](https://www.facebook.com/uaumc),
[instagram.com/unionavenueumc](https://www.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](https://www.facebook.com/uaumc); 11 a.m. on WRMU 91.1 FM