



## Wrestling with God, Finding Faith

Dear Union Avenue United Methodist Church Family,

Happy Easter! It's been my joy to celebrate Christ's resurrection with you this week. Today, I am looking forward to the next journey we will take together. When I was maybe ten or eleven, I asked my mother why we were United Methodists. I don't remember everything she said, but I will always remember her immediate reply: "Because in the United Methodist church, you don't have to check your brain at the door."

I know there is much more to being a United Methodist – particularly that we put our faith into action – but my mom hit on something that has always been important to me. Growing up United Methodist, I always felt it was important to ask questions. I never felt that my curiosity about God and Scripture was being judged.

It would be years before I learned about what many call the **Wesleyan Quadrilateral**: the idea that for the founder of the Methodist movement,

**"the living core of our faith [is] revealed in Scripture,  
illuminated by tradition,  
vivified in personal experience,  
and confirmed by reason,"**

with Scripture being primary, as the revelation of God's love in Jesus is found within it (United Methodist Book of Discipline, page 77). When I learned this and learned that John Wesley was a brilliant scholar with a deep faith lived out in loving service, I felt that the United Methodist Church was truly my spiritual home. I think that God honors our questions, because asking questions is part of being in any real, genuine relationship.

At Union Avenue UMC, our mission statement is that we are

**"called to be faithful servants, sharing the good news of God's grace."**

To me, this means that we model Christ's love through acts of service, even as we pray and worship and ask questions to grow deeper in our faith. I love the curiosity of this church, and your willingness to embrace people who are at any point in their faith journey.

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### PASTOR BECKY'S OFFICE DROP-IN HOURS:

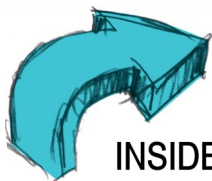
**Tuesdays - 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM (4th Tuesday 11 AM-1 PM)**

**Wednesdays - 11 AM - 1:00 PM      Thursdays - 12-2 PM**

*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:

- 1-2. Pastor's Pages
2. General Conference, Communion Servers
3. Events, Camp
4. Missions
5. Milestones, Marco Bridgeman, Thank you
6. In Case You Missed It, Finance
7. Calendar

### **NEXT ISSUE:**

**May deadline:  
Monday,  
April 15**

...continued from prior page

For six weeks beginning April 7th, we will be journeying through Adam Hamilton's new book, *Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith*. We'll explore some of the biggest faith questions that people ask about – [scripture](#), [judgement](#), [justice](#), [suffering](#), [Heaven and Hell](#), and [prayer](#).

This is a great opportunity to invite friends to worship – especially folks who have questions but haven't felt comfortable asking them for fear of being judged in some churches.

**I want to challenge you:** As we celebrate Easter and the joy of resurrection, think about someone you know who is searching for meaning, and invite them to join us on this journey. Tell them what you love about our church. Accept the challenge to draw the circle wider, and share the good thing you love with people you care about.

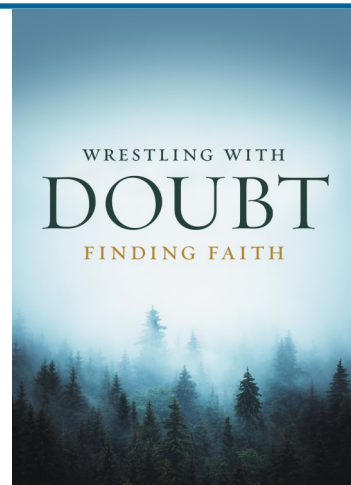
Sometimes I tell new people that on the surface we might not seem like the coolest church on the block, but our church is filled with awesome people who live their faith in loving action – and we *are* super cool, theologically-speaking.

So, my cool friends, here's to the next journey we're about to take! Invite someone to come along! And keep celebrating, every day, the resurrection power of Christ that breathes new life into each one of us, in the good times and in times of struggle. Christ is risen indeed!

In Christ's Love,



Pastor Becky



### **OUR WIDER CONNECTIONS — GENERAL CONFERENCE 2024**

From **April 23rd to May 3rd**, United Methodist delegates from around the world will gather in Charlotte, North Carolina. This body usually meets every four years, but the 2020 gathering was delayed due to the pandemic.

Bishop Tracy Malone, Bishop of the East Ohio Annual Conference and Council of Bishops President, encourages all United Methodists to pray daily for the delegates to this year's General Conference. Please hold this gathering in your prayers as they make important decisions for the future of the United Methodist Church.

**To learn more** about this year's conference and legislation being voted on, visit <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020>

### **SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES — COMMUNION SERVERS**

Volunteers are needed to help serve communion, usually on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month. If you are willing to help in this ministry, please complete the form below. Drop the form below in the offering plate or at the church office. For more information, please contact Carla McIntosh or the office.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



**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 join us whenever you are available.

**YOUTH GROUP (GRADES 6-12)**

**6:00-7:30 pm, Sunday, April 7** | Our youth group will meet at the church on Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. All youth and parents are invited to join the entire church family for a skate night. Details below.



**CHURCH SKATE NIGHT**

**When: 6:00-8:00 pm, Tuesday, April 23**

**Where: Deerfield Skating Center (8135 Waterloo Rd., Atwater\*)**

Join your church family and friends for a night of fun at Deerfield

Skating Center! Cost is \$2 per person, paid to the skate center on arrival. Bring extra cash for food, drinks, and arcade games. Friends are welcome! Outside food and drinks are prohibited at the center. RSVP via QR code or the sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary. \*Corner OH-225 and US-224.



**3<sup>RD</sup> FRIDAY YOGA CHURCH**

**6:30 pm, Friday, April 19** | 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, April 9** | 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, April 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!

**SUMMER CAMP**

**CAMP PREVIEW DAY**

**2:00-6:00 pm, Saturday, April 27** | Camp Wanake will host a Resurrection Egg Hunt and Camp Preview Day. Families, children, and teens of all ages are welcome! 9463 Manchester Ave. SW, Beach City. See flyer on bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

**CAMPERSHIPS**

Camperships are available. See Pastor Becky or contact the church office to learn more.



**A HUGE SHOUT OUT!**

Thank you for your generous support! Mount Union’s social responsibility class trip to the Dominican Republic was supported by members of Union Avenue United Methodist Church who gave \$2,302.

Donations for UMCOR Sunday (which provides for the administrative costs of UMCOR) totaled \$904.07.

The generosity of our congregation is amazing! We support such a variety of outreach missions and truly make a difference!

**AFRICA UNIVERSITY RESIDENCE HALL DEDICATED**

Through the generosity of laity and clergy supporting the East Ohio Conference’s \$1.5 million Teach-Reach-Bless campaign envisioned by Bishop Malone in 2020, a new residence hall for female students is now a reality on the campus of Africa University. The Bishop Tracy S. Malone Hall of Residence was dedicated February 26, 2024. Union Avenue United Methodist Church generously supported this campaign.

A team of pastors, congregations, and faith communities of the East Ohio Conference was on campus to participate in the dedication of the three-floor, residence hall designed with a commitment to accessibility and inclusivity for 92 female students.

During the dedication, many people expressed deep appreciation for the new residence hall and the contributions of East Ohio Conference to make it a reality. Bishop Malone said, “Education has been and still is a core value of The United Methodist Church. Since the earliest days of the Methodist movement, John Wesley believed education was the key to a fuller, richer life, a pathway for ethical, responsible

living. When I cast a vision to the Conference...it was this vision...that kept us stayed on purpose. Thank you, Lord, for the vision. Thank you, Lord, for the commitment. Thank you, Lord, for Africa University.”

**BLESSING BOX SUPPORT – APRIL 1-28**

Sarah Conley, a senior at Mount Union, is doing an internship at the Alliance City Health Dept. Outside the Health Department is a “blessing box.” It is stocked a few times a week with non-perishable food and other necessities that people are able to take if they are in need. With it being available 24/7, it is a great resource for those who may need something to eat at a time when other agencies aren’t open. Sarah is hoping our congregation might provide donations to help stock the blessing box. The project is a part of her senior biology major “culminating experience.”

Please consider donating items in the collection baskets located in the north hallway and at the back of the sanctuary. Items that are most needed include:

- |                                    |                     |                         |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Canned goods</b>                | <b>Granola bars</b> | <b>Packs of oatmeal</b> |
| <b>Cereal</b>                      | <b>Rice</b>         | <b>Pasta</b>            |
| <b>Individually wrapped snacks</b> | <b>Toilet paper</b> |                         |
| <b>Paper towels</b>                | <b>Tissues</b>      | <b>Bars of soap</b>     |

**NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY — APRIL 14**

Through Native American Ministries Sunday, we are able, as people of The United Methodist Church, to equip and empower Native American pastors, congregations and seminary students to do what only they can do: authentically worship and serve Jesus.


When you support Native American Ministries Sunday, you equip seminary students who will honor and celebrate Native American culture in their ministries. You empower congregations that are finding fresh ways to minister to their Native communities with the love of Christ.

Please support this important United Methodist Giving Sunday by writing “Native American Sunday” on the memo line of your check.





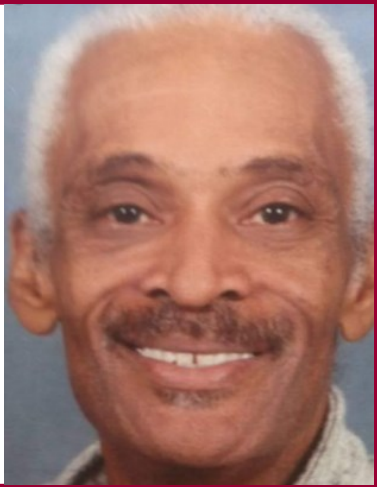
- |                      |                    |                     |  |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--|
| 2 – Shirley Sackett  | 8 – Patti Brimlow  | 15 – Don Van Fossen | 26 – Craig Bara  |
| 6 – Mary Kay Hawkins | 8 – Susan Fahey    | 16 – Brad Goris     | 27 – Kiernan Canavan   |
|                      | 9 – Anne Freshly   | 18 – Wally Armour   | 28 – Kim Lewis   |
|                      | 13 – Sue Goris     | 19 – Frank Boyce    | 30 – Peter Fahey   |
|                      | 13 – John McIntosh | 21 – Carson Vickers |  |
|                      | 13 – David West    | 22 – Thomas Madison | <i>Contact the church office to have your birthday included.</i> |
|                      | 15 – Will Stolicny | 24 – Jen Slack      |  |




***Our hearts and prayers go out to the family of:***  
Marco Bridgeman — March 9

**IN REMEMBRANCE**

Union Avenue said goodbye to Marco Bridgeman who passed away March 9th, age 68. Marco played drums with Union Avenue’s Praise Team for 8 years, and served as a church trustee for nearly 10 years. Marco is shown here (below) in November 2017 with John Rasile (guitar) and Jim Perone (clarinet), when the trio Einbahn Strasse (German for One Way Street), performed at Union Avenue for a public program sponsored by the Alliance Music Study Club.





Thank you to everyone for the prayers, cards, and calls as I recovered from surgery. They were very much appreciated.

**Sandy Schott**

The family and friends of Phil Gehm wish to express their sincere gratitude for the outpour of love from his church family at his memorial service and beyond. We wish to thank Pastor Becky, Pastor Coralee, Kim Lewis, the Choir, Dale Brown, and everyone who took part in the most beautiful celebration of life. Phil would have enjoyed the church’s tasty culinary meal prepared by his friends after the service.

**Craig Stephen Bara**

We want to let you know how much we appreciate your continuing donations of food items to the Pantry. Your support is a blessing to people in need in our area. Thank you!

**Alliance Community Pantry**

Thank you for your donation of sub sandwiches. Your support allows to provide survivors with safe shelter, food, clothing, advocacy and counseling at no cost.

**Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter**

Together, may we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children...and to demonstrate genuine love for our neighbors. Thank you notes also received from: **UMCOR, Church World Service, Blankets/Tools**

# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



In addition to our Easter service here at Union Avenue (above), many of our Union Avenue family at Copeland Oaks attended Vespers in the Copeland Oaks chapel on Easter evening (right). Union Avenue's Chancel Choir provided music for the service.



## STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE

### STEWARDSHIP MONTHLY REPORT – FEBRUARY 2024

Our good start to 2024 continued in February, putting us in a good position to strengthen our long-term financial health and continue to solidify our base for service in our community. Once again you have answered the call to support our Mount Union student neighbors through gifts to Raider's Cove and the Social Responsibilities Class mission trip. We are also running well ahead of our Connectional Mission Askings goal set by the East Ohio Conference.

	February	Year-to-Date 2/29/24	Last Year at 2/28/23
<b>Operating Income Donations Received</b>	\$ 31,652	\$ 78,218	\$ 65,100
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	\$ 25,744	\$ 55,125	\$ 53,129
<b>Net</b>	\$ 5,908	\$ 23,092	\$ 11,971
<b>Additional Contributions Received</b>			
<b>Missions / Benevolences</b>	\$ 2,062	\$ 8,296	\$ 3,357
<b>Directed Giving - Specific UAUMC Needs</b>	\$ 899	\$ 1,086	\$ 1,811
<b>Building &amp; Maintenance</b>	\$ 170	\$ 390	\$ 1,325
<b>Memorials &amp; Endowments</b>	\$ 555	\$ 655	\$ 50
<b>Total Gifts Received</b>	\$ 35,338	\$ 88,645	\$ 71,643
<b>Operating Fund Balances</b>			
<b>Specific Purpose Encumbered Funds Held Balance</b>		\$ 70,582	\$ 103,880
<b>Operating Reserve Balance</b>		\$ 22,000	\$ 22,000
<b>Available Operating Account Balance</b>		\$ 56,374	\$ 23,466



**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
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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. – 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)

**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)

		2 4:30pm Spaghetti Dinner (at CUMC)	3 10am Bible Study 6pm Praise Team	4 10am The Hour (Z) 6:15pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir	5	6
7 9:45am Worship (C, F) 11am 91.1 FM <b>HOLY COMMUNION</b> 6pm Youth	8 8:30am UMU Coffee Cart <b>ECLIPSE</b> 5:30pm Seed Planting	9 10am Service at Crandall	10 10am Bible Study 6pm Praise Team 6:30pm SPRC	11 10am The Hour (Z) 6:15pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Chancel Choir	12	13
14 8am UMM Breakfast 9:45am Worship (C, F) 11am 91.1 FM	15 <b>CIRCUIT RIDER DEADLINE</b>	16 5pm Preschool Board 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 <b>6:30pm Yoga Church</b>	20
21 9:45am Worship (C, F) 11am 91.1 FM	22 8:30am UMU Coffee Cart	23 10am UA at Copeland Oaks 6pm Skate Night (Deerfield Skating Center)	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	 <p><b>Kids - 9-9:30</b>  <b>Social Hour - 9:00</b>  <b>Adults - 11:00</b></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](mailto:office@unionavenueumc.org)

Website: [unionavenueumc.org](http://unionavenueumc.org)

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