

Dear Union Avenue UMC Family,

Greetings in Christ! In last month’s letter, I talked about the season of Advent, which begins in November. In this month’s letter, I want to talk about gratitude – because as I am writing this, I am preparing to go to Michigan in a few days to spend Thanksgiving with my family there. It feels a little backward, flipping Advent and Thanksgiving – but really, isn’t it always a good time to think about gratitude? I have shared with you before that scientists have discovered that practicing gratitude actually makes us happier and better able to handle the ups and downs of life. This Thanksgiving, I am grateful for my family, my health, my home, our beloved dog Minnie, and for all of you. I feel so blessed to pastor such a loving, caring church family. What are you grateful for?

The holidays are busy and can be stressful. They are especially difficult for people who have lost loved ones in recent or even in distant years. As we celebrate Thanksgiving and move towards Christmas, I encourage you to think about what practices ground you and draw you close to God when life feels chaotic, either with joy or stress or sadness. Lately I have been meditating for 15 minutes every morning before my prayer time. I find that this time of sitting still and paying attention to my breath helps me to be more present throughout the rest of the day. It helps me to notice the little things that I might otherwise miss, small things my family members or coworkers do that I am grateful for, for instance. It reminds me to say the words that matter, and to let go of the things that don’t - and it helps me to be more aware of God’s presence in my day.

Is there something small, a habit or ritual that you can do in this busy time to center you in God’s presence? It might be a daily 10 minute walk, or playing an instrument, or your morning devotion, or simply taking a few minutes each day to mentally list or write down things for which you are grateful. I find that small, simple practices like these can make a huge difference in my health and well-being during the holidays.

I am holding you all in prayer as you celebrate the holidays, and as you deal with all the varied emotions that holidays can bring. Know that you are loved, and that God is with you always.

In Christ’s Love,

Pastor Becky

Pastor Becky



PASTOR BECKY’S OFFICE DROP-IN HOURS
See the Sunday bulletin for current week’s details.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1. Pastor’s Letter | 5. Stewardship, Youth | <u>NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE:</u>
<i>Monday, December 15</i> |
| 2. Advent/Christmas, Poinsettia Order Form | 6. Staff News, Passings, Thank You Notes | |
| 3. Missions | 7. Calendar, Birthdays | |
| 4. Meetings/Events, Youth | | |



ADVENT DEVOTIONALS AND PRAYER CALENDARS

We are providing daily Advent Devotionals from *A Sanctified Art* based on our theme, "What do you fear? Insisting on hope this Advent." These beautiful color devotionals include poems, artwork, music, and theological reflections based on the scriptures of the season. We will

also have some daily breath prayer calendars available for your use. Materials are on the table at the back of the Sanctuary and outside the office.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

11:00 AM (after worship), Sunday, December 7

Union Avenue’s Mental Health Awareness and Social Ministries Teams invite you to lunch with delicious soup and more. No signups are needed.

We will be providing everything, just come and enjoy fellowship and the meal!

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

7:00 PM, Sunday, December 21

Come hear special Advent and Christmas music Provided by our Union Avenue Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, Praise Team singers, and others.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

7:30 PM, Tuesday, December 24

Plan to join us for our Christmas Eve candlelight service. The family-friendly service features special music and the reading of the Christmas story.



A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS ?????

9:45 AM, Sunday, December 28

Our kids and youth will present *A Charlie Brown Christmas* during our morning worship service.

Christmas Poinsettias

Available in red, white, or pink. **Cost is \$12 per plant.**

ALL poinsettias **MUST** be left in the sanctuary **UNTIL AFTER** the Christmas Eve service. If you are unable to pick up at that time, plants will be held in Fellowship Hall for pickup later.

Please indicate the number of plants desired: _____ RED _____ WHITE _____ PINK

IN MEMORY OF: _____

or IN HONOR OF: _____

PRESENTED BY: _____

I will pick up plant after the Christmas Eve service _____ (remaining plants will be donated)

Please mark your payment "POINSETTIAS," make payable to Union Avenue UMC. Place order and payment in offering or mail/drop off to the office. **ORDER DEADLINE: MON., DECEMBER 8**



THANK YOU FOR FILLING THE THANKSGIVING ALTAR

Your generosity filled the Thanksgiving altar with hundreds of items for Harvesting Hope in addition to monetary donations of \$1,570. Tonya Dean, executive director of this organization that provides food and other necessities to the underserved, especially in Sebring, Beloit, Damascus, Alliance and rural areas, was thrilled with the outpouring of love shown by our congregation for those less fortunate. Thank you for remembering: *“And the King will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”*



**#GIVING TUESDAY -
DECEMBER 2**

There is a very special day after Black Friday, Small Business Saturday,

and Cyber Monday when you can help organizations that provide for the needs of others: *#Giving Tuesday*.

For the United Methodist Church, this special day focuses on our “connectional giving” - a unique system where congregations come together to support ministries that no single church could do alone. Your online gift is a powerful way to live out our faith---united in love, service, and purpose.

Please consider helping by visiting:

- Giving Tuesday, EOC Advance Specials (which supports 19 East Ohio Conference Advance Specials ministries) *and/or*
- Giving Tuesday, UMC.

(Donors can schedule a donation in advance of December 2, 2025.)

Connect Your Passion with God’s Mission at umcmmission.org/give where you can support one or more of 800+ Advance projects and 300+ missionaries in the U.S. and worldwide.

THE GIVING TREE – THROUGH DECEMBER 9 — ALL TAGS HAVE BEEN TAKEN – THANK YOU!

Just incredible! The Giving Trees were filled with tags on Nov. 7. And by the next Sunday, Nov. 16, *ALL* gift tags had been taken! What a blessing! Thank you!

If you took a tag(s): Purchase the suggested new item, place it in a wrapped box or gift bag, *reattach the tag* and place it either under the tree in the sanctuary or deliver to the church office by Sunday, December 7.

Return all grocery gift cards, to the office. *Please* do not leave gift cards under the tree!



**ADVENT OFFERING -
DECEMBER 24**

For *many* years, we have had an Advent offering. *Every* year, 100% of donated funds are shared with local outreach missions in our area.

This year’s Advent Offering will be divided among four very worthy causes.

Union Avenue United Methodist Preschool Director Pam Harlan, would appreciate funds to support the staff and preschool needs. Young children greatly benefit from a preschool experience.

Community Outreach Fund supports those with one time needs such as utility payments. Our giving will continue to provide assistance to those who are in need and who qualify in our community.

Clothed in Righteousness provides meals, and also clothing, shoes, warm bedding, easy to open and eat food items, and other necessitates for the homeless and others in need.

Harvesting Hope focuses on the needs of seniors with food, fellowship, and purpose in addition to helping alleviate food insecurity for all.

Your Advent giving touches the lives of so many others...of all ages...in the Alliance and surrounding communities. Thank you for your gifts!



THE GATHERING (ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS) - 11:00 AM, Sundays - NO CLASS DEC. 7, 28, OR JAN. 4

BIBLE STUDY—10:00-11:00 AM, Wednesdays —NO STUDY DEC. 24 OR 31

THE HOUR DISCUSSION GROUP — 10:00 AM, Thursdays (Zoom) - NO MEETING DEC. 25 OR JAN. 1

Zoom link: Mike Patterson at mkpatter@aol.com.

UNITED METHODIST MEN'S BREAKFAST

8:30 AM, Sunday, December 7 | Join us for coffee, juice, and donuts in the Gathering room (Sanctuary level, end of hall). We'll discuss upcoming projects. See Kerry Cochran for details.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH - December 7, after Worship

Union Avenue's Mental Health Awareness and Social Ministries Teams will be serving soup and more. No signups, we will be providing everything, just come and enjoy.

BOOK CLUB

Zoom link: kbericchia@gmail.com

7:00 PM, Monday, December 8 (in-person/Zoom) | Irish writer Claire Keegan's *Small Things Like These* is a novel of quiet heroism and moral courage. Set in a small Irish town in 1985, coal merchant Bill Furlong uncovers a haunting secret at a local convent, forcing him to confront a profound ethical dilemma.

COPELAND OAKS: MINISTRY TO CRANDALL MEDICAL CENTER

10:00 AM, Tuesday, December 9 | Crandall residents are invited to our next service. Other Copeland Oaks residents are invited to come visit with residents, help them to/from the dining hall and sing hymns.

YOGA CHURCH

6:30-7:30 PM, Friday, December 19 | This worship gathering incorporates gentle movement with modifications for all levels, prayer, meditation, and a brief scripture reflection. Every service ends with extended rest. Connect to Christ as you connect with the breath and body God has gifted you! Bring a mat or use ours.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Church Bowling - Saturday, January 10 - more details coming





Stewardship and Finance
Kevin Redinger, Finance chairperson
Christine Cochran, Financial secretary
Tyler Kinser, Treasurer Brad Goris, Endowment chairperson

PATHWAYS TO GENEROSITY STEWARDSHIP UPDATE & THANK YOU!

As of November 23rd, we have received a total of 72 pledges for a total of \$326,492 in pledges for 2026. The Union Avenue UMC Stewardship Team is amazed by your generosity, and grateful for your support of Christ's mission through Union Avenue UMC Church. Thank you!



2025 FINAL DEPOSIT

Sunday, December 28, 2025 is the last day to make a contribution and have it listed on your 2025 statement. Contributions given after December 28, 2025 will be listed in 2026. If you have any questions regarding your 2025 pledge balance or contributions, please call Chris Cochran at 330-821-8920 or email ckochran@aol.com. Thank you.

2026 ESTIMATE OF GIVING CARDS — STILL TIME TO TURN IN

Estimate of Giving cards are available at the back of the sanctuary and from the church office.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you requested 2026 offering envelopes, they are on the table at the back of the sanctuary near the clock. To request envelopes, please fill out the form below and place in the offering plate or return to the office.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES — YES, I WOULD LIKE 2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES.

Name _____ Phone _____

Union Avenue Youth & Parents Volunteer with Project Feed (more photos page 4, left)

On Sunday, November 16th, youth and parent volunteers attended Project Feed, an annual food packing event where East Ohio Conference students gather to make "blessing bags" for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center, a ministry of the United Methodist Church. This year, more than 300 volunteers from 31 churches gathered at Kent UMC to pack blessing bags that will feed 27,000 people affected by Hurricane Melissa in Jamaica. Each food bag contained rice, soy protein, dried vegetables, and a nutrient and spice packet. Our youth and parents enjoyed participating in a meaningful act of service together!



Union Avenue UMC Welcomes New Minister of Pastoral Care in January

On Tuesday, January 6th, Rev. Dawn Beamish will begin serving as the new part-time Minister of Pastoral Care at Union Avenue. Rev. Beamish is a retired deacon in the Kentucky United Methodist Annual Conference. She is a native of Ohio, and moved to Copeland Oaks in October.

Pastor Dawn has served as a local pastor; a children's pastor; a hospital chaplain at Baptist Health Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky; Minister of Discipleship Development at St. Luke United Methodist Church in Lexington, KY; and most recently as the Director of the Campus Christian Center at the University of Idaho. Pastor Dawn has also taught grades 6-12 and served as an adjunct instructor at Asbury Theological Seminary in Kentucky. She holds a PhD in Intercultural Studies and a Master of Divinity, both from Asbury Theological Seminary. Pastor Dawn has much experience in pastoral care, and says that visiting people is one of her biggest joys in ministry.

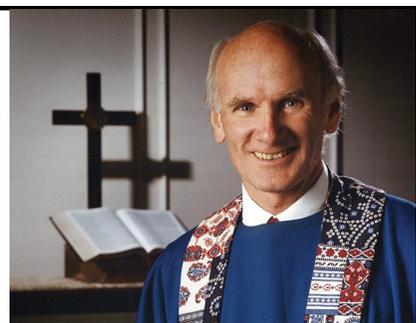
She is an outdoor enthusiast who enjoys sailing, kayaking, swimming, skiing, hiking, biking, traveling, and spending quality time with her beloved Border Collie, Rocket Man (Rocky). Pastor Becky and the Staff Parish Relations Committee are thrilled to welcome Pastor Dawn into this position, and we ask that you keep her in prayer in this time of transition. Thank you for giving Pastor Dawn a warm Union Avenue welcome!



Dr. Edwin Daniel Aluzas, minister at Union Avenue UMC from 1973 to 1975 passed away on March 4, 2025. Dr. Aluzas is survived by his wife Gloria Chase Aluzas, daughter Annette Aluzas (Doug Schmit), son Kurt Aluzas (Sylvia Ho), and son Jonathan Aluzas (Melina).

Obituary: <https://claremont-courier.com/obituaries/edwin-daniel-aluzas-beloved-husband-and-father-82777/>

Condolences: Gloria Aluzas, 650 Harrison Ave. #EM118, Claremont CA 91711



Thank You! Thank you so much for your kind words, cards, and gift certificates for Pastors' Appreciation Month.

I am incredibly grateful to serve such a loving church family.

Pastor Becky

Many sincere thanks for your food donations. The need grows ever greater, and we rely on the generosity of community members to help and meet that need. Thank you!

Alliance Community Pantry

Thank you for those who have given me rides to church, and then home again. Your kindness enables me to continue attending.

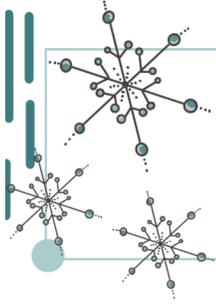
Sandy Schott

Your contribution has helped make a direct difference in the Alliance community. Your support is greatly appreciated.

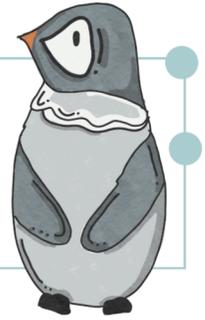
YWCA

I love college and I love not worrying how to pay for it! Seriously though, the scholarship I received from you means I can live on campus with my friends and attend cool classes and get involved with campus activities. I appreciate your generosity!

Alea Simbro



December 2025



SUNDAYS: 9:45 AM (also Facebook Live); 11:00 AM - 91.1 FM

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			10A Bible Study	10A The Hour (Z)		
		5P Spaghetti (at Christ UMC)	6P Praise Team	6:15P Bell Choir 7:30P Chancel Choir		
7 8:30A UMM 9:45A Worship Communion 11A 91.1 FM 11A Luncheon	8	9	10	11	12	13
		10A Crandall Service	10A Bible Study	10A The Hour (Z)		
	7PM Book Club		6P Praise Team	6:15P Bell Choir 7:30P Chancel Choir		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:45A Worship 11A 91.1 FM			10A Bible Study	10A The Hour (Z)		
			6P Praise Team 7P Trustees	6:15P Bell Choir 7:30P Chancel Choir	6:30P Yoga Church	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:45A Worship 11A 91.1 FM 7P Christmas Concert			OFFICE CLOSED 7P Christmas Eve Service	OFFICE CLOSED		
28	29	30	31	<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 10px;"> <p>SUNDAYS: Social Hour: 9:00-9:45 AM Kids Faith Formation - 9:00-9:30 AM* <i>* no class 12/28, 1/4</i> Adult Gathering Class - 11:00 AM** <i>** no class 12/7, 12/28</i> All events at UA unless noted; Z = Zoom</p> </div>		
9:45A Worship 11A 91.1 FM			THURS. JAN. 1 OFFICE CLOSED			

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 – Beth Simbro | 17 – Ron Petrucci | 28 – Jack Madison |
| 4 – Sally Petrucci | 19 – Jane Miller | 29 – Karen Perone |
| 5 – Jenny Lowman | 19 – James Simbro | 30 – Keith Brown |
| 5 – Liz Spiker | 21 – Kerry Cochran | 30 – Randy Chandler |
| 12 – Sue Burkey | 21 – Lea Hough | |
| 14 – Jenna Brown | 24 – Mark Slack | |
| 15 – Rob Spalding | 26 – David Andrews | |
- Contact office to have your birthday listed here.*





UNION AVENUE UMC
1843 S. UNION AVE.
ALLIANCE OH 44601

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Church: J. Kim Lewis
Rev. Rebecca Weamer Director of Music
Elder and Lead Pastor

Dale Brown Custodian
Preschool: Pam Harlan
Preschool Director

Christine K. Cochran Financial Secretary
Kirk Miller Preschool Treasurer

Tyler Kinser Treasurer
Cindy Saari Preschool Custodian

Christine R. Lamb
Administrative Assistant,
Membership Secretary



**UNION AVENUE
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

1843 S. Union Ave.
Alliance OH 44601

Phone: 330-823-9270

Email:
office@unionavenueumc.org

Website:
unionavenueumc.org

Facebook:
facebook.com/amuck

Instagram:
[instagram.com/unionavenue
umc](https://instagram.com/unionavenueumc)

Church office hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM-2:30 PM

SUNDAY: Sanctuary 9:45 AM | WRMU 91.1 FM 11 AM | Facebook.com/uaumc (live)