

Dear Union Avenue Church Family,

I write to you today with a heavy heart. Within the last several weeks, two non-violent protestors and citizens of our nation have been killed at the hands of our government as federal agencies continue arresting and detaining immigrants. This week the United Methodist Council of Bishops condemned the government’s “use of violence, fear, separation and intimidation” against citizens and non-citizens alike. Jesus teaches us to welcome the stranger, and the Bible clearly calls us to care for the immigrants among us. God’s beloved children are being harmed. Our Bishops call us to lovingly speak against actions that are harming our neighbors, and to live out our faith in loving action by building God’s beloved community.

One of the most beautiful things I have seen in the midst of all the tragedy are videos from an organization called Singing Resistance Twin Cities. Every day, hundreds of people are gathering in churches in Minneapolis to join their voices in harmony. In one video, hundreds of people of various races, ethnicities and ages are singing in beautiful four-part harmony “Everyone, oh everyone, oh every one of these people are ours, just like we are theirs. We belong to them, and they belong to us.” This reminds me of the African concept of ubuntu: I am because you are, and I can only be free if everyone in the world is free. As our Bishops shared this week, what harms one human being harms us all.

I am reminded of God’s call to love our neighbors and to love and pray for our enemies. I am heartened by watching you all living out your faith, through small actions of love. Keep doing it! Keep praying for peace, and keep praying that our leaders will be filled with wisdom and compassion.

This year, during our Lenten series “Tell Me Something Good,” we will be studying some of the central aspects of Jesus’ life and ministry: “radical welcome, love for neighbor, care for the vulnerable, nourishment for the hungry, nonviolence in the face of injustice.” Kayla Craig writes, “At the heart of Jesus’ teachings, we find liberation, love, mercy, and grace – all of which are meant to be very good news for us all.” We’ll be reminded, again, that the good news is indeed good – and that God calls us to a liberated life of loving action in the name of Jesus.

My hope is that our time together on Sundays inspires and sustains you for the hard work of discipleship that you are doing throughout the week. As we await God’s coming day when there will be no more violence, no more suffering or crying or tears or pain – the day when the lion lies down with the lamb – let us wait in love and hope. I love you, and I am praying for you all.

In Christ’s Love,

Pastor Becky

Pastor Becky



PASTOR BECKY’S OFFICE DROP-IN HOURS

See Sunday bulletin for current hours or call office to schedule.



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|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Pastor’s Letter | Awareness, Missions (cont.) |
| 2. Bishop’s Letter | 6. Endowment, Finance, |
| 3. Meetings/Events | Passing, Thank You |
| 4. Missions | 7. Calendar, Birthdays, Lent |
| 5. Mental Health | at Union Avenue |

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE:
Monday, February 16



East Ohio Conference
Resident Bishop
Hee-Soo Jung



Dear Beloved People of The Ohio Episcopal Area,

I write to you today with a heavy heart and a praying spirit as we witness the recent tragic deaths of two people in Minnesota. These losses are not isolated incidents. They are part of a wider pattern of fear-driven, indiscriminate immigration enforcement that has crossed moral and spiritual boundaries. Nothing can justify violence against human life.

As an immigrant myself, I know in my own body what it means to live under the weight of uncertainty, vulnerability, and being labeled. I also know that many who are called “undocumented” are not criminals. They are workers, parents, and neighbors who crossed borders because economic systems, political violence, and family survival left them no other choice. Today, families, industries, and entire communities in the United States depend on their labor and their lives. This is why we must continue to call for comprehensive immigration reform that reflects reality, justice, and mercy.

Scripture is unambiguous about God’s heart toward the stranger.

“When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the stranger. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the stranger as yourself” (Lev. 19:33–34).

The crisis before us is not only legal or political—it is moral and spiritual. The U.S. is being tested at the level of its soul. Will we be a nation shaped by fear and exclusion, or a society rooted in hospitality and justice? Our faith reminds us that God is always found among the displaced, the vulnerable, and the unwelcome.

Jesus himself was a refugee. Scripture tells us that his family fled violence and crossed borders to survive (Matt. 2:13–15). And our Lord teaches us plainly: “I was a stranger and you welcomed me” (Matt. 25:35).

The church cannot be silent in such a moment. The Ohio churches are called again to be a people who build true human community—where dignity is protected, where the stranger is seen as neighbor, and where love is stronger than fear. Laws matter. Policies matter. But before all of that, the spirit of hospitality must shape our homes, our congregations, and our public witness.

Let us become communities of sanctuary - places where justice has a face, and mercy has hands:

**We lift before you the names and faces
of those who have died,
and the families who now grieve.
Hold them in your healing light.
Make our churches places of welcome,
where the stranger is no longer invisible,
and the wounded find safety.
Let justice walk freely in our streets,
and let compassion become
the language of our nation.
Break the power of fear.
Restore the soul of this land
through the love of Christ,
who makes us all neighbors. Amen.**

Bishop Jung will host

Days in the District:

March 14 @ North Canton Faith UMC

The theme of this year’s days with the bishop is “Abundant Grace” and the guiding scripture is Matthew 14:13-21.

More details to come.



See the Faith in Action bulletin insert for details on Copeland Oaks events, and weekly classes and events, including The Gathering Class, Bible Study, and The Hour.



SOUP MAKING

11:30 AM, Saturday, February 7 | Our youth group (3rd grade and up) will make soup for our Souper Bowl To-Go fundraiser. Parents, please RSVP to Megan Harper.

SUMMER CAMP INFO

Brochures are on the table near the elevator or online at <https://www.eocumc.com/camps/>

BOOK CLUB

Zoom link: kbericchia@gmail.com

7:00 PM, Monday, February 9 | Our book is *The Frozen River*, by Ariel Lawhon. We hope you will find this historical mystery based on the life and diary of an 18th century midwife well worth your reading time.

MOVIE NIGHT

5:30 PM, Friday, February 13 | Join us for this all-ages event! We will watch *Hugo*, a 2011 film (PG) about a young boy who lives in a railway station in Paris in the 1930s. Pizza will be served before the movie starts, with a gluten free option. Snacks will also be available. This event is sponsored by the Mental Health Awareness and the Social Ministries Team.

YOGA CHURCH

6:30-7:30 PM, Friday, February 20 | 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 borrow ours.

INTERESTED JOINING OUR CHURCH?

11:00 AM, Sunday, February 22 | To learn more about joining Union Avenue UMC as a member, please join Pastor Becky for an informational meeting after worship on Sunday, February 22nd in the Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP via the sign-up sheet on the table outside the sanctuary.

CALLED TO WELCOME: A 6-WEEK BIBLE STUDY ON IMMIGRATION (ON ZOOM)

7:00 PM, Wednesdays, February 25-April 1 | Clifton UMC and the Task Force on United Methodist Immigration Ministries of Ohio are offering a 6-week Bible Study on immigration. Each week, we will read Scripture and discuss one topic from the General Board of Church & Society's curriculum, *Called to Journey, Called to Welcome: A Biblical Perspective on Immigration*. Email office@unionavenueumc.org for the registration link.

UNITED METHODIST MEN'S BREAKFAST

8:30 AM, Sunday, March 1 | 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.



ADVENT OFFERING THANK YOU

A HUGE thank you to everyone who donated to the 2025 Advent Offering of \$5,947.77! Our church split those monies as follows: \$1,500 to the Union Avenue UMC Preschool; \$500 to the Union Avenue UMC Community Outreach Fund; \$1,973.88 to Clothed in Righteousness; and \$1,973.88 to Harvesting Hope. These missions are truly grateful for your support!

RAIDER'S COVE - HELPING MOUNT UNION STUDENTS

Once again we are helping our college friends 'next door' with a donation drive for Raider's Cove. Raider's Cove is a Mount Union campus resource center for students who need help with food, hygiene products, and clothes. We are asking for help to support their mission by donating items from their wish list below. Drop-off bins will be available from February 1-22. If you are interested in supporting monetarily, please make sure to designate Raider's Cove on your donation. Thank you so much!

Food:

Mayo/Mustard/Ketchup Drink mix packets Juice
Applesauce Tortillas Pickles Beef sticks

Hygiene/Household items:

Batteries Lotion Mouthwash Tissues
Mouthwash Toilet paper Paper Towels

UMCOR SUNDAY- MARCH 15

Have you ever wondered, "What is UMCOR, what do they do and why do we support them?" UMCOR stands for the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Founded in 1940, UMCOR assists the most vulnerable people affected by crisis or chronic need without regard to their race, religion, or status. UMCOR's work is carried out by providing relief and assistance to natural and human-made disasters and supporting programs in areas of migration, health, food security and environmental sustainability. UMCOR is one of the *most trusted* names in disaster response by:

- harnessing *volunteer labor* of incalculable social and economic value
- bringing proven *expertise* and collaboration with reliable disaster response and humanitarian partners
- being the *first in and last out*
- having *flexibility* to allow funding to go where its most needed
- identifying and restoring the *hope and dignity* of the most vulnerable
- emulating the *love of Jesus Christ* in all that it does

Statistics from UMCOR for disaster relief in 2025:

- 252 vital projects funded totaling more than \$20 million
- 410,000+ survivors' suffering alleviated
- 1,500+ volunteers trained in effective and compassionate disaster response
- Intervened in 111 U.S. and global humanitarian crises, including:
 - 4 earthquakes
 - 7 major fires

Continues on page 3....

POTLUCK LUNCHEON

11:00 AM, SUNDAY, MARCH 1 | Our next all church luncheon will be right after church and we will have a pot luck again. A sign up sheet on the table near the elevator. We'll have apple dumplings for dessert so the signups will be for side dishes and main dishes.



DINE OUT – PAPA GYROS

5:30 PM, Tuesday, February 17 | Our Mental Health Awareness Team invites you to join UA family and friends for our 3rd Tuesday dinner out. All are welcome! This month we'll dine at Papa Gyros, 320 W. State St., Alliance. A sign-up sheet is outside the sanctuary.

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Have a mental health need? Free booklets to help you respond are available on the display racks outside the church office. The booklets are free, and a few of the topics available are anxiety, worry, depression, and addiction.



MISSIONS (...continued from page 2)

- Intervened in 111 U.S. and global humanitarian crises, including:
 - 4 earthquakes
 - 7 major fires
 - 14 forced migration events
 - 15 tornadoes
 - 17 tropical storms
 - 21 floods



- 5 major US hurricanes
- 20 instances of mass violence/civil unrest

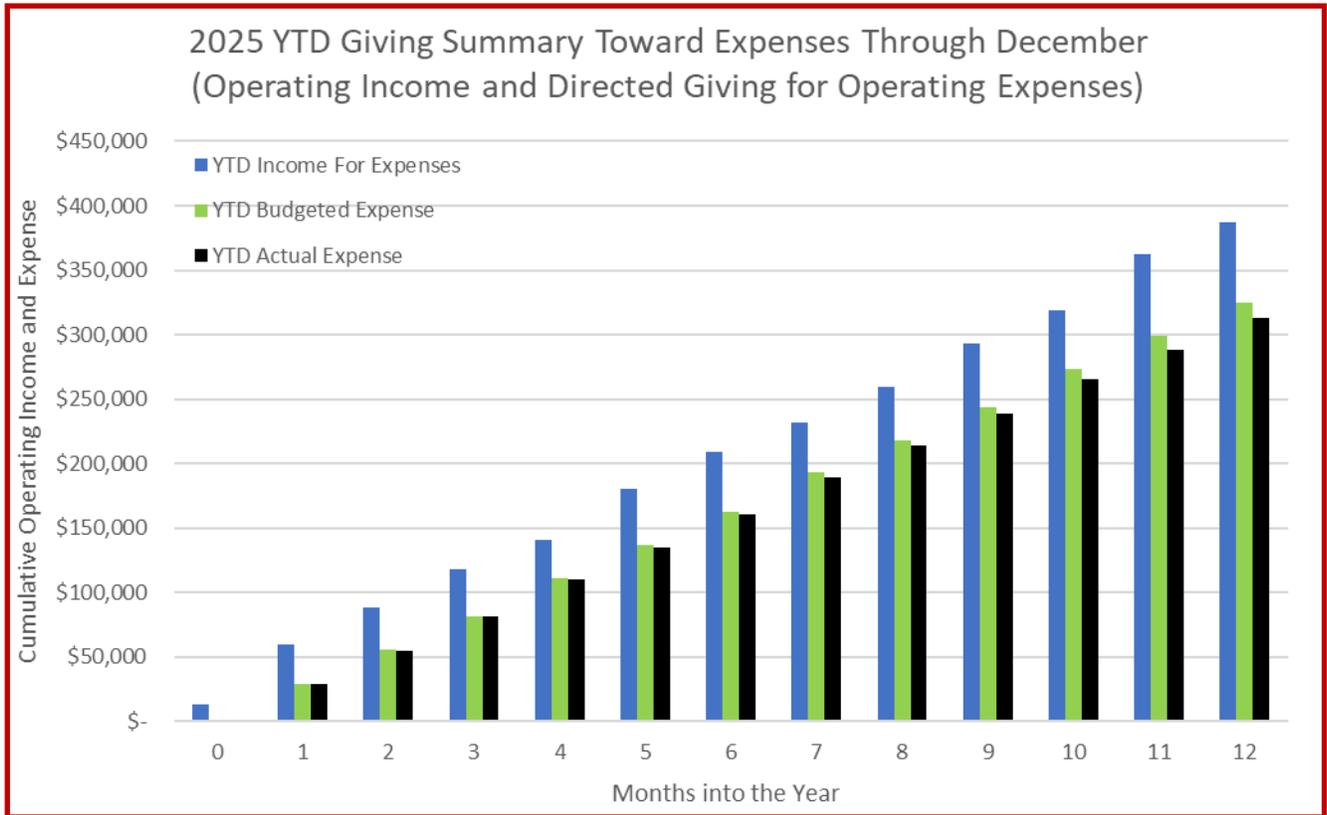
By donating on UMCOR Sunday, we are helping cover UMCOR's administrative costs so that **100%** of our donations for disaster relief and crises in our country and around the world go to relief work. You can support UMCOR with a gift online (use the UAUMC QR code) or by writing a check to UAUMC with UMCOR on the memo line. Our campaign this year will run from **February 22-March 15, 2026**. If you would like a fun "giving calendar," they are available on the table near the elevator.



Endowment Committee
Brad Goris, chairperson

Finance Committee
2026 Jim Williams, chairperson;
2025 Kevin Redinger, chairperson

ENDOWMENT NEWS - The Union Avenue Endowment Committee invites you to attend its "Spring Ahead" Endowment Seminar to be held on Sunday, March 8th, immediately following the service. Our guest speaker will be Attorney Dan Griffith, former member of UAUMC and current Director of Wealth Strategy at Huntington Bank. Dan will talk about the important role that the Endowment Fund plays in our ministry as well as creative ways that one might elect to support the Fund. If possible, please let us know of your planned attendance by signing the sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary or calling the church office.



Our hearts and prayers go out to the family of:

Jane McCann - January 20



I would like to thank everyone for all the notes, food, and prayers extended to Jim and myself during my recent breast cancer surgery and recovery. The Cooks on Call are awesome and fed us handsomely. Your cards brought a smile when I was feeling low. And your prayers helped me get through the worst of it. I'm so glad to call you my family.

Karen Perone

Thank you to the Gathering Class for your generous donation! Donations like yours help us to provide food for Alliance community members all year long.

Alliance Community Pantry

FEBRUARY

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

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

SUNDAYS: Social Hour: 9:00-9:45 AM
Kids Faith Formation - 9:00-9:30 AM
Adult Gathering Class - 11:00 AM
Events at UA unless noted; Z = Zoom

LENT @Union Ave.: Devotional books available soon.
Ash Wednesday service: 7:00 PM, Feb. 18
Community services: 6:00 PM Sundays, Feb. 22 to March 22
(see Faith in Action insert for locations)

1 9:45A Worship Communion 11A 91.1 FM	2 8:30A UMU Coffee Cart	3 5P Spaghetti (at Christ UMC)	4 10A Bible Study 6P Praise Team	5 10A The Hour (Z) 6:15P Bell Choir 7:30P Choir	6	7 11:30A Youth Soup Prep
8 9:45A Worship 11A 91.1 FM	9 7PM Book Club	10 10A Crandall Service	11 10A Bible Study 6P Praise Team	12 10A The Hour (Z) 6:15P Bell Choir 7:30P Choir	13 5:30P Movie Night	14
15 9:45A Worship 11A 91.1 FM	16 PRESIDENTS’ DAY: OFFICE CLOSED	17 5:30P Dine Out (Papa Gyros)	18 10A Bible Study 6P Praise Team 7P Ash Wednes- day Service	19 10A The Hour (Z) 6:15P Bell Choir 7:30P Choir	20 6:30P Yoga Church	21
22 9:45A Worship 11A 91.1 FM 11A Church info meeting	23 8:30A UMU Coffee Cart	24 10A UA at Copeland Oaks	25 10A Bible Study 6P Praise Team	26 10A The Hour (Z) 6:15P Bell Choir 7:30P Choir	27	28

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|----------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1 – Kay Hettler | 13 – Kathy Butcher | 21 – Linda Brady |
| 1 – Alea Simbro | 14 – Diana D’Eramo | 21 – Katie Young |
| 3 – Chris Cochran | Madison | 22 – Bob Hawkins |
| 6 – Eva Miller | 16 – Janet Carr | 23 – Karen Gonder |
| 12 – Paula Hochradel | 18 – Jason McDevitt | <i>Contact office to have your
birthday listed here.</i> |
| 12 – James Pavlik | 18 – Elizabeth Recchiuti | |





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

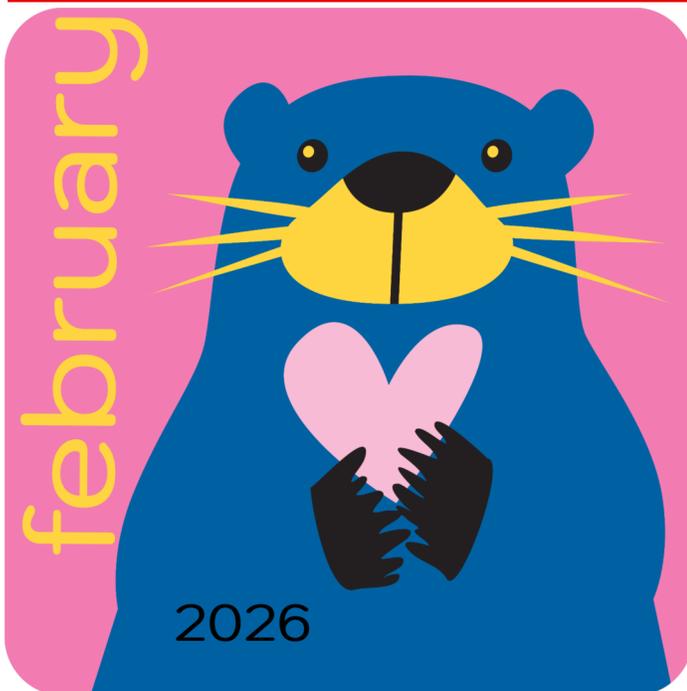
Preschool:
Rev. Dawn Beamish Pam Harlan
Minister of Pastoral Care Preschool Director

Dale Brown Kirk Miller
Custodian Preschool Treasurer

Christine K. Cochran Cindy Saari
Financial Secretary Preschool Custodian

Tyler Kinser
Treasurer

Christine R. Lamb
Administrative Assistant,
Membership Secretary



**UNION AVENUE
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

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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)