

The Circuit Rider

The Monthly Newsletter of Huron United Methodist Church • Issue 296 • July/August 2024

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**Huron United
Methodist
Church**

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From The Desk Of Pastor P.

by Pastor Pamela J. Sayre



As I write this, I am preparing to preach the last of five messages based on Mark Batterson's book, *The Circle Maker*. Hopefully, you have found these messages inspiring

as we look forward, as we focus on the future, and as we move ahead – as we keep “Praying Hard! Thinking Long! And Dreaming Big!” We have literally been praying circles around the church, its mission and ministry, and the community! We have been talking about stepping out in faith as we learn to trust in God's plan for us And, we are endeavoring to live into the reality of, as Batterson says, “Working like it depends on us and praying like it depends on God.” BECAUSE IT DOES!

And so, we come to the half-way point of this specific time of circling and praying! Remember, we are spending 60 days praying for – circling – all that is Huron United Methodist Church (WooHoo!) – the people, the mission and ministry, the community, our vision, and God's plan/purpose – all of it! (And, don't forget, we are using our prayer journals as we come before God.) Remember, the idea behind “60 Days” was – and is – to bathe both the end of our sixth year and the beginning of our seventh year of

ministry together in prayer and to get ready for all the possibilities that lie ahead! I don't know about you, but I AM EXCITED!!! I am excited about all that we have already accomplished, all that we are accomplishing, and all that we will accomplish as we follow God's lead!

Look forward! Focus on the future! Move ahead! Live with holy anticipation! Be persistent! Pray hard! Think long! Dream big! Remember that God is bigger! God is stronger! And God is greater! So, never give up!

Work like it depends on you and pray like it depends on God! And, keep on circling!

We are Huron United Methodist Church! WooHoo! We are disciples of Jesus, the Christ, followers of the living God, and sharers of the WORD! May God continue to encourage, empower, and equip us as we

strive “to make [and mature] disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!”
WELCOME – WORSHIP – WITNESS!

Grace and peace,
blessings and health,

Pastor P.
Pastor P.



P.S. If you are reading this article and are not currently a member or regular attender of worship Huron UMC and would like to know more about Huron UMC and our mission and ministry, please contact me!



Lunch Bunch

Food, Fun & Fellowship

Lunch Bunch meets the second Thursday of each month.

The next Lunch Bunches are Thursdays, July 11th and August 8th at 11:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall. July program: David Claxton will present his photography and share "A Walk with Nature." July menu: sloppy joe, baked beans, macaroni salad, chips, all-American dessert, catered by Janet Majoy. Cost is \$9.00. Please pay in cash the day of the luncheon. August program and menu TBD.

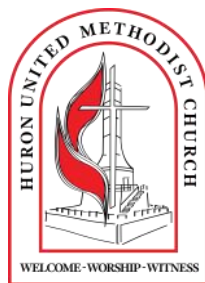
Sign up in the Welcome Center or contact Dee Hartley in person or phone 419-357-8825 by Monday, July 8th for the July event.



How "Cool" Is This?

ATTENTION HUMC (WooHoo!)

SUPPORTERS: Our Trustees have chosen Wilkes to replace and improve the air conditioning in the Fellowship Hall. We now need \$30,000. A Match Challenge has been issued: \$2 for every \$1 you contribute now, or \$1 for \$1 for a 12-month pledge, up to \$15,000 total. You may donate by mail, offering box, or through Realm. Please clearly indicate "A/C Fund" on the memo line and if it is a recurring pledge amount or one-time gift.



Lighthouse Church/Strategic Planning Team Continues To Work

Yes, indeed, your Lighthouse/Strategic Planning Team continues to meet, via ZOOM, with coach Rev. Bruce Emmert. We have been working hard on a number of long-term and short-term projects including upgrading signage, development of new/expanded programming, and doing what we already do better! The team plans to present an update during worship sometime in the near future!

If you would like to know more about our work or would like to go ahead and volunteer to help, please contact any of us: Jenessa Faller, Dave Wilber, Judy Wilber, Scott Whitehurst, Kristin Erney, or Pastor P.

Saturdays @ 5!

Relaxed Worship
(songs, prayers, message)
& Conversation!
Come as you are!
3rd Sunday Potluck
Huron United Methodist Church

Audio/Visual Updates – Please Be Patient!

We need your help! Please prayerfully consider volunteering for the Audio/Visual Team! We offer free training and much gratitude! And a friendly reminder: Our present Audio/Visual Team, Derek Callin and Chris Harlan, continue to work on upgrades and improvements to our current systems. Please be patient with any audio/visual imperfections and celebrate the improvements being made!



Sunday Morning Worship



We livestream our Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. worship celebrations to both Facebook and YouTube. Find archived versions on both sites any time. No account is needed to watch! If attending online, please be sure to let us know – fill out the Connect Card!

Sunday Bulletin/Order Of Worship and announcements are emailed at the end of each week; copies of the sermon at the beginning. If you are not receiving them and would like to, let us know.

Food Pantry Sunday

A reminder: Pantry Sunday is always the third Sunday of each month (July 21st & August 18th), but items can be dropped off anytime the church is open. All donations help those in need in Huron and the surrounding area.

HUMC is accepting egg cartons.



LIFT Lite



If you haven't checked out a Wednesday evening at Huron United Methodist Church, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR!!! LIFT Lite is an entertaining evening of conversations, fun, and snacks. It is a great way to strengthen the bonds of fellowship and help strengthen our church community. You'll even experience a laugh or two!

We are seeking "Hosts" for LIFT Lite. Host duties will include: deciding the evening's activity, setting up the snacks and drinks, cleaning up the kitchen, and taking out the trash. The activity can be as simple as a puzzle night. Snacks will be purchased using the grant money received. If you are interested in hosting please sign up in the Welcome Center. If there is a particular snack or activity you would like to donate to the LIFT Lite ministry, please contact a member of the Strategic Planning Team!



Celebration Of Norma's 54 Years As Our Organist!

Please join us on Sunday, July 7th during the 10:00 a.m. Worship Celebration! (There will be no Saturdays @ 5 nor Sunday 8:00 a.m. worship that weekend!)

A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Fall Choir Rehearsals

After a summer break, the Chancel Choir will begin rehearsing again on Wednesday, August 28th at 7:00 p.m. There are plenty of robes and we

will find you a seat! Come sing! And enjoy the laughter and fellowship!



HUMC Camperships

Huron UMC is offering camperships (camp scholarships) for our youth to attend a faith based summer camp. A youth will be reimbursed for half the cost of a camp, up to \$250. Please talk to a member of the Education Team for more information.

River Fest Fundraiser

July 12th-14th

And we need YOUR help! We need folks to watch over and take donations in our parking lot. There is a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center! Thank you in advance!



The Girl Scouts Thank You

For the past several years, the Brownie and Girl Scout Troops have provided us with beautiful planners of flowers for our tent area in our Park. They do this as a thank you for allowing them to use our building for their meetings. Now we say "Thank You, Girl Scouts!"



Huron United Methodist Church Endowment Fund

"You have the opportunity to make a difference not only in what you do today, but in what you do for tomorrow."

For Endowment Fund information, please contact any Fund Committee member: Chip Houghton, Carole Dreffer, or Mike Prosser.

Confirmation Sunday, June 2nd, Was A Big Day!!!

During our 10:00 a.m. Worship Celebration, three young people – William Meyer, Alivia McFarland, and Avery McFarland – came forward to profess their faith and begin the next step of their faith journey! They helped lead worship as liturgists for the morning and they did a wonderful job! Please be sure to remember these three young people in your prayers and when you have a chance, take some time to get to know them!

The Confirmands are pictured below (left) William, Alivia, and Avery, ready for their liturgist parts in the morning's worship celebration; and (right) with Pastor P. and their cake at the reception; (bottom) the altar with red paraments and their confirmation candles.



New Confirmation Class For 2024-2025

The next CONFIRMATION CLASS – for kids in grade 4 and up – will begin on Wednesday, September 4th. As we have been doing, the class will meet during LIFT on Wednesday evenings 5:30-6:30 p.m., with dinner from 6:30 -7:00 p.m.

The tentative schedule is as follows:

- September 4, 11, 18, 25
- October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
- November 6, 13, 20
- December 4, 11, 18
- January 8, 15, 22, 29
- February 5, 12, 19, 26
- March 5, 12, 19, 26
- April 2, 9, (16), 23, 30
- May 7, 14, 21
- Confirmation Sunday will be June 1, 2025.



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT:
To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Roof/Boiler Project

We are still collecting change for the roof/boiler project! The collection jug is in the sanctuary each Sunday! Let's see how quickly we can reach the "top" again! When it is filled, we will see who can come closest to guessing the amount in the jug!

And don't forget about our Square By Square fundraiser! See the display in the front hallway. Fill out your Pledge Card and drop in the box at the display to claim your square. Be sure to add your sticker to the poster.



Communion Elements

We have pre-packaged Communion elements available in the office for pick-up! Regular and gluten-free!

2024 Altar Flowers

The 2024 Flower calendar is in the Welcome Center and ready for you to select your Sunday(s).

Arrangements are \$30 each. Indicate "Flower Fund" on your check's memo line. Thank you for continuing to beautify our altar during worship.

You may pick up your flowers following 10:00 a.m. worship or on Monday following, after 9:30 a.m. *If you return the vase to Church, it will be reused.*



Pastor's Current Reading List

- *FAKE WHITE GOSPEL* by Jim Wallis
- *AN INVISIBLE THREAD* by Laura Schroff and Alex Tresniowski
- *HOLY HELL: A Case Against Eternal Damnation* by Derek Ryan Kubilus
- *BRAIDING SWEETGRASS* by Robin Wall Kimmerer



Ways To Fill The Virtual Plate

If you are not worshipping with us in person on Saturday evenings or Sunday mornings, there are options available to give while worshipping online.

- Mail your offering to HUMC directly or use your bank's bill pay service.
- Drop off your offering at the church.
- Sign up and give online with e-giving through Realm.

This QR code will take you to the Realm giving page.



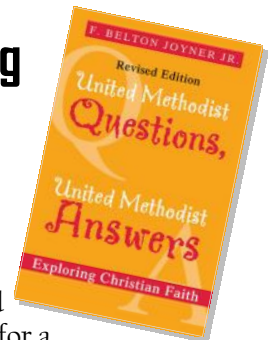
Jammin' For Jesus Event

All are invited to a Jam Session on Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Christian Center, 930 S. Main Street, Huron – The Huron Prayer Path – Come share the language of music and love as we praise God. Let the music flow freely from your voice, instrument, even improvise. See you soon.



Interested In Becoming A Member Of Huron UMC?

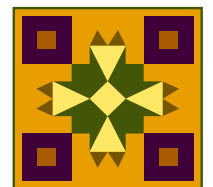
If so, please see Pastor P. If you have never been part of the UMC and would like to know more, please ask for a copy of the easy-to-read book *UNITED METHODIST QUESTIONS, UNITED METHODIST ANSWERS: Exploring Christian Faith* by F. Belton Joyner, Jr.



HUMC Quilt Connection

Our next sew days are Fridays, July 5th, 29th, August 2nd, 16th, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the basement. BYO projects and lunch. Contact Cathi Dix Houghton at 419-433-5645 or quiltquilt@aol.com to receive meeting email reminders.

Our primary mission is making prayer quilts. If you have an interest in sewing quilts, you are welcome to join us. (We have fabric you can use.)



U-Knitted Nations

The Knitters meet in Rooms 1 & 2 at 7:00 p.m. on Mondays. Bring your project, join the fun and fellowship!

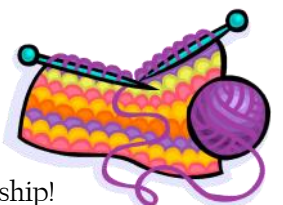


Photo Gallery



PHOTO CREDIT: LORETTA MAJOY

Top photo: LIFT Lite (the summer version of LIFT) began on Wednesday, May 29th with a cookout themed meal, a slideshow of HUMC recent events, and plenty of fellowship. Each week is headed up by someone different, but you can expect that there will be snacks, games, and fun through the end of August.

Middle: 8:00 a.m. Sunday worship returned to the tent on June 2nd. This year the tent boasts a banner that advertises guest seating, hoping to attract passersby to stop and join us.

Bottom: That's Flight Engineer Jonathan Merckens in a US Air Force C-130 Hercules on the annual Memorial Day flyovers to various sites across northern Ohio. He's a member of the 910th Air Wing, 757 Airlift Squadron; and, along with the crew, flies out of Youngstown Regional Airport.

Vacation Bible School 2024: Bible Champions

This year's VBS was a huge success! It was a scorcher of a week but we still had fun and brought the love of Jesus to a wonderful group of children. Our 22 campers enjoyed games, stories, crafts, and treats. (Our 9 youth helpers enjoyed it also!) We learned about Peter walking on the water, the story of Deborah and Barak, and David vs. Goliath. The memory verses the campers focused on are as follows:

- ISAIAH 41:10 – **Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.**
- II TIMOTHY 2:5 – **And athletes cannot win the prize unless they follow the rules.**
- II CHRONICLES 15:7 – **But as for you, [B]e strong and courageous, for your work will be rewarded.**

A HUGE thank you goes out to all the volunteers that gave their time and talents to make VBS a memorable event in the lives of the campers. We wouldn't be able to bring this wonderful ministry to life if it wasn't for your generosity and dedication.



HUMC will have our "Blessing of the Backpacks" on Saturday, August 17th (during Saturdays @5!) and Sunday, August 18th (at both worship times 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.). All students are invited to bring their backpacks to worship to receive a blessing for the new school year.



At My Church We Say: WOO HOO!

Our HUMC shirt design is available to order NOW from Lucky Stone Promotions in White or Oxford Gray. This design is a perfect expression of the fun, faith, and fellowship we share at Huron United Methodist Church (Woo Hoo)!

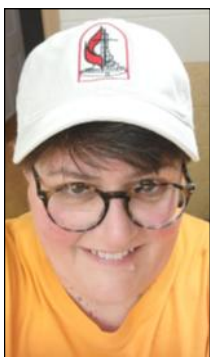
To order your own t-shirt (short or long sleeve), sweatshirt, or hoodie in person, visit Lucky Stone at their location at 607 S. Main Street, Huron, OH. Orders can also be placed online at

www.luckystonepromotions.com. Click on "CLIENT STORES" and look for the new HUMC logo. Plan to pick up your purchase at the

store to avoid shipping costs.

HATS ARE AVAILABLE NOW!

And other embroidery items, such as polo shirts, will be coming soon!



Milestone Briefs

BAPTISMS

- Alivia McFarland, daughter of Joel McFarland & Melanie Reidy, on 06/02/24.
- Avery McFarland, daughter of Joel McFarland & Melanie Reidy, on 06/02/24.

NEW MEMBERS THROUGH CONFIRMATION

- Alivia McFarland, daughter of Joel McFarland & Melanie Reidy, on 06/02/24.
- Avery McFarland, daughter of Joel McFarland & Melanie Reidy, on 06/02/24.
- William Meyer, son of Matthew & Kelly Meyer, on 06/02/24.

PASSINGS

- Janet Fortune, 81, wife of Arnold, on 06/20/24.
- Ernest O'Hara, 85, husband of Phyllis, on 06/22/24.

Notes & Thank Yous

We would like to thank everyone who prayed for our family and my sister Mary Margaret before she passed,

Donna & Dick Preston



Huron United Methodist Church,

Thank you so much for allowing our High School Baseball team the opportunity to use your fellowship hall for our banquet. It's so great to have such a nice spot to use. We appreciate the community support.

Thanks Again,

Dan Lindsley

Huron Tiger Baseball

Money Counters

July 7:
Wanda Lyons,
Mike Lyons & Jonathan Merckens

July 14:
Alyson Wilaon,
Norma Cook

July 21:
Joe Beebe,
Carole Dreffer

July 28:
Judy Wilber,
Dave Wilber & Chip Houghton

August 4:
Bob Hastings,
Mark Claubaugh

August 11:
Barb Ringle,
Donna Preston

August 18:
Mary Boos,
Bonnie & Ben Lindsley

August 25:
Wanda Lyons,
Mike Lyons & Jonathan Merckens

Please Update Us!!!

Many of our member records are incomplete. Please make sure we have the following: full name, birthdate (including year), physical address (and mailing address if different), home phone number, cell phone number, and email address. We also need our college students' contact information.

Please submit to Beth Anne at secretary@huronumc.org or the Church Office.



Huron Prayer Path

The Prayer Path Work Days will be Saturdays, July 13th & August 10th starting at 9:00 a.m. and ending with a delicious lunch at Noon. Please join us as we work to maintain our beautiful Prayer Path. Dress for the weather. BYO garden gloves.

Summer Worship Plans

July 7: Seventh Sunday After Pentecost/Retirement Celebration

Scriptures: Psalm 48; *Mark 6:1-13

Sermon: "Hometown Honor"

July 13/14: Eighth Sunday After Pentecost/Communion

Scriptures: Psalm 24; Ephesians 1:3-14 *Mark 6:14-29

Sermon: "The Cost Of Saving Face"

July 20/21: Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

Scriptures: Psalm 89:20-37; Ephesians 2:11-22; *Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Sermon: "No Rest For The Weary"

July 27/28: Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

Scriptures: Psalm 14; Ephesians 3:14-21; *John 6:1-21

Sermon: "Don't Be Afraid!"

August 3/4: Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost/Communion

Scriptures: Psalm 51:1-12; Ephesians 4:1-16; *John 6:24-35

Sermon: "Believe In The One!"

August 10/11: Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

Scriptures: Psalm 130; Ephesians 4:25 — 5:2; *John 6:35, 41-51

Sermon: "Living Bread"

August 17/18: Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost/Blessing of the Backpacks

Scriptures: Psalm 111; Ephesians 5:15-20; *John 6:51-58

Sermon: "Eternal Life"

August 24/25: Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Scriptures: Psalm 84; Ephesians 6:10-20; *John 6:56-69

Sermon: "Some Don't Believe..."

*denotes scripture used for basis of sermon

Liturgists

July 7, one worship @ 10:

10:00 Alyson Wilson

July 14:

8:00 Lisa Beebe

10:00 Al Meyer

July 21:

8:00 Tom Sprunk

10:00 Derek Callin

July 28:

8:00 Carole Dreffer

10:00 Jack Hubbard

August 4:

8:00 Rob Hoffner

10:00 Carol Schell

August 11:

8:00 Polly Hagman

10:00 Dave Wilber

August 18:

8:00 Mike Prosser

10:00 Lynda Atkinson

August 25:

8:00 Barb Ringle

10:00 Alyson Wilson

10:00 Greeters/Ushers

July 7:

Alyson Wilson and Dave Wilber

July 14:

Nancy Meyer

July 21:

Becky & Tank Rogers

July 28:

Bob Hastings

August 4:

Bonnie & Ben Lindsley

August 11:

Becky & Tank Rogers

August 18:

Wanda & Mike Lyons

August 25:

Alyson Wilson

Other Summer Events

- Card Gals Workshop: Monday, July 15th, 10:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Rooms 3 & 4.

Summer Birthdays

July

Julia Klinger	2
Laura Beebe	3
Lynn Bronner	3
Karl Stierhoff	6
MJ See	9
Deana Claubaugh	9
Geraldine Wentz	10
Buz Bronner	15
Kasey Clayman	16
Kimberly King	16
Jessica Emery	17
Margaret Barbour	18
Nancy Freitas	19
Alyson Wilson	19
Ryan Cook	21
Benjamin Fries	24
Christa Bronner	25
Peyton Potts	25
Payton White	27
Jack Lesnett	27
Ginny Corbett	28
Scarlet King	30

August

Jane Meyer	1
Mattie Hager	1
Conor Fortune	2
Morgan Odell	2
JoAnn Taylor	2
Sharon McDonald	4
Christen McFarland	9
Marcia Russ	10
Amber Callin	10
Kathy Koelsch	10
Linda Wilson	10
Siera Enderle	11
Sarah Wachtel	13
Jen Oakley-Swartz	13
Sherry Orndorff	14
Ed Pettegrew	15
Tres Hernandez	15
Derek Horvatic	15
Mark Claubaugh	17
Dan Soisson	17
Paul Wilson	20
Lois Deffenbaugh	20
Lydia Hager	21
Thomas Hastings	25
Lucie Meyer	26
Diane Timple	27
Henry Scott	27
Robert Neumann	27
Elizabeth Fries	28



Summer Team Meetings & Church Events

Trustees: Tuesdays, July 9th & August 13th, 7:00 p.m., Rooms 3 & 4.

River Fest Parking Lot Fundraiser: Friday, July 12th, 5:00-9:00 p.m.; Saturday, July 13th, 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

Strategic Planning Team: Monday, July 22nd, Noon-2:00 p.m., Rooms 3 & 4.

Staff Parish Relations Committee: Tuesday, August 6th, 7:00 p.m., Rooms 3 & 4.

Church Council: Monday, August 12th, 7:00 p.m. Rooms 3 & 4.

Blessing of the Backpacks: Saturday/Sunday, August 17th/18th during worship celebrations.

Our Newsletter Is Online

Please remember that a digital copy *The Circuit Rider* along with past issues can be found online on our website: www.huronumc.org.



Pastor P. and Lay Delegate Scott Whitehurst spent a few days in June at Annual Conference at Akron's John S. Knight Center.

Far left photo: Pastor P. with our West Plains District Superintendent Associate Rev. Donna Van Trees.

Left: Hamming it up – Pastor P. with Scott Whitehurst.

Annual Conference 2024: Faith Hope Love

Reprint: EOC News of June 17, 2024
By Rick Wolcott*

Bishop Tracy S. Malone called to order the 55th session of the East Ohio Annual Conference with 316 clergy and 320 laity gathered in the John S. Knight Center in Akron, Ohio June 13-15, 2024.

Service of Commemoration and Holy Communion

The service of Commemoration and Holy Communion recognized 36 clergy, clergy spouses, and laity who entered the Church Triumphant since last year's Annual Conference. In her sermon message, Bishop Tracy S. Malone said, "Beloved of God, we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, and we are the sojourners of this rich legacy of faith. Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the evidence and the conviction of things not seen. Faith is the solid foundation under everything that holds life together, that which makes life worth living."

Episcopal Address

"The United Methodist Church no longer has any statements, policies or othering practices within its polity that discriminates, regulates, or excludes any person or people groups. Praise be to God," said Bishop Tracy S. Malone in her Episcopal Address to the laity and clergy of the East Ohio Conference. "The United Methodist Church has gone back to her Wesleyan roots, to her history, to retrieve what was at risk of being left behind, her ability to proclaim and

live love."

The bishop then encouraged all clergy and laity to read ¶105 of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist*, which is the paragraph that articulates the Theological Task of the Church.

"We endeavor through the power of the Holy Spirit to understand the love of God given in



Jesus Christ. We seek to spread this love abroad. As we see more clearly who we have been, as we understand more fully the needs of the world, as we draw more effectively upon our theological heritage, we will become better equipped to fulfill our calling as the people of God," Malone said. "Brothers and sisters, siblings in Christ, the renewal and the unity of the Church is all of our work to do."

Minimum Salaries for Clergy

In her report as chairperson of the Commission on Equitable Compensation, Dr. Gloria Brown made a motion that minimum salary for clergy across all categories be increased 5% in 2025. The recommendation was made "in an effort to move the minimum salaries

toward a more sustainable wage, to address the current inflation rate to an extent, and to keep churches viable and vital," Brown shared.

After debate the motion was approved. The minimum salaries in 2025 will be: \$49,033 for full members, associate members, and ordained clergy; \$44,065 for full-time local pastors who have completed the Course of Study; and \$41,584 for full-time pastors who have not completed the Course of Study.

Simplified Accountable Structure

Many churches in the East Ohio Conference and each of the four districts use the Simplified Accountable Structure model of governance, which reduces the number of people serving on committees so that more individuals are available for ministry in the local church. Executive Director of Connectional Ministries Rev. Ed Fashbaugh introduced the motion to begin Phase I of transitioning the East Ohio Conference to the Simplified Accountable Structure model of church governance. Phase I entails creating the Conference Leadership Board that will begin its service on January 1, 2025. The Conference Leadership Board will be the primary stewardship and governance body of the EOC, developing yearly goals for the East Ohio Conference, and meeting quarterly to evaluate the implementation of goals and strategies for how the Conference is living into its vision.

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

“Transitioning to this model in both local churches and districts is one response to the adaptive challenges the Church is facing today,” Fashbaugh said. “Local churches and districts are growing in the familiarity and use of this model, and by making this transition for our East Ohio Conference structure we will seek to align local church, district and Conference.”

The structure of the Conference Leadership Board was amended after debate by the members of Annual Conference. It will be co-chaired by the bishop and the Conference lay leader and will include eight laity and four clergy, one laity and one clergy from the delegates to General Conference, and two people named by the bishop. None of the members of the Conference Leadership Board may be people who serve on the Cabinet or Extended Cabinet. Every effort shall be made to achieve diversity of the Conference Leadership Board membership in accordance with The Book of Discipline ¶610 and 610.5 as well as sexual orientation and gender identity. In fulfilling its mission, the Conference Leadership Board may call on Conference staff and others to serve in advisory roles, having voice but no vote. The motion was approved as amended.

Foundation

Brian Sheetz, executive director of the Methodist Foundation of Ohio, suggested that clergy and laity spend time dreaming and imagining what could be with some planning instead of living with an attitude of scarcity. “So many of our churches have lost the ability to dream. Money is tight, attendance is tighter,” he said before offering helpful tips for how to change our mindsets. “Spend some time dreaming, it might be the best thing to happen to your church.”

Friday Morning Worship

In her sermon during the Friday morning worship service, pastor the Rev. Allison LeBrun of Boardman First UMC (Central Valley District)

encouraged clergy and laity to think differently about what they prioritize.

“The main thing isn’t our job titles or how many hours we serve the church or even the work we do. The main thing is our identities as beloved children of God,” she said.

Wellness and Wholeness Teaching Session

Rev. Dr. Ronald Bell, the director of Healing and Resilience for Discipleship Ministries and the Upper Room, led the Annual Conference in two times of learning and reflection on the themes of wholeness, well-being, and resilience.

“God will keep you even when the waves feel like they are bashing up against you. God will keep you even when you feel like you are overwhelmed. God will keep you even when you find the flood is coming against you. God will keep you in the midst of your storm. God will keep you in the midst of your trials,” Bell declared.

Closed Churches

As part of the Board of Trustees Report and the East Ohio Conference Corporate Meeting, Cabinet member Rev. Cara Stultz Costello recognized four local churches that closed in the past year.

“We know that it can be very painful for congregations to let go of places that have been meaningful to them and that have represented their faith journeys. We acknowledge that grief,” she said. “Today we give thanks for the legacy of the following congregations: The Marshallville Trinity UMC (Central Valley District), Ebenezer UMC (South Forest District), Good Shepherd UMC (Central Valley District), Burton City UMC (Central Valley District).”

Anti-Racism Task Group

In 2020 the East Ohio Conference Extended Cabinet and hundreds of clergy and laity signed a statement committing to the work of Anti-Racism, which said in part: “We recognize that racism and injustice are deeply embedded and vexing

issues within our Church and our communities. We will take action, we will learn together, and we will continue to press forward in transforming our Church, our communities, and our world into the ‘beloved community.’” At Annual Conference this year the Anti-Racism Task Group shared about the work it has done and offered an invitation for others to join in the work.

“This team came together for conversation, listening, and deep discernment that we share with you today. There are three pillars that will guide our work: Re-Telling, Relationships, and Repair and Reinvestment. We invite you, members of the Annual Conference and your churches, to this work,” said Will Fenton-Jones, Connectional Ministries office Multicultural Ministries director.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Jessica Love, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Journalism & Media Studies at Jackson State University thanked the East Ohio Conference for its generous support of Historically Black Colleges & Universities and challenged the Conference to continue doing its good work.

“When you look back 50 years in the future when you look at what they write in the history book, East Ohio, you must ask yourselves, ‘what will your actions today demonstrate about your faith tomorrow?’ What will become of our legacy 50 years in the future? Today that task is yours,” she said.

Church Apologizes to Victims and Survivors of Sexual Misconduct in The UMC

On behalf of The United Methodist Church, the General Conference in May apologized to the victims and the survivors of sexual misconduct for the hurt and harm done to them by the Church. The United Methodist Church pledged to share the apology in every annual

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conference across the connection, educate church leaders, and provide healing resources. At Annual Conference 2024, Bishop Tracy S. Malone read the apology.

Board of Laity

Conference Lay Leader Kimberly Green shared about the work of the Board of Laity and invited pastors, congregations, and faith communities to step out in faith to reach new people, young people, and more diverse people.

"I invite you to walk with me in this new season and be led by the Holy Spirit. Embrace this fully inclusive Church where the center and the focus is Jesus Christ, she said. "Use the resources God has given you. Say 'yes' to God. Receive the peace of God and rejoice in the Lord. Embrace new beginnings. Make a plan not a promise. Let God know what you want, then be grateful for whatever occurs, knowing that He will do what is best. In these days ahead, may we serve as a witness to all the world that differences can be expressed while maintaining unity and upholding our Christ-centered mission."

Saturday Morning Worship

Rev. Philip Wilden, pastor of New Concord UMC (South Forest) offered a word of encouragement to churches currently working through transition and changing realities.

"This is not to suggest that the steps we need to take will always be easy. Often it won't be easy. Sometimes it will be very, very difficult. But it is necessary. It is what needs to be done. And as we in faith and love do what faith and love require, we experience grace and strength for the tasks," he said.

2025 East Ohio Conference Budget

On behalf of the Conference Council on Finance & Administration, chairperson Rev. Dan Bryant introduced a 2025 Conference budget of \$8,237,340. The proposed budget is a 20% reduction from the budget approved for last year for 2024.

"The goal of reducing our apportioned budget to local churches is to make funds more readily available at the local church so that you can have resources available for innovation and immediate needs. We all know the challenges we face as we navigate the days ahead, and our hope is that local churches, by seeing a decrease in the Conference apportioned budget, are encouraged to continue fully supporting our connectional system and to trying new approaches to their local mission fields," Bryant said. The motion was approved.

Cabinet Report

Rev. Bruce Hitchcock, dean of the East Ohio Conference Cabinet shared that Cabinet is a covenant community, a worshipping community, and a learning community.

"Each year we begin our work with a review of the Cabinet Covenant. Each year we adapt the covenant in order to remain faithful to our God and to our calling. This covenant guides our spiritual lives, our relationships with one another, and our shared work," Hitchcock shared.

"We begin every Cabinet meeting with the foundational means of grace. We worship through prayer, singing, holy communion, scripture, and preaching. This intimacy with God begins all our work, shapes all our work, and keeps us open to the presence of the Holy Spirit and keeps us open to the movement of God in this Conference," he continued.

"We read a significant number of books each year," he said. "We are a curious group eager to understand ministry, our context in East Ohio, and the culture around us so that we might be faithful, productive, and healthy in our work."

Service of Commissioning, Ordination, and Retirement

Annual Conference concluded with the Service of Commissioning, Ordination, and Retirement. During the service the ministries of 18 retiring

clergy were celebrated, one clergy person was commissioned as a provisional Elder, one provisional Deacon was ordained a Deacon in full connection, and one provisional Elder was ordained an Elder in full connection.

In her sermon, resident bishop of the Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area of The United Methodist Church Bishop Lanette Plambeck encouraged all in attendance that they can make a difference in the lives of people in their communities by listening and offering hope.

"In our world there are people incredibly lonely, who are longing for relationship, who do not know why they exist and they're longing for a fulfilling life. There are people that are seeking a kind of community that not only makes a difference for individuals but is making a difference in the world," Plambeck said. "And, friends, I want to say to you that we are the answer. We are the answer. The United Methodist Church is the answer."

Clergy Executive Session

East Ohio Conference clergy met in executive session on Wednesday, June 12. In her message to clergy Bishop Tracy S. Malone said, "The Lord needs you and we need you. You are strong. You are brave. You are resilient. You are called. You are equipped. You are qualified because God is the qualifier, because God is the equipper, and because God is our keeper."

Laity Session

On the first night of Annual Conference lay members in a special Laity Session elected four delegates and two alternate delegates to the 2024 North Central Jurisdiction Conference. Elected members to the July 10-13 conference in Sioux Falls, South Dakota were Liz Piatt, Gloria Brown, Nehemiah Priebe, Judy Sees, Virginia Faeth, and Stefanie Williams.

Annual Conference Offering

The Annual Conference 2024 offering (Fund 9214) supports: All In
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Community which restores hope and provides healing in lives affected by the criminal justice system. The ministry is a partnership of the East Ohio Conference and the West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Royal Family KIDS Camp creates life-changing moments for children six- to 12-years of age in the foster care system by taking them to church-led summer camp for five days.

The Bishop's Discretionary Fund which is used by Bishop Tracy S. Malone to support ministry needs that impact countless lives each year.

Your generous donation to the 2024 Annual Conference offering can make a difference for others in the coming year and beyond.

Missions and Ministry Opportunities

Three dozen local church, district, East Ohio Conference, and United Methodist Church ministries were on hand in the John S. Knight Center during Annual Conference 2024 fostering relationships with clergy, laity, and one another to reach new people, young people, and more diverse people. The Midwest Mission truck collected needed items on the first two days of Annual Conference. The Order of Deacons also had a truck at the John S. Knight Center and collected 55 donated blankets to be given to the International Institute of Akron to assist refugees and immigrants who are starting new lives in Akron.

One Matters: Discipleship Ministries Award

Rev. Claudine Leary, director of fund development with Discipleship Ministries, presented the One Matters Award to Pastor Devani Roe to share with one of her congregations, Salesville UMC in the South Forest District. In the past year Salesville UMC nearly tripled its membership from 12 to 34 people.

Resolutions

The Annual Conference approved these resolutions:

Resolution 2024-01: "Becoming PEACE MAKERS"

Therefore: we resolve to renew our commitment, our mission, as Christians further informed by United Methodist principles and inspired by John Wesley and his vision, to sustain the Message of Jesus the Christ to be peace makers in the ways, the places, by the means we have, to promote peace in our time.

Resolution 2024-02: "Because We Care"

Be it resolved that each church in the East Ohio Conference is strongly encouraged to: engage in study and discussion of "Cry for Hope" and learn more about the Palestinian people and their struggle with UMKR educational materials

at www.kairosresponse.org; oppose the equating of criticism of the Israeli government's unjust actions with antisemitism; answer Palestinian Christians' call to "come and see" the reality of their lives today in the Holy Land; and locate a knowledgeable and available speaker, in consultation with UMKR justice advocates, and arrange for that person to speak to the congregation on this subject.

Resolution 2024-06: Supporting "Yes in God's Backyard"

Be it resolved that the East Ohio Conference encourages congregations to consider innovative and creative ways to use their buildings to provide safe, healthy, and affordable housing. Be it further resolved that congregations and members of the East Ohio Conference commit to learn about affordable housing, learn the history of policies like redlining and how they impacted the communities our churches are in, and commit to resisting the practice of Not In My Backyard. Be it further resolved that the East Ohio Conference encourages and supports the "Yes In God's Backyard" Act, introduced by Senator Brown, that equips and resources churches for ministry that will benefit our neighborhoods and communities. Be it further resolved that we, too, say, "Yes, in God's Backyard."

Resolution 2024-07: "Resolution of Confession and Welcome"

Therefore, be it resolved that we repent of our collective sins of the times by action or omission, we caused harm to those simply trying to live out their Christian faith and calling. Be it further resolved that we welcome and rejoice that following the 2024 General Conference, no lay nor clergy person in The United Methodist Church are categorically denied to follow their conscience and God-given calling. Be it further resolved that we welcome with grace and enthusiasm all those called into ministry and celebrate their gifts in whatever setting God and this church should call them. May we further resolve to continue to work on all ways in which we discriminate in word or in deed until every child of God is welcome in the fullness of who God created them to be.

The Annual Conference did not approve these resolutions:

Resolution 2024-03: "Clear and Open Appointments"

Resolution 2024-04: "Identifying and Opposing Apartheid in the Holy Land"

Resolution 2024-05: "Opposition to Unjust Theology Regarding the Holy Land"

The 56th session of the East Ohio Annual Conference is June 12-14, 2025.

**Rick Wolcott is executive director of Communications for the East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist*

Go to <https://eocumcnews.com/2024/06/17/annual-conference-2024-faith-hope-love/> to find this article with links to videos and additional information about the EOC Annual Conference 2024.



You are invited to worship with us in person: "Saturdays @ 5" (5:00 p.m.) in our Fellowship Hall, and Sundays 8:00 a.m. in tent and 10:00 a.m. in our Sanctuary or Online (Sundays are livestreamed to Facebook and YouTube)

Pastor: Rev. Pamela J. Sayre; Director of Discipleship Ministries: Jenessa Faller; Director of Music Ministry: Ron Brooker; Organist: Tom Curry; Housekeeper: Kathy Faller; Treasurer: Joe Beebe; Administrative Secretary: Beth Anne McFarland; Financial Secretary: Linda Ziegler; Website: Derek Callin; AV: Derek Callin & Chris Harlan; Lay Leader: Dave Wilber. Current Office Hours 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday – Thursday. (Building open 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. M–Th.) Closed Fridays.

Huron United Methodist Church

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church email: huronumc@huronumc.org or secretary@huronumc.org

website: www.huronumc.org



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Address Service Requested

Activities Capsules

Church Office Closed

Monday, July 1st-Friday, July 5th
for vacation days

Cloggers' Practice

Mondays & Thursdays, 5:30 p.m.,
Fellowship Hall

U-Knitted Nations

Mondays, 7:00-8:00 p.m. in Rooms 1 & 2

CHAIR YOGA

Tuesdays 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Ballroom Dancing

Tuesdays 6:30-8:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

LIFT Lite

Wednesdays through August, 6:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

TOTAL BODY CONDITIONING

Thursdays 8:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

HUMC QUILT CONNECTION

Friday Sew Days: July 5th & 19th and
August 2nd & 16th

10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Basement
Quiltathon July 26th, 27th, 29th thru
August 3rd, day-long in Basement

Saturdays @ 5

Relaxed Worship every Saturday evening
at 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
(includes a Potluck Dinner
on the 3rd Saturday each month)

communion

Saturdays/Sundays, July 13/14 and
August 3rd/4th

Christ's Community Meals

Every Monday at Noon and
Wednesdays, July 10th & 24th and
August 14th & 28th
5:00-6:00 p.m., First Presbyterian Church

LUNCH BUNCH

Thursdays, July 11th & August 8th
11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

RIVER FEST PARKING LOT FUNDRAISER

Friday, July 12th, 5:00-9:00 p.m. and
Saturday, July 13th, 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
HUMC Williams St. Parking Lot

Prayer Path Work Day

Saturdays, July 13th & August 10th
9:00 a.m.-Noon at Zion Lutheran Church

Pantry Sundays

July 21st & August 18th

HURON PRAYER PATH CAR WASH

Saturday, July 27th, Noon-2:30 p.m.
HUMC Parking Lot

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

during all worship celebrations
Saturday & Sunday August 17th & 18th

Circuit Rider Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, August 18th for September issue

See pages 8 & 9 for Summer
Team Meetings and other events.

Links to Happenings



www.facebook.com/huronumc

On the web: www.huronumc.org



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