

UMC EXPRESS



"Above all, love each other deeply . . . Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms" 1 Peter 4:8-10

We can always use reminders that our church's mission extends far beyond our conversations with each other, what we do Sunday morning, or what we see within the walls of our building.

Many of our works are less visible: we package bread, we work with our community partners to distribute produce to those who need it, we contribute to an overflowing box of plastic bags in the hope of providing relief to those struggling with homelessness.

Continue finding fruitful ways to use the gifts you have received.



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Check us out on Facebook!



Finance Meeting
August 2, 7:00pm

Worship at the Medina Co Fair
August 6, 10:30am

Coffee Club
August 7, 10:00am

Trustees Meeting
August 8, 7:00pm

Bibles and Burritos
August 9, 6:30pm

SPRC Meeting
August 10, 7:00pm

MT25 Food Distribution
August 12, 10:00am-1:00pm

United Women in Faith
August 15, 7:00pm

Food Party
August 19, 10:00am-12:00pm

Parking Lot Movie Night
August 19, 6:00pm

Worship Meeting
August 23, 7:00pm

Lunch Box
August 25

What's Happening At Seville UMC?

*The Deadline for the September Newsletter is
Sunday, August 20, 2023.*

Bibles and Burritos

Join the Cloverleaf Collaborative Community for scripture and reflection as we share a meal.

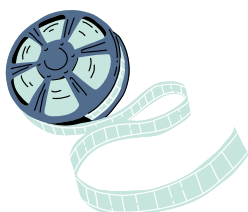
Hear a Jesus story and share in the discussion.



El Patron 101 Greenwich Rd. Seville
August 9, 6:30pm



RSVP to Rev. Tammy for reservations.



Movie Night



We want to invite everyone to our Parking lot party fundraiser!
It will be Saturday, Aug. 19 at 6pm in the church parking lot.

We will be having a drive-in style dinner followed by a movie!
You can bring either a chair or watch the movie from your vehicle. Dinner will be burgers/hot dogs, chips, popcorn during the movie, water, lemonade and root beer floats!

The movie will be *The Little Rascals*, so bring the whole family!
This event is donation only and all the proceeds will go to help build the funds back up from repairing the parking lot! Tell your friends!



A WORD FROM OUR REVEREND...

Reverend Donald Kuntz

Camp Song: "If you're happy and you know it, then your life will surely show it."

Similarly, if you are Christian and you know it, then your life will surely show it.

John Wesley thought what lived in a person's heart would be revealed in a person's deeds.

"The gospel of Christ knows of no religion, but social; no holiness but social holiness. Faith working by love, is the length and breadth and depth and height of Christian perfection."

John Wesley, Hymns and Sacred Poems (1739), Preface, page viii.

Acts of piety feed our souls. Then Acts of charity exercise our spiritual muscles. See the lists below.

These spiritual twins live out what Jesus was teaching as the two great commands:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."

This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matthew 22:37-40).

From United Methodist Communications:

Courageous and forward-leaning mission congregations practice spiritual disciplines. Our vital work is a spiritual adventure based in John Wesley's means of grace. John Wesley taught that God's grace is unearned and that we are not to be idle waiting to experience grace but we are to engage in the means of grace. The means of grace are ways God works invisibly in disciples, hastening, strengthening; and confirming faith so that God's grace pervades in and through disciples. As we look at the means of grace today, they can be divided into **works of piety** and the **works of mercy**.

Works of Piety: Individual Practices – reading, meditating and studying the scriptures, prayer, fasting, regularly attending worship, healthy living, and sharing our faith with others, and **Communal Practices** – regularly share in the sacraments, Christian conferencing (accountability to one another), and Bible study

Works of Mercy: Individual Practices - doing good works, visiting the sick, visiting those in prison, feeding the hungry, and giving generously to the needs of others, and **Communal Practices** – seeking justice, ending oppression and discrimination, opposing slavery, and addressing the needs of the poor.

Does the community know Seville UMC as a loving congregation? Do they know they could be a part of who we are and what we are doing? In what ways are loving-kindness and compassion leaking out of our small faith community into the rest of the county?

We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God,' and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also (1 John 4:19-21).



Scan here to check out the Cloverleaf Collaborative YouTube Channel!



The Church in Mission

Reverend Tammy Kuntz

Happy August!

There is still plenty of time for porch sitting, ice cream, and walks in the park. We look forward to meeting our neighbors at the fair, farmer's market, and all the other places where we engage in God's grace.

Please save those plastic grocery bags! These will be used to weave sleeping mats that will be shared with the homeless in Medina County. It takes approximately 300 bags to make one mat. You can see the mat in the photo ready to be taken off the loom. The loom is completed (Thanks, Carl!) and we're ready to make plarn (plastic yarn). You can see a video of how to cut the bags and how to make a sleeping mat at <https://www.midwestmission.org/loom>. I hope to bring a completed sleeping mat back from Mission Academy.



In other mission news from around the connection – Youth 2023 brought together 2500 young people and their leaders for three days of worship, workshops, and play. We had communion at sunrise on the beach. We celebrated over 300 youth who served in mission on the way to the event. Youth are encouraged to be Bold – Being Ourselves Living Differently. This was a great event that focused on the new says God is moving in us and through us.



Have you found yourself wondering: what happened to those rice meals?

We've received confirmation from Midwest Mission that the supplies we packed have been shipped to Turkey as part of continued earthquake relief efforts!

Midwest Mission disbursed 24,000 Rice Meal Bags (to feed 144,000 people) and 6,440 Personal Dignity Kits. This shipment totaled 38,208 lbs. and was valued at \$152,690.00 These supplies are going to a distribution hub in Poland, where the supplies will then be split up among several different organizations who will transport the supplies to Turkey, and possibly into Syria.

Thank you to all who played a role in making our rice meal packing effort a success!

Outreach

Please remember to bring in your plastic grocery bags and place them in the box in the Fellowship Hall. This month, we will be using them to make plastic sleeping mats for people struggling with homelessness.

Also, there will be a container for stuffed teddy bears in the Fellowship Hall. Donated stuffed animals must be new! These donations will all be going to Akron Children's Hospital, where children who need a lift will feel the love from our church!

Look for the date where we will again be packing rice meals. Everyone is encouraged to help! Believe it or not, it's fun!

Family Life

At the end of June, the committee sponsored a family picnic at Cy Hewit Park. Although attendance was a little disappointing, we all had a great time singing along with Bill Reedy on guitar!

We will soon start on plans for our Fall Festival. Watch for the date and plan to attend!

*Dear Lunch Box Crew,
Thank you for the wonderful lunch yesterday. That was so great of you to take the time to prepare us a nice lunch. I'm very thankful to have such caring people in our church and I ask God to bless each of you!
Thanks so much!
In Christian love,
Juanita Peery*



United
Women
in Faith

Chris Wotoweic will lead the Prayer and Self-Denial program at our August 15th meeting, where the collection will support missions of the women. Helen Angell and Connie Beery will serve as the evening's co-hostesses.

Please remember to bring a school picture of yourself as part of the program!

Coffee Club

We had a fun time and great turnout for everyone's birthday celebration. We even had celebrating with us 90 and 94 year old women!

They seemed to love discussing the cultural changes they'd seen since their early years, and even shared some memories of World War II.

The people attending are very gracious and appreciative of our church!

Bread and Pastries Pickup

First Tuesday	Kuntz
Second Tuesday	Perry
Third Tuesday	Ewing
Fourth Tuesday	
Fifth Tuesday	Freeland



Bagel slicers and bread packers

Sandy Bridenthal and Sherry Armstrong

Can you help with this ministry to pick up bread and pastries as needed?

Worship

Looking ahead

August 6

10th Sunday after Pentecost
Worship at the Fairgrounds
Communion

Scripture

Psalm 17
Isaiah 55:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

Hymns

#384 "Love Divine All Loves
Excelling"
#2223 "They'll Know We Are
Christians By Our Love"
#672 "God Be With You 'Til
We Meet Again"

Greeters/Ushers

Kristi & Carl Perry
Dale Cook
Emily & John Gladden
Sandy Bridenthal

Combined Choir Anthem

#2254 "In Remembrance of
Me"

The combined worship will be
at **10:30 am** at the **Medina
County Fairgrounds
Pavilion.**

For those unable to attend in
person, **Lodi UMC will be
hosting a service (with
Pastor Paige Boyer
preaching)**, both live and
streamed online, also with
holy communion.

August 13

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture

Psalm 105
Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Matthew 14:22-33

Hymns

8:30
"Rejoice in the Lord Always"
"Seekers of Your Heart"
"Lamb of God"
"As the Deer"
"Let There Be Love"

10:45

#505 "When Our Confidence
is Shaken"
#512 "Stand By Me"
#474 "Precious Lord, Take
My Hand"

Greeters/Ushers

8:30 - Nancy & Kevin Barr
10:45 - Carl & Kris Perry

Liturgist

8:30 - Bobbi Placke
10:45 - Dave Welday

Counter

Carol Harlan

August 20

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture

Psalm 133
Genesis 45:1-15
Matthew 15:10-28

Hymns

8:30
"Seek Ye First"
"Meekness and Majesty"
"He Is Faithful"
"I Look to the Shepherd"
"Let There Be Love"

10:45

#130 "God Will Take Care of
You"
#548 "In Christ There Is No
East or West"
#389 "Freely, Freely"

Greeters/Ushers

8:30 - Nancy & Brian Greer
10:45 - Sandy Bridenthal &
Beth Meadows

Liturgist

8:30 - Heather Cottingham
10:45 - Melanie Gladden

Counter

Janet Gommel

August 27

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture

Psalm 124
Exodus 1:8-2:10
Matthew 16:13-23

Hymns

8:30
"How Majestic Is Your Name"
"King of Kings"
"Cares Chorus"
"God Is So Good"
"Trees of the Fields"

10:45

#467 "Trust and Obey"
#2071 "Jesus, Name Above
All Names"
#555 "Forward Through the
Ages"

Greeters/Ushers

8:30 - Lea & Mark Ewing
10:45 - Darla & Wendel
Payn

Liturgist

8:30 - Bill Reedy
10:45 - Janet Gommel

Counter

Melanie Gladden

August Birthdays

4-Heather Cottingham
6-Bill Reedy
7-Sue Frey
8-Catherine Wyant
Debbie Miller
9-Evan Riegler
11-Mary Lou Eby
Kay Freeland
13-Kathy Stutzman
17-Devon Pawlus
21-Kelly Korb
22-Jim Meadows
23-Darwyn Riggerbach
Michaela Gubics
26-Margaret Clevidence
28-John Drehs
30-Sandy S. Miller

Happy BIRTHDAY

Thank you, church, for all the PRAYERS, cards, calls, visits and transportation. It has been a long haul, but I hope to be out and about soon. Thanks again,
~Janet Turner



News You Can Use...

What Are You Doing as Part of Our Hospitality Team?

On Monday (7/31) I had the opportunity to attend a workshop on hospitality best practices hosted by our conference. This was the first of several training seminars for prospective Lighthouse Churches, churches intending to provide an *intentional*, welcoming environment for those who are left grieving, alienated, or abandoned by their home churches in the wake of disaffiliation from the UMC. Attendance was impressive—we were told that the hosting church had to move the training to a different room than planned to accommodate us—and *our numbers were at least doubled by online participants*. I was glad to see that so many churches in our region feel called to this mission.

There was a lot of material packed into a six-hour session, and I hope to share my takeaways with you in the coming months.

We often treat hospitality as a sum of individual efforts. "Hospitality," as we usually understand it, is in the thoughts and actions of each usher and greeter on Sunday morning. We're working with an individual definition, when we should have a shared one. *How can we all contribute to an active hospitality structure, rather than relying on the friendliness of a few good-natured extroverts? Are we—as a church—always prepared to receive guests?*

Our presenter described what he called the "wallpaper phenomenon;" in your own home, the walls could be discolored, dingy, or outdated, but, as someone who sees them everyday, you probably won't even notice. This idea isn't limited to physical appearances.

I'd like us all to tackle a group homework assignment. Take a day to intentionally walk into our church with the eyes of a stranger. How comfortable are you? Do you feel confident navigating the physical space? What signals are we sending; is this a church that does the little, "easy" things (and is therefore more likely to tackle the difficult, important work)?

What will make us a hospitable church—not just a church with hospitable people?

Emily Gladden

August

Anniversaries

1-Betsy & Brett Amstutz
4-Virginia & Jim Demo
6-Jerrica & Devon Pawlus
7-Kay & David (Sr.) Freeland
8-Jennifer & John Drehs
8-Cathy & Patrick Sheridan
9-John & Bev Rhoads
12-Sandy & Lynn Miller
14-Melissa & Michael King
15-Lauren & Matthew Korb
17-Amy & Ed Fashbaugh
21-Nancy & Brian Greer
25-Melanie & John Gladden
30-Mary & Paul Oberli
30-Cathy & Greg Piper

Please pray for:

Maggie Kuntz
Matt Huse
Norma Allen
Baby Gage Szweda
Betty Perry
Mary Lou Eby
Deb Massie
Hank Herbst
Bailey Freeland
Barr family
Alan Shriver Family
Janet Turner
Roy Bise
Steve Campbell
Adam Shook Family
Charles Powell
Lisa Marshall
Frank Klote

The people of Ukraine
Natural Disaster survivors
Unspoken Concerns **7**

More Happenings



Lay Representative to Annual Conference Report

Bobbi Placke

Bobbi presented her report to the congregation on June 25th; the key points are included here for your further reference, reflection, and prayer.

The 54th session of the East Ohio Conference met June 8-10 at the John S. Knight center in Akron. 445 Clergy and 471 Laity were in attendance. Faith, Hope, Love was the theme. Bishop Malone started out the opening day of Annual Conference by saying “Now Is the time for change and reorientation. Moving forward in our focus. Being emboldened and pull together.”

During our business session on Thursday it was voted to accept the disaffiliation of 237 churches in the East Ohio Conference. This will reduce the number of churches in our conference from 651 to 414. Around 100 clergy also chose to leave our conference. We will pray for them. Lighthouse churches and Oasis groups were discussed. Currently in Medina County we have Granger UMC as a Lighthouse church. Our Cloverleaf Cooperative Bibles and Burritos is an Oasis group. We need to pray for those looking for a new worship opportunity after the disaffiliation of their home church. 9 churches closed their doors this year. It was voted to change our districting from 10 districts to 4. We will keep Bishop Malone and the cabinet in our prayers as they discern these changes. This will go in effect January 1, 2024.

You can be assured that Seville UMC *will not be disaffiliating*. We are glad to say we see God in every person and every place, without exception. We value our connection to the United Methodist community, both broadly and locally, and have faith in our shared future.

The Rev. Abby Auman reflected that the church doesn't look like it did 2,000, 50 or even 10 years ago, so we seek the direction of God who makes all things new.

We approved 3 resolutions:

1. Advocating the human rights of Palestinian children and families living under Israeli military occupation
2. The Christmas Covenant.
3. East Ohio United Methodists against hate crimes.

A 5% increase was passed for all minimum pastoral salary categories. We approved a 2024 budget of \$9,428,531. This is a 3.5% reduction from 2023.

We recognized 40 retiring clergy. Praise God for the many years they shared God's word. 5 clergy were recognized as provisional members, and 9 clergy were ordained as full members. Ours prayers lifted as they share Gods word to their churches. 48 clergy and spouses were recognized as passing to the church triumphant.

I attended a luncheon called "Sassy" to learn about a possible new structure for the leadership of the church. I will be bringing this to Administrative Council for the consideration of implementing SAS into our church leadership.*

General Conference will meet in April 2024 in Charlotte, NC. Next years Annual Conference will again be held at the John S. knight Center in Akron on June13-15, 2024

**Administrative Council was introduced to the key points of SAS (Simplified Accountability Structure) at its last meeting. The discussion of whether this system would be valuable for our church to adopt in ongoing; if you'd like to learn about SAS yourself, feel free to explore some explanatory videos and readings: [from Wesley UMC Dover](#), [from Kaykotan.com](#), [from BlakeBradford](#).*

Summer Finance

From the Finance Committee:

As of June 30, 2023

General Fund Giving	\$86,224
Building/Maintenance	<u>1,950</u>
Total Giving	\$88,174

Total Expenses	(91,791)
Shortfall	(3,617)



"We are God's people, can you hear us shout it, shout for joy all the earth, worship him with gladness."

Those are words I was blessed to hear over and over again as I sang with the children during VBS this year. When you hear over 70 voices joining together saying, "We are God's people," you can't help but believe that God probably got goose bumps too. Almost 40 years ago I walked into Seville UMC and have know it as my church home since. My daughter was blessed to have Jo Kelly as her special reading teacher and when Jo chose my daughter to be a part of the master's thesis she was working on, I got the opportunity to also talk with Jo. As Christians do, we talked about church and the fact that I was looking for a new church and she told me about Seville. The first Sunday I walked in, I went to Jim Eby's Sunday school class. I can't tell you the exact words he said but I knew it was God's way of letting me know I had found my church home.

Now when I look into the congregation I see fewer faces and it concerns me because the world has changed so much. There are many things that are keeping people out of churches on Sunday morning; yet there is no better place to walk into, knowing we can freely hear God's word and worship where and how we choose. A decline in attendance also means a decline in giving. Seville UMC is facing challenges trying to meet our expenses. The Finance committee has worked hard to stretch our offering to meet all our financial needs, yet we are still discussing some of the changes we may have to make, like the possibility of a part time Pastor. We need to pray for our church and ask God to watch over us as we continue to work toward keeping Seville UMC as a church we can all be blessed to worship in, and others can feel welcome walking into our doors.

Bobbi Placke

**Online Giving
at**

[www.https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z6HA/home](https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z6HA/home)



Scan here with your
smartphone camera
to make a payment
electronically
through Vanco

August 2023

- 2 Finance
- 6 Worship at the Fairgrounds
- 7 Coffee Club
- 8 Trustees
- 9 Bibles and Burritos
- 10 SPRC
- 12 MT25 Food Distribution
- 15 United Women in Faith
- 19 Food Pantry
Parking Lot Movie Night
- 23 Worship Committee
- 25 Lunch Box

Food Pantry Items of the Month Canned Fruit



Scan here to view the Calendar Online

Seville United Methodist Church
74 W. Main St.; PO BOX 32
Seville, OH 44273

Our Sunday Morning Schedule:

- 8:30 AM Praise Worship
- 9:30 AM Sunday School
- 10:45 AM Traditional Worship & Online Streaming