

UMC EXPRESS



CROP Walk is Oct. 22

Help fight hunger one step at a time by inviting friends, family and coworkers to be walkers or sponsors as we hike the Gary Eichler Trail to help feed the hungry in our community and around the world.

The walk begins at 2 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 22, at Maria Stanhope Park, rain or shine. Our goal is 50 walkers with at least \$20 each in sponsorships. Proceeds will be split between the Matthew 25 Outreach Center and Church World Service.

Save the date and watch for more information soon!

Please contact John Gladden with questions or if you can volunteer to assist with this event. We can use help with check-in, snacks and a water station at Leohr Park.

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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Donald Kuntz
Deacon: Rev. Tammy Kuntz
Organist: Connie Beery
Choir Director: Pam Mullin
Praise Team Director: Bobbi Placke

Phone: 330-769-2836
Email: sevumc@aol.com (Rev. Don)
sevumccarol@aol.com (Office)
www.sevilleumc.org

Check us out on Facebook!



What's Happening At Seville UMC?

*The Deadline for the October Newsletter is
Wednesday, September 20, 2023.*

Sunday School

Sunday school will be resuming soon for the fall, beginning with the Sunday after Labor Day. We invite all kids pre-K–6th grade to join us downstairs each week at 9:30 am!



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
September 13, 6:30pm

RSVP to Rev. Tammy for reservations.



Bible Study

We often go through challenges that seem so much greater than our strength. But God is telling us that our glory days are still ahead. We only need to grasp that truth and live in faith to realize this promise.

We serve a God who fights for us.

God had a Promised Land in store for the Israelites, but they had to grasp that reality, change their mindsets, and take action to receive it. The same is true for us today.

The six-week study is "Glory Days" by Max Lucado, and centers teachings from the story of Joshua.

The first session will be Tuesday, September 12th at 9:30 am in the parlor. See the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall or contact Pam Mullin with any questions.



Rice Meal Packing
September 9, 9:00am

MT25OC Food Distribution
September 9, 10:00am

Coffee Club
September 11, 10:00am

Administrative Council
September 11, 7:00pm

Joy Caring Group
September 12, 1:00 pm

Bible Study
September 12, 9:30am

Bibles and Burritos
September 13, 6:30pm

Outreach Meeting
September 13, 7:00pm

Food Pantry
September 16, 10:00am

Finance Meeting
September 18, 7:00pm

United Women in Faith
September 19, 7:00pm

Blood Drive
September 25, 12:00pm

Lunch Box
September 29, 12:00pm



A WORD FROM OUR REVEREND...

Reverend Donald Kuntz

The Connectional System

One of the wonders of the United Methodist Church is our connectionalism. We can think of our vertical integration from church to district to annual conference to jurisdiction to the national church. We can think of our horizontal connections of districts and annual conferences working together, resourced by United Methodist Church agencies. We value these relationships through structures. Another perspective on connectionalism is linking resources with needs. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) provides monetary resources; United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) provides the boots on the ground.

In disaster relief, the Early Response Teams arrive after local authorities determine the scene is safe. Some people do site research and suitability, others arrive with skills for short term relief, getting the tasks done while working on relationships. Then long term United Methodist Volunteers in Mission teams assist with labor and supplies for the long haul.

Back in the early 1990s, the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank had a walk-in freezer malfunction and needed to move 1500 half gallon boxes of ice cream. One of the calls they made was to Canton Calvary UMC which had a small food pantry (serving 65-70 families), and which also had partnerships with an AIDS Hospice, a few senior citizen housing complexes, and day care centers. A pick up truck loaded with 300 half gallons arrived in Canton just before noon, and within an hour those 300 boxes of ice cream were in the freezers of non-profits. The connections of the UMC helped solve a problem.

UMC relief work has many facets including: Youth Work Missions doing housing rehab, churches collecting disaster relief supplies co-ordinated through Midwest Mission Distribution Center or Sager Brown (supply depots and affiliated warehouses), NOMADS traveling state to state working on long term projects and annual conference sponsored medical missions to places like Progreso Nuevo, Mexico. Or it could be something small like donating boxes of unneeded dishes and kitchen utensils to a re-entry ministry in Dover, Ohio assisting women leaving shelters.

Our own Cloverleaf Collaborative is an example of connectionalism, demonstrating we can do more together than we can do separately. The challenge came from East Ohio Annual Conference to form some 'fresh expressions' where worship and bible study happen outside the church walls, and the Cloverleaf Collaborative received a start up grant for Bibles and Burritos (held at El Patron the second Wednesday of the month).

Paul's metaphor was parts of the body (see 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12). I think of the phone operator at the PBX board connecting a number of inside lines with calls outside the network. Connectionalism is one of the blessings the UMC shares with the world.

There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body.
1 Corinthians 12:12

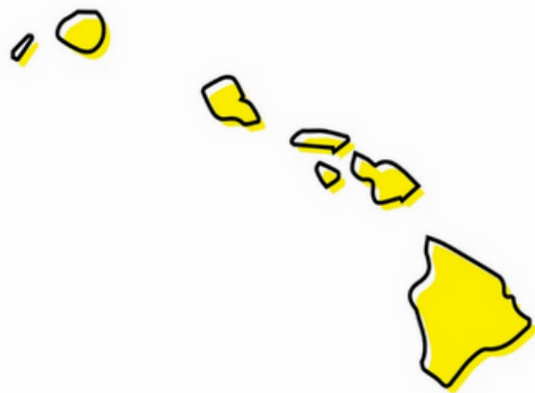


Scan here to check out the Cloverleaf Collaborative YouTube Channel!



The Church in Mission

Reverend Tammy Kuntz



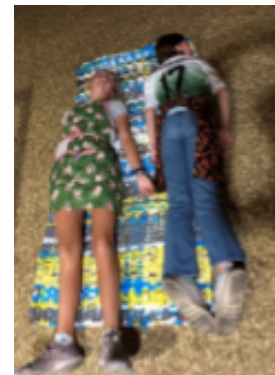
What's happening to support the people of Lahaina?

Wind-driven wildfires on Maui have prompted evacuations and caused significant loss of life and widespread damage. **UMCOR** is coordinating with the California-Pacific Annual Conference to process an initial grant for emergency supplies such as shelf-stable food, water, hygiene items and tools to help survivors recover belongings.

Midwest Mission is partnering with agencies on Maui to determine what supplies are needed. Many items are being sent without concern for what is actually needed. This toxic charity creates a secondary disaster since agencies will have to find a way to manage things that are not useful.

What can you do? Add "Hawaii" to the memo of your check or on your giving envelope to share in this support for our neighbors in Lahaina. Watch for the list of needs as Midwest Mission shares this information.

The first **sleeping mat** is completed! Stop by the Fellowship Hall to cut bags, tie bags, or do a bit of weaving. We will connect with agencies in Medina County that work with our homeless neighbors to help distribute the mats.



Last April, we completed a **Rice Meal Pack** that provided meals for 7200 people in Turkey. We have another Rice Meal Pack planned for **Saturday, September 9 beginning at 9:00 am**. We will pack 1200 meals. Each bag is \$2.00. (We are sharing the truck with another church which reduced our cost to just the product.)



And a Food Pantry update- In August, we served 24 families. In addition to your donations and the product shared by our neighbors, we picked up 664 pounds of food from the Akron Canton Food Bank. Thank you for your continued generosity!

Outreach

The committee will be meeting on September 13th at 7 pm in the church parlor. All committee members are encouraged to attend!

We will be discussing plans for the nativity scene in conjunction with the Historical Society.

All of us are aware of the ongoing need for assistance in Lahaina, Maui. We will plan to have a collection of funds which will be designated to UMCOR for Hawaii.

Please remember to continue bringing in plastic bags for the sleeping mats!

Joy Caring Group



The Joy Caring Group will be meeting Tuesday, September 12th, at 1 pm, at the home of Vickie Fortney:

118 Center St.
Seville, OH 44273

Please RSVP to Vickie at 330-416-0071 by September 8th. Light refreshments will be served!

Coffee Club

Mary Halkovich, former superintendent at Cloverleaf Local Schools, will be our guest speaker at Coffee Club on September 11th.

She will present a program about the Ohio Presidents' wives and will even bring some of their jewelry with her. Please note the change of date due to Labor Day.

For lunch we will be serving spaghetti pie, tossed salad and dessert.



United
Women
in Faith

We had a most interesting and informative program presented by Chris Wotoweic regarding Prayer and Self-Denial. Delicious refreshments were served, and a collection was taken for children's charity.

Each member is asked to bring in a new stuffed animal for Akron Children's Hospital this month.

Our September 19th meeting will be a fun night! We'll begin at 6:30 pm with a salad buffet. Each person is to bring a favorite salad along with a guest. Hope to see you there!



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

September 3

14th Sunday after Pentecost
Communion

Scripture

Psalm 105
Exodus 3:1-15
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

Hymns

8:30

Hallowed Be Thy Name
Come and See
Fear Not
Lion and the Lamb
Because He Lives

10:45

#463 "Lord Speak to Me"
#408 "The Gift of Love"
#415 "Take Up Thy Cross"

Greeters/Ushers

8:30 - TBD
10:45 - Cathy Piper & Liisa
Coldiron

Liturgist

8:30 - Jerrica Pawlus
10:45 - Rev. Tammy Kuntz

Counter

Helen Angell

September 10

15th Sunday after Pentecost
Blessing of the Backpacks

Scripture

Psalm 148
Exodus 12:1-14
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

Hymns

8:30

Jesus is my Lord
We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise
We Choose the Fear of the Lord
Open Our Eyes
Thy Loving Kindness

10:45

#558 "We Are the Church," vv. 1
4
#617 "I Come With Joy"
#430 "O Master Let Me Walk
With Thee"

Greeters/Ushers

8:30 - Jean Eby & Teresa
Naftzger
10:45 - Bette & Ralph Smith

Liturgist

8:30 - Bobbi Placke
10:45 - Sandy Bridenthal

Counter

Carol Harlan

September 17

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture

Psalm 114
Exodus 14:19-31
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

Hymns

8:30

We Are Called
Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness
Honor and Praise
I Love You, Lord
Bind Us Together

10:45

#89 "Joyful, Joyful, We
Adore Thee"
#121 "There's a Wideness in
God's Mercy"
#389 "Freely, Freely"

Greeters/Ushers

8:30 - Nancy & Kevin Barr
10:45 - Chris Wotoweic &
Joyce Milota

Liturgist

8:30 - Heather Cottingham
10:45 - Helen Angell

Counter

Janet Gommel

September 24

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture

Psalm 78
Exodus 16:2-15
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

Hymns

8:30

Servant of All
Create in Me a Clean Heart
My Peace
Be Still and Know
Clap Your Hands

10:45

#453 "More Love to Thee, O
Christ"
#340 "Come, Ye Sinners, Poor
and Needy"
#433 "All Who Love and
Serve Your City"

Greeters/Ushers

8:30 - Nancy & Brian Greer
10:45 - Val & Dave Welday

Liturgist

8:30 - Bill Reedy
10:45 - Dave Welday

Counter

Melanie Gladden

September Birthdays

1-Courtney Harlan
Tara Freeland
5-Nancy Barr
Alayna Gubics
14-Vickie Fortney
Donna Francko
27-James Demo
28-Connie Beery



Edie Landis's new address:

9363 Rawiga Rd.
Seville, OH 44273

News You Can Use...

UMM may be for you if...

There are two major institutions that take the summer off and begin a new season every October: The U.S. Supreme Court and Seville United Methodist Men. UMM meets at 9 am on the first Saturday of the month, from October through May.

UMM may be for you if:

1. You are a guy.
2. You are a guy who likes to eat breakfast.
3. You are a guy who likes to eat breakfast and work on projects that serve Christ, the church, and the community.

If you possess any of those characteristics, then UMM is for you. We invite you to join us for our first meeting of the season at 9 am on Saturday, Oct. 7. Questions? Please call or text John Gladden at 330-591-8926.

Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir will be starting up again for the fall, beginning with a rehearsal on Thursday, September 7th at 7 pm. New singers are welcome!

Matthew 25 Outreach Center Food Distribution

In the first year distributing food at Cloverleaf Elementary, the Matthew 25 Outreach Center has served 2930 households (7701 people); 29% were children, 26% were seniors, and 80% lived here in Medina County.

Does this community-focused, relationship-building ministry speak to you?

If so, the food distribution is always welcoming new volunteers the second Saturday of each month!

We could use your help either in the distribution line or (especially) delivering shelf-stable food boxes to seniors.



September Anniversaries

4-Jean & Walter Eby
7-Denise & Shawn George
8-Lori & Jim Morris
9-Tammy & Phil Wilden
9-Velvet & Chris Eby
9-Shannon & Ken Beery
15-Roseann & Craig Wood
24-Malinda & James Woodring
24-Heidi & Daniel Parsons
29-Chris & Tony Wolfe

Please pray for:

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

The people of Ukraine
People of Lahaina, Maui

Unspoken Concerns

More Happenings



On Hospitality

Emily Gladden

When I stepped into the office administrator role here at our church, my learning curve was eased by some foundational knowledge; if I get a phone call about the food pantry, if the boiler isn't working, if a group meeting in the building wants to present on the screens, or if I have a question about flower orders or filing committee minutes, I know where to turn for support!

This adjustment would have been much more difficult if instead of simply learning my responsibilities I also had to learn our church's entire structure, both formal and informal, from scratch. Imagine just how at-sea a newcomer to our church would feel, surrounded by a network that's both obscure and unfamiliar. *When you're new, everyone and everything is a mystery to you.*

A key part of our Lighthouse Training session focused on the importance of **demystifying**. Our speaker broke this down into three categories: secret identities, code language, and secret handshakes.

First, **secret identities**: who are all these people?

We tend to take for granted that, when someone stands up to speak during worship, we know who they are. Simple introductions that may seem redundant to us could go a long way for someone who walked into our church knowing no names and faces. Introductions allow a visitor to start building a personal network in our church and avoid missing important points of connection. How much easier is it to find a sense of community when someone making an announcement says, "and I'm part of our men's group/I'm involved with Sunday School, etc."? This could be especially important to consider for someone worshipping virtually, who is in danger of seeing only the backs of heads and hearing a few distant, disembodied voices. How can we be sure these people feel connection?

Code language (what we say) and **secret handshakes (what we do)** are commonplace in worship; I'm sure many of us find comfort in ritual and tradition. But we all had to learn the lingo at some point. There are three groups of worshipers: the committed, the disconnected, and the seekers. We need to be sure that everything makes sense to this third group, people who could land in our worship service by happenstance. It isn't difficult to think up a list of words and rituals that could confuse someone new to church: doxology, liturgist, acolyte, benediction, Eucharist, narthex, parlor. When it comes to offering, communion, or the sharing of prayer concerns and celebrations, should we really be operating under the assumption that everyone knows what's going on or can intuit how they should participate?



Struggling with an unfamiliar environment will tax the mental and emotional energy of our visitors. Alleviating this burden is a valuable hospitality goal, and one we should reaffirm our commitment to.

August Finance

From the Finance Committee:

As of August 31, 2023

General Fund Giving	\$118,293
Building/Maintenance	<u>2,555</u>
Total Giving	\$120,848

Total Expenses	\$(126,148)
Shortfall	(5,300)



As we end the summer season, giving is currently a bit behind in our expenses. Giving has been steady over the summer months, but August fell shorter than anticipated. With the monies that were moved from saving earlier this summer, all expenses, including our East Ohio Conference apportionments have been paid thru August.

Just a reminder as to the various ways you can send your donations to Seville UMC:

- Give online thru our website <https://www.seville-umc.org/>
 - Just click the donate button!
- Mail a check directly to the church
- Send a check thru your online banking system (you can even set it up to send checks on a recurring basis)



We value you and your support of Seville UMC!

Your Finance Committee

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

September 2023

- 9 Rice Meal Packing
Mt25OC Food Distribution
- 11 Coffee Club
Administrative Council
- 12 Joy Caring Group
Bible Study
- 13 Bibles and Burritos
Outreach
- 16 Food Pantry
- 18 Finance
- 19 United Women in Faith
- 25 Blood Drive
- 27 Lunch Box

Food Pantry Item of the Month Menstrual Products



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