

THE MESSENGER



WESTLAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

To live so that others will become disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world



Pastoral Reflections

REVIVAL IN OUR LIVES AND IN OUR CHURCHES

On Thursday mornings for the past few weeks, I have been leading a study of the book *Revival: Faith as Wesley Lived It* by Rev. Adam Hamilton. I enjoyed reading this book for the first time about a year ago when copies were given to many clergy in the East Ohio Conference by our respective District Superintendents. Since then, I have returned on numerous occasions to these words that remind us of our theological roots as United Methodists. The opening words of the book are a shockingly honest statement: "In every Christian's life, a spiritual vitality or passion wanes over time. This is actually true in all aspects of our lives."¹ Hamilton goes on to speak of the importance of regaining the vitality of our individual faith and the faith of our churches and denominations. The lens that he uses for this book, the "seeds of our revival," can be found in the very beginning of what we now know as the Wesleyan movement.² The Wesleyan movement was a revival movement that began in England in the 1700s. In all honesty, the word "revival" may make some of us a bit nervous; however, it comes from the Latin word that means to reinvigorate, to restore, and/or to revitalize after a period of decline.³

From the beginning of what became the Wesleyan movement, there was a focus by John Wesley, his brother Charles, and a few others on fasting, reading Scripture, partaking of the Sacrament of Holy Communion, and performing works of compassion and acts of justice. They met together as a small group, and they held each other accountable in their faith journey. At the core of who we are as United Methodists, is a history of individuals coming together in small groups focusing on

growing spiritually and being in service to others.

Fast forwarding to more modern times, it is very exciting to see approximately fifty percent of our average worship attendance at Westlake UMC involved in some type of intentional faith development small groups. Many of you are in one of our twelve Christ Care groups. If you are currently not in a Christ Care group, I would invite you to prayerfully consider joining one. Ellie Peiffer, our Welcoming and Small Group Ministry Associate, would be honored to assist you in finding a group to join. For some, it may be difficult for you to commit to belonging to a Christ Care group, and instead you have chosen to participate in the many different short-term small group studies offered throughout the church year. If you have questions regarding the short-term faith development classes that are being offered, Carol Ryan, our Director of Christian Education, welcomes the opportunity to discuss the available classes with you.

The fact that Westlake UMC offers so many different opportunities for you to experience growth in your faith is indicative of our commitment to our Wesleyan roots and to revival in our faith, individually and as a church. It is my prayer, that each person within the Westlake UMC faith community will grow in their relationship with God by being a part of our small group ministry.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Mollie

¹Adam Hamilton, *Revival: Faith as Wesley Lived It* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2014), 11.

²Hamilton, *Revival*, 11-12.

³Hamilton, *Revival*, 11-12.



Cleveland Chapter -- American Guild of Organists *Member Recital*

SUNDAY, MAY 1ST at 5:00 P.M. AT WESTLAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PERFORMERS INCLUDE: David von Behren, Don Jackson, Annie Kaschube, Tim Robson, Nicole Keller & Matt Skitzki

Reception in Fellowship Hall will follow performance — All are welcome!

WESTLAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

27650 Center Ridge Road * Westlake, Ohio 44145 * (440) 871-3088 * westlakeumc.org

Sunday Worship at 8:15, 10:00 and 11:28 a.m.

WESTLAKE UMC NEWS & UPDATES

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP SPONSORS

MAY

May 1	Roseann Fekete
May 8	Don & Mary Lou Lefelar
May 15	Mike & Sue Clark — <i>in celebration of our wedding anniversary</i>
May 22	Carol Hartman & Marilyn Vertal— <i>in celebration of our great staff!</i>
May 29	Bob & Carolyn Remington

Coffee Time Sponsors are still needed to support our coffee fellowship during the fall through the new year. Cost is \$35. Your sponsorship keeps this important ministry of connection going! **You can find Sponsorship forms on the table near the coffee at Fellowship Hour.**

Trustee Corner

In an effort to better inform the WUMC congregation about our church home, the Board of Trustees will be periodically contributing to the monthly *Messenger* via the new "Trustees Corner". The Board of Trustees is tasked with maintaining the church building and its contents. We also play a role in efforts to improve and update our facility in order to better fulfill the mission and ministry of WUMC. We hope you find this new column useful and informative!

We will soon be commissioning an engineering study for the replacement of our aging and inefficient furnaces. Our timing is for completion of this project by early fall in order to be ready for the next heating season, and also to qualify for a substantial utility rebate set to expire this year. This investment will substantially reduce our natural gas consumption, enough to pay back the installation cost within 7 or 8 years!

We are also making preliminary plans to solve the main floor restroom challenge. Our objective is to add a (long-awaited) men's restroom! If possible, we hope to include an accessible family toilet as well.

In the coming months, we will update you on these and other projects being undertaken. In addition, we will provide facts, figures, and tidbits about our church.

In faith, Your WUMC Board of Trustees

Journey of Life Retreat with Rev. Dr. Valerie Stultz Was Impactful!

45 people gathered on an unexpectedly snowy morning April 9th to think about the Journey of Life; our tasks as followers of Jesus and our work as the church. Here is some feedback from those that attended: "

- *The day of learning, discussing and sharing was powerful."*
- *"I thought this was one of the best things I have attended at church. Dr Stultz was terrific."*
- *"What an amazing day!"*

As a church we offer people growth, ability to change, holy conferencing, and ways to serve. All members have responsibility to help others connect to this life of community. Being open and aware of the promptings of the Spirit help us to do the task of church in our own unique way. In the words of Richard Rohr in his book *Falling Upward*, "If change and growth are not programmed into your spirituality, your religion will always end up worshipping the status quo... as if it were God."

New Member Classes

If you are interested in joining Westlake UMC or just would like more information about the church, the three new member classes are for you! Let the office know if you are interested in attending these classes. Childcare is available if needed.

• COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR: Wednesday, May 4th at 7 p.m.

In this session Pastor Mollie reviews the mission and vision of the church, what it means to be a United Methodist, and has a time for questions and answers.

• STEWARDSHIP & YOUR MONEY AUTOBIOGRAPHY:

Sunday, May 15th at 9:00 a.m.

Some say money is the most important factor in American culture; certainly, it is the most complex. It is important to sort out our own beliefs about money. It is one of the tools to help us understand the complexity of money.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH & SMALL GROUPS

Bible Study with Pastor Mollie

THE STORY OF AMOS

STARTING THURSDAY, MAY 19TH, 9 A.M.

Please join Pastor Mollie each Thursday morning for four weeks as she explores a study of the Book of Amos. The coffee will be on waiting for you! Meet in Room 205.



United Methodist Women General Meeting

THURSDAY, MAY 12TH AT 10:30 A.M.



All the women of our church and their friends are encouraged to join our congenial group. Meetings begin at 10:30 every second Thursday of the month in Fellowship Hall. At 12:00 we enjoy lunch -- bring your sandwich -- beverage and dessert will be provided. At 1:00 our Rev. Dick Parks will install the new officers for the coming year and conduct the annual Bible study. Please join us!

Thank you for your great support of the Plant/Flower Sale. **Pick-up Day is Saturday, May 21st from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the church parking lot.**

Also, thanks for your USO cookies. We donated 128 dozen which was more than the other participating churches. Good job!

New Coffee Maker is up and running for May 1st!

As of this writing, we are anticipating the new coffee system will be installed in the kitchen. A cup of coffee brings many people together and we hope you'll make a point of coming to coffee hour to try the product of our new grinder and brewer. Many thanks to the Bowersox family for donating funds for this purpose in memory of Merle and Glendine Jeffrey, to Trustees and Chris Tilton for installing the system, and to the Hospitality team for training our coffee hosts and groups on the new procedures.

CHURCH FAMILY FOCUS

Life Events

BAPTISM

Connor Hensley & Claire Hensley, children of Therese and Chris Hensley were baptized at the 10:00 service by Rev. Mollie Brown on April 10th.

WITH SYMPATHY

Yolanda Crisp, former WUMC member and Handbell Choir member, passed away April 26th.

Opal Purcell, sister of Rev. Bob Remington, passed away in April.

CONFIRMATION

On Sunday, April 24th, the following students were confirmed at Westlake UMC: Connor H., Zoie D., Zachary D., Alison S., William P., Christopher H., Katie T., Alexander K., Evan K., and Levi S.



THANK YOU

Hi, I'm Kaela R., a high schooler who participated in this year's 30 Hour Famine, and on behalf of all the youth I would like to thank the congregation for all the generous donations. We were able to raise \$1,105.42, which feeds 2 children for a year. The 30 Hour Famine, while uncomfortable at times, is an amazing way to get closer to God and to those all around the world who are starving every day. So thank you all again for your support.

COMPASSION & CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Caregivers Support Group

MONDAY, MAY 2ND 7-8PM



Perhaps you are caring for a loved one. Your role as a caregiver is incredibly important and one that demands much of you. You are not alone.

WUMC, in conjunction with Rockport UMC, holds **monthly meetings on the 1st Monday of the month at Westlake UMC**. Caregivers are welcome to bring their care partner. A separate space and activities are available for them, staffed by volunteers. The group is facilitated by Thurston Cosner, Stephen Leader from Rockport UMC, and Gretty Myers, Stephen Leader from Westlake, UMC. Also joining us is Kathy Tafuri, Parish Nurse from Westlake UMC. Please contact Gretty Myers to participate or to volunteer at (216) 701-2067 or grettymyers@sbcglobal.net.



Individual Prayer Time & Communion

WITH PRAYER PARTNERS

**SUNDAYS 9—9:30 A.M. OR
11—11:30 A.M.**

Prayer is the basis of our faith. Prayer allows us a time to praise God and gives us the opportunity to talk with God and share what is on our heart.

Communion opens us up to God's grace and nourishment – food for the journey.

Stephen Ministers are available **every Sunday morning** in Room 203 from 9:00 – 9:30 and also 11:00-11:30 to offer a quiet, reflective time for individual prayer and communion. *All are welcome.*

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES & UPDATES

Monthly Mission Event: *Promise Run*



The WUMC Mission Team needs your help with a water stop on the morning of race day for the Promise Run to support Ohio Guidestone on **Saturday, May 21st at 9:00 a.m.** Families are welcome to help us support the runners as they power down the Valley Parkway near Wallace Lake in the Metro Park near Berea. Contact Gretty Myers for more info to help on race day, or come run/walk the 10k, 5k or 1 mile fun run! Race applications are available in our church lobby. Gretty: grettymyers@sbcglobal.net or (216) 701-2067.

OhioGuidestone is in connectional ministry with United Methodist Church, East Ohio Conference – provides pathways for growth, achievement and lifelong success, to help children, families and communities become stronger.

THANK YOU — FROM KIDS IN NEED

The Cleveland Kids In Need Resource Center would like to thank the crew of volunteers who came to our Center on March 12th to help sort through a donation from JoAnn Fabrics. They not only dove into six pallets of stuff, but also took the time to restock our arts and crafts area! One problem: they didn't eat a lot of donuts, so I had to finish them off.

A little bit about us: Kids In Need Resource Center distributes free school and classroom supplies to teachers from schools where more than 65% of the children qualify for free or reduced lunch. We serve all schools in Cuyahoga County that meet that threshold; unfortunately that is 10 school districts with over 250 schools and about 100,000 students. Last year we distributed over \$3 million worth of classroom materials.

A little bit about you: We would like your help in supporting our **Summer Book Giveaway**. Studies have shown that in the very poorest areas of our country there is one (that's right ONE) age appropriate book in the home for every 300 children! During the last two weeks of May, we will give the teachers who come to our Center two new books for each student in their classroom to take home for the summer. This will help combat summer reading loss and hopefully create a love of reading that will bring rewards for the rest of their lives. The new books are not donated; we purchase them from the Disney Publication Company at a huge discount. ***If you would like to help in this effort please donate to WUMC with "Kids In Need" on the memo line.*** On behalf of our community's neediest student we thank you.!

Blessings,
Barbara Deeds, Executive Director

CHRISTIAN ED & FAMILY EVENTS

LETTER TO COACHES

Dear Coaching Staff,

With our team roster over 100 children and youth, and our coaching staff including over 300 active members at WUMC, it is important we rally together. After the players and parents, the coach becomes one of the most influential persons shaping our young players future love of the game. The coach ensures that the kids will have fun, learn the foundation of the sport, become a strong teammate, and build a passion for the world's most beautiful game. If that is not enough, the coach also plays a role in guiding the learning and understanding of parents to build a strong team family.

Take a moment and remember the dozens of times you signed-up to serve as coach for the Body of Christ. Remember? It started the first time as a member you responded to the question, will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your care?

We can recite the baptism response we gave from the hymnal. But our players don't know it but they are counting on us to really know our Coaching commitment. So take a knee, and let's talk through these plays.

First, we pledge with God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We got this! We are assistant coaching, and there is a star player to model.

Second, we promised that we will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. Huddle in. This play is tricky. Your eyes want to focus on the big players in motion like Community, Forgiveness, and Faithful, but you need to see the whole field. It is two little fellas who will change the game; it is AND plus THEIR.

Lastly, we said we will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life. Remember, the first step is showing up. It is entering the arena. It is true in this line as well, before we run drills on how to walk towards Christ we must pray. This is the work off the field, outside of game day, that will determine our readiness.

Coaches, this is not a scrimmage. The consequences for our players in the aftermath of challenging and tragic events whether in Westlake High School, in Bay Village, or in your own neighborhood are defined as unimaginable. Our drills with our players to respond to God's

grace, to love one another, and do all the good one can simply are not enough. We must support parents, and others in role playing with each and every child player what to do not just to say "don't be a bystander". We must surround these players and their parents with our love. We must remind them even if we, ourselves, have been absent from practices that ALL things are Possible through CHRIST who strengthens us.

If they fail; we failed. Our "Head Coach" has all faith in us, and has given us the talent we need to succeed. We ask that we remember OUR first team who needs our prayers, who needs to know all 300+ of WUMC is ALL IN for each father, mother, and child, and who needs us to remember THEIR baptisms AND be thankful.

Your biggest fan,

Mrs. Carol Ryan

DATES TO REMEMBER

- May 29** Sunday School for Pre-K Only; K-7 scheduled for a worship Sunday
- June 5** Youth Sunday, and Graduation Sunday
- June 12** Sunday School PreK-7th Class Celebrations
- June 26** WUMC's VBS participants to sing in worship



CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Children's choir will be singing "A Mother's Love" and "Take My Life" with adult bell choir accompaniment on **Sunday, May 8th** at the 10:00 worship service. On **Sunday May 15th**, we will have our annual end-of-the-year celebration in the Fellowship Hall following the 10:00 worship service. Parents, grandparents, and siblings are welcome to join us. We will order pizza, and parents are asked to bring a food item to share with everyone. It will be a joyous way to end our amazing year of praising God!





CALLING ONE AND ALL! Do you like coffee? Do you like to take coffee places?

Check out the Youth Booth during the month of May! We have travel mugs and K-Cups! For a (suggested) donation of only \$5, you can own your very own Equal Exchange mug! For \$10, you can get a box of Equal Exchange K-Cups! All donations will go towards the Youth Missions trip this summer. (The youth just have a BIT more to raise! Drink coffee and help out TWO good causes!!)



... Have you heard?

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Middle School ONLY Lazer Tag!

May 1st, 3:30-5:45 p.m. \$20.00 (2 games and pizza included) Sign up [Here](#).

High School ONLY Missions Retreat!

May 6-7 @ Nehemiah Mission. Participate in the North Coast Youth Day of Missions on Saturday!

6:00 p.m. Friday to 5:00 p.m. Saturday. Cost is \$10, and includes dinner Friday, breakfast/lunch Saturday, and lodging at Nehemiah Missions Friday night. Don't miss it, Sign up [Here!](#)

Regular Youth Group Dates: May 15th & 22nd.

Youth/Senior Recognition Sunday: June 5th, 2016. Mark your calendars!!

QUESTIONS? Contact Rachael Haning, WUMC Youth Coordinator at youth@westlakeumc.org




FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Income Statement— March 2016

	March 2016	YTD 2016	2015	YTD 2015	YTD Budget	Annual Budget 2016
INCOME						
CONTRIBUTION INCOME	\$56,989.36	\$139,729.44	\$52,629.80	\$131,118.80	\$143,528.72	\$570,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$56,989.36	\$139,729.44	\$52,629.80	\$131,118.80	\$143,528.72	\$570,000.00
EXPENSES						
ADMINISTRATIVE EXP.						
STAFF PARISH EXP.	\$27,977.02	\$83,478.67	\$27,208.34	\$81,194.10	\$88,853.48	\$355,634.00
OFFICE EXP.	2,181.49	5,677.11	1,913.93	6,767.26	5,545.86	22,583.40
FINANCE TEAM EXP.	77.40	520.81	359.91	365.45	399.99	1,880.00
FACILITIES EXP.	5,274.12	16,994.95	7,068.73	23,105.93	26,124.15	83,546.60
Subtotal Expenses	35,510.03	106,671.54	36,550.91	111,432.74	120,923.48	463,644.00
MINISTRY EXPENSE						
MUSIC EXP.	3.99	365.98	138.94	399.02	1,625.00	4,250.00
WORSHIP EXP.	455.20	1,475.54	86.79	1,410.61	2,103.75	8,375.00
EDUCATION EXP.	705.52	2,791.19	1,704.59	4,524.54	5,100.00	18,090.00
OUTREACH EXP.	672.44	1,531.25	1,293.89	1,723.32	1,760.00	8,065.00
MISSION EXP.	14,743.67	26,029.01	5,432.09	16,296.27	16,893.96	67,576.00
Subtotal Ministry Expense	16,580.82	32,192.97	8,656.30	24,353.76	27,482.71	106,356.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	52,090.85	138,864.51	45,207.21	135,786.50	148,406.19	570,000.00
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	\$ 4,898.51	\$ 864.93	\$ 7,422.59	-\$ 4,667.70	-\$ 4,877.47	\$0.00

MAY 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 5:00 pm AGO Cleveland Chapter Annual Mtg (Sanct/F-Hall) 5pm Way of Forgiveness Youth — Middle School Only Lazer Tag 3:30 p.m.	2 12:30pm ChristCare-EP (100) 7pm Leadership Council (205) 7pm ChristCare-G/J/L (105) 7pm Caregivers Group (100 & 107)	3 10:00 am Flat Rock Campaign Committee (Rm 107) 5:00 pm Oberlin Choristers (FH) 7:30 pm 11:28 Rehearsal	4 12pm Purl Girls (100) 1 pm Parish Nurse Available 1:30pm Arthritis Exer. (103) 7 pm ChristCare-GM (205) 7 pm Coffee with the Pastor	5 9am Bible Study (205) 10 am UMW Bd. Mtg (104) 10am CWRU (107) 5:30pm Marijana Anon (100) 6:15pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm ChristCare-DL (205)	6 3:00 pm L Swisher — private recital (FH)	7 6:30 pm ChristCare (J/L K) (205)
8	9 12:30pm Games 'N Such (FH) 12:30pm ChristCare-EP (100) 7pm ChristCare-G/J/L (205) 7 pm Stephen Ministry (107) 7 pm Trustees (105)	10 5:00 pm Oberlin Choristers (FH) 7:00pm Last rehearsal 7:30 pm Missions (107) 11:28 Rehearsal	11 9:30am All Staff Mtg (205) 12pm Purl Girls (100) 1 pm Parish Nurse Available 1:30pm Arthritis Exer. (103) 2pm ChristCare-JMc (205) 7 pm ChristCare-GM (205)	12 9am Bible Study (205) 10am CWRU (107) 10:30am UMW Gen. Mtg (FH) 5:30pm Marijana Anon (100) 6:15pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm ChristCare-DL (205) 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	13	14 Trustee All-Church Work Day 8 am—12 pm
Mother's Day 	15  9am Money Autobiography (Rm 105) 11am Children's Choir Youth Group 5—8 pm (FH)	16 12:30pm ChristCare-EP (100) 7pm ChristCare-G/J/L (205) Messenger Deadline	17 7 pm Finance Cmmtte (107) 7:30 pm 11:28 Rehearsal	18 12pm Purl Girls (100) 1 pm Parish Nurse Available 1:30pm Arthritis Exer. (103)	19 9am Bible Study (205) 5:30pm Marijana Anon (100) 6:15pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm ChristCare-DL (205) 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	20 6:30 pm ChristCare (J/L K) (205)
22	23 12:30pm ChristCare-EP (100) 7pm ChristCare-G/J/L (205)	24 7:30 pm 11:28 Rehearsal	25 12pm Purl Girls (100) 1 pm Parish Nurse Available 1:30pm Arthritis Exer. (103) 2pm ChristCare-JMc (205) 5:30pm Community Meal 7 pm ChristCare-GM (205)	26 9am Bible Study (205) 10 am UMW Mission 5:30pm Outreach (FHall) 5:30pm Marijana Anon (100) 6:15pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm ChristCare-DL (205) 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	27	28
29	30 Office Closed	31 7:30 pm 11:28 Rehearsal	MEMORIAL DAY 			

WESTLAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Mollie Brown

Senior Pastor:

mgbrown@westlakeumc.org

Annie Kaschube

Organist, Director of Children's Choir
and Handbell Choir

Carol Ryan

Christian Education Director

Ellie Peiffer

Small Group & Welcoming Ministries

Gretty Myers

Stephen Ministry Coordinator

Jeanne Halaby

Childcare Assistant

Jessica Proctor

Childcare Assistant

Jill Farkas

Custodian

Kathleen Kryz

Office Assistant

Kathy Tafuri

Volunteer Parish Nurse

Marshall Haning

Director of Music & Adult Choir

Morgan Lux

Childcare Assistant

Patti Barnes

Nursery Coordinator

Rachael Haning

Youth Coordinator

Rich Gallo

11:28 Worship Leader

Sharon Parks

Finance Manager

Stephanie Fries

Manager of Church Operations

WUMC Librarians: Nanci Danburg & Judy McDonald

OTHER PASTORS CONNECTED TO THIS CONGREGATION:

Dr. Richard Parks

Rev. Ron Dietrich

Rev. Don Lefelar

Rev. Bob Remington

Rev. Diana Guyette

Dr. Richard Lehto

Rev. Tom Taylor



ALL CHURCH WORK DAY

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, May 14th
8 a.m.—12 p.m.

Trustees request your help to
prepare our church and grounds for
spring and summer! Come for an
hour or two... or stay all morning!

Gardening tools welcome!
All ages and abilities welcomed.

See bulletins for details.

*** MESSENGER ARTICLES FOR JUNE: DUE MONDAY, MAY 16TH ***

DATED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY
Mailed April 27, 2016



Sunday Worship at
8:15 a.m. (Reflective)
10:00 a.m. (Traditional)
11:28 a.m. (Contemporary)

Westlake, Ohio 44145
27650 Center Ridge Road
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**WESTLAKE
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED