

# THE MESSENGER



## Pastoral Reflections

The Apostle Paul wrote to the followers of Jesus Christ in Corinth regarding debates about what one should eat or drink.

Questions existed if the meat being sold in the markets, which had been sacrificed to idols, was acceptable to eat. Paul gets to the

point pretty quickly that the meat came from creation which belongs to God. At first blush, it sounds like the Corinthians to whom Paul was writing were all set; they can eat the food. However, Paul quickly points that just because you can eat certain things does not mean that all of these actions are advantageous. Therefore, whatever you eat or drink or what actions you may take, everything needs to glorify God.

I have been thinking a lot about Paul, and some of the issues that he was called upon to address, as I reflect on our Lenten pilgrimage through The Daniel Plan. The reasons we eat or do not eat certain foods may not be the same as the questions presented to Paul. The concept, however, I believe is similar. We live in a society, and in an area, where many of us can both financially afford and have easy access to eat just about anything we desire. However, just because we can, should we do so?

Paul also has plenty to say about our bodies. I find his words in 1 Corinthians 6:19b that, "your body is a temple of the Holy

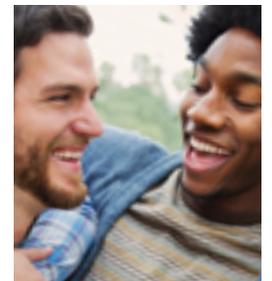
Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own" to be a very powerful reminder for all of us still today. Paul offers great reassurance to us that the Holy Spirit is within us. With that reassurance, there also comes responsibility. The connection between our faith and how we care for our bodies is real.

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.*  
 1 Corinthians 10:31 (NRSV)

*The Daniel Plan* is not a fast, and it is not a fad. It is not about perfection. The Daniel Plan connects who we profess to be as followers of Jesus Christ with how we live our lives each day. As with any changes in diet or exercise, please discuss any actions you may take through participating in *The Daniel Plan* with your personal physician before beginning this journey. God cannot love you anymore than God already does regardless of where you and your earthly body are on your wellness journey.

During Lent, our theme is pilgrimage—a religious journey that we are taking together. It is my prayer that during Lent through *The Daniel Plan*, through our Thursday morning study of "The Gospel of Matthew," and all of our other faith formation studies, our work in mission, and through worship we may all grow closer to God as we go on the pilgrimage of faith together.

Grace and Peace,  
*Mollie*



## News, Small Groups & Spiritual Growth



FAITH



FOOD



FITNESS



FOCUS



FRIENDS

### **Feasting on More Than a Fad During Lent The Daniel Plan...40 Days to a Healthier You!**

We have over 165 people participating in The Daniel Plan during Lent! Together we will learn about the 5 essentials that undergird a healthy lifestyle: Faith, Food, Fitness, Focus and Friends! Please keep these Daniel Plan participants and the program in your prayers.

**ENJOYING GOD'S ABUNDANCE  
KICKOFF DANIEL PLAN RALLY  
WEDNESDAY, FEB 7 | 6:30-8 P.M.**

Join us for a session with the Cleveland Clinic Center for Functional Medicine's Nutritionist and Health Coach as we explore the Daniel Plan, a healthy lifestyle that is both transformational and sustainable. The session is centered on the five essentials that will guarantee your success: *Faith, Food, Fitness, Focus, and Friends*. **Meet in the Fellowship Hall.**

**PRE-BIOMETRIC SCREENING DAY  
SATURDAY, FEB 10  
FELLOWSHIP HALL (AT APPOINTED TIME)**

If you signed up to participate, you will be receiving your assigned time slot for the pre-biometric screening via email (or phone if no email). The pre-biometric assessment is 100% confidential and gives you your starting point along with personal wellness ideas from The Cleveland Clinic Nurses. Questions, contact Ellie Peiffer at [epeiffer@westlakeumc.org](mailto:epeiffer@westlakeumc.org) or Kay Martin at [kcbmartin@aol.com](mailto:kcbmartin@aol.com)

### **GUIDELINES FOR SCREENING DAY**



*For the most accurate test results, follow the guidelines below. If you have any questions about your medications or current medical condition, please contact your physician.*

- Do not eat 12 hours before your scheduled test. If you are a known diabetic, hypoglycemic or on medication, please consult with your healthcare provider for instructions regarding fasting.
- Continue taking all regular medications, as prescribed by your provider.
- Limit your intake of salt and high cholesterol foods 24 hours prior to your appointment.
- Stay well hydrated leading up to your scheduled test. Drink plenty of water the day before and the day of your appointment. You may drink black decaf coffee (no sweetener or creamer) on the day of your screening.
- Avoid strenuous exercise for 24 hours prior to your scheduled test.
- Please come to the screening 5 minutes prior to your appointment time in order to complete any necessary paperwork.

# News, Small Groups & Spiritual Growth



PRAYING OUR WAY FORWARD

We are One in Christ  
 UMCprays.org • A UMC Prayer Community

Please continue to pray for The Way Forward Commission, that God would break through and make a new way for our denomination. Our church concluded the study on "Unity of the Church and Human Sexuality" during January and found the book meaningful and inspirational in putting on the mind of Christ, in learning about Holy Conferencing and deepening our understanding of the purpose and mission of the United Methodist Church.

If you are interested in participating in a "Conversation On A Way Forward," click this link to learn more and to sign up: [click here](#).

**FYI, The Conversation to be held at Lakewood UMC on Monday, Feb. 5, is now full.**



United Methodist Women  
 FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

*Westlake United Methodist Women*

## GENERAL MEETING

**FEBRUARY 8, 2018 – 10:30 A.M.**

All women of the church are invited to join this friendly, mission-focused group. The meeting begins at 10:30 a.m. with lunch at 12:00 noon. Bring your sandwich and our hostesses will provide dessert and beverage. The Prayer & Self Denial Service will be included.

The program at 1:00 p.m. will be presented by David Simmer. He will speak on fascinating Northeastern Ohio events you may remember – both thrilling and chilling.

Gentlemen: you will enjoy this, also. Please join us at 1:00 p.m. Coffee and tea will be waiting for you!

**6:10**

**BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER**

WUMC WESTLAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

westlakeumc.org

**MATTHEW 6:10** *"Bring in your kingdom so that your will is done on earth as it's done in heaven." (CEB)*

Jesus, you are the light of the world and the Lord of my life. Fill me with your eternal light which breaks through the darkness. As we seek your will for Westlake United Methodist Church, create in us ways to reflect your light, shining as a beacon of hope, love, joy and peace. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## Coffee Time Fellowship

Coffee Time Sponsors are still needed to support our coffee fellowship from now through the end of May. Cost is \$35, see form on pg. 7. Thanks for keeping this important ministry of connection going!

During Lent, Coffee Time will be offering a variety of decaf teas and food items from the Daniel Plan. Even if you are not participating in the Daniel Plan, enjoy these healthy foods with us as we strengthen our body, mind & souls to follow Jesus more closely!

### THANK YOU TO OUR FEBRUARY COFFEE TIME SPONSORS:

- February 4 Calvin & Sue Herrick
- February 11 JT & Donna Lovins
- February 18 John Salmon
- February 25 Shelly Marsh



# Compassion & Congregational Care



## INDIVIDUAL PRAYER TIME & COMMUNION

*With Prayer Partners*

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

Stephen Ministers are available every Sunday morning in Room 207 (new location) from 9:00 – 9:30 and also 11:00-11:30 to offer a quiet, reflective time for individual prayer and communion. We also have sets of prayer beads available for you during this time.

***ALL ARE WELCOME!***

## CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

*With Prayer Partners*

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5  
7:00 – 8:00 P.M.**

Westlake UMC holds monthly meetings on the first 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, psychologist, and Gretty Myers, Stephen Leader from Westlake, UMC.

Please contact Gretty Myers to participate or to volunteer at (216) 701-2067 or [grettymyers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:grettymyers@sbcglobal.net).

## MEAL MINISTRY

As a new year begins may we all be reminded that we are all beloved children of God. We can spread God's love to all his children with generous giving and gracious receiving. Many people have been willing to provide an occasional meal to someone in our congregation who is in need of support and encouragement. These meals are made with caring, loving hands and hearts and delivered and received in the name of Christ. If you would like to be part of this Meal Ministry please contact Kay Miller at [kemiller74@hotmail.com](mailto:kemiller74@hotmail.com)

If you are in need of a meal please call the church office 440-871-3088.

## TWICE BLESSED FREE STORE AT NEHEMIAH MISSION

*Have a few hours to help?*

Volunteers are always needed on **Mondays, 10:00-1:00** to help sort and restock the store at 6515 Bridge Ave.

Updated list of requested donations are posted in Fellowship Hall on the wooden donation box. **Items MUST be in season!** Toiletries are especially needed; toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, etc.



*—Reminder—*  
**SIMPSON UMC  
COMMUNITY MEAL**



**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4 | 4:30 P.M.**

Simpson UMC is having their Community meal on Sunday, February 4 at 4:30 p.m. (Please note, this is usually held on the first Sunday of the month). We are looking for a few people to go to Simpson, join in fellowship, and help with clean up. Simpson UMC is located at 8519 Clark Ave, about 15 minutes from WUMC.



**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**

**FEBRUARY 14TH, 7 P.M.**

*All are invited to receive ashes and  
holy communion.*

## Mission Opportunities & Updates



**2 HOURS + 100 VOLUNTEERS =  
20,000 MEALS!**

**RISE AGAINST HUNGER MEAL  
PACKING EVENT**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH, 2-4 P.M.**

**We are limited to only 100 meal packers so PLEASE RSVP YOUR ATTENDANCE [online by clicking here](#), or on the main bulletin board at the church under the Mission section.**

For more information about RISE Against Hunger, visit <http://www.riseagainsthunger.org>

### **HELP US TO MEET OUR FINANCIAL GOAL**

*We always get plenty of willing hands to participate, but we can't provide 20,000 without the financial support to pay for them. We need \$5,800 for those meals. **WE HAVE ABOUT \$1,550 RAISED, BUT HAVE A LOT MORE TO GO!***

### **GIVE**

**Just 29¢ purchases a meal!** There are buckets around the church for donations; the Sunday School classes have been giving their weekly offering to support this beginning in Advent. *Change is great but remember, checks are always welcome!* (write Rise Against Hunger on the memo line)

**Other ideas:** We have people pledging to pay for meals as they pack. You can set aside \$0.29 for each meal you and your family eat between now and the event. Ask your family and friends to support this, we have a letter all ready for you to send out. Pick up copies on the bulletin board.

### **SERVE**

**One hour** to help unload and set-up at 1:00

**Two hours** of your time working with others packs 20,000 meals!

**One hour** to load the truck with all the meals we packed, and clean up.

## **COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY**

### **Special Olympics Basketball tournament at LCCC 2018**

**WEDNESDAY FEB 28, 2018 —  
SUNDAY MAR 4, 2018**

The joy and magic of the Special Olympics is ready to return to the spotlight at LCCC. The 22nd annual North Section Basketball Tournament is set to be played March 1-4, 2018. The tournament will bring more than 1,100 athletes with varied developmental disabilities and delays together for a weekend of competition and camaraderie. This is an outstanding event, and everyone is invited to help support and encourage the participants.

**Sign-up** <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/2156295/false#/invitation>

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

**WUMC'S SECOND ANNUAL SPRING WEEKEND MISSION EVENT** at Nehemiah Mission for adults and children age 12 and up, is scheduled for **April 13-14**. \$40.00/ person includes lodging and meals. Look for more information on the main bulletin board.

We are also setting up our second annual **SUMMER HALF/FULL WEEK ADULT MISSION TRIP TO BLUE ROSE MISSION** in Mansfield, Ohio. Dates will be announced as soon as possible. If you are interested in one or both of these events, or can help lead, please contact one of the Mission Team co-chairs, John Carreon, [carreon@oh.rr.com](mailto:carreon@oh.rr.com) or Kay Martin at [kcbrighm@aol.com](mailto:kcbrighm@aol.com)

*We are looking for trained leaders for both of the above trips.*

**UMVIM TEAM LEADER TRAINING** is offered through the conference:

- **Saturday April 28, 9:30-3:00 Brecksville UMC.** Rev. Kathy Dickriede and Rev. Jan Yandell co-facilitators. Anyone is welcome but targeting youth workers, professional and volunteer who have best practices to share and things to learn. Go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/east-ohio-umvim-april-28-2018-registration-41706325743> to register.
- **Friday, June 15, 9:00-3:00 Lakeside, Ohio at the Fountain Inn** Kathy Dickriede, facilitator Go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/east-ohio-umvim-june-15-2018-lakeside-registration-41717691739> to register.

# Christian Education & Family Events

## WUMC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

**Calling High School Seniors!** We welcome our college bound high school seniors to apply for a WUMC Scholarship recognizing their contribution in Christian service to WUMC, the community, and beyond. For more information, contact Kay Martin at [faithformation@westlakeumc.org](mailto:faithformation@westlakeumc.org). To apply, download the application at [www.westlakeumc.org/forms](http://www.westlakeumc.org/forms) and submit by **March 31st**.

## WANT TO BE AN ACOLYTE?

If you are in grades 4-6 you can be an acolyte. To sign up go to [westlakeumc.org/children](http://westlakeumc.org/children) or [CLICK HERE](#). Have questions? Contact Holly Kessler at [hollykessler@centurylink.net](mailto:hollykessler@centurylink.net) or Jane Shami at [jane423@me.com](mailto:jane423@me.com).



**FEBRUARY 4** Doughnuts & Discussion, Confirmation, and Regular Youth Group **5 – 8 p.m.**

**FEBRUARY 11** Doughnuts & Discussion, Confirmation, **NO** Regular Youth Group

**FEBRUARY 18** No Confirmation  
Food Packing Event @ Church,  
Time TBA **Join Us!!!**

**FEBRUARY 25** Doughnuts & Discussions, Confirmation, and Regular Youth Group **5 – 8 p.m.**

**QUESTIONS? Contact Rachael Grech, WUMC Youth Coordinator at [youth@westlakeumc.org](mailto:youth@westlakeumc.org)**

## SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

We need to have all children participating in our 10:00 or 11:28 Sunday School Program be registered. If you haven't done so this year, there are forms available in every classroom. It is also available on-line on the church website, at [westlakeumc.org/forms](http://westlakeumc.org/forms)

**Also, there is now a guest student short form in each room that should be filled out on their first visit.**



## A NEW COMMANDMENT

In John 13:31, Jesus offers important instructions for his followers:

**Directions:** Figure out the pattern in each vertical line of letters. Then add the next letter in the sequence to the blank underneath, completing John 13:34-35.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZABCO...

F	L	S	Y	F	K	Y	X	E	I	C	B	V	O	D	J	F
H	M	T	A	I	L	A	Y	H	K	R	O	Y	P	S	M	B
J	W	L	C	L	M	C	Z	K	M	S	F	B	Q	W	P	H

E	X	M	B	C	L	M	B	U	V	F	R	P	L	V	F	R
F	Y	P	C	F	M	P	C	X	W	I	S	Q	M	W	I	S
G	Z	S	D	I	N	S	D	A	X	L	T	R	N	X	L	T

A	R	I	O	C	C	S	B	F	K	Y	X	H	L	O	B	Y	I
E	S	M	R	F	G	T	C	I	L	A	Y	J	M	R	D	A	L
I	T	P	S	I	X	U	D	L	M	C	Z	L	N	S	F	C	O

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WESTLAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 1000 WESTLAKE AVENUE, WESTLAKE, OHIO 44142

# Memorials & Sponsorships

## MEMORIAL GARDEN BRICKS

Our beautiful Memorial Garden is ready for you to add the memory of a loved one, a special celebration or to honor someone you love.

Memorial Bricks for the new Memorial Garden, located at the front of the church, can be ordered at anytime throughout the year. Orders will be submitted to the engraver in February for delivery in the spring and in August for delivery in the fall.

**Currently we are ordering for spring, 2018.**

If you would like your Memorial Brick to be ready for spring of 2018, you must have the Memorial Brick form filled out with a check attached payable to Westlake United Methodist Church (Memorial Brick on the memo line) by **SUNDAY, February 18th** (in the church office). Forms are located in the church lobby

Prices are: 4x8 Brick \$50.00  
8x8 Brick \$100.00



## HONOR OR REMEMBER A LOVED ONE WITH ALTAR FLOWERS



**If you would like to donate flowers for the altar on Sundays,** please complete the Altar Flower form that can be found in the lobby. You may place the form & payment in the collection plate or turn into the office. Please note that available dates will be posted in the lobby. Flowers are \$35. The office will arrange to have them ordered and delivered. **Please contact the office with any questions.**

## 2018 Coffee Fellowship Sponsorship



**\$35.00 WILL SPONSOR A SUNDAY COFFEE FELLOWSHIP TIME!\***

*Encourage Fellowship!*

Welcome the WUMC Church family & visitors by funding a Sunday Coffee Fellowship Time. All work will be done by the Hospitality Team.

**Enjoy fellowship with your church family!**

*\*Fellowship Time encompasses the entirety of Sunday morning, with coffee and pastries available for all Worship participants.*

Unless you request a specific date, we will assign a Sunday that is open on the calendar. Your name will be displayed on table signage and listed in the weekly bulletin.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(sponsoring individual, family or group)

Requested date? (opt.) \_\_\_\_\_

In celebration or remembrance?  Yes  No

**\*\*Please leave this form and payment in the collection basket or at the church office\*\***

# Financial Information

**Instead of an envelope with a check or cash on Sunday, there are two other ways you can make contributions to the General Operating Fund for Westlake UMC:**



**DIRECT DEPOSIT:** Scheduled automatic transfers from your checking account to the WUMC account. Please contact Raphe Neapolitan, Finance Manager for the form needed at [rneapolitan@westlakeumc.org](mailto:rneapolitan@westlakeumc.org)



**ONLINE GIVING:** Use your credit card via our website at [westlakeumc.org](http://westlakeumc.org). In the lower left corner of the home page you will see a button for Online Giving — near “Live Streaming” — You do not have to login to contribute, but can create profile if desired. This can be a one-time contribution or regularly scheduled contributions.

*Westlake United Methodist Church*  
**Income and Expense Statement (UNAUDITED)**  
 OPERATING FUND 01, December 2017

	Current Period	Year to Date	Prior Year	YTD Prior Year	Year to Date Budget	Annual Budget
<b>INCOME</b>						
CONTRIBUTION INCOME	\$99,641.43	\$541,907.06	\$98,688.23	\$563,311.14	\$580,676.73	\$580,676.73
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>99,641.43</b>	<b>541,907.06</b>	<b>98,688.23</b>	<b>563,311.14</b>	<b>580,676.73</b>	<b>580,676.73</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE</b>						
STAFF PARISH EXPENSE	\$22,200.59	\$319,975.42	\$28,991.22	\$328,485.11	\$369,580.33	\$369,580.33
OFFICE EXPENSE	1,490.01	12,901.79	1,612.83	21,978.89	16,317.40	16,317.40
FINANCE TEAM EXPENSE	5,752.11	8,489.03	25,737.86	28,464.12	2,720.00	2,720.00
FACILITIES EXPENSE	16,306.13	75,225.09	9,856.97	61,370.89	72,670.00	72,670.00
Subtotal Expenses	45,748.84	416,591.33	66,198.88	440,299.01	461,287.73	461,287.73
<b>MINISTRY EXPENSE</b>						
MUSIC EXPENSE	0.00	2,371.85	2,134.72	2,846.05	2,700.00	2,700.00
WORSHIP EXPENSE	631.25	5,233.25	834.51	7,186.90	8,525.00	8,525.00
EDUCATION EXPENSE	447.41	12,243.66	1,739.42	15,955.24	20,640.00	20,640.00
OUTREACH EXPENSE	536.33	3,002.53	900.07	6,818.79	7,586.00	7,586.00
CONNECTIONAL GIVING	20,774.40	102,464.24	18,909.78	90,205.15	81,830.00	81,830.00
Subtotal Ministry Expense	22,389.39	125,315.53	24,518.50	123,012.13	121,281.00	121,281.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>68,138.23</b>	<b>541,906.86</b>	<b>90,717.38</b>	<b>563,311.14</b>	<b>582,568.73</b>	<b>582,568.73</b>
<b>EXCESS INCOME\EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$31,503.20</b>	<b>\$0.20</b>	<b>\$7,970.85</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>-\$1,892.00</b>	<b>-\$1,892.00</b>



**YOU CAN JOIN WESTLAKE UMC AT THE 10:00 SERVICE WITH OUR  
 LIVE STREAMING! \*\***



Traveling? Can't make it to church on a Sunday morning? Worship with us via our website: [westlakeumc.org](http://westlakeumc.org) for the 10:00 service. You will see the link to the broadcast in the lower left corner of the home screen. You are also invited to register your attendance, send prayer requests, and/or make contributions online.

*\*\*Please note that due to copyright & licensing restrictions, not all music or multimedia presentations may be broadcast.*

## Church Family Focus

### IN REMEMBRANCE

**ARLENE SCHAAF**, Mother of Jane Shami passed away  
December 26th

### BIRTHS

The Danburg family celebrates the birth of **GRIFFIN ROSS DANBURG**, grandson of Rik and Nancy Danburg and nephew/cousin of Curtis Danburg & family.

### THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Mollie,

Thank you and the **Westlake United Methodist Church** for making Christmas joyous and bright for so many. Because of you, our program participants received cookies and entertaining and educational gifts to enjoy the holiday. Your thoughtfulness and generosity helped many children, families and seniors. Thank you for thinking of others.

Sincerely,  
Dawn Kolograf, Executive Director, Westside Community House

Dear Westlake UMC,

Thank you for your kind gifts throughout 2017. As 2018 begins, we reflect and celebrate the past year and look forward to all that the New Year will bring.

2017 was a great year for Flat Rock as we celebrated our individuals throughout the year, the 12th Anniversary of the Race at the Rock, our 9th Biennial Quilt Auction and the start of the vocational training program in the Adult Day Program. We are proud of all that our individuals have accomplished over the past year and are happy to share in their joys with you.

Because of your support, Flat Rock is able to fulfill its mission *to provide outstanding services which transform lives of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and persons with critical needs through a dedication to caring and excellence that demonstrates Christian values.* The gift(s) that you have provided to us will provide more than 100 individuals served by Flat Rock homes, Care Center and Community Services.

Thank you again for your gifts. I pray that you are blessed this New Year.

Yours in faith,  
Amy Skolnik, Director of Development, Flat Rock Homes, Inc.

### WELCOME, CHRIS NEELY!

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce Christopher Neely as our new Adult Choir Director. Chris joined us as of January 15.

Chris is a vibrant, energetic and talented choral director. He comes to us having served most recently at the United Methodist Church of Berea, and holds a master of music degree in voice performance. With earlier experience at Trinity Community Church in Cincinnati, Chris brings us his special expertise in leading choirs for the glory of God.

## Westlake UMC and Simpson UMC Merger Update

### WESTLAKE UMC AND SIMPSON UMC CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS ON MERGER FEASIBILITY

At the direction of Rev. Dr. Steve Bailey, the NorthCoast District Superintendent of the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church, Westlake UMC and Simpson UMC have formed a task force to study the feasibility of merging our churches into a multi-site campus; one church with 2 locations. ***Below is the updated Frequently Asked Questions. The first set of Frequently Asked Questions from 12/17/17 is available at [westlakeumc.org/simpson-merger-news](http://westlakeumc.org/simpson-merger-news)***

*Simpson UMC and Westlake UMC  
Merger Feasibility Study Task Force*

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – 1/28/18

#### TELL ME MORE ABOUT SIMPSON UMC

Simpson UMC is located at the corner of Clark Avenue and West 86th Street in Cleveland. Founded in 1898, the church is celebrating 120 years of ministry. Simpson has one Sunday Worship Service at 12 noon and an afternoon Youth & Young Adult group that worships at 3pm. The average weekly attendance reported for 2017 is 31 down from 37 the previous year. Paid staff includes a quarter time Pastor (10 hours/week) and part time Music Director. All other positions are volunteer. Statistical data from Mission Insite provided by

*(Continued on pg. 10)*

(Frequently Asked Questions – 1/28/18 Continued from pg. 9)

the East Ohio Conference indicate that approximately 30% of the population within a 2 mile radius of Simpson live below the poverty level.

### **TELL ME MORE ABOUT WESTLAKE UMC**

Westlake UMC is located at the corner of Center Ridge Rd and Glenmore Ave in Westlake. The church was founded in 1825 as the Dover Methodist Episcopal Church. Westlake has three Sunday worship services; 8:15pm - Reflective, 10am - Traditional, 11:28 - Contemporary. The average weekly attendance reported for 2017 is 291 which is consistent from the last 2 years. Paid staff positions include a full time Senior Pastor and Office Coordinator and 12 part time employees: Organist, Choir Director, Children's Choir Director, Contemporary Worship Leader, Finance Manager, Custodian, Stephen Ministry Coordinator, Communications Coordinator, Small Group & Welcoming Ministries Associate, Director of Faith Formation, Youth Coordinator, Nursery Coordinator and 4 Nursery Assistants. Statistical data from Mission Insite provided by the East Ohio Conference indicate that approximately 4% of the population within a 2 mile radius of the church live below the poverty level.

### **WHY ARE OUR CHURCHES CONSIDERING A MERGER?**

Both churches have a foundation of very similar core values and healthy congregational dynamics that make discussing a merger possible. The churches have demonstrated a commitment to urban ministry in areas of Cleveland where other United Methodist churches have closed. The merger provides increased opportunities to be in mission and service beyond acts of compassion, as together we can better address root causes and help break the cycle of poverty. A merger provides resources to keep the church focused outward on making disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world. A merger would increase the diversity of the combined church moving us to be more representative of the body of Christ.

### **WHAT WOULD THE MERGED CHURCH LOOK LIKE?**

The two churches would become a multi-site campus church. Westlake UMC would be the surviving entity with a Westlake Campus and a Simpson Campus. The transition issues are being discussed by the task force and would likely continue to be worked out throughout the first year if both churches vote for a merger. The Multi-Site Campus is a model of ministry that has a proven track record in The United Methodist Church and in other denominations around the country.

### **WHAT STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN BY THE TASK FORCE NOW?**

- The Financial due diligence is almost complete. Information to date indicates that Simpson UMC has some cash reserves that are used to supplement annual income to meet current expenses.
- The Simpson facility review is in process with the building walk through complete but results and implications are not available as of this publication.
- The Task Force has identified staffing necessary to grow the mission and ministry in the Simpson Church neighborhood. A 1/2 time Clergy appointment (up from the 1/4 time Clergy currently serving at Simpson), with a priority on being relational, innovative/entrepreneurial, and a self motivated community organizer, is needed to continue to expand ministry in this area.
- The Task Force has begun to identify the joint leadership structure of the 2 campus church. There would be a minimum of 1 person from the Simpson Campus serving on each of the 5 committees specified by *The Book of Discipline*: Staff Parish Relations Committee, Finance, Trustees, Leadership Council and Nominating.
- Task force members are scheduling a meeting with District and Conference personnel to discuss financial and clergy support for the merger.

### **WHEN WILL THE CONGREGATION BE ABLE TO ASK QUESTIONS AND PROVIDE INPUT?**

The task force members are available for questions at anytime. A church wide congregational update will be held on Sunday, February 25, 2018 at Simpson UMC at 1:30pm and at Westlake UMC in the sanctuary at 3pm.

### **WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR MAKING A DECISION TO MERGE?**

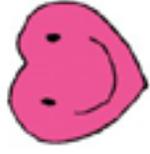
As the merger affects Clergy appointments, the window for making a decision is shortening as the appointment season has already begun. The task force is working toward being able to hold a church conference in late March at which time both congregations would vote for or against the merger. The date will be confirmed as soon as possible.

### **WHO CAN VOTE AT A CHURCH CONFERENCE?**

Per *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*, all professing members of the local church present at the church conference may cast a vote.



# February 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 Youth Group 8-8 p.m.	5 7pm ChristCare-G/J/L (205) 7pm Caregivers Group (100 & 107)	6 5:00 pm Oberlin Choristers (FH/100) 6:30pm 11:28 Rehearsal	7 11:30am Purl Girls (100) 6:30pm Daniel Plan Kick Off (FH)	8 9am Bible Study (205) 10:30am UMW Gen. Mtg (FH) 5:30pm Marijuana Anon(100) 7 pm ChristCare- DL(107) 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	9 3-6pm Theater Group (FH)	10 7am -1:00pm Daniel Plan
11 8:50am Daniel Plan-KD (106/7) 11:30am Daniel Plan-AH/SCL (106/7) 5 pm Daniel Plan-BK/TH (207) 3pm Rothkegel Service	12 12:30pm Daniel Plan-EP (106/7) 12:30pm Games N Such (FH) 7pm ChristCare-G/J/L (205) 5:30pm Trustees (207) 7pm Stephen Ministry	13 5:00 pm Oberlin Choristers (FH/100) 6:00pm Mission Team (205) 6:30pm 11:28 Rehearsal 6:30pm Daniel Plan-SG (207) <b>MESSENGER DEADLINE</b>	14 <b>Valentine's Day</b> 10am Daniel Plan-RG (106/7) 11:30am Purl Girls (100) 1:30pm Arthritis Exer. (103) 1:30pm All Staff Mtg (207) 2 pm ChristCare-JMc (205) 3pm Girl Scouts-Rachael (FH) 7 pm Ash Wednesday Service	15 9 am Bible Study (205) 5:30pm Marijuana Anon(100) 7 pm Daniel Plan- DL(106/7) 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	16 3-6pm Theater Group (FH)	17 9am Daniel Plan Grp Exercise (FH)
18 8:50am Daniel Plan-KD (106/7) 11:30am Daniel Plan-AH/SCL (106/7) 5 pm Daniel Plan-BK/TH (207) <b>Stop Hunger Now 2pm-4pm F. Hall</b>	19 12:30pm Daniel Plan-EP (106/7) 7pm ChristCare-G/J/L (205) <b>President's Day</b>	20 5:00 pm Oberlin Choristers (FH/100) 6:30pm 11:28 Rehearsal 6:30pm Daniel Plan-SG (207)	21 10am Daniel Plan-RG (106/7) 11:30am Purl Girls (100) 1:30pm Arthritis Exer. (103) 2 pm ChristCare-JMc (205) 6pm Girl Scouts-Susan (FH) 7 pm Daniel Plan-GM (107)	22 9 am Bible Study (205) 10am UMW Missions (FH) 5:30pm Marijuana Anon(100) 7 pm Daniel Plan- DL(106/7) 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	23 3-6pm Theater Group (FH)	24 9am Daniel Plan Grp Exercise (FH) <b>Jill Johnson Wedding Offsite</b>
25 8:50 am Daniel Plan-KD (106/7) 11:30am Daniel Plan-AH/SCL (106/7) 5 pm Daniel Plan-BK/TH (207) Youth Group 8-8 p.m.	26 12:30pm Daniel Plan-EP (106/7) 7pm ChristCare-G/J/L (205)	27 5:00 pm Oberlin Choristers (FH & Sanct) 6:30pm 11:28 Rehearsal 6:30pm Daniel Plan-SG (207)	28 10am Daniel Plan-RG (106/7) 11:30am Purl Girls (100) 1:30pm Arthritis Exer. (103) 2 pm ChristCare-JMc (205) 5:30pm <b>Community Meal</b> 7 pm Daniel Plan-GM (107)			

## WESTLAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Mollie Brown *Senior Pastor* [mgbrown@westlakeumc.org](mailto:mgbrown@westlakeumc.org)  
Chris Neeley *Chancel Choir Director*  
Annie Kaschube *Organist, Children's Choir Director,  
Director of Handbells*  
Betsy Kaiser *Nursery Assistant*  
Rev. Don Lefelar *Volunteer Visitation Pastor*  
Ellie Peiffer *Small Group & Welcoming Ministries*  
Gretty Myers *Stephen Ministry Coordinator*  
Jeanne Halaby *Nursery Assistant*  
Jill Farkas *Custodian*  
Kathy Tafuri *Volunteer Parish Nurse*  
Kay Martin *Interim Christian Education Director*  
Lynne Wolf *Office Coordinator*  
Morgan Lux *Nursery Assistant*  
Patti Barnes *Nursery Coordinator*  
Rachael Grech *Youth Coordinator*  
Rich Gallo *11:28 Worship Leader*  
Raphe Neapolitan *Finance Manager*  
WUMC Volunteer Librarian: Katie Salis

### OTHER PASTORS CONNECTED TO THIS CONGREGATION:

Rev. Judy Wismar Claycomb      Rev. Dr. Richard Lehto  
Rev. Ron Dietrich                  Rev. Bob Remington  
Rev. Diana Guyette                Rev. Tom Taylor  
Rev. Don Lefelar

## Coming Up

- 2/4 Simpson UMC Community Meal (p. 4)
- 2/5 Caregivers Support Group (p. 4)
- 2/7 Kickoff Daniel Plan Rally (p. 2)
- 2/8 UMW General Meeting (p. 3)
- 2/14 Ash Wednesday Worship, 7:00 p.m.
- 2/18 Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event (p. 5)
- 2/25 Congregational Merger Update (p. 9-10)

**\*\*ATTENTION\*\***

**MESSANGER ARTICLES ARE NOW DUE THE 2ND  
TUESDAY OF THE MONTH. EMAIL CONTENT TO  
[COMMUNICATIONS@WESTLAKEUMC.ORG](mailto:COMMUNICATIONS@WESTLAKEUMC.ORG)**

**\* MESSENGER ARTICLES FOR FEBRUARY: DUE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH \***

Mailed January 31, 2018  
DATED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY



\*Live-streamed via our website

11:28 a.m. (Contemporary)

10:00 a.m. (Traditional) \*

8:15 a.m. (Reflective)

Sunday Worship at

[westlakeumc@westlakeumc.org](mailto:westlakeumc@westlakeumc.org)

[www.westlakeumc.org](http://www.westlakeumc.org)

(440) 871-3088

Westlake, Ohio 44145

27650 Center Ridge Road

**CHURCH**

**UNITED METHODIST**

**WESTLAKE**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**