

The Outlook

University Circle United Methodist Church

All are welcome. All the time.

Summer 2018

Rev. Everett Becomes Lead Pastor

With Sunday's sunrise, July 1, 2018, came the dawn of a new day in the life of University Circle United Methodist Church as The Reverend D. Anthony Everett shared his first sermon as pastor of our Church in the Circle. His appointment to this pastorate by Bishop Tracy S. Malone of the East Ohio Conference became official at our Annual Conference held at Lakeside, Ohio, in June.



LEFT: Rev. Anthony Everett and wife, Dr. Angelique Everett; RIGHT: Rev. Everett with family and friends

In the wake of the decision by our congregation's longtime pastor, The Reverend Dr. Kenneth W. Chalker, to move into retirement, the East Ohio Conference's search for his replacement led to Lexington, KY, where Rev. Everett had pastored the Wesley United Methodist Church since 2008. (See the Spring Issue of *Outlook* for biographical information.)

"I am excited, delighted...*overly* excited and happy to be here today at University Circle United Methodist Church and to be a part of this great church family," Rev. Everett shared during that Sunday's worship in a filled Great Hall. Surrounded by clergy, close friends, and family from near and far, Rev. Everett received their love and support as they placed hands on his shoulders and recited "The Lord bless you and keep you" blessing.

When introducing those standing with him, he spared no superlative when introducing "the love of my life," his wife of seven years, Dr. Angelique Clay Everett. An internationally acclaimed soprano soloist for the American Spiritual Ensemble and an Associate Professor of Voice at the University of Kentucky School of Music, Mrs. Everett shared her talent during the service with a powerful rendition of "How Great Thou Art."

As witnessed in his sermon, "Expanding the Circle," it is clear that Rev. Everett's energy and enthusiasm will fuel a growing ministry addressing discipleship, social justice and human rights. With an eye on the future, Rev. Everett's words reminded everyone that "The Holy Spirit places Jesus in the center ring of the Circle.

► *Rev. Everett' continued on page 2*

Interims Steer Us Through

In the five months following Dr. Chalker's January retirement and the arrival of our new pastor, Rev. Anthony Everett, in July, our congregation was fortunate enough to receive direction and care from three wonderful women in God's service: Rev. Dr. Lisa Withrow, Dr. Sandy Shelby and Rev. Mariah Hayden.

Whether leading services, offering sermons, staffing committees, counseling, visiting the ill, answering phones, running bulletins, attending fun events or communicating with our new minister, each offered us her best "TLC" as we moved toward the appointment of Rev. Everett. As expressed on their last Sunday with us, our gratitude goes out to each of them for their steady support and faithful guidance. We wish them all the very best as their ministries continue to touch others in the years ahead. Safe sailing and Bon Voyage!



Interim pastors (L-R) Rev. Dr. Lisa Withrow, Dr. Sandy Shelby and Rev. Mariah Hayden

Rev. Everett Becomes Lead Pastor

► continued from front page

There's healing...hope...love...and joy with Jesus in the center ring!"

In the days following, Rev. Everett has expressed, and would like to share, these words of appreciation:

Thank you to everyone who provided Angelique and I with a warm, hospitable welcome to University Circle United Methodist Church where All are Welcome, All the Time! From the meal provided us on the first day of arrival, a member granting us usage of his cottage at annual conference, the fine dining out and quality time spent with new friends and their family members, the cookies and lemonade reception on our first Sunday, the beautiful black-and-white photograph of our church, and the many welcomes and gifts provided us, we are grateful to be in the family of people called United Methodist at the Church in the Circle! In just a short time, you welcomed us into the University Circle United Methodist Church family with the heart of God.

We extend a special thank-you for the preparations made by the church staff, the Staff Parish Relations Committee (S/PPRC), and the Interim Pastors—Reverends Mariah Hayden, Dr. Sandra Selby, and Dr. Lisa Withrow. This gifted team of staff, laity and clergy, representing our unique Methodist model of being in ministry together, has done a phenomenal job of preparing the church for our welcome and our future work together. The leadership provided during this time of transition is of immeasurable benefit to the kin-dom of God to be recognized in the successful ministry work God has in store for us.

We especially want to thank the founding senior pastor of University Circle United Methodist Church and my new friend, the Reverend Dr. Kenneth W.



LEFT: Chancel Choir joins in song as part of Rev. Everett's first Sunday at UCUMC; RIGHT: Angelique Everett shares her vocal talent.



Chalker, as well as his lovely wife, Grace. Dr. Chalker is an active participant in helping me to get to know our community. I believe that God smiles on the Chalkers during this season of retirement and is saying, "Well done, good and faithful servants, well done!"

I envision our church "Expanding God's Circle" through our mission. We have been blessed to be a diverse and inclusive congregation among a growing, urban community steeped in education, research, business, fine arts and history. With a mission to welcome and support all who desire to worship, study, commune and share life with us, including those of any race, gender, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation or socioeconomic position, our responsibility is to be the Church in the Circle.

The pastoral transition team of Thea Wilson, John Wheeler, Chiq Montgomery, Doug Blank, Chris Nance, Susan Achberger and Reverend Jared Littleton excites me! They are tasked with strengthening my transition by providing insight, advice and support to me throughout the first 90 days and beyond. Along with the lay leadership,

congregants and community, they will help us position the church to the place where we can effectively live out our mission in the Circle.

As we Expand God's Circle together, let us remember that our mission as Christians is always to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Let us also remember to do what God requires of us, that is to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8—NRSV). Again, thank you for your warm welcome and hospitality!

In order to meet as many members as possible, Rev. Everett has asked the Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee to arrange home meetings—"New Beginnings: Expanding God's Circle"—in numerous homes in the Greater Cleveland area, where the Everetts can get to know the congregation even better. These get-togethers are currently ongoing; if you have not yet signed up for or attended one of these gatherings, you're encouraged to contact Judy Sockman at jsockman@hotmail.com.

Rev. Everett has also shared that "another important part of the transition process is a churchwide survey in which you can participate. We want you to help us assess the church, our vitality in the Circle and beyond, and how we can be more effective in reaching our mission." Your survey input will be greatly appreciated.

Let us thank God for his divine guidance as we welcome the Everetts with the same open arms we extend to all who enter our doors.

**Join us at University Circle UMC
for a sermon series beginning
Sunday, August 5, 2018, at 10am**

7 Reasons to Have a Love Affair with Jesus



~ Dr. Amy Wheatley,
Director of Education

Summer sun, lake swims, trail hikes, horse rides, canoe trips, fishing, backpacking, archery, skits and songs, campfires and s'mores.... In July, six children/youth from UCUMC enjoyed these quintessential summer camp adventures at East Ohio Conference Camps. Each of our campers returned home feeling grateful for the opportunity to have fun, learn new skills, make friends and experience God's love in beautiful outdoor settings.

Thanks to our congregational giving and a generous gift from the University Circle United Methodist Women, we were able to provide four campers with full scholarships, enabling them to attend camp at no charge to their families. To all who support children and youth programming at UCUMC, we say "thank you."



Imani Miller arrives at Camp Asbury for Water Week

CHURCH IN THE CIRCLE CALENDAR

Opportunities for Service, Worship, Fellowship & Fun



August

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| 5 | Worship and Communion, 10am | 13 | UMW—Reception Room, noon |
| 8 | Trustees meeting—Reception Room, 6 pm | 19 | Worship, 10am; Ad Council meeting—Yoder Room following service |
| 11 | MENS Group lunch, Famous Dave's, 1:30pm | 21 | SPPRC meeting—Yoder Room, 6 p.m. |
| 12 | Worship, 10am | 26 | Worship, 10am; Neighborhood Lunch—Great Hall, 1 pm |

September

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| 2 | Worship and Communion, 10am | 18 | SPPRC meeting—Yoder Room, 6 p.m. |
| 9 | Worship, Sanctuary, 10 am; RALLY DAY | 23 | Worship 10am; "Concert Across America to End Gun Violence," 3 pm |
| 10 | UMW—Reception Room, noon | 25 | Finance Meeting—Reception Room, 6 pm |
| 12 | Trustees Meeting—Reception Room, 6 pm | 30 | Worship, 10am; Neighborhood Lunch—Great Hall, 1 pm |
| 16 | Worship, 10am; Ad Council meeting following service | | |

Parsonage 'Seeks New Owner'

~ Jeff Day, UCUMC Co-Lay Leader; jeffreyhday@yahoo.com

As most of you know, we are in the process of selling our church parsonage located at 1825 King James Parkway in Westlake. Our new pastor, Rev. D. Anthony Everett, requested we provide him and his family with a housing allowance; he has located his new residence a few blocks away from our church building. He feels living in the City of Cleveland will allow him a greater opportunity to connect with folks in our neighborhood.

Once the parsonage is sold, the proceeds are to be held in a restricted account and to be used if a parsonage is requested in the future. The 2016 United Methodist "Book of Discipline" states: "The principal proceeds of a sale of any such property (parsonage) shall **not** be used for the current budget or operating expense of a local church" (section 2543–page 764). However, the income or interest on the restricted parsonage investment account may be used toward the cost of the housing allowance.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in purchasing a home in Westlake, please feel free to contact our church real estate representative, Mary Soirefman (mary.soirefman@gmail.com), who is a UCUMC Trustee. She will be happy to pass the lead on to our real estate broker.



Charge Conference Notice

Sunday, July 29, 2018, as part of our 10am worship, we will include a short Charge Conference, held to address authorizing our Trustees to act on behalf of the church for the **sale of the parsonage**, with financial parameters suggested.



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church™

Annual Conference, 2018

~ Susan Achberger, Lay Delegate

This past June, I once again had the honor of serving as your lay delegate to East Ohio Annual Conference. The 49th session of the East Ohio Annual Conference was held at Lakeside, OH, and we had absolutely beautiful weather. This year marked the first time I've ever worn a jacket inside the unairconditioned Hoover Auditorium where we hold our business sessions. Once again, Bishop Malone did an amazing job of keeping us on task and in order with Parliamentary Procedure, and she did it with a remarkable combination of firmness and grace.

As always, we heard reports from many of the Conference Committees, including the Council on Finance and Administration. It's rare that a finance presentation truly speaks to me, but this one did, and I wanted to share a few highlights. First, this is the third year in which our total Conference budget has remained the same, thanks to the stewardship of our Director of Financial and Administrative Services and her team. This is also the twelfth consecutive year in which East Ohio has paid its Shared Ministries—which used to be called Apportionments—in full to the General Conference thanks to the generosity of East Ohio churches. We have churches in East Ohio who pay 100% of their Shared Ministries, but some choose to pay more than 100% to help offset the churches who are unable to pay 100% of their Shared Ministries. We are grateful for their generosity, and I pray that one day we will be able to return the favor.

Shared ministries covers the operating costs of many United Methodist resources, including the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry which provides scholarships, the Global Board of Ministries which does mission work, the General Commission on Religion and Race, and UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief. From 2016 to 2017, East Ohio's financial contributions to UMCOR increased by 554%. This figure was shared during our Stewardship Moment during which the speaker mentioned that hurricanes can really help increase UMCOR donations. While the speaker said this in jest, he made the point that it's easy to give when there's a clear and present need—a vision. And UMCOR has that vision. He challenged us to return to our local churches and create a vision that is worthy of giving.

In addition to hearing updates about UMCOR, we learned about some of the other mission work going on not only throughout the

world, but also within our own East Ohio Conference. This is my sixth year attending Annual Conference, and I'm always amazed at the great mission work we're doing. Some churches are working with the Global Board of Ministry to connect local churches with first responders in the event of a disaster. We also learned about some local churches right here in the Cleveland area that have tutoring programs, have partnered with the group Girls on the Run, and we also heard about Cleveland's own Nehemiah Mission. At this time, I feel obligated to let my fellow Outreach Committee members

know that I had the opportunity to sit with our new pastor, Anthony Everett, during the mission report, and he and I were both taking a lot of notes. You've been warned.

"The mission of the church is still the mission of the church"—that's what Bishop Malone asked us to focus on during her Episcopal Address. No matter what the outcome of the 2019 Special Session of General Conference, our mission will always be "to create disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." But she asked us to focus on the "why" behind that mission, which I was not familiar with, and I wanted to share it with all of you: The Mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by proclaiming the good news

of God's grace and by exemplifying Jesus' command to love God and neighbor, thus seeking the fulfillment of God's reign and realm in the world. The fulfillment of God's reign and realm in the world is the vision Scripture holds before us. The United Methodist Church affirms that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Savior of the world, and the Lord of all.... This mission is our grace-filled response to the Reign of God in the world announced by Jesus. God's grace is active everywhere, at all times, carrying out this purpose as revealed in the Bible."

The Bishop also challenged us to go out into the world and to be bold and courageous. Throughout Conference we kept returning to our East Ohio Conference vision as we discussed being bold and courageous leaders reaching new people, younger people, and a more diverse people, as well as being agents of transformation in our communities and throughout the world. So, I would challenge you to think of ways that we, University Circle United Methodist Church, can be bold and courageous in our community and in our world—no idea is too big or too small. Because God's grace is active everywhere.



Susan Achberger adds to UMCOR disaster relief supply truck during Annual Conference at Lakeside, Ohio.



Friends and family gather to dedicate two tall shrubs planted at the church entrance in memory of Kermit and Ann Greeneisen, lost in a tragic 2017 house fire.



A day spent *Resisting Racism*

~ Rev. Malcolm Himschoot, member

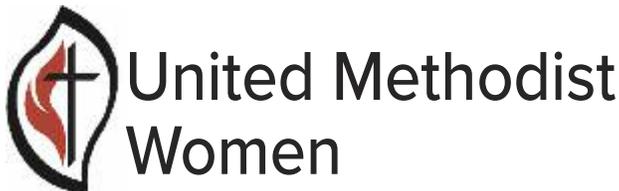
When UCUMC members Richard Felton, Jim Hogg, Jean Shurtleff and I joined with about 50 other northeast Ohioans at Akron’s Family of Faith United Methodist Church in late April, we soon learned that “systemic awareness” is a key ingredient in 21st-century efforts against racism. It’s not just an attitude or an incident here and there. The many institutions that reproduce racism are yet alive and well. (See: <https://www.raceforward.org/videos/systemic-racism>.)

The presenter, Rev. Michelle Ledder, had a single-day goal to walk through personal interactions, systemic awareness and the interruption of racial inequity by organized communities of faith. At the very least, the room filled with white and Black folks alike gained new understandings about racism’s many facets.

It became clear that white and Black people have different work to do and that whites have more work to do around racism than Blacks. Why? Because racism is something whites created to benefit whites. It is up to white people to interrupt racism, while honoring the work that people of color have done to integrate formerly all-white spaces. Even after stereotypes are broken, that does not mean the work is done.

This session was developed by the General Commission on Race and Religion. GCORR works to “support and lead vital conversations, develop culturally competent leadership and ministries and promote institutional equity while upholding the agency’s historic commitment to racial justice within the Church.” Go to: <http://www.gcorr.org/our-work/> for more information.

Now, it is for us at UCUMC to find ways to use this kind of information, to be all we can be.



United Methodist Women

~ Vivian Harris, UMW President

With the success of our Antiques Critique Luncheon and program in April, we have been able to award scholarships to three of our congregation’s graduating high school seniors: Ruby Gibson attending Northwestern University, Deborah Garner attending Denison University and Katherine Wheatley attending Tri-C. Each of these students received \$500.00 scholarships. Thanks to all who made donations to this fundraiser.

The UMW Lunch Bunch/book discussion continues to meet on the last Tuesday of each month. We have started a new book entitled, “True When Whispered: Hearing God’s Voice in a Noisy World” by Paul L. Escamilla. If you would like to join us, an additional copy of the book is available.

As our fall programming takes shape, we look forward to your involvement in helping to raise funds in support of Christian missions at the local, national and international level. We will also continue to support the work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) as it provides disaster relief here and abroad.

We thank you for your continued support of our many outreach efforts.

A note of thanks from Donyah Perine...

As you probably know, I’ve chosen to move on to a new position with new responsibilities and opportunities, effective August 3. I do this with mixed feelings, wishing I could have done more for this wonderful church but realizing that I needed a different challenge.

I appreciate the help and support of the caring staff and volunteers who make this church special. In particular, I want to thank Fran Adams, Cathy Day, Marina Grant, Keith Hamilton, Kay Hogg, Jan Kimball, Evelyn Prince, Mary Soirefman, Bea Thompson, David Waltermire and John Wheeler for all of the *extra* time, advice and assistance they gave me over these past few years. They made tasks better by being there when I needed them most.

I wish only the best to all of you as you look ahead to new and exciting things. And I appreciate the opportunity to have been of service to you through these changing times. God bless.



Cabaret Hits High Note

Mathew Jones accompanied by Lavert Stewart

Over 70 friends and members of our Church in the Circle took time out on June 1 to gather in the grand Judson Manor Ballroom and enjoy an evening of musical performances by another ten talented folks associated with our church. Anchored by the flowing style of pianist Lavert Stuart, who *again* initiated this annual event, the program featured wonderful appetizers, beverages and conversation mixed with the music of Laura Mosteller and David Hughes, Mathew Jones, Thea Wilson, Stephanie Czekalinski and her combo, Lavert, and Jim Hogg.

A surprise recitation of Robert W. Service's "The Cremation of

Sam McGee" presented by Rev. Ben Magee brought down the house.

Only with the assistance of member Marilou Abele did this second Cabaret evening of dining and entertainment successfully take place again in Judson's newly remodeled ballroom. Her arrangements and attention to detail made all the difference in making it a delightful affair. Thank you, Marilou, for your kind help.

Proceeds from this fun event totaled over \$1,000 and were given to our church—a strong incentive to do it all again next year. See you then!



Rev. Dr. Sandy Shelby, Laura Mosteller, Cathy Day, Judy and Les Fox

'Parade the Circle' a Great Success

~ Jeff and Cathy Day, Co-Lay Leaders

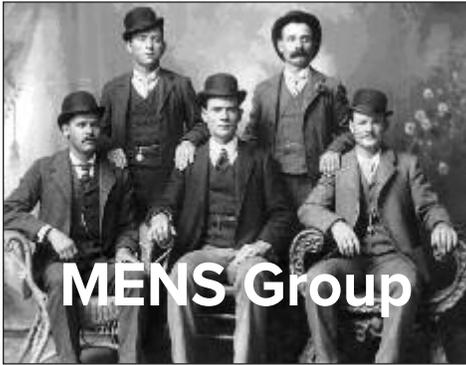
University Circle United Methodist Church participated in the June 9, 2018, "Parade the Circle" event as about two dozen volunteers worked our booth, helping several hundred children and families create "post cards for loved ones."



In addition, one of our interim pastors, Rev. Dr. Sandy Selby, marched at the head of the parade, representing UCUMC.

A sincere thank-you goes out to the "Men Engaged in Needed Service" (MENS) of our church whose financial contribution helped make it all possible.

Thousands attended this annual University Circle "block party," and we hope you, too, can attend next year on Saturday, June 8, 2019, from 10am to 4pm, to help us continue to expand the circle here in our neighborhood.



The **MENS group** invites the men of our church to be a part of our quarterly lunch on Saturday, August 11, at 1:30pm, held at Famous Dave's, 26410 Great Northern Shopping Center in North Olmsted. Please join us for great food, conversation and fellowship. Feel free to bring friends.

As an added bonus, Marvin Burge will be singing select numbers from his repertoire of songs. If you have never heard Marvin sing, it was once described by *Rolling Stone* magazine as "an angelic voice from the heavens" and "so beautiful that grown men weep." Hope you can join us.



Imani Miller and Sean Howard join in LifeAct's 14th Annual "Into the Light" Walk, Sunday, April 22, at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, to shine a light on youth suicide and its prevention. Kudos to Dawn and Fred McElrath for assisting and to Elaine (and Larry) Myers for taking LifeAct's awareness programming into local schools.

UCUMC OUTLOOK

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OUTREACH CORNER



School supplies provided, 2017

School Supply Delivery, Staff Breakfast Coming Soon

~ **Mary Soirefman, Outreach Committee**

Our annual delivery of school supplies and the welcome-back breakfast for school staff will be presented on Thursday, August 9, to **Willson School**, a neighborhood PreK-8 school located on Ansel Road, just off MLK Drive. It takes time to prepare for the delivery, so we really need your donations **by Sunday, July 29!** This year's list includes:

- Notebook Paper—WIDE ruled
- No. 2 Pencils
- Pencil-cap Erasers
- Laddie Pencils
- Pens (black or blue)
- Construction Paper
- 24-pk Crayola Crayons
- 8-pk Crayola Large Crayons
- Copy Paper
- Dry Erase Markers
- Dry Erase Erasers
- Paper Towels
- Kleenex
- Disinfecting Wipes
- Non-latex Gloves

Cash donations are welcome. Funds will be used to purchase gallon-size Purell to refill desk-size bottles and to buy other supplies where there may be a shortage. Please make checks payable to UCUMC with "School Supplies" in memo line. THANK YOU!

We are excited to share our outreach ministry with Willson School, located just 1.5 miles north of our church. Willson provides a continuum of services for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. Some of our members are already familiar with this school, having participated in *Read Across America* this past March. More information about the school can be located at <http://www.clevelandmetroschools.org/Page/1069>.

Please direct any questions to Mary Soirefman (440-263-8627; mary.soirefman@gmail.com) or Elaine Myers (440-336-0763; emyersk940@gmail.com).



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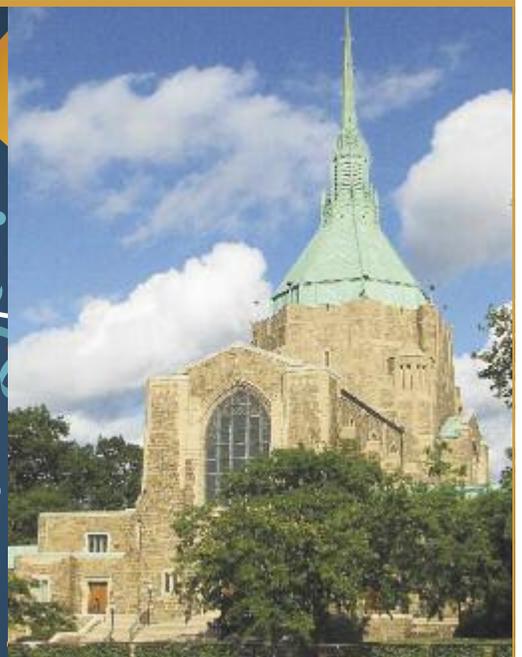
8 **University Circle United Methodist Church**

Summer 2018

RALLY DAY

Sunday, September 9, 10am

Begin with worship
in our beautiful Sanctuary



Church in the Circle
University Circle
United Methodist Church
All are Welcome. All the Time.

1919 East 107th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

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