



# The Outlook

University Circle United Methodist Church

All are welcome. All the time.

March 2016

## chalk talk



BY DR. KENNETH W. CHALKER

On Ash Wednesday in Cleveland this year, there were warnings of an impending winter storm. Heavy snowfall was expected to begin coming in off the lake at 7pm. The quick accumulations expected across the region would make the evening rush hour, already compromised by the previous day of snowfall and people leaving early for home, particularly dangerous. Regardless, people were being warned in clear terms to be prepared, get home and shelter in place.

“Great. There go the plans for our two Ash Wednesday services. No setting any attendance records *this year*,” I thought. “Sure is a particular inconvenience when Lent and Easter come early.”

I caught myself sounding like a pastor of a church! I caught myself sounding like some ordained writer and conductor of worship services. I caught myself sounding like some church pastor responsible for ritual observances and evaluating his merit on the basis of increased hoped-for market share.

► chalk talk continued on page 6

## A New Way Forward

On January 26, in a very unselfish, caring decision, pastor Dr. Ken Chalker proposed to the Staff-Parish Relations Committee a plan to help reduce the church’s staffing budget by actually retiring on June 30, 2016, and then being reappointed by the bishop to University Circle United Methodist Church (UCUMC) as a retired pastor in *full-time ministry*, effective

► ‘A New Way...’ continued on page 4

## Celebrate Easter in the Circle



Easter, with all of its ways to be celebrated, is first and foremost a celebration of good over evil...on the grandest of scales. And when the colored eggs and jelly beans are long gone, Easter’s story of love conquering hate lives on in the real-life example of Jesus, our Christ, and his promise of life after death.

Church in the Circle offers Holy Week services designed to help prepare you for Sunday’s celebration:

**March 24—Maundy Thursday Service, 7pm**

**March 25—Good Friday Service, 7pm**

**Easter Sunday, March 27, begins with a Sunrise Service at 8:30am in our Chapel.**

**At 11am the Sanctuary comes alive with music and dance and voices in song, celebrating the risen Lord!**

Be a part of these Holy Week services and Easter’s resurrection message that love conquers all!

## 2015/16 Organ Concert Series: Nicole Keller

As the third of four artists—all persons of color—performing in our inaugural 2015–2016 Organ Concert Series, Nicole Keller steps to our console on Friday, March 4, at 7pm to offer her interpretations of compositions by Bach, Widor, Hindemith and Howells. We are honored to have Ms. Keller, a nationally and internationally known solo and chamber music recitalist and clinician, be a part of this wonderful series of pipe organ presentations.

Ms. Keller is on faculty at the Baldwin Wallace University Conservatory of Music in Berea and serves as the Director of Music at The Community of Saint John in Hudson. Since 2000 she has played continuo for the

renowned Baldwin Wallace University Bach Festival Chamber Orchestra. And her recent solo performances include concerts in New York, St. Louis, Kansas, Germany, France and Kazakhstan.



Nicole Keller

Ms. Keller has created organ and choral

► ‘2015/16 Organ Concert’ continued on page 2



FIFTY MEMBERS of our church family attended a powerful Greater Cleveland Congregations event on Tuesday evening, February 16. Together with over 1,000 other people of faith, we filled the sanctuary at Fairmount Temple to call for criminal justice reform in Cuyahoga County. Timothy McGinty and Michael O'Malley, the two candidates for Cuyahoga County Prosecutor, were present. They listened as a series of speakers presented evidence of the inequalities and failures of our county criminal justice system and called for real, permanent change. GCC presented three specific demands for criminal justice reform, and the candidates pledged to respond to these in writing by March 1.

Our congregation was very well represented at this event, and those who attended were excited to experience the energy and commitment that people of faith bring to the movement for social justice in our community. Thanks to Jan Kimball and Jared Gadomski Littleton for organizing our congregational delegation.



**March 13—Daylight Saving Time begins!**  
Move clocks forward 1 hour

## 2015/16 Organ Concert Series: Nicole Keller

► *continued from page 1*

scholar programs in many parishes, developed successful children's choir programs and led choirs on tour here in the states and abroad. This summer, her choir will be in residence at St. Patrick's Cathedral (Anglican) in Dublin, Ireland.

Ms. Keller received the Performer's Certificate and the Master of Music Degree in Organ Performance and Literature at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, under the tutelage of David Higgs. While at Eastman, she studied continuo with Arthur Haas and improvisation with Gerre

Hancock. She received her Bachelor of Music Degree in Piano Performance from the Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music, studying piano with George Cherry and Jean Stell and organ with Margaret Scharf.

Support for Ms. Keller's participation and that of others in this series is provided through a generous grant from the Charles H. Teare and Clifford K. Kern Music Fund of the Cleveland Foundation, procured through the inspired efforts of our assistant musical director and organist, Lavert Stuart, and interim director of administration, Kay Hogg.

You are warmly invited to be a part of this March 4th concert at 7pm in our Sanctuary.



## Open Table

### Worship & Communion

Sunday, Feb. 28 ~ 5pm ~ Sanctuary

Support our LGBTQ brothers and sisters as we worship and celebrate communion together. Our church hosts this community worship service, led by Dr. Chalker and members of our congregation. Powerful personal stories, inspiring music and great fellowship will be shared!

Come at 4pm for a meeting of the Northeast Ohio Reconciling Ministries Network, then attend worship at 5pm and stay for food and fellowship following the service! Childcare will be provided from 4pm-6pm.

Please join us in an affirmation that all of God's children are welcome in our church. Contact Julie Gammill Gibson ([jubywuby@yahoo.com](mailto:jubywuby@yahoo.com)) or Amy Wheatley ([4wheatleys@sbcglobal.net](mailto:4wheatleys@sbcglobal.net)) with questions and to let us know that you'll be there!

## Meet Connie Clark

She may have arrived "under the radar," and you may have seen her in church and not known who she is, but Connie Clark could very well be your next best friend.

Connie's genuine approach to meeting you—and others—in our church while taking on the role of presenting our new Capital Campaign needs to our congregation demonstrates her unique combination of skills and interests. She's already working with volunteers and staff to assess our church's goals and needs, and she's looking forward to unfolding our campaign in April.

Introduce yourself if you haven't already and discover how you might help your church grow like never before.



Connie Clark  
of Mission  
Possible

# MarketingMatters

~Aaron Collier, *Creative Marketing Strategist*

## Neighborhood Basketball Goes ‘Social’

Hassan Lee has done amazing work guiding our Neighborhood Basketball program to success over recent years. In 2016, Hassan is teaming up with yours-truly and participating youth and adults to add a social media awareness to this important program.

Church in the Circle will be uploading pictures, video and interviews every month to our social media platforms, using the hashtag **#neighborhoodbasketball**. Then, the young men and women participating in the basketball program can share the content with their friends and families on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram—yet another way to promote this neighborhood program.



Hassan Lee and Neighborhood Basketball participants in our Gym

## Some exciting website statistics!

In the past six months, **12,248** “Unique Website Visitors” have indeed visited our [www.churchinthecircle.com](http://www.churchinthecircle.com) website. And in the past year, to date, we’ve had a total of **21,654** website visitors—a significant increase over past years, thanks in large part to its revised appearance, use of key search words that Google “likes” and attractive content. Visit “your” church’s website soon and discover what’s new!

## Live-streaming Better Than Ever

Thanks to Roger Schulte, Shawn Hufendick and others on the AV team, we now have a new and improved ability to livestream our Sunday services, enabling you to watch “live” from anywhere in the world, using your computer, tablet or smartphone. All you have to do is go to [www.churchinthecircle.com](http://www.churchinthecircle.com) and click the “WATCH” icon at the bottom left of the homepage. You can also watch archives of past services!



Armond Budish @ Church in the Circle

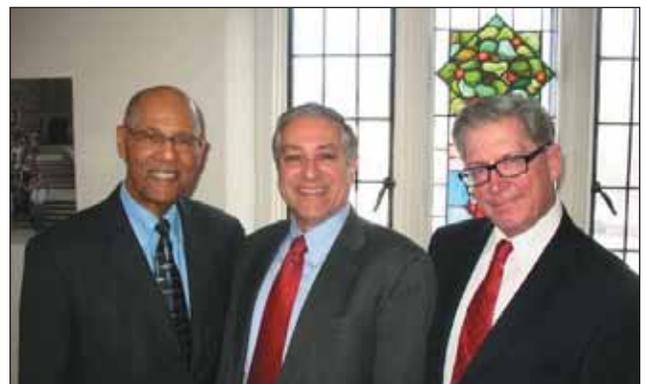
## 2015 Christmas Attendance Increases

It’s been a while since Christmas, for sure, but you might be interested to know that our Christmas Eve service attendance numbers have grown over previous seasons, with the largest increase taking place during the 4pm service:

Christmas Attendance			
Service	2015	2014	2013
4pm	237	209	185
8pm	320	317	268
11pm	48	50	48
<b>Total</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>501</b>

February 14, the MENS group welcomed Cuyahoga County Executive Director Armond Budish to the podium for a state-of-the-county presentation and a lively discussion that followed.

Promoting such noted Greater-Cleveland officials on our website when they are scheduled to speak Sunday mornings helps inform website visitors of our community involvement and support for informative venues and interactive discussion.



Armond Budish, center, with MENS group co-chair Ed Dickson and Dr. Chalker

# GRACENOTES

~Nathan Motta, *Music and Arts Director*

As this season of Lent prepares us all for the ultimate Easter celebration, we as the church's Music and Arts staff and laity are hard at work preparing some wonderful offerings for upcoming worship experiences.

Sunday, March 13, the Chancel Choir presents a "Compilation Cantata"—a blend of Lenten anthems laid out in a mass-like structure that includes a setting of the *Kyrie* and arrangements of "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," "At the Cry of the First Bird," "I Wonder as I Wander," "Ah, Holy Jesus" and more.

This season also includes wonderful

selections by our Liturgical Dancers ("Parable of the Prodigal Son"), Gospel Choir ("Something's Happening/I've Seen Jesus"), and Bell Choir ("Praise to the Lord, the Almighty").

Join us to hear some sensational musical offerings from various soloists from the congregation and anticipate a magnificent Holy Week experience, concluding with the wonderful sounds of brass on Easter morning. Let your church's music and dance add a special joy to your celebration of Christ's resurrection.



## A New Way Forward

► *continued from page 1*

July 1, 2016. In this way, he would seamlessly continue his current day-to-day ministry but not be compensated through the church's budget.

This plan would reduce staffing expenses by over \$64,000 from July 1 to December 31 as Dr. Chalker's salary, health insurance and pension contributions are removed from the budget. In his full-time retired appointment position, Dr. Chalker would use his pension benefits for living expenses, from July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017. His appointment would be treated like every other paid or retired appointment, in that it would be reviewed each year for continuation into the next appointment year.

Dr. Chalker spoke with and received the blessing of the East Ohio Conference Bishop, John L. Hopkins, and North Coast District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Steven Bailey, clearing the way for him to present the proposal to the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, who unanimously approved it at the January meeting.

In a combined meeting on January 31, SPRC presented the approved plan to members of the Finance Committee and the Board of Trustees, who gave the plan their unanimous support. Dr. Chalker, with the assistance of Rev. Dr. Steven Bailey and Jan Kimball, chair of SPRC, then presented the plan for his retirement and reappointment as a full-time retired minister to the congregation after worship on February 7. Dr. Chalker's presentation and rationale were warmly supported and appreciated by those in attendance.

As perspective for Dr. Chalker's decision, within the last two years, our Trustees approved funds to make extensive repairs on the stonework and supporting structure. These repairs were critical to restore the soundness and integrity of the building. However, those expenditures depleted the last of the unrestricted monies in our endowment. As a result, we no longer have interest income for fiscal year 2016 to supplement our pledge dollars towards balancing the monies needed for our operating budget.

Relatedly, even though our pledged dollar amounts for the 2016 campaign came in at a record high amount, we will lack about \$97,000 needed to balance the projected expenses.

These factors played a significant role in Dr. Chalker's decision to investigate the retirement/reappointment scenario for viability and then, when confirmed, present it to the congregation for consideration and ultimate approval.

By freeing up his salary and related items in the church's staffing budget, Dr. Chalker graciously enables our congregation to chart a new way forward—to begin to implement the Strategic Plan as a way to grow and develop our ministry as an urban, welcoming fellowship of believers. It's not only a unique approach to enabling the urban church to survive but a way to let our Church in the Circle refocus on the future—indeed, an unselfish, caring, unique way forward. Be thankful you're a part of it.

[Content drawn from Staff-Parish Relations Committee letter; edited by JDH]

## Dining Opportunities

### First-Sunday Potluck ~ March 6

Potatoes head the list of prepared foods this fifth year around as the Myers perform their magic with spuds galore. All they need is YOU...and your potluck contribution. **Pick something** good, not-so-good, hot, cold, sweet, sour, spicy, bland, home-made, store-bought, fruity, veggie, meaty, meatless, whatever...**and bring it with you** to our scrumptious gathering of food and friends in our Great Hall.

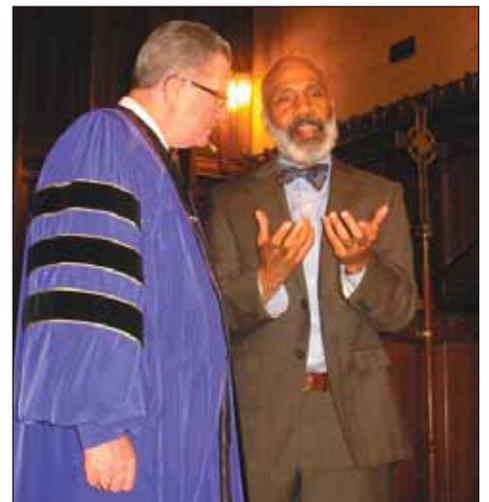
You'll be welcomed, especially by the Outreach Committee whose members will share information about their many ways to become an involved volunteer. So, bring your appetite and something to share for lunch. You'll end up being fed in many ways.



### Second Sunday Lunch (SSL) ~ March 13

Our next SECOND SUNDAY LUNCH happens March 13 at Piñata's Mexican Restaurant, 11611 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland. Lunch specials are \$7-\$10; house specialties and dinners are \$15-\$20. Their Mexican cuisine includes soups, appetizers, numerous combinations and desserts.

For reservations, call Betz Richards @ 440-235-9343 or email: [chefbetz1@aol.com](mailto:chefbetz1@aol.com) before March 8. Betz can provide directions and answer questions as needed. **And don't forget to "Spring forward"; it's Daylight-Saving Time. See you there!**



Former Cleveland newsman and accomplished violinist Mr. Obie Shelton stands with Dr. Chalker during the January 17 service when he shared his reflections on the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and offered an innovative violin rendition of "We Shall Overcome."

A SPECIAL COMMUNITY RESOURCE



## Healing Services Offer Comfort

~ Heidi Denman McDougall, *Minister of Pastoral Care*

As part of the Lenten season, when we are doubly aware of Jesus’ struggle with a hurtful world, Church in the Circle provides two healing services, **Tuesday, March 15 at noon and 7pm**, to enable the release of emotional pain and sorrow. Find solace and peace in the words and music...and silence...that can speak healing, soothing thoughts to you. Join us for a time together to center and realize God’s calming spirit.

\*\*\*\*\*

Did you know? Our Church in the Circle has an email prayer chain, over sixty members strong. If you would like to be a part of this prayer mission, email me at [h.e.denman@gmail.com](mailto:h.e.denman@gmail.com). Prayer requests are

usually shared a few times per week. Thank you for praying!

\*\*\*\*\*

Sometimes during worship, our minds and hearts wander to a loved one or friend, and we wonder how they are doing. Maybe they are experiencing a rough patch and could use prayer. Maybe there’s been a fresh blessing in their lives—maybe a new job or home, or even a new baby—and we feel like sharing the news.

Lavender-colored pew cards can help you make a prayer request. Simply fill in the information (you can be anonymous) and place the card in the offering plate, or drop it into the wooden box at the rear of the Sanctuary as you leave. Prayer requests are shared confidentially with dedicated prayer partners. Just one more way we can love one another as we follow in the Way of the Christ.

## Focus on Education: Our Children’s Safety

Ever since joining the church’s staff as Director of Education, Dr. Amy Wheatley has instituted measures that have safeguarded the children who participate in the life of our Sunday School and any other youth activity in our church. It has always been a first-priority.

With time comes the need to refine the rules around our children’s safety, especially as more and special-needs children enter the classroom on any given Sunday morning. . . or at any other time, for that matter.

Recently, Amy has introduced a set of new guidelines designed to further ensure the well-being of any child who participates in the life of this church. Excerpted portions of these directives are presented, to the right.

While the full version of this updated policy is available in the church office, the excerpts included here offer verification that safety will be a focus with each Sunday School session and any ventures beyond church grounds.

Child safety has few rivals. And that’s why Amy and others have created these safeguards. Be proud of this spotlight on child safety as a priority in your church. It speaks highly of the kind of loving church we have been, are, and will continue to be. After all, a loving, caring Jesus said, “Let the children come unto me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” No better directive for keeping them safe.

In covenant with all United Methodist congregations, we adopt this policy for the prevention of child abuse in our church. The purpose of the Child Protection Policy of University Circle United Methodist Church is to:

1. Provide procedures specifically designed to protect children, youth, church staff and volunteers associated with the ministries of the church.
2. Establish appropriate ways of responding to alleged, reported, or suspected incidents of abuse.
3. Be in a compassionate ministry with all affected persons—the alleged victim, the alleged victim’s family, the accused, the accused’s family, and the church family.

The procedures outlined in this policy are intended to:

1. Safeguard the children/youth of our church from abuse and neglect.
2. Respond to all allegations in a fair and compassionate manner.
3. Protect church staff and volunteers from potential false allegations of abuse.
4. Limit the extent of our church’s legal risk and liability.
5. Strengthen our children/youth ministries.

In an effort to create a safe environment within our church, persons being considered to work with children/youth in church programs, either regularly or occasionally, on or beyond the church grounds, will be screened.

In an effort to create a safe environment within our church, each church staff person and volunteer who works with children/youth, either regularly or occasionally, on or beyond the church grounds, will be trained on child protection issues. The church will provide regularly scheduled training focused on issues of child protection for those working with children and youth. Attendance at this training or a district or conference sponsored training session will be required of all adults and youth helpers who will have direct contact with children or youth in the church’s ministry.

## chalk talk

► *continued from page 1*

The numbers, after all, are the evidence of “success.”

Sounding like a pastor of a church, I continued with my “stinkin’ thinkin’”: “I do not like it when Lent and Easter are early. The likely chance of decreased market share over the previous April will show up in decreased revenue from offerings. The Finance Committee will not be impressed. Cuts will be in the air.”

I really dislike myself when I sound like a pastor of a church whining over budgets and the things that affect them negatively. I really dislike myself when I sound like a pastor of a church in Cleveland, Ohio, thinking about how much “easier” it would be, when Lent and Easter come early, if I served a church in Florida.

I have learned that the minute I catch myself sounding like a pastor of a church focused on the administration and budget—revenue and expense—and overall church business stuff, it is high time that I head for confession. Such times of confession are difficult, often protracted sessions.

To be sure, while church management stuff is important, when one’s spirit becomes out of alignment by being “upset” that Lent and Easter are early and negatively impacting the budget, confession and getting right with the Lord is more than in order.

Here is the deal: Lent and Easter *cannot* be early enough!

Problems, disappointments, challenges and a host of real-life things that surround us are always right on time. A trust in the transforming power of spiritual preparation and a hope of having life and having it abundantly can *never* be too early!

When a loved one is in the hospital and the diagnosis is grim, Easter can never be too early. When pain is chronic, Easter cannot be too early. When a job is lost and a family’s needs are everywhere to be found, Easter can never be too early.

When snowstorms coming in off the open waters of life are dumping “lake effect” in our paths and we cannot shovel fast enough, Easter cannot be too early. When candidates for high office fight over who is really Christian and call each other a “liar,” Easter cannot come too early. When the recurring struggles of making a way in the midst of those whose behavior makes it even harder to make a way, Easter cannot come too early.

A local judge, after imposing a five-year prison term on yet another person convicted of promoting and using child pornography on the computer, was reported as making the comment, “The Internet is the very best thing and the very worst thing that has happened to us. (In such instances as this man), it has made criminals out of cowards.” Easter cannot come too early.

The very best thing that ever happened to us has not been the Internet. The best thing is that God breathed into each of us a living soul. We bear the gift of that Godly breath mark. It is our individual spiritual router connecting us to the universe-wide Internet of the Kingdom of God.

Because so many still do not believe this great truth of our creation, humanity still lashes out at each other—still places people on crosses. Because so many snowstorms of hatred pile up and slow us down, because all of these things and so many more are always taking place in real time in each minute of life, Easter just *cannot* come too early.

With this great truth particularly evident this year, let’s try not to sound like some pastor of a local church. Rather, let’s understand that we are “citizens of heaven,” anticipating and expecting a savior who comes from there. (Philippians 3:20)

*Indeed, Easter cannot come too early.*

## To all the women of Church in the Circle: *You’re Invited!*

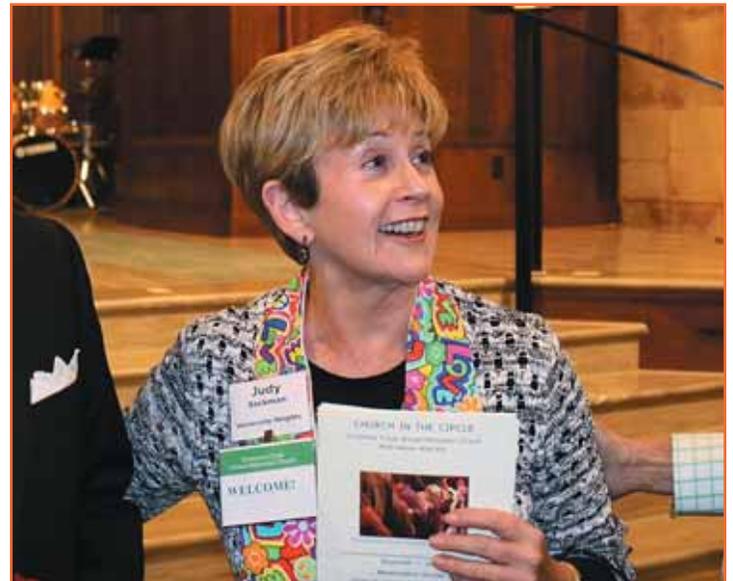
How would you like to enjoy some great *free* food, meet someone you may not know, see an uplifting program and even experience some fun surprises?!

You *can*...as the University Circle United Methodist Women hold their Second Annual Spring Luncheon, Saturday, April 30, from 11:30am to 1pm in the Great Hall.

All women in our congregation are invited as guests of UCUMW, so save the date and watch for more details in the coming weeks.

\* \* \*

Our “**Little Dresses for Africa**” project continues to send dresses for girls and shorts for boys to locations in Kenya. We welcome donations of fabric we can use for these clothes, and anyone with sewing skills is doubly welcome. Let us know if you’re interested in helping us by donating fabric or sewing clothes: contact Marilou Abele at [marilouabele@yahoo.com](mailto:marilouabele@yahoo.com) or leave fabric in the church office. As always, thank you for your support!



**Join us Sunday, February 27, in the Parlor after worship for an Appreciation Reception for our former Coordinator of Membership, Judy Sockman.**

## UCUMC OUTLOOK

Dr. Kenneth W. Chalker, Senior Pastor  
University Circle United Methodist Church  
1919 E. 107th St., Cleveland, OH 44106  
[www.churchinthecircle.com](http://www.churchinthecircle.com) ■ 216.421.1200

Outlook Editor: Jim Hogg—[hoggwriter@gmail.com](mailto:hoggwriter@gmail.com)

Photographers: Jeff Day, Jim Hogg,  
David Hughes, Brian Misch

Editorial Staff: M. Abele, C. Day, E. Prince

# OUTREACH CORNER

## More Than Food for Thought

~ Doug Blank, Outreach Committee Chair  
([dblank3@gmail.com](mailto:dblank3@gmail.com))

As you may know, the Outreach Committee leads a variety of donation-based and active volunteer opportunities throughout the year. Several are focused on a specific season or are a one-time event, but other missions continue year 'round. One of the newest and most critical opportunities with which Outreach is involved is the weekly canned food collection for the **Cory UMC Food Pantry**. We are excited about this mission for a number of reasons:



1. It is a critical need. Hunger and nutrition are significant issues in our community, so each can of food we supply represents a meal for at least one Cleveland-area resident in need of assistance.
2. The Cory UMC pantry is local. Cory UMC is less than two miles north of UCUMC on East 105th Street, serving our neighbors.
3. It's easy for everyone to participate in this mission. Just pick up an extra can or box each week at the grocery store, and bring it to church with you. Drop it in the blue bin in the Narthex, and that's it! You have contributed to the dozens of food items our congregation provides to Cory each week.

What's particularly exciting about our church's involvement is that the idea arose, not from a member of our committee, but from a member of the church who saw a need, took initiative and made the mission happen. Passionate about hunger mission work, Sally Harper approached the Outreach Committee a little over a year ago with the idea for starting an ongoing canned food collection drive at UCUMC. She spearheaded the work of finding a food pantry to accept our donations and organizing a group of volunteers to transport the food from UCUMC to Cory. This met with the committee's overwhelming support, and Sally has been running with this mission ever since. In Sally's words...

*"I have been passionate about fighting hunger since I worked as an elementary school librarian and found out from the lunch ladies that many children ate Monday's breakfast as if they hadn't eaten all weekend. Since then, I've supported food cupboards, dining centers and other hunger venues. Even as I began*

*travelling with my 17-foot Airstream trailer in 2010, I attended United Methodist churches all across the country and found that almost all of them collected food for the hungry. So I began to bring food with me, even though I was usually at a different church every week.*

"When I joined UCUMC, I was surprised we were not collecting food, and I didn't know how to get this going. That's when Judy Sockman directed me to Outreach. It was Mary Soirefman who recommended that we keep it in the neighborhood. So, I contacted Cory's Hunger Center, met with them to set up deliveries, and now have a very fine crew of drivers from our church." (Edited)

We are so thankful to Sally and her team of volunteers for their efforts, and say "thank you" to everyone who continues to fill the blue bin with food donations each week!

**Learn how you can get involved** in one of the Outreach Committee's many initiatives **by attending the March 6th potluck lunch, following worship in the Great Hall.**

Several Outreach Committee members will be sharing quick tidbits on the missions we serve and the ways each of us can help make a difference in our neighborhood, city and beyond.



\* \* \*

Under the direction of Hassan Lee, **Neighborhood Basketball** now meets on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 4 to 8pm in the Gym. As a safe-venue program serving our part of the city, Neighborhood Basketball welcomes the help of church volunteers who can assist during the short "games" and/or provide homework and academic support to participants. Indicate your interest to Hassan any Sunday morning or at [hbl2008.hl@gmail.com](mailto:hbl2008.hl@gmail.com).

\* \* \*

**Read Across America** will be observed at our partner school, Mary B. Martin School, on Friday, March 4, with the help of Church in the Circle reading volunteers. This program, now in its 19th year, is a signature project of the National Education Association and is generally recognized on the March 2nd birthday of Dr. Seuss.



If you can see yourself sharing 30 minutes of your morning with students at our partner school on March 4, there are a few volunteer spots open. Please contact Mary Soirefman ([mesoirefman@aol.com](mailto:mesoirefman@aol.com) or 440-740-0302) or Elaine Myers ([emyers34@aol.com](mailto:emyers34@aol.com) or 440-243-7322) if you are interested and available to participate in a read-along. There is plenty of room for creativity and fun!

\* \* \*

**Neighborhood Lunch** is held the last Sunday of every month at 1pm in the Great Hall, providing a full meal to hungry folks in our neighborhood and beyond. A sign-up sheet on the red bulletin board in the office hallway lets you sign up to contribute specific food items; you can also make a cash donation or stay after worship to greet and serve our guests. Thank you for your support!



**University Circle  
United Methodist Church**  
1919 E. 107th St.  
Cleveland, OH 44106

# What's Happening at the Circle

## February

- 28 Worship, 11am  
Appreciation Reception for Judy Sockman, following worship, Parlor  
Neighborhood Lunch, 1pm, Great Hall  
Open Table Service, 5pm, Sanctuary

## March

- 4 Organ Recital with Nicole Keller, 7pm, Sanctuary  
"Read Across America," Mary B. Martin School
- 6 Worship with Communion, 11am  
First-Sunday Potluck with Potato Bar, following worship, Great Hall
- 8 SPRC, 6pm, Yoder Room
- 9 Trustees, 6pm, Reception Room
- 13 Daylight Saving Time begins  
Outreach Committee, Reception Room, 9:30am  
Worship at 11am with Cantata  
SSL at Piñata's
- 15 Lenten Healing Service, noon, Chapel

- Finance Committee, 6pm, Reception Room  
Lenten Healing Service, 7pm, Chapel
- 20 Palm/Passion Sunday Worship, 11am
- 24 Maundy Thursday Service, 7pm
- 25 Holy Friday Service, 7pm
- 27 Easter Celebration Services at 8:30am and 11am  
Neighborhood Lunch, 1:00pm, Great Hall
- 29 UMW Lunch Bunch, noon, Reception Room

## April

- 3 Worship with Communion, 11am
- 10 SSL at Barrister's
- 12 SPRC, 6pm, Yoder Room
- 13 Trustees, 6pm, Reception Room
- 17 Celebration Day
- 19 Finance Committee, 6pm, Reception Room
- 22 Race, Food, Justice Forum
- 24 Neighborhood Lunch, 1:00pm, Great Hall
- 26 Ladies' Lunch Bunch, noon, Reception Room
- 30 UMW Luncheon

## ~SUNDAYS~

- Invitation to Journey*, 9am, Parlor  
Dr. Chalker's class, 9:30am, Yoder Room  
Worship service, 11am, Sanctuary  
Children attend worship until Sunday School at 11:20am  
Middle School and High School Youth meet during worship  
Liturgical Dance Rehearsals, 12:30pm

## ~ONGOING~

- Neighborhood Basketball, Tuesdays and Thursdays, Gym, 4-8pm  
Neighborhood Lunch, last Sundays, Great Hall, 1pm  
First Sunday Potlucks, first Sundays, Great Hall, 12:30pm  
Ladies' Lunch Bunch, last Tuesdays, Reception Room, noon  
SSL (Second Sunday Lunches), following worship, local restaurants  
Chancel Ringers (hand bells) rehearsal, Wednesdays, Sanctuary, 6:00-7:15pm  
Gospel Choir rehearsal, Wednesdays, Choir Room, 6pm  
Chancel Choir rehearsal, Wednesdays, Sanctuary, 7:15-9pm  
Dance Rehearsals for Children and Youth take place in the DuffyLit Studio at our church on Sundays at 12:30pm. Please see Edna Duffy for more information.