



The Outlook

University Circle United Methodist Church

All are welcome. All the time.

April 2015

chalk talk



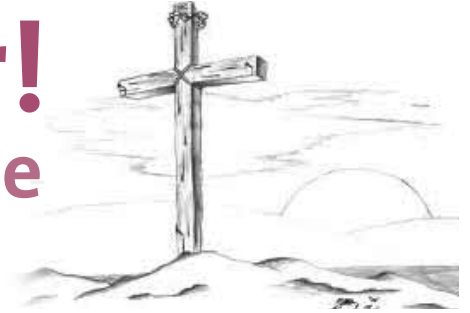
BY DR. KENNETH W. CHALKER

The heartbreaking, soul-crippling effect of religion gone horribly wrong never stops. A mob of self-righteous, angry men in Kabul, Afghanistan—following the twisted, spiritual sickness of extremist Islam—beat a 27-year-old woman to death for allegedly burning a copy of the Koran. But beating her to death was not enough. They also threw her body off a roof, ran over it with a car, set it on fire and then threw it in a river. The police who were standing nearby, according to reports, did nothing. It was all being done in the name of faithful religious observance.

It is reported that this brutally murdered young woman was named Farkhunda. There is no evidence that Farkhunda burned the Koran. But, even if such an act occurred, the religious barbarism unleashed and sanctioned for such an “offense” against God extends far

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It's Easter! Celebrate While You Can



Few, if any, days on the Christian calendar portray God's hope, love and promise as abundantly as does Easter. It's a real-life story of love conquering hate—a real-life example of Jesus' promise of life after death. Easter, with its many reasons to celebrate, is first and foremost a celebration of good over evil...on the grandest of scales. And it brings us together this April Sunday morning to, indeed, celebrate!

The thing is...Easter is only a day long, so you'd better get here while you can.

Join us at 8:30am Sunday, April 5, for a Son-Rise Service that welcomes this special day with song and celebration in our



Chapel. Plan to be a part of an exhilarating acclamation that “Christ is risen!”

Then, grab a cup of coffee or tea and some goodies and **share in our Paschal “Feast”**—

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A Divided Sunday...in a Good Way

If you've attended this church for a while, you know that virtually all of our church's services have a single theme. And all of the liturgy, dance, music and messages focus on that one theme.

What you may not recall is, when it comes to **Palm Sunday**, we're divided.

Traditionally, Palm Sunday celebrates Jesus' palm-laden ride into a waiting and

► A Divided Sunday continued on page 4



Celebration and Passion—Two of the highlights on Palm Sunday



GRACENOTES

~Nathan Motta, *Music and Arts Director*

With Lent coming to a close and Easter upon us, everyone involved in Music and Arts is hard at work preparing for Holy Week and the Easter celebration. Here are a few highlights:

- Palm Sunday will feature our Bell Choir with familiar hymn tunes “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” and “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace.” Palm Sunday will also include the Chancel Choir singing the traditional anthem, “The Palms” before the service moves into Passion Sunday and the stripping of the altar by our Liturgical Dancers.
- Maundy Thursday will include the Chancel Choir sharing a new arrangement of “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” and a

diverse offering of music and dance leading up to the sacrament of communion.

- Good Friday will include a variety of soloists, hymns and organ music that will be interspersed with scripture, prayer and the story of the crucifixion.
- Holy Week will culminate with Easter Sunday as a brass quintet, the Gospel Choir, our Dancers, the Chancel Choir and Lavert Stuart all contribute to this uplifting service. (See pg. 1 for more Easter details.)

We’re all looking forward to a wonderful week of worship experiences, and we hope you’ll be a part of it! This is a wonderful time of year to be with loved ones, your church family and even a friend you invite to experience our Church in the Circle at its best. See you in church.

Organ Concert Series Begins in May

The first of our new Organ Concert Series takes place Friday, May 15, at 7:30pm, featuring Alcee Chriss, a graduate student of Oberlin Conservatory of Music. Mr. Chriss filled in for Lavert Stuart on Sunday, March 15.



Alcee Chriss at our organ

This concert will be a collaborative effort between Church in the Circle and the Greater Cleveland Pan-Hellenic Choir. More detailed concert information will soon be available.

Ellington: Still Fresh in Our Ears!

~Jim Hogg, *Editor*

Perhaps it goes without saying that, if you missed Sunday’s service, March 22, you missed a unique lifetime experience. But I’ll say it anyway.

If you were fortunate enough to step into our Sanctuary that morning, you immediately became aware that this would *not* be your usual church service. One look at the bulletin’s familiar photo of Duke Ellington at the piano and then the music listed throughout our worship, and you just *knew* this wasn’t going to be your typical Methodist church service, replete with John Wesley’s favorites.

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of music director Nathan Motta and organist/pianist Lavert Stuart, along with the support of Dr. Chalker and office staff, “come Sunday” our congregation experienced some of the most meaningful worship ever offered in this space.

The jazz combo of (L-R) Gerry Paluck, Glenn Holmes, T.J. Lynch and Lavert Stuart made it clear from beginning to end that their shared talents honored not only “The Duke” but the God he loved.

Our Chancel Choir rehearsed for months with Nathen and Lavert to make sure our interpretation of Ellington’s various works came together as one, to express through music his genuine faith in a loving God. Even now, his music fills my mind. Maybe yours as well.

And as soloists Rick Schmid, Robert Thompson, Emily Laycock, Lydia Hall, Pam Maly and David Hughes blessed us with their interpretations, it became obvious that their expressions were indeed exceptional life-moments. It took only Edna Duffy and the unique expression of the Liturgical Dancers to put the whole morning over the top.

Life doesn’t offer that many moments when you can respect and learn and enjoy and worship and love, all at the same time. Many of our services come close, but Ellington Sunday was one of those all-inclusive moments for me, and I’m so *thankful* that this church made it possible. I hope you are, too.



Topic: Social Justice in Our Community and Beyond

On March 22, nearly 50 individuals gathered after church to react to the consent decree recommendations the group, "Greater Cleveland Congregations" (GCC) submitted to the City of Cleveland and Department of Justice early in February. Those recommendations included:

- Create new police policies that ensure bias-free stops and searches and thorough investigations.

- Reorganize internal accountability through diverse hiring and improved training, supervision, investigation and documentation.

- Engage the community with review of complaints and transparency.

- Ensure financial stability that funds these changes.

The group had a discussion about the GCC recommendations: what they think was important in the recommendations and what they think was missing.

Then, they broke into two groups to see who was interested in finding ways to educate the community and who was interested in



organizing to speak out about racial justice issues in Cleveland. Both sub-groups came up with concrete action steps in short order. This group appears to hold promise in conveying to the community and beyond our support for social justice, based upon a mutual respect for persons of any color, creed, race and gender.

The two groups will take action within the next six weeks...including a scheduled city-wide gathering here at our Church in the Circle. More information to come.

Find out how you can become involved as well by contacting Danielle Gadowski Littleton at 614.582.0089.



'The Artist's Eye'

Church in the Circle welcomes Cleveland Heights artist James McNamara whose recent works are displayed in the hallway through April 11. The images in this exhibit are a combination of color woodblocks and hand paintings. Mr. McNamara is primarily a painter, having studied at the Cleveland Institute of Art and Cleveland State, but has also taught himself printmaking, inspired by black artists of the WPA in the 1920's and 1930's. If you want further information about the artist and his work or how you might purchase a piece, he may be reached at 216-401-2814 or james.mcnamara1963@gmail.com.



In the spirit of spring renewal...

Ruach Resumes at Church in the Circle

It's a 45-minute contemplative meditation incorporating spiritual texts, music, breathing and silence to quiet the mind and even create a space for experiencing something of the sacred. And it's called Ruach.

Led by member Juliette Regnier, Ruach will be held the first Saturdays of the month: April 4, May 2 and June 6, at 11:00am in the Narthex. Please feel free to extend an invitation to family or friends whom you feel would benefit from such a practice.

MENS Group Update

Saturday, April 11, 1:30pm—MENS lunch at Quaker Steak and Lube on Canal Rd., Independence; all men are invited to attend

Sunday April 12, 9:30am, Yoder Room—Dennis Lehman, VP, Business for the Cleveland Indians, will be our Community Speaks Forum speaker. All persons are invited!



Transgender Inclusion Forum

As a reconciling congregation, we are open and affirming of all persons, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. And we are aware that important discussions have been taking place in Cleveland about updating our city's nondiscrimination ordinances, in order to fully include transgender people.

In partnership with Equality Ohio and Cleveland Advocates for Trans Equality, Church in the Circle will host a community forum on Thursday, April 16, at 6:30pm. The forum will include a panel discussion about how our current city ordinances affect transgender Clevelanders' daily lives and how faith communities can provide an inclusive, faithful response. Please join us for this important community event to listen, learn and support inclusion and equality for all.



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

Superior Donuts at Dobama Theater

Save this date: Sunday, May 17! Church in the Circle has reserved a block of seats for the 2:30pm performance of *Superior Donuts* at Dobama Theater. Directed by our own Nathan Motta, this comedy-drama by Tony Award- and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Tracy Letts explores the redemptive power of friendship. When his donut shop in the Uptown neighborhood of Chicago is vandalized, Arthur Przybyszewski, an uninspired ex-hippie, seems indifferent. But when Franco Wicks, an African American college student, enters Superior Donuts, both men are changed forever. Mark your calendar; details on ticket sales are coming soon!

It's Easter: Celebrate While You Can

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a time of fellowship and light refreshment in the Narthex before (and after) worship.

And *then*, find a place in our glorious sanctuary and make yourself at home, as we **join together at 11am in celebration of Jesus' victory over death.** A brass quintet brightens up the whole morning with its celebratory sounds, with the Gospel Choir singing "His Life for Mine" and the Chancel Choir offering "Alleluia" by Randall Thompson. Our Liturgical Dancers add physical celebratory expression to this exceptional service, and organist Lavert Stuart concludes with the Widor *Toccata*. Be

prepared to be "moved."

And when this day of Easter celebration is over, the truth is...Easter isn't really over at all; you knew that. Easter is a forever thing. God promises us, in the resurrection of Jesus, that life is everlasting. That's the message of Easter, and it's your best reason to be a part of *this* Easter at our Church in the Circle...before it's over.

Invitation for Membership

~Judy Sockman, *Membership Coordinator*

Church in the Circle will welcome new members into our family of faith on Sunday, April 26, during the 11am worship service. If you have been attending worship services and other activities at University Circle United Methodist Church and are looking for a church home, we invite you to consider joining in membership with us. There will be several opportunities to gather for fellowship and information prior to the April date. If you would like to be included in this spring's New Member group or have questions about membership, please call me at the church at 216-421-1200 or email me at jsockman@churchinthecircle.com.

UCUMC OUTLOOK

Dr. Kenneth W. Chalker, Senior Pastor
University Circle United Methodist Church
1919 E. 107th St., Cleveland, OH 44106
www.churchinthecircle.com
216.421.1200

Outlook Editor: Jim Hogg—
hoggwriter@gmail.com

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

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

Spring Dining Opportunities

Second Sunday Lunch (SSL)

returns to the Siam Café Seafood Restaurant, 3951 St. Clair Avenue on **April 12**. Join your Church in the Circle friends after worship for lunch and fellowship at this popular dining destination, where the menu includes everything from soups and salads to seafood, lamb, poultry, beef and pork – even frog! Reservations are required by April 7 to Betz Richards at 440-235-9343 or chefbetzi@aol.com.



Our **MENS Group Lunch** takes place on Saturday, **April 11** at 1:30pm at Quaker Steak and Lube on Canal Road in Independence. All men are invited to be a part of this gathering.

Enjoy a **Woman's Spring Luncheon** as guests of the leadership of our church's United Methodist Women, Saturday, **May 2**, from 11:30am to 1pm in our Great Hall. All women in our congregation are invited to this social gathering. Look for your invitation with more information.

First Sunday Potluck is taking a break for Easter, but will return on **May 3** in the Great Hall immediately following worship. Watch for further details and reservation forms in April.

A Divided Sunday... in a Good Way

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welcoming Jerusalem. A cheering crowd, perhaps in song, sees Jesus as their next savior. And the mood reaches a point of high expectation.

Then, the unholy pieces of Holy Week begin to seep in, the unholy pieces of silver are passed to Judas and the whole week turns to deep despair and death on a cross.

At Church in the Circle, we honor this change on Palm Sunday by dividing the service into two parts: celebration and "passion." It is reflected in our music, our words, our expression.

Be a part of this transition, **March 29 at 11am**, when our service is divided, in the best of ways, to portray the joy and then the agony Jesus experiences in this dark week leading up to Easter's triumphant sunrise.



Church's Exterior Gets a Facelift

~Bob Strickland, *Trustee*
As Phase 1 of the exterior repairs to UCUMC nears completion and bids for Phase 2 are in hand, it is time for a project update.

By way of history, planning for the church exterior restoration project coincided with the planning of the chancel renovation project. In 2013 the consulting firm, Technical Assurance, Inc., was retained by UCUMC to provide professional evaluation and planning services for the inspection, testing and planning of the remedial work related to the spire and chancel areas of the church. The goal was to abate water infiltration in the chancel area prior to the planned renovation. Technical Assurance made some initial recommendations but suggested a full roofing and exterior façade evaluation for the entire church building, in order to thoroughly understand the full scope of the needed exterior repairs and to provide accurate budgeting for the work.

In early 2014, three consulting firms, including Technical Assurance, were invited to submit proposals to provide further investigation services of the water infiltration problems and to prepare drawings and specifications to define the work required to fix the problems uncovered during their investigations. The consultants' services also included administering the bid process with invited contractors and overseeing the work after the repair contract was awarded. EDI Building Consultant's proposal was determined to be the lowest and best proposal received, and the trustees approved their contract for Phase 1 last March.

EDI's investigation of the church involved a comprehensive examination of all interior and exterior areas of the church. Elwin Robison, the lead historical restoration consultant for EDI, personally conducted the investigation. Elwin used ropes and harnesses to repel from the top of the spire and down every face of the church. I have included a couple of photos (see above) from Elwin's report to illustrate the conditions he found during this investigation.

The EDI investigation discovered that the level of needed exterior stone and masonry joint repairs was much more extensive than was reflected in the original Technical Assurance report. Based on this enhanced understanding of the primary source of water infiltration revealed by the EDI investigation,



Examples of masonry joints requiring repairs

EDI developed plans and specifications detailing the needed masonry repairs as a primary focus of the Phase-1 remediation work. The plans also detailed the needed copper roof repairs and a full roof replacement at the base of the spire.

The Phase-1 work involves the replacement of damaged precast stone pieces (see photo) and 100% repointing of the masonry joints on the eastern elevation of the upper portion of the church from the base of the spire to the roof of the lower portion of the church. The work area wraps around from the east elevation to include half of the north and south elevations of the upper portion as well.

Bids were received from three contractors for Phase 1. The contract was awarded to Coon Restoration and Sealants for \$563,767. Work began in July. As work progressed it was determined that additional cast stone pieces needed to be replaced, which added just

under \$30,000 to the project cost. To help offset this additional cost, it was decided to defer replacement of the chancel roof. Instead of a full roof replacement, the existing chancel roof was repaired, which will extend the useful life of this roof for 20 years.

The Phase-1 work will be completed at a cost of \$110,000 less than the original contract amount.

At this time, the masonry tuck pointing of the joints is 98% complete. The production of the replacement cast stone pieces has been much slower than was scheduled. As a result,

the contractor was unable to complete as planned his work before winter started. Production of the replacement cast stone has resumed with the improving weather, and the current schedule shows a Phase-1 completion in six (6) weeks.

EDI has completed the bid process for Phase 2. This work will complete the stone replacement and masonry joint repairs on the upper portion of the church and along the south stained glass wall of the nave. The flat roof on the south side of the church will also



Precast stone replacement in progress

be replaced. The Trustees will award the Phase-2 contract, and work will be completed by this fall.

Completion of Phases 1 and 2 remediation work will address the majority of the water infiltration issues previously identified. Additional masonry and roof repairs and replacements will be needed, but the immediate concerns will have been addressed, giving us time to prioritize and budget for future work to insure the enjoyment of worship in the Church on the Circle for both current and future generations.



chalk talk

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beyond contempt.

It is an old story and tragically repeated.

Religious men in an angry mob, for instance, once joined forces to crucify Jesus. The tactics were different, but the hysterical religious thinking was the same; the pages of a book were more sacred than a life.

Jesus was executed because he made a faith claim, namely that, in part, God lives in the spirits of all people and writes the law of love on human hearts. Jesus made the faith claim that God's Law is not a written word on a page but a "living Word" in a loving, faith-filled life. Such a faith claim, lived out in the dynamic ways that make this message of inclusion and liberation a reality, always stirs in some the murderous passions of bigotry, entitlement and an entrenched belief in books interpreted to justify tribal superiority.

As followers of Jesus, we are once again celebrating and observing the truth that the cross of religious barbarism, erected according to the mob's book, is not nearly as powerful as a living Word.

Resurrection happened. Resurrection happens. The power of the mob of angry men threatened in their flimsy sense of manhood is always overcome.

Religion has always been Satan's infection of the sacred spirit in each of us. A living *Faith* has always been God's antidote.

Religion burns people. Religion burns books deemed heretical by the mob du jour in power. Easter is the antidote that puts out religious fires. The fact that Jesus was raised from the dead is a confirmation that the way in which Jesus lived his life—his understanding of the Kingdom of God, its purpose and the way of unconditional love—is the model for what saves the world.

Today, as has always been the case, the satanic force of religion is causing great destruction. And, while this is nothing new, there does seem to be an outbreak of extremism that is particularly malignant in the climate of secularism in the western world and a pervasive indifference to the reality of the spirit in our lives, caused by the constant distractions of "busyness with things."

The particular danger of religious extremism in our time is that its focus on end times and doomsday predictions can be a self-fulfilling prophecy, largely due to the efforts of extremist groups to have access to and control of nuclear weapons. Not only that, with the religious fervor motivating the taking of the lives of the infidel or the heretical who have strayed from the teachings of a book, extremists with the bomb are anxious to cause people to burn—all the while thinking that they who have set the fires will be saved.

The message of Easter is not an option. If we do not believe and proclaim it in all the ways we can, the forces of religion will continue to grow, seek out all manner of opportunity to join in mobs of angry men and rejoice in the resulting destruction.

Is it not more than troublesome that mobs of angry men attack women and destroy museums and all manner of examples of human achievement rooted in a free spirit? Is it not more than troubling that thousands of once spiritually ambivalent young people are being recruited over the Internet by purveyors of religious violence, who make this violence seem attractive and filled with ultimate and eternal purpose?

Easter is here. Jesus is risen. Yet, at great peril we reduce the season to colored eggs, jelly beans and chocolate rabbits. In a world where too many are ready and willing to burn those who read the "wrong" religious book, it is ultimately the Word made flesh and resurrected among us that is the soul-saving truth.

Christ is risen. He is risen, indeed! Hallelujah!

A SPECIAL COMMUNITY RESOURCE



~Heidi Denman McDougall, *Min. Pastoral Care*

Did you know? The 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, send me an email at h.e.denman@gmail.com. Prayer requests generally go out a few times a week. Thank you for praying!

Make a Request

Sometimes during worship, our minds and hearts may 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—a new job, a new home, or even a new baby—and you feel a desire to share the news.

There are lavender-colored cards in the pew pockets that you can use to make a prayer request. Simply fill in the information (you may make your requests anonymously) 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 will be shared confidentially with dedicated prayer partners. Just one more way we can love one another as we follow in the Way of the Christ.

It Doesn't Matter to God

Sometimes people will say, "I didn't get the prayer request for Mabel until after she had already had the surgery! I don't know if I should still pray or not." The answer: Yes! God's healing care doesn't happen on our timetable. God doesn't watch the clock like we do. If you learn of a prayer need, even if it's weeks after the crisis has passed, pray...and invite others to join you.

It also doesn't matter to God where you are when you pray. Our prayer chain has stretched from Montana to Miami, from England to Oz (Australia), and all the way back to Church in the Circle. God's children are everywhere, and it is a blessing, indeed, to invite others to pray together for folks we may have never met. Thank you for your gift of faith.



Our Mardi Gras Potluck on February 1 was a delicious success! Thanks to Chef Ben Magee for preparing some of New Orleans' finest jambalaya for all to enjoy.

Chef Ben Magee and guitarist Brian Misch



OUTREACH

ORNER

Opportunities to Volunteer Your Time and Talents

Thank You!

The Outreach Committee thanks everyone who braved the snow and attended the Outreach Opportunities Fair potluck in the Great Hall on March 1. A special thanks to Elaine and Larry Myers and their potluck assistants and to all those who



prepared food and staffed the Outreach tables, sharing information on the multiple volunteer opportunities available at UCUMC.

We are excited to have so many new volunteers, and we look forward to continuing our active volunteerism in 2015.

Focus on UMW Missions

One of the many missions that UCUMW supports is OhioGuidestone, previously known as Berea Children's Home. This organization continues that legacy by serving children and their families with customized programs that address every aspect of a person's needs. The joy of seeing these young people serve at a luncheon or participate in other activities shows the development of good character and responsibility that is nurtured at OhioGuidestone. Their chaplain, an integral part of the staff at OhioGuidestone, is Rev. Jared Gadomski Littleton, a member of our UCUMC family.



Neighborhood Gardens Need Your Help

We need volunteers for a one-day service project on **Saturday, June 6, 9am–3pm**, to rebuild garden beds at Park Village, an apartment complex in the Hough neighborhood less than a mile from UCUMC. Volunteers will rebuild six garden beds, assisting with tasks such as loading soil into beds and installing mulch. Thanks to a strong response at the potluck, we do have several volunteers for this project but are in need of more.

UCUMC Outreach has partnered with Famicos Foundation (the local community development corporation, www.famicos.org) to support this project by committing to be their source of volunteer labor for this project. "More hands make light the work!" Thank you for considering participating in this meaningful service opportunity. We are excited to get back into the community to perform hands-on work!

To sign up, please contact Doug Blank (UCUMCOutreach@gmail.com; 216.536.1857).

Be a Tutor!

You don't need to be a professional educator to support students in their learning. You just need a willing spirit and an hour a week to give.



Here's what to do:

- 1. Commit.** Helping just one student makes a difference in their academic lives and actually provides an ideal mentoring opportunity.
- 2. Sign up.** Contact Doug Blank, UCUMC Outreach Committee Chair, for more information: dblank3@gmail.com. Or call the church office at 216-421-1200 to leave your name and number.
- 3. Show up.** Your presence and guidance can help a struggling student build confidence, increase social/emotional understanding and improve academic skills and performance.

Why not put your confident, positive personality to work by helping a child succeed. You'll be glad you did.

NO MORE UPPITY WOMEN?!

Wait. What? Heidi Denman McDougall's Sunday morning class for women is going away? Say it ain't so! (Okay, it ain't so. Mostly.)

There was a time when Church in the Circle needed a class dedicated to women as followers of the Way of the Christ. But as we've grown and expanded our horizons, we have begun reaching out to men as well. Our recent book study, for instance, *Eight Preachers Go to Hell*, was met with great curiosity, anticipation and participation by men and women alike. Clearly, there is a *new* need we are called to fill: providing a place where travelers along the Way can gather to study, to question and to love one another as God loves each one of us, regardless of gender.

This new class will meet in the **Parlor, Sunday mornings, 9–10am**, beginning **Sunday, April 19**. We will draw from a number of sources and styles, seeking answers to challenging spiritual and faith questions. Our first study together will come from a series called, *Living the Questions*. All are welcome to be a part of this exciting alternative study group.

EMPTY TANK?

There are a number of opportunities for you to "fill up" spiritually during the week:



Tuesday mornings at 8:30, a small group meets at **Panera at I-480 and Tiedeman** to preview the Lectionary passage for the week and challenge ourselves to discern where the sermon might go on Sunday.

Thursdays at 6:45 a.m., a loving group meets at **Einstein's Bagels, St. Charles & Detroit Rd., in Lakewood** to study a passage of Scripture and offer prayer requests for one another.

Which one(s) will you join to help you get through the week? Contact Heidi Denman McDougall with any questions. All are welcome!





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



What's Happening

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Sun., March 29th: Palm Sunday Worship, 11am

Thur., April 2nd: Maundy Thursday Service, 7pm

Fri., April 3rd: Holy Friday Service, 7pm

Sun., April 5th: Easter Celebration
Son-Rise Service, 8:30am
Paschal "Feast"—a time of fellowship and light refreshment in the Narthex before and after worship
Easter Worship, 11am; communion served in Chapel following worship

March:

- 29 Palm Sunday Worship, 11am
Reception to welcome Barry Bennett following worship
Neighborhood Lunch, 1pm in the Great Hall.
Youth group assists with serving.
- 30 Neighborhood Basketball, 4-8pm, gym
- 31 Ladies' Lunch Bunch, noon, Wiggle Room

April:

- 2 Maundy Thursday Service, 7pm, Sanctuary

- 3 Holy Friday Service, 7pm, Sanctuary
- 4 Ruach, 11am, Narthex
- 5 Easter Celebration
Son-Rise Service, 8:30am
Paschal "Feast"—a time of fellowship and light refreshment in the Narthex before and after worship
Easter Worship, 11am
Communion in the Chapel following worship
- 8 Trustees, 6pm, Reception Room
- 11 MENS Lunch, Quaker Steak and Lube, Canal Road, Independence, 1:30pm
- 12 MENS Group Community Forum presents guest speaker, Dennis Lehman, Vice President, Business with the Cleveland Indians, 9:30am, Yoder Room
Reception of Appreciation for Marina Grant following worship
Second Sunday Lunch at Siam Café
- 14 Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, 6pm, Yoder Room
New Member gathering, 7pm, Parlor
- 16 Trans Equality Forum, 6-9pm, Great Hall
- 21 Finance, 6pm, Reception Room
- 26 United Methodist Women present guest speaker Jim Szakacs from Nehemiah

- Mission, 9:30am, Yoder Room
- New Member Sunday—Church in the Circle welcomes new members during worship at 11am.
- 28 Ladies' Lunch Bunch, noon, Wiggle Room

May:

- 2 Ruach, 11am, Narthex
- UMW Luncheon, 11:30am-1pm, Great Hall
- 3 Worship and Celebration of Communion, 11am, Sanctuary
First-Sunday Potluck, following worship
Administrative Council
- 10 Second Sunday Lunch
- 12 Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, 6pm, Yoder Room
- 13 Trustees, 6pm, Reception Room
- 17 Outreach Committee, 9:15am, Reception Room
- 19 Finance, 6pm, Reception Room
- 20 UMW Leadership Team, 11:45am, Reception Room
- 24 Worship and Celebration of Pentecost, 11am, Sanctuary
- 25 Memorial Day—Church office closed
- 26 Ladies' Lunch Bunch, noon, Wiggle Room

