



# The Outlook

University Circle United Methodist Church

All are welcome. All the time.

December 2016

## chalk talk



BY DR. KENNETH W. CHALKER

The song, “We Need a Little Christmas,” has been around since 1966. As one of the big hits to come out of Jerry Herman’s Broadway musical, “Auntie Mame,” it was first sung by Angela Lansbury, who also played the title role. And, while the number of people who now know the name “Angela Lansbury” is not increasing in quantity, the song, “We Need a Little Christmas,” we are told, has indeed become a “holiday classic.”

“We Need a Little Christmas” is sung right after the wealthy Auntie Mame learns that all of her wealth has been lost in the stock market crash of 1929. Trying to assimilate the news that her wealth, and therefore her life of luxury and security, is gone, she decides in that moment of realized loss that she needs a “little Christmas” to cheer her up and save her from sliding into depression. Mame cries out, “We need a little Christmas!” and begins defining it as “candles in the windows” and “some carols at the spinet.”

Perhaps additional words of this “holiday classic” are now coming to mind—lyrics to which many people can indeed identify and relate:

“I’ve grown a little leaner, grown a little colder,  
I’ve grown a little sadder and grown a little older.  
So, I need a little angel sitting on my shoulder.  
I need a little Christmas now!”

As another holiday season arrives and we “haul out the holly,” and as some invest in putting things in lay-away, it occurs to me that having a “little Christmas” of seasonal lights and festive decorations is *never* enough. In particular, when the deep emotions of loss or additional real-life set-backs and challenging experiences occur in our lives, having a “little

► ‘chalk talk’ continued on page 6

## Celebrate Christmas Eve in Candlelight



Plan now to be a part of any of three different candlelight services, Saturday, December 24, in our grand Sanctuary dressed in holiday greenery. From choirs to organ pipes, hand bells to dancers, joyous expression to quiet contemplation, each service shares in its own way the message that Jesus is born, culminating in the warmth of candlelight on this special “Silent Night.”

Add at least one of these moving services to your calendar today, and “Merry Christmas”!

- **5pm**—A joy-filled, family-focused service energized with a variety of artistic expressions (note 5pm start)
- **8pm**—Our traditional Christmas Eve service featuring music, dance and a powerful message
- **11pm**—A more meditative service honoring the quiet magic of Christmas Eve

For more Advent and holiday activities, visit: [www.churchinthecircle.com/Christmas-2016](http://www.churchinthecircle.com/Christmas-2016)



## Smoke Signals

While there may not have been much brimstone, there certainly was fire being generated within the walls of University Circle United Methodist Church, Sunday, November 20, as early-morning flames sent smoke billowing out of the church’s Yoder Room and

into adjoining hallways and offices—even into the Sanctuary—resulting in the cancellation of classes and the worship service.

It appeared that a faulty coffee urn ignited

► ‘Smoke Signals’ continued on page 5



As a member of Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC), our church provided volunteers who helped knock on neighborhood doors and engage citizens in conversation about the city's justice system and its school district, encouraging them to vote in the recent election.

Church in the Circle participants in this Get Out the Vote (GOTV) effort included Danielle and Jared Gadomski Littleton, Suzanne Seifert, Judy Sockman, and Mariah Hayden-Himschoot and son Andrew. Malcolm and Mariah Hayden-Himschoot also acted as hosts to out-of-town canvassers. Our church served as one of eight Congregational Hosts during this campaign.

Consider this listing of the group's GOTV statistics:

#### ~Canvas Results

DOORS KNOCKED: **14,155** (goal: 12,000)  
 CONVERSATIONS: **5,059** (goal: 3,000)  
 INDIVIDUAL CANVASSERS: **533** (goal: 300)  
 CANVASSING SHIFTS FILLED: **722**  
 DEEP NEIGHBORHOOD CANVASSES: **12**  
 GOTV CANVASSES: **3**  
 ELECTION DAY CANVASSES: **3**

#### ~Citizen Responses

VOTERS REGISTERED: **241**  
 VOTING PLANS MADE: **1,489**  
 DEFINITELY WILL VOTE: **2,145**  
 SATISFIED WITH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM (CJS): **16%** (407)  
 UNDECIDED ABOUT THE CJS: **16%** (399)  
 UNSATISFIED WITH THE CJS: **68%** (1708)

Cleveland voters supported the Cleveland Metropolitan School District levy, coincidentally, by a 68% margin—a strong indication that they believe the system is moving in a positive direction. Certainly, GCC's neighborhood presence played a role in getting supportive voters to the polls.

## 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

## UPDATE ~ UPDATE ~ UPDATE

### Excerpts from Rev. Jared Gadomski Littleton's report on the most recent GCC meeting:

On Thursday, November 18, 12 folks from UCUMC joined 1,500 of our brothers and sisters in Greater Cleveland Congregations at Olivet Institutional Baptist Church for a rally entitled, "Jobs and Justice." The event celebrated the "Get Out the Vote" campaign work and featured pledges from newly-elected Prosecutor Michael O'Malley and Presiding Judge John Russo to work together to reduce overcharging, create mental health crisis centers and ensure that all addicts receive treatment instead of jail....



Rabbi Robert Nosanchuk of Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple reported on the results of months of meeting with Prosecutor O'Malley. GCC's demands were that the new prosecutor would

- Establish a Civil Rights Division in the Prosecutor's office
- Use an independent prosecutor for Police Use of Lethal Force cases
- Reduce overcharging for low-level nonviolent offenders
- Expand court diversion programs

Prosecutor O'Malley committed to all reforms and specified his goal was to reduce overcharging of low-level nonviolent offenses by 7–15% every year he was in office. He reiterated his goal: "to divert 100% of drug offenders" and to expand the drug court program to include violent offenders.

Donna Weinberger of Kol HaLev Temple transitioned to the reality that our criminal justice system is used improperly to incarcerate the mentally ill instead of providing them treatment and healing. She...reported that over one-third of the people in the Cuyahoga County jail have mental health issues. As an alternative, she proposed that Cuyahoga County follow the examples of Miami, San Antonio and Akron in establishing Mental Health Crisis Centers.... Presiding Judge John Russo committed to work with County executive Armond Budish, Bill Denihan of the ADAMHS board and various county executives to establish eastside and westside Mental Health Crisis Centers.

The program then turned toward jobs. Mr. Gregory Terrell of Society 4 Nonviolent Change declared that "Our violence problem is a jobs problem." ...Pastor Jawanza Colvin of Olivet Institutional Baptist Church announced the launch of the Jobs Forward Campaign...which will seek to win 1,000 living wage jobs for people living in the poorest neighborhoods. It will seek these jobs from anchor institutions in the community while also creating a multi-million-dollar fund for public works jobs, improving distressed neighborhoods. He reported that a very similar program had been wildly successful in Baltimore.

In the midst of an incredibly divisive time for our city and our country, I am so proud of University Circle UMC for being a part of Greater Cleveland Congregations. There is no better place for us to put our faith into action and to impact this region in a profound way. But we need your help to take our involvement from a surface level to a truly impactful one that will strengthen GCC and UCUMC. If you'd like to be part of a conversation regarding UCUMC and justice, please contact Jan Kimball at 216-334-5036 or me at 440-503-9435. We look forward to coming together to seek justice, show mercy and walk humbly together with our Lord.

~Rev. Jared Gadomski Littleton

# MarketingMatters

~Aaron Collier, *Director of Public Relations & Communication*

## 'Ohio Open Doors' Features Our Church

Our first partnership with the Ohio History Connection, headquartered in Columbus, featured a 3-day (6-hour) "Ohio Open Doors" event in September, drawing over 50 people from here and around the state to take a tour of our magnificent church building. Guests enjoyed refreshments subsidized by a hospitality grant and were given souvenirs and printed materials promoting our church. They also watched original filmed footage of the church being built in 1926.



The tour itself was conducted by John Wheeler, providing a fascinating behind-the-scenes look at our marvelous structure.

Such exposure helps spread the word about our uniquely diverse congregation and the majestic facility in which we meet.

## UMC Digital Grant Received

This fall we were awarded a United Methodist Church Digital Advertising Grant, providing our church with online digital advertising and media exposure starting during Advent and running through Christmas.

## A Busy Website!

Over the past three months, our church's website, [www.churchinthecircle.com](http://www.churchinthecircle.com), has averaged over 1,000 "Unique Website Visitors" each week! And year-to-date those Visitors have totaled 32,593!

## Live Stream

People in Cleveland and beyond are utilizing the live-stream of our Sunday service. You can watch our service from ANYWHERE using your computer, tablet or smartphone. All you have to do is go to [www.churchinthecircle.com](http://www.churchinthecircle.com) and click the "play" icon in the Watch Live Every Sunday box at the lower-right of the homepage live every Sunday starting at 11am, or watch recordings anytime during the week.

## Join our growing Facebook network!

Find us on Facebook at University Circle United Methodist Church and "like" our page. Join over 1,700 people who follow our posts and activity, including live videos, pictures, announcements, discussion topics and upcoming event and service information.



## MENS Group 'Speaker Forum' News...

Valerie McCall, Chief of Government & International Affairs with Mayor Jackson's staff, interacts with attendees on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 9:30am in the Yoder Room, about her experience with facilitating last July's Republican National Convention. Our MENS (Men Engaged in Needed Service) Group has facilitated this return visit; as always, *both* genders are encouraged to attend.

All men in our church family are also invited to a time of fellowship on Saturday, December 3, at Quaker Steak and Lube in Valley View at 1:30pm.



## Former Browns Player Inspires Students

This October our church was proud to present motivational speaker, author and former Cleveland Brown Steve Sanders. Steve helped kick off our Readers to Leaders Campaign [#R2L](https://twitter.com/R2L) with his inspiring talk to the students, parents and faculty of Mary B. Martin School, our "partner school." (See "Outreach Corner" for more information)

## A Photographic Retrospective of the Work of Sandra K. Stemen

This exceptional collection of Saundy's work is available for viewing at our church through December, Monday through Friday, 9-5pm and Sunday, 10am-12pm.



## 'SaveAround' Coupon Books Make Great Gifts

Save money and raise money for our church, all at the same time, with your purchase of the new SaveAround Coupon Book. With thousands of dollars in potential Cleveland-area savings in each book, you're sure to find ways to offset the \$25 purchase price. These books also make great Christmas gifts! And, each book order means a portion of the sale goes directly to our church.

The **DEADLINE** to purchase your coupon book is Sunday, December 7. So, follow these three easy steps:

1. Visit <http://www.churchinthecircle.com/save-around-fundraiser>
2. Select the "Cleveland" book (or another city if a gift for someone living elsewhere)
3. Provide shipping information and complete your credit card or PayPal purchase.

Books may also be ordered through the church office. Thank you for supporting your church in yet another important way.

# GRACENOTES

~Nathan Motta, *Music and Arts Director*

It's hard to believe that Advent is upon us once again. Summer seems like yesterday and the fall season is flying by, soon leaving us to light a wreath of candles, sing carols and prepare for Christmas Day.

In our usual fashion, all the volunteers and staff who participate in the music and arts at University Circle United Methodist Church are busy practicing uplifting and moving selections to help celebrate this important time of year. Here are a few highlights:

- The Gospel Choir, under the exciting direction of Helen Turner-Thompson, is preparing some rousing tunes for the season, including "King of Kings" and "Glory to the Newborn King," as well as moving selections like "Behold Your God."
- The Liturgical Dancers will offer several expressions of faith this Advent season, beginning with "Keep Your Lamps" on November 27 and finishing with a touching

piece presented by the children dancers, "My Wish."

- The Bell Choir is excited to present "Sing We Now of Christmas" and a variety of inspiring carols in mid-December and as part of the 5pm Christmas Eve service.
- The Chancel Choir is preparing this year's Christmas Cantata for the fourth Sunday of Advent. This program will include highlights from Part One of Handel's MESSIAH. There will also be numerous other meaningful and moving music anthems presented by the members of the Chancel Choir and our organist, Lavert Stuart, throughout Advent.

Our entire Music and Arts Team looks forward to helping our church family celebrate this season of giving. I know you'll join me in thanking the staff and volunteers who give so much of themselves to make these beautiful artistic offerings possible during this busy time of year. Peace, and Merry Christmas!

Congratulations to Jared and Danielle Gadowski Littleton, proud parents of **Elijah Walter Gadowski Littleton**, born October 30, just before first pitch in Game Five of the World Series!



## Sharon Seyfarth Garner Introduces Her New Book

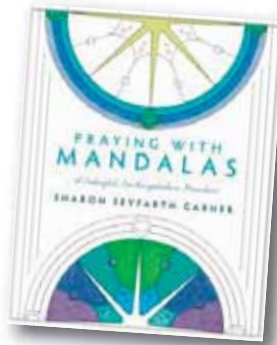
To my dear Faith Family,

At the risk of appearing self-serving, I want to share as a church member that I just received my first shipment of *Praying with Mandalas: A Colorful, Contemplative Practice*. It is an amazing and humbling thing to finally hold in my hands a book I actually wrote! I pray that it can be a source of healing and deepening prayer for those who are seeking a creative new way to grow in faith.

Our church has graciously provided a table in the Narthex where copies will be available. I don't want to turn into a peddler in the temple! Yet, I believe strongly in this book's ability to help folks center themselves and grow closer to a loving God. Here's a brief description of the book:

"Have you ever thought of coloring as a way to pray? *Praying with Mandalas* blends the relaxing practice of coloring mandalas (circular designs) with four ancient prayer practices; Lectio Divina, Interscory Prayer, Centering Prayer and the Ignatian Examen. Nurture your relationship with God in a simple, enjoyable way through the colorful, contemplative practices of *Praying with Mandalas*."

The book is priced at \$10 (tax included), and I look forward to sharing it with my church family.



Peace,  
Sharon

## Dining Opportunities

### Second Sunday Lunch (SSL) December 11, 2016

The December SSL happens at the Siam Café Seafood Restaurant, at the corner of East 40th and St. Clair Avenue in Cleveland.

While Thai food is featured, the menu includes soups, salads, seafood, lamb, fish, lobster and crab, poultry, beef and pork. With so much to choose from, you're sure to find something scrumptious.

Parking in the restaurant's lot is free. RSVP to Betz Richards, [chefbetz1@aol.com](mailto:chefbetz1@aol.com) or (440) 235-9343 by Tuesday, December 6.



Would you like to join Church in the Circle's vibrant prayer ministry, but don't have an email address? Heidi Denman McDougall has initiated a Snail Mail Prayer Chain, sending out prayer requests once a week; they'll land in your mailbox usually Wednesday or Thursday. Interested? Contact Heidi or Heather Howard via the church office, and we will add you to the chain. Thank you in advance, from your Brothers and Sisters in Christ.



## United Methodist Women

**University Circle UMW World Thank Offering**—The Lord has blessed us in many ways. Each year the United Methodist Women give University Circle UMC members and friends an opportunity to express their thanks for these many blessings. The offerings are sent by the National United Methodist Women leadership to support national and international mission programs.

Special envelopes and the blue boxes available in the Narthex designate your World Thank Offering. Please return the envelopes and boxes by Sunday, Nov. 27, using the collection plates during worship or by taking them to the church office (checks are payable to UCUMW).

*Thank you for responding to God's abundance and grace with gifts of gratitude!*

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One-pound bags of **Schermer's Georgian Pecans** are available at the Equal Exchange Cart for \$12. Buy your pecans now for your holiday baking needs. All proceeds go to UMW mission programs. Thank you for your support!



ABOVE: Yoder Room corner; RIGHT: Sanctuary



# Smoke Signals

► continued from page 1

a nearby cardboard box, spawning the fire that damaged walls, carpet and the ceiling primarily in the room’s northwest corner.

The fire’s impact was limited in *large* part by the quick response of Karl Clark and his son, Terrell, who work for the church in maintenance and security capacities. Not long after the coffee urn was turned on, Terrell became aware of smoke and discovered the Yoder Room flames. Karl dialed 9-1-1, resulting in the arrival of several trucks in mere minutes; the crew quickly extinguished the fire.

Prior to the fire department’s appearance, Karl and Terrell advised others to evacuate the building. In the process, Karl discovered a wheelchair-bound attendee, whom he and the man’s wife physically moved in the chair—step by step—down the stairs to outdoor safety.

Once the fire was extinguished, church staff and volunteers called and texted members and friends, advising them that our worship time together had been cancelled.

Obviously, there is much to be thankful for, in light of the potential damage a mere spark *could* have generated. The “smoke signals” emanating from this experience carry lessons to be learned and opportunities to further improve our building’s infrastructure.

As for clean-up and restoration costs, it’s not yet known what those expenses will total as we strive to return things to “normal.” In our recent past, the church’s deductible for insurance claims has been \$5,000, so this unbudgeted expense looms in the not-so-distant future.

Electronic and other communications will inform our church family of opportunities to help. In the interim, your prayers of gratitude for “limited damage” and support for restoration efforts will go a long way toward strengthening the ties that bind us together.

# The Least of These...

It was a typical Monday afternoon, about 3:00. I was tired; we had had a staff meeting, and I just wanted to go home.

As I walked towards my car, peripherally I saw a young black male coming across the green space near Church in the Circle and thought I heard him call out. But I was tired, so I ignored what I wasn’t even sure I was hearing.

He kept coming. I got into my car and started it up. A sad face appeared at my passenger window, which I rolled down a few inches.

“Ma’am, could you help me find something to eat? I haven’t eaten in a very long time.”

What could I do? I shut off the car, got out and invited him to go back inside with me to see what we could find.

“I can’t go inside. I don’t want to be embarrassed.”

My words couldn’t convince him, so he sat on the steps while I went back inside to see what I could find.

My initial perusal found only a doughnut, but he was so hungry! I took him the doughnut, and went searching for more. Eventually, with the help of Christian Education Director Amy Wheatley (who offers the children breakfast every Sunday morning), I was able to offer him some Ritz crackers and GoGurts.

By the time I found those things, he had come inside the church and was lying across the steps. Such a sad, beautiful face, probably 12 or 13 years old. And so grateful for the snacks.

At some point, I asked him his name. His quick reply? “My name is Messiah.”

That day, I fed the Messiah on the steps of my church.

Whatever you do for one of the least of these...

~Heidi E. Denman McDougall, M.Div.,  
Minister of Pastoral Care



University Circle United Methodist Church

## A Time for Healing & Renewal

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

12:00 noon & 7:00 p.m.

*All who are thirsty,  
come to the water!*

*Seek God while  
he’s here to be found,*

*Pray to him while  
he’s close at hand.*



# chalk talk

► *continued from page 1*

Christmas” may serve only as a momentary fix. Ultimately, in matters of the heart, mind and soul, only a really *big* Christmas will do.

By needing a “big Christmas” in contrast to a little one, I do not mean the quantity of lights, the number of presents under the tree, the size of any guest list or the number of parties one is invited to attend. Rather, needing a big Christmas has everything to do with internalizing the message which the angels once sang and still sing: “God is with us!” GOD is with us, takes note of us, has made us members of the eternal family, and intends, right here and right now, for our great good. GOD is *with* us. This... is the really *big* Christmas.

So, when times of loss come, when changes in our lives, unbidden or unavoidable, take place—indeed when the significant challenges to heart and mind and soul occur, the accompanying emotion is often a sense that we are terribly alone as we see our lives play out under indifferent stars.

No cute little Christmas angel sitting on our shoulder is enough in such times. Instead, we need a whole *chorus* of angels, who announced long ago and still announce today that, no matter what, unto us a savior is born, putting God in our midst so we are never alone!

And that makes *this* a truly *big* Christmas—one we really need...right now.

## Baptisms

Our October 9th service included the baptisms of Theodore Kent Calderwood Mauch, right, and his sister, Mary Elise, supported by proud parents Erin and Richard Mauch, Jr., and older brother Wilson, left.



Sunday, November 13, spotlighted the baptism of Isla Khaleesi Denman, daughter to Zuleida Denise Nussa-Denman and Derek Alexander Denman and granddaughter to Chuck and Heidi Denman McDougall.



Following the First-Sunday Potluck after worship, December 4, Kermit Greeneisen, church member and Docent at the Cleveland Museum of Art, leads a tour of the museum’s Christian art. Meet him in the new atrium at 2pm for this informative one-hour look at some of the world’s most inspiring artwork; no reservations are necessary.

## Spiritual Formation

~Amy Wheatley, Ph.D., *Director of Education*

Consider these Sunday morning opportunities to re-focus and enrich your spiritual beliefs and those of the children in your life.

- **Child Care Before Worship (Preschool through 5th grade)—Leaders: Cynthia Burge, Karl Wheatley**  
9:30–10:45am (mezzanine-level classroom, lower 107th St. entrance)
- **Sunday School (Preschool through 5th grade)—Leaders: Amy Wheatley, Cynthia Burge, Karl Wheatley**  
11:15am–12:30 pm (mezzanine-level classroom, lower 107th St. entrance)
- **Middle School Youth Group (Grades 6–8)—Leader: Rev. Mariah Hayden and High School Youth Group (Grades 9–12)—Leader: Dawn McElrath**  
10:30am–12:30pm (Youth Room, second floor)
- **Faith Seekers (Youth Grades 8–12)—Leader: Rev. Mariah Hayden**
- **“Exploring Church Doctrine While Celebrating More Important Things”**  
9:30–10:30am (Yoder Room)
- **“Invitation to Journey”**  
9:00am–10:00am (Parlor)

### OFFICE HOURS

(staff availability)  
 Sunday: 9am–1pm  
 Monday–Thursday: 8am–5pm  
 Friday: Reserved for staff responsibilities; priority calls only, please  
 Saturday: Closed

### BUILDING HOURS

(Leases/rentals may require extended hours)

Sunday: 8am–2pm	Wednesday: 8am–9:30pm
Monday: 8am–5pm	Thursday: 8am–5pm
Tuesday: 8am–9pm	Friday: 8am–3:30pm
Saturday: Closed	

## The latest about our Mary B. Martin School Partnership...

### ~ Staff Expresses Appreciation

In this third year of reaching out to support students and staff at Mary B. Martin School, our church family has met with school personnel to plan how to help improve literacy. Our efforts have not gone unnoticed. This excerpt from a note sent by Dr. Gary McPherson, MBM's new principal says it all:

*I wanted to take a few minutes and thank you and the rest of the volunteers for coming out and supporting our literacy initiative. I am glad that we will be working with U.C.U.M.C. on a project that has the capacity to change lives. This is tough work and I appreciate the church signing on for it. Have a great week!*

Gary R. McPherson, Ed.D.

EDUCATOR: Principal

Mary B. Martin School

Cleveland Metropolitan School District

So far this school year, our church family has provided school supplies and a welcome-back staff breakfast at the school; donated uniforms, socks and underwear; rolled out a new reading initiative with a goal of every student having their own library card; and provided a motivational speaker and wristbands to increase literacy.

Mary B. Martin scholars and staff have also become familiar with our church building, with many students attending this year's Harvest Festival (right) and the principal holding the school's staff development day in our Great Hall. When speaking about our church, Vice Principal Christa Smith expressed, "We have become their family."

### ~ Readers to Leaders (#R2L)

Thanks to the efforts of our own Aaron Collier, students and church volunteers heard former Cleveland Browns wide receiver and motivational speaker Steve Sanders deliver a very uplifting and heartfelt message on the importance of learning to read. Afterwards, church volunteers delivered #R2L wristbands to the classrooms and encouraged students to complete library card applications.

### ~ Can you spend an hour each week to help a student learn to read?

Currently, over 90% of the students are reading below their grade levels. Please consider making a weekly commitment to watch the world open up to a student as he or she discovers that reading can be fun and worthwhile. MBM scholars at all grade levels need help to improve their reading levels. A school ID is needed, and we can help you get one!

### ~ A New Book for Every Child

Many, many thanks to YOU for making this third annual event a great success! Because of your collective efforts, our congregation is gifting each of the more than 350 Pre-K through Grade 8 students at Mary B. Martin School with a brand new book.



### ~ Book Delivery...Save the Date!

Watch the magic unfold on **Friday, December 16, at 9 a.m.** when we deliver the books that you gifted to Mary B. Martin School! Volunteers are needed to deliver the books to each of the classrooms and spend some time reading to the students. There will be a volunteer brunch back at the church.

### ~ Clothing Needs

While school uniforms are in short supply, there is a greater need for socks and underwear. New items are welcome and include all children's sizes. Bring them with you during your next church visit.

# OUTREACH CORNER

## HARVEST FESTIVAL

The fourth annual Harvest Festival for children of the neighborhoods surrounding our church was a spirited event, thanks to the work of many volunteers.

Heartfelt appreciation goes to those who donated dozens of pumpkins, cornstalks, special Halloween décor, snacks and treats as well as their time and talents. The Great Hall was transformed into a great pumpkin fest, thanks to all the volunteers who provided candy and fun activities such as pumpkin decorating, cookie decorating, bowling for pumpkins, an "all about bats" activity, mummy wrap mash-ups, face painting, caricatures and more. Kudos to the many other dedicated helpers who served pizza and healthy snacks, greeted the guests, played scary organ music and decorated the Great Hall in advance.

About 40 children attended the festival with their parents/guardians, wearing a wide variety of fun and spooky costumes. It was great to see many children (and the vice-principal) from Mary B. Martin School in attendance. This is a true testament to our congregation's efforts to establish meaningful connections with this partner school.

Thanks so much to our eager crew of dedicated volunteers for all of their work leading up to and during the party. We created a festive and memorable evening for many children (and adults!) and are looking forward to growing the tradition in the future.

~ Doug Blank, Outreach Chair



### ~ Box Tops for Education

Back in 1996, General Mills created a program to help support education and America's schools. Many of the products you use every day contain the small pink rectangle and pencil that states "Box Tops for Education". You can be part of the collaborative effort between MBM staff and parents to help sustain the school's needs by depositing your box tops in the container located on the Outreach table in the Narthex.

Our church family has done so much to reach out to our neighborhood school, and there are no words to express our gratitude for your continued support. Thank you!

~Mary Soirefman; 440-740-0302; [mary.soirefman@gmail.com](mailto:mary.soirefman@gmail.com)

~Elaine Myers; 440-243-7322; [emyers34@aol.com](mailto:emyers34@aol.com)



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

# What's Happening in the Circle

## November

- 24 Thanksgiving Day
- 25 Church Office Closed
- 27 First Advent Worship, 11am  
Neighborhood Lunch, 1pm

### ~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 11:15am
- Middle School and High School Youth meet  
during worship
- Liturgical Dance Rehearsals, 12:30pm

## December

- 3 MENS lunch, Quaker Steak, 1:30pm
- 4 MENS Forum Guest Speaker, 9:30am  
Second Advent Worship and  
Communion, 11am  
Potluck for Advent  
Art Museum visit, 2pm  
Circlefest, University Circle
- 7 Healing Services, noon and 7pm
- 11 Third Advent Worship, 11am  
Administrative Council Meeting  
Second Sunday Lunch
- 13 Finance, 6pm, Reception Room
- 14 Trustees, 6pm, Reception Room
- 18 Worship and Cantata, 11am
- 20 SPPRC, 6pm, Yoder Room
- 23 Church office closed
- 24 Christmas Eve Services at **5pm**  
(not 4pm), 8pm and 11pm
- 25 Christmas Day Service at 11am  
Neighborhood Lunch
- 26-31 Church office closed

## January

- 1 Worship, 11am

