



Elliston Zion United Methodist Church

CROSSROADS

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Email: ellistonzionoffice@aol.com

Leadership Development Day

January 31, 9am - 3:30pm

Grace UMC, 601 E Boundary St., Perrysburg

Cost: \$10, includes 2 workshops & lunch

All committee chairs/leaders are encouraged to attend! **Register by January 14 at www.maumeewatershed.org or pick-up a brochure in the narthex & mail it.**



The theme for the 2015 Annual Conference is *Broken*. But as Bishop Palmer stated in his address that we heard at our Charge Conferences, *Broken* is not always something negative. As we gather together as leaders of the church, I want to continue our discussion started at our Charge Conferences on Ephesians 2:14 *"For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall..."*

In the Keynote address, we will be celebrating the places across our district where walls are being broken and people are finding the peace of Christ. To that end, please send me your stories (include pictures where possible) about what you are doing at your church to break down the walls that divide people, particularly the wall between the church and the community.

Send your stories and pictures to lmiddelberg@wocumc.org by **January 14**. These do not need to be professional presentations, just a brief story about a ministry of your church with a picture or two. I look forward to gathering together to celebrate all that is happening to build the Kingdom of God here in Northwest Ohio! *Keynote Speaker, Rev. Linda Middelberg, Maumee Watershed District Superintendent*



Worship Help Wanted

Worship assistants are needed for 2015! We need to update our list of those who would like to serve during worship. Would you be willing to be:

- A greeter
- A liturgist
- A prayer leader
- An Acolyte
- An Offering helper
- An Audio/Visual Team member
- An Offering counter
- A lounge prayer servant
- Communion servant
- Special Music or dramatic reader

Please let the Pastor or the office know where you would like to serve! There will also be a form in your bulletin this week. Thank You!

Upcoming Events

Sundays, 9 am
Breakfast & Communion

Tuesdays
Women's Bible Study, 7 am
Prayer in the Lounge, 8:30 am

Wednesdays
Bible Study at Smith's, 9 am
Awana, 5:15-7:30, all kids welcome

January 5
Trustees, 6:30pm
Ad Board, 7:30pm

January 7
Worship Committee, 7:30pm

January 10
Family Movie Night, 7pm
How to Train Your Dragon 2

January 11
Men's Breakfast, 8am
UMW Lunch, 11:30 am

January 31
Leadership Training, 9am-4:30pm
Grace UMC Perrysburg

FOR RENT

The Church parsonage is ready for renters! Please spread the word... it's two story, 3 bedroom, garage, \$750 month + deposit + utilities. Stove, refrigerator, W/D included. Non-smoking. Pets are an extra \$30 a month.

Rent application required. Contact Barb at 419.304.0723.

News from the Finance Committee

2014 brought some challenges but so many blessings! God is great all the time!

The trustees reevaluated our church insurance policy, contracted with a new company and saved several thousand dollars for 2015!

The office will now be using Quickbooks for Non-profits to track donations and expenses. This will give us a better picture of the church finances. It can also be used to maintain our membership files. Eventually, we will use this program for inventory and other tracking.

We are training new offering “counters” for 2015. This way, the same people will not have to be in the office after worship. The list is posted in the office. If you are interested in being a “counter,” please call or email the office.

We also continue to work and more closely follow the UMC Financial Guidelines for Churches. We received \$25,000 in West Ohio Conference and Maumee Watershed District support in 2014. We will receive \$5000 during the first 6 months of 2015 and then this support will end. Please keep this in mind as we review our finances for the new year. In the report below, you will see how those funds helped Zion maintain operations in 2014.

The Finance Committee will give a “budget request sheet” to all the ministries of Zion at the Ad Council meeting on January 5. The Committee will then meet with each ministry to review the budget for 2015.

In 2015, all bills will be paid through the office. If you have a financial need or have a bill to be paid, please mark clearly what the bill is for and mark your name on the bill. Bills may be placed in the red folder on the office door. Thank you for your assistance in this matter!

2014 Financial Breakdown

2014 Stewardship Report	
Offerings 2014	\$ 100,202.53
Conference Support	\$ 25,000.00
Total Income 2014	\$ 125,202.53
General Fund expenses	\$ (123,712.91)
Operating Balance as of 12/31	\$ 1,489.62
West Ohio Conference Apportionments	
assigned to Elliston Zion	\$ 11,379.00
paid to date	\$ (6,800.00)
Balance	\$ 4,579.00
Maumee Watershed Apportionments	
assigned to Elliston Zion	\$ 2,720.00
Paid to date	\$ 2,720.00
Balance	\$ -

Happy Birthday & Anniversary

2	Ann Draper
2	Galen Rhoades
3	Lorene Klingbeil
4	Frank Grahl
4	Gregory Jakutowicz
4	Amy Sutter
5	Laurie Andryc
6	Bruce Iffland
8	Kathy Boss
8	Blake Traver
14	Carol Rhoades
14	Jim Nevel
17	Marilyn Chandler
20	Sam Sutter
23	Daniella Scaia
24	Kevin Bringe
30	Dorothy Behm
30	Karen Witt
30	Bev Cluckey



Blood Drive February 28

Zion will once again host an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Saturday Feb. 28 from 8AM to 1PM. Breakfast will be provided. To date, Elliston Zion blood drive donations have helped as many as 489 people who needed blood! Praise God! Appointments are encouraged but walk-ins are welcome. Please register at redcrossblood.org or call 419.250.1188.

Encouraging Word

“So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.”

Hebrews 4:16 NLT

Thank You Notes

Dear Church family,
Thank you so much for your generosity this Christmas! Thank you for the cards, the gifts and the love offering. I am truly blessed to be your Pastor and look forward to ministering with you in 2015.

*Love and Shalom,
Pastor Paula*



After many years of service to Elliston Zion, Chuck and Jean “retired” as our custodians on 12/31. They have been working for many years keeping our church clean and tidy. You will often see them running the sweeper in the sanctuary (no easy task!) or cleaning windows and bathrooms, emptying the trash or sweeping the floors.

Thank you, Chuck and Jean!

Safe Sanctuaries

Elliston Zion has adopted an updated Safe Sanctuaries Policy. Anyone working with children should read and follow these guidelines and provide the office with the appropriate background check information as soon as possible. We would like to have all background checks complete by the end of January 2015. If you have a problem or concern, please contact the office.

Safe Sanctuaries® is the name commonly given by United Methodist Annual Conferences and local churches to their individual efforts to make conference, district and local church programs welcoming and safe for children, youth and vulnerable adults. Safe Sanctuaries® is more than implementing guidelines, policies and procedures. Safe Sanctuaries® creates an environment with boundaries of safe space for children, youth and vulnerable adults, and the adults who work with them.



In 1996, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church adopted a resolution aimed at reducing the risk of abuse in the church. During the 2014 West Ohio Annual Conference, members passed a rule requiring each local congregation to establish a Safe Sanctuaries® policy and to update these annually. The West Ohio Annual Conference Safe Sanctuaries® Task Force is committed to assisting every church and worshipping congregation in implementing a policy to establish procedural requirements for the safety and protection of children, youth and vulnerable adults.

Members of Zion UMC will be attending a free Safe Sanctuaries Training in Fostoria on 2/21/2015. If you would like to attend, please register by phone or email or let LisaAnne know.

Wesley UMC | 1200 Van Buren St. | Fostoria, OH 44830

Contact: Rebecca King 614-844-6200 x 204 or email Rking@wocumc.org

Are You Ready for Some FOOTBALL... Soup?!?

Get Ready! On Sunday February 1 Elliston Zion will participate in the SOUPER BOWL OF CARING!

We know... it's the day of the “Big game,” but this event will take place following worship and the “big game” doesn't start until 6PM! You will have plenty of time!



Luncheon

We have some wonderful cooks here at Zion! You're invited to bring a pot or crockpot of your favorite soup. Zion will supply the bowls, bread and drink.

Make a donation for every bowl of soup you enjoy and those donations will be used to update the food in our Food Pantry and assist other area food pantries!

Make some soup and invite your family and friends for worship and lunch!

Pulled Pork Dinner

January 18 – noon until sold out
Oak Harbor UMC, 360 E. Ottawa St,

Tickets are \$8.00 & includes smoked, pulled pork (loose or sandwich), choice of 2 homemade sauces, baked potato, baked beans, coleslaw, cookies & drink. Dine in or carry out available.

Proceeds support their Mission Trip.