

Canfield UMC Friendly Visitor

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Pastors Ponderings

Preserving with the Perfector of Faith

Over the last eight years, I have watched my stepson Michael Snopik run cross-country and track, both at the high school and college level. This is his senior year of college at Ashland University, and he graduates with an Environmental Science Degree on May 9th. One of his goals this year in the 5000-meter race was to set a personal record of breaking 15 minutes. The 5000-meter race is 3.1 miles in length and Michael reached his goal by running a time of 14:49, besting his old personal record by 11 seconds.

Over the years of Michael's running, Robin and I, along with his sister Cassandra and his grandparents, cheered him and his teammates on. Michael's friends and parents' friends and other relatives have cheered him on as well. It has been great to witness people encouraging, loving, and cheering on Michael and his teammates over the years. One of the things Michael enjoys is being part of a team and competing not only with himself but with his teammates to have the best team they can field in cross country and track. Michael has a gift from God to run long distances at a fast pace, and he has worked hard to preserve hours of hard training to use that gift to be the best runner he can be.

When I think of Michael running and of distance runners, I am reminded of this passage from Hebrews 12:1-2 NIV:

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

I think of the people that have surrounded Michael over the years and that have cheered him on and surrounded him with love. In Hebrews, we read that we are "surrounded by such a great cloud of witness" and that we should "run with perseverance the race marked out for us." In this race of life and faith, we should fix our focus on Jesus, the perfecter of grace and faith. In reading Hebrews, we see Jesus endured the pain of the cross that we would endure with him to find joy in his sacrificial grace and love. We have a great cloud of witnesses and saints amongst us and before us that have persevered life and found new life and joy in the grace of Jesus Christ, God's Son. As the Church, our faith is rooted in Christ's saving grace and love that helps us acknowledge that he is the Perfector of Faith that helps us preserve the race that lives before us now and the life to come. Be witness to Jesus Christ grace in your life and cheer on others by sharing his grace and love with all. Amen.



All are welcome to attend the **May 6th meeting at noon** when we welcome one of our own ... Allison Sees, now Pastor Allison LeBrun of Boardman United Methodist Church. Pastor Allison will be speaking about her faith journey that started as a child at our church. The meeting will be in the atrium, with refreshments provided, and all women are welcome. Bring a friend!

Book Club will meet on Thursday May 21st at 4:30 p.m. to discuss [A Woman is No Man](#) by Etaf Rum, with Lisa Zetts leading the discussion. All are welcome.



Join us for a Church Work Day on Saturday, May 9 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. We'll be tackling spring projects together — mulching, cleaning out flower beds, weeding, filling small holes in the parking area, cleaning the kitchen, replacing light bulbs, clearing cobwebs, updating and cleaning the nursery, washing windows, and more. All ages and skill levels are welcome.

If you can help, please contact Christy Lutterbie at 513.313.5829. If you can't make it, but know of areas that need attention, please let Christy know.

Garage Sale 2026

Where do I begin in thanking so many church family members who donated their time, treasures and talents to the 2026 Garage Sale? We had 7 days of set up, selling items 4-7 p.m. on Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tear down was Saturday afternoon after the sale getting us out of the church and on our way home by 5:00. Volunteers came early and stayed late. Delicious baked goods were sold both days and were sold out by 4:00 Saturday bringing in over \$700. Many items were put on Marketplace prior to our sale bringing in hundreds of dollars before we even opened our doors. Thank you Christy Lutterbie. Christy will continue to sell some items that were not purchased in church hoping to bring in more money. Also, Debbie and George Roman will put many "treasured" donations up on their auction website also bringing in more money. Thank you to Chris Roman for lending us 24 tables for the garage sale. Also, a big thank you to Jill Kercher for saying the blessing before the sale on Friday and thank you to Judy Sees for saying the blessing before Saturday sale.

We had trucks picking up furniture and other donations. Thanks to JD M, Ron L, Pat S, Pam S, David B and Scott F. Also thank yous go to: Ruth M, Diane & Frank, Sue & JD, Christy & Ron, Sue H, Debbie & George, Pam & Pat, David & Ellen, Bea J, Rod, Rod Jr, & Peyton M, Janet W, Jill K, Winnie & Don, Ray S, Lori & Greg, Adele & Larry, Judy & Frank, Mark & Donna, Jackie C, Claire G, Karin D, Suzanne L, Karen S, Bonnie & Chuck, Michele K, Scott F, Diana J, Connie F, Debbie & George, Linda & Terry, Jan S, Cheryl T, Nadia N, Jodi G, Sheila F, 2 freshman from CHS getting National Honors volunteer hours, and a Boy Scout and troop leader. I hope I didn't forget anyone.

To date we have made just under \$9,500. More should come in from Marketplace with Christy and auctioned items from George and Debbie. I will keep you updated.

Lois Swartz



As we welcome the beauty and joy of May, we celebrate a meaningful season of growth, milestones, and gratitude within our preschool community.

We are excited to announce our Preschool Moving Up Ceremony on Wednesday, May 20 at 5:30 PM at the Kusabala Event Center at the Fairgrounds. This special evening will honor the accomplishments of our students and mark an important transition for many of our families. We are proud to celebrate 34 students graduating to kindergarten, while 70 students will be returning next year to continue their early learning journey with us.

This time of year also gives us a chance to reflect on the dedication and heart our teachers bring each and every day. Their patience, creativity, and commitment make our preschool such a special place for children to learn and grow. We are deeply grateful for another successful year made possible by their hard work.

A very special congratulations goes to Ellen Bennett, who is celebrating her 20th year of teaching at our preschool! Her impact over the years has shaped countless young lives, and we are so thankful for her continued presence in our program. (And no—she is not retiring!



Thank you to all of our families for your support, trust, and partnership throughout the year. We look forward to celebrating together on May 20 and continuing to build strong foundations for our children.

class of
2026

If you are graduating this year (high school or college) and would like to be recognized on Graduation Sunday, please contact the Church Office by May 8th. If you know of someone that we should congratulate, please let us know as well.

Why is there a tree near the office? 🌲

It's a Holiday (birthday/anniversary) & Seasonal Celebration Tree. Lois Swartz was inspired and seeks volunteers to decorate the tree for holidays such as Valentine's Day, Fourth of July, Summer, Fall, etc. In addition, paper ornaments will be available for you to write your name & date for birthday and/or anniversary to hang on the tree during the different months highlighted on the bulletin board. Something different to appreciate life all year long!

East Ohio Camps of The United Methodist Church PRESENTS...

"Exploring God's Nature" for Summer Camp 2026!

Children & youth entering grades 1 - 12, as well as young adults through age 20, have many opportunities to enjoy the outdoors, make lasting friendships, and learn more about God's love for all. Brochures are available on the Welcome Center Desk for registration at Camp Aldersgate, Camp Asbury, and Camp Wanake. The time to register is NOW!

Thank you for your generosity when giving to the mission projects offered at CUMC! You are blessed to be a blessing!

Please see the new monthly schedule of mission projects on the bulletin board near the office. We pray that you will choose to be involved!



CONTINUED IN MAY –

Mission Project Canfield Community Care Net

Canfield Care Net - Canfield Community Care Net (CCCN) has provided assistance, since 2001, to individuals residing in the Canfield Local Schools District, by providing help to those who are coping with financial difficulties.

Gift cards for local gas stations, grocery stores, “dollar” stores, & misc. needs plus monetary donations will be collected in a locked box on the Missions Team table in the Atrium.



SUMMER MISSION PROJECTS – Stay tuned for more details!

Canfield, Poland, & Boardman UMC Stay-Mission Trip

July 28-30 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Meet at Poland UMC before departing to Habitat for Humanity (Warren) & Mission Barn (New Castle).

Sign up before June 1. See Jill Kercher.

UMC Central Valley District Mission Trip

July 19-25 Asheville, North Carolina

Contact: Pat Hassel 518-322-9209

(Western Reserve UMC Coordinators)

Sign up (ages 12-102) if interested in learning more, on the Missions Team table. ... See Jill Kercher or Janet Williams.

Get ready for August's Build Day Project!

We will be building bunk beds for local/Mahoning Valley children who don't have a bed to sleep on. Sleep in Heavenly Peace promotes the promise that "no kid sleeps on the floor in our town". Don Trotter will be the Team Leader, but we don't have the August date yet. Kindergarten through adults may volunteer. No experience needed. This event will be open to the community! Stay tuned for more details!

May Steering Council Update

After thoughtful review of current attendance trends among children and youth, along with ongoing budget considerations, the Steering Council has made the difficult decision to eliminate Liz Orlando's role. We are grateful for Liz's faithful service to our congregation over the past several years and wish her God's blessings in the future.

At the same time, we remain deeply committed to strengthening our ministry to young families and continuing to practice "radical hospitality." In response, several encouraging efforts are underway. Leah Donko is leading a refresh of our nursery, and Ruth Griffis is heading up this year's Vacation Bible School, scheduled for July 20-24 from 9 am - 11:30 am daily. The theme this year is Animal Kingdom (animals from the bible) and we are looking for volunteers to help make this a great success. We invite you to join in these efforts and to reach out to young families in our community who may benefit from our strong and welcoming church family.

Behind the scenes, we are making steady progress transitioning our church systems to a new software platform. While the process will take several more weeks, we are excited about the enhanced capabilities this upgrade will bring to our ministry including improved communication, better organization, and expanded outreach tool... all at a significantly lower monthly cost! We appreciate your patience during this transition and believe the benefits will be well worth the wait.



Plans are also underway for our July 4th parade float as part of the 250th celebration of our nation. This year's theme will be "Let Freedom Ring". We are thankful for those who have already stepped forward to help organize this effort. At this stage, we are especially looking for individuals with creativity who enjoy designing and decorating. If you are interested in participating, please contact David Bennett at 330-397-1042.

There are many ways to get involved in the life of our church. Whether you enjoy working with children, organizing, or simply lending a helping hand, your time and talents can make a meaningful impact. The May 9th "work day" and Vacation Bible School in particular are wonderful upcoming opportunities to connect with our community, support our young people, and share God's love in a fun and engaging way.

Thank you for your continued support, generosity, and willingness to serve. Together, we are building a strong and vibrant church both within our congregation and throughout our community.

CUMC Steering Council

Memorial Day Word Scramble

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1) NOROH _____ | 2) NICAERMA FGLA _____ |
| 3) DBLA GLEAE _____ | 4) DLRIEOS _____ |
| 5) DNPNEEINDECE _____ | 6) TAIONN _____ |
| 7) EVABR _____ | 8) YERIBTL _____ |
| 9) BEMREERM _____ | 10) AYRTMILI _____ |
| 11) TROIPAT _____ | 12) DFOEMRE _____ |

Word Bank

SOLDIER

INDEPENDENCE

HONOR

BRAVE

BALD EAGLE

REMEMBER

NATION

PATRIOT

AMERICAN FLAG

FREEDOM

MILITARY

LIBERTY

Canfield United Methodist Church
27 South Broad Street
Canfield OH 44406

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-profit
Organization
Permit 19
Salem OH



JOIN US!

Worship 9:00AM

Address:
27 S. Broad Street
Canfield, OH 44406
330.533.9801

Email: office@canfieldumc.org

Web: www.canfieldumc.org

Facebook:
facebook.com/CanfieldUMC/



Roger Bell, Sue Bell,
Donna Bricker,
Karen Dorwart,
Rebecca Innerst,
Ron Musgrove, Jr.,
Terry Smith, Donnie Yoho

Our members at home.

CANFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER