



Wesley Church of Hope United Methodist Church

W E L C O M E

NEW MEMBER

Wesley Church of Hope United Methodist Church

2935 Bulen Avenue, Columbus, OH 43207

www.wesleychurchofhope.org



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The United Methodist Church



The United Methodist Church is deeply rooted in The Methodist movement started by John and Charles Wesley while they were at Oxford in the 1730s. At about the same time, people like Philip Otterbein and Martin Boehm were leading similar movements that helped people grow in their faith. The United Methodist Church was created on April 23, 1968 when the Evangelical United Brethren Church merged with the Methodist-Episcopal Church.

Jurisdictions

In the United States, five regional bodies, called jurisdictions, were created: Northeast, Southeast, North Central, South Central and Western jurisdictions. Each jurisdiction is divided into annual conferences, presided over by a bishop. **Our bishop is Gregory Vaughn Palmer**, who was appointed to serve here in 2012.

Districts

Wesley Church of Hope belongs to the West Ohio Conference in the North Central Jurisdiction. The West Ohio Conference has eight districts: the Capitol Area North, Capitol Area South, Foothills, Maumee Watershed, Miami Valley, Northwest Plains, Ohio River Valley and Shawnee Valley districts. Districts are a geographic areas of the Annual Conference. **Wesley Church of Hope is part of the Capitol Area South district.**

The Mission of the West Ohio Conference is to equip local churches to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world... A world of justice, love, and peace filled with people growing in the likeness of Jesus Christ.



Our History

In July, 2003, the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church approved the merger of Wesley UMC and Church of Hope UMC to create Wesley Church of Hope UMC.



The rich history of Wesley Church of Hope goes beyond the date of our merger between Wesley United Methodist and Hope United Methodist Church. Our history prior to the merger of Wesley UMC and the Church of Hope includes prior mergers of Pennsylvania Avenue Methodist Church, Aldersgate UMC, Hope UMC, and Wesley Chapel.

Wesley Church of Hope has had five pastors. The Rev. Mamie Jenkins, Rev. Richard Walker, Rev. Richard Dunbar, Leo Cunningham and **the current pastor, Dr. Charles W. Ferguson.**

The Christian Calendar

The Christian calendar is marked by the seasons that lead us through the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ. These seasons do not necessarily occur on the same dates from year to year, but are related to the dates of Christmas and Easter.

Advent season begins four Sundays before Christmas.

The **Christmas Season** includes the twelve days from sunset on Christmas Eve (December 24) through Epiphany (January 6).

The **Season After Epiphany** begins January 7 and lasts until Ash Wednesday.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts until Easter. The exact dates of Lent depends on the date for Easter Sunday.

Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon after March 21. Easter moves between March 22 and April 25. The **Easter Season** is fifty days long and goes through the Day of Pentecost.

The **Season After Pentecost** begins immediately after Pentecost Sunday and continues until the beginning of Advent



Lent and Easter

Hope and new life

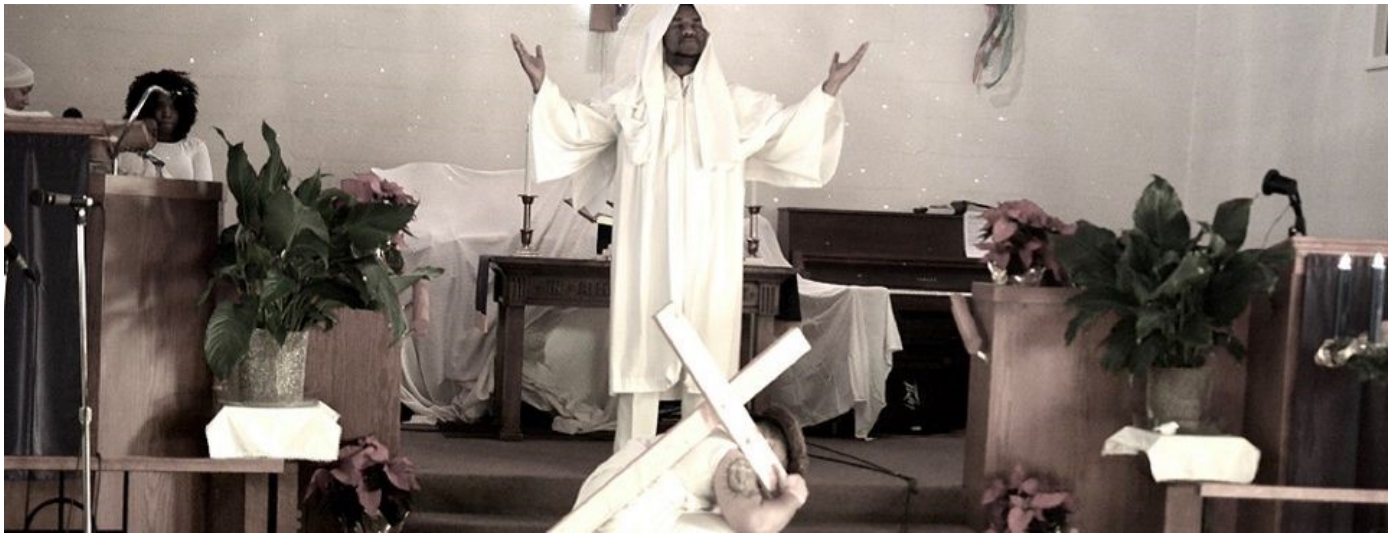
Easter is all about new life. The story of Easter recounts how, when the world was lost in darkness and doubt, God intervened to do something new. Lent, the period leading up to Easter, invites us to consider the ways we are lost and to reflect on how we are participating in bringing new life into the world.

We hope this season offers light and hope to you. We believe that by opening ourselves to God's love, we can find love, faith and joy. These stories help us to recognize God's love in our lives.



Advent and Christmas

The word “advent” derives from the Latin “adventus”, meaning “coming.” Advent is a period of preparation for both “advents”—or arrivals—of Jesus. One of the ways we reflect on Advent in communal worship is by utilizing an Advent wreath—a simple wreath surrounding four exterior candles and one central candle. **The four exterior candles represent the hallmarks of a renewed creation: joy, hope, peace and love.** The central candle represents the presence of Christ. Each Sunday, one more of the exterior candles is lit. Finally, the Christ candle is lit as a reminder of Christ's ongoing presence.



Growing in Faith and Understanding

How can I feed my soul?

There are seasons when our souls feel as deep and thriving as a wide river. And other seasons when we feel our souls are parched streams. Perhaps by adopting some of these *methods*, we, too, can inspire some nourishment for our souls.

1. **Go silent** The early Methodists fasted regularly. Fasting does not simply mean giving up food. Today we might fast from social media, television, or other distracting activities. The goal of fasting is to clear out space and set a feeling of expectation. We set aside distractions or other things in expectation that God will speak a sense of nourishment and satisfaction into us.

2. **Pray** Fasting and prayer may sound intimidating to many. And while fasting is meant to be a challenge, prayer is not. Prayer, in its simplest form, is speaking to and listening to God. It could take the form of an internal conversation. Or a prayer could utilize a practice like Centering Prayer.

3. **Read** The founder of the Methodist movement, John Wesley, said “all who desire the grace of God are to wait for it in ‘searching the Scriptures’.”¹ His point is that a key means for learning about and experiencing God’s goodness is in the stories and ideas of the Bible. Reading the Bible brings us into contact with God’s story. Reading other spiritually-based books provides nourishment for the soul, too.

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Growing in Faith and Understanding



How can I feed my soul?

4. **Do good for someone else** Identify the needs around you and look for a way in which you can interrupt the cycles of brokenness. Special feelings spring up when doing good things for those who can never repay the kindness.

 5. **Get together** We complain that, at times, people around us drain our souls dry. But in reality, people feed our souls even more. In gathering with others we get inspired by their stories and in witnessing the acts of God in their lives. Their ideas shine light and provide nourishment for our own souls. We are especially affected by others when we join them in some of the above-mentioned activities. You now have a church home at Wesley Church of Hope, and we are excited to connect with you online and in person.
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The Bible

Gospel comes from the Latin word *evangelium*, meaning good tale or good news. Gospel has a number of distinct meanings. It refers to the Good News concerning Christ, the Kingdom of God, and salvation. It also refers to the teachings of Jesus and the apostles.

The Gospels

The word is also used in connection with the first four books of the New Testament. **In our services of worship, we stand during any Scripture reading from one of the four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.**

The Bible

Both the Old and New Testaments serve as sources of primary guidance for our faith.

There are 39 books in the Old Testament:

Genesis	2 Chronicles	Daniel
Exodus	Ezra	Hosea
Leviticus	Nehemiah	Joel
Numbers	Esther	Amos
Deuteronomy	Job	Obadiah
Joshua	Psalms	Jonah
Judges	Proverbs	Micah
Ruth	Ecclesiastes	Nahum
1 Samuel	Song of Solomon	Habakkuk
2 Samuel	Isaiah	Zephaniah
1 Kings	Jeremiah	Haggai
2 Kings	Lamentations	Zechariah
1 Chronicles	Ezekiel	Malachi

The New Testament consists of 27 books:

Matthew	Ephesians	Hebrews
Mark	Philippians	James
Luke	Colossians	1 Peter
John	1 Thessalonians	2 Peter
Acts	2 Thessalonians	1 John
Romans	1 Timothy	2 John
1 Corinthians	2 Timothy	3 John
2 Corinthians	Titus	Jude
Galatians	Philemon	Revelation



What We Believe

The United Methodist Church is a global denomination that opens hearts, opens minds and opens doors through active engagement with our world. **The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.**

John Wesley and the early Methodists placed primary emphasis on Christian living, on putting faith and love into action. This emphasis on what Wesley referred to as “practical divinity” has continued to be a hallmark of United Methodism today.

The Methodist rule of life is simple and practicable. It is intended by John Wesley to help Christians obey Jesus’ teachings, summarized by him in the Great Commandments:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. ... and You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:37-40).



Starting Points

Hope

God knows that we all struggle with finding and holding onto hope. When you are facing tests of faith, even the strongest Christians can find it a challenge to find hope.

When you need encouragement and refreshment for your soul, turn to these Scriptures from the Old and New Testaments that offer hope and encouragement.

Everyone needs to be reminded from time to time of the hope that God, Jesus and the Bible offer to us in our daily lives.

Put your hope in God (Psalm 42:11) *Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.*

The human heart runs on hope. When things are trying and difficult, we need something to anticipate. We need something to pursue and prepare for. Unfortunately, we so easily place our hope in things that never materialize or never meet our expectations.

The psalmist addresses his discouragement by reminding himself to put his hope in God, where it belongs. No matter how dark things get for him, he will continue to praise his maker and trust in God's goodness.

Those that hope in the Lord (Isaiah 40:31) *But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

Isaiah perfectly explains the power of hope. Hope can give you strength and endurance. When our hope is in the Lord, we can continue to push through the difficult times. We're able to run and not grow weary because we're running toward the Lord.



Comfort

There are so many distressing things occupying the headlines these days, it can be hard to wrap your head around them. When will the madness end?

The people who lived in Bible times were no strangers to atrocity. But many were also well acquainted with the character of God—a loving, protecting Father quick to console His people. He comforted them then and comforts us now. These verses remind us that with God on our side, there's nothing to fear.

- **Deuteronomy 31:8** *It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.*

- **Lamentations 3:22-23** *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

- **John 14:27** *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*

- **John 16:33** *I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.*



Inspiration

There is no human that has ever lived that could have resisted as much temptation as Jesus endured. His journey into the wilderness came with no food. He fasted for 40 days and He used the Word of God as His offensive weapon. The Devil knows the Scriptures very well but he twists them and takes them out of context. As Jesus said, physical bread (or food) is never enough to keep Satan away. He needed the Word of God, and so do we. The daily Bread of Life which is Jesus and the Word of God, the Bible help us to resist temptation.

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "'He will command his angels concerning you,' and "'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'" Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him."

Sin

Sin is a persistent force in our lives. The good news is that when we confess our sin, God promises to forgive us (1 John 1:9).

United Methodists understand our need to confess our sin before God and one another. When we gather for worship, United Methodists often pray a prayer of confession together. Confession and pardon together remind us that we are sinners saved by grace.

Of course, we need not wait until the next worship service to confess our sin. We can go to God in prayer at any time to acknowledge our failures and struggles, and ask for God's forgiveness.

Many United Methodists also gather in small groups to confess their sin to one another for support and spiritual growth. **People in our lives who pray for us, cheer us on, and ask how things are going are a source of strength as we confront temptation.**

Romans 12:21 *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

Do you really think getting fed at church once a week for an hour is enough to keep temptation away?

No, you need to be into the Word daily.

Forgiveness

When we confess our sins, we have the assurance that God promises to forgive us.

1 John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

Grace

We believe God's grace is available to all people, no matter where you're from, what you look like, or who you love.

Sacraments

The United Methodist Church recognizes two sacraments. Baptism and communion have a special place in the church because Jesus commanded them and participated in them. Baptism marks the beginning of our lifelong journey as disciples of Jesus Christ. Communion nourishes and sustains us on the journey.

Baptism and Salvation

United Methodists are glad to baptize people at whatever age or stage they come for baptism. There is no time too soon, and no time too late, to begin one's journey with Christ and life in the community of faith. Baptism marks the beginning of all of that, whenever it may come in our lives.

Baptism begins God's work of saving us by cleansing us of sin and beginning the work of renewing us fully into the image of Christ. The key word here is beginning. Baptism starts the process. It does not complete it. We can choose by our action or inaction to let the work begun go dormant and have no fuller effect. We say baptism is the "ordinary" or "instituted" means of justifying grace. Salvation normally *begins* taking root in people's lives here. Baptism is all about beginnings.

Communion

Holy Communion recalls the last supper Jesus had with his disciples. But it is more than just a ritual of remembering. It is primarily an act through which our connection with God, each other and our life of ministry in the world is nourished and strengthened.

Wesley Church of Hope invites you to partake in Communion on the first Sunday of every month.

In communion, we do remember the saving work God has already done in the world and is doing today. And we anticipate God's future for the world and all creation. We're partners with God in creating this future.



Spiritual Gifts

It is our firm belief that everyone is gifted by God and that each person is uniquely and beautifully equipped for ministry and mission. Giftedness is not about privilege or special skills and talents. It is about listening more deeply to, and following more fully, the deepest desires of our hearts and God's leading in our lives. This is the call to all people of faith — laity or clergy, flashy or quiet, knowledgeable or seeking.

We believe, and history and experience have proven, that when a small group—even a handful—of passionate disciples open themselves to the leading of the Holy Spirit in an intentional, committed way, change will occur. **Faith, love and hope spread like wildfire when we are filled with the Spirit.** It is more important to offer ongoing opportunities for the passionate few to share their unfolding discoveries than it is to get everyone through the discovery process.

The 20 gifts below are those listed within the bible (Romans 12, Ephesians 4, 1 Corinthians 12–13), and recognized by the first-century church. While all of life is a gift from God, these twenty gifts are lifted up within Scripture as the gifts of the Spirit, given specifically for the upbuilding of the body of Christ.

ADMINISTRATION

The gift of administration allows a person to organize people and resources for greater efficiency, effectiveness, and success.

APOSTLESHIP

The gift of apostleship compels people to reach out to new and unfamiliar groups and individuals to invite them into relationship with God and community.

COMPASSION

The gift of compassion moves people to action on behalf of those in need.

DISCERNMENT

Discernment is a gift of deep intuition and insight.

EVANGELISM

The gift of evangelism is the gift of faith-sharing and proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to those we meet.

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EXHORTATION

The gift of exhortation is manifest in people who offer encouragement, wise counsel, unflagging support, and empowerment.

FAITH

The gift of faith is more than belief in Jesus Christ, but an abiding foundation of confidence that God works all things together for good, and that they people of God can rise above any obstacle.

GIVING

The gift of giving is the deep commitment to provide whatever resources are needed to support God's will and plan.

HEALING

The gift of healing is not about transferring spiritual power to eliminate suffering and disease, but the ability to channel God's grace and healing love to those who suffer physical, emotional, or spiritual pain.

HELPING

Helping is a gift of support and behind-the-scenes effort that make groups, families, and congregations more effective.

INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

Those who are gifted to interpret tongues help build bridges across cultural, generational, and language divides.

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Spiritual Gifts

SERVANTHOOD

Servanthood is the gift of doing for others, sometimes to the exclusion of meeting personal needs.

SHEPHERDING

The gift of shepherding is the gift of mentoring and providing spiritual guidance to others to help them develop in the discipleship and faith formation.

TEACHING

The gift of teaching allows people to transform data and information into life changing knowledge.

TONGUES

The gift of tongues is a communication gift that allows people to speak foreign languages and convey concepts they never formally studied.

WISDOM

The gift of wisdom allows people to understand deeper meaning and apply knowledge, beliefs, and experience to every day situations.





Discipleship

Discipleship involves a ministry of outreaching love and witness to others concerning Christ and God's grace. Discipleship also calls the Christian to ministries of servanthood and service to the world to the glory of God and for human fulfillment.

Discipleship is actively living in accordance with the teachings of Jesus Christ and being as effective a disciple of Christ as possible.

Next Steps

We invite you to strengthen your relationship with God by using these methods:

- ♦ **Pray** Speak and listen to God. Ask for his continued guidance and protection over your life.

- ♦ **Read** Make a plan to read the Bible daily. It brings you into contact with God's story. Reading other spiritually-based books also provides nourishment for the soul.

- ♦ **Do good for someone else** Find opportunities to share God's love through your actions towards others.

- ♦ **Stay connected** Be inspired by the stories of other Christians and in witnessing the acts of God in their lives. Attend online worship services and weekly Bible study sessions.

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