



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

(614) 491-0580



Welcome to the Wesley Church of Hope Family!

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 weekly worship services and consider joining and serving in our ministries.

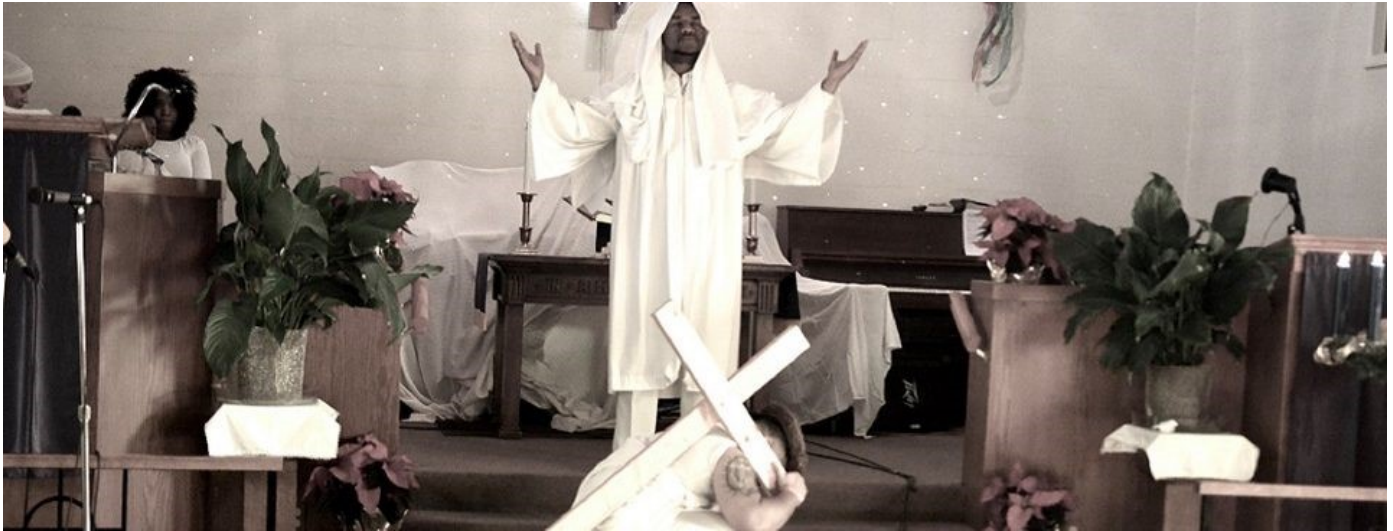




CONTENTS

Welcome to the Congregation	2
Growing in Faith and Understanding	4
Our Church & Ministries	5
Church History & Traditions	6
Discipleship & Ways to Serve	7
What We Believe	8
Christian Calendar	9
Holy Holidays	9
Salvation & The Bible	10
Sacraments	13
Starting Points	14
New Member Enrollment Form	15

Wesley Church of Hope is a healing place, connecting to the community through fellowship, reaching the lost, and sharing God's love.



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 pray-er 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.

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.

Our Church Ministries & Programs

Wesley Church of Hope is a healing place, connecting to the community through fellowship, reaching the lost, and sharing God's love.

Adults

- Bible Study
- Addiction Recovery Support
- Grief Support
- Bridge to Self-Sufficiency
- Adventure Club
- Men's Fellowship
- United Women in Faith
- Lay Leader Development



Youth

- Youth Choir
- Dance Ministry
- Girls Empowerment Conference

Family Fellowship

- Family Movie Nights
- Trunk or Treat
- Christmas Celebration, and more!

Visit wesleychurchofhope.org for upcoming events, programs, and ministries.





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 six pastors. The Rev. Mamie Jenkins, Rev. Richard Walker, Rev. Richard Dunbar, Leo Cunningham, Rev. Dr. Charles W. Ferguson, and Theresa Wallington-Tipton.

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.

United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith seek to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship and education so they can inspire and impact local and global communities.

Our Vision

We are a powerful, fearless force driven by God's love and united in sisterhood. With a focus on women, children and youth, we act for justice and transform communities.

Discipleship & Ways to Serve

Discipleship

Discipleship involves a ministry of outreaching love and witness to others concerning Christ and God's grace. Discipleship also calls us as Christians 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.

Serving the Community

Wesley Church of Hope has a variety of ways to serve and show God's love.

- Produce Giveaways
- Blessing Bags
- Neighborhood Clean Ups
- Festivals and community events held in partnership with Watkins Elementary School, Marion-Franklin Civic Association, and other community-based organizations.

Visit wesleychurchofhope.org for upcoming events, programs, and ministries.



Wesley Church of Hope is a healing place, connecting to the community through fellowship, reaching the lost, and sharing God's love.



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).

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 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.

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 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.

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.

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.**

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

There are 39 books in the Old Testament:

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

The New Testament consists of 27 books:

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

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.**

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.





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.

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MEMBERSHIP

Membership Type:

☐

NEW MEMBER

☐

TRANSFER MEMBERSHIP

Previous Church/
Denomination

(If under age 18, list parent
or guardian.)

Name

Phone

BAPTISM

Have you been baptized?

☐

YES

☐

NO

(If yes, please provide details.)

Previous Baptism

Date

Location (City/State)

Would you like to be baptized?

☐

YES

☐

NO

☐

NO T SURE

OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS

NAME

RELATIONSHIP

AGE

DATE OF BIRTH

BEEN BAPTISED?

☐

YES

☐

NO

☐

YES

☐

NO

☐

YES

☐

NO

☐

YES

☐

NO

☐

YES

☐

NO



NEW MEMBER REQUEST FORM

NAME

First

Middle

Last

Date of Birth:

Have you been baptized?

☐ YES

☐ NO

(If yes, please provide details.)

Date of Baptism

Location (City/State)

ADDRESS

Street Address

City

Zip Code

CONTACT

Email Address

Cell Phone

Home Phone

☐ Please add my phone number to the church's one call notification system.

SIGNATURE

Signature

Date