

SECTION H

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We are celebrating the 100th anniversary of Back Bay Mission. Back Bay Mission began as a ministry of one church and two chapels that would eventually become a part of the United Church of Christ in 1957. First Evangelical and Chartres and Back Bay Chapels. The good folks of these faith communities provided needed services to the “fisher folk” in Biloxi, Mississippi who were recent immigrants from Slovak countries. At that time, Biloxi was known as the world capital for the seafood industry. Entire immigrant families worked in the shrimping and oyster factories and were not receiving a livable wage having come from poverty in their country of origin. These faith communities provided clothing, food, medical assistance, Sunday School, and education to the children who were not able to go to school because they were employed in the seafood industry. In addition, a nursery, kindergarten, Teen Town, and even a credit union. These were a people with great vision for serving those who were struggling financially and with becoming a part of their new community.

Fast forward to the late 50’s and early 60’s and Back Bay Mission and these churches were involved in the Freedom Rides and the historic Wade-In on the coast of Mississippi to de-segregate the beaches. These churches were already providing Sunday School and other educational opportunities for children, teens, and adults that were non-segregated that conflicted with the practice on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The Executive Director of what became Back Bay Mission, a conglomeration of the churches social service ministries, along with a few staff and members of the congregations participated in or supported the last wade-in to desegregate the beaches. Laws were changed by these non-violent actions and all people had free access to the beautiful beaches along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Today, Back Bay Mission continues to serve the Gulf Coast’s most vulnerable. We serve those living in poverty and those who are unsheltered and have no home to call their own. Our Housing Recovery Program or homeless prevention is going strong. Each month we can work on approximately 8 rehab projects, 20 weatherization’s, and average of 17 roof replacements. All the work we do with our 1000 UCC volunteers each year is hope repair for eligible homeowners who are seniors on fixed incomes, low-income families, and disabled persons. Currently we have over 100 homes on a waiting list.

Our Micah Day Center provides a warm or cool day space for nearly 70 unsheltered guests a day. We have seen dozens of new guests accessing the Micah Day Center where they can meet with a case manager, have their clothing washed, take a shower, be assisted with searching for employment, and a variety of other services. Currently people can get 5 hot meals a week at Back Bay Mission as we have partnered with Loaves and Fishes Feeding Program. Our Food Pantry use has seen a nearly 100% increase during this time of inflation and rising costs on the coast and across our country.

We have a new initiative in partnership with the Mississippi Department of Health. We will be hiring two Community Health Workers who will be trained by the MS Health Department to provide a wholistic approach to care for the whole person. They will work with our homeless and communities in poverty to connect them to resources so they can live their best life!

We also have initiated a new “Spring Break with a Purpose” for students from historic UCC universities across the nation. Our next generation of volunteers. The 1st 2 weeks of March this year we have 45 students coming to BBM to share in making the world a better and more just place!

We have raised well over 1 million dollars for our capital campaign celebrating our 100 years on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. We thank you Northwest Ohio Association for your financial and prayer support! Let’s all continue to “Make Good Trouble” for the kin-don wherever we are!



2023 Crossroad Annual Report to the Northwest Ohio Association

Because of people like you, Crossroad has kept children & families at the center of all we do since 1883. Please read on to learn some of the amazing things you made possible in 2022.

Thank you for your generous support!

- We continue to see positive results in our students as a result of becoming a New Tech Network school. This past summer, high school students were tasked with creating a sensory garden on campus. They researched, planned, and created a budget for their sensory garden. Each week they used the MakerSpace to create a podcast that gave an update on the progress of the garden. Their work on this project was inspiring.
- The Music Room, made possible by a grant from the Aaron Stone Foundation, is a highlight of our recreational programs! We are expanding offerings in 2023 so more students can *JAM!*
- Invested in our incredible team with pay increases for all staff.
- Implemented a new treatment model, CARE (children and residential experiences). CARE is an evidenced-based treatment model developed by researchers at Cornell University. It emphasizes trauma-informed care and approaches treatment from the perspective of the client.
- Kyle Zanker, Chief Development Officer, retired after 27 years of passionate service. She will be missed, but we know she will continue to make a difference at Crossroad.
- Developed a new website www.crossroadcares.org – please visit to learn more about our services.
- We will celebrate 140 years serving children and families on Thursday, September 14, 2023. Please visit www.crossroadcares.org/anniversary to stay up to date on more news about this event!

Thank you for caring about the Crossroad children and families. Together, we do life-changing work! ***YOU Create Promising Futures!***

THE MISSION AND VISION:

Crossroad creates promising futures for children in difficult circumstances, by providing therapy, education, and family support services.

“Creating promising futures for children – whatever it takes”

Crossroad is a 501(c) (3) charitable organization. For information; please contact Beth McCord, Chief Development Officer, at 260.484.4153 x290 or at bmccord@crossroadcares.org



If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.
~African proverb

Defiance College now touts two distinctive programs that compliment academic studies and enhance professional skills. First, the McMaster School for Advancing Humanity is now in its 20th year. Students who are chosen as “scholars” conduct community-based research alongside their faculty mentors and the international community they are supporting. This year research trips will go to Belize, Ghana, and Italy (Rome). Second, the Jacket Journey program prepares students for life and career. Courses during “Jacket Days” provide needed information for professional success and helps students be value-added to their first professional employer at the onset of employment. Since last year, here are some highlights from our diligent work:

- Jacket Journey, a unique career-readiness program, continues. Each year is based on a DEFI theme toward professional growth and development: **D**iscover. **E**ngage. **F**ormulate. **I**nitate.
- The four-year average for placement rate is **95%**.
- Faculty with terminal degrees has risen from 55% in 2016 to **82%** in 2022.
- All four of Defiance College’s discipline based accredited programs have been affirmed by their respective bodies: Education, Business, Social Work and Nursing.
- Over the last 5 years, DC has been awarded **\$7.6 million** in grant monies from national, state, and local entities (not including pandemic relief money). The focus, for the most part, has been on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) initiatives and student scholarships in those majors.
- Launched this fall, Defiance College now offers both Civil and Electrical Engineering through a partnership with the University of North Dakota. Students receive a B.S. in Math from Defiance College and a B. S. in Engineering from UND.
- A Superintendent Licensure program that compliments the existing Principal Licensure program is now offered.
- Recently added academic programs include Computer Science (2017), Environmental Science (2018), Clinical Laboratory Science (2018), a 4+1 MBA program (2020), and an Organization and Supervision Leadership program (2021).
- We have added several minors and licensure programs as well: Coding (2021), Studio Art (2019), App Development (2020), Global Information Systems (2020), Leadership (2019), Graduate License for Principal Licensure (2020), and a writing minor (2021).
- The board approved a tenure-track faculty line for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.
- *OUR STRATEGIES TO DEFY THE ORDINARY 2021 – 2026* (strategic plan) continue to guide our work. They compliment the four pillars of our mission. The five strategies are: Career Readiness undergirded by the Liberal Arts, Holistic and Transformative Learning, Resource Management; Quality programs; and Vibrant Campus Environment.
- Classroom facility upgrades continue with the help of grants and generous donors.
- The professional level DC Disc Golf Course (some of you may know it as Jacket Woods) has been completed and an opening ceremony is being planned for the spring of 2023.



EMMAUS HOMES
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This year, Emmaus will celebrate 130 years of supporting individuals with developmental disabilities in our community!

In 1893, a group of pastors shared a vision of creating a place where the dignity and worth of each person with a disability was lifted. Although there have been many changes in the world over the last century, the mission and ministry of Emmaus remains unchanged.

We have made great strides in our Host Home program this past year. In this model, a person with a disability moves in with a family or individual. They become an integral part of the household and receive consistent support from the same individual. Emmaus has grown from seven host homes serving 10 clients in 2020, to 12 host homes serving 16 clients today. We currently have 13 additional people in process that are interested in becoming a host provider and opening up their home to extend our ministry!

We have also made some impactful changes to our Spiritual Care program. Emmaus now takes an individual “case management” style approach to Spiritual Care, ensuring each client’s needs and desires are met. While some individuals love the internal community built within our online Emmaus bible studies, others love the accessibility of meeting online but wish to participate in worship with a congregation within their community, outside of Emmas. Others desire to attend church in-person and want support with getting connected with a congregation. Pastor Andrea Asselmeir has been working diligently to support clients in full participation in local congregations according to their desire, extending spiritual care outside of the walls of Emmaus.

And lastly, Emmaus implemented an enhanced training program for team members with the goal of improving retention by increasing the knowledge, skills, and confidence of our DSPs. We call it the “Path to \$20.” This program allows our front line workers the opportunity to increase their wage to \$20 within the first year of employment by completing the 160 hours of online training. Here is how the training and wage increase has impacted one of our team members: *“The \$2 increase has made it more convenient for my household and medical expenses. One thing I learned from the training is how to engage more with the clients and how to care for the clients in the best ways possible. I also learned what to do if there are any emergencies or fire situations in homes. I feel the pathway to \$20 has made a difference in my work by me taking all of the knowledge that I’ve learned and using it on a daily basis at work. I am grateful and happy for the training experience.”*

Emmaus is delighted to share this good news with our friends of the Northwest Ohio Association!

AFFILIATED WITH THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COUNCIL FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES MINISTRIES





2022 Summary Report of Grace Community Center's Mission Accomplishments

The Grace Community Center Mission is:

"To foster the health and well-being of children, adults and seniors within our service area, through programs that promote food security, education and career readiness, and quality senior living."

2022 Mission Accomplishments for Neighborhood Children

- Edu-camp, a youth enrichment summer program created to support the academic, physical and social wellness of urban youth was held for forty-two K-8th graders. Thirty-four youth participated and completed the Standard Academic track designed to avert summer loss in reading and math.
 - The average GAIN in reading skills was .8 grade levels (none lost ground)
 - The average GAIN in math skills was .2 grade levels (none lost ground)
 - 3,590 "Chill Out & Read" pages were recorded in reading logs
- The Natural Science Programming was provided in two forms for different age groups through partnerships with the Central State University Extension and The Ohio State University Extension Services as well as the Metro Parks. Topics included everything from Vegetable Gardening to Bee Keeping.
- Social and emotional learning topics were presented by leaders from the Girl Scouts, the Police Dept. and agency staff. Those topics included Making Good Choices, Violence Prevention and Dealing Effectively with Authority.

2022 Mission Accomplishments for Seniors

- Among the Center's Savvy Seniors, there were reports of significant reductions in blood sugar, cholesterol and blood pressure levels due to increased consumption of fresh vegetables.
- Over a period of 8 months, ten neighborhood seniors participated in the Beginners Farmers program hosted by Central State University Extension and provided over 400 hours of additional staffing support to the garden operation.
- Five seniors volunteered at Edu-Camp thru the Foster Grandparents program on assignment from Senior Center Inc. This team was instrumental in providing support to the Friday "Chill out & Read" activities.
- An evidence-based chronic disease management training program was implemented in collaboration with The Area Office on Aging.

2022 Mission Accomplishments for Persons Facing Food Insecurity

- GCC distributed 13,200 boxes of emergency food and personal care items in service to 1,500 households.
- 400 Senior/Disabled persons received monthly delivered food boxes.
- 91% of walk-in Pantry recipients and 95% of home delivery recipients report improved food security.
- From our garden, over 4000 lbs. of vegetables have been grown, harvested, and 95 percent of it distributed to food-insecure families.

406 W. Delaware Ave., Toledo, OH 43610 * Phone 419-248-2467 * www.gcctoledo.org





Heidelberg was founded in 1850 by the Ohio Conference of the German Reformed Church and is now affiliated with the United Church of Christ. The school continues to offer scholarships to members of the United Church of Christ, children of UCC clergy, and students considering ordained ministry. We are thankful for support from the Heartland Conference, the Northwest Ohio Association, and local churches.

Located on 125 beautiful acres in Tiffin, in northwest Ohio, Heidelberg University combines a challenging liberal-arts curriculum with professional preparation. Our welcoming, enthusiastic community includes approximately 1,000 undergraduate and graduate students from all over the world, working closely with caring, insightful faculty members and staff. International students and domestic students of color account for 20% of students. We are led by our 14th President, Dr. Robert H. Huntington.

Heidelberg offers intellectually rigorous, hands-on courses in a wide range of majors, minors, concentrations, and pre-professional programs. Our energetic campus overflows with activities, including 24 athletic teams, clubs, musical performances, and Greek life. The student-faculty ratio is 13:1 and the average class size is 17. We offer the Life of the Mind Honors Program. Graduate programs are offered in Counseling, Business Administration, and Athletic Training. 84% of our students live on campus. Among our 7 contemporary residence halls, we completed renovation of France Hall in 2021 and renovation of Miller Hall in 2022. Upper-level students also have unique residential opportunities, such as townhomes and apartments.

We support a vital religious life with Berg UCC, the Catholic Newman Club, CRU, Muslim Student Life, Jewish Student Life, and Black Spiritual Life. The Office of Religious Life, supported by the University Chaplain, sponsors events to promote religious literacy. Civic Engagement is a key component of student life under the Ralph and Sue Quellhorst Student Community Service Fund that employs student assistants for Civic Engagement for Voter Registration, Community Service, Sexual Assault Prevention, Student Resource Center, Habitat for Humanity, PACE Mentoring Program, and Alternative Break trips to Back Bay Mission and Habitat for Humanity. This year Heidelberg supported an initiative to bring more college campuses to Back Bay Mission and Catawba College and Olivet College both made trips to Biloxi. The HYPE Career Ready® Program features four high-impact speakers each academic year, followed by smaller sessions designed to teach relevant career skills. We offer many programs including the research-oriented National Center for Water Quality Research, the vibrant School of Music & Theatre, and the George Barlow Body Donor Lab.

Heidelberg University has a strong commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion fueled by the voice of student leadership and the strong leadership of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

Please visit our campus. Stop by and take a tour through the Admission Office or have a meal at one of the Parkhurst Dining facilities, where meals are prepared from fresh ingredients including Clean Plate Station for those with food allergies. All alumni are invited to return to campus June 9-11, 2023, for our annual Alumni Weekend.

310 E. Market Street, Tiffin, OH 44883 * Phone 419-448-2000 * www.heidelberg.edu



The IB here to serve you!

The Insurance Board (IB) has been serving churches for more than 30 years. In 1979 a local church trustee and entrepreneur in northern California believed churches could improve insurance coverage, costs and services if they were to unite and buy as a group. In 1981, a Program was established in California and shortly after that the IB was formed by the UCC Conferences. Today, the Program is available to all UCC churches across the Country. The Program also serves churches and ministries in three ecumenical partners: The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Alliance of Baptists and the Presbyterian Church (USA).

MISSION

To support and protect churches and church ministries by offering superior property and casualty risk and insurance management services.

VALUE

Choosing to be bound together in mutual care and concern we will maintain:

- Integrity
- Excellence
- Exceptional Customer Service
- Open Communication
- Inclusiveness

VISION

Become the insurance program of choice for the denominations we serve.

There are currently 4200 church entities participating in the program, with more than \$16 billion in total insured values, making the IB one of the largest denominational programs in the Country. A primary purpose of the Insurance Board is to help churches manage the risks that are inherent in their operations. We have developed, and continue to develop, risk management resources and programs to assist ALL UCC churches (not just those in the IB Program) in their loss prevention initiatives, resources are on our website at www.InsuranceBoard.org

To find out more about the Program or to get a proposal for your church, please contact Jeff Gisser or John Bouhall CPCU of the Richey-Barrett Insurance Agency at 440.835.4800



Report to the
The 60th Annual Meeting of Northwest Ohio Association,
United Church of Christ,
Heartland Conference
Saturday, April 29, 2023
Saint Paul United Church of Christ, Wapakoneta

"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me." John 17:20-21 NRSV

We are a Jesus Christ Movement for Unity, Justice, and Peace!

Our Member Communions:

The African Methodist Episcopal Church, The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, The Alliance of Baptists, The Armenians Apostolic Church; The Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ) US and Canada, The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Christian Science, The Church of the Brethren, The Community Churches, The Episcopal Church in the USA, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, The Greek Orthodox Church, The Moravian Church in America, The Ohio Baptist General Convention, The Presbyterian Church (USA), The Religious Society of Friends, The United Church of Christ, and The United Methodist Church. www.ohcouncilchs.org.

Report of 2022 Activities

- The OCC's Anti-Racism Team sponsored our second Anti-Racism Sunday on October 9, 2022.. Several OCC member congregations participated in this effort which was designed to draw attention to the faith that racism is sin.
- During the spring of 2022 the OCC adopted a Gun Violence Prevention priority. The Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence, aiming to cease operations, is handing on this important work to the OCC. In response, the OCC now speaks to gun violence-related public policy matters such as the adoption of common sense gun laws and the cessation of sales of assault rifles.
- New Ministry Development Teams were formed. They are: Faith and Order, Anti-Death Penalty, Gun Violence Prevention, and Mental Health. Each team is comprised of laity and clergy from OCC member congregations, people from non-member congregations, and some from other faiths and no faith. Staff give guidance and support to teams. We would gladly welcome more members from the NWOA!
- The Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr., served as chaplain during a 2022 Alabama Civil Rights Pilgrimage sponsored by the Living Water Association of the Heartland Conference.
- The Executive Director and Associate Director, Rev. Dr. Amariah H. McIntosh, planned and moderated obi-monthly Faith Leaders Fellowship and Information Zoom Calls.
- In partnership with the State of Ohio, we produced Mental Health Monday webinars designed to help reduce the stigma often associate with mental health care and treatment. mental health stigma reduction.
- We addressed public policy matters such as Fair Legislative Maps, Voting Rights, Death Penalty Abolition, and Honesty for Ohio Education which is a coalition of educators, faith, labor, parents, and social advocates to ensure the legislature enacts policies that promote honesty, justice, and fairness in the Ohio education system. Our Associate Director was a featured speaker at two rallies in June and September.
- The OCC Governing Board welcomed the Armenian Apostolic Church as a new member of the Council. The Board also voted to support the boycott of Wendy's over the chain's refusal to sign the Fair Food Agreement. At present we are conversing with Wendy's over this issue.



2022 IN REVIEW

United Church Homes continued its mission to improve the lives of older adults in its more than 90 communities in 15 states and two Native American nations, by focusing on growth, leveraging partnerships and expanding its reach through unique technology and engagement opportunities.

- Launched NaviGuide in Columbus, Ohio. NaviGuide is a monthly subscription to help older adults live independently in the home longer by providing service coordination 24-hours a day. NaviGuide currently serves all Ohio counties and the rest of the country remotely.
- Rev. Daniel was appointed to the Search Committee for the UCC President and General Minister.
- Rev. Beth Long-Higgins continues to serve on the Board of CHHSM, the Council of Health and Human Service Ministries of the UCC.
- LeadingAge OH recognized United Church Homes with the Excellence in the Workplace award, Rev. Dr. Kenneth Daniel received the Visionary Leadership Award of Honor and Lorelei Heineman received Emerging Leader; both are members of First UCC, Marion.
- Rev. Kenneth Daniel was appointed to the LeadingAge national Board of Directors.
- The Ruth Frost Parker Center held a successful 7th annual symposium, (Pro) Longevity: The Convergence of Ethics, Technology and Spirituality in Columbus, Ohio. Recording now available.
- UCH and Miami University's Scripps Gerontology Center in Oxford, OH joined through a National Institute on Aging grant to test the feasibility of a positive psychological intervention in older adults living with dementia. Katy Abbott, Ph.D., MGS, Executive Director of the Scripps Gerontology Center was awarded the \$175,000 to partner with the interdisciplinary teams of ten UCH communities to pilot a clinical trial to engage people living with dementia in positive ways that enhance wellbeing and address behaviors.
- UCH held a ground blessing ceremony in Plain City at the site of the future Hamlet on Darby, a new residential community for adults aged 55+. A joint venture with The McCabe Companies, the property will feature 67 two-bedroom villas and townhomes.
- Completed 5-year Campaign for Abundant Life, surpassing goal of \$45 million. The fund supports innovative technology, service coordination, personal care programs, community enhancements and strategic acquisitions of middle-market independent living communities and has helped support housing, pastoral care, the Parker Center and the Benevolent Care Fund.
- UCH welcomed two new chaplains, Rev. Darla Metz at The Fairhaven Community and Tracy Glacer-Bacon at The Chapel Hill Community and continues its Clinical Pastoral Education program at Trinity Community in Beavercreek.
- The Parker Center held Wisdom Conversations: The Power in Ministries for Older Adults which featured quarterly online meetings for congregations interested in learning from each other about how to meet the spiritual needs of their older members.

The UCH Board of Directors continues its intentional focus on diversity, equity and inclusion by providing extensive diversity training to the Board, senior executives, directors and community leaders.

We are thankful for the opportunity to serve older adults, which began in Toledo in 1916 and for the ongoing support and engagement of the UCC churches through NWOA and the Ohio Conference.

UCH Corporate Office, 170 East Center Street, Marion, OH 43302 * Phone 800-837-2211 *
Fairhaven Community, 850 Marseilles Ave., Upper Sandusky, OH 43351 * Phone 419-294-4973
The Parkvue Community, 3800 Boardwalk Blvd., Sandusky, OH 44870 * Phone 419-621-1900

Uplands Village Celebrates 100th Anniversary and Unveils Time Capsule

It has been 100 years since the founding of Dr. May Cravath Wharton's first hospital here in Pleasant Hill, and her vision of serving this entire area took on new meaning when she moved her hospital to Crossville. The Cumberland Medical Center stands today as a reminder of Dr. May's dedication to serving the wider community.

And so does Uplands Village. When this retirement community began to take shape in 1956, the first residents started looking for ways to use their time and talents to serve the community. In 1961, Dr. Robert Metcalfe shared these words about Uplands – “We propose a settlement of people who want to contribute to the community and the area – a place where people can play and work and serve.”

Like Dr. May, Uplands members have always devoted countless hours to improving life here on the Cumberland Plateau, including the Crossville chapters of PFLAG and Habitat for Humanity, the Avalon Center for domestic abuse victims, Good Samaritans in Crossville, the United Fund, Alzheimer's TN, the Victim & Offender Reconciliation Program, and so much more.

Uplands residents have also played a vibrant role in the area's cultural life, volunteering at Cumberland County Playhouse, Crossville Arts Council, Art Circle Public Library, and in choral and instrumental groups. We have also been active in various humanitarian groups in the area, in churches, civic organizations and political groups, including town and county government.

And last but certainly not least, there's the resident-run Wharton Association. Through its sales over the course of many years, Uplanders have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to support student scholarships and address local needs. All the efforts of Uplands Village members add up to create a remarkable record of public service.

Commemorative Time Capsule to be Opened in 25 Years

Traditionally, a Time Capsule is buried in the ground and then dug up and opened sometime in the future. However, this Time Capsule will remain above ground for the next 25 years for all of us to see before it is finally opened and its contents revealed. Our Time Capsule will begin its 25 years at the Uplands Wellness Center on West Lake Road. But it may also be moved to other locations, such as the Pleasant Hill School or the Cumberland County Playhouse, for more people to see and appreciate.

Dr. May gave us a wonderful example of caring for the whole person. She was generous with her time and her resources. At the close of this anniversary year, as we celebrate the past and appreciate the present, it is up to us to find ways to continue this legacy of caring into the next 100 years.