

news

Zoe Empowers



Orphans and vulnerable children entering the ZOE empowerment program face a daily struggle to survive. ZOE children are encouraged to imagine a new life.

The groups that we sponsor are divided into family units and each has a head of the household which is often an older child, but the family members may be from several different families,

One of the first tasks they complete is the dream process. The members of the family group answer standardized questions that help them examine their current situation and set their goals. The head of the family creates a poster of the responses creating their dream and they display this in their residence to provide motivation as they pursue the dream together. This dream is updated as they progress through the program.

ZOE empowers provides connections for these groups to each other, their community leaders, program facilitators and mentors and even graduates from previous ZOE groups. The groups know that the opportunities they receive are from God and by people who have sponsored them. They are amazed that people from far away who do not even know them can care for them. Thank you for your generosity to ZOE Empowers.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 8th. Barbara Matsanga the Director of Zimbabwe ZOE Empowers will be speaking at both the 9:30 and 11:00 services.

Please join us in welcoming her and learning about our groups in Zimbabwe. •

Take the Flag

Following God's Signals in the Race of Your Life

The spiritual life is often compared to a race. Perhaps there is a parallel between the flags used in auto racing and the signals God sends us in our fast-paced lives. The purpose of Take the Flag is not to turn folks into race fans, but to help them become stronger disciples of Jesus Christ by paying attention to the signals God gives us each day.

In this Bible-based, 7-week series, the flags from auto racing are used as a way to discuss different aspects of our life of faith. With wisdom and humor, these seven dynamic lessons will put you on course for your faith journey, helping you navigate the bumps and turns, ride out the delays and pit stops, and ultimately take the checkered flag of a victorious life. Facilitator will be Pastor Max.

Session 1: "The Green Flag"

Session 2: "The Yellow Flag"

Session 3: "The Blue Flag"

Session 4: "The Red Flag"

Session 5: "The Black Flag"

Session 6: "The White Flag"

Session 7: "The Checkered Flag"

Registration is required for this study series.

Wednesday nights: 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

March 4, 11, 18, 25 | April 1, 8, 15

Sign-up sheet is on the Information and Activities Table or call the church office. •

Best Year's Lunch

Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at noon

Meal: Baked Potato and Salad Bar

Program: Music by Sound Inspirations

Please RSVP by Monday, February 10 at noon if you would like to attend

Please note that in an effort to save our church on the cost of printing and mailing, we are trying to reduce the number of cards sent for Best Year's Lunch reminders. If you would like to continue to receive a reminder post card for the lunch, please contact the church office by phone at 585-9462 or by email: whumc_office@att.net •

Adult Ministry

Save the date for the Forgiveness Retreat! All Welcome.

Saturday, March 7th from 9am – 4pm.

Lunch by Caraway Catering for \$10

Celebrating Our Membership!

Congratulations to the following members of our congregation who will reach milestone years of membership this month!

Celebrating 33 Years

Barb Schmidt

Celebrating 16 Years

Marty and Marie Grmek,

Sandy Sawyer

Linda Sawyer

Greg & Sharon Rovito

Karen Yates

Congratulations, and thanks for your continuing service to the Lord through WHUMC! •

Current Small Group Opportunity List

Child care during any small group opportunity is always available upon request. Please contact the study leader if care is needed in order for you to attend.

Sundays, 9:30 am in the Library

Led by Patty Dorsey - Lectionary Bible Study: looking at the verses that Pastor Max will be preaching on each week. This is open format; attend when you are able to participate.

Sundays, 2nd and 4th of the month, "Women of Faith", led by Jane Carle. 4:30 pm in the Library

Mondays, 10:00 am - 11:30 am in the Library - led by Anne Horvath, Circle of Friends. A time for women of all ages to meet for devotion, prayer, and support. Attend when you are able.

Tuesdays, 10:00 - 11:30 am in the Library - led by Patty Dorsey

Wednesdays, 10:00 - 11:30 am in the Library - led by Patty Dorsey, Currently studying the book of Hebrews.

Thursdays, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm in the Library - led by Dr. Laura Tradowsky, Weekly Spiritual Formation/Bible Study. This group is currently studying Following Jesus by Henri Nouwen.

Saturdays, 8:00 - 9:30 am in the Library - led by Dr. John Borgert. Men's Bible Study. All men are welcome! •

Youth Ministry

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Sunday, February 2

Family Worship Day, no Sunday School

Noon: Combined Middle School and High School winter fun outing. We are going to eat lunch at church after the 2nd service and then go to the Mentor Ice Arena for open skate. Youth can be picked up from the Ice Arena at 3:30pm

Saturday, February 8

12-2: LLLC Tea Party – lots of chances to volunteer to help out. See the sign up board in the lobby at church

Sunday, February 9

9:45am: Middle School Sunday School in Youth Room C

11:00am: High School Sunday School in Youth Room A

5-6:30pm: Middle School Youth Group

Sunday, February 16

9:45am: Middle School Sunday School in Youth Room C

11:00am: High School Sunday School in Youth Room A

No evening activities due to President's Day

Sunday, February 23

9:45am: Middle School Sunday School in Youth Room C

11:00am: High School Sunday School in Youth Room A

5-6:30pm: Middle School Youth Group •

Children's Ministry

Kids Quest Teachers needed for February! Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C4EAFAC29A1FC1-february>

See Marie for more information.

Children's Volunteer Training

Sunday, February 16, 5pm

This event is for seasoned and new volunteers! Please let Marie know if you are able to attend. •

Did You Know...

BY: RICK POLBURN

Did you know that the story of Cain and Abel and their sacrifices has a deeper meaning than most of us realize? Many people, including myself, feel that God's rejection of Cain's sacrifice is puzzling, if not unfair. Why was one sacrifice any better than the other? The problem has been that we focus on the sacrifices themselves rather than the intentions of the two brothers. When you stop to think about it, God does not need either one of the sacrifices, so that can't be the point. What God does want is a proper mindset in our giving.

In actuality what God rejected was Cain's attitude in giving his sacrifice as opposed to accepting Abel's attitude in giving his sacrifice. The clues are embedded in the names Cain and Abel. In Hebrew Cain means "to acquire, to possess, to own" and implies ownership. Cain was claiming ownership of what he was sacrificing to God with the attitude of "I am giving You something of mine that I have obtained through my own efforts and now You owe me something." In Hebrew, Abel's name means "breath" of life given by God. Therefore, he knew that everything he had was God given, so his sacrifice was given in thanksgiving, expecting nothing in return. •

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Ed Craun's Rose Garden and the Peace Pole

"God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God" Matthew 5:9

I'm sure many people remember Ed Craun and his wife, Ellie, as long-standing members of Willoughby Hills United Methodist Church. Ed had been a Navy deep sea diver, and a civil rights and peace advocate. Some people may not know that Ed was a rose expert. He planted a rose garden at his home on White Road in Willoughby Hills. Our church benefitted from his knowledge of roses when he planted a beautiful rose garden in front of the church in memory of his son-in-law, Captain Richard J. Hock, who was killed in Vietnam in 1972.

A 6 June 1969 article in "The Times Recorder" (Zanesville, Ohio) announced the engagement of Carol Craun, Ed and Ellie Craun's daughter, to then Lieutenant Richard James Hock of Duncan Falls, Ohio. Carol was a sophomore at Ohio University, and Lieutenant Hock was commissioned in the U.S. Army and graduated from Ohio University. He was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. A wedding date had not yet been set.

The following is information



given to me from John Craun, Ed and Ellie's son, about his parents.

My parents lived through the depression and WWII, and always had a garden. After I had grown up and got married, about the time my brother-in-law was killed in Vietnam Dad turned the front half of the large vegetable garden into his rose garden. Our home was 27700 White Road in Willoughby Hills, 3 acres of land, and about 300 feet of road frontage plenty of room for gardening.

In the early 1960s my father went to a Methodist men's retreat and heard the Methodist evangelist Harry Denmon, and experienced a life changing spiritual rebirth. After that he became active in promoting renewal and integration in the Methodist denomination. His life changing spiritual rebirth played a major part on my decision to accept and follow Jesus as my Lord and Savior a few years later.

Some members of our congregation, who knew Ed Craun have graciously shared their memories of Ed and his love of roses.

Linda Apicella

Linda said, "I believe Ed and Ellie moved to Breckenridge together. I remember them downsizing all of their 'stuff' at one or more WHUMC's Annual Super Sales. I am the proud owner of the Craun family toboggan!" Linda added Ed had a rose garden in front of his home on White Road and took the roses to their ranch



home at Breckenridge Village. She remembered that Ed was a peace advocate.

Carol Matthews

“Ed was arrested in the 60s for peaceful demonstrations for civil rights. I believe he also protested against abortions. During the war, he diffused bombs or mines in the water to clear the way for ships by diving (very dangerous work). Ed was active in the Rose Society [at Breckenridge Village] and when he moved from his house on White Road with all his beautiful roses, he helped design the rose garden at Breckenridge Village visible from Rt. 84.”

Pete Mortensen

Pete recalled that Ed Craun was a memorable man, a good man with highest ideals. He shared that Ed didn't do anything halfway and loved roses. According to Pete, Ed had rows of roses and vegetables by the street and carefully chose the roses.

Pete recalled that the peace pole was next to the church, then put into Ed Craun's rose garden in front of the church. Pete said, “It was fitting that the peace pole was in Ed's rose garden.”

Ben Howes

Ben mentioned that the peace pole was moved to different areas, because of the construction on the church building and changes in the parking lot.

Mike Teston

Mike stated that the peace pole was located next to the new sanctuary, after the building addition.

A 1990 July church newsletter article titled “Let There Be Peace On Earth And Let It Begin With Me...” mentioned the dedication of Ed Craun’s garden and the Peace Pole. “The garden was dedicated on June 24, 1990 in memory of Captain Richard J. Hock, son-in-law of Ed and Ellie Craun, who was killed in Vietnam in January 1972. Ed has planted and maintained the rose garden.”

In a later church newsletter announcement titled “Rose Garden In Full Bloom” it describes the beauty of Ed’s garden. “Experience the wonder of God’s handiwork! Take a walk down to the memorial rose garden and peace pole in front of our church building and smell the roses! Ed Craun has planted over sixty rose bushes of three different types—miniature, tea, and floribunda in thirty colors. You will also find some outside the Sunday School Office/Library. Our thanks to Ed Craun and Ralph Heussner for keeping these bushes healthy for us all to enjoy. Blossoms often find their way to nursing homes and hospital rooms...” Ed’s rose garden was removed when the 2001 building addition project was begun.



Ellie Craun passed away in 2000, and Ed passed in 2006. The more stories that I’ve heard from church members about Ed Craun the more I wish I had met him. Ed walked the walk

in his Christian faith, from being a humanitarian to honoring his son-in-law's sacrifice in serving his country.

Peace Pole

The "Let There Be Peace On Earth and Let It Begin With Me" article provides more detail about the history of the peace pole installed in 1990.

The congregation of Willoughby Hills United Methodist Church along with the children of Vacation Bible School planted and dedicated a peace pole in the church's Rose Garden. The Peace Pole was the mission of this year's V.B.S. befitting the theme "Jesus Christ, Giver of Peace."

Our peace pole is made of California redwood and stands six feet tall when planted. It has four plates inscribed with "May Peace Prevail Upon the Earth" in English, Spanish, Hebrew and Japanese. The Vacation Bible School children raised the money for the peace pole by having "Hop for Peace" Hop-a-thon. The children raised \$264.26. Their contribution will also go into the Peace with Justice Special offering on June 24th.

The Peace Pole Project was started in Japan fourteen years ago and in 1986 became international. There are nearly 60,000 Peace Poles in eighty countries around the world. There are over 2,000 in the United States. One hundred of those are in the East Ohio Conference and about two dozen are in the Painesville District of the United Methodist Church.

Forty-one children from ages three to twelve participated in Peace Week at Vacation Bible School. Peace Week was filled

with songs of peace, cooperative games and crafts about peaceful living. Many thanks to the V.B.S. committee and volunteers who helped make Peace Week such a huge success. Don't forget to stop in the garden to see our Peace Pole.



With construction and other changes both the rose garden and peace pole are no longer. The memories of them and the stories behind them, however, remain part of WHUMC history.