

Revelations

Sharon Center United Methodist Newsletter

May 2026



I was blessed to grow up with a sister only 23 months younger than me. Melody and I played well together. We always shared what we were given. If one received a treat, we would ask for a duplicate for our sister. Our parents would often take us to visit their friends, many of whom had children similar in age to us. We were always told before the visit to be on our “best behavior” and remember to be polite.

I recall one summer day when I was six and Melody was only four, we visited friends at a lakeside campground. We were so excited to go swimming! Dad promised there would be many children with whom to play on the large playground at the lake. We lived in a trailer park at the time and the thought of being able to run around a much larger field was enticing as our yard was only about twenty feet at its widest and had a small swing set with two swings and a slide.

Upon arriving to the campsite, my sister and I came to the disappointing revelation that all but one of the kids there were in their teens. These guys had no inclination to hang out with us babies. Mom and dad’s friend told us her grandson would be up from his nap soon and we could play with him. We waited patiently for Zac to wake up, amusing ourselves with building a stack of rocks near the campsite.

I remember a hollow pit in my stomach forming when Zac came out of his tent. Zac was a thalidomide baby. He was born with a severe birth defect that created an imperfect body which had no arms or legs. He only had hands that came off his shoulders and feet that met his body at his hips. He could not run and play like we could.

I was so scared. Not of Zac and his birth defect. I was terrified I would say something that would hurt his feelings or call attention to the fact that I knew he had a birth defect. I tried hard to ignore the missing limbs. I prayed, “Please, God, don’t let me embarrass myself or my parents.” I was worried I would mess up. Ct’d

Did Someone Hand You This Newsletter?

If so, we’re excited to share with you all the things going on in the life of Sharon Center United Methodist Church! Our church is a community that seeks to discover more about God and about who we are as the people God loves. We are truly a family of all ages, and there’s always room for more! You’re always invited to take part in all the activities and gatherings listed in this newsletter, as well as to join us every Sunday morning at 11am as we gather to worship and connect. Thanks!



Ct'd

Melody, on the other hand, did not seem fazed at all. She smiled as soon as he stepped out. Melody asked him to play with the rocks we were stacking, and he jumped right in. While she smiled, and laughed, and talked, and giggled, I awkwardly pretended everything was normal. She did not. She offered to help him get up on the merry-go-round. What was she thinking? He could not play like us perfectly formed kids. He needed adult supervision.

Nope. He not only got onto the merry-go-round, but he did it by accepting Melody's help. They had a grand time playing together while I worried about each and every move he made, concerned he might get hurt and it would be our fault.

When we returned to the campsite, Melody and Zac approached our parents and Zac's grandma sitting at the picnic table. Melody asked, "Can Zac be my boyfriend?" While I am quite sure Melody really did not understand what all that entails at the age of four, she did know it meant she liked being with Zac. She was having a good time playing with him and wanted to begin a relationship that would ensure they would see each other again.

Zac's grandma surprised me with her response. Through tears and a sideways smile, she said, "Sure, sweetie. That would be real nice." You see, Melody was the first person in Zac's life to see the person and not the disability when she looked at him. Even Zac's mother, who had left when he was born because she could not deal with his birth defect, could not see the treasure that was this little boy.

Usually as the oldest sister, I felt I was smarter and wiser. Melody showed me that day that I had a lot to learn about caring for others.

Blessings and Peace!

Pastor Wendy



Pentecost

Pentecost Sunday is May 24, we invite everyone to bring in a red geranium to be planted in our church's flowerbed. There will be a flowerbed clean up / flower planting date following that TBD.

Calendar

Regular Schedule:

Sun. 11am Worship

May

5/2	8a	Men's Study at Bob Evans
5/3	3:30p	St. Paul's Spring Concert on the Sharon Circle
5/5	6p	Herb Society mtg
5/10		Mother's Day
5/20	6p	Leadership Team mtg
5/24		Pentecost
5/25	7a-11a	Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast
5/29	7p	Music in Circle

June

6/2	6p	Herb Society mtg
6/6	8a	Men's Study at Bob Evans
6/21		Father's Day

May Birthdays

7- Mia Walkuski
11 - Debbie Ensor
15 - Bob Pawlik
17 – Jackie Ingersoll
18- Jaime Buran
21 - Charlie Tramel
26- Erin Brown
30 - Donald Ensor
Betty Lewis

May Anniversaries

Spiritual Growth Discussions

Our Daily Breads are available at the back of the sanctuary.

Granger Men's Study Group meets at Bob Evan's on Rt. 18 near i71 on the First Saturday of the month at 8am. Sharon UMC is invited to attend.

Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast

We will have the annual Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast on May 25 from 7a-11a. Help is needed for the event. Please contact George Wemmer to assist. Invite a friend to attend! Meal is free and by donation. All proceeds support the Highland Community Support Network.



Community Events to Join in on

St. Paul Lutheran Church is hosting a Spring Concert on the Sharon Center Circle May 3 at 3:30p. All are invited. A donation is accepted and will go to the Sharing Center.

May 29 at 7p the Sharon Circle will host their first Music in the Circle this Season.

Pop Tab collection

Looking for a simple project to help out big? Collect pop tabs! These can be saved in a baggie and brought to the church and will be given to Ronald McDonald House. There is also a jar in the Gathering Space to drop individual tabs in.

Blessing Box/ Food Pantry Collection

Please remember the Blessing Box in front of the Church.

There are people in our community that go to that box for food on a regular basis.

Please pick up some food items and place in box or put in the back of the church and we will add them to the box. This is an important ministry to our community and much needed in these hard times. Thank You for your help.



Joining Church

If you are interested in joining Sharon Center UMC contact Pastor Wendy. She will set up a meeting for a Membership Sunday.

East Ohio Conference Newsletter Link

Follow the following link to check out the East Ohio Conference Newsletters

<https://eocumcnews.com/2026/04/20/april-20-2026/>
(April 20 edition)

<https://eocumcnews.com/> (Main page)

Prayer Chain

We are starting a new prayer chain. If you are interested in being on the prayer chain, please contact Nancy Baldwin. Phone 330-350-0913.

Nancy's e-mail address baldwinwn@aol.com.

Please send your name, e-mail address and phone number. Nancy will contact each one of you after she gets a list together.

Annual Conference Volunteering

Annual Conference will be June 11-13 at the College of Wooster. Anyone interested in volunteering can sign up at the link below:

<https://eastohio-reg.brtapp.com/ACVolunteer2026>

Graduation Sunday

Any church members graduating this year please contact Nancy Baldwin or the office. We will have a Graduation Sunday with date TBD.

Summer Camp

Any youth interested in Summer Camp can check out the info through the QR code.



2026 SUMMER CAMPS
Register for Summer Camp today!

Scan to register.

**Summer Camp
Registration is Open!**

Register now and make camp a
part of your Summer 2026 plans!

 **East Ohio Conference**
The United Methodist Church

 **EXPLORING
GOD'S
NATURE**

The poster features a close-up photograph of a young girl with a slight smile, looking off to the side. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with green foliage. The text is overlaid on the image in white and yellow. A QR code is located in the upper right corner, with the text 'Scan to register.' below it. At the bottom, there are three logos: the East Ohio Camps logo, the East Ohio Conference logo, and the Exploring God's Nature logo.



Pentecost

Sun. May 24

Wear red

Bring a red
geranium



Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at:
www.SharonCenterUMC.org

Visit Us on Facebook!
Sharon Center UMC

Service time: Sunday, 11am

Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast

Date: 5/25

Time: 7a-11a

Location: Sharon Center UMC

6407 Ridge Rd. Wadsworth, OH



Stop by before, during or after the
Sharon Center Parade and Ceremony