



DisAbility Ministries
The United Methodist Church



Ohio Disability & Ministry Collaborative



Artwork by Ainsley Patterson

***We wish you a Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year!***

Meet Reverend Mimi Luebbers

As a mother of an adult son with developmental/intellectual disabilities, and as a professional Occupational Therapist, and as a Pastor, Mimi is well-aware of the connection between the Physical, Emotional, and Spiritual needs of individuals. This combination comes together as she intentionally develops ministries with individuals with disabilities, their families and/or those who accompany them.

Her new path began when she took a summer course through the Institute of Theology and Disability ([ITD - Collaborative on Faith and Disability](#)) and felt the urge to continue to study and work more in the field. Mimi is now a 2021 graduate of Methodist Theological Seminary in Ohio with a MA in Practical Theology and specialization in disability and ministry.

(<https://www.MTSO.edu>)

Mimi states three things as her goals in disability ministry:

A-Awareness – 25% of adults in the U.S. have a disability

A-Attitudes – the Church needs to continue to grow in awareness to develop better and more open attitudes

A-Action steps – She asks the question, where are the disabled persons in your church? She suggests churches consider that most disabled persons need to come to church with someone. Volunteer to pick up and stay with them!

How does your church include individuals with disabilities? Are they greeters? Ushers? Singers? Teachers? Readers? Is getting into the building or rest rooms easy or a challenge? Is the signage easy to read?

Churches may begin to take “baby steps” to include those with disabilities into their church and congregational life. Simple steps like asking an individual who uses a walker

or rollator to walk the halls of your church may reveal simple ways in which the building itself may be made more accessible.

When Mimi and co-chair Zach Holler connected, their interests and experiences sparked a common passion for increasing disability awareness and ministries. Out of this shared interest comes this Collaborative. For additional information, please see her speakers bureau profile at [Discipleship Resources | West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church \(westohioumc.org\)](https://westohioumc.org)

Watch this space for GRANT OPPORTUNITIES coming soon!

Important reading!

Coming in 2022! Mark your calendars for this Institute of Theology & Disability opportunity held at the Methodist Theological School of Ohio, June 6-9, 2022. <https://faithanddisability.org/institute/>

Disability Impacts Us All! https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_www.cdc.gov_ncbddd_disabilityandhealth_infographic-2Ddisability-2Dimpacts-2Dall.html&d=DwMFaQ&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=Z82PRtmWTTUkpPp-fyWx5FXafBltdCUcE_alc4Ry5Mw&m=3W5zuo4XTa0T4pGc2wSc5E6FUxp8VfdIkVo5WTJyQlo&s=hzXGzp5xXhkYidy3kLdMVQ7d2lun-StKJam78oNOVlg&e=

Plan Ahead Now for Your May, 2022 Disability Awareness Sunday



The West Ohio Conference Disability & Ministry Team encourages churches to designate the first Sunday of May as Disability Awareness Sunday. As you know, time flies, and soon May will be here! Please invite one of our speakers' bureau members to come and share. We will provide information and resources to help you make this a memorable and meaningful service. Contact Rose at

RDarling@flatrockhomes.org for more information.

Race at the Rock

Collaborative member Flat Rock Homes, headquartered in Seneca County, offers the opportunity to be a church sponsor of the 2022 Dick Parks Memorial Race at the Rock. Karen Kilgo, Flat Rock President and CEO writes: *"The Dick Parks Memorial Race at the Rock, named in memory of Rev. Dr. Richard "Dick" Parks, our friend, board member, and tireless race supporter/fundraiser is our biggest fundraiser. Since its inception, Race at the Rock has raised more than \$290,000 and deeply impacted the individuals and families we serve"*

Flat Rock's 2022 goal is to raise \$45,000 and involve 75 race participants. Although most of the race will again be 'virtual,' (due to COVID restrictions), the Inspiration Walk by Care Center residents and Community Services individuals will still take place.

Read more about the Race at the Rock here: [The Dick Parks Memorial Race at the Rock | Flat Rock Homes](https://flatrockhomes.org/race-at-the-rock). Email development@flatrockhomes.org to become a church (or corporate) sponsor. Thank you!

