



**Disability Ministries**  
The United Methodist Church



## **OHIO DISABILITY & MINISTRY COLLABORATIVE NEWSLETTER**

West Ohio Conference Disability Ministries Team  
East Ohio Conference Disability Awareness Team  
Flat Rock Homes, Care Center, and Community Services

### **ACCESSIBILITY GRANT AWARDS UPDATES**

The first group of accessibility grants were awarded earlier this year, and the projects are in varying stages of completion. Pleasantville UMC happily reports their vertical platform lift project is now completed and ready for use by church members and the community! Trustee Chair, Christy George, says: "We are beyond grateful for the grant funds that helped push us over the top of what we needed to get the lift finished!"



Trustee Michael Follmer of Bethany UMC in Middletown shares this photo of their now completed entrance ramp project!

Other projects are either underway, waiting for permits or supplies, but excited to soon see their project completed! Updates to be posted as they are made available.

**Your church** may apply now, between August 1 and October 15, 2022, for the WOC Trustees newly funded grants cycle for accessibility improvements! Follow this link to read more and to apply! [West Ohio Disability Ministry Awards Five Grants | West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church \(westohioumc.org\)](https://westohioumc.org)

***"Let my life be a reflection of the endless amount of ability that exists in each and every one of us."*** — Robert M. Hensel

### **ACCESSIBILITY AUDIT VIDEO**

Viewing this YouTube video about Accessibility and the Accessibility Audit is a great way to launch your journey to become a more aware and welcoming church. Yvonne Caughmann, chair of the Commission on Disability Concerns for the Baltimore-Washington Conference shares practical information and questions. [Accessibility Audit Training - YouTube](#) Thanks, Yvonne, for this informative and friendly training provided by the Commission on Disability Concerns of the Baltimore-Washington Conference of The United Methodist Church.

## **CAREFUL OUT THERE...**

Although autumn is just about to begin, colder weather brings the potential for slick fallen leaves, or icy-patched streets, sidewalks, and parking lots. Careful!! Remember that disabilities come in many forms, and some are temporary. A fall on the ice may leave one needing cumbersome equipment to get around for several months. What does one do with that bulky equipment while in church? How can a person get into the church while using this equipment? How about restroom access? This important training video is. [CHURCH ACCESSIBILITY VIDEO - YouTube](#)

## **DEVELOPMENTAL & INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES SERVICES**

Flat Rock Homes, Care Center, and Community Services may be headquartered in Flat Rock south of Sandusky, but our services stretch into 13 counties in north central Ohio, and our individuals represent 28 Ohio counties. For 156 years, "Flat Rock has served individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD), with coexisting behavioral and/or psychiatric needs. Their diagnoses are multifaceted including Autism, Down's Syndrome, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, Bi-Polar Disorder, etc. and Seizure Disorders, along with other health issues." Learn more here: [Flat Rock Homes](#)

## **RESOURCES**

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. More details may be found here: [Resources | U.S. Department of Labor \(dol.gov\)](#)

[Government and Local Disability Programs | USAGov](#)

[Resources – Disability Ministries of the United Methodist Church \(umcdmc.org\)](#)

[United Methodist Committee on Deaf and Hard-of-hearing Ministries \(umdeaf.org\)](#)

[https://pages.thenationalcouncil.org/index.php/email/emailWebview?md\\_id=13215&mkt\\_tok=NzczLU1KRi0zNzkAAAGGihzT\\_JM5UIpdVD-J8-OiGRRpKgLpxJj1dQb773fsFCb-zKDT023gDX\\_nVEi\\_idtbSxp7zH0YUwPtIwkkgctwt5EAH3269dEWIQBlDg9P4Q](https://pages.thenationalcouncil.org/index.php/email/emailWebview?md_id=13215&mkt_tok=NzczLU1KRi0zNzkAAAGGihzT_JM5UIpdVD-J8-OiGRRpKgLpxJj1dQb773fsFCb-zKDT023gDX_nVEi_idtbSxp7zH0YUwPtIwkkgctwt5EAH3269dEWIQBlDg9P4Q)

Questions? Contact Rose Darling at [Rdarling@flatrockhomes.org](mailto:Rdarling@flatrockhomes.org)

ODMC's co-directors are Rev. Mimi Luebbers, and Rev. Zach Holler.