



DisAbility Ministries
The United Methodist Church



Ohio Disability & Ministry Collaborative Newsletter



WOC Annual Conference

ODCM was thrilled to be represented at the WOC Annual Conference in early June. We hope you had a chance to stop by and meet Rev. Zach Holler, and Rev. Mimi Luebbers, our co-directors, and other ODMC volunteers!

Accessibility Grant Updates

We are pleased to share this update on several projects that received grant funding earlier this year. Watch the next newsletter for photos of various projects!

Pastor Deb Ketcham at Lewistown-Trinity UMC is so glad that a new, accessible restroom was installed, and is almost ready for use. They wait for a part to complete the installation. The congregation is so appreciative of the grant funds that helped make this long-awaited dream become reality.

At Belpre Heights UMC, an aluminum ramp was installed to replace a decayed wooden ramp to provide improved access to the church annex. Pastor Garry Hogue says it is extremely convenient and provides a safer commute between the buildings.

These are just a couple of accessibility projects that received funding earlier this year. We will share more in the next newsletter! If you received funding and have information to share, please contact Rose at Rdarling@flatrockhomes.org

Please help us name our newsletter!

Send ideas to Rose at rdarling@flatrockhomes.org

Thank you!

UMC Accessibility Badge Program

Click below to find information on how your church may earn a Bronze, Silver or Gold badge to let your community know you are accessible for all. [Audits and Accessibility Badge – Disability Ministries of the United Methodist Church \(umcdmc.org\)](https://umcdmc.org/audits-and-accessibility-badge)

“I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do.” – Ralph Braun

Resources:

[Institute on Theology and Disability - Collaborative on Faith and Disability](#)

This website shares many resources, books, guests and seminars on faith and disability. The 2023 conference is coming up June 20-24 at Baylor University in Waco, TX.

A recent Facebook posting from the Institute for Theology & Disability featured www.limpingforjesus.org Good reading there.

The Institute on Theology & Disability also included posts from [Faith Inclusion Network – Accept, Include, Celebrate](#) and [Respect Ability - Fighting Stigmas. Advancing Opportunities](#) . Check them out for topics and stories of interest.

Pastor David Miller recommends the book “Autism and the Church.”

[Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities | Ohio.gov](#)

Outdoor Therapeutic Center

Flat Rock Homes, Care Center & Community Services is excited to announce that work has begun on the new Outdoor Therapeutic Center! Nearly 50 students from Vanguard Sentinel Career & Technology Center, Fremont, Ohio, and their Program Instructor, Ron Huffman, spent two afternoons with other program instructors, and our Volunteer Manager Sherri Buehl clearing out old mulch to prepare for new surfaces for the recreational activities area! We appreciate these teens and their instructors for all their hard work!

This outdoor area features a walking trail, prayer labyrinth, recreational activities area, newly renovated pavilion, picnic tables, and more! You may honor someone through the gift of an engraved brick, a bench or tree. Follow this link for more details. [TRL Outdoor Therapeutic Center | Flat Rock Homes](#)

The recreational activities equipment will be installed here.



Sensory bag as displayed by ODMC at the WOC Annual Conference

