



**Disability Ministries**  
The United Methodist Church



## **OHIO DISABILITY & MINISTRY COLLABORATIVE (ODMC) NEWSLETTER**

**August 2023**

**Enlighten. Educate. Engage.**

### **DEAF AND HARD-OF-HEARING TERMINOLOGY**



“Deaf, hard-of-hearing, hearing-impaired, hearing-loss.” These terms are often used when referring to individuals or groups of persons who cannot hear to some degree. Which term is correct, or which is not preferred? It all depends on the degree of deafness, and the individual’s personal preferences. According to the National Association for the Deaf, an individual may self-identify in several ways, including late-deafened, meaning the onset of hearing loss started at a later age. Others may identify as hard-of-hearing; however, the term hearing-loss is not well accepted by those born deaf, as they did not lose their hearing but were born without this sense. Also, hearing-impaired is considered a negative expression that focuses on what an individual cannot do. Many prefer the term deaf or hard-of-hearing, and individuals have the right to decide what they are called.

According to [verywellhealth.com](https://www.verywellhealth.com), in the United States,

- 63 out of 1,000 adults aged 18–44 have difficulty hearing
- 136 out of 1,000 adults aged 45–64 have difficulty hearing
- 268 out of 1,000 adults over age 65 have difficulty hearing

How does your church address the needs of your deaf or hard-of-hearing congregants and community members? We would love to know. Please share by emailing Rose at [Rdarling@flatrockhomes.org](mailto:Rdarling@flatrockhomes.org).

Check out these links for more information:

[Deaf Culture | What does “D”, “d”, and “d/Deaf” mean in the Deaf community? | Start ASL](#)

[National Association of the Deaf - NAD](#)

[Best Practices for Deaf Ministry \(buildfaith.org\)](#)

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

[ADA Requirements: Effective Communication | ADA.gov](#)

### **UMC ACCESSIBILITY BADGES**

Let your community know that your church addresses the accessibility needs of persons with disabilities by earning a Bronze, Silver, or even Gold Accessibility Badge! Follow this link to learn more! Your ODMC team can help you with further information!

[Make your church disability-friendly and accessible; earn a badge \(resourceumc.org\)](#)

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

This is a terrific example of a Disability Awareness Sunday! Watch this video from ODMC Co-Director, Rev Mimi Luebbers. Our speaker's bureau is available to help you plan and present your Disability Awareness Sunday service!

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=586100103445755>

[DMC Brochure \(umcdmc.org\)](https://umcdmc.org)

[Ministers with Disabilities – Disability Ministries of the United Methodist Church \(umcdmc.org\)](https://umcdmc.org)

[Communicating Effectively with People with Disabilities | ADA.gov](https://www.ada.gov)

## SHARING ODMC



\*Rev Mimi Luebbers, shared ODMC at Youth 2023, July 25-27 in Daytona Beach where about 2500 young people learned more about disability awareness and ODMC!

\*Rose Darling was pleased to share ODMC during the East Ohio Conference United Women in Faith Mission U at The University of Mount Union in Alliance, Ohio, July 21 and

22<sup>nd</sup>. Rose and Sherri Buehl participated, presenting the work of Flat Rock Homes, as well as ODMC. It was a wonderful time of community, mission, and sharing.

## UPDATE ON FLAT ROCK'S OUTDOOR THERAPEUTIC CENTER



Tons of stones and sand were recently donated and delivered to Flat Rock as work continues on the walking path, prayer labyrinth, accessible recreational area, and more at Flat Rock Care Center, Flat Rock, Ohio! You may honor someone by donating a paver brick for the path and labyrinth. Visit [TRL Outdoor Therapeutic Center | Flat Rock Homes](https://www.flatrockhomes.org)

for more information and to donate in honor of your loved one, pastor, church or other special individual or organization.

## CONTACT ODMC

Rev. Zachary Holler [zacheryholler88@gmail.com](mailto:zacheryholler88@gmail.com)

Rev. Mimi Luebbers [capacity@umcdmc.org](mailto:capacity@umcdmc.org)

Rose Darling [Rdarling@flatrockhomes.org](mailto:Rdarling@flatrockhomes.org) (for newsletter questions or article ideas)

**Help us name this newsletter, please!**

**Send ideas to Rose at [Rdarling@flatrockhomes.org](mailto:Rdarling@flatrockhomes.org)**