



July 2021

Pathways

A monthly newsletter of Nashville UMC & Pastor Ken Smailes

*"Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles...
Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith."
— Hebrews 12:1b-2a*

Jesus: Our North Star

There's a predicament in sailing called "in irons" when the helmsman has let go of the wheel, and the bow – or forward part – gets headed *into* the wind. A ship or boat in this situation cannot make its way. The sails flog and the vessel is unable to go forward. The term stems from when criminals aboard old sailing ships were secured to the decks with leg-irons and were unable to move.



Ken's Korner

Pastor Ken

Our walk with God is sometimes like this. We take our hand off the wheel and winds of change come along or the waves of life's trials and difficulties try to knock us off course. So here's my challenge to you: calibrate yourself to the example of our Risen Savior. Our spiritual needles must point to the source of truth and not turn after opinions, vacillating values, or erratic rules.

When what's right and acceptable shift like the wind, blowing one way today, another tomorrow, Jesus is that unchanging source of truth. In a world where division and discord have become the rule rather than exception, hammering at us relentlessly like waves pounding the hull of a ship, Jesus is the only constant. He is our source of life.

Paul urges us in Hebrews to instead throw off the things that hinder us and the sin that entangles us and to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. He is our North Star, toward which we need to aim our compass, point our bow and set sail.



3 steps to stay on course

1. Turn to the Bible
2. Pray for direction
3. Follow the will of God

Worship: 9:30 a.m. | Sunday School: 10:45 a.m.

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What makes Pastor Ken tick?

Ten insights into Kenny Smailes

1. Favorite Scripture

"I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength."

Philippians 4:13

2. What's God's mission for us (missio dei)?

"To be in relationship with God, each other, His creation, and our self in a way that brings Him glory."

3. Favorite Hymn

"How Great Thou Art"
by Stuart K. Hine

4. Preferred Bible

New Living Translation (NLT) – Strikes a balance between literal translations of the original texts & conveying thoughts behind the text when exact wording is not possible or misleading.

5. Leadership is ...

the ability to maximize the efforts of others to achieve a goal.

6. Hobbies & interests

History, cooking, photography, tech, (& Dr. Seuss)

7. Life-changing acrostic

G od's
R iches
A t
C hrist's
E xpense

8. Life's theme song

"I Made It Through the Rain," by Barry Manilow, 1980

9. A book that changed outlook on life

SoulShift, The Measure of a Life Transformed,
by Steve DeNeff & David Drury

10. Foundations for a life of faith: Prayer, God's Word, Servanthood

Background: River View & Ohio University; Athens Messenger, Coshocton Tribune, WTNS & WKLM. AP General Excellence awards for reporting.



Pastor Ken will be celebrating 15 years of pastoral ministry in 2022.

What's your story?

Max Lucado writes in his book, *God's Story, Your Story: When His Becomes Yours*, about how our story – and each one of us has one – indwells God's story. So what's your story? What chapter do you fit into? Thanks to Joy at the Three Rivers District Office, here's part of Pastor Ken's story:

Empowering others

Raised on a family farm near Blissfield in northern Coshocton County, Pastor Smailes has deep community connections that have developed a keen understanding of the value of rural life and the role of small country churches. He enjoys strong involvement in the communities he lives and works.

His Faith Journey

Ken acknowledges his close-knit family and the Blissfield UMC community in his spiritual formation. Their role and support played a significant part in discerning his call.

They encouraged him, prayed with him, and created opportunities to study, learn and grow closer in his relationship with God.

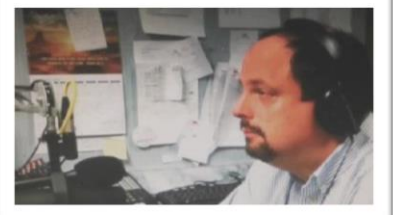
Ken's confidence grew through public speaking and other endeavors through school, community and work. Each one creating advantages that fittingly allowed him to share his faith, a message of servant leadership, and the salvation story.

Strengths for Ministry

● **Preaching** - With a strong understanding that knowledge and how we apply that information is empowering, Pastor Ken's messages lend to this end as he shares the true source of all knowledge: the truths as given us in the Scriptures. His delivery includes storytelling, object lessons and illustrations.

● **Christian Ed/Small Groups** - Values mentoring for direction, encouragement and accountability. Ken believes daily prayer is foremost to ministry, as well as the discipline necessary for a relationship with God & others.

● **Mission/Outreach** - Extremely community-minded, Ken understands that being whole-heartedly involved, shoulder to shoulder with our neighbors, is one of the best witnesses for the Kingdom. An attitude of service guides his mission and outreach.



Pastor Ken is leaving a 35-year career in newspaper and radio journalism to go into ministry fulltime

East Ohio Annual Conference Recap

Christ alive in us!

Bishop Tracy S. Malone presided over the 52nd session of the East Ohio Annual Conference, which was broadcast live from the John S. Knight Center in Akron. This year’s theme was Christ Alive in Us! There were 624 registered clergy members and the 577 registered lay members.

In her message to the Conference, Bishop Malone addressed the “courage and resiliency” of East Ohio pastors, congregations, and faith communities in the ways that they responded to being church in new ways when the COVID-19 pandemic struck. She challenged them to move forward in bold and courageous ways.



“What is the vision that God is putting in front of us as a local congregation? Who do we want to be for Christ? Who do we want to be for each other? Who do we want to be for our community? Do we love each other enough to stay in communion with one another despite our differences and convictions?” Malone said. “I want you to hear me, whether you are clergy or lay the continuing United Methodist Church, whatever we look like whatever we become, you will have a place. There is a place for you in this beloved institution. We don’t all think alike, and we don’t all act alike, but we are all made in the likeness of Jesus Christ and the mission remains the same. No matter what your biblical or theological beliefs are, there is a place for you.”

“May we be united in love, and united in mission, and united in purpose. We are a covenant church and a covenant people. We are The United Methodist Church. Let us be the church. Let us lead and continue leading in ways that empower people’s lives in ways that bind up the broken-hearted. Let us continue to lead and listen to the needs and the cries and the cares of the people. Let us be the church together. Let us stay focused on our ‘why.’ Amen.”

- The lives and ministry of 47 clergy and lay saints were remembered during the Service of Commemoration.
- The Board of Ministry recognized the ministries of 18 clergy who retired last year, when we were unable to gather for in-person celebration, and the 24 clergy in the Class of 2021.
- Dr. Gloria Brown, chair of the Conference Commission on Equitable Compensation reported that, “the Commission voted unanimously to recommend a 2% increase across all pastoral minimum salary categories.”
- Closed Churches: North Liberty UMC and Tyndall UMC – Three Rivers District; East Union UMC – Southern Hills District; Richmond UMC – Western Reserve District; Lexington UMC and New Life UMC – Tuscarawas District; Sixteen UMC – Mid-Ohio District; Lorain Faith UMC – Firelands District; and Korean Church of Greater Youngstown and Six Fourteen UMC – Mahoning Valley District.

Two resolutions were introduced during the 2021 East Ohio Annual Conference:

■ Resolution 2021-01: Condemning QAnon and Walking Alongside Its Victims. Submitted by: Rev. Derek Kubilus, Bill Watts, East Ohio Methodist Federation for Social Action, East Ohio Reconciling Ministries Network, and the office of Multicultural Vitality.

The motion was not approved.

■ Resolution 2021-02: Covenant to Continue Our Work for Racial Justice.” Submitted by: East Ohio Methodist Federation for Social Action, East Ohio Reconciling Ministries Network, and the office of Multicultural Vitality.

The motion was approved.

- Excerpted from report by the East Ohio Conference’s Rick Wolcott -

On July 1, six East Ohio Conference clergy begin new appointments serving in positions that are part of Conference leadership.

Rev. Ed Peterson, former superintendent of the Canal District, succeeds the retired Rev. Dr. Gary George as assistant to the Bishop. **Rev. Angela**



Lewis, former pastor of Doylestown, succeeds Peterson. **Rev. Ed Fashbaugh**, the former superintendent of the Three Rivers District, succeeds the retired Rev. Steve Court as director of Connectional Ministries. **Rev. Kelly Brown**, former director of Vitality,

succeeds Fashbaugh as Three Rivers District superintendent. **Rev. Beth Ortiz**, former pastor of both Kilbourne and Ashley UMCs, is the new director of Strategic Ministries. **Rev. Laura White**, former pastor of Ashland Christ, succeeds Rev. Gail Angel as Southern Hills District superintendent.

New Worship Time

Sunday morning worship now begins at 9:30 a.m. at the Nashville UMC, with a time of gathering and fellowship beforehand and Sunday School at 10:45 a.m.

Pastor’s Office Hours

- Nashville UMC: Mondays & Thursdays from 1:30-4:30 p.m.
- Killbuck UMC: Tuesdays from Noon to 5 p.m.
- Fridays: Pastor Ken’s day off
- * Other times can also be arranged.*

July Board Meeting

The church board will be meeting on July 13 at 7 p.m.

Kids, Youth Activities

The churches in Killbuck are holding their *Wild Wednesday* ministry now through Aug. 11. Anyone is invited. K-6 meet at the Rec Center from 10-Noon; youth 7-12 meet at the Killbuck Park from 5:30-7:30 pm.

H15 Youth Center, Millersburg:
Tuesdays, ages 13-19, 4-8 pm
Thursdays, ages 16-19, 4-8 pm

Holmes County artifacts

Archaeologists to present finds

Interested in archaeology or local history? The Holmes County Historical Society will be presenting about artifacts found near Killbuck and believed to be between 1,000 and 5,000 years old. More than 600 items were collected, and have been accepted by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

The program on **Tuesday, July 20, begins 6 p.m.** at the Killbuck United Methodist Church, 410 N. Main St.



Dr. Bebber

Kent State University professors Drs. Metin Eren and Michelle Bebber will present their findings and share about the processes used to identify the discoveries. They also will demonstrate flint-knapping.

Dr. Eren is from Avon Lake and his research has been featured on PBS/NOVA, the History Channel, BBC, and Discovery Channel among others.

Dr. Bebber is a Holmes County native and has a PhD in Biological Anthropology, a Master’s in Experimental Archaeology, and Bachelor’s degrees in Interdisciplinary Anthropology and Studio Art, with a focus on Ceramics.



Dr. Metin Eren

Pastor Ken’s summer worship theme entitled “Digging for the Truth” will explore how the ancient words of the Bible still apply to the new times we’re living in today, as we relate how these truths from the Old Testament point to Jesus: Adam & Eve – God’s “rescue plan” included Jesus from the beginning; Abraham – Obedience to God leads to Jesus; Joseph – God uses our circumstances to bring out our best for Jesus; Job – Following Jesus is not always easy but we are rewarded for our faith; Samuel – God sent Jesus to bring His word to all people in person; Isaiah – Even when we face challenges, Jesus is there to protect us.