

Hello Friend,

Mike’s Reflection Before Retirement

After 14 years serving as the Executive Director for the House of the Carpenter, I would like to share a few thoughts with everyone. First, it has been my great privilege to serve in this capacity. For me, here is where the teachings of Jesus are embodied. We are called to care for our neighbors, and when they tell us they feel loved, respected, safe and hopeful, we are fulfilling our mission. There are many moments etched in my mind my first day to now, I could not mention all of them, but I wanted to share a few.

- The first time I watched the students at Madison Elementary play on the new playground. They watched every moment of construction and exploded with joy on the day it was theirs to play on.
- The day I was in Madison Elementary School when the weekend backpacks were distributed. A little girl came into the office clutching an orange and a banana. She told me those were her favorite things and she was holding them tight because they did not have fruit at home because it was so expensive. Never has a banana looked so important as it did on that day.
- As flood waters rose in 2024, the HOC posted that we needed help and dozens of volunteers showed up to empty our first floor, to unload and distribute cleaning supplies, shovels along with other supplies, to help feed those who were busy cleaning up and the number of times we prayed with our neighbors who were overwhelmed especially when the waters returned the following weekend.
- The admiration of every youth who has gone through the Pathways to Success Program. I cannot express the joy when I see them employed in a variety of fields, active in apprenticeships, technical schools and in college. Their success fills all of us with hope.



I could tell stories for days about the marvelous work being done by the staff and volunteers of the House of the Carpenter. I am thankful to everyone who has donated, volunteered, told the story and served on staff. You make the House of the Carpenter a place of hope and I am thankful to have played a small part in the work that we do together.

The Rev. Mike and Denise Linger Trust in support of the House of the Carpenter has been established at the United Methodist Foundation in Charleston, WV. Many people are unaware of the time Denise volunteered at the House of the Carpenter in a variety of ways. They have been a strong team in service to our neighbors in need. The Trust will provide annual support to the House of the Carpenter for the work of the ministry. If you would like to recognize the work they have done, you can contribute to the Trust by sending a donation to the House of the Carpenter or to the United Methodist Foundation marked “Linger Trust” and it will be invested for the long-term work of the House of the Carpenter.

Thrift Store Stories



When you enter the House of the Carpenter through the double doors on the river side of the building, you enter the Thrift Store. Nestled among the racks of clothes, household items and furniture, there are people shopping to improve the quality of life for themselves and their children. It seems everyone knows it is there, but we often underappreciate the impact it is making. We want to share a few stories with you.

Summer Work Teams

Can you imagine being confined to a wheelchair and not being able to leave your home for 18 years? This was the situation our summer work teams encountered while building a handicap accessibility ramp for a woman. The team worked to put the ramp into place and was able to share her joy as she traversed the ramp and was outside the confines of her home.

Sometimes, the joy is indescribable. Our summer work teams will be at it again this year providing the opportunity for people to have safe access into and out of their homes. Currently, the HOC has multiple ramp requests. Our summer teams will be able to provide many of them, but there will always be some left over. If you would like to help outside of the summer, please reach out to Gary at gbryant@houseofthecarpenter.com.



Nourish to Flourish Weekend Backpack Program



The *Nourish to Flourish* Weekend Backpack Program was launched in September 2024 to address food insecurity among all nine elementary schools in Ohio County, West Virginia.

Lead agency and fiscally managed by the United Way of the Upper Ohio Valley and administered by the House of the Carpenter, this initiative delivers backpacks filled with nutritious, shelf-stable food to students, ensuring consistent access to meals over weekends and school breaks during the school year.

During the 2024-2025 school year, 820 students were served every weekend and holiday. This will continue until the end of this academic year. Ohio County provides meals to students during the summer months at various locations around the County.

The program will expand to Marshall County elementary schools for the upcoming school year with support from generous local private foundations. In addition all middle schools and high schools in Ohio and Marshall Counties will receive support to open or to continue to provide a snack and hygiene closet at each school. **Watch for announcements on how you can become a donor or a corporate sponsor to this much needed program.**

PUBLIC WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS



SUNDAYS	MONDAYS	TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS	FRIDAYS	SATURDAYS
	FOOD PANTRY OPEN: 9AM-3PM THRIFT STORE OPEN: 9AM-3PM AA MEETING: 12PM-1PM	THRIFT STORE OPEN: 9AM-6:30PM FOOD PANTRY OPEN: 4:30M-6:30PM CARDIO DRUMMING: 5:30PM-6:30PM	FOOD PANTRY OPEN: 9AM-3PM THRIFT STORE OPEN: 9AM-3PM AA MEETING: 12PM-1PM SMART RECOVERY: 6PM-7PM	THRIFT STORE OPEN: 9AM-3PM	FOOD PANTRY OPEN: 9AM-3PM THRIFT STORE OPEN: 9AM-3PM	AA MEETING: 10AM-11:30AM

To help with any of the programs above, please click the "Donate Today" button below. For more information on making a planned gift or estate gift, please contact Mike Linger at 304.233.4640 or email mlinger@houseofthecarpenter.com.

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