

A glance at Huron United Methodist Church's roots

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Huron United Methodist Church's mission to share God's word dates back more than 150 years. "As early as 1864, Evangelical families organized prayer meetings in the homes and storefronts of Huron," the church's website states. Their goal was to share their faith with German-speaking immigrants. "These families built the current structure in 1875. Boardwalks bore up the feet of the faithful and those traveling by horse tethered their animals to the hitching posts. In the next 100 years, the church facilities were blessed with continued improvements: stained glass windows, organs, parlor annex, an on-site parsonage, and many other memorial gifts."

Non-facility changes to the church came soon after. "The congregation also changed name twice, the first being with the merger of Evangelical Church with the United Brethren in Christ Church to form the Evangelical United Brethren Church, or E.U.B, in 1946. In 1967, our E.U.B. church merged with Aldersgate Methodist Church, to form the current Huron United Methodist Church, possibly the first merger of these two denominations in the nation.

A year before the merger in 1966, Huron United Methodist's educational wing and adjoining fellowship hall were dedicated for the church's a growing congregation. With the new millennium, the church established "a Vision 2000 team whose goals were to assess the needs of our church and make recommendations for well-managed growth in accordance with our mission," according to the website. An 8 a.m. worship service with folk music was added as a second service. A 10 a.m. service with an organ and choir was offered for years. More permanent improvements were made in later years, like adding several Sunday school rooms, a nursery for child care, a balcony in the sanctuary, a youth lounge and fellowship hall.

Get to know Huron United Methodist Church

Address: 338 Williams St.

Phone: 419-433-3984

Website: huronumc.org

Facebook page: Huron United Methodist Church ([@huronumc](https://www.facebook.com/huronumc))

The three pearls of greater Sandusky

By FRANK R. SATULLO
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Provided photos

ABOVE: Merry-Go-Round Museum.



RIGHT: Maritime Museum.



BELOW: Back to the Wild.

(Editor's note: This is an excerpt from a past edition of OhioTraveler)

Lake Erie shores and islands region is known for roller coasters and waterslides but within this oyster of fun are the three pearls of greater Sandusky.

If you want to spend a day away from lines and ruckus at the major attractions, slip away and experience some little treasures. Anyone can feel seven again at The Merry-Go-Round Museum. Go Back to the Wild and learn how injured animals are being rehabilitated.

And end the day with something synonymous with this coastal town's past — the Maritime Museum of Sandusky.

n The Merry-Go-Round Museum is housed in a building with a round façade that looks like it was made for it. But it's actually the old post office. Walk inside and there are giant postage stamp replicas on the wall picturing carousel animals. Below them are the identical and original carousel animals depicted in the actual stamps circulated in 1988.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the museum, so to commemorate it is featuring a rare menagerie of scarcely seen carousel animals from several nationally known private collections. The exhibit is — "Wild!" The postage stamp pieces are part of this treasured collection.

At the heart of the museum is a historic carousel still offering guests rides. It is a restored 1939 Allan Herschell carousel originally from North Tonawanda, New York. Without any of its original pieces, it was populated with figures from the museum's collection and loaned pieces from private collections.

The real treat at this unusual museum is watching the woodcarvers at work crafting new pieces or breathing new life into antiques. Each piece has a fascinating history which is precisely why this pearl of Sandusky is also known as the Museum of Carousel Art and History.

The Merry-Go-Round Museum is located at 301 Jackson St. in Sandusky. Open year round, admission is \$6/adult, \$5/senior and \$4/child ages 4-14.

Okay, a morning filled with learning about carousel animals leads to an afternoon of learning to make real animals better. And there's no better treat than that.

n Time to go Back to The Wild®.

This is not an animal attraction. Rather it is where you go to learn about the great work done by a past recipient of Animal Planet/Discovery Channel's National Hero of The Year award.

Her name is Mona Rutger.

What started in a barn is now a world-class mission that has returned more than 24,000 injured or abandoned animals back to the wild.

Unfortunately, every animal is not able to go back to the wild, so Mona and her volunteers partner with these creatures to bring awareness, appreciation and respect for our natural world to more than 70,000 people every year. In the past 20 years, they have provided approximately 7,500 educational programs to nearly one million people.

Mona says that the thrill of releasing a wildling back into the wild and being able to play a part in opening a child's eyes to the wonders of nature, are two of the most rewarding parts of everyday life. But her mission is not easy.

Animals nursed back to health include hawks, eagles, owls, raccoons, squirrels, fox, deer, songbirds, snakes, turtles, frogs, salamanders and a variety of herons just to name a sampling.

Perhaps more amazing than the miracles seen at Back to the Wild is the fact that this impressive undertaking is made possible through funding by donations only. There is no other assistance of any kind.

The expanse of the grounds includes a spacious song bird aviary, several raptor flight cages, mammal rehabilitation enclosures, insulated winter quarters, wetland facility, clinic, barn storage and workshop, indoor viewing room and a whole lot more.

Important features that should not be without mention are the handicapfriendly woodland walkways to the wildflowers, amphitheater, wetlands, eagle and songbird exhibits.

Back to the Wild® is located nearby in Castalia. To plan a visit, call Mona at 419-684-9539.

From Back to the Wild to back in time — maritime!

The Maritime Museum of Sandusky interprets the area's rich history of boat building, shipping and fishing industries, shipwrecks, recreational watercraft, ice harvesting, and even the boats of Sandusky's Underground Railroad.

The museum is chockfull-of interactivity featuring video shorts and computer simulations at every turn.

Locate and learn about the many shipwrecks in the area, rock a real boat and steer into the waters leading to Cedar Point through the windshield on the screen in front of you, or learn about the world's largest market for freshwater fish and largest producer of natural ice west of the Hudson River.

The voyage starts with an intriguing 18-minute video inside the museum's own theater. The main museum allows for more audio-visual as well as hands-on experiences throughout.

Artifacts and models featured in exhibits include a ship's brass telegraph and two-story replica of the Cedar Point Lighthouse.

But there's more than just the main museum. Boats are actively being refurbished as seen in the indoor restoration area. An outdoor display features a 1967 fireboat and in The Garage features a historic collection of outboard motors.

The museum offers many programs on and off-site. There are opportunities to build model boats and learn to tie a variety of rope knots at two of the museum's learning stations. With the anniversary of the Civil War, Sandusky's connection to the Underground Railroad will be examined.

Learn about the boats used by abolitionists and how they were used to transport escaped slaves to Canada. Some special events planned in the coming months include Pirates on Lake Erie.

The Maritime Museum of Sandusky is located at 125 Meigs St. in Sandusky. Open year round, admission is \$4/adult, \$3/senior and \$3/ child and \$8/family.

Visit Lake Erie Shores and Islands Welcome Center at 4424 Milan Road in Sandusky, to learn about the three pearls of greater Sandusky and more.