

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Day Events & Volunteer Opportunities

The opportunities below are on Monday, January 20, unless noted otherwise. This information was gathered prior to January 2. Please confirm the event is taking place before attending.

AKRON/CANTON AREA

Winter Blast Back to School at South Street Ministries in Akron

South Street Ministries (a mission Advance partner of EOC UMC) will host a backpack, coat, and school supply give-away for the community on the morning of MLK Day. If you want to volunteer, please fill-out the form at <https://southstreetministries.org/volunteer/>.

Akron Urban League MLK Day Breakfast at the Hilton Akron/Fairlawn at 7:30 a.m.

The Akron Urban League invites you to join in honoring the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at its annual MLK breakfast. This special event will also commemorate the League's Centennial Celebration, marking 100 years of service and commitment to the Akron community. This is a ticketed event. Learn more and register online at <https://www.akronurbanleague.org/events/save-the-date-january-20-2025-is-akron-urban-leagues-annual-rev-drmartin-luther-king-jr-breakfast/>.

Celebrating Black Stories at the Akron Art Museum from 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

View artwork with a specially designed gallery guide, spend time with friends and family in Open Studio, and pop into the auditorium to enjoy the New York International Children's Film Festival's Celebrating Black Stories short films. The event is free but online registration is recommended at <https://akronartmuseum.org/media/events/free-admission-for-martin-luther-king-jr-day/>.

CLEVELAND AREA

Letters from a Birmingham Jail on January 18 at 3:00 p.m. at Nottingham UMC

Nottingham UMC in partnership with The Arts Factory will present the play *Letters from a Birmingham Jail*. Tickets are \$8 at the door and refreshments will be served after the play. If you have questions about the event, please e-mail Debbie at bobgibbon@aol.com.

MLK Day Speech Reading Competition on January 18 at noon at Cleveland Mt. Pleasant UMC

For students in grades 3-6, no memorization is required. Cash prizes will be awarded on January 20 at 9:00 a.m. at Cleveland St. Paul UMC. If you have questions about the event, please e-mail Tina Johnson at tinading63@gmail.com.

MLK Day Community Open House & Day of Music at Severance Hall in Cleveland from 11:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Celebrate the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with free family-friendly community performances and activities featuring a variety of ensembles live from Severance's Mandel Concert Hall and Reinberger Chamber Hall. No registration is required. View details online at <https://www.clevelandorchestra.com/attend/seasons-and-series/2025-26/mlk-day-of-music-2025/>.

MLK Day Celebration at The Cleveland Museum of Art from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

The museum opens its doors for a free, day-long celebration honoring Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Explore how the moving passages of Dr. King's writings and speeches shed light on the museum's collection and create a work of art inspired by his legacy. View details online at <https://www.clevelandart.org/events/martin-luther-king-jr-day-celebration-0>.

MLK Day Convocation at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland on January 24 at 12:45 p.m.

This year's moderated conversation will be given by the Honorable Valerie Jarrett, chief executive officer of The Barack Obama Foundation. The event is free but online registration is recommended at <https://case.edu/events/featured-events/martin-luther-kingjr-celebration>.

The Maltz Museum, The Great Lakes Science Center, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame will each offer free admission on January 20. Please visit their websites for details on special MLK events.

DELAWARE AREA

Children's MLK Day Event at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware on January 19 from 2:00-3:00 p.m.

For children in Pre-K through 3rd grade to learn who Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was and why he was important. After the reading, children will be invited to complete a related coloring activity. The event is free, and no registration is required. View event details online at

<https://www.owu.edu/calendars/details/ross-art-museum-mlk-day-celebration/2025-01-19/>.

"Growing Towards Justice: From Root to Fruit" at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware from 10:00-11:45 a.m.

Dr. Valerie Lee will be the keynote speaker at the 2025 Delaware County Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration. Dr. Lee is a retired English professor and former chief diversity officer and vice provost of Diversity and Inclusion at The Ohio State University. She also chaired the university's English, Women's Studies, and African American and African Studies departments. Her book *Sisterlocking Discourse: Race, Gender, and the Twenty-First-Century Academy* was a finalist for the 2021 Foreword INDIES Book of the Year Award. This is a ticketed event. View event details and register online at www.owu.edu/MLK.

MLK Day Open House at the Ohio History Center in Columbus from noon-4:00 p.m.

In partnership with The King Arts Complex, join in the annual MLK Day Open House on the observance of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday to explore the impact of his life and legacy. This annual community event is an excellent opportunity for people of all ages to enjoy musical and live theatrical performances, learn about the Civil Rights Movement, participate in art activities, tour the Ohio History Center, and meet new friends. The event is free but online registration is recommended at recommended.: <https://www.ohiohistory.org/events/mlk-day-open-house/>.

YOUNGSTOWN AREA

MLK Day Community Worship at Christ Centered Church in Youngstown on January 19 at 3:30 p.m.

The guest speaker will be Rev. Dr. Chris McKee. The event is free, and no registration is required.

MLK Day Community Workshop at First Presbyterian Church in Youngstown at 8:30 a.m.

The topic will be "Saving Our Democracy." The event is free, and no registration is required.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Please call or e-mail the individuals listed to learn about volunteering on MLK Day.

Flat Rock Homes in Flat Rock, OH (a Health & Well-Being partner of EOC UMC)

E-mail Sherri Buehl at <mailto:sbuehl@flatrockhomes.org> or call her at (330) 289-9234.

Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland (a Health & Well-Being partner of EOC UMC)

E-mail Robyn Dimacchia at robynd@nehemiahmission.org.

Gifted Gaits in Quaker City (a mission Advance partner of EOC UMC)

E-mail Janet Muffet at giftedgaitsinc@gmail.com.