Dear Friends,

This month I am using this space to talk about a few different items that I hope you will find helpful.

1. I will be starting the study of the book “Holding Up Your Corner” by F. Willis Johnson. We will be meeting at the District Office starting on March 20 at 11:30 am. Bring your lunch and we will talk while we eat together. You can see more about this in our District’s Weekly Bulletin or our February monthly newsletter. We have the books at the District Office and will be happy to get them to you if you just contact us there.

2. I am very excited to share that we will be welcoming Rev. Matt Miofsky to the Leipsic Leadership Series this year on April 1 at the Leipsic Church. Matt is the founding pastor of The Gathering UMC in St Louis. This is a congregation that was planted in a church building of a congregation that had died in urban St Louis. Matt was able to lead this new church start to where now it is a multi-site congregation that is averaging over 1000 people per weekend. He will be sharing the story of what God is doing in this ground-breaking ministry and about the need for us, as leaders, to think strategically about our communities and how to reach them. This is a wonderful opportunity for us, so I encourage you to make time for this day with Matt Miofsky. If you want to check out their web site it is: www.gatheringnow.org.

3. Coming up, there are great training opportunities for lay servants that are open to anyone. Anyone is welcome to come and take advantage of these. Information is available in our weekly Bulletin. http://www.northwestplainsdistrict.org/sites/default/files/district/northwestplains/documents/pdf/page/nwp-weekly-bulletin-february-22-2017.pdf

4. And then, the final thing I want to talk about is, that after many years of faithfully serving first the Defiance District and then the Northwest Plains District with grace, Sandy Pergram has decided that it is time for her to retire. So, she will be retiring at the end of March. I know that she really does not want any recognition, but I want to be sure to say just how much she is truly appreciated. I know that I have been so grateful for the way she has fulfilled her job here with wisdom and humility. I have benefitted so much from the years of experience that she has brought to this office and District, and I will miss her steady influence in the ministry of our office. Words alone, cannot adequately express my gratitude! I celebrate with her and trust that she will enjoy her retirement. Sandy will still be around the office on occasions when we will need her help, But I know you will want to join me in praying for her and her husband in this transition to a new chapter in their lives.

God bless you now as we faithfully serve Christ here in Northwest Ohio.

Peace!

Rev. Barry Burns
Northwest Plains District Superintendent

Northwest Plains District United Methodist Church
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Ottawa, OH 45875

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Website: www.northwestplainsdistrict.org
Like us on Facebook!
How can you and your congregation find focus, in prayer, in worship, in unity?
How will God use you this month, to pray for and lead towards kingdom life?

As Lent kicks off on March 1, we often shift our liturgical practices to focus on spiritual disciplines and self-denial. This season of preparation before Easter invites examination of the distance between ourselves and God, considering the sins that draw us away from holiness. Take time this Lent to practice confession and pardon, both as a community and in our private prayers. Try it with:

- Writing sins to leave at the altar or destroy as a part of God's cleansing act of forgiveness.
- Praying together at each worship time the confession prayers found in the UM Hymnal.
- Practice meditating each day on "what we have done and what we have left undone".
- Use a calendar to keep track of your focus and your daily forgiveness. (See 2017 templates here [http://prayingincolor.com/lenten-calendar-templates-2017](http://prayingincolor.com/lenten-calendar-templates-2017))
- Read Psalm 51 as a prayer, private or corporate. Journal or draw in response to your sins and your own need for God.
- Prayer walk your neighborhood or your church building as you pray for penitent hearts and forgiveness in every place you set your foot.

**Join me in prayer this month:**
Holy God, You know our brokenness, our sins, our hurts. You know our lives, our choices, our consequences. Forgive us, God of mercy. Heal us, God of strength. Restore us, God of redeeming love. Grant us the courage to repent and the grace to extend forgiveness to others. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

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**All In Community Life Builders Information Meeting**

**March 4, 2017, 10–11:30AM, Gilboa UMC**

Cost: Free
Co-Sponsored by WOC and NWP

Change a life inside. Change a family's future. Change a community. You can do all of these by becoming a Life Builders mentor at Allen-Oakwood Correction Institution (men) or Ohio Reformatory for Women this spring. Life Builders is the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction’s (ODRC) evidence-based, faith-based mentoring program. All In Community is partnering with Life Builders as a way to reach into the lives of ODRC residents living in our West Ohio Conference Districts.

Gary Croft, Faith-Based Initiatives Coordinator for the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, will be on hand to provide an overview of the Life Builders Program. Come see if you want to join our UMC mentoring group from Gilboa UMC, St. Mark's UMC (Lima), and Westminster UMC as we go All In together! You never know how God will use an hour of your time to make a difference over the lifetime of another. See you March 4th!

**Register today!**
Peace Like a River: Finding Life within the Flow of Grace.

Feeling tired? Burnt out? Like you're always trying to swim upstream? Wasn’t ministry supposed to be filled with joy and delight? Why is it so hard? On our retreat day, we’ll spend time reconnecting with the source of our life with God. We’ll find sustaining grace flowing all around us, lifting us up and carrying us into a greater sense of peace as beloved children of God, which is our first and most important identity in Christ, and far more important than all the layers of expectation that go along with the role of pastor. Experience God through a variety of practices—worship, prayer, reflection, conversation, drawing, even eating. Come to the waters, and find your life renewed within the flow of grace.

YOUR DAY APART BEGINS WITH...

9:45am - Check-in
10:00 - Music and Worship
10:20 - Teaching 1 - Acceptance
11:00 - Teaching 2 - Sustenance
12:00pm - Lunch
12:30 - Teaching 3 - Significance
1:15 - Teaching 4 - Grace-filled Living
2:15 - Closing Communion
2:45-3:15- Stations open for additional prayer time

Rev. Dr. Tom Rand poured out his heart for the church and found modest success amidst mammoth disappointments. Stepping out of ministry for a Sabbatical, he found more questions than answers about how he was living his life and ordering his ministry, kicking off a journey of spiritual renewal in which he found himself keeping company with people like South African pastor Trevor Hudson, philosopher Dallas Willard, spiritual guide Ruth Haley Barton, as well as some of the great saints of our deep tradition, including C.S. Lewis, Susanna Wesley, Thomas Kelly, Madame Guyon and John of the Cross. This great cloud of witnesses helped him discover that believing in grace is different from living by it. He now lives his life with God among the people of Sylvania First United Methodist Church.

http://www.northwestplainsdistrict.org/district/northwestplains/event/nwp-clergy-day-apart

You may also E-mail or phone in your registration
nwplains@wocumc.org  |  800.589.7828
Henderson Settlement
A mission agency of the United Methodist Church within the Red Bird Missionary Conference

NORTHWEST PLAINS DISTRICT UMC
MISSION TRIP TO HENDERSON SETTLEMENT
Sunday, May 7—Saturday, May 13, 2017
BE A PART OF A MISSION PROJECT! DON’T MISS OUT! GET ON BOARD!

Where is Henderson Settlement? HS is near the Kentucky/Tennessee border about 35 miles east of Interstate 75.

What is the schedule? Participants need to be at Henderson Settlement before the 7:00 PM orientation on Sunday, May 7. (Eat your evening meal before arrival.) Everyone will depart for home after breakfast on Saturday, May 13.

What will we be doing? There will be construction/maintenance crews (ladies welcome). There is also work to be done in the greenhouse, library, food pantry, senior center and community store.

What is the cost? $360/person with accommodations in the mission dorm. $440/person for more private housing (Baldinger Dorm, Zuki house). (3 meals Monday–Friday and breakfast Saturday.) Travel and food to and from Henderson Settlement is the responsibility of the participant. No additional insurance is available – your own insurance is the only insurance in effect.

What is to be expected? Weather – hot to cool, rain possible. Be prepared. Clothing – work clothes. Area – 50%+ unemployment, coal mining, forestry, mountainous

How do I sign up? Complete and return the registration form with your deposit of $50/person by March 10. Remaining balance due by April 14.

Please make check payable to: Northwest Plains District – Henderson Mission Trip. Send check and registration to: Northwest Plains District Office, 910 East 3rd St., Ottawa, OH 45875.

For more information, contact Ruth Pease at 260.402.1888.

A planning meeting for all registered participants will be held to determine who is driving/riding and to answer all other questions. This meeting will be on Sunday, April 30, 2:00 pm at Trinity UMC, 220 S. Walnut St., Van Wert, OH 45891.

**Henderson Settlement Mission Trip Registration May 7—13, 2017**

Name(s) ________________________________________________________________________________________
(First and Last Names)

Address:__________________________________________City/State/Zip:__________________________________

Telephone________________________________________E-Mail:__________________________________________

Church name _____________________________________________________________________________________

Work area interest:________________________________________________________________________________
(Construction/maintenance, electrical, plumbing, painting, gardening, etc.)
County Breakfast/Lunch Gatherings for Clergy

April/May

**Tuesday, April 4**
8:30 am  Hancock County  Scrambler Marie's, 516 S. Main St., Findlay
11:30 am  Allen County  Old Barn Out Back, 3175 W. Elm St., Lima

**Wednesday, April 5**
8:30 am  Auglaize County  R J's Coffey Cup, 901 Defiance St., Wapakoneta
11:30 am  Mercer County  Orchard Tree, 501 Grand Lake Rd., Celina

**Thursday, May 4**
8:30 am  Williams County  Four Seasons, 233 S. Main St., Bryan
11:30 am  Defiance County  Sherwood UMC, 512 Harrison St., Sherwood

**Tuesday, May 23**
8:30 am  Putnam County  Henry's 810 N. Locust St., Ottawa

**Wednesday, May 17**
8:30 am  Van Wert County  VW Hospital, 1250 S. Washington St., Van Wert
11:30 am  Paulding County  Fiesta Habaneros, 209 N. Williams St., Paulding

**Thursday, May 18**
9:00 am  Hardin County  Henry's, 995 N. Detroit St., Kenton
11:30 am  Wyandot County  East of Chicago Pizza, 200 S. Sandusky Ave., Upper Sandusky

If My People Pray
Leading a Breakthrough Prayer Initiative in Your Church
March 25, 2017 ~ 8:30am-3:00pm
Mt. Blanchard UMC, 204 S. Main St., Mt. Blanchard

Presenter: Rev. Jason Wellman
For: Pastors and Laity (We encourage teams from local churches and their pastors.)
Cost: $10 per person or $40 for a group of five or more (continental breakfast, snack, and lunch included)

Here is a synopsis: 2 Chronicles 7:14 says that if God’s people earnestly seek Him through prayer, God performs amazing feats. Sadly, most churches isolate prayer to a pastoral prayer in worship or to some sort of prayer chain.

This training session will give you practical tools to begin a creative prayer movement within your congregation that will unleash the Holy Spirit in ways your congregation never imagined.

Rev. Jason Wellman, Senior Pastor of Scioto Ridge United Methodist Church in Hilliard, OH, launched a breakthrough prayer movement in his congregation that has resulted in lives transformed for the glory of God. Learn from his experiences, passion for prayer, as well as mistakes he has learned along the way.

Pastors, bring a team from your church to join you at this important training.

Please register by March 22 | Email: mbumcoffice@gmail.com | Phone: 419.694.3245
Payments may be sent to: Mt. Blanchard UMC, Prayer Workshop 204 S. Main St., PO Box 311, Mt. Blanchard, OH 45867

We will also take payments at the door.
Understanding Men’s Ministry Seminar

Starting & Growing Men’s Ministry
Friday, April 21 (7-9pm) - Saturday, April 22 (8am-4pm)
Camp Widewater, 4050 Old US 24, Liberty Center, OH

No Man Left Behind is a step-by-step plan to starting and reviving men’s ministry in the local church.

Cost: $65 includes meals, lodging & workbook.

You must purchase and read, “No Man Left Behind” prior to attending this seminar.

Register online by April 14.
http://www.maumeewatershed.org/district/maumeewatershed/event/understanding-mens-ministry-seminar

March 23 Clergy Day Apart—Peace for Our Souls Rev. Dr. Thomas Rand, presenter
April 1 Leipsic Leadership Series, Matt Miofsky, presenter
April 1 Lay Servant Training—Finding Your Spiritual Gifts, Rev. Debbie Kaylor, presenter
April 1 Lay Servant Training-Leading A Disciplined Life, Rev. Dr. AK Hoover, presenter
April 1 Lay Servant Training-Stewardship As A Life Style, Rev. Amy Haines, presenter
April 1 Lay Servant Training-Lay Servants Lead in Worship, Rev. Vernagaye Sullivan, presenter
April 24-25 Clergy & Laity Spiritual Formation Retreat, Spiritual Disciplines for the 21st Century, Sister Kathleen Flood, presenter
June 4-7 West Ohio Annual Conference
July 22 Lay Servant Training-Now What Do I Do?, Rev. Herb Welker, presenter
July 22 Lay Servant Training-Drugs and Human Trafficking, Rev. Dr. Thomas Holmes, presenter
October 21 Basic Lay Servant Training—Part 1, NWP Lay Ministries Team
October 21 Go Preach—Part 1, Rev. David Chivington, presenter
October 21 Pastoral Care, Ms. Lynn Pease, presenter
October 28 Basic Lay Servant Training-Part 2, NWP Lay Ministries Team
October 28 Go Preach—Part 2, Rev. David Chivington, presenter

Call the district office or check out the website for details and registration.
2017 CONNECTIONAL GIVING
MOVING FULL STEAM AHEAD

100% Conference Giving
Crawford
Elida Zion
Erastus
Kossuth Zion
Landfair
Middle Point
Otterbein
Willshire Union

On track with Conference Giving (16% or more as of 2/23/17)
Alger First
Chattanooga
Continental United
Countryside Chapel
Delphos Trinity
Edon
Elida Immanuel
Elida St. Paul
Evansport
Farmer
Findlay Zion
Fort Recovery
Friends
Grand Lake
Grover Hill Zion
Kenton First
Lima Family of Faith
Lima Forest Park
Lima Trinity
Lima Westside
Mendon
Mt. Blanchard
Mt Zion (Hardin Co.)
Ney
North Creek
Oakdale
Ridgeway
Rockport
Salem (Wyandot Co.)
St. Marys Grace
St. Marys Wayne Street
Twin Oaks
Uniopolis
Vanlue Christ
Westminster
Wharton Big Oak
Wms Center Calvary

100% District Giving
Arcadia
Bryan Faith
Crawford
Elida Zion
Erastus
Fort Recovery
Gilboa
Grover Hill Zion
Hamilton Bethel
Harrod
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Kossuth Zion
Landfair
Liberty Chapel
Lima Forest Park
Melbern
Melrose
Middle Creek
Middle Point
Mt. Blanchard
Mt. Zion (Hardin Co.)
New Knoxville
Otterbein
Rinehart
Rockport
Salem (Wyandot Co.)
Trinity Evangelical
Twin Oaks
Wapakoneta First
Wapakoneta Salem
Wharton
Wms Center Asbury
Wms Center Calvary
Willshire Union

On track with District Giving (16% or more as of 2/23/17)
Ada First
Alger First
Allentown
Antwerp
Bethel Forder Bridge
Bryan Wesley
Carey Grace
Carey Memorial
Celina Bethany
Chattanooga
Continental Christ
Continental United
Cridersville
Delphos St. Paul
Delphos Trinity
Edon
Elida Immanuel
Elida St. Paul
Evansport
Farmer
Findlay East Mt. Zion
Findlay Howard
Findlay Journey at Christ
Findlay St. Andrew’s
Findlay St. Marks
Findlay St. Paul’s
Friends
Grant
Hepburn
Hicksville Grace
Kenton Epworth
Kenton First
Leipsic
Lima Family of Faith
Lima Trinity
Lima Westside
Mark Center
McComb
Mendon
Mt. Cory
Mt. Tabor
Mt. Zion (Paulding Co.)
Ney
North Creek
Oakdale
Ohio City
Pleasant Chapel
Rawson New Hope
Ridgeway
Rockford
Shawnee
Sherwood
St. Marys Grace
St. Marys Wayne Street
Uniopolis
Van Wert First
Van Wert Wesley
Vanlue Christ
Vaugnsville Community
Walnut Grove (Aug. Co.)
West Independence
Westminster
Wharton Big Oak
NWP has openings for Lay Members At-Large to Annual Conference

Every year each District has a number of openings for the election of additional lay members to the Annual Conference. These additional lay members come from the heart of our United Methodist congregations. We invite you, the laity in our churches to consider offering your name to represent our District at Annual Conference. Our goal is to have a diverse group of individuals to represent our district. This means that we will do our best to be diverse in respect to ethnicity, age, demographic context (rural, urban, suburban, small membership church, large membership church) and more. If you are interested in serving in this capacity please contact the district office.

nwplains@wocumc.org | 1.800.589.7828.

Daylight saving Time Begins March 12
Set your clocks forward one hour!

Northwest Plains Compass
The Northwest Plains Compass is published monthly. News releases relating to the Compass should be emailed to: nwplains@wocumc.org or mailed to: Northwest Plains Compass, Northwest Plains District United Methodist Church, 910 E. Third St., Ottawa, OH 45875.