IN THIS ISSUE
Spring Conference
Weekly Prayer
Let Us Remember In Prayer
Clergy/Laity Retreat Postponed
Clergy Gatherings
Henderson Mission Trip
Emmaus/Chrysalis
Local Church & Community Events
WOConnection and Beyond
Resources
Classifieds

ARE YOU CONNECTED WITH YOUR DISTRICT?
Visit our website!
Contact us!
Like us on Facebook!

Save the date!
Northwest Plains District
Spring Conference
Sunday, May 21, 3:00 pm
Trinity United Methodist Church
137 N. Pratt St., Ottawa

All pastors, lay members, district at-large members, and lay persons are invited to participate in this year’s District Spring Conference.

Gathering time begins at 2:30 pm, allowing participants to meet one another and build relationships with others from across the Northwest Plains. The District Conference will begin at 3:00 pm.

During the Conference, we will worship together, recognize graduates, those being commissioned, first-time licenses for local pastors, newly certified candidates, transitions and retirements. We will also approve our district leadership teams and our 2018 budget, present the pre-annual conference briefing, reviewing the recommendations that will be voted on.

Clergy and Lay Members of Annual Conference are especially encouraged to attend.

Conference business should conclude by 4:45 pm.

A time for fellowship and light refreshments will follow giving everyone the opportunity to bid farewell to those who are retiring and transitioning to new appointments. No RSVP required.
Jesus, You are the Great Physician who can heal any and all maladies internally and externally. And You have the power to forgive all sin. Keep us close to You so that we may always be close to Your tender care. Amen.

Let us remember in prayer those grieving the loss of their loved one, and remember in thanksgiving the life and ministry of:

Mrs. Jeanette Lyttle died on March 27, 2017. She is survived by her husband, Rev. Ben Lyttle Jr., who is a retired pastor from The West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church. Together they served the following churches: Village Park; East Linden; South Point; New Lebanon; Ohio Avenue; Van Wert Bethel-North Union; Toledo Calvary; Manchester; Antioch; Spring Valley; and Helena Shiloh. Jeanette is also survived by her mother, Marcella K. Emrick; brother, Jeffrey (Kay) Emrick; nieces Melissa (Russell) Emrick, and Heather (Brian) Peddicord; great-niece Isabella Hope; and great-nephews, Rhys and Grayson. She was preceded in death by her father, Bill E. Emrick.

Obituary. A service of celebration was held on April 1, 2017. You can send condolences online by clicking here.

Northwest Plains District United Methodist Church

Clergy & Laity Spiritual Retreat

April 24-25, 2017

The Spiritual Center of Maria Stein
“The Retreat House”
# 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

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**Reminders!**

- We have a few churches that have not submitted their End of Year Reports. The deadline for submission was February 10th. Questions, please call Jack Frost at 800.437.0028 Ext. 219.

- The mail-in deadline for the Local Church Fund Balance/Audit Report was April 1st.

- The annual Clergy Evaluation is due to the District Superintendent by June 1st.

- 2017 Standard Mileage Rate is 53.5 cents for business miles driven.

- We are still in need of a few District At-Large Members to Annual Conference. If you are interested in representing the Northwest Plains District at the 2017 West Ohio Annual Conference, June 4-7 at Lakeside, please call the district office at 800.589.7828.
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 _____________________________________________________________________________________
Housing: Mission Dorm ______________ ($360) Baldinger Dorm, Zuki House ($440) ___________
Work area interest: _____________________________________________________________________________
(Construction/maintenance, electrical, plumbing, painting, gardening, etc.)
Emmaus Events

Findlay Emmaus Gathering (on the third Tuesday)
Tuesday, April 20, 7 pm
St Marks UMC
800 S. Main St., Findlay | 419.422.4236
http://www.findlayemmaus.org/

Sidney Emmaus Gathering (on the second Tuesday)
Tuesday, April 11, 7 pm
First UMC
230 E. Poplar St., Sidney | 937.492.9136
http://www.sidneyemmaus.org/

NW Ohio Emmaus Gathering (on the fourth Saturday)
Saturday, April 22, 6:30 pm
Delta UMC
101 Northwood Dr., Delta | 419.822.4195
http://www.nwoemmaus.com/

Emmaus Walks ~ A Journey with Christ
While they were talking and discussing. Jesus himself came near and walked with them.
- Luke 24:15

A program of the Upper Room division of the General Board Discipleship which calls forth and renews Christian discipleship. The Walk to Emmaus is a three-day experience, a highly structured weekend, which takes a New Testament look at Christianity as a life-style. The program is designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people and through them, their families, congregations, and the world.

Findlay Emmaus Walks @ St. Marks UMC, Findlay, OH
http://www.findlayemmaus.org/

Women’s Walks
Women’s Walk #101 Dates: June 8-11, 2017
Women’s Walk #102 Dates: October 12-15, 2017

Men’s Walks
Men’s Walk #77 Dates: November 2-5, 2017

Sidney Emmaus Walk @ First UMC, Sidney, OH
http://www.sidneyemmaus.org/

Women’s Walks
Women’s Walk #72 Dates: July 20-23, 2017
Women’s Walk #73 Dates: October 19-22, 2017

Men’s Walks
Men’s Walk #68 Dates: August 24-27, 2017
Men’s Walk #69 Dates: November 2-5, 2017

Bryan Emmaus Walks @ Wesley UMC, Bryan, OH
http://www.nwoemmaus.com/

Chrysalis is a three day experience of spiritual renewal open to members of any Christian denomination, ages 15 to 24. It is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way. Chrysalis is meant to inspire, challenge, and equip youth for Christian action in their homes, churches, communities and places of work.

St. Andrew’s UMC, Findlay
Girl’s Flight #49 - July 7-9, 2017
Boy’s Flight #48 - July 21-23, 2017
http://www.findlaychrysalis.org/

Greene Street UMC, Piqua
Girl’s Flight #64 July 7-9, 2017
Boy’s Flight #64 July 28-30, 2017
Local Church and Community Events

Coping After a Suicide Explored at Lifetree Café  
How to heal in the wake of a loved one’s suicide will be discussed at Lifetree Café on April 6, 7-8 pm.

The program, titled “Living After a Suicide: Finding Hope After Loved Ones Take Their Own Lives,” explores the difficult aftermath that friends and family experience after a suicide.

“It’s one of those things that if you’ve never had it in your life, you probably don’t think about it,” says Maxine Brandt, a grief outreach coordinator. “You hear about it in the news or read about it, but it doesn’t seem like a real thing.”

During the program, participants will have the opportunity to discuss how suicide has impacted their own lives.

Admission to the 60-minute event is free. Lifetree Café is located at the Bachwell Center, 116 N. Washington Street, Van Wert, OH. Please enter on Court Street and park behind the courthouse. Lifetree Café is a place where people gather for conversation about life and faith in a casual, comfortable setting. Questions about Lifetree may be directed to First United Methodist Church at 419.238.0631 or firstchurch@wcoil.com.

Topic for April 13: “Smile AWHILE. An hour of happy.”

Senior Luncheon ~ Westside United Methodist Church  
604 Gloria Drive, Lima  
Friday, April 7, 12:30 pm

Bring a covered dish to share & table service.

Michael Schoenhofer from the Mental Health Recovery Services will share "Let’s Talk", guiding parents & grandparents on how to communicate with their children and grandchildren about drugs, alcohol, suicide, and the young person's strengths.

The public is always welcome!

North Creek UMC Easter Egg Hunt  
North Creek United Methodist Church will host an Easter egg hunt on  
Saturday, April 15, 11 am at the church located at 18564 County Rd B-13, Continental, OH  
All children are welcome to attend!
**Local Church and Community Events**

**Pandora UMC presenting Easter Cantata**
The Pandora United Methodist Church Choir will be presenting their Easter Cantata, “Behold the Lamb!” on **Sunday, April 9, 9:30am** during the worship service. **The church service and refreshments in the fellowship hall afterwards are open to the public.** The choir is directed by Pat Basinger. The church is located on State Route 12 at 108 E. Washington Street in Pandora. [map](#) The Rev. Duane Kemerley is the pastor.

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**First United Methodist Youth selling TinCaps tickets**
The First United Methodist Youth (Van Wert) are selling tickets for the Thursday, June 1, 7:05 pm Fort Wayne TinCaps ballgame. TinCaps games are always family friendly with lots to do. The seats are along the third base line, there are fireworks and children can “Run the Bases” after the game. First Church is taking a local group to the game to support their youth member, Miah Katalenas. Miah is a Junior at Lincolnview High School and she will be singing the National Anthem for the game. “We are very fortunate to have a minor league baseball team so close to us and this is a great opportunity for Miah,” stated Teresa Shaffer, youth leader. Miah is a member of the Lincolnview and First Church Choirs and enjoys singing in special youth Sunday Services as well. Tickets are $10.00 each with $2.00 of each ticket sale being donated to the youth group. “We are excited for this trip and we hope that our local community will get behind Miah and support her. We also thought, what better way to raise funds for our mission work” says youth leader, Demond Johnson. First Church youth group will be doing some local mission work in Van Wert and will be taking a mission trip somewhere in the state of Ohio this summer. This will help with their expenses. You can purchase tickets at the church office and the deadline to order tickets is Sunday, May 14.

For more information about the outing to benefit the FUMC Youth Group, contact Teresa Shaffer at 419.238.0631 Ext. 307.
Local Church and Community Events

“A Matter of Balance”
Offered at Westside UMC
Family Life Center, 604 Gloria Dr., Lima
"A Matter of Balance" is a free 8-week class starting **Wednesday, April 19-June 7, 10:00 am-noon** sponsored by Area Agency on Aging 3.

Many older adults experience concerns about falling and restricting their activities.

**A MATTER OF BALANCE** is an award winning evidence-based program led by Dancie Mohler designed to manage falls and increase activity levels. This program emphasizes practical strategies to manage falls.

- To register: 419.222.7723
- Email: dmohler@psa3.org or
- Email: bcronk@midohio.twcbc.com

Journeying through the Seasons of Life
*A Caring Points Women’s Retreat at the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein*  
**map**

Friday, April 21—Saturday, April 22, 2017

Every woman’s journey with Christ is unique, changing with the vagaries of life. The bonds women forge, the deep friendships that are formed as they encourage one another along life’s way can be deep and lasting. Mentoring relationships, like mother/daughter relationships, whether biological or spiritual, can have a significant effect on our spiritual formation. Andee and Katie will guide you through exploring the highs and lows that come with life’s changing seasons, sharing the impact these relationships have had on their spiritual journeys and identities in Christ.

This special weekend retreat includes 4 meals, overnight accommodations, activities, and motor coach transportation from the Leipsic UMC to the retreat center and back. Cost is $50 per person. The bus will leave Leipsic at 2pm on Friday and return to Leipsic on Saturday around 10pm. **Space is limited and reservations are required.** Open to all women regardless of church affiliation. Deadline to register is **April 7, 2017**. If you have any questions, need further information, or would like to register, please contact Dena Weatherly at 567.644.2597.

Harpster UMC Soup and Sandwich Supper

**Wednesday, April 26**

4:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Soup, Sandwiches, Salads, Desserts.
Come and Enjoy!
17508 Cherokee Street, Harpster, OH  **map**
Handicap Accessible.

St Andrews’s Church is located at 120 W. Sandusky St., Findlay, OH. If you need more information please contact the church office at
Mission U is a diverse community of people learning to put their faith into practical action in the current world context. Offered by the West Ohio United Methodist Women, this year's Mission U will be held July 6-9 at Ohio Northern University. Here's what one of last year's participants had to say: "I come because this is one of the most important educational enterprises that the United Methodist Church has to offer. I have been coming since I was young, and every year I learn new information to take home. As United Methodist Women, a part of our purpose is to be educated. I think that Mission U has one of the most profound educational approaches of any group in the United Methodist Church." For more information on Mission U and how to register, click here http://www.westohioumc.org/conference/mission-u-0.

Understanding Starting & Growing Men's Ministry
Seminar based on the book, No Man Left Behind by Patrick Morley.
Friday, April 21 from 7-9pm, Saturday, April 22 from 8am-4pm
Cost: $65 -- includes food, workbook & lodging at Camp Widewater Liberty Center
Register no later than April 14 at: www.westohioumc.org/events/all/register

Stewardship 101 for the Smaller Church
Saturday, May 6, 2017 (Check-in begins at 9:30am) (Event 10:00am–2:30pm)
Shiloh United Methodist Church, 259 Main Street, Helena, OH 43435 map
$5.00 per person (includes lunch, refreshments and resources)
Sponsored by the West Ohio Conference Council on Development. Go to www.westohioumc.org and click on Register for Events

Who Should Attend Growing Generosity
Pastors, Finance Committee Members, Stewardship Team Leaders, Church Leaders

The smaller church has unique cultural issues to address to grow generosity. The following topics will be addressed, customized to their unique historical practices.
• Biblical foundation for giving to God
• Understanding generosity as a lifestyle
• Holistic approach to stewardship
• Modified local church year-round strategy to grow generous givers
• What is the role of the pastor?
• What is the role of the finance committee?
• Best financial practices
• Address: “But we’ve always had the money when we need it!”
• Why or why not use CD’s (Certificates of Deposit) as stewards?

For more information contact Council on Development at 800.437.0028.
Talking with God: Saying Yes to His Call
By Adam Weber

I grew up in a home filled with music. My mom started playing piano when she was three years old and played weekly in church, starting in seventh grade. Even after having kids of her own, she taught piano lessons out of our home. With her first-year students, the music wasn’t always pretty, but it often filled our home.

I loved to sing with my mom. She’d play the piano as I sat alongside her on the wooden bench and sang, “How Great Thou Art.” “In the Garden.” “Because He Lives.” We’d flip through the old Lutheran hymnal until we found a song we both liked, and then Mom would play. Read more http://tiny.cc/7eyaky

Two hymns that reflect on Holy Week symbols
What do the gospel hymns “The Old Rugged Cross” and “I Come to the Garden Alone” have in common? Each reflects on key symbols of Holy Week — the cross of Good Friday and the garden of the Resurrection. C. Michael Hawn, a professor of church music at Perkins School of Theology, compares the two hymns. Read story http://tiny.cc/7gyaky

Free webinar “Celebrating Pentecost with Children” - Thursday, April 6
Elizabeth Christie, a Christian educator with The United Methodist Church, will lead a discussion of projects, books and activities to help children and their families celebrate the birthday of the church and the arrival of the Holy Spirit. Practical Resources for Churches, an ecumenical group, offers the webinar. Details http://tiny.cc/lkyaky

Teaching children about Holy Week: Telling the whole story
By Joe Iovino

The story of Holy Week is not exactly family-friendly, but that doesn’t mean we can skip the part about Jesus’ journey to the cross when sharing our faith with our children.

“I think it’s important for parents to share the whole story of Holy Week,” says Kathy Schmucker, Spiritual Formation Director at Faith United Methodist Church in North Canton, Ohio. “Often children are in worship on Palm Sunday and then not again until Easter Sunday and they miss out on these important stories of our faith.” Read more http://tiny.cc/1nyaky

Observing Holy Week, Easter at Home
By Cindy Solomon

Holy Week and Easter traditionally provide a wealth of opportunities for remembering, meditating and celebrating at church. Cindy Solomon, writing for Interpreter, offers ideas for what families can do at home to mark this sacred time. Read story http://tiny.cc/sryaky
Lima Area Church Seeking Worship Leader
Bath Community in Lima, Ohio is looking for a worship leader for Sunday mornings and occasional special services beginning in May. Hourly pay includes rehearsals each week and Sunday mornings. Must play an instrument and work well with a praise team. If interested in a full job description or more details, contact Eric Pheneger at 419.303.1710.

Lima Area Freedom School Seeking Site Coordinator and Student Leader Interns
Lima Area Freedom School is a partnership ministry in Lima offering a summer literacy program for elementary and middle school youth. We are currently looking to hire a Site Coordinator for a new site and also a number of Student Leader Interns. The positions are all seasonal, paid positions. For more information or to apply go to our website at http://limatrinityumc.org/freedom-school.aspx or contact our Executive Director, Rev. Megan Croy at pastormegantumc@gmail.com | 419.227.0800.

Do you have news or something interesting to share? Know of anyone who would like to be added to our Weekly Bulletin e-mail list? Contact Deb via e-mail deblee@wocumc.org or call 1.800.589.7828.

When e-mailing the district staff, please use the e-mail addresses listed below:

- Rev. Barry Burns, District Superintendent: bburns@wocumc.org
- Debra Lee, Office Administrator: deblee@wocumc.org
- Kim Tumblin, Financial Secretary: ktumblin@wocumc.org