Northwest Plains District

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**ARE YOU CONNECTED WITH YOUR DISTRICT?**

Visit our website!  Contact us!  Like us on Facebook!

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**Sign Up Today!**

Northwest Plains District is offering two timely informative training events on **Saturday, July 22**, at Trinity United Methodist Church, Ottawa, Ohio.

1. Drug Abuse and Human Trafficking
2. Now What Do I Do?! (Sudden and unexpected experiences that often times catch people off guard.)

These events are not only open to Lay Servants but to **anyone** interested in learning more about these topics.

Information/registration is available on the Northwest Plains District website [www.northwestplainsdistrict.org](http://www.northwestplainsdistrict.org). **Registration deadline is Friday, July 14.**

If you have questions, please contact the district office at 800.589.7828 | nwplains@wocumc.org or District Director of Lay Servant Ministries, Dr. Barbara Lee at 419.738.3402 | bjcwapak@bright.net.

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

**Ruth L. Hahn**, 91, who died July 5, 2017. She was the wife of the late Rev. Howard Hahn who was a retired pastor in West Ohio. Ruth was a member of Grace United Methodist Church in St. Marys (NWP District).

[Obituary](http://tiny.cc/2cedmy). Condolences may be sent to Ruth’s family online by clicking [here](http://tiny.cc/cgedmy).
Thanks to so many generous donors, we have raised $8,228 for camperships to Camp Sierra Linda. Exceeding our $6,400 goal by $1,828 enables us to send 22 additional children to camp this summer! Thanks to your support, 102 children from Monterrey, Mexico will experience one full week of camp and also receive enough school supplies for the entire 2017-2018 school year. Without your financial help this would not have been possible. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Please keep camp director, Victor Hugo Martinez, the camp staff, and the campers in your prayers. Pray that all will be impacted in their walk with God—for eternity!

Lord God,
You came to give honor to the least, those forgotten, overlooked and misjudged.
You came to give first place to the last, those left behind, misunderstood and undervalued.
You came to give a warm welcome to the lost, those who are orphaned, abandoned and destitute.
You came for the least, the lost and last of this world.
Help us to be your ears to listen to their cries.
Help us to be your voice speaking out love and acceptance.
Help us to be your feet walking beside those in need.
Help us to be your hands to clothe, feed and shelter them.
In your name we pray. Amen.
**Emmaus Events**

Findlay Emmaus Gathering *(on the third Tuesday)*
Saturday, July 18, 6 pm (note date change)
St Marks UMC
800 S. Main St., Findlay | 419.422.4236
http://www.findlayemmaus.org/

Sidney Emmaus Gathering *(on the second Tuesday)*
Tuesday, August 8, 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, July 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 #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 | July 20-23, 2017
  - Women's Walk #73 | October 19-22, 2017

- **Men's Walks**
  - Men's Walk #68 | August 24-27, 2017
  - Men's Walk #69 | November 2-5, 2017

**NW Ohio Emmaus Walks @ Widewater, Liberty Center, OH**
http://www.nwoemmaus.com/

- **Women's Walk** | September 21-24, 2017
- **Men's Walk** | August 24-27, 2017

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**
Boy's Flight #48 - July 21-23, 2017
http://www.findlaychrysalis.org/

**Greene Street UMC, Piqua**
Boy's Flight #64 - July 28-30, 2017
http://www.westohiochrysalis.com/
Local Church and Community Events

Mt. Blanchard UMC
July 16-20, 6:30-8:30pm
Pre-school—6th grade
204 S. Main St., Mt. Blanchard map
To register call 419.694.3245

St. Mark’s UMC, Lima
July 19-22, 6:30-8:30pm
St. Mark’s United Methodist Church, Lima Communications Corporation
1110 North Metcalf Street, Lima map
Register at www.limastmarks.com click on the VBS Logo
Need more info? Please call the church office at 419.222.3601.

North Creek UMC
July 24, 25, and 26, 6:30 pm to 8:00pm.
18564 County Road B-13, Continental map
Our theme is “Following Jesus.”
All children ages 4 years through 6th grade are welcome!
Refreshments will be provided.
Need more info? Please call Pastor Rick Noggle at 419.594.3411.

Village of Leipsic
July 17-21, 6:30-8:30pm
Fogel Center, 815 E. Mathias St., Leipsic map
For more information please call Caring Points United Methodist Churches at 419.943.3556.

Trinity UMC, Lima
July 31-August2, 9-11:30am
301 W. Market St., Lima map
Preschool thru 6th grade
Need more information? Please call the church office at 419.227.0800.

Baseline Sale at St. Paul’s UMC, Montpelier
Thursday, July 13 & Friday, July 14
9:00am-5:00pm
Come and find lots of treasures!
St. Paul’s church is located at 402 Broad St., Montpelier map
Local Church and Community Events

Christian Based Preschool Now Accepting Registrations for 2017-2018 School Year
First United Methodist Preschool, located at 113 W. Central Avenue, Van Wert [map](#) is now accepting registrations for the 2017-2018 school year. First United Methodist Preschool is a Christian based school which prepares children to succeed in all areas of life. The curriculum is driven by the Ohio Department of Education standards and each teacher is there to provide a positive and nurturing environment for all children as they begin their educational journey. The preschool offers 2 or 3 mornings for students who are 3 and 4 years of age. A child who is at least 4 and is planning on attending Kindergarten the following school year may attend the Pre-Kindergarten classes. A student attending a Pre-Kindergarten class has the option of choosing 3 or 4 mornings per week. All classes meet 8:30am to 11:30am. Register online at [www.fumpreschool.com](http://www.fumpreschool.com) or contact Administrator, April Ellerbrock, at 419.238.0631 Ext. 308 or by email at [aellerbrock@wcoil.com](mailto:aellerbrock@wcoil.com).

Harpster UMC Ice Cream Social
Wednesday, July 26, 4:30—6:00pm [map](#)
Sandwiches, Noodles, Salads, Desserts, and Ice Cream. Come and Enjoy!
Harpster Church is located at 17508 Cherokee Street, Harpster, OH.

Ending Domestic Violence Addressed at Lifetree Café
Recognizing the cycle of domestic violence and how to break it will be explored at Lifetree Café on [Thursday, July 13 from 7-8pm](#).

The program, titled “When Love Hurts: Ending the Cycle of Domestic Violence,” features a filmed interview with a woman who escaped a relationship in which she faced emotional, physical, and sexual abuse.

“It started out as mental and verbal abuse,” the woman says. “He would tell me that no one would ever love me. It completely destroyed my self-image.”

During the program, Lifetree Café participants will also see a screening of the short film [Last Stop](#).

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. [map](#)

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](mailto:firstchurch@wcoil.com).

Summer Preaching Seminar: Getting to Grace

In a deeply divided world, it can be challenging to preach words of grace and hope to our congregations. This year’s Summer Preaching Seminar at United Theological Seminary can help equip and inspire you.

Featuring Dr. Paul Scott Wilson, the 2017 Summer Preaching Seminar will take place August 9-11 on United’s campus in Dayton, Ohio. Dr. Wilson is the author of numerous books including *The Four Pages of the Sermon*, the primary preaching textbook used at United, and *The Practice of Preaching*, which is used for West Ohio Conference licensing school. Additional speakers include Dr. Richard Eslinger, Dr. Elise Eslinger, and Dr. Joni Sancken. This three-day seminar is ideal for pastors, lay speakers and seminary students seeking to enhance their preaching skills as they explore the topic “Getting to Grace: The Joy of Preaching.”

View a full schedule and register online at united.edu/summer-preaching-seminar-grace. Continuing Education Units are available.

Early Response Team Training

The West Ohio Conference in partnership with the Capitol Area North District is offering an Early Response Team (ERT) training which will teach you how to assist survivors of natural disasters in their time of need. You will be able to provide a Christian presence while taking steps to prevent further damage to a family’s personal property through tarping, debris removal, cleaning out flooded homes, etc. FEMA recognizes this training to be able to enter a disaster scene. Certification from UMCOR and UMVIM will be issued to attendees.

A recertification class for current ERT badge holders whose badge has expired or is due to expire in 2017, will be offered concurrently with this class at a reduced rate of $25. Bring your own book if you have one, updates will be handed out. Learn more/register http://tiny.cc/fqddmy Download event flyer

Spotlight on UM Faith Stories

These inspirational stories describe United Methodists who are using their gifts and their faith to make a difference in the world.

Do you know a child, age 12 and younger, who is doing something extraordinary in your church or community? We are planning to feature these amazing United Methodist kids on our United Methodist Church Facebook page this summer.

To submit a nominee, please send a few sentences about the child, along with a photo, if possible. If your conference has already published a story or post about this child, please send the link to the story.

Providing parent/guardian information will also be helpful.

Please send nominations to presscenter@umcom.org. We will contact you before featuring your nominee; multiple nominations are encouraged!
11 Responsibilities for Parking Lot Greeters
By Chuck Lawless
Greeters make a difference in a church, and some of the strongest churches I know have them everywhere from the parking lot to the welcome center to the hallways to the small group rooms (check here for “11 Places for Church Greeters”). Here are some things they can do in the parking lot:

1. **Be a smiling face as people enter the lot.** Some folks coming to church have had a rough week. Maybe even a rough life. A smile can go a long way for them.

2. **Direct traffic if needed.** Even if the church has a separate parking team, greeters are sometimes pressed into service in the busiest times.

3. **Help families with children.** Clearly identified and vetted greeters can assist families who are unloading multiple kids with all their associated stuff.

**READ MORE**  
[http://tiny.cc/dtedmy](http://tiny.cc/dtedmy)

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How Might Jesus Have Us Engage In Social Media
By Pete Scagzero
Would the apostle Paul have engaged social media for the sake of the expanding the message of Jesus? Based on the way he creatively utilized the *pax Romana* (Roman peace), along with Greek culture and language, the answer is—I believe—a resounding yes.

Can you imagine Jesus giving us a few tips on our use of Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube? Based on his Sermon on the Mount, the following are a few parameters he might recommend to us.

1. **Be careful not to show off or pretend.**
   The definition of hypocrisy is to pretend to be something we are not or to present an idealized version of ourselves that is not true. Jesus calls us to avoid being “showy” or doing anything “spectacular” to call attention to ourselves.

2. **Seek the notice of our Father in heaven.**
   Our goal is to impress God, to hear him say, “Well done,” at the end of each tweet, and at the end of our lives. Our eyes are to be on him, not on followers, retweets, shares or likes.

**READ MORE**  
[http://tiny.cc/ozedmy](http://tiny.cc/ozedmy)

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4 Markers of a Meaningful Life
By Frank Powell
In one sense, every day is created equal. In another sense, this is wholly untrue.

Every day contributes to the trajectory of your life. But certain days change it. It’s not that your life is defined by these moments. Take them away, however, and things look different. Much different.

How you respond in these moments largely determines the shape and substance of your life.

Picture a connect-the-dots worksheet. Some of these worksheets have 20 dots. Others have 50 or 100. There are always, however, just enough dots to reveal the picture accurately. With each dot, the picture becomes clearer. And if you miss one, you’re guaranteed to change or distort the shape. So it goes with your life.

**READ MORE**  
[http://tiny.cc/0bfdmy](http://tiny.cc/0bfdmy)

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Now is the time to plan for your Confirmation season

*Confirm* is an easy-to-follow and fully customizable confirmation program that provides students with the basic beliefs of a theologically sound faith. *Confirm* also embraces the importance of community in the faith journey and includes activities to help youth internalize what they’ve learned and materials to encourage cooperation with parents and mentors in the confirmation process and beyond.

**Plan Now**  
[http://tiny.cc/amzdmy](http://tiny.cc/amzdmy)
FREE CHOIR ROBES
St. Mark’s UMC, Lima has 24 blue/off white choir robes in excellent condition - yours for the taking. Church office hours are Monday-Wednesday, 9am-3pm & Thursday, 9am-2pm. Call for appointment 419.222.3601.

Free Church Pew Pads—Uniopolis UMC has church pew pads that fit the older rounding church pews. The pads are in good condition. For more information please phone Jeanne Knoch at 419.568.6693.