2020 Lunch with the DS

In the times of ambiguity and uncertainty, Barry would like to make himself available for dialogue regarding the “Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation.” See the schedule below. **Please bring a lunch/drink** and come and enjoy some fellowship and good discussions.

**Please NOTE:**

- These are separate from the Brown Bag Lunch-n-Learns that are already scheduled - not to confuse the two as they are separate from each other
- No reason to sign-up or register
- Come to whichever fits your schedule – not bound by county

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Auglaize County</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>02/03/2020</td>
<td>Warner Salem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defiance County</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>02/13/2020</td>
<td>Defiance St. Paul’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hancock County</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>02/11/2020</td>
<td>Findlay St. Mark’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allen County</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>02/14/2020</td>
<td>Lima Forest Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hardin County</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>02/27/2020</td>
<td>Ada First</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mercer County</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>03/05/2020</td>
<td>Grand Lake Campus</td>
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<td>Paulding County</td>
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<td>03/11/2020</td>
<td>Paulding UMC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Van Wert County</td>
<td>Noon</td>
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<td>Wyandot County</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>03/26/2020</td>
<td>John Stewart</td>
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<tr>
<td>Williams County</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>03/30/2020</td>
<td>Bryan Wesley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you to the churches noted above for opening your doors for these gatherings.
In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: We have a strong city; God makes salvation its walls and ramparts...Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal. Isaiah 26:1-4, NIV

Lord our God, help us find the path that we may walk with confidence because you are our Father. Banish all thoughts that try to depress us. Let your Spirit drive them away. May our hearts become quiet before you, because you, the Almighty, guide everything for the good of people on earth. Everything will lead to thanksgiving, to your praise and glory. Be with us at all times, day and night. May our hearts always exult afresh, rejoicing in you, our God and our Savior. Amen.

A Perfect Love Study
As individuals, small groups, and congregations across our annual conference utilize the resources in A Perfect Love to study Wesley's work, they will be challenged to consider how God might use even the tensions and divisions we are experiencing in our lives, our churches, and our nation to help us understand the extent of the love we are invited into that transforms us as it becomes our "sole guiding principle and power of life". This series is built around the book A Perfect Love: Understanding John Wesley's A Plain Account of Christian Perfection. Receive 50% off discount for book orders. The code will only be good for a limited time. Please call 800.972.0433 to place your order. Be sure to use the discount code of PERFECTLOVE50.
All In Community will present a Good Samaritan Workshop at Maumee UMC on Saturday, February 15, from 8:30am-12:30pm. This workshop will enhance your church’s care ministry to those who have been a victim or witness of a relational harm or violence and will equip and resource Stephen Ministers, Care Ministers, and Lay Servant Ministers to provide better holistic care with those already in our midst who remain silenced by shame and pain. The first half of the session will provide simple steps, tools, and restorative experiences that can be used to begin caring for victims and justice-involved individuals. The second half of the workshop will provide guidance and an existing model for working collaboratively in a local “Good Samaritan” ministry. Presenters include Reba Collins, All In Community Consultant for the WOC; Dr. Mike Davis, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections Religious Services Chief; and Jami Nathan, Maumee Watershed Stephen’s Ministry Leader. The event is free and open to the public. Register on the conference website.

Don’t forget to . . .

- Complete Year-end reports by February 28. Reporting is done online through EZRA Statistics system. NOTE: what was mailed had two different deadline dates. February 28 is the correct one.
- Return Fund Balance Sheet to District Office by April 1
- Sign-up for Henderson Settlement - May 3 thru– May 9. Please pay attention to deadline dates noted on from on page 6
- Mark your calendar for Annual Conference June 7– June 10
- Sign up for upcoming Lay Servant Training events—page 9, 10, and 11
- Anyone interested in being an At-Large Member (Adults/Young or Youth) to the 2020 West Ohio Annual Conference scheduled for June 7-11, please contact the District Office at 419-523-9901 or email us at nwplains@wocumc.org
Harry Denman Evangelism Award Taking Nominations

The Harry Denman Evangelism Award, sponsored by The Foundation for Evangelism, honors United Methodists in each Annual Conference whose exceptional ministry of evangelism brings people into a life transforming relationship with Jesus Christ. What distinguishes a Harry Denman Evangelism Award recipient is the commitment to consistently introduce others to the Good News of Jesus Christ in all ministry settings. Their ministry is exceptional for the number of new Christ followers who credit encounters with this person as critical in helping to start or reignite their faith journey. Awards are given to clergy, laity, and youth. Visit (https://www.westohioumc.org/conference/harry-denman-evangelism-award) for more information and to download the nomination form. Please submit nominations to mgrace@wocumc.org by March 15, 2020.
Campaign Vision and Purpose

Our purpose is to multiply the number of vibrant, robust, effective congregations and in turn multiply the number of people who are choosing to live in the hope of Jesus Christ, being shaped from the inside out by the justice, love and peace that Jesus brings to us all.

IF we sincerely believe that God is calling us to offer Christ in a Wesleyan way, passionately and respectfully, that is relevant to our cultural context and inspires hope and new life…

AND we are sincere in asking God to send one more person, family, or child for us to love and disciple…

THEN we are called to come together to plant new churches and nurture congregational vitality in order to reach new people of all ages and life circumstances and connect them with Jesus Christ.

For more information on the Light the Way Campaign contact: Rev. Stanley Ling/sling@wocumc.org, Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey/snkibbey@wocumc.org, Mr. Brad Aycock/bradaycock@wocumc.org

BY GEORGE! Campaign

Thank you so much for your wonderful response to the By George Campaign. We have been able to send in $37,357.91 already, and have more to send. I think the time has come for us to draw this campaign to an end, so we will be sending in our last contribution for now at the end of April. This will give you time to send in your remaining gifts if you are interested. Again, Thank you so much!!

JAMES 1:2-4

Consider it all joy when you encounter various trials, because the testing of your faith produces endurance... so that you may be lacking in nothing.
HENDERSON SETTLEMENT TRIP
PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO DEADLINE DATES

NORTHWEST PLAINS DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MISSION TRIP TO HENDERSON SETTLEMENT
Sunday, May 3—Saturday, May 9, 2020
BE A PART OF A MISSION PROJECT! DON’T MISS OUT! GET ON BOARD!

Where is Henderson Settlement? HS is close to 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 3. (Eat your evening meal before arrival.) Everyone will depart for home after breakfast on Saturday, May 9.

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 per 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 February 28.
Remaining balance due by April 30. Please make check payable to: Northwest Plains District – Henderson Mission Trip. Send check and registration form to: Northwest Plains District Office, 510 East 3rd St., Ottawa, OH 43075. 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 26, 2:00 PM at Trinity UMC, 220 S. Walnut St., Van Wert, OH 45891.

Henderson Settlement Mission Trip
May 3 thru 9, 2020

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.)
West Ohio District Announcement:

Summer Impact 2020

Are you a youth group, women’s group, men’s group, or young adult group, with a desire to serve and learn?

Your group is invited to come and serve for a week (Sunday - Friday) this summer alongside ministries in Cincinnati participating in building projects, day camps, delivering furniture, communing with those who are experiencing homelessness and sickness, and more.

Registration is open to choose from 6 weeks in June and July and the cost is $230/person.

The heart behind Summer Impact is transformation through serving experiences, meaningful interactions, and individual/group reflection time in order to see the work that God is already doing in Cincinnati and how God is calling us to partner in that Kingdom work. The hope is that teams will return home with a renewed energy and sense of where God is leading them to serve in their own community throughout the year.

Playing on the year 2020 - the next year’s theme is: "2020 Vision: Prophets of the Past and Present" and will emphasize God’s Kingdom work through generations - including this current one!

To find out more information about what your week will look like and to register your group – please email Rev. Kate Smith (ksmith@hpcumc.org) or visit: http://hydeparkchurch.org/summer-impact/

Small Church Essentials Conference March 27 and 28

Sponsored by the CAN District, TARRP, Rural Life Sunday Funds and the West Ohio UMRA
Friday evening and Saturday, March 27 and 28, at Marysville First UMC

This is a large conference focused exclusively on the smaller church!

Speaker Rev. Karl Vaters, author of the book “Small Church Essentials” and “The Grasshopper Myth”, will be joining us from Orange County, California. His organization New Small Church exists to encourage, connect and equip innovative Small church leaders. “We believe being small is not a problem to fix, but a strategy God wants to use.” Sessions include:

- Redefining Success in Ministry (Friday evening)
- Thinking Like a Great Small Church
- A New Way to Look at Vision-Casting
- Becoming a Healthy Church, No Matter Your Size
- Finding and Mentoring Volunteers in Today’s Small Church

The cost is $25/person for both days, with a maximum cost of $50/church, no matter how many people attend. The training will run from 7:00 – 9:00 pm on Friday and 9:00 am – 3:00 pm on Saturday. Rev. Karen Montgomery is the contact for questions around this event, pastorkarem@hmc.org, 513-255-2232.
**BROWN BAG Lunch-n-Learns**

Announcing new opportunities for learning and fellowship. Starting in October we will be having a new series of what we are calling Lunch -n- Learns! You are invited to bring a lunch and share in a time of fellowship and learning. We will start at 11:30 am and end by 1:00 pm each time. These will be spread around to all of the counties of the Northwest Plains District throughout the year and you are invited to come to any or all of them that you might be interested in. You can find a schedule of dates and topics here. This is planned for pastors, but everyone is welcome to come and join!

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**DATE:**
- February 11, 2020
- February 25, 2020
- March 10, 2020
- March 24, 2020
- April 14, 2020
- April 28, 2020

**HOSTING CHURCH**
- Westside Twin Oaks
- Salem-Wapak
- John Stewart
- Leipsic
- Ayersville UMC

**TOPIC**
- Understanding Generation Differences
- Worship in a Small Membership Church
- Financial Policies and Best Practices
- Social Media/Technology
- Spiritual Direction
- Disaster Response and Preparedness

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**ERT TRAININGS BEING OFFERED**

The West Ohio Conference will hold an Early Response Team (ERT) training on Saturday, **March 14, 8:00 am-4:00 pm** at **Bellefontaine First UMC**. ERT volunteers provide support in disaster response situations and must go through specific training with UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). This ensures that ERT volunteers will be productive and caring while causing no further harm or burden on the affected community. Topics covered in the class include the who, what, when, where and how of doing disaster response ministry, as well as hands-on experience in the specific tasks that early responders are expected to accomplish. Volunteers who pass the course will receive a three-year UMCOR badge that allows early access to disaster areas. Cost for the training is $40 for new volunteers; $35 for recertification. Deadline to register is March 8. For more information or to register for the class go to this link. ([https://www.westohioumc.org/conference/event/early-response-training-bellefontaine-first-umc](https://www.westohioumc.org/conference/event/early-response-training-bellefontaine-first-umc)).

The West Ohio Conference will hold an Early Response Team (ERT) training on Saturday, **April 25, 8:00 am-4:00 pm** at **Sylvania First UMC**. ERT volunteers provide support in disaster response situations and must go through specific training with UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). This ensures that ERT volunteers will be productive and caring while causing no further harm or burden on the affected community. Topics covered in the class include the who, what, when, where and how of doing disaster response ministry, as well as hands-on experience in the specific tasks that early responders are expected to accomplish. Volunteers who pass the course will receive a three-year UMCOR badge that allows early access to disaster areas. Cost for the training is $40 for new volunteers; $35 for recertification. Deadline to register is April 19. For more information or to register for the class, click here ([https://www.westohioumc.org/conference/event/early-response-training-sylvania-first-umc](https://www.westohioumc.org/conference/event/early-response-training-sylvania-first-umc)).
NWP Directors of Pulpit Supply

Pastors, if you are in need of Sunday morning pulpit supply and would like to arrange for a Lay Speaker to fill in for you, please contact our District Directors of Pulpit Supply.

- Linda Hoover is responsible for the southern part of NWP District including Allen, Auglaize, Hardin, Mercer, Van Wert and Wyandot counties. She can be reached at 567-204-0329 or by email at bhoo-ver1@woh.rr.com.

- Larry Zuvers is responsible for the northern part of NWP District including Defiance, Hancock, Henry, Paulding, Putnam, and Williams counties. He can be reached at 419.636.2329 or by email at lzuvers@gmail.com

Lay Servant Training Events

Lay Servant Ministries is one of the most significant lay leadership development programs already available within the United Methodist connection. Through this system of equipping and empowering, lay servants have the opportunity to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ who then go and make other disciples.

“Methodist Heritage” (CORE) led by Rev. Brian Arnold/Ministry Teaching Team will be offered on Saturday, March 7, 8:30am-4:30pm, at Leipsic UMC, 127 W. Main St., Leipsic, Ohio. The FIRM deadline for registration is February 26, 2020. Register on the district website or attached form on page 10.

“Theology of Our Hymns (Advance)” led by Rev. Steve Rath/Lay Ministry Teaching Team will be offered on Saturday, March 7, 8:30am-4:30pm, at Leipsic UMC, 127 W. Main St., Leipsic, Ohio. The FIRM deadline for registration is February 26, 2020. Register on the district website or attached form on page 10.

“Lay Servants lead in Prayer (CORE)” led by Jeff Motter/Lay Ministry Teaching Team will be offered on Saturday, April 4, at 8:30am-4:30pm, at Leipsic UMC, 127 W. Main St., Leipsic, Ohio. The FIRM deadline for registration is March 25, 2020. Register on the district website or attached form on page 11.

“Grief Seminar (Advanced)” will be offered on Saturday, April 4 at 8:30am-4:30pm, at Leipsic UMC, 127 W. Main St., Leipsic, Ohio. The FIRM deadline for registration is March 25, 2020. Register on the district website or attached form on page 11.

Please help get the word out. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in participating, please register when the time is open to do so!
Is God Calling You?

The term "servant" best describes what Jesus told his disciples in John 13 after he himself performed duties of the lowest servant. We are also called to live out our discipleship as servants in leadership! All lay servants are called to proclaim the gospel in many different ways, in leadership and support roles, to help others grow in a life-giving relationship with Jesus Christ.

NORTHWEST PLAINS DISTRICT Website
https://www.northwestplainsdistrict.org/
district/northwestplains/

Questions
Please call or Email the district office, 800.589.7828, nwplains@wocumc.org.

or

You may call or Email District Lay Leader, Barbara Lee, 419.738.3402, bclwesapak@bnght.net.

Saturday, March 7, 2020
Core Course: Methodist Heritage

Explore the history, doctrine, theology, organization and practices of The United Methodist Church. Not only will you gain a deeper knowledge of United Methodist faith tradition, you will be better equipped to share your faith.

District Ministry of the Laity
Training Opportunities

Saturday, March 7, 2020
Advance Course: Theology of Our Hymns

The Faith We Sing! -- Thanks to the Wesley brothers and others, Methodists have always been a singing people. As they sought to lead people to know and grow in their Christian faith, it was often their hymns and songs that served as teaching tools to their English friends and neighbors. Even after 200 plus years, we Methodists still claim our roots from a heritage birthed in song. Participants in this class will discover how our discipleship can grow through the songs many of us have grown up learning and loving (and why they still matter)! We'll also learn the most common sources of their music and why it was so important in reaching unchurched people of their day. All these years later, their hearts and songs live on in us!

Methodist Heritage
Led by: Rev. Brian Arnold
Saturday, March 7, 2020
8:30-4:30 PM
Leipsic UMC
127 W. Main St.
Leipsic, OH 45856

Theology of Our Hymns
Led by: Steve Rath
Saturday, March 7, 2020
8:30 AM-4:30 PM
Leipsic UMC
127 W. Main St.
Leipsic, OH 45856

Saturday, March 7
8:30 AM-4:30 PM
Leipsic UMC, 127 W. Main St., Leipsic
Core Course
Methodist Heritage

Leading in Prayer is one of the six CCRC courses required for Certified Lay Speaker status. This course also qualifies as an advanced course for acquiring or maintaining Certified Lay Servant status.

Upon receipt of registration you will be mailed reading material to preview prior to the training event.

Cost: $40 (includes lunch and materials)

Saturday, March 7
8:30 AM-4:30 PM
Leipsic UMC, 127 W. Main St., Leipsic
Advanced Course
Theology of Our Hymns

This course qualifies as a certification or re-certification course for Certified Lay Servants.

This course also qualifies as a recertification course for Certified Lay Speakers.

Cost: $40 (includes lunch and materials)

Upon receipt of registration you will be mailed reading material to preview prior to the training event.

The above courses are not only open to Lay Servants but also open to Pastors, Supply Pastors, and others interested in learning more about Methodist Heritage and Theology of Our Hymns.

Registration Deadline is February 26, 2020

Please make $40 check payable to Northwest Plains District United Methodist Church.
Nal 10 to Northwest Plains District UMC, 910 E. Third St., Ottawa, OH 43067.
Is God Calling You?
The term "servant" best describes what Jesus told his disciples in John 13 after he himself performed duties of the lowest servant. We are also called to live out our discipleship as servants in leadership! All lay servants are called to proclaim the gospel in many different ways, in leadership and support roles, to help others grow in a life-giving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Northwest Plains District Website
https://www.northwestplainsdistrict.org/district/northwestplains/

Questions
Please call or Email the district office, 800.589.7828, nwplains@wocumc.org.

or
You may call or Email District Lay Leader, Barbara Lee, 419.738.3402, bjowapak@bright.net.

Saturday, April 4, 2020
Core Course:
Lay Servants Lead In Prayer

Prayer is something we learn; it is something that can be taught. For many, however, the only teaching about prayer they ever receive is modeled in Sunday worship. This course may challenge your assumptions, test some of your preconceived ideas, stretch your thinking, enrich your prayer life, and will help you grow in confidence and skill in prayer, both public and personal.

Saturday, April 4, 2020
Advance Course:
Grief Seminar

The course will focus on understanding the descriptions, emotions and behaviors of grief, identifying grief issues, complicated grief and family issues. How to walk with those who grieve after the funeral and how the pastor and church family can give support on the journey. How to help families process lost day memories, trauma, changes in family and how to recognize the need for additional grief counseling. Participants will also receive ways to deal with anxiety and stress. Other related grief issues will also be discussed. Living In The Different

District Ministry of the Laity Training Opportunities

Lay Servants Lead in Prayer
Led by: Rev. Jeff Motter
Saturday, April 4, 2020
8:30-4:30 PM
Leipsic UMC
127 W. Main St.
Leipsic, OH 45856

Grief Seminar
Led by: Elaine J. Clinger Sturz
Saturday, April 4, 2020
8:30 AM-4:30 PM
Leipsic UMC
127 W. Main St.
Leipsic, OH 45856

Registration Form — Registration Deadline is March 25, 2020

The above courses are not only open to Lay Servants but also open to Pastors, Supply Pastors, and others interested in learning more about Lay Servant Lead in Prayer and Grief Seminar.

Registration Deadline: March 25, 2020

Please make $40 check payable to: Northwest Plains District United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 121, Leipsic, OH 45856.
Lay Servant Opportunities by Betsey Armstrong

Checkout the video on YouTube and the District Website

https://youtu.be/orao6DG4q9c

Lay Servant Opportunities by Betsey Armstrong

From the desk of . . .

Mariellyn Grace
Church & Community Worker | Connectional Ministries
West Ohio Conference | 614-503-5807 | www.westohiocumc.org
22 Wesley Blvd | Worthington, Ohio 43085

On Sunday, February 16, at 4:00 pm, The West Ohio Conference will present, "Crossing the Color Line: 400 Years of Race in America," an afternoon of worship, learning, and discussion about the history of racism in the U.S. The event will include a screening of the documentary, "Underground," which takes viewers on a journey through Black history in America, including the eras of slavery, segregation, and separation. Directed by West Ohio pastor, Rev. Ryan Grace, and produced by Missionary Mariellyn Grace, "Underground" both acknowledges the racism that has separated Black and White people for hundreds of years, and celebrates the ways in which Black and White people have worked together to overcome racial division. Dinner and discussion will follow the worship service. The event, which is free and open to the public, will be held at Perrysburg Grace United Methodist Church, 601 E Boundary St, Perrysburg, OH. Please register on the West Ohio website. Thank you!
The Walk to Emmaus is a global ministry of the Upper Room dedicated to supporting the spiritual formation of Christians and the development of Christian servant leaders for the local church. If you would like to experience this spiritual retreat or learn more about it contact Brad Martin.

I am also looking for clergy who are interested in serving in the Northwest Ohio Emmaus Community. The clergy listing needs updating. If you took your walk in another community, if you took another three-day retreat, or if your contact information has changed, please send the information to Brad Martin, Emmaus Community Spiritual Director | bmartin4477@gmail.com

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

Women’s Walks /Dates
February 6 – 9, 2020
June 4 – 7, 2020
October 8 – 11, 2020

Men’s Walks/Dates
March 12 – 15, 2020
November 5 – 8, 2020

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

Women’s Walks/Dates
#80 - 02/20/2020 - 02/23/2020
#81 - 06/11/2020 - 06/14/2020
#82 - 10/15/2020 - 10/18/2020

Men’s Walks/Dates
#75 - 03/12/2020 - 03/15/2020
#76 - 11/05/2020 - 11/08/2020

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

Women’s Walks/Dates
#89— April 30-May 3, 2020

Men’s Walk/Dates
#73—April 2-5, 2020

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
Girls Flight #53
February 21-23, 2020

Boys Flight #53
March 6-8, 2020

http://www.findlaychrysalis.org/

Greene Street UMC, Piqua
http://www.westohiochrysalis.com/

Delta UMC, Delta
http://www.nwoemmaus.com/
West Ohio Conference “Traction Tracks”

...to help your congregation gain traction and begin to move forward towards new vitality!

West Ohio’s Missional Church Consultation Initiative (MCCI), a focused training/coaching/resourcing initiative of the Episcopal office and cabinet that has included several dozen congregations and pastors over the last few years, has identified a number of key components that we’ve seen can provide a congregation of any size and setting with a dose of traction to begin to move ahead in vitality. To learn more about Traction Tracks go to: https://www.westohioumc.org/conference/news/traction-tracks-0

Breakthrough Prayer Initiative  Traction Track

Every church recognizes prayer as important. But what happens when a congregation unites to pray collectively and consistently for God to break through in new and miraculous ways? You can launch your congregation into the kind of churchwide breakthrough prayer initiative that fuels the atmosphere of possibility, and the entire focus begins to shift from inward to up-and-outward. It’s easier than you think—and the results will make spiritual history right in your own community and beyond.

Register now for one of the next training sessions!

**February 9, 2020 (Sunday) – Lebanon UMC (Ohio River Valley District)**

*Requirement to attend:* Your church’s team must include your lead pastor plus at least 5 persons who have agreed to be the implementation team for your congregation’s prayer initiative afterwards. Bring as large a team to the training event (beyond the pastor plus 5 leaders) as possible

- 2:00pm-7:00pm
- 122 East Silver St, Lebanon, OH 45036

*Cost:* $75.00 per Team (pastor plus 5 members) $10.00 for any additional members (includes lunch and materials)

**February 16, 2020 (Sunday) – Stillwater UMC (Miami Valley District)**

*Requirement to attend:* Your church’s team must include your lead pastor plus at least 5 persons who have agreed to be the implementation team for your congregation’s prayer initiative afterwards. Bring as large a team to the training event (beyond the pastor plus 5 leaders) as possible

- 1:30pm-6:30pm
- 6911 Fredrick Pike, Dayton, OH 45414

*Cost:* $75.00 per Team (pastor plus 5 members) $10.00 for any additional members (includes lunch and materials)

**February 23, 2020 (Sunday) – Ironton First UMC (Shawnee Valley District)**

*Requirement to attend:* Your church’s team must include your lead pastor plus at least 5 persons who have agreed to be the implementation team for your congregation’s prayer initiative afterwards. Bring as large a team to the training event (beyond the pastor plus 5 leaders) as possible

- 2:00pm-7:00pm –
- 101 N 5th St, Ironton, OH 45638

*Cost:* $75.00 per Team (pastor plus 5 members) $10.00 for any additional members (includes lunch and materials)

**Family Ties: Home, Church, and Community Traction Tracks (four-session training)**

Family Ties teaches churches how to rethink and intentionally change your current approach to reach and disciple new children and families at home, in church and within your local community. Connect anew with the next generation! This four-session Traction Track intentionally focuses on developing leadership skills and teaching best ministry practices while leading churches, pastors, staff and unpaid leaders in the most important and proven strategies in creating a Family-driven/Church-empowering ministry.

All 4 consecutive classes will be held at the West Ohio Conference Center
32 Wesley Blvd, Worthington, OH 43085

*Requirement to attend:* Must bring a Team of Pastor and at least 2 other team member

*Cost:* $50 per person (includes lunches and materials)

- New sessions begins Saturday, February 8, 2020
- Second session - Saturday, March 7, 2020
- Third session - Saturday, April 4, 2019
- Fourth session - Saturday, May 2, 2019

*Each Session is from 10:00am - 3:00pm*
Local Church and Community Events

NORTHWEST PLAINS DISTRICT
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

OTTAWA TRINITY UMC
137 NORTH PRATT
OTTAWA, OH 45875

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2020
1:30 - 4:00 P.M.

SPAKER: KATHY H. MOORE

Kathy Haynes Moore moved to Ohio in 1975 with her husband Roland so that he could attend the Methodist Theological School in Delaware, Ohio. Over the 40+ years since that move, she and her family have lived in every major metropolitan area of Ohio while serving the Lord Jesus Christ and the church. During these years, Kathy has completed the work to be a Lay Servant, a Lay Speaker, and in 2016 she attended the Academy and became a Certified Lay Minister in the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church.

One of the major and life-changing events in Kathy’s life happened in 1999 while living in Toledo, Ohio. God touched Kathy in a way that changed the trajectory of her life. She survived a major heart attack in the largest artery on the front of her heart, known as the widow-maker. This artery now has six stents and has remained open by the grace of our Almighty and powerful God.

The impact of this miracle caused Kathy to take bold steps in following God’s leading to organize retreats, classes, healing services, and prayer warriors. Kathy’s favorite scripture is found in Psalms 27:14 “Wait on the Lord, be of good courage, and He will strengthen your heart. Wait, I say, on the Lord.” Her desire is to always be willing and ready to go where God sends her.

Kathy and her husband Pastor Roland recently retired and returned to Toledo. Kathy enjoys reading, teaching, preaching, and spending time with family and friends.

REGISTRATION FORM

NO FEE DUE FOR THIS “AFTERNOON” MEETING.

• • Registration for Attendance Deadline: Monday, March 16, 2020 • •

NAME ________________________________

FULL ADDRESS ________________________________

EMAIL ADDRESS __________________ PHONE ____________

CHURCH/ORGANIZATION ________________________________

*(A good-will offering will be collected for the “Coffee/Dessert Break”)*

Send your Registration Form to the district treasurer:
Susie Closson, 326 Grandview Blvd., Ada, OH 45810. (Phone: 419.634.5457)

In Search of Easter Musical Books “It All Happened in the City”

St. Andrew’s UMC will be presenting the Easter Children’s Musical “It All Happened in the City”. However, we only have 3 books and they are no longer available. So we are asking if anyone would have extra books that we can purchase from them. If you do, please contact Pete Matteson at 419-422-4845, ext. 206.
First United Methodist Preschool Fundraiser

The public is invited to our First United Methodist Preschool Art Show and Fundraiser Thursday, February 20, 2020 from 5:00-7:30pm in Krout Memorial located at 113 W. Central Ave Van Wert, Ohio 45891.

Join our little artists as they display their masterpieces. Works of art will be available for purchase to parents and family members by donation.

The silent auction is open to all guests. It will contain works by talented local artists and themed gift baskets filled with lots of goodies.

The Highest bidder wins!

For more info contact Administrator April Ellerbrock at 419-238-0631 Ext. 308
Mission Opportunity for Building a House in the Henderson Settlement Area during the Spring and Summer of 2020

**What:** SOWER (Sharing Our Witness - Enriching Relationships) is a conference wide construction mission to build new housing in the area served by Henderson Settlement.

**Objective:** To construct a house from the foundation up for the selected family

**Where:** Henderson Settlement, Frakes KY (Part of the Red Bird Missionary Conference)

**When:** May 3-9 & 10-16; July 12-18 & 19-25; August 16-22 & 23-29 of 2020

**Cost:** $260/volunteer (covers room and board at Henderson Settlement)

**Materials:** Funds/pledges are needed to cover the materials cost

**Contact:** For more information contact Ralph and Carolyn Brandon - 740-344-5581 or sowervimproject@gmail.com

MTSO’s Schooler Institute on Preaching: ‘Preaching Mark as Parable’

Preacher, educator and widely published author O. Wesley Allen Jr. will lead the 2020 Schooler Institute on Preaching at Methodist Theological School in Ohio.

The two-day event will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 3 and 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 4 on the MTSO campus, 3081 Columbus Pike in Delaware. Thanks to the generosity of the Schooler Family Foundation, the Schooler Institute is offered to the public without cost, as is lunch both days. Advance registration is required and available at //www.mtso.edu/schooler. One continuing education unit is available for a $25 processing fee.

Allen, the Lois Craddock Perkins Professor of Homiletics at Southern Methodist University’s Perkins School of Theology, has chosen the theme “Preaching Mark as a Parable” for the Schooler Institute.

He argues that the author of the Second Gospel wrote the entire narrative as a parable to challenge and change the way the original audience thought about Christ, the reign of God and their roles as disciples. The first day of Schooler will focus on this reading and techniques for preaching individual Markan passages in light of the parabolic nature of the whole document. On the second day, Allen will present strategies for preaching through Mark cumulatively, especially for (but not limited to) those following the Revised Common Lectionary.


Allen holds a Ph.D. from Emory Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, a Master of Divinity degree from Yale Divinity School and a bachelor’s degree from Birmingham-Southern College. An ordained United Methodist elder, he is past president of the Academy of Homiletics.

Methodist Theological School in Ohio provides theological education and leadership in pursuit of a just, sustainable and generative world. In addition to the Master of Divinity degree, the school offers master’s degrees in social justice, counseling, practical theology and theological studies, along with a Doctor of Ministry degree.
Forest Park United Methodist Church

Children’s Ministries Director - part time

Position Summary: The Director of Children’s Ministries will focus on making disciples; assuring children are introduced to the love, forgiveness and life-giving grace found in Christ Jesus. The Director will lead programming that nurtures and grows children’s personal faith in Jesus.

Responsible to: Pastor

Qualifications and Position Requirements:
- Profess Jesus Christ to be Lord and Savior and show “fruitfulness.”
- 1-2 years Children Ministry Experience
- Ability to work with children and families
- Ability to plan, organize, lead and guide complex projects and spontaneous activities related to children and family ministries
- Competent in basic lay counseling and listening skills appropriate for children ministry
- Competent in Bible teaching and speaking to children and families about Jesus
- Willingness to work cooperatively with others, to maintain a positive outlook and disposition, and to be flexible in solving problems
- The ability to protect the reputation and integrity of others through strict confidentiality.
  Refrain from the indiscriminately sharing personal information is critical. Discretion must be exercised when dealing with the public, children and their parents, and the church leaders and members
- Weekly attendance at worship and/or Sunday School at FPUMC
- Computer literacy a must. Microsoft Office and Layout Design preferred.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities:
- Planning, coordinating, conducting, evaluating and selecting and providing resources for the children’s ministry.
- Build relationships of integrity with children that become the basis of meeting needs, sharing Christ, and involving children in peer ministry to other children.
- Coordinate all aspects of the Pre-Kindergarten through sixth grade ensuring there is opportunity to develop fellowship, spiritual formation, discipleship and the experiencing of Christian community. Various material and age appropriate styles of presentation are encouraged.
- Plan summer activities for children and families, such as VBS, and kick-off/end-off for fall programming, mid-week programming, including but not limited to Upward basketball/cheerleading programs.
- Develop relationships and maintain regular communication with parents of the participating children.
- Coordinate roles and responsibilities of volunteer leaders of the Children ministries.
- Adhere to the policies and procedures outlined in the Forest Park United Methodist Church Safe Sanctuary policy, and train volunteers of policies and procedures.
- Perform additional duties as needed and as determined with the pastor

Performance Standards:
- Attend at least one congregational church service per week.
- Be involved in a small group.
- Meet at least weekly with the Pastor
- Work with pastor to prepare and administer a children ministry budget/annual goals for the church fiscal year.
- Work with pastor to prepare an annual summary report of the mission, goals, plans and successes in Children ministries.
- Attend meetings for and be prepared to give monthly reports to Pastor as requested.
- Create and submit article and photos for monthly newsletter or online media resources.
- Participate in the life of the church and larger community, as appropriate

Records and Materials:
- The Employee agrees that all materials, resources and computer programs purchased by the Employee as well as all records, print or electronic data, pertaining to the work of the Forest Park UMC Children Ministries position are property of Forest Park UMC.
- The Employee agrees that all equipment provided by the Forest Park United Methodist church remains property of UMC.

Salary Grade:
- As recommended by the SPRC and this is a half-time (20 hr/wk) salaried position. Starting salary is $15,000 per year, beginning.
- The above is subject to change by the SPRC committee of the Forest Park United Methodist Church

Employee _______________________________ Employment start date __________

I agree to the position description as presented:

Employee _______________________________ Date ______________

SPRC Chair _______________________________ Date ______________
**Director of Children’s Ministries**

Interested in working in the Furniture Capital of the World? Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church (www.wesleymemorial.org) of High Point, NC is seeking a full-time Director of Children's Ministries who will work cooperatively with clergy, program staff, and appropriate lay leadership to ensure that children’s ministry opportunities support and strengthen the congregational mission, vision, and goals as well as the vision for the children’s ministry. In addition, the director will work in partnership with the Children’s Ministry Team to design and implement ministries and programs for children's ministry that include, but are not limited to: Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Special events such as Trunk-Or-Treat, Hanging of the Greens, Children’s Nativity, and Palm Sunday Easter Extravaganza, Bible Explorers (Sunday evening), and Wednesday evening program. The church is also seeking someone who can lead the Children’s Ministry Team in imagining and implementing new initiatives to help children and their families grow spiritually and to grow the children’s ministry numerically.

Qualifications for this position are

- BA or equivalent in Education/Christian Education/Child Development/Family Relations or related field. MA preferred.
- Three years of previous significant, successful experience in developing children and family programs in a medium or large congregational setting.
- Knowledge of theory and techniques required to manage and maintain a vital children’s ministry in a large congregation.
- Current experience in the recruitment, development, and management of a significant number of volunteers.
- Knowledge of planning, coordination, and execution of basic business functions.

Qualified candidates should send a cover letter and resume to aly.eaton@ministryarchitects.com.

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**Summer Impact Internship**

Do you know (or are you) a young adult that has the drive to work hard and desire to make a positive, lasting IMPACT? Consider applying to be an intern for Summer Impact & serve in Cincinnati, Ohio!

As a way to deepen your love & understanding of God while exploring God’s call on your life, interns will lead groups in serving, study, worship, & reflection.

Applications for this 8-week paid internship are due on February 15, 2020. To learn more about the internship or to apply visit http://hydeparkchurch.org/summer-impact-internship/ or email Rev. Kate Smith (ksmith@hpcumc.org). Summer Impact is a ministry of Hyde Park Community UMC.
**Liberty Chapel Youth Pastor**

Liberty Chapel is looking for a full-time Youth Pastor. Primary responsibilities would be ministries with Junior High and Senior High Youth along with coordination of ministries at The Rock youth center. Interested persons should send their resume to the church: 9474 County Road V, Liberty Center, OH 43532, 419-533-2881. Attention: Pastor Brad Martin. or to bmartin4477@gmail.com.

The Youth Pastor’s main goal is to lead students through teaching scripture, developing youth ministries, and public relations with the congregation and community. He or she will provide regular short-term small group studies for youth to attend. The primary responsibility of this person is with the Junior High and Senior High Teams, but she or he will also provide resources for Children and Middle School Teams. The Youth Pastor will provide leadership in summer to the Junior High and Senior High Youth Ministries which generally includes mission trips among other activities. He or she will also coordinate ministries at The Rock youth center.

Liberty Chapel United Methodist Church is a rural congregation near Liberty Center, Ohio. About 200 persons join together for worship and praise each Sunday. There is a good age-spread of children, youth, youth adults, and older adults. The church has a strong evangelical heritage, classic and contemporary worship services, a tradition of youth ministry, a youth outreach center in Liberty Center with after school programming and lots of dreams, and a Wednesday night student ministry with youth and children.

**Trinity Van Wert is seeking Worship Leader**

Trinity United Methodist Church in Van Wert is looking for a Worship Leader for our Praise Team. This position consists primarily of 1 weekly rehearsal and 2 Sunday morning worship services and assisting the Youth Director with the Youth Praise Band. The position is able to be negotiated, but primary responsibilities are:

- Maintaining/developing team atmosphere among the volunteer Praise Team
- Scheduling Praise Team members
- Leading rehearsals to prepare for Sunday morning
- Choosing music for Sunday morning based on Pastor's sermons
- Maintaining music database
- Working with the Youth Director to develop the Youth Praise Band
- Ensuring worship graphics are prepared for worship

While we would like a Leader who is able to lead worship, we have many in our Praise Team that can do so. This position is as much about organization and team building as it is about leading worship. Salary is negotiable in the $110 - $130/week range dependent on experience and availability.

Candidates can email resume and references to Pastor Kurt Tomlinson @ krtom14@gmail.com.
**Free Cantata Books**
Middle Point UMC has song books for Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easter, and Patriotic seasons. Donating. Really good condition. Please call Sandy Moore at 419-968-2443 if interested.

**Portable Sound Lectern**
Zion Grover Hill UMC is looking for a portable sound lectern. Please contact Mike Waldron 419.238.1493 with any leads.

**Copier**
The Coldwater United Methodists Church has a used Duplo DP-A120 copier (so picture below) that is available for any church office or needy organization. Donation to Coldwater UMC would be acceptable as payment. Please contact Scott A. Ault at 937-260-1677.

**Robe**
Women Clergy Alb with various stoles. Size Small. Free for the taking. Can be picked up here at the District Office. Please call at 419-523-9901 or email at lmoore@wocumc.org.
Free Active Shooter Prevention Guide

Recently, attention has been drawn to the unthinkable action of active shooters in a house of worship. UMI is offering this resource to you as a way to prepare you, your church leadership, the congregation and visitors in the event this should occur. Being prepared helps everyone cope with these realities and begin to re-focus attention on core ministries.

Conducting the ministries of The United Methodist Church takes on many forms. Our first call to ministry is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. This crucial part of our ministry as a denomination begins in the local church. Everything else we do on a daily basis supports this core commission. (Matthew 28:19)

There are many supportive actions taking place every day to support the local church. One of them is to insure the church properties so that a church can continue its core ministries in the community.

DOWNLOAD  http://tiny.cc/hf6sry

Local Church Officer Job Descriptions

Positions Required in All Congregations

Every congregation must make provision for including these functions according to The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, ¶244, ¶249. Positions may be combined except for the financial functions. "The positions of treasurer and financial secretary should not be combined and held by one person, and the persons holding these positions should not be immediate family members (¶258.4)."

Nominations and Leader Development Committee (¶258.1)
Pastor/Staff-Parish Relations Committee (¶258.2)
Trustees (¶258.3 and ¶2524 to 2550)
Finance Committee Chairperson (¶258.4)
Lay Leader (¶251.1)
Lay Member of Annual Conference (¶251.2)
Financial Secretary (¶258.4)
Church Treasurer (¶258.4)
Membership Secretary (¶234 and ¶235 to 242)
Leadership Team (also called Church Council, Administrative Board) Chairperson (¶251.3)

LEARN MORE  http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/leadership-resources/local-church-officer-job-descriptions

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 Northwest Plains District via e-mail nwplains@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
Rev. Lynda Lockwood, Assistant to the District Superintendent: llockwood@wocumc.org
Kim Tumblin, Financial Secretary: ktumblin@wocumc.org
Lesley Moore, Office Administrator: lmoore@wocumc.org