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THE MISSION of the West Ohio Conference IS TO EQUIP LOCAL CHURCHES TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD… A world of JUSTICE, Love, and Peace filled with people GROWING in the likeness of JESUS CHRIST

February 18, 2019

ARE YOU CONNECTED WITH YOUR DISTRICT?

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

Dialogue with the DS

Barry would like to get together with the different NWP counties after General Conference to have casual Q&A sessions. All clergy and laity are invited to come and have a group discussion. This is an open invitation and very informal and is not mandatory. Below you will find the grouped counties/church location and times that these sessions will take place. If you are unable to make the location close to you—you are more than welcome to attend wherever and whatever works best for your schedule.

Paulding/Williams/Defiance County
Hosting church: Defiance St. Paul’s, 400 Wayne Ave., Defiance, 43512
Date/Time: March 3, 2019 at 3:00-4:30 pm

Van Wert/Mercer Counties
Hosting church: Rockford, 202 S. Franklin, Rockford 45882
Date/Time: March 3, 2019 at 6:30-8:00 pm

Putnam/Hancock Counties
Hosting church: Journey At Christ, 225 W. Bigelow Ave., Findlay 45840
Date/Time: March 10, 2019 6:30-8:00 pm

Allen/Auglaize Counties
Hosting church: Cridersville, 105 Shawnee Rd., Cridersville, 45806
Date/Time: March 17, 2019 3:00-4:30 pm

Hardin/Wyandot Counties
Hosting church: Forest, 111 E. Dixon St., Forest 45843
Date/Time: March 17, 2019 6:30-8:00 pm
SIGN UP TO ATTEND ANNUAL CONFERENCE AS AN AT-LARGE MEMBER

The Northwest Plains District will send 86 At-Large Members to this year’s Annual Conference. We invite you, the laity in our churches, to consider representing the Northwest Plains District at the West Ohio Area Conference June 2-6.

We’d like all aspects of our membership represented with respect to ethnicity, age, demographic context (rural, urban, suburban, small membership church, large membership church) and more.

If you are interested in serving, please contact the District Office via email or phone 419-523-9901 for more information or to be placed on the list for consideration.

Online registration goes live at 10 am on Friday, March 1. The deadline to let us know that you are interested in serving is Monday, February 25.

Pray for our General Conference on February 23rd

Don’t forget to . . .

- Sign-up for District Leadership Day—February 23rd—***spots still available—contact District Office to get signed up BY 2/20/2019.***
- Return Fund Balance Sheet to District Office by March 1
- Mark your calendar for Clergy/Laity Spiritual Retreat—April 22-23—***registration is NOW AVAILABLE***
- Sign-up for Henderson Settlement – May 5 thru– May 11—***registration is NOW AVAILABLE***
- Mark your calendar for Annual Conference June 2– June 6
- Contact us if you are interested in being an At-Large Member for Annual Conference—***we are in need to get spots filled—please contact us as the District Office-deadline is February 25***
He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:29–31, NIV

**Lord our God,** our loving Father, we thank you for all that our hearts and spirits are allowed to receive from you. We thank you for the community you give us, strengthening us to face life even through toil, struggle, and privation. Grant that your powers flow out to give us strength and courage. May we see and recognize you in your deeds ever more clearly. Do not let us faint or grow weary, no matter what we have to suffer. Grant that your Spirit may penetrate us ever more deeply to bring peace to us and those around us, and finally to bring blessing for all peoples of the earth. Amen.

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**Weekly Prayer**

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

**Rev. Gerald Duecker** who died Tuesday, February 12, 2019. He was a retired pastor from The West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church and was serving Edenton UMC and Second Creek UMC at the time of his death. He also served appointments at Armstrong Chapel and Milford Trinity churches as well as the Edenton Charge. He was married to the late Deanna M. Duecker and the late Sandra Duecker.

Visitation will be at Trinity UMC, 5767 Wolfpen-Pleasant Hill Road Milford, Ohio 45150 on Thursday, February 14, 2019 from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm and Friday, February 15 at 10:00 am until time of the funeral service at 11:00 am with burial to follow at Spring Grove Cemetery. You may make memorial contributions to Small Church Joy at the Ohio River Valley (ORV) District Office.

**Rev. Ralph Shunk** who died Sunday, February 10, 2019. He was a retired pastor from The West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church. He served appointments at Newtonville (Mass), Delhi, Forest Chapel, Church of the Messiah and Monroe churches. He also served as a District Superintendent and Council On Ministries Executive Director at The West Ohio Conference Office. He was married to the late June Shunk.

His memorial service will be on Wednesday, February 20 at 3:00 pm at Linworth UMC, 7070 Bent Tree Boulevard, Columbus, Ohio 43235 with burial to follow in Toledo, Ohio at a later date. There will be no calling hours. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions be made to the Friendship Village of Dublin’s Resident Benevolent Fund or to Linworth UMC.

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**UPDATES**

**Mileage**
- IRS 2019 Mileage Reimbursement rate is $.58/mile.

**2019 Fund Balance Sheets**
- The Annual Fund Balance Report form was mailed along with the 2019 District Apportionment Statements. **Deadline to be returned to the District Office is March 1, 2019**

**At-Large**
- Anyone interested in being an At-Large Member (Adults/Young or Youth) to the 2019 West Ohio Annual Conference scheduled for June 2-6, please contact the District Office at 419-523-9901 or email us at nwplains@wocumc.org. **The deadline to let us know that you are interested in serving is Monday, February 25**
February 23rd Training Day Schedule
8:30 – Gathering
9:00 – Welcome and Keynote Message
10:00 – Break (refreshments provided)
10:15 – Breakout Sessions
12:30 – End

Come and join us for a day of leadership training that has relevance for your church and ministry and will have lasting results in your local congregation. All pastors and lay persons are welcomed!

Choosing to invest in one of these strategic areas will help your church more fully engage your mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

3 WAYS TO REGISTER

1. Register online at www.nwpumc.org
2. Call the district office at 1-800-589-7282
3. Fill in the form below and return it to the district office at 910 E. Third St.
   Ottawa, OH 45875

Name: 
Phone: 
Email: 
Church: 
Breakout:

Breakout #2
“Discovering God’s Vision For Your Church”
Led by NWP District Superintendent
Rev. Barry Burns

We all remember the days when our churches were filled on Sunday morning, and were the center of the community life. But as life has become more complicated and fewer people are attending church. It is important that we find a way to discover once again what God is calling us to, and our purpose as a church. This class will help us with a process of discovering God’s vision for your congregation and ways to think strategically about how to go about that vision. It is no longer enough to do things just because we have always done them that way. We have to center all of our efforts around our mission and vision in order to fully engage our communities and make disciples.

Breakout #3
A.L.I.C.E. Training & Church Safety
Led by Officer Damien Tibbs and David White of Church Mutual Ins.

Officer Tibbs, 15-year veteran with the Allen County Sheriff’s Office will be sharing pertinent information of the A.L.I.C.E. program (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) as it would pertain to our churches in order for people to respond effectively in the crises event of an active shooter. Additionally, David White, Senior Risk Control Consultant with Church Mutual will share Security Basics For Your Facility. He will cover exterior and interior security as well as policy/procedure development for your church, often a neglected issue until an incident occurs. Fortunately, a little prevention goes a long way! applies directly to church congregations and their facilities.

Breakout #4
“Financial ABC’s for Your Church”
Led by Rev. Bruce & Kim Tumin

In this breakout session we will discuss best practices for audits, budgets, compensation and beyond. Among the themes we will discuss are administration, stewardship, budget development, connectional giving, internal controls and audits. The material we will be using was developed by Bill Browens – the CFO and Director of Administration for the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church. The presenters will be Rev. Bruce Tumin, pastor of the Elders Immanuel Church and a member of the NWP Leadership District Team and Kim Tumin, NWP District Financial Secretary.

Breakout #5
“Opiate Addiction and Recovery 101”
Led by Rev. Mark Hollinger

Ohio is among the top five states with the highest rates of opioid-related overdose deaths, killing significantly more people in Ohio than auto accident fatalities. Our families, churches and communities are affected and challenged by this escalating epidemic. This session will provide information with regards to how this epidemic developed, the signs of addiction, what sorts of programs are available to people and families seeking recovery, what churches can do locally to assist people and their families facing the challenges of addiction and what individuals can do to help those seeking recovery. Pastor Mark Hollinger is a recovering addict and has first-hand knowledge of the personal challenges of recovery and has a passion for people, families, churches and communities seeking information to help in the recovery process.

Breakout #6
“Why Youth Ministries are Failing (and what you can do about it)”
Led by Rev. Dave Charles

New to youth ministry and excited about the possibilities to grow your ministry? A seasoned youth worker who is in the trenches and seeing church’s ministry on the decline? Perhaps you even feel defeated or you just don’t know where to start. In this break-out session we will look at three main issues facing youth ministry and its decline, then we will walk through the steps to begin building (or rebuilding) your ministry that focuses on growing disciples, partnering with parents, and helping your congregation see the value of youth ministry in the larger context of the church. Rev. Dave Charles has 25 years of youth ministry experience and is a Licensed Local pastor serving as the Associate Pastor at St. Mark’s UMC in Findlay.

“Game Changers: Leading in Anxious Times”
Keynote Presentation
And Breakout Session #1
“The Missional Church”
Led by Rev. Sue Nilsson Kibbery

Keynote Message:
No matter what is happening in or around the life of a congregation, leaders who long to unleash “holy momentum” in and through their church must grasp and deploy a few core essentials that make all the difference. Be inspired and equipped to take home new perspective and practical steps that God can use right in your own setting.

Breakout #1
According to learnings from West Ohio Conference’s MCCl (Missional Church Consultation Initiative), one key shift of approach can move your church from wondering why visitors to your outreach events, worship, or service projects don’t return – to creating “sticky” relational connection that helps your church become inviting for newcomers to connect into again and again. Learn this new practical strategy in order to take what your church is already doing to the next level – and to help you shape your future new outreach efforts to more effectively reach new persons for Christ.

Rev. Sue Nilsson Kibbery is the West Ohio Conference Director of the Office of Missional Church Development.

February 23, 2019
Delphos Trinity UMC
211 E. Third St.
Delphos, OH 45833

PLEASE CONTACT DISTRICT OFFICE BY WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2019 TO GET SIGNED UP—THANK YOU!
DEPOSIT DEADLINE FEBRUARY 22, 2019

NORTHWEST PLAINS DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MISSION TRIP TO HENDERSON SETTLEMENT
Sunday, May 5—Saturday, May 11, 2019
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 5. (Eat your evening meal before arrival.) Everyone will depart for home after breakfast on Saturday, May 11.

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 22.
Remaining balance due by April 13. Please make check payable to: Northwest Plains District – Henderson Mission Trip. Send check and registration form 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 28, 2:00 PM at Trinity UMC, 220 S. Walnut St., Van Wert, OH 45891.

Henderson Settlement Mission Trip
May 5 thru 11, 2019

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.)
REGISTRATION DEADLINE APRIL 9, 2019

Northwest Plains District Clergy & Laity Spiritual Formation Retreat

“Spiritual Direction in the 21st Century”

April 22 & 23, 2019

The Spiritual Center of Maria Stein, OH

2365 St. Johns Rd., PO Box 95, Maria Stein, Ohio 45860

http://spiritualcenter.net

An Illinois native, Sister Kathleen Flood, OP, has been a Dominican Sister of Sinsinawa for 35 years. She holds a D. Min. in Christian Spirituality. Sr. Kathleen served as director of campus ministry at Edgewood College, Madison, WI; as pastoral staff at Loyola University, Chicago; and as chaplain at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. She is the cofounder of Stillpoint, Inc, offering programs in spiritual direction and contemplative prayer, and ministered as the administrator there for 19 years before retiring in 2014. Sr. Kathleen is currently doing research on Saint Catherine of Siena, OP, a 14th-century Dominican.

Sister Kathleen is an extremely wise woman, she has a great sense of humor and is filled with much grace from our Lord and Savior.

Retreat Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, April 22</th>
<th>Tuesday, April 23</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Breakfast 8:30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session I</td>
<td>Session III 9:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td>Lunch 12:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session II</td>
<td>Session IV 1:15</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Closing Worship 3:30</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Departure 4:00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Retreat Rates:

REGISTRATION IS LIMITED TO 50 ATTENDEES

$100 per person within Northwest Plains

$180 per married couple residing within Northwest Plains District (sharing a room)

$150 per person residing outside of the Northwest Plains District.

$200 per married couple residing outside of the Northwest Plains District (sharing a room)

Registration fee covers 1 breakfast, 1 lunch, 1 dinner, and snacks.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact: Dr. Barbara Lee, bjcwapak@bright.net.

Northwest Plains District Clergy & Laity Spiritual Formation Retreat

Registration Deadline: April 9, 2019

Name

Address

Church

Telephone Email

Dietary Restrictions

Make check payable and mail to: Northwest Plains District UMC, 910 E. Third St., Ottawa, OH 45875.
From the desk of Donnetta Peaks . . .

2019 Next Generation Leadership Ministry Intern Program

West Ohio,

It is with great pleasure that we announce the opening of the Next Generation Leadership Ministry Intern Application process. Since its inception, the Next Generations Leadership Ministry Interns have been able to discern calls to Ministry and Service in a variety of ways. The pay for the Internship is $4600.00 during the summer, starting May 20 and ending July 29. Internship placements are with engaging local churches throughout the West Ohio Conference and include trips to local Ohio Seminaries as well as in the Mid-Western part of the United States. Applicants must be college students who are available for the duration of the Internship. Please encourage students who have expressed a desire to explore a call to ministry and/or service to apply at www.westohioumc.org. The Application Deadline is March 6, 2019. For questions, please email Rev. Donnetta Peaks, dpeaks@wocumc.org or call 614-844-6200, 314.

Next Generation Leadership Ministry – Mentor and Host Church Application

The Next Generation Leadership Ministry Program is now taking applications for Mentors/Host Churches for the summer of 2019. For clergy and congregations with a passion for developing young leaders, this is a great opportunity to mentor a young person who has a desire to serve in the church and explore a call to ministry. The applications are located online at https://www.westohioumc.org/conference/2019-next-generation-leadership-mentor-host-churches. For questions, please contact Rev. Donnetta Peaks, dpeaks@wocumc.org or call 614-844-6200, 314.

Job Opening – Intern Coordinator

The Next Generation Leadership Ministry Intern Program is now taking applications for an Intern Coordinator. This position is full-time, May 13-August 3 with the potential to be part-time August through May 2020. Interested persons should submit a Resume with a cover letter to Rev. Donnetta Peaks, dpeaks@wocumc.org. Please click here for the Job Description. https://www.westohioumc.org/sites/default/files/conference/documents/pdf/page/2019-ngl-intern-coordinator-job-description_1.pdf (Run thru March 6)
This spring, please plan to join the Deacons of the West Ohio Conference for the 2019 Deacon Formation Event and Order of Deacons’ Gathering.

All Deacons in any status, Provisional, Ordained, Retired, and Exploring in West Ohio and throughout the Connection are welcomed to participate. This event will meet the Book of Discipline requirement for a Deacon Formation Event. Please note that in order for this event to count as a formation event toward ordination as a full member deacon, participants must attend both Friday night and all day Saturday. Our featured presenters are Bishop Gregory Palmer, Presiding Bishop for West Ohio and Rev. Michelle Foster, a Deacon from the Western North Carolina Conference who specializes in Self Care and Healthy Boundaries Training. Providing leadership to the work of a Deacon and updates on how Deacons will move forward are Rev. Rachel Miller, Chair of the Division of Deacons and Rev. Benji Sayre, Chair of the Order of Deacons.


(Run thru March 30)
### Clergy Gatherings (February Schedule)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>February</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allen Luncheon</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Old Barn Out Back, Lima</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auglaize Breakfast</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>RJ’s Coffey Cup, Wapakoneta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defiance Luncheon</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Sherwood UMC, Sherwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hancock Breakfast</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Scrambler Marie’s, Findlay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardin Breakfast</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Table One, Kenton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercer Luncheon</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Orchard Tree, Celina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paulding Luncheon</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Fiesta Habaneros, Paulding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Putnam Breakfast</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Henry’s Restaurant, Ottawa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van Wert Breakfast</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Van Wert Hospital Cafeteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williams Breakfast</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Four Seasons, Bryan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyandot Luncheon</td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>East of Chicago Pizza, Upper Sandusky</td>
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</table>

*Note: Retired pastors are welcome to attend!*

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### Clergy Gatherings (March Schedule)

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<th>March</th>
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<td>11:30am</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Fiesta Habaneros, Paulding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Putnam Breakfast</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Henry’s Restaurant, Ottawa</td>
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*Note: Retired pastors are welcome to attend!*
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. George Cooper/gcooper@wocumc.org, Rev. Stanley Ling/sling@wocumc.org, Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey/snkibbey@wocumc.org, Mr. Brad Aycock/bradaycock@wocumc.org

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BY GEORGE! Campaign

This spring, we are inviting the congregations of the Northwest Plains District to be a part of a special effort to help Grace Children’s Hospital in Haiti. This hospital that has served countless numbers of children and their families over the years has been devastated by the earthquakes and hurricanes and is in desperate need of help. So, we are inviting you to be part of a special campaign.

If every one of our congregations would challenge their members to give just $1 per week per member, we could rally to give not only a dramatic amount of financial help, but also hope that they are not alone. The money will be collected at the District Office and sent on to Haiti. There will be much more information coming in the form of videos, pamphlets, etc. But we invite you now to begin praying about your congregation being a part of this effort. In a time where we see so much brokenness and disunity, this is one way we can truly show how we can do more together than we can apart. Watch for more information to come!

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Summer Impact 2019

Are you a youth group, women’s group, men’s group, young adult group, or an otherwise eclectically congregating group of individuals with a desire to serve and give back this summer?

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

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 and 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 throughout the year.

To find out more information about what your week will look like, cost ($190/person if registered by the end of 2018), and to register please visit: http://hydeparkchurch.org/summer-impact/
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.

Register TODAY

“Lead and Worship (CORE Course)”, will be offered Saturday, April 6, 2019. Led by Rev. Dwight Bowers. 8:30am-4:30pm, at Trinity UMC, 137 N. Pratt St., Ottawa. The FIRM deadline for registration is March 28. If we do not receive 10 registrations, the class will not be held. Register on the Northwest Plains district website or call the office @ 419-523-9901.

“Dealing with Grief (Advanced Course)”, will be offered Saturday, April 6, 2019. Led by: Elaine Sturtz 8:30am-4:30pm, at Trinity UMC, 137 N. Pratt St., Ottawa. The FIRM deadline for registration is March 28. If we do not receive 10 registrations, the class will not be held. Register on the Northwest Plains district website or call the office @ 419-523-9901.

"Introduction to Lay Servant Ministry (Basic) Part 1 & 2" led by Rev. Vernagaye Sullivan/Lay Ministry Teaching Team will be offered on Friday, April 12 (Part 1) beginning at 7:00 am Saturday, April 13 (Part 2), 8:30am-4:00 pm, at Wesley UMC in Bryan, OH (903 Center St., Bryan, OH 43506). The FIRM deadline for registration is April 4. If we do not receive 10 registrations, the class will not be held. Register on the Northwest Plains district website. This offer is response to a request by the northwestern part of the District. You will have a shorter drive time and you can stay overnight making only one trip necessary—you are responsible for your own accommodations.

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!

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

“Spiritual Gifts (CORE Course)”, will be offered Saturday, March 2, 2019. More information to come at a later date.

“Conflict Management (Advanced course)”, will be offered Saturday, March 2, 2019. More information to come at a later date.

Lay Servant Training Events

“Spiritual Gifts (CORE Course)”, will be offered Saturday, March 2, 2019. More information to come at a later date.

“Conflict Management (Advanced course)”, will be offered Saturday, March 2, 2019. More information to come at a later date.
Findlay Emmaus Walks @ St. Marks UMC, Findlay, OH
http://www.findlayemmaus.org/

Women's Walks
#106 February 7-10, 2019
#107 June 13-16, 2019
#108 October 10-13, 2019

Men's Walks
#80 March 14-17, 2019
#81 November 7-10, 2019

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

Women's Walks
TBD

Men's Walks
Men's Walk #72 November 1-4, 2018

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

Women's Walks
March 28-31, 2019
September 19-22, 2019

Men's Walk
February 21-24, 2019
August 22-25, 2019

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

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
#51--January 25-27, 2019
#52--July 12-14, 2019

Boys
#51--February 22-24, 2019
#52--July 26-28, 2019
http://www.findlaychrysalis.org/

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

Delta UMC, Delta
Girls - June 22-24, 2018
http://www.nwoemmaus.com/
Local Church and Community Events

Community Meal PSA

The Pandora United Methodist Church will be hosting a FREE Community Meal on Wed Feb 27th from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. in the church fellowship hall, 108 E. Washington Street, Pandora. The meal this month is provided by Hilty Memorial Home. Menu is Fried chicken, parsley potatoes, California blend vegetables, dinner roll, assorted cupcakes, and beverage..

Intelligent Life on Other Planets Explored at Lifetree Café

Whether intelligent life exists in other places in the universe, and what the search for that life is revealing, will be discussed at Lifetree Café on Wednesday, February 20 from 6:30-7:30pm.

The program, titled “We’re Not Alone? The Search for Intelligent Life on Other Planets,” features a filmed interview with Dr. Seth Shostak, senior astronomer at the SETI Institute and author of Confessions of an Alien Hunter: A Scientist’s Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence.

“One-third of the population believes some of the thousands of UFOs people report seeing each year are alien craft,” says Shostak, who is optimistic that his search for alien intelligence will one day pay off.

Participants in the Lifetree program will have an opportunity to share their thoughts and experiences related to the topic.

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 February 27 – “Why God? When personal tragedy doesn’t make sense.”

Grief Seminar/Workshop

Seminar for those grieving the loss of a loved one, for those who want to provide support in times of grief and loss and for anyone who has ever experienced grief and loss.

Topics
Emotions of grief, living in the midst of grief, coping skills, a new reality, dealing with anniversaries and holidays, loneliness, hope, complicated grief, heaven, the season of grief, faces, language of grief, living in the different and more.

Local Churches or Groups
Provide this grief seminar within your church, cluster of churches or organization

Leadership

Cost
Honorarium plus permission to have books available for purchase

Time
Available weekdays and weekends – what works best for your church schedule
Actual seminar time can vary in length from 2 – 4 hours or whatever church would like to create

Contact Information
Rev. Elaine J. Clinger Sturtz
Cell phone – 614-406-9544
Email – ejsturtz7@gmail.com

Other Topics for Seminars/Classes
Leaving a Legacy, Mental Health 101 – Dealing with Anxiety and Depression
Local Church and Community Events

First United Methodist Preschool Fundraiser

The public is invited to our First United Methodist Preschool Art Show and Fundraiser Thursday, February 21, 2019 from 5:30-8:00pm 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

Spaghetti Dinner PSA:

There will be a Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, February 23, 2019 serving from 4-6:00 p.m. at the Pandora United Methodist Church, 108 E. Washington St. (Rt. 12) in Pandora. Tickets are $8.00 for adults 12 years old and up, $4.00 for children under 12. Pre-sale tickets are available, call 419.384.3812, 419.722.1096, or 419.721.8154. Walk-ins are always welcome. Proceeds will support the Veteran’s Dinner in the Fall.

17th Annual Good Works Walk

Saturday, February 23, 2019 @ 8:30 am

The Good Works House serves everyone with 110-156 meals, women, and children who experience homelessness each year—between 3500-4500 nights. Since 1981, Good Works has provided more than 115,000 nights of shelter.

What is it? The Good Works WALK is educational and inspirational. Different organizations are planned to dramatize the reality of homelessness and poverty in SE Ohio and to generate needed financial support for the Good Works Timothy House.

What can you do?:

- Come and join the WALK and arrive at the First United Methodist Church in uptown Athens by 8:00 a.m. on WALK day. Find at least 15 people who will sponsor you $10 each. Our goal for each walker to bring $150.
- Be a cheerleader for the WALK! Announce it and promote the WALK among friends, in clubs you are a part of, in your hometown, in your church, and among your family.
- Volunteer to assist in the promotion of the WALK. Contact us at email@good-works.net or by phone at (740) 594-8899.
- Go to www.goodworkswalk.net and download a Walkers packet, WALK flyers, or quarter sheet handouts!
- Serve with us in other ways! Visit our website (www.good-works.net) and click on Volunteer Opportunities.

You can help! Good Works sponsors nearly 20 different initiatives all focused on caring for people struggling with poverty, especially widows, children, and people without homes. Good Works provides an estimated 21,000 meals each year to people struggling with hunger and homelessness primarily through donations from people like YOU!
Why Belong to The
Preachers’ Relief Society?

Most members of The
Preachers’ Relief Society give
two answers:

So that The Preachers’
Relief Society can provide help
for them and their families if it
is needed, and

So that The Preachers’
Relief Society can continue to
provide help for their clergy
colleagues.

Your membership in The
Preachers’ Relief Society
makes possible this support for
West Ohio clergy and their families.

The Preachers’ Relief Society

The Preachers’ Relief Society is a
voluntary, non-profit benevolent
organization of clergy and their families in
the West Ohio Conference of The United
Methodist Church. It is an affiliated
organization of the conference.

Begun in 1837, PRS predates pensions and
medical insurance in the conference and
the denomination. Ministers in the former
Cincinnati Conference of the Methodist
Episcopal Church decided that an
organization such as The Preachers’ Relief
Society would help “tired, worn-out
preachers and their families.”

Almost two centuries later, the phrasing is
quaint but the purpose is the same: to
bring relief where it is needed. While
clergy and their families now participate in
pension plans and health care coverage, both
times full short, and The
Preachers’ Relief Society stands ready to
help its members in situations such as when:

- High deductible medical insurance
  policies leave a gap before full
  coverage
- Vision or dental plans require
  prepayments
- Births or deaths bring
  extraordinary expenses
- A fire, storm, flood or other natural
  disaster requires immediate
  response

On application from a member, The
Preachers’ Relief Society may make a
grant for these or other needs. The grants
are made outright; they are not loans and
no strings are attached.

Grants are not for fixed or specific
amounts, and they are not guaranteed, but
are based entirely upon the needs of
members, and so are not IRS taxable.

Every appointed clergy in the West Ohio
Conference (Elders, Deacons, provisionals
on elder or deacon track), associate
members, licensed local pastors, clergy
from other conferences/denominations
appointed in West Ohio, and clergy from
other denominations appointed in West
Ohio is eligible for membership in The
Preachers’ Relief Society, subject to age
limit and conference membership
requirements.

Membership is voluntary, not mandatory.
Payment of annual dues and continuing
conference membership guarantees
eligibility for grants. Life memberships
are also available.

Membership rates:
Application and one year $25
Renewal for one year $25
*Lifetime ages 25-40 $200
*Lifetime ages 41-59 $200
*Lifetime ages 60 and above $100

(*To become a lifetime member, a
person must have been a member of the
Society for at least one full year)

PRS Membership Application

Detach and fill out this application and
send with $25 initial membership fee to
address below.

First name:
Middle name or initial:
Last name:
Street:
City:
ZIP:
Telephone: ( )
E-mail:

I am (please circle below)
Elder Deacon Associate Member
Provisional Licensed Local Pastor
Clergy from another conference
Clergy from another denomination

Mail to:
The Rev. Sharon Hausman
9822 Bradysville Road
Aberdeen, Ohio 45101

Questions?
Telephone 740-621-0973
E-mail: pastor.sharon62@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.

**Choir Robes**
Chattanooga United Methodist Church has approximately 32 green choir robes/white sashes, free to a church that can use of them. For more information please phone Judy Stetler, 419.942.1252.

**Vacation Bible School Materials**
Mt. Cory/Pleasant View Charge has Vacation Bible School materials from two summers available free of charge to any church that needs/wants them—still available is Sonquest Rainforest. Material includes the kits, some of the posters and scenery, music DVD’s, teacher manuals, and some of the materials for crafts are available with the kits. They were each used once. Anyone interested can call 419.302.9641 for more information.

**TV Stand for Sale**
We have recently wall-mounted our media and have 1 TV stand available for $25.00 to the first interested purchaser. Please phone 419/238-0631 x302 for more information. Sherri Arn/Van Wert First United Methodist Church

**Folding Chairs/cushions**
St. Andrew's UMC in Findlay, Ohio has 125 wood/metal folding chairs to give away. You can take all or some of them. Also, we still have 49 cream color chair cushions left. Give us a call at 419-422-4845 if you are interested.
Ministry Scope
The Family Ministry Director will be instrumental in the vision casting, planning and leading of children and youth ministries. He or she will advocate for and implement intergenerational ministry within the life of our church. The Family Ministry Director will help build and administer a Christ–centered, family driven, church supported ministry for children, youth and families. Focus will be given to reaching out to and building relationships with families in our community, nurturing spiritual growth and meaningful connections among all age groups, and empowering families to be the primary agents of spiritual formation in the lives of children and youth. The Family Ministry Director will collaborate with those who currently serve in our children and youth ministries to invite and empower servant leaders, create and implement Safe Sanctuary best practices, as well as helping our children, youth, families and volunteers to grow in their walk with Jesus and to become his disciples called to serve in the world.

Characteristics and Qualifications
• A personal commitment to growing as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Attend worship at Ada First UMC regularly and seek opportunities for growth through participation in a small group, Bible study, and service opportunities.
• Ability to build meaningful relationships with children, youth, families. Building relationships with all members of the church, across generations, is also important.
• Growing Wesleyan theological training, understanding and/or experience as it relates to ministry and/or children's education. All ministry must be carried out in accordance with United Methodist doctrine and guidelines.
• Confidentiality must be maintained at all times barring a threat of personal harm or violence against another.
• Bachelor’s Degree completed or in progress in children’s or youth ministry, education, or other related field.
• Must pass background check and be trained in Safe Sanctuary policy and procedure

At least 2 years of experience working with youth and children, preferably in a church or related environment.

Ministry Results
To include but not limited to…
• Oversee and work with current Children, Youth and Family leaders, including attending/leading staff meetings and implementation of activities and events for children, youth and families. Plan and coordinate yearly Vacation Bible School or similar program with laity and staff.
• Invite, train and empower lay volunteers to serve in a variety of ways with children, youth, and families.
• Communicate and listen to parents in order to develop the best spiritual paths for the children and youth of the church.
• Work with children’s ministry team to implement best practices for teaching and leading Sunday School and junior church curriculum.
• Assist family ministry team in developing and implementing a scope and sequence plan for nursery age through 12th grade.
• Serve as the mentor and supervisor for college interns working with children and youth.
• Update, track and train Safe Sanctuary compliance standards.
• Build meaningful partnerships with the local school, Ohio Northern University, library, ReStore and other community groups.
• Attend staff meetings.
Serve as the Children, Youth and Family Ministry representative on the Administrative Council.

Salary and Benefits
• Part-time salary Position (with the possibility of moving toward full-time as the ministries and church grow).
• Salary is $20,000/year plus $1,200 for continuing education (i.e. books, conferences, training events) and mileage reimbursement.
• Flexible schedule, 20-24 hours expected per week, at least 2 hours in office during the week, and Sunday requirements.
• Family Ministry Director reports to the Pastor and SPRC committee.
• Vacation time – 2 weeks paid vacation (including 2 Sunday per calendar year)
• Sick time – since this is part-time salary position, sick days will not be paid but can be made up or taken as compensation time.

Who we are
Ada First UMC is a growing and forward thinking congregation. We worship, on average, 150 people on a Sunday morning, with about 30 of those being children and 15 being youth. We are located in a college town (Ohio Northern University). Our members and regular attenders are diverse in background, age, and socioeconomic status (including a number of university faculty, staff, and students). Affordable housing, family friendly neighborhoods and strong partnerships between the community, university, and church are a strong draw to Ada. We pride ourselves on being an intergenerational congregation with recent growth among young families, children and youth. In 2012, our building caught fire and burned. After several years of rebuilding, the current building was completed and paid in full. This church family has overcome many obstacles and is now seeking to continue Christ’s work by reaching into our community, building relationships, meeting needs, and empowering individuals and families to live out their call to be disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world.

To Apply
Please send resume and references to Rev. Brandi Rigsby at Ada First UMC 301 N. Main St. Ada, OH 45810 or rigsby@adaumc.org by March 1, 2019. Questions may also be directed to Rev. Brandi Rigsby.
March 9: Creating a Community of Healing, 10am – 2pm
The first half of this training focuses on why experiences with incarceration and victimization are pervasive in our churches and what a faith community’s appropriate response should be. Participants, also, learn how to create a community with healing as its primary focus. The afternoon component offers three focus areas for (1) pastors, (2) congregation members, and (3) people with personal incarceration experience. Regardless of the “position” you are in, God can use you there to reduce the shame, stigma, and silence that are barriers to healing for others and yourself. Participants leave with an action plan for creating a community of healing with people touching the criminal justice system.

Onsite and Online Options. This training will be available in person and online. The live location for this training is at Central Community Center. It will be simulcast to the following remote locations with facilitators: St. Mark's UMC (Lima) in NWP, Whitehall UMC (Columbus) in CAN, and Archbold UMC in Maumee Watershed District. Or you may participate in the online webinar at home. Online participants, also, will have a facilitator to help build community and guide discussion.

Pricing for in-person training is $25 for meals and materials; the webinar cost is $10 for digital materials. Once you register for an in-person training, you will be contacted about which site we can expect to see you at. Registration available through the West Ohio Conference website.

March 30: Creating a Community of Healing, 10am – 2pm
The first half of this training focuses on why experiences with incarceration and victimization are pervasive in our churches and what a faith community’s appropriate response should be. Participants, also, learn how to create a community with healing as its primary focus. The afternoon component offers three focus areas for (1) pastors, (2) congregation members, and (3) people with personal incarceration experience. Regardless of the “position” you are in, God can use you there to reduce the shame, stigma, and silence that are barriers to healing for others and yourself. Participants leave with an action plan for creating a community of healing with people touching the criminal justice system. This is a repeat training from March 9.

Onsite and Online Options. This training will be available in person and online. The live location for this training is at the Ohio River Valley District Office. It will be simulcast to the following remote locations with facilitators: St. Mark's UMC (Lima) in NWP, Whitehall UMC (Columbus) in CAN, and Archbold UMC in Maumee Watershed District. Or you may participate in the online webinar at home. Online participants, also, will have a facilitator to help build community and guide discussion.

Pricing for in-person training is $25 for meals and materials; the webinar cost is $10 for digital materials. Once you register for an in-person training, you will be contacted about which site we can expect to see you at. Registration available through the West Ohio Conference website.

April 9: Juvenile Justice Engagement Webinar, 12-1pm Let’s invest in the next generation of citizens. This Webinar will provide an overview of the Department of Youth Services, the current trends in the rehabilitation of youthful offenders, and opportunities for ministry with this population involved in the criminal justice system. Webinar presenters: Department of Youth Services professionals

Register with Reba Collins at rebakco@gmail.com
**Resources**

**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](http://tiny.cc/hf6sry)

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**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](http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/leadership-resources/local-church-officer-job-descriptions)

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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

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**Paperless Compass Newsletter**

The Northwest Plains District is starting to transition to paperless Compass Newsletters. If you would like a paper copy of the Compass Newsletter, please email nwplains@WOCUMC.org.