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 26, 2019

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.

NO ONLINE REGISTRATION THIS YEAR FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE—PLEASE SEE NEW DETAILS BELOW FROM CONFERENCE. (Those of you signed-up—you should had received this letter below). If not, please let us know. Please pay close attention to dates mentioned within letter).

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Dear:

You are receiving this email because our records indicate you are either a Clergy Member or Lay Member to the 2019 Annual Conference. This year you are not required to register for annual conference, instead we ask that you complete a form about the upcoming annual conference. The purpose of the form is to collect information so that we can better communicate with you regarding:

1. The Book of Reports,
2. Childcare at Lakeside, and
3. Requesting Housing at Lakeside.

Please complete this form by 4:00 pm on March 15. Because we must work within tight time frames, we cannot guarantee access to childcare and housing assistance if your form is received after March 15. Between March 18 and March 22 you should expect to receive an email if you requested more information about Childcare and/or Requesting Housing. Beginning April 1 at 10:00 am, you will be able to request Childcare and Housing using the links provided in the email you received. There will also be two links on the annual conference webpage at www.westohioumc.org/ac/2019.

If you received this email and you are not a member to annual conference, please contact your district office to make sure your congregation is properly represented by clicking here.

If you have any questions please email me at tmccoy@wccumc.org.

To complete the form, CLICK HERE.

Tim McCoy
Episcopal Office Administrative Coordinator
I lift up my eyes to the mountains – where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. Psalm 121:1–2, NIV

Lord God Almighty, Lord our God, our refuge for ever and ever, bless us as we gather in your presence and turn to you. May we be your children, who can simply believe and stand firm in our lives and in our calling. We thank you for giving us your grace and constant help. In your grace we can be joyful, praising and honoring you. You are our father. You never forsake us. May your name be praised by us all. May your name be praised above and in the whole world so that all people may acknowledge you and receive what they need from you. Amen.

SHOUT OUT TOO . . .

Dru and Michaella Johnson! This brother-sister duo returned to the 2019 Ohio Has Talent as special guests at the Niswonger Performing Arts Center this last Saturday, February 23rd. Dru and Michaella were the 2018 winners of Ohio Has Talent singing their way to the top for the love of God.

Michaella is a senior at Van Wert High School and has performed in Stepp Stewart’s “Red, White, and Blue Revue” in Atlanta, and had call backs from The Voice.

Dru, a sophomore, loves Christian rap, writes songs, and participates in sports also for Van Wert High School.

Both are active in their church youth group at Van Wert First and are very inspiring to those around them—great role models for today’s youth!

Keep up the good work Dru and Michaella by spreading God’s word and love through your singing and faith!

UPDATES

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 April 1, 2019
NEED INFO PLEASE

The NWP District office is needing contact information from each church for the following positions held within your leadership roles:

- Ad Council Chair
- SPRC Chair
- Treasurer
- Lay Member

We realize that some of you may have updated your system during Charge Conference, but in order for us to serve you better we need for each representative mention above their:

- Email address
- Home address
- Telephone #

Email this information to me, Lesley at nwplains@wocumc.org. We have found some inconsistencies and we are wanting to make sure we have the latest information. Please be sure while you are providing this info to us that the WOC (Civi) website is also up-to-date with everyone’s contact information.

Any questions, please call me at 419-523-9901.

Thank you,

Lesley Moore

Don’t forget to . . .

- Return Fund Balance Sheet to District Office by April 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 still in need to get spots filled—please contact us as the District Office to sign-up—thank you!***
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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session I</td>
<td>Session III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30</td>
<td>9:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30</td>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session II</td>
<td>Session IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00</td>
<td>1:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing Worship</td>
<td>Departure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30</td>
<td>4:00</td>
</tr>
</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 call614-844-6200, 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
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.

# 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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Retired pastors are welcome to attend!

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# Clergy Gatherings

## (March Schedule)

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<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>11:30am</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Fiesta Habaneros, Paulding</td>
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<td>Putnam Breakfast</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Henry’s Restaurant, Ottawa</td>
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</table>

Note: Retired pastors are welcome to attend!

Please NOTE in RED above of the date change to honor those that have services scheduled for March 6th—Ash Wednesday. Moved to the 14th.
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

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!

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!

---

Lay Servant Training Events

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

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

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

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

Women’s Walks  Dates
TBD

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

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

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

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

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/

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
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.

---

Pancake & Sausage Breakfast

ALL YOU CAN EAT

Saturday, March 2nd, 2019
8am-Noon

St. Mark’s United Methodist Church
1110 N. Metcalf Street
Lima, OH
419-222-3601

Adults $7.00
Children Under 6 $3.00
Includes Pancakes, Sausage & Beverage

Tickets Available at the Door

---

World Day of Prayer

Trinity United Methodist, 137 Pratt Street, Ottawa, OH, will host the 2019 World Day of Prayer on March 1st, at 11:30 am. This year’s theme is Come - Everything is Ready. The host country, Slovenia, has put the focus on Jesus’ parable of the Great Dinner (Luke 14:15-24). One phrase in the worship service especially captures the ideas we will explore: “Welcoming God, in your love, you have prepared a table for us and you inspire us to open our hearts and our homes to offer a place to one who are not yet at the table.” Who isn’t at your table yet? The women of Slovenia challenge us all to widen our circles, to expand our communities. A light lunch will follow the service and women, men, and children of all faiths are invited and encouraged to attend.
Local Church and Community Events

ARISE

A Musical Drama of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth

Where: Trinity Family Life Center
702 Ambrose Drive, Delphos, OH
(just off of S 5th Street behind Arby's)

When: Friday, March 15th at 7PM
Saturday, March 16th at 7PM
Sunday, March 17th at 2PM

Cost: Free Admission
(a free-will offering will be taken)

Open seating. Doors open one-half hour prior to performance.
For more information or directions please call Trinity United Methodist Church at (419)692-0681 or visit www.delphostrinity.org

LIVE IN CONCERT
BREAD OF STONE
AT THE PROCLAIM FM EVENT CENTER
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
JOEL VAUGHAN & CADE THOMPSON
SUNDAY MARCH 10TH 2019
6:00 PM
DOORS OPEN 5:30 PM
FREE EVENT
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 sometimes fall 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 $300
- 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)

The Preachers’ Relief Society of the West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church is a registered 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions from congregations, groups, and individuals to its Capital Fund for permanent endowment are tax-deductible as permitted by law. An annual meeting of The Preachers' Relief Society is held during the West Ohio Annual Conference session each 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

The Columbus Grove Christian Church would like to invite the congregation of the Northwest Plains United Methodist Church to our 67th Annual Pancake and Sausage Supper. This year’s event will take place on Thursday, February 28th. Supper will be served from 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM in the church basement at 105 South Broadway St., Columbus Grove, Ohio or carry outs will be available at the same price.

The pre-sale ticket price are Adults - $7.00 and Child (ages 5-12) - $3.50. At the door the night of the supper the price will be Adults - $7.50 and Child (ages 5-12) - $4.00. Tickets are available at Alt’s Gas Station, Tabler’s Carry Out, any member of the church or call church office (419) 659-2182 and someone will get back with you.

Frozen uncooked whole hog sausage links will also be for sale. We would be honored to have you in attendance for good food and fellowship.
Family Ministry Director
Ada First United Methodist Church
301 N. Main St. Ada, Ohio 45810

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

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

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.