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

January 13, 2020

Save the date!

NWP LEADERSHIP TRAINING DAY

Saturday
February 8, 2020

Location: Ottawa Trinity

Look for sign-up email this week.

Leadership Training Day — 2/8/2020
Weekly Prayer
W-2 info
A Call to Prayer
News From Around the Connection
Light The Way Campaign
BY GEORGE Campaign
Announcements
MTSO
Otterbein
Summer Impact
Brown Bag Lunch-n-Learns
ERT
NWP Directors of Pulpit Supply
Lay Servant Ministries 2020 Courses
Video—Lay Servant Opportunities
Crossing the Color Line
Emmaus
Donating stock
Traction Tracks
Local Church and Community (2)
Classifieds (4)
Resources

Northwest Plains District Website
West Ohio UMC Website
West Ohio You Tube
Lay Ministry
The United Methodist Church
United Methodist VIM
United Methodist Women
Church World Service
Rethink Church
Find A Church
MissionInsite
UMCom Tech Shop
UMCOR’S YouTube
Friendly Center, Toledo
Bread for the World
Society of St. Andrew
Stop Hunger Now
Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. 1 Corinthians 16:13-14, RSV

Dear Father in heaven, give us childlike hearts so that we may understand everything in the right way. Grant us work that bears fruit in spite of our faults and weaknesses, because we want to work with the understanding given by love. Father in heaven, you know that we are faced day and night with many difficulties and setbacks. But you see us, and you will help us so that your name may be honored, your kingdom may come, and your will may be done on earth as in heaven. Amen.

It's W-2 Time!

2019 W-2s are due to all employees by January 31, 2020. Information to help with preparing IRS Form W-2 for clergy, which can be complicated, can be found on the Conference website. Use the worksheet and example here as a guide for preparing your pastor's W-2. This sample spreadsheet and W-2 is just that, a sample. Your fact set may include more or fewer items to report (for example, moving expenses which are now taxable if paid or reimbursed are not in the sample).

Highlights for 2019 W-2's include:

- Moving expenses paid by churches directly to moving companies or via reimbursement to clergy are taxable and must be reported as income (see the moving expense section of IRS instructions completing W-2's here).
- If your pastor received health insurance through the Conference Plan (Aetna) they received a contribution to their HSA account that should be reported. Clergy on single plans received $500 in January and July 2018 for a total of $1,000. Clergy on Family-2 or Family-3 plans received $1,000 in January and July for a total of $2,000. If two churches share in the cost of health insurance, adjust accordingly.
- All full time clergy and some 3/4 time clergy receive a $50,000 death benefit through a conference plan. This is in addition to $50,000 available through the denominational plan (CPP). The cost of group life insurance over $50,000 is taxable. The imputed income can be calculated based on the table in IRS Publication 15-B.
- Note: If your pastor is not on the Conference health insurance plan and your church has not established its own qualified plan, direct payments to clergy to offset the cost of health insurance (for example on a spouse or other employer plan) are taxable income.

The resources referenced here and on the conference website should answer most of your questions. However, contact your payroll provider, a CPA or tax preparer if you have technical questions.

Bill Brownson
CFO & Director of Administration
Let us remember in prayer those grieving the loss of their loved one, and remember in thanksgiving the life and ministry of:

**Rev. Barbara Sanders** who died Friday, December 27, 2019. She was a retired pastor from The West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church. She served appointments at St. Paul and State Avenue churches.

Preceding her in death was her husband, Harold. Surviving are her brothers, Carl and William Jantzen; children, Bill Welsch and Laura Welsch Giesel; stepdaughters and their families: Cheryl and Paul Walsh; Pam and Greg McSwain; Diane Dorr; and Edie and Scott Cooper; grandchildren: Chris, Tricia, Rachel, Sami Jo, Nikki, Stacy, Alex, Amanda, Brandon, Brittany, Casey, April, Bryan, and Sean; and eight great-grandchildren.

**Rev. William Casto Jr.** who died Friday, January 3, 2020. He was a retired pastor from The United Methodist Church. He retired after 22 years of teaching at Methodist Theological School in Ohio. He was married to Rev. Jennifer Kimball Casto who is a pastor from The West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church currently serving Epworth UMC.

Surviving are his wife, Jennifer; children: Shelly (Kevin Fish), Trevor (Sara, d. 2009), and Dana (Shelley Coleman Casto); grandchildren: Gabriel Fish, Eliza Fish, Tristan Casto, Alana Casto and Eleanor Casto; brother, Michael (Sally Casto); and two nephews, Andrew (Heidi) and Daniel (Nicole).

In lieu of flowers, you may make donations to the Kent & Mary Beittel Endowment Fund for the Open Shelter via The Columbus Foundation, 1234 E. Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43205, or [columbusfoundation.org](http://columbusfoundation.org).

**Rev. George Hubbell Jr.** who died Sunday, January 5, 2020. He was a retired pastor from The West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church. He served appointments at West Elkton; Portsmouth Wesley; Concord; and Rockford churches.

Surviving are his wife, Rev. Nanette Hubbell. His Celebration of Life Service will be held Sunday, January 19, 2020 at 1:00 pm at Anona United Methodist Church, 13233 Indian Rocks Road, Largo, Florida 33774.

**Rev. John Hoover** who died Monday, January 6, 2020. He was a retired pastor from The West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church. He served appointments at Green Spring - Calvary EUB; Upper Sandusky Circuit - Salem/Belle Vernon EUB; Hoytville; Upper Sandusky Trinity; and Delphos Trinity churches.

Preceding him in death was his wife, Evelyn Hoover; brothers, Abe and Lowell; sisters, Margaret Hull and Janet Casey; and daughter-in-law, Jane Hoover. Surviving are his children: Larry Hoover; Stephen (Diana) Hoover; Thomas (Gretchen) Hoover; Kathleen (William) Sumner; Linda (Michael) Barth; and Peggy (Dean) England.
Laity Discernment Retreats

Do you feel God's call on your life but are uncertain how to discern that call or what to do next? If so, then this is the Retreat for you! At the Laity Discernment Retreats, we will talk about call, discernment and what it means to be "called by our baptism". We will learn ways to intentionally enter into a time of prayer about discernment and we will discover Spiritual Rhythms that can help guide our journey. We will also discuss the variety of ways Laity can serve both in our churches and in our communities.

Each retreat kicks off with an 8-hour Saturday session followed by a 3-hour session approximately six weeks later. In between the two sessions, there will opportunities to read, reflect, and practice Spiritual Rhythms that will lead you to a better understanding of your own call.

Note: You are welcome to attend any session in any location and you do not need to attend both sessions in the same region. However, you need to attend the all-day Saturday retreat prior to attending the 3-hour follow up session.

The events are online and ready for registration. You can find them here: https://www.westohioumc.org/conference/laity-discernment-retreats You can also navigate to Ministries/Discipleship/Laity Discernment Retreats.

Northwest Plains & Maumee Watershed
Saturday January 18, 2020 and Thursday March 12, 2020 at Bowling Green First UMC

For more information, visit www.westohioumc.org/conference/laity-discernment-retreats or contact Kris Shoaf at kshoaf@wocumc.org
**Campaign Vision and Purpose**

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

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

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

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

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

---

**BY GEORGE! Campaign**

Earlier this spring, we invited 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. Now that we are several months into this, we want to share an update of where we are. To date, we have received just over $30,000 to go to the hospital! We are so thankful for your generosity and faithfulness!

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. 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!

---

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Year-end Reports**

Instructions have been mailed to each church. Reporting is done online through the EZRA Statistics System. Deadline to enter data is **February 28, 2020**

**IRS Mileage Reimbursement Rate Drops**

The 2020 IRS standard mileage reimbursement rate is $.575, down from $.58 last year. Please make sure to adjust your reimbursement forms accordingly.

**At-Large**

Anyone interested in being an At-Large Member (Adults/Young or Youth) to the 2020 West Ohio Annual Conference scheduled for June 7-11, please contact the District Office at 419-523-9901 or email us at nwplains@wocumc.org
Lecture explores Noah’s Ark and climate change

The Theological Commons at MTSO welcomes Georgetown University Associate Professor of Jewish Studies Julia Watts Belser for a public lecture, “Reading Noah's Ark in the Age of Climate Change: Jewish Stories on Gender, Disability, and the Politics of Survival.” The lecture begins at 7 p.m. Feb. 25 in the Alford Centrum on the MTSO campus, 3081 Columbus Pike in Delaware. It is free and open to the public.

Belser’s talk grapples with disability and climate change, reading Jewish traditions about Noah and the biblical flood into conversation with queer feminist ethics, disability studies and environmental justice work. Through the ambivalent portrait of the man and his ark, as well as tales of individuals who survive the flood and those who are left behind, Jewish tradition reckons with questions of human hubris and the politics of survival.

In addition to her teaching position, Belser is a senior research fellow at Georgetown’s Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs. She is the author of two scholarly books, *Rabbinic Tales of Destruction: Gender, Sex, and Disability in the Ruins of Jerusalem* and *Power, Ethics, and Ecology in Jewish Late Antiquity: Rabbinic Responses to Drought and Disaster*.

Belser earned her Ph.D. from the University of California-Berkeley, a master’s degree from the Academy for Jewish Religion and a bachelor’s degree from Cornell University. She has held faculty fellowships at Harvard Divinity School and the Katz Center for Advanced Jewish Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. As a rabbi and a long-time advocate for disability and gender justice, she is passionate about bringing feminist, queer and disability culture into conversation with Jewish tradition.

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

Summer Impact 2020

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 14, 2020</td>
<td>Celina Bethany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 21, 2020</td>
<td>Bryan Wesley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 11, 2020</td>
<td>Westside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 25, 2020</td>
<td>Twin Oaks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 10, 2020</td>
<td>Salem-Wapak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 24, 2020</td>
<td>John Stewart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 14, 2020</td>
<td>Leipsic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 28, 2020</td>
<td>Ayersville UMC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Best Practices—Children’s Ministries**

- Church Safety Policies and Practices
- Understanding Generation Differences
- Worship in a Small Membership Church
- Financial Policies and Best Practices
- Social Media/Technology
- TBD
- Disaster Response and Preparedness

From the desk of . . .

**Marielynn Grace**
Mission & Communication Coordinator | Connectional Ministries
West Ohio Conference | (614) 505-3807 | [www.westohioumc.org](http://www.westohioumc.org)

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

- **Steve Brooks** is responsible for the northern part of NWP District including Defiance, Hancock, Henry, Paulding, Putnam, and Williams counties. He can be reached at 419.519.3319 or by email at sbrooks1101@roadrunner.com.

Lay Servant Training Events

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

- **“Methodist Heritage” (CORE)** led by Rev. Brian Arnold/Ministry Teaching Team will be offered on **Saturday, March 7, 8:30am-4:30pm**, at Leipsic UMC, 127 W. Main St., Leipsic, Ohio. The FIRM deadline for registration is TBD. More info yet to come.

- **“Theology of Our Hymns (Advance)”** led by Rev. Steve Rath/Lay Ministry Teaching Team will be offered on **Saturday, March 7, 8:30am-4:30pm**, at Leipsic UMC, 127 W. Main St., Leipsic, Ohio. The FIRM deadline for registration is TBD. More info yet to come.

- **“Lay Servants lead in Prayer (CORE)”** led by Jeff Motter/Lay Ministry Teaching Team will be offered on **Saturday, April 4, 8:30am-4:30pm**, at Leipsic UMC, 127 W. Main St., Leipsic, Ohio. The FIRM deadline for registration is TBD. More info yet to come.

- **“Class TBD (Advanced)”** will be offered on **Saturday, April 4 at 8:30am-4:30pm**, at Leipsic UMC, 127 W. Main St., Leipsic, Ohio. The FIRM deadline for registration is TBD. More info yet to come.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Men's Walk/Dates
#75 - 03/12/2020 - 03/15/2020
#76 - 11/05/2020 - 11/08/2020

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

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

Men's Walk/Dates
#73—April 2-5, 2020

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

St. Andrew’s UMC, Findlay
Girls

Boys

http://www.findlaychrysalis.org/

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

Delta UMC, Delta
http://www.nwoemmaus.com/
Donating Stock to The United Methodist Church helps the church and you

The West Ohio Conference Council on Development office has received several calls recently asking about stock donation. If you are considering a charitable contribution, let us help. Gifting appreciated stock is one of the most effective means of tax savings available.

The benefits of gifting appreciated stock

1. The satisfaction of knowing your money is invested in a cause important to you.
2. Capital gains taxes on the stock are avoided.
3. You will be eligible to receive an income tax charitable deduction for the full fair-market-value of the stock at the time of the gift.

To qualify for these special tax advantages, the security must have been held for at least one year. A gift of stock in certificate form should be postmarked by December 31 or your financial advisor can arrange for a year-end gift of stock from your account.

Your gift of appreciated stock is fully deductible up to 30% of your adjusted gross income. For example, if your adjusted gross income is $100,000, up to $30,000 of long-term appreciated stock and other capital gain property may generally be deducted, although high-income donors may be subject to a partial phase-out of itemized deductions. Any excess can generally be carried forward and deducted over as many as five subsequent years.

How giving away $10,000 in stock can benefit you

Look at the tax savings of donating securities versus a cash gift. The chart below assumes you wish to donate shares of stock worth $10,000 that you purchased for $2,000 several years ago.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Donate appreciated security outright</th>
<th>Donate $10,000 cash</th>
<th>Sell securities and donate cash</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charitable Deduction</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax Savings (35% rate)</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Gains tax paid (15% rate on $8,000 gain)</td>
<td>$1,200 saved</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$1,200 paid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net tax savings</td>
<td>$4,700</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>$2,300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact the Council on Development Office and we will provide fee-free instructions. You may reach us at Stan Ling sling@wocumc.org or Cat Lyle at clyle@wocumc.org or by phone at 614-844-6200 Ext. 222.
West Ohio Conference “Traction Tracks”

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

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

Breakthrough Prayer Initiative Traction Track

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

Register now for one of the next training sessions!

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

Requirement to attend: Your church’s team must include your lead pastor plus at least 5 persons who have agreed to be the implementation team for your congregation’s prayer initiative afterwards. Bring as large a team to the training event (beyond the pastor plus 5 leaders) as possible
2:00pm-7:00pm -
122 East Silver St, Lebanon, OH 45036
Cost: $75.00 per Team (pastor plus 5 members) $10.00 for any additional members (includes lunch and materials)

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

Requirement to attend: Your church’s team must include your lead pastor plus at least 5 persons who have agreed to be the implementation team for your congregation’s prayer initiative afterwards. Bring as large a team to the training event (beyond the pastor plus 5 leaders) as possible
1:30pm-6:30pm
6911 Fredrick Pike, Dayton, OH 45414
Cost: $75.00 per Team (pastor plus 5 members) $10.00 for any additional members (includes lunch and materials)

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

Requirement to attend: Your church’s team must include your lead pastor plus at least 5 persons who have agreed to be the implementation team for your congregation’s prayer initiative afterwards. Bring as large a team to the training event (beyond the pastor plus 5 leaders) as possible
2:00pm-7:00pm –
101 N 5th St, Ironton, OH 45638
Cost: $75.00 per Team (pastor plus 5 members) $10.00 for any additional members (includes lunch and materials)

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

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

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

Requirement to attend: Must bring a Team of Pastor and at least 2 other team member
Cost: $50 per person (includes lunches and materials)
- New sessions begins Saturday, February 8, 2020
- Second session - Saturday, March 7, 2020
- Third session - Saturday, April 4, 2019
- Fourth session - Saturday, May 2, 2019
*Each Session is from 10:00am - 3:00pm
Kathy Haynes Moore moved to Ohio in 1978 with her husband Roland so that he could attend the Methodist Theological School in Delaware, Ohio. Over the 40+ years since that move, she and her family have lived in every major metropolitan area of Ohio while serving the Lord Jesus Christ and the church. During these years, Kathy has completed the work to be a Lay Servant, a Lay Speaker, and in 2016 she attended the Academy and became a Certified Lay Minister in the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church.

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

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

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

REGISTRATION FORM

NO FEE DUE FOR THIS “AFTERNOON” MEETING.*

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

NAME __________________________

FULL ADDRESS ________________________________

EMAIL ADDRESS __________________________ PHONE __________

CHURCH/ORGANIZATION __________________________

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

Send your Registration Form to the district treasurer:
Susie Closson, 326 Grandview Blvd., Ada, OH 45810. (Phone: 419-634-5457)
New Addition Dedication

With the replacement of an incorrectly fabricated front door, the new addition to the Riley Creek United Methodist Church has reached completion. Every item has been constructed and installed to meet the architect’s plans, all inspections have been passed, and final occupancy is certified and official. Having reached this significant milestone, the congregation of the Riley Creek UMC (7102 Road 7L, Ottawa OH 45875) invites you to join them in celebrating their formal dedication of this new facility: **Sunday, January 19**. The Sunday Worship Service is at 11:00 AM. This will be followed by a potluck in the new Fellowship Hall at 12 noon. The Dedication Service will begin at 2:00 PM. Feel free to arrive for any or all of these events that day.

For any of our family and friends who are unable to attend but who would like to extend well wishes and blessings, these may be emailed to: RileyCreekUMC@gmail.com or mailed to Riley Creek UMC, P O Box 151, Pandora OH 45877.

---

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

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

---

**St. Andrew's Music Ministry Presents**

**Yancy in Concert**

*Join us for a high-energy, fun, worshipful evening for children and adults of all ages.*

When: Saturday, January 25, 2020
Doors open: 5:30 pm - Performance: 6:00 pm
Where: St. Andrew’s United Methodist Church
120 W. Sandusky St, Findlay, Ohio
(Parking lot and entrance on Crawford St across from police station)
Cost: Admission is FREE but tickets required.
Call the church office at 419-422-4845 to reserve tickets.
Forest Park United Methodist Church

Children’s Ministries Director – part time

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

Responsible to: Pastor

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

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

Performance Standards:
- Attend at least one congregational church service per week.
- Be involved in a small group.
- Meet at least weekly with the Pastor

- Work with pastor to prepare and administer a children ministry budget/annual goals for the church fiscal year.
- Work with pastor to prepare an annual summary report of the mission, goals, plans and successes in Children ministries
- Attend meetings for and be prepared to give monthly reports to Pastor as requested.
- Create and submit article and photos for monthly newsletter or online media resources.
- Participate in the life of the church and larger community, as appropriate

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

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

_________________________ Employment start date ____________

I agree to the position description as presented:

Employee ________________________ Date ____________

_________________________ Date ____________

SPRC Chair
**Director of Children’s Ministries**

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

Qualifications for this position are

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

Qualified candidates should send a cover letter and resume to wynesia.jackson@ministryarchitects.com.

---

**Summer Impact Internship**

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

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

Applications for this 8-week paid internship are due on February 15, 2020. To learn more about the internship or to apply visit [http://hydeparkchurch.org/summer-impact-internship/](http://hydeparkchurch.org/summer-impact-internship/) or email Rev. Kate Smith (ksmith@hpcumc.org). Summer Impact is a ministry of Hyde Park Community UMC.
**Liberty Chapel Youth Pastor**
Liberty Chapel is looking for a full-time Youth Pastor. Primary responsibilities would be ministries with Junior High and Senior High Youth along with coordination of ministries at The Rock youth center. Interested persons should send their resume to the church: 9474 County Road V, Liberty Center, OH 43532, 419-533-2881. Attention: Pastor Brad Martin. or to bmartin4477@gmail.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DOWNLOAD  http://tiny.cc/hf6sry

Local Church Officer Job Descriptions

Positions Required in All Congregations

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

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

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

---

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

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

Rev. Barry Burns, District Superintendent: bburns@wocumc.org
Rev. Lynda Lockwood, Assistant to the District Superintendent: llockwood@wocumc.org
Kim Tumblin, Financial Secretary: ktumblin@wocumc.org
Lesley Moore, Office Administrator: lmoore@wocumc.org

---