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.

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January 17, 2018

District Office will be CLOSED

Monday 1/21/2019 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day
(Regular hours will resume Tuesday 1/22/2019)

Save-the-date!

Clergy/Laity Spiritual Retreat
Date: April 22-23, 2019
Presenter: Sister Kathleen Flood OP

More information coming soon!

Visit our website!

Contact us! 800.589.7828

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

Rev. James Sanders, who died Sunday, January 13, 2019. He was a retired pastor from The West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church having served the Magnetic Springs Pharisburg Charge, Malta Tridelphia, Cherry Grove, Williamsburg and Butlerville churches. He was preceded in death by his brother, Richard W. Sanders. He is survived by his wife, Janet Sanders; children, Michelle (Mark) Walton and Jim (Cindy) Sanders; grandchildren, Danielle, Christina, Rebecca, Justyn, Abby, Bryson and Cassidy; and several great grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Visitation was held Thursday, January 17 from 10:00 to 11:00 am followed by the funeral at 11:00 am at Goshen UMC. Memorial contributions can be made to Goshen UMC or Alzheimer’s Association.

Rev. Ruth Stambach, who died Monday, January 14, 2019. She was a retired pastor from The West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church having served as a Home Missionary and the Marseilles Circuit. She is survived by her two daughters, Jeani (Mike) Thomas and Nicole Stambach; six grandchildren, Alexander and Aaron Stambach and Drew, Josh, Max and Joe Thomas. Visitation will be held on Saturday, February 2, 2019 from 10:00 to 11:00 am with a memorial service beginning at 11:00 am at the Otterbein Lebanon Chapel, 585 N. St. Rt. 741, Lebanon, OH 45036. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Otterbein Benevolent Fund or the McCurdy Ministries Community Center.

UPDATES

Apportionments
• 2019 District Apportionment Statements are now in the mail — please be looking for them and if you have any questions, you can email Kim Tumblin at ktumblin@wocumc.org

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 April 1, 2019

Year-end Reports
• Year-end reports are due no later than February 9, 2019. If you have any questions contact Jack Frost at 614-844-6200, ext 219 or atjfrost@wocumc.org.

Year-end Reports
• 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.
District Leadership Training Day
Saturday, February 23, 2019

Northwest Plains District Leadership Training Day will be held on February 23, 2019 at the Delphos Trinity in Delphos, OH. This will be an important time for clergy and lay persons to gather in one place for various relevant training opportunities that will benefit our churches and their ministries. There is no charge for this training day. Gathering will be from 8:30-12:30 pm

Training Day Schedule:
8:30am - Gathering
9:00 - Welcome and Keynote Presentation “Leading Through Anxious Times” by Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey
10:00 - Break (refreshments provided)
10:15 - Break-Out Sessions
12:30pm - End

Break Out Sessions and Those Leading Include:
- Discovering God’s Vision for Your Church” led by Rev. Barry Burns, NWP District Superintendent
- A.L.I.C.E Training & Church Safety led by Officer Damion Tibbs and David White of Church Mutual Ins.
- Financial ABC’s for Your Church: led by Rev. Bruce & Kim Tumblin
- Opiate Addiction and Recovery 101, led by Rev. Mark Hollinger
- Why Youth Ministries are Failing (and what you can do about it!) led by Rev. Dave Charles
- All in Community led by Reba Collins, AIC Consultant

To register please contact the District Office by emailing Lesley Moore @ lmoore@wocumc.org or visit https://www.northwestplainsdistrict.org/district/northwestplains/event/northwest-plains-district-leadership-training-day-2019

Please share this information with your Lay Leadership and plan now to take advantage of attending this “free of charge” valuable training opportunity!
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.
Save the date!

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TOURS
Alpine Odyssey 2020
JULY 27-AUGUST 4

IF INTERESTED: REGISTRATION FORMS CAN BE FOUND AT THE NWP DISTRICT OFFICE

Join the West Ohio Conference
Alpine Odyssey 2020
9 Day European Adventure to see the Oberammergau Passion Play
July 27 - Aug. 4, 2020

www.eo.travel • 800-247-0017
## Clergy Gatherings
### (February Schedule)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>February</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allen Luncheon</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Old Barn Out Back, Lima</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auglaize Breakfast</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>RJ’s Coffey Cup, Wapakoneta</td>
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<tr>
<td>Defiance Luncheon</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Sherwood UMC, Sherwood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hancock Breakfast</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Scrambler Marie’s, Findlay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hardin Breakfast</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Table One, Kenton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mercer Luncheon</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Orchard Tree, Celina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paulding Luncheon</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Fiesta Habaneros, Paulding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Putnam Breakfast</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Henry’s Restaurant, Ottawa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Van Wert Breakfast</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Van Wert Hospital Cafeteria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Williams Breakfast</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Four Seasons, Bryan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyandot Luncheon</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
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<td>East of Chicago Pizza, Upper Sandusky</td>
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**Note:** Retired pastors are welcome to attend!

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## Clergy Gatherings
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***Please NOTE: Gatherings for 1/28/1/29, 1/30 2019 will be canceled. Barry/Lynda will be attending BOM interviews on these days***
**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/
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.

- **Stephen 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.

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**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.

- "**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.

- "**Lead and Worship (CORE Course)**", will be offered Saturday, April 6, 2019. More information to come at a later date.

- "**Dealing with Grief (Advanced Course)**", will be offered Saturday, April 6, 2019. More information to come at a later date.

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!
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

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.

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 Jan 30 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. in the church fellowship hall, 108 E. Washington Street, Pandora. The meal this month is provided by 7’O’clock Flock. Menu is tomato soup, grilled cheese, relish tray, Val cake, and beverage.

Clergy Breakfast

Clergy Breakfast
AT
Blanchard Valley Hospital

Thursday, February 7
8-9 a.m.
Aller Meeting Room

Blanchard Valley Health System invites you to a special breakfast to learn about the spiritual care programs within the organizations. You will have the opportunity to meet chaplains from Blanchard Hospital, Birchaven and Bridge Hospice.

RSVP by February 1 by emailing Chaplin Chris Schilling at cschilling@bvhealthsystem.org or by calling 419-429-6463.

Blanchard Valley Health System/1900 South Main St./Findlay OH 45840

Where are you connected?

We have become increasingly aware of the value of having those under appointment as pastors being in some sort of supportive setting like a clergy cluster or other type of group. As we begin a new year, it will be useful to update our list of clergy cluster participants and the other support groups our pastors are a part of.

We are asking each pastor under appointment of any type to let us know what clergy cluster or support group they are connected with. Please drop a quick email or text to Duane Kemerley, DKe- merley@gmail.com, 567.376.9741 with that information. If you are a group leader, please send a list of those currently a part of your cluster/group.

Would you be willing to be a cluster leader? Is there a group theme or affinity/common interest idea that you would like to gather with others to discuss/study/research? Share those thoughts also.
We are looking at a time in the church when there may be many changes and challenges to consider and it is doubly important for all of our pastors to be connected somewhere for useful information and mutual support.
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.

For more information about The Preachers’ Relief Society of the West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church, contact:

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

Telephone 740-621-0973
E-mail: pastor.sharon62@gmail.com

Use this contact for dues payments, questions about membership, information about life memberships, and Application for PRS Grant forms.

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 Capitol 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.

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, provisional 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.

Handbell Table Covers
Bryan Wesley UMC has (3) six foot long, two-piece (top and skirt corduroy water-blue handbell table covers with attached pockets and the Velcro to attach to foam pads.. Never used, but also never returned. Please make offer to pastorpeterpaige@gmail.com

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.

Choir Sheet Music
St. Mark's UMC in Lima, has choir sheet music available for you to go through. You are welcome to call and make an appointment to look - just call 419-222-3601. They are free for the taking, but donations would be accepted.

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

Vacation Bible School Materials
Looking for Rolling River Rampage VBS to be able to use this summer. If you have and would want to sell or share, please contact Nora Davis at St. Mark's UMC Lima 419-222-3601
St. Andrew's UMC in Findlay, Ohio has about 100 cushions, mostly white, some red, and 24 gold/brown folding chairs to give away. The cushions are stored in 11 plastic tubs with lids, which are also available when you pick up the cushions.
If you are interested, please call the church office at 419-422-4845.
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.*