IN THIS ISSUE
Save the Date
Deadlines are nearing . . .
Annual Conference—NEW INFO
Weekly Prayer
A Call to Prayer
(S)PPRC Training—April 6
Need Info Please
Don’t forget to . . .
Henderson Settlement-Register now
Clergy/Laity Retreat-April 22-23
News From Around the Connection (2)
Clergy Gathering (Breakfast/Lunch)
Light The Way Campaign
BY GEORGE Campaign
Summer Impact 2019
NWP Directors of Pulpit Supply
Lay Servant Ministries 2019 Courses
Emmaus
Local Church and Community (2)
PRS (Preacher’s Relief Society)
Classifieds (2)
All in Community
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

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

March 18, 2019

ARE YOU CONNECTED WITH YOUR DISTRICT?
Visit our website! Contact us! Like us on Facebook!

Save the date!
Northwest Plains District Spring Conference
Sunday, May 19, 2019
2:45 pm Gathering Time
3:30 Business of the Conference
Location: TBD
Everyone is welcome to attend!

DEADLINES ARE NEARING . . .
Reference page 11
Lay Servant Training Events
PLEASE register TODAY
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).

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@wocumc.org.

To complete the form, CLICK HERE.

Tim McCoy
Episcopal Office Administrative Coordinator
Let us remember in prayer those grieving the loss of their loved one, and remember in thanksgiving the life and ministry of:

Rev. Judith Ann Johnson, fondly known as Rev. Mother, who died Tuesday, March 5, 2019. She was a retired pastor from The West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church. She served appointments at Montgomery Presbyterian, Perry, Mendon, Milford First, Liberty Chapel and Hicksville Grace churches.

She was born March 24, 1943 in Lake Bluff, Illinois to Rev. Francis Theodore Johnson and Marie Beswick Johnson. On July 7, 2007 she married Donald Moss. Her parents and husband preceded her in death. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law Scott Householder and Lisa (Temple) Householder, grandchildren Amber Householder, Hannah Householder, Jonathan Householder, Tiffany Buckles Felts and Jessica Herendeen and six great-grandchildren. Her funeral service will be held at 3:00 pm on March 24, 2019 at First United Methodist Church, 4901 Paige Road, The Colony, Texas 75056. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

Dear Father in heaven, we thank you. We want to be ready to thank you at all times. We look forward with joy to your kingdom and await the redemption that will free us to the very depth of our being, to the praise and thanks and honor of your name. Be with the many people who come hungering and thirsting to you. Bring deliverance to those whose hearts are true, and let them know that the power of your kingdom is truly present here on earth in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(S)PPRC TRAINING

The Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Team is an important team for the health of any church. They are to partner with the pastor to help the church focus on its primary mission and vision, as well as having responsibilities with all paid staff. In an effort to help S/PPRC chairpersons and members be the most effective team you can be, Rev Burns will be offering a training and the last two remaining are mentioned below. All chairpersons, pastors, and committee members are invited to come and be a part of one of these trainings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOSTING CHURCH: Mt. Blanchard</th>
<th>HOSTING CHURCH: West Unity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADDRESS: 204 S. Main St</td>
<td>ADDRESS: 311 N. Liberty St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Blanchard, OH 45867</td>
<td>West Unity, OH 43570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE: April 6, 2019</td>
<td>DATE: April 27, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIME: 9:00-11:30 AM</td>
<td>TIME: 9:00-11:30 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVERING COUNTIES: Hancock, Hardin, Wyandot</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVERING COUNTIES: Defiance and Williams</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PLEASE NOTE: We are not taking registration for this training. This is per optional, but highly recommended especially if you are new to the SPRC role. Thank you!
**PLEASE PROVIDE INFO BELOW**

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
A mission agency of the United Methodist Church within the Red Bird Missionary Conference

NORTHWEST PLAINS DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MISSION TRIP TO HENDERSON SETTLEMENT
Sunday, May 5—Saturday, May 11, 2019

Be a part of a mission project! Don’t miss out! Get on board!

Where is Henderson Settlement? HS is close to the Kentucky/Tennessee border about 35 miles east of Interstate 75.

What is the schedule? Participants need to be at Henderson Settlement before the 7:00 PM orientation on Sunday, May 5. (Eat your evening meal before arrival.) Everyone will depart for home after breakfast on Saturday, May 11.

What will we be doing? There will be construction/maintenance crews (ladies welcome). There is also work to be done in the greenhouse, library, food pantry, senior center and community store.

What is the cost? $360/person with accommodations in the mission dorm. $440 per person for more private housing (Baldinger Dorm, Zuki house). (3 meals Monday – Friday and breakfast Saturday.) Travel and food to and from Henderson Settlement is the responsibility of the participant. No additional insurance is available – your own insurance is the only insurance in effect.

What is to be expected? Weather – hot to cool, rain possible. Be prepared.
   Clothing – work clothes.
   Area – 50%+ unemployment, coal mining, forestry, mountainous.

How do I sign up? Complete and return the registration form with your deposit of $50/person by February 22.
Remaining balance due by April 13. Please make check payable to: Northwest Plains District – Henderson Mission Trip. Send check and registration form to: Northwest Plains District Office, 910 East 3rd St., Ottawa, OH 45875. For more information, contact Ruth Pease at 260.402.1888. A planning meeting for all registered participants will be held to determine who is driving/riding and to answer all other questions. This meeting will be on Sunday, April 28, 2:00 PM at Trinity UMC, 220 S. Walnut St., Van Wert, OH 45891.

Henderson Settlement Mission Trip
May 5 thru 11, 2019

Name(s) ________________________________
(First and Last Names)

Address: ________________________________ City/State/Zip: __________________________

Telephone ________________________________ E-Mail: __________________________

Church name ________________________________

Work area interest: ________________________________
(Construction/maintenance, electrical, plumbing, painting, gardening, etc.)
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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30</td>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session II</td>
<td>Session IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00</td>
<td>1:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Closing Worship 3:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Departure 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, BJCWAPK@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.
Bishop Gregory V. Palmer is appointing the Rev. Calvin Alston Jr. to serve as the Shawnee Valley District superintendent. This appointment is effective July 1, 2019. “Rev. Alston brings to this ministry a tremendous depth of faith in Jesus Christ and the church,” Palmer said. “His life is bathed in prayer. He has an extraordinary ministry tool box born of serving churches of varying sizes, urban and rural and culturally diverse. He has never had a flock he didn’t love with all his heart.”

Alston has served the last seven years as pastor of Christ United Methodist Church, a multicultural and multiracial congregation on the East Side of Columbus. For nine years, he was senior pastor of New Vision Church in Cincinnati. Ordained in the South Carolina Annual Conference, Alston served the North Orangeburg Church and a four-point charge in Ehrhardt, South Carolina.

“The invitation from Bishop Palmer to serve in this capacity is a humbling experience for such a time in my life and ministry,” Alston said. “I am aware that to whom much is given much more is required. I am eternally grateful for this opportunity to serve in this capacity and will rely on the leading Holy Spirit and mentors to direct my path.”

Alston earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in social science with a minor in political science from Claflin University, Orangeburg, South Carolina; a Master of Divinity in Christian education from Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta; and a Doctor of Ministry in Christian education from Spirit of Truth Institute, Richmond, Virginia.

A United States Navy veteran, he has served The United Methodist Church on the local, district, annual, jurisdictional and general church levels. In the South Carolina Conference, he chaired the Board of Congregational Development, served as vice chairman of the conference credit union and was treasurer of Black Methodists for Church Renewal. In the West Ohio Conference, he was BMCR vice chairman. Alston is a recipient of the Denman Evangelism Award from the South Carolina Conference. He was a twice-elected General Conference delegate, in 2000 from South Carolina and in 2012 from West Ohio. He served as a cluster leader in the Ohio River Valley District, co-cluster leader in the Capitol Area South District and served on the Episcopacy Committee. He is a member of the Board of Ordained Ministry of the Capital Area South District, The West Ohio Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and serves on the Conference Relations Team.

Born in St. Stephen, South Carolina, Alston was the youngest of eight children born to Calvin Alston Sr. and Rosa Lee Alston. His parents are now deceased. He is married to Sandra Henegan, a clinical audiologist at Columbus Nationwide Children Hospital. They have five children and five grandchildren.
**News from around the Connection**

**Angel Encounters Explored at Lifetree Café**

Angel encounters will be explored at Lifetree Café on Wednesday, March 20 from 6:30-7:30pm.

The program, titled "Angels: Are They Reaching Out to You?" features the filmed story of a man who believes meeting an angel in the Rocky Mountains saved his life during a hunting trip.

The man, who had become lost as night fell, encountered someone whose presence he couldn't explain. "I'm convinced an angel saved my life," he said.

Participants will consider whether angels exist and, if so, whether angels interact with humans. Participants who believe they've encountered angels will be encouraged to share their stories.

Admission to the 60-minute event is free. Lifetree Café is located at the Bachwell Center, 116 N. Washington Street, Van Wert, OH. Please enter on Court Street and park behind the Courthouse.

Lifetree Café is a place where people gather for conversation about life and faith in a casual, comfortable setting. Questions about Lifetree may be directed to First United Methodist Church at 419/238-0631 or firstchurch@wcoil.com

Topic for March 27 – “Family Do-Over. Is it ever too late?”

---

Rev. Donnetta Peaks
Director of Clergy Recruitment, Candidacy, and Licensing

**From the desk of Donnetta Peaks . . .**

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

#### (March Schedule)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allen Luncheon</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Old Barn Out Back, Lima</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auglaize Breakfast</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>RJ’s Coffey Cup, Wapakoneta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defiance Luncheon</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Sherwood UMC, Sherwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hancock Breakfast</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Scrambler Marie’s, Findlay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardin Breakfast</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Table One, Kenton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercer Luncheon</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Orchard Tree, Celina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paulding Luncheon</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Fiesta Habaneros, Paulding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Putnam Breakfast</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Henry’s Restaurant, Ottawa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van Wert Breakfast</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Van Wert Hospital Cafeteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williams Breakfast</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Four Seasons, Bryan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyandot Luncheon</td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>East of Chicago Pizza, Upper Sandusky</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</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.

### Clergy Gatherings

#### (April Schedule)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allen Luncheon</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Old Barn Out Back, Lima</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auglaize Breakfast</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>RJ’s Coffey Cup, Wapakoneta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defiance Luncheon</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Sherwood UMC, Sherwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hancock Breakfast</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Scrambler Marie’s, Findlay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardin Breakfast</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Table One, Kenton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercer Luncheon</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Orchard Tree, Celina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paulding Luncheon</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Fiesta Habaneros, Paulding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Putnam Breakfast</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Henry’s Restaurant, Ottawa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van Wert Breakfast</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Van Wert Hospital Cafeteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williams Breakfast</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Four Seasons, Bryan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyandot Luncheon</td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>East of Chicago Pizza, Upper Sandusky</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Retired pastors are welcome to attend!
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!

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

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

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

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

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

NWP Directors of Pulpit Supply

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

- **Linda Hoover** is responsible for the southern part of NWP District including Allen, Auglaize, Hardin, Mercer, Van Wert and Wyandot counties. She can be reached at 567-204-0329 or by email at bhover1@woh.rr.com.

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

Lay Servant Training Events

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women's Walks Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#106 February 7-10, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#107 June 13-16, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#108 October 10-13, 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men's Walks Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#80 March 14-17, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#81 November 7-10, 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women's Walks Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men’s Walks Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Walk #72 November 1-4, 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women's Walks Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 28-31, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 19-22, 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men’s Walk Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 21-24, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 22-25, 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Town and Rural Resource Programming is a consortium of clergy from East and West Ohio Conferences dedicated to providing educational opportunities and ministry enhancement programs to town and country congregations across the state of Ohio. Our mission is to create workshops/academies/training programs that develop stronger leadership in town, country, and rural settings, to create more effective proclamation, nurturing, and outreach for the transformation of the world in Jesus’ name. Trainings are offered to you at a greatly reduced cost, offset by your apportionment dollars through grants from East and West Ohio Conferences.

8 a.m. Registration

8:30 Light continental breakfast

9:00 a.m. Worship begins

9:30 a.m. Bishop Malone shares

How can small membership local churches transform our communities and the world?

How your church can be more effective, be supported in moving toward revitalization, and make new places for new people.

10:30 a.m. District Superintendent Panel

Gail Angel & Bradley Call, East Ohio

Linda Middelburg & Brent Watson, West Ohio

With the appointment season in full swing, these folks are ready to answer your questions.

Lunch

Afternoon: Faithful Lay Ministry

“Faithful Ministry—The people of God, who are the church made visible in the world, must convince the world of the reality of the gospel or leave it unconvinced. There can be no evasion or delegation of this responsibility; the church is either faithful as a witnessing and serving community, or it loses its vitality and its impact on an unbelieving world.”

(¶ 130, 2014 Discipline)

What are the kinds of lay ministry?

How can pastors support and encourage the giftedness of the laity?

How can laypeople encourage and support each other’s giftedness?

Bishop Tracy S. Malone

was assigned to the East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church effective September 1, 2019. As resident bishop, she provides spiritual oversight, shares in equipping, teaching and encouraging mission, outreach, witness and service, and serves as a shepherd of the church in providing a prophetic witness of justice, mercy and unity.

Malone serves on the Boards of Trustees of the United Methodist-affiliated colleges, seminars and organizations in East Ohio. She also is currently the president of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, is a member of the Board of Directors of The Connectional Table of The United Methodist Church, and is a member of the Board of Trustees of Africa University.

During her ministry, she has pastored several churches in the Northern Illinois Conference, represented that conference at four General and Jurisdictional Conferences, served as a district superintendent, and been dean of the Cabinet. She has written chapters for several books, published articles, blogs and book reviews, and taught courses as an adjunct professor at Aurora University and at Northern Baptist Seminary in Lombard, Illinois.

Malone has a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies and Sociology, with a minor in Computer Science, from North Central College in Naperville, Illinois, a Master of Divinity from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois, and a Doctorate of Ministry from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.

She and her husband Derrick are the parents of two daughters.

The members of TARRP, the Town and Rural Resource Programming Consortium of East & West Ohio Conferences invite Small Membership Church Members & Pastors to

ENVISION HOW YOUR LOCAL CHURCH CAN TRANSFORM YOUR COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD

April 27, 2019

Keynote Speaker:

Bishop Tracy S. Malone
Resident Bishop
East Ohio Conference

Topics of the Day Include:

How small membership church members can engage in faithful lay ministry

How the decisions made at the Special Session of the General Conference will be lived out

With the appointment season in full swing, District Superintendents answer your questions about The UMC and your local setting(s)

TARRP Workshop April 27, 2019

Name: __________________________

Church/Charge: __________________________

District: __________________________

Conference: __________________________

Mailing Address: __________________________

Phone #: __________________________

E-mail: __________________________

Others attending from your church/charge: Name: __________________________

Amount remitted: $ __________

Registration Deadline is: 4/15/19

Send registration with checks payable to TARRP to:

TARRP c/o Rev. Jeff Redenour
260 Main Street
Helen, Ohio 43435

Additional questions? Call, text or email: 419-308-5678  jeffredenour@outlook.com
Local Church and Community Events

KIDS BARGAIN BASH

Saturday, March 30, 2019

Fairview Elementary School
$1.00 donation for admission

8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
14060 Blosser Rd.
Sherwood, OH 43556
corner of Blosser Rd.
& St. Rt. 127

Half price sale after noon on most items
EXPRESSION CHECK-OUT

sponsored by
Hearts & Hands
Farmer United Methodist Church
proceeds go to help support local, state,
country and international missions.

Northwest Plains District
United Methodist Women

2019

Spiritual Journeys with Jesus

Speakers:
Rev. Bruce & Kim Tumblin

Saturday, March 30, 2019 10 a.m.-2 p.m

Elida Immanuel UMC, 699 Sunnydale Ave, Elida, Ohio
9:30 am Registration-$10.00-- Brunch served 10:00 am
Pre-registration deadline-March 23rd

Name_________________________________________ Church_________________________
Address_______________________________________
Ph:_________________________________________ Allergies_________________________

Send form & check payable to NWP District UMW. Treasurer:
Susie Closson, 328 Grandview Blvd, Ada, OH 45810 (Ph: 419-824-5457)
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 full short, and The Preachers’ Relief Society stands ready to help its members in situations such as when:

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

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

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

Every appointed clergy in the West Ohio Conference (Elders, Deacons, provisions 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.

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

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

2020 WOC Revitalization/Capacity Building Grant Application
From the desk of Grace Gerber—Administrative Coordinator, Missional Church Development. “Just wanted to make sure you all were aware that the new grant application is now available online. All applications must have the signature of the pastor, and the DS, and the due date is July 1, 2019. Below is the link to the application.”

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 lay 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 out to 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 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
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