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

September 16, 2019

NOTE BELOW: Please pay close attention to the schedule for the Clergy County Gatherings breakfast/lunch for September/October. Some counties have been combined. Moving into the end of October these meals will be called BROWN BAG LUNCH & LEARNS. Barry will be rolling out what that looks like in the September/October meetings outlined below.

Clergy Gatherings
(September and October Schedule)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allen Luncheon</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>10/1</td>
<td>Old Barn Out Back, Lima</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auglaize/Mercer Breakfast</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>9/30</td>
<td>Orchard Tree, Celina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defiance/Williams Breakfast</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>9/16</td>
<td>Four Seasons, Bryan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hancock Breakfast</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>10/7</td>
<td>Scrambler Marie’s, Findlay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardin/Wyandot Breakfast</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>10/3</td>
<td>Table One, Kenton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paulding Luncheon</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>9/18</td>
<td>Fiesta Habaneros, Paulding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Putnam Breakfast</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>9/19</td>
<td>Henry’s Restaurant, Ottawa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van Wert Breakfast</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>9/26</td>
<td>Van Wert Hospital Cafeteria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Retired pastors are welcome to attend!
When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father – the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father – he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning. John 15:26–27, NIV

**Great God and Savior,** you want to lead us by the hand so that in communion with you we learn how to live a true life. We thank you for everything we have already received. Guide us still, we pray. Through your Spirit lead us in all areas of our life. Grant us the Spirit, who can illumine our hearts to help us find new courage and new strength and new recognition of the truth. All our praise belongs to you, for you alone can quicken us. You alone free us from the pain of death and from all burdens, so that in spite of toil and struggle we may always be lifted up to you, our God on high, to the glory of your name on earth. Amen.

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**Guest Readiness Seminar Saturday, September 28**

The CAN District is pleased to present Jason Moore, nationally-known worship coach and author from Midnight Oil Productions, as he helps us to better connect and build lasting relationships with visitors. Gain practical tips and advice, and learn things you probably haven’t considered that effect your visitors’ first impressions! Join us on Saturday, September 28, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm at the West Ohio Conference Center. Bring a team from your church! Cost is $20/person which includes the training and lunch. Bring three or more people from the same congregation for $50 total, no matter how many people attend. You can register on the WOC website.

**WHAT YOU WILL LEARN**

- Top Website Priorities
- Best Practices for Signage
- How to Develop a Child Check-In
- Visitor Welcome Dos and Don’ts
- Top 10 Things That Prevent Visitors From Returning
- How to Avoid Unspoken Rituals

- The 4 Things That Should Happen Every Sunday
- How to Secret Worship
- How to Conduct a Guest Readiness Training in Your Church
- Much More!
Small Steps
Gary Ginter, Pastor
Kingsley UMC and Ohio City UMC

On June 30th of this year, I began serving two churches instead of one. I had been a single church pastor for almost 19 years, and must admit that I was venturing into uncharted territory for me. And so, with a little bit of apprehension, but with many years’ experience behind me, I began to meet and work with my new congregation, while at the same time, not lose track of my current congregation of over four years.

What has been a surprise to me has been the willingness of both congregations to work with me and walk beside me. For example, I really enjoy leading my Bible study group at the first church. So when I offered to start a new group with the new church, imagine my surprise when they, as a church, decided to come join the Bible study group at the first church. Comments I heard were that this would give them an opportunity to meet and know the other congregation.

I have shared this desire with the first church, and now they too are looking for opportunities to bring these two churches together. Now we are planning a joint Fall picnic, a joint Christmas service, and a joint Easter service. But one step at a time. I believe through these small first encounters, together these two churches may chart a new way of cooperation and joint effort. Small steps. It is a start, and an exciting beginning. I am excited and looking forward to walking with these congregations to see where they will lead me!

Event Date: October 25, 2019
Registration: 9:00 AM  Event: 9:30 AM - 3:30PM
Registration Fee: $35.00

23rd Annual Legal Forum

The time is always right to make sure we safeguard the Church and its ministries. This year’s Legal Forum will tackle some emerging challenges and include topics that are always timely.

Topics:

- "Legal Issues Implicated by Breakaway Churches"
- "Bats in the Belfry: Best Practices for Local Church Real Estate, Zoning Matters, Property Transfers and Other Major Projects"
- Insurance and Risk Management including topics on insurance Company, Workers Comp, Safe Sanctuaries, and Copyright
- Legal and Disciplinary Developments

Location: Ohio Wesleyan University

Hamilton-Williams Campus Center (Benes Rooms)

40 Rowland Ave

Delaware, Ohio 43015
A Remembrance of
Our Shared History
THE WYANDOTTE/WYANDOT AND THE PEOPLE CALLED METHODISTS

Join us in marking the next chapter of a shared history spanning 200 years, as Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, together with The General Commission on Archives and History, returns sacred land to The Wyandotte Nation.

Saturday, September 21, 1:00 p.m.
John Stewart United Methodist Church,
Upper Sandusky, Ohio

EVENT SCHEDULE
1:00 p.m. - Arrivals
1:30 p.m. - Program begins at John Stewart UMC
2:00 p.m. - Procession to burial grounds and Mission Church
3:00 p.m. - Ceremony continues at East Church and North 4th Streets
5:00 p.m. - Celebration dinner at John Stewart UMC

Reserve your space now!
https://remembering-our-shared-history.eventbrite.com
For additional inquiries, please contact info@umcmision.org

LOCATIONS
The event includes a one-mile procession from John Stewart UMC to the Mission Church and cemetery. Alternative transportation will be available in both directions. Please plan to wear comfortable shoes and dress according to the weather. There will be light refreshments and portable bathrooms at the Mission Church.

PARKING
John Stewart United Methodist Church, 130 West Johnson Street, 43351
First Presbyterian Church, 129 W Johnson Street, 43351.
Large vehicle parking:
First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 601 N Sandusky Ave., 43351.
Due to limited parking, we encourage you to look for on-street parking and carpool. Shuttle service will be available from the Quality Inn and Royalton Inn to the event.
NEWS FROM AROUND THE CONNECTION

From the desk of Grace Gerber
Administrative Coordinator, Missional Church Development

Have You Attended the Lombard Peace Center “Conflict Mediation Skills” Training Institute?

If so, please let us know!

The West Ohio Conference is forming a “think tank” to consider how elements of this practical, useful training might become helpful and available to our congregations, leaders and clergy—so let’s collaborate with our ideas and suggestions as we discern our way forward. Please email Grace at ggerber@wocumc.org if you’ve already participated in this particular Lombard Peace Center course, and we’ll add you to the “think tank” invitation list.

The following information for the Bishop’s fall tours titled: “You Might Be A Wesleyan Christian If...” is now available on the web

Bishop's Fall Tour: "You might be a Wesleyan Christian if..."
An evening of teaching, reflection and conversation for clergy & laity

**These events will NOT be live streamed or recorded**
**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

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**(Update) BY GEORGE! Campaign (Update)**

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!

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**CHARGE CONFERENCE TIME**

**Pastors,**

Charge Conference activities are well on their way. Should you have any questions, please give us call at the District Office at 419-523-9901 or 1-800-589-7828.

Thank you all for your support!
I am Pastor Mark Hollinger who is serving at Cridersville UMC and as the coordinator for Addiction Recovery Ministries in the Northwest Plains District. If your church or community group would like for me to present the current status and background of the opioid epidemic and the ways in which you or your church or group can become engaged in recovery efforts then I invite you to contact me. I have a 20 to 30 minute presentation and have all the presentation equipment needed to travel to any church or group event. Many communities already have multilayered recovery services available and we have wonderful opportunities to reach out as supportive and healing partners. The first element needed in addressing our ability to become Christ's hands and feet to those who are hurting from the oppression of addiction is education. Ohio is among the top five states with highest rates of opioid-related overdose deaths, killing significantly more people in Ohio than auto accident fatalities. I am a recovering addict and have real-life knowledge of the personal challenges of recovery. You can contact me at 419 231-0428 or via email rev.mark.hollinger@gmail.com.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Mark

Do justice, Love mercy and Walk Humbly with Your God
Micah 6:8

New Early Response Team Class (ERT)

October 5, 2019
8 am – 4 pm
Bellefontaine First United Methodist Church
201 North Main Street, Bellefontaine, OH 43311
Trainers: Jim Burns, Ron McDaniel and Randy Fahy
Cost: Basic ERT class: $40; Recertification: $35 (includes lunch and materials)
Registration Deadline: Sunday, September 29, 2019

Want to learn how you can assist neighbors and communities impacted by floods and tornadoes? Come to the October 5 ERT class where you will learn how to assist survivors of natural disasters in their time of need. As a member of an ERT, you will provide a Christian presence while taking steps to prevent further damage to the family’s personal property by tarping, debris removal and cleaning flooded homes. FEMA recognizes this training as an appropriate credential to enter a disaster area. A background check is required to receive an UMCOR ERT badge. Once you register on-line, you will receive the link. Participants are encouraged to complete the background check prior to the class.

Ready to serve? Register here. We look forward to being with you!
Have questions? Contact Dee Stickley-Miner at dstickley@wocumc.org; 614-844-6200

The link is below..
Come on out and join us for a relaxing afternoon in the park and connect with others and their families who are serving throughout our district. Hermon Woodlands Park has two miles of loop trails. The trail surfaces are wheelchair friendly. There is a storybook trail and discovery play trail for the kids. If you have a cornhole game, bring it, let’s get a contest going!!! If you play the guitar bring it also for a time of worship. We have both shelters at the park, but you may want to bring a lawn chair. The District will supply the hot dogs, hamburgers, and beverages (we even have Barry grilling)! Please bring a side dish (salad, veggies, or dessert) to share with all and please do not forget your place settings for you and your family. We are requesting that you **register yourself and the number of family members** that will be attending with you—we would like to get a close count for the purchase/supply of the meat/beverages.

**Please RSVP by: September 25, 2019**

Pastors: You should had received an email to RSVP—please contact the District Office/Lesley Moore if you had not received your email notification.

Thank you and see you then!
Greetings Lay Servants,

Fall is upon us which tells us it is time to be sure that all of our paperwork is in place for the Lay Servant Ministries in which we have been called. Our prayer is that you are experiencing spiritual growth and fruit in your ministry and we will look forward to reading your reports.

Remember we all must complete an annual report. The annual report must be done online and you can find the form on the district website or on the conference website. Please be sure to print a copy for yourself. Be sure you print a copy for your file. On the district website you will also find the one-on-one report that is to be completed by you and your pastor, filed with the district office and you will want to keep a copy for your personal file.

We want to remind you that classes are being offered in October. Introduction to Lay Servant Ministries (Basic), Go Preach (Core), Ministry in Small Churches (Adv), and Creating Sacred Spaces (Adv.) classes are being offered with a deadline for registration as October 12. Those classes are listed on the Northwest Plains web page. Registering for the classes in a timely manner is critical as the number registered at that point determines whether the class can be offered. We don’t want to cancel any class, but must be respectful of our presenters and good stewards of our resources. We are all aware of the chaos in the United Methodist Church; however, these classes provide skills that we can all use regardless of the decisions made by General Conference 2020. Certified Lay Servants who have not taken an advance course since 2016 must take a course this year.

If you have any questions, you may contact any member of your Lay Servant Ministry Team.

May God continue to guide and bless you as you do Kingdom work.

Northwest Plains District Lay Servant Ministries Team

Barbara Lee 419-738-3402
Carol Blass 419-229-9969
Steve Brooks 401-269-6223
Linda Hoover 567-204-0359
Dwight Bowers 419-212-1375
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 bhoover1@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.

“Introduction to Lay Servant Ministry (Basic) Part 1 & 2” led by Rev. Dave Burkhart/Lay Ministry Teaching Team will be offered on **Saturday, October 19 (Part 1) & October 26 (Part 2)**, 8:30am-4:30pm, at Leipsic UMC, 127 W. Main St., Leipsic, Ohio. The FIRM deadline for registration is October 12 & 19. If we do not receive 10 registrations, the class will not be held Register on District Website today!

“Go Preach (CORE) Part 1 & 2” led by Rev. David Chivington/Lay Ministry Teaching Team will be offered on **Saturday, October 19 (Part 1) & October 26 (Part 2)**, 8:30am-4:30pm, at Leipsic UMC, 127 W. Main St., Leipsic, Ohio. The FIRM deadline for registration is October 12 & 19. If we do not receive 10 registrations, the class will not be held Register on District Website today!

“Ministry in Small Churches (Advanced) led by Brent Watson/Lay Ministry Teaching Team will be offered on **Saturday, October 19**, at 8:30am-4:30pm, at Leipsic UMC, 127 W. Main St., Leipsic, Ohio. The FIRM deadline for registration is October 12. If we do not receive 10 registrations, the class will not be held Register on District Website today!

“Creating Sacred Space (Advanced) led by Wendy Lybarger/Lay Ministry Teaching Team will be offered on **Saturday, October 26** at 8:30am-4:30pm, at Leipsic UMC, 127 W. Main St., Leipsic, Ohio. The FIRM deadline for registration is October 19. If we do not receive 10 registrations, the class will not be held Register on District Website today!

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!
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</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#106</td>
<td>February 7-10, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#107</td>
<td>June 13-16, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#108</td>
<td>October 10-13, 2019</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men's Walks</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#80</td>
<td>March 14-17, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#81</td>
<td>November 7-10, 2019</td>
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Sidney Emmaus Walk @ First UMC, Sidney, OH
http://www.sidneyemmaus.org/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#79</td>
<td>10/10/2019</td>
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<td>06/11/2020</td>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#74</td>
<td>11/07/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#75</td>
<td>03/12/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#76</td>
<td>11/05/2020</td>
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</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women's Walks</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#73</td>
<td>March 28-31, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#74</td>
<td>September 19-22, 2019</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men's Walk</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#70</td>
<td>February 21-24, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#71</td>
<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/
HAVE SCRAP METAL TO GET RID OF?
SCRAP METAL DRIVE
Do you have an antenna down from a storm? Got sheet metal, or a chain-link fence you’ve wanted to take down? Here’s your chance to do good while cleaning up from a storm or cleaning out the garage, attic, basement, shed, backyard, etc.

Trinity United Methodist Church Scrap Metal Drive ends September 30, 2019.

All METAL accepted—anything and everything. A dumpster is located in the parking lot at Tri-R Guns, 241 E. Second Street, Ottawa, waiting for your cast-offs through the summer. ABSOLUTELY NO TV’S, COMPUTER MONITORS, PAINT, TIRES, or AEROSOL CANS ACCEPTED. All proceeds will go to Trustee projects at Trinity United Methodist Church. Call 419-523-6496 for more information.

Community Meal PSA

The Pandora United Methodist Church will be hosting a FREE Community Meal on Wed. Sept. 25th at 5:30 to 7:00 pm. in the church fellowship hall, 108 E. Washington Street, Pandora. The meal this month is provided Ted’s Market. The menu is Pulled pork sandwich, Au Gratin potatoes, green beans, beverage and dessert.
Local Church and Community Events

I would ask that you would announce this BBQ in your Community Events.

If you need tickets for this event, they are available at the office and we would be happy to deliver them to your church. I would need a total count by Monday, September 23rd. Tickets are $9.00.

Any questions, you may call the church office at 419.331.2366. Our office hours are 9:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M., Monday - Thursday or 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M., Monday - Wednesday.

Thanks so much.

In His Service,

Cathy Mouser
Administrative Assistant

Harvest and Herb Festival Luncheon

The a la carte menu for the lunch during the Harvest and Herb Festival will include sandwiches, chicken and noodles, soup, salads, pie, and beverages. Serving will be 11:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m., Saturday, September 21. Proceeds benefit UMW mission projects. Come to Wesley Fellowship Hall for a delicious meal, fellowship, and the opportunity to take a break from the festival activities.

Ada First United Methodist Church
301 N. Main St., Ada, OH 45810
Phone: 419-634-4626
Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon
The deadline to register for this year's Clergy Spouse Retreat has been extended through **this Wednesday, September 18, 2019**!

If you haven't already, you still have two options to register.
Online at [https://www.northwestplainsdistrict.org/district/northwestplains/event/clergy-spouse-getaway-and-retreat](https://www.northwestplainsdistrict.org/district/northwestplains/event/clergy-spouse-getaway-and-retreat) Pay online, or bring check payable to "NWP District UMC" with you to the event.

Send an email to Lesley Moore ([lmoore@wocumc.org](mailto:lmoore@wocumc.org)) with the following info: Name: Address: Church (in NWP): Phone: Does this phone receive text messages? Email address: *I will be able to attend the Clergy Spouse Retreat October 4-5, 2019, at Camp Widewater in Liberty Center, Ohio. *I will bring my check payable to "NWP District UMC" to the retreat

Any dietary or accessibility needs?

**Remember to complete your registration by this Wednesday!**

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**Clergy Spouse Retreat**
**October 4-5, 2019**
**@ Camp Widewater**

The brochure with complete details is page 15 (next page).

Spouses of elders, deacons, pastors and extension ministers--currently serving, retired, or widowed--are all invited!

We are sharing this year's retreat with the spouses of the Maumee Watershed District.

We hope you will join us for this time of renewal!

In Christ,

_The Clergy Spouse Retreat Planning Team of the Northwest Plains_
Greetings Clergy Spouses of the Northwest Plains

I am excited for this year’s retreat. We will be meeting at Camp Widewater Friday and Saturday October 4-5. The theme is Renewal of our Mind, Body and Soul.

We have some fun activities planned which include a hayride, campfire, games, Bible study, singing and worship. We hope you will join us.

Camp Widewater is located in Liberty Center, Ohio, and we will be staying in a dormitory with bunk beds.

You may arrive early at 2pm for personal time to enjoy the hiking trails, prayer labyrinth, or take in some rock painting. Regular arrival is 6:30 Friday and we will conclude Saturday at 4pm with worship and communion.

The district is making this weekend possible for you for $65. I will be writing a note to the SPRC chairs inviting the SPRC to pay this fee as a gift to you.

Please join me in praying as we look forward to our time together to Renew.

Blessings,

Julie Burns
NWP District Superintendent’s Spouse

Friday, October 4, 2019
2:00 PM Arrive early, if you’d like, to enjoy rock painting or the many amenities the retreat center offers
Dinner on your own
6:00 Registration until 6:45pm
7:00 Gathering and Opening Worship
Relax your Mind
Hayride, campfire, crafts and games

Saturday, October 5, 2019
8:30 AM Greet the Day Together
9:00 Breakfast
10:00 Morning Worship
Renew your Body
Zumba, hiking, personal time
12:15 PM Lunch
1:30 Refresh your Soul
3:30 Closing Worship and Communion
4:00 Departure

What to Pack
Our lodging is in a dormitory-style setting with shared restrooms and shower stalls housed within the conference center. Bringing these items will help to ensure a comfortable experience for you:
- Twin-sized bedding
- Towel & Personal toiletries
- Comfortable clothes for morning exercise
- A refillable cup
- Bug spray
- A snack to share to bless all participants

Dining
Whether you’re arriving early Friday afternoon or making the drive in, please take the opportunity to eat dinner Friday evening before the retreat begins. There are some nice restaurants in Grand Rapids near the retreat center. Early arrivals will be invited to order carryout from a nearby restaurant/pizzeria.

If you have specific dietary needs for our weekend together, please reach out to Melanie Coleman
419.924.8299 text preferred

Saturday’s breakfast and lunch are included with the retreat package.
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.

Capitol Area South & Foothills
Saturday, November 9, 2019 and Thursday, January 9, 2020 at Crossroads Ministry Center of Lancaster First UMC

Capitol Area North & Miami Valley
Saturday, November 16, 2019 and Thursday January 16, 2020 at Urbana UMC

Ohio River Valley & Shawnee Valley
Saturday January 11, 2020 and Thursday March 5, 2020 at Williamsburg UMC

Northwest Plains & Maumee Watershed
Saturday January 18, 2020 and Thursday March 12, 2020 at Bowling Green First UMC
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 and family 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.
- Refraining 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 other ministry to other children.
- Coordinate all aspects of the Pre-Kindergarten through fifth 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/ends-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 with 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 Employee 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 SPRC 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 SPRC committee of the Forest Park United Methodist Church

Employee ____________________________ Employment start date ____________

I agree to the position description as presented:

Employee ____________________________ Date ____________

SPRC Chair ___________________________ Date ____________
**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.

**Family Ministries Director**

Trinity and North Union United Methodist Churches in Van Wert, OH are entering a new era of mission and ministry by forging a strategic partnership, working together to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. North Union is a rural congregation and Trinity is an in-town, county seat congregation.

Our new partnership is looking to hire a *Family Ministries Director* who will lead our children, young adult, and adult discipleship ministries. We are looking for a candidate who will bring excitement and innovation to our congregations in order to grow our struggling discipleship ministries. While both congregations have vital discipleship with our youth and older members, both have struggled with children’s ministries and with the 25 – 50 age bracket. With this new partnership, both congregations are willing and able to try new things to attract and disciple children and adults.

Candidate should bring a strong faith, some level of experience and/or education, and have the energy to try new things. A knowledge of United Methodist theology and polity is a plus. We envision this position to be 30 hours per week with salary commensurate with education/experience. This position comes with continuing education funds but no other benefits.

Please submit a resume and cover letter 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.

**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.

**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.
St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Montpelier, OH, has some choir music to redistribute. Below you will find the list. It is free to anyone who wants to come and get it. The only stipulation is that you must take an entire box. Contact Carol Carr -419-485-3519

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Music to give away</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Box A</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The God of Harvest Praise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who Would Send A Baby?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>His Love Never Fails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Were You There?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wonderful Counselor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Box B</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soft Were Your Hands, Dear Jesus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blessed Is the Man</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Wings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Think Thou On Me, O Lord</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seek Ye the Lord</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unto Thee Will I Call</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Let Us Celebrate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Box C</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To God All Praise and Glory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emmaus Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sing Out Your Song, Christians of the World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upon This Rock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wondrous Love</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Come, Shepherd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I've Got the Hope of the World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soon and Very Soon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Box D</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who Will Light My Lamp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sing to the Lord</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glory to the King of Kings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amazing Grace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Box E</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twelve Gates Into the City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medley of the Cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Praise God in His Holiness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sing with One Accord</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace I Leave with You</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There's a Spirit Here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens Adore Him</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thou Hast Searched Me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>God Be In My Heart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Spirit of the Lord</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thou Art My Life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Go Tell It!</td>
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Resources

Free Active Shooter Prevention Guide
Recently, attention has been drawn to the unthinkable action of active shooters in a house of worship.
UMI is offering this resource to you as a way to prepare you, your church leadership, the congregation and visitors in the event this should occur. Being prepared helps everyone cope with these realities and begin to re-focus attention on core ministries.
Conducting the ministries of The United Methodist Church takes on many forms. Our first call to ministry is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. This crucial part of our ministry as a denomination begins in the local church. Everything else we do on a daily basis supports this core commission. (Matthew 28:19)
There are many supportive actions taking place every day to support the local church. One of them is to insure the church properties so that a church can continue its core ministries in the community.
DOWNLOAD  http://tiny.cc/hf6sry

Local Church Officer Job Descriptions
Positions Required in All Congregations
Every congregation must make provision for including these functions according to The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, ¶244, ¶249. Positions may be combined except for the financial functions. "The positions of treasurer and financial secretary should not be combined and held by one person, and the persons holding these positions should not be immediate family members (¶258.4)."
Nominations and Leader Development Committee (¶258.1)
Pastor/Staff-Parish Relations Committee (¶258.2)
Trustees (¶258.3 and ¶2524 to 2550)
Finance Committee Chairperson (¶258.4)
Lay Leader (¶251.1)
Lay Member of Annual Conference (¶251.2)
Financial Secretary (¶258.4)
Church Treasurer (¶258.4)
Membership Secretary (¶234 and ¶235 to 242)
Leadership Team (also called Church Council, Administrative Board) Chairperson (¶251.3)
LEARN MORE  http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/leadership-resources/local-church-officer-job-descriptions

Do you have news or something interesting to share? Know of anyone who would like to be added to our Weekly Bulletin e-mail list? Contact Northwest Plains District via e-mail nwplains@wocumc.org or call 1.800.589.7828.
When e-mailing the district staff, please use the e-mail addresses listed below:

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