



From our “cousins” in East Ohio, we are invited to attend:

South Forest Ministry & Discipleship Training Day October 4, 2025 New Concord UMC

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We are excited to announce the return of the District Leadership & Development Event, with a variety of mission, ministry, discipleship, and fellowship opportunities. The guest speaker will be Rev. Mark Chow, District Superintendent for Hocking River District in the West Ohio Conference. In the registration below, you will be able to select the equivalent of 4 hours of training. Some workshops may take up a 2-hour block, while other sessions are designed as one-hour blocks.

When: October 4, 2025, from 9:30 a.m. -3:00 p.m. Registration and Hospitality begin at 9:00 a.m.

Where: New Concord United Methodist Church (20 East High Street, New Concord, OH 43762) (it's about 20 minutes drive east of Zanesville).

Cost: \$10 a person or a \$25 cap for church groups and includes snacks and lunch. Payment is to be made at the door. Cash or checks made out to New Concord United Methodist Church will be accepted.

The last day to register is September 26, 2025 Call 330-499-3972 ext.208 today!

Workshop 1: "Rooted & Renewed" with Rev. Beth Ortiz -- 2 hours (9:30-11:30 a.m.) In this workshop, we'll explore simple, transformative small group model of discipleship that works in any context. These groups help us grow deeper in our walk with God (rooted) and extend our reach to new people and communities. Together, we'll discover how relationships formed in small groups with God and with each other can renew our churches, strengthen our faith, and bring fresh hope for the future. Lead by: Rev. Beth Ortiz (Executive Director of Discipleship Ministries of the Ohio Episcopal Area)

Workshop 2: "Creating Missional Disciples" with Rev. JP Snyder -- 2 hours (1:00-3:00p.m.) Creating a Culture of Missional Discipleship: Gain a Biblical understanding of Missional Discipleship, what it can look like, healthy steps towards applying it in your context (especially in the small and micro churches), and learn how to use language, leadership, and other aids to make this cultural shift.

Workshop 3: "Putting the Juice in your Stewardship Campaign" with Brian Sheetz -- 1 hour (9:30-10:30 a.m.) Is it possible to plan a stewardship campaign that is effective, creative and inoffensive? Give this session an hour of high energy discussions and decide for yourself.

Workshop 5: "Getting Started with Online Spaces" with Brett Hetherington 1 hour (10:30-11:30 a.m. OR 1:00-2:00 p.m.) In this session we will explore some of the most popular social media platforms, investigate their effectiveness as ministry tools, and learn how to establish our churches or ministries in the spaces they occupy.

Workshop 6: "Smart Goals" with Rev. Jeff Croft - 2 hours (9:30-11:30a.m. OR 1:00-3:00 p.m.) SMART GOALS help churches develop a vision crucial for their future. This workshop will provide a focus for aligning ministries and resources to achieve their goals through interactive sessions and discussions. We will work to identify key components of a VISION FRAME. From that frame, you will then create one SMART GOAL with several actionable initiatives for the coming year.

Workshop 7: "Discover FX" with Brad Aycock and Terri McClain - 2 hours (9:30-11:30 a.m. OR 1:00-3:00 p.m.) Fresh Expressions (FX) are about stepping beyond the walls of the church and into the places where life happens. They go beyond the boundaries of ordinary church to build authentic community with people who have often been forgotten, ignored, marginalized, or dismissed. Fresh Expressions can breathe new life into your congregation and help you reach people in your community who are unchurched or dechurched. Discover different models of Fresh Expressions.

Call the South Forest District TODAY to register!: 330-499-3972, ext. 208

Upcoming Lay Servant Classes

Hocking River District – Loving People and Planet in God's Name
(October 31 and November 1, 2025)

<https://www.westohioumc.org/event/hocking-river-district-lay-servant-ministries-course-loving-people-and-planet-gods-name>

Olentangy River District – [Called to Preach](#) (November 8 and November 15, 2025)



Remember, even if you have completed the Basic Course and all of the Core Courses, you need to take an Advanced Course every 3 years as part of maintaining your certification. Not sure what you need next? Call the Hocking River District office at (740) 677-0136.



A Special Presentation on Our Methodist Heritage

We are privileged to have David Worthington, the UMC's Global Ambassador of Methodist Heritage Sites, join us on Monday, October 13th, 2-4pm, at the West Ohio Conference Center in Worthington. David is visiting the United States from England, and he will be sharing 'Wisdom from the Past, Hope for the Future - A Methodist Heritage Story.'

David was appointed by the UMC General Commission on Archives and History as the Global Ambassador of Methodist Heritage Sites. He is committed to continuing the work begun by John and Charles Wesley in England nearly three hundred years ago as he believes their story, and that of the early Methodist movement, remains as relevant today as it did in the 18th century.

All are invited to participate in his presentation and a time of questions and answers at the West Ohio Conference Center, 32 Wesley Blvd., Worthington, Ohio. [Registration here](#) is appreciated but not required.

PHONE NUMBER FOR HOCKING RIVER DISTRICT OFFICE:
(740) 677-0136

Free 2026 Worship Calendar Bundle Digital Download



2026 Worship Planning Calendar

The full planning calendar for each Sunday in 2025, as well as special days and times throughout the year. Helpful for pastors, worship leaders and planners, musicians, choirs, committees, Sunday School teachers, and more.

12-page, 8-1/2" X 11" printable PDF calendar in month-at-a-glance format.

2026 Revised Common Lectionary Sundays and Special Days Calendar

This two-page PDF lists the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) readings and liturgical colors is one of Discipleship Ministries' most popular worship planning resources. The resource includes Sundays and Special Days, along with space for your own notes.

[Click here to download the free calendars](#)

Pay Your Apportionments Online with E-Check

The West Ohio Conference now offers apportionment payments online via e-check. And! they will cover the processing fees!

Before you decide if e-check is a good option for your church, please log into www.westohioumc.org > MyChurch > Apportionments. There you will find a link to the "e-check Good to Know." You will also find the tutorial and link to make your payment.



If you are a treasurer or someone authorized to make payments on behalf of your church, you will need to be registered at westohioumc.org, have permission to view MyChurch, and editing privileges.

Laity Sunday 2025: Be Strong in the Spirit

Laity Sunday is a special observance in the United Methodist Church that celebrates the ministry of all Christians, emphasizing that everyone is called to participate in God's mission. It is traditionally observed on the third Sunday in October (this year, October 19th) and serves as a reminder of the vital role that laypersons play in the church and community.

Ministries of the laity include lay leaders, lay servants, Sunday school teachers, small group Bible study leaders, deaconesses, home missionaries, and other significant forms of ministry.

For the 2025 to 2028 quadrennium, the theme is "Together By Grace," with a specific focus for 2025 on "Be Strong in the Spirit" (Ephesians 3:16). This theme encourages laypersons to embrace their spiritual strength and actively engage in ministry. [Click here](#) for resources provided by Discipleship Ministries.

Thank You to all the laity who are serving on Laity Sunday !

Green Church Mini Grants Offered

As one category of the West Ohio GO! Grants, Green Church Mini Grants provide limited funding for a church's "green" projects such as recycling or composting programs; native plants for a pollinator garden; an Earth Day event; or installing energy efficient light bulbs. To be approved for funding, churches will sign the Green Church Pledge, complete a sustainability audit, and commit to attending Green Church Training. Each grant will supply \$100-\$750 for a green project, and recipients will be recognized at the Bishop's GO! Awards in February. To apply, complete the GO! Grant application here:

<https://www.westohioumc.org/2026-go-grants>. **Applications are due September 30.** Questions can be directed to Mariellyn Grace, Director of Mission Engagement, at mgrace@wocumc.org.



Early Response Team training – Nov. 8

For more information or to register, <https://www.westohioumc.org/event/early-response-team-training-recert-nbumc-1>

To be held at North Broadway UMC from 8am to

4pm, 48 E N Broadway St, Columbus, OH 43214



The eight-hour basic class ERT training will teach you how to assist survivors of natural disasters in their time of need. You will learn how to provide a Christian presence while taking steps to prevent further damage to the family's personal property; this may include tarping, debris removal, cleaning out flooded homes, etc. FEMA recognizes this training to enter a disaster scene. The recertification class will end around 1:00pm and is only for those who have completed the basic course and are within one year of the date their badge expired. Cost is \$40 for the basic class; \$35 for recertification.

Festival of Sharing—Church World Service Kits Delivered!

Thank you to all who packed, donated, and loaded the semi!



If you need to change your electronic record with the West Ohio Conference, PLEASE contact the Hocking River District Office at 740-677-0136.

Creating a new account creates problems for registration for Annual Conference and other events. If your primary email address or phone number is changed, or you have moved, or gotten married, etc., we need to use the original record and make changes there. Call or email me with any changes, and I am happy to make updates!

Almost time for Regional Charge Conferences!

What is a Charge Conference?

What is a charge?

A charge refers to the appointment of a pastor to a church or ministry setting. The term has historical roots in the early Methodist movement, when local societies met in homes or shared spaces rather than dedicated church buildings. John Wesley appointed preachers to take “charge” of these societies—a term that endures today. A charge now refers to any church or entity to which a United Methodist pastor is appointed.

Is a charge the same as a church?

Sometimes, but not always. A charge may consist of a single congregation, but it can also include multiple congregations served by the same pastor. In these multi-church charges, congregations retain their individual identities while sharing pastoral leadership.

What is a charge conference?

A charge conference is an annual meeting of the leadership of a pastoral charge, held to make key decisions on behalf of the congregation(s). The meeting is presided over by the district superintendent. Voting members of the charge conference include all clergy appointed to the charge and members of the church council(s). Retired clergy and retired diaconal ministers who hold membership in any of the congregations are also members of the conference.

Most charges hold their annual conference in the summer or fall, but additional conferences may be scheduled throughout the year with approval from the district superintendent. These gatherings can take place on church grounds or at another designated location. In some cases, the superintendent may choose to hold multiple charge conferences in one setting on the same day. A secretary is appointed for each charge conference to ensure accurate documentation of the proceedings.

Your church will need to attend a regional charge conference.

All charge conferences will be held at 1:30pm on Sundays in October and November. Homemade soup and sandwiches are provided so that you can make it to the conference after your church service is over. Choose a location (or date) that is convenient for your church leaders and pastor to show up:

Rockbridge UMC, October 26

Coolville UMC, November 2

Zanesville Coburn UMC, November 9

McArthur UMC, November 16

Link to paperwork: [CLICK HERE](#)

A photograph of a blue sign for Coolville United Methodist Church. The sign features the church's name in white capital letters and a small logo on the left. It is mounted on a brick wall next to a white building with a window.

1. *Chlorophyll a* (Chl *a*)

[illegible][illegible]

Figure 1. The effect of the α parameter on the performance of the proposed algorithm. The figure shows the performance of the proposed algorithm for different values of α (0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8, 0.9, 1.0) across different values of β (0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8, 0.9, 1.0). The performance is measured by the number of iterations required to reach the optimal solution. The figure shows that the performance of the proposed algorithm is generally improved as α increases, and the improvement is more significant for larger values of β .