



June 2024 News & Updates

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Walking with God

When we walk with God, it may not make things easy, but it makes them possible. Walking with Him gives us assurance of His presence and power in our lives. Our God is powerful and with Him all things are possible. When we walk with God, we can endure trials and heartache. And because of Christ's resurrection power in us, we can overcome. Walking with God also involves talking and listening to Him. Just as walking with a friend lends itself to conversation, so God desires that we converse with Him through prayer.

Characteristics of walking with God.

- Accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Savior.
- We need to learn to listen to God.
- We have to trust Him.
- We should agree with God.
- We must obey the Lord.
- We have to walk in the same direction God walks.

Genesis 5:24 – And Enoch, walked with God and he was not, for the Lord took him,...

The word "walk" is the biblical expression for "fellowship and obedience with God that results in divine favor." It refers to the manner of a person living in nearness to God. It is a live style of dedication and devotion. Enoch's walk lived up to the meaning of his name...Enoch means "Dedicated."

Genesis 6:8; 22; 7:1 – Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord...

Noah was a just man, perfect (righteous, practice and attitude/lifestyle of obedience) in his generations. Noah walked with God. *Noah did according to all that God commanded him ; ...God said to him, I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation.*

Genesis 17:1 – When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said..."I am the Lord Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.

Deuteronomy – 10:12-22...what does the Lord require of you...but to fear the Lord...walk in all His ways...to love Him...to serve Him with all your heart and soul...to keep the commandments and His statutes...for your good.

God's continued favor, your faithfulness, and His fruitfulness, always,

Calvin

Calvin Alston, Jr., DS, Scioto River District



**SIGN UP TO PRAY FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE
WEST OHIO ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024: GOD IS ABLE
May 29 - June 1**

The Annual Conference 2024 Prayer Vigil begins tomorrow and there are several spots still open! The prayer vigil is a way for individuals and congregations can be in prayer leading up and through annual conference. As Bishop Palmer says, "No prayer, no power. Little prayer, little power. Big prayer, big power!"

To sign up for one of the 30-minute intervals during the business of the annual conference, click here on the [Annual Conference Prayer Sign-Up](#). Don't worry, we'll make sure you have some prompts to help guide your 30 minutes with God.

This year's annual conference theme is "God is Able" and Bishop Palmer's prayer for annual conference is "Gracious God, we humbly acknowledge that you are the source of our life. We confess we are often tempted to try being your church without your love, without your power. Forgive us. Grant to us, grace-full God, to put all our hope and confidence in you. For you are Able. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen."

OFFICE HOURS



Our office will be closed the week of May 27-31 for Memorial Day and Annual Conference.

Phones and email will be monitored, but responses will be delayed until Monday, June 3 unless there is an emergency situation.



UPCOMING LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES CLASSES

Leading Public Prayer
LSM Advanced Course

Instructor: Rev. Joel Harbarger

Praying in public can be daunting, but prayer is something one learns. This course on praying in public will help the participants grow in confidence and skill in public prayer and enrich their personal prayer life. This is a CORE course for becoming a certified lay speaker.

Dates/Times:

Friday, June 7, 2024 – 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Saturday, June 8, 2024 – 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

TWO options for taking the class: In-person OR ZOOM

[Read more and register here](#) - **DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS JUNE 1**



OPEN HOUSE FOR BISHOP & CYNTHIA PALMER JUNE 4

Bishop Gregory Vaughn Palmer is retiring after serving 24 years in Episcopal leadership. West Ohio has been blessed to have Bishop and First Lady Cynthia Palmer serving us in this conference.

On Tuesday, June 4 from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM, please join the staff at the West Ohio Conference as we show appreciation in person to Bishop Palmer at an Open House at West Ohio Conference Center in Worthington, Ohio. Light refreshments will be served.



COMMITTEE-DRIVEN ANNUAL REPORTS DUE JUNE 1

- Trustees, please submit the [Trustee Legal and Property Report](#) by June 1. This completed report should be shared as a part of your Charge Conference reporting in the fall; it does not need to be completed again then.
- Trustees, please submit the [Parsonage Inspection Form](#) by June 1, if applicable. (Available in a word document at the bottom of this page.)
- Finance Committee, please have the [Fund Balance Report Form](#) (audit) each year completed by June 1. Refer to the [local church audit guide](#) for assistance.
- Church Historians, please update the [Church History Form](#).
- SPRC Committees, the forms below are all related to the annual evaluation of a local church pastor and are all due June 1.
 - [Local Church Pastor Self-Assessment](#)
 - [Pastoral SPRC Assessment Form](#)
 - [Smart Goal Formation Plan Guide](#)

Please complete and/or upload these forms online when possible (instructions below), or email/mail them to your District Office. If you need online access to be able to complete your forms, contact your District Office and request to be made a Church Data Administrator.

[2024 Annual Report Forms | West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church \(westohioumc.org\)](#)

For questions about these reports contact Diana at the district office, dhall@wocumc.org



LOOKING AHEAD UPCOMING DISTRICT EVENTS

- July 13 - **Starting Well** for newly appointed/assigned SRD pastors and SPRC teams
- TBA - Meet newly appointed/assigned SRD/HRD pastors - gathering for all pastors at **Tecumseh! Outdoor drama**
- Pastor One-on-One meetings with District Superintendent begin late July through September
- Local Church Conferences begin mid-October



**DISCOVER FX IS COMING TO THE
SCIOTO RIVER DISTRICT!
August 24, Walnut Street UMC
9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

You've heard about Fresh Expressions popping up all across West Ohio. Here is your chance to explore how fresh expressions could revitalize your church and reach people in your community. Is God stirring something new within you? Fresh Expressions are an effective way to build relationships, serve the people within your context and community, and revitalize your church.

Fresh Expressions are about going outside of the norm, going beyond the typical boundaries of ordinary church to build human community with and among people with whom the church has forgotten, ignored, marginalized, or dismissed.

Discover FX is a 5-hour immersion into what Fresh Expressions are and how to launch your own expression of church. After the training, optional coaching sessions will be available via zoom to walk with you through launching a fresh expression of church.

Discover what FX can do for your church in a convenient location in your district and learn from your colleagues who are already doing Fresh Expressions in your region.

Training is from 9:30am - 2:30pm and lunch is included.
Cost is \$50/person or \$25/per team member (Pastor + at least one layperson is recommended)
(assistance available if needed)

Space is limited at each site.
[Register Here](#)



NEW RESOURCE FOR CONGREGATIONS LOOKING TO GROW YOUNGER!

Last month over 160 leaders from 45 different congregations across West Ohio came together at Ohio Wesleyan University for Generate 2024. There were six different generations represented during this transformational day of learning, listening, and launching a movement of growing younger. There will be many more stories to share from this day as churches across West Ohio

continue to take their next steps in growing younger.

If you missed this event or lost your notes, you can now find the resources shared during the day and hear what others thought by visiting www.generateohio.org. Not only will you find the notebooks and slides shared during Generate, additional resources like summer camp options, connecting with our family ministry networks, and micro-grant information is available. Stop by often as resources are being added frequently.



LAKESIDE INSTITUTE July 21-27, 2024

Lakeside Institute is a camp like no other. Located inside the gates of the Lakeside Chautauqua community, Lakeside Institute has been helping youth and young adults, ages 14 through age 20, further their personal faith journeys for over 100 years! Through daily messages, small group conversations, large & small group activities, devotionals and worship opportunities, each youth is encouraged to develop their individual relationship with Christ. Supported by adult volunteers, the camp Chaplain and their peers,

Lakeside Institute provides a place for them to explore their personal faith beliefs, deepen their understanding of God's work in the world, ask questions, and prepare for a lifelong journey of faith.

The theme for camp this summer is "Finding the ME in the WE." Using Luke 1:28 and the story of Mary as an entry point, youth will explore what it means to claim their God given identity, while also remaining deeply connected to the larger community where they have been called.

While Lakeside Institute runs through East Ohio Conference, there is a long history of involvement from West Ohio as well. Hilliard UMC has several leaders on staff, including one of the deans (April Andrick) and this year's chaplain (Rev. April Blaine). The leadership works to create an accommodating and inclusive environment for all young people, including LGBTQIA+ youth.

Campers stay in Wo-Ho-Mis and nearby cabins on the grounds of Lakeside. Youth are welcome to come on their own, or with others from their church. Come and join the fun at Lakeside Institute this summer!

Promo Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JjMNP4glseE>
Register Here: <https://lakesideinstitute.wordpress.com/register/>



CONFERENCE ARCHIVES MOVING TO MTSO

The archives of the East and West Ohio conferences will be moving to the Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO) this summer.

For more than 50 years, the archives were housed at Ohio Wesleyan University (OWU). Last year, OWU notified the conferences that the Beeghly Library was closing for renovations and that relocation of the archives would be necessary.

"We are grateful to Ohio Wesleyan for caring for our archives for all these years, and we look forward to

working with MTSO. The United Methodist Church has a rich history, and our archives are about cultivating our past to help engage our future,” said Dave Boling, West Ohio Conference Archives and History Chairperson.

It is anticipated that the materials will be moved to MTSO in June. Once the archives are relocated to MTSO, attention will turn to accessibility and use of the archives. Watch for more details later this summer. Should you have any questions, please contact Dave Boling at historyarchives@wocumc.org.



2024 SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EAST OHIO CONFERENCE

West Ohio has partnered, once again, with East Ohio Camps to provide churches and families with summer camping opportunities. Former West Ohio campers, and local churches have been mailed 2024 East Ohio summer camping brochures from West Ohio. See the button below for more information.

If you are looking for options outside of East Ohio, we suggest you check out these collaborative West Ohio partners:

- [United Church of Christ Camp](#) in Bellville, Ohio
- [Michigan United Methodist Camping](#) across Michigan
- [First Community Church Camp](#) in Logan, Ohio

Additional youth options:

- [Senior High Christian Youth Fellowship](#) at Malone University
- [Reach Out](#) for grades 8-12 at Lakeside
- [Lakeside Institute](#) for grades 9-age 20 at Lakeside

If you would like more information about any of the above options, please contact Director of Camps, Retreats, and Next Gen Engagement, Ann Marie Carley (amcarley@gmail.com).

[East Ohio Camps](#)



DECONSECRATING SERVICES TO BE HELD FOR CAMP WIDEWATER AND CAMP OTTERBEIN IN JUNE

Former campers, employees, camp counselors, and supporters of Camps Widewater and Otterbein are encouraged to attend deconsecrating services this summer. The services are set for Saturday, June 15 at 2 p.m. at Camp Widewater and Sunday, June 16 at 4 p.m. at Camp Otterbein.

More information will be made available soon.

DISTRICT REMINDERS AND RESOURCES

ANNUAL REPORTING DUE DATES

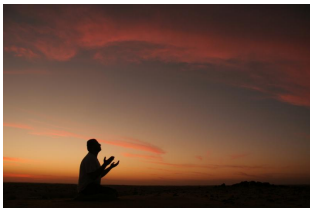
- April 15
 - Year End Statistical Data to be entered in GCFA's AC Stats platform. Find Details [HERE](#)
- June 1
 - Committee Driven Reports (click [HERE](#))
 - Parsonage Inspection
 - Trustee Legal & Property Report
 - Fund Balance Report
 - Clergy Evaluation
- December 1
 - Charge Conference forms due
- [SAFE SANCTUARIES RESOURCES](#)
- [MALACHI PROJECT RESOURCES](#)
- [UPDATE YOUR CHURCH PROFILE](#)
- [UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION OF WEST OHIO](#)
- [ALL IN COMMUNITY EQUIPPING EVENTS](#)
- [DISABILITY AUDIT FOR YOUR CHURCH BUILDING](#)



WEST OHIO CONFERENCE NEWS HEADLINES & RESOURCES

- [WEST OHIO CONFERENCE NEWS](#)
- [EVENTS AROUND THE CONFERENCE](#)
- [GENERAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR 2024](#)
- [MINISTRY RESOURCE HELPLINE](#)
- [CLASSIFIEDS](#)

CLICK [HERE](#) TO BE DIRECTED TO THE WEST OHIO CONFERENCE'S HOMEPAGE FOR OTHER NEWS



CONTINUING OUR PRAYER MINISTRY

It has been a standing custom to list several churches each month to lift in prayer. Please add these churches and their pastors to your prayer lists this month. Pray for the congregation, the pastor, their ministries and the communities they serve.

Week of May 26

- Greenfield UMC, Rev. Mark Armstrong

Week of June 2

- Haverhill UMC, Rev. Bob Morrow

Week of June 9

- Island Creek UMC, led by laity

Week of June 16

- Jackson Grace, Rev. Karen Farr

Week of June 23

- Jeffersonville, Rev. Jeff Jewell

Week of June 30

- Liberty Chapel at Scrubb Ridge, Pastor Richard Owens

[CLICK HERE FOR A LIST OF ALL CHURCHES AND PASTORS IN THE SCIOTO RIVER DISTRICT](#)

Scioto River District, West Ohio Conference, The United Methodist Church | 260 Mill Street, PO Box 124 | Chillicothe, OH 45601 US

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