



# Great Miami River District

*News from The United Methodist Church*

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## News and Notes: January 10, 2024

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**Leadership Training Day :**  
**Sunday January 21 @ Mason UMC**  
**Registration ends Monday - [Register Now](#)**



Our annual day for great learning and fellowship is coming up one week from Sunday, January 21 from 2-5:45 pm (doors open at 1:30). Our keynote speaker is Rev. Sam Holmes who is the pastor of The Pointe Church in Centerville, one of the fastest growing churches in our Conference. You'll also attend 2 workshops of your choosing which will be led by staff and leaders of the West Ohio Conference.

### WORKSHOPS:

- **Cultivating Intentional Disciple-Making Pathways** - *using 4 key elements of disciple-making, we'll start with scripture, explore a variety of metaphors, emphasize relationships, and create space for you to claim your congregation's DNA.*
- **Family Ministry Network** - *shape the future of ministry with children, youth, and young adults.*
- **Cultivating WITH Ministry: Developing a Culture of Understanding, Purpose & Ministry Ownership** - *nurture a ministry environment where leaders and servants feel valued, motivated, and responsible for their role in ministry.*
- **Living Freely & Lightly: A Deeper Dive** - *spend additional time with Pastor Sam and learn to follow the habits that lead to joyfully following Christ and a transformed life.*
- **Leading a Generosity Movement** - *learn simple yet impactful rhythms and practices to lead a generosity movement.*
- **Chosen** - *God has chosen, equipped, and empowered ordinary people to do extraordinary things. Learn how to strengthen your church for your next chapter.*
- **Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging: The Pathway to a Transformative Environment** - *explore the pathway to a transformative environment as it relates to inclusion, diversity and belonging within yourself and your church to make disciples for Jesus.*
- **Listening Circles: Building Understanding, Trust & Community** - *we have a universal wish to be connected to others in an authentic way. Learn how to lead and participate in Listening Circles which allow all to be heard and valued.*
- **Generosity and You** - *learn how good governance, reporting and adequate insurance help keep your church's focus on its core mission. The solution to creating a culture of generosity in your church may surprise you!*

[Click here to download the full description and leadership of each workshop.](#)

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**Clergy Day Apart - Tuesday, February 6**

## Registration Now Open

Pastors, don't miss West Ohio's **Clergy Day Apart** scheduled for Tuesday, February 6, 2024 from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM (note time change) at Grove City UMC.



The featured speaker is Rev. Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean, the Mary D. Synnott Professor of Youth, Church and Culture at Princeton Theological Seminary. [Register here via WestOhioUMC.org](#)

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## Martin Luther King Day Program Monday January 15 at Freedom Center - Cincinnati

The Martin Luther King Jr. Coalition of Cincinnati is once again hosting a free event that is open to the public, in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The theme is "Love, Power, Justice": Dr. King Jr. dedicated his life to making love, power, and justice a reality for all people, and especially those who had been oppressed by poverty, racism, and violence.



The event starts at 10:30 a.m. at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, 50 East Freedom Way, Cincinnati, OH 45202, where an interdenominational prayer service jump starts the march. The march concludes at Washington Park with remarks and a music performance. A complimentary Rosa Parks Bus will provide rides for those unable to march.

The MLK Jr. Day program continues inside Music Hall, 1241 Elm St., Cincinnati, OH 45202 where guests will celebrate the day with music and three outstanding community leaders. [Learn more at www.mlkcoalition.org](http://www.mlkcoalition.org)

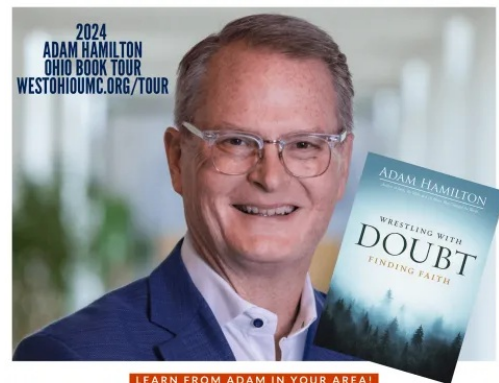
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## Adam Hamilton is coming to the district next Tuesday.

**Registration closes at midnight tonight!**

[Register now by clicking here](#)

Rev. Adam Hamilton is touring Ohio with the release of his upcoming book, *Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith.* This is an incredible opportunity to learn from a successful author of church resources and pastor of one of the most influential churches in America, The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City. He will provide a short presentation followed by a Q & A about the book.



January 16: Cincinnati  
6:30-8pm Mason UMC  
6315 Mason Montgomery Road

Each stop is 90-minutes with a presentation and Q&A about the book. Event is free for laity & clergy but registration is required. Books will be available at event.

A variety of Adam's books will be available to purchase at discounted prices. (Only credit card and checks will be accepted).

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## Introducing Super Serve Saturday - a monthly serving opportunity! Begins January 20

In the new year we are partnering with Hyde Park Community UMC to offer monthly community serve opportunities from September-May. We are hoping to see families, multiple

generations, small groups, youth groups, friends and people of all backgrounds put their faith into action by serving in the community.



Currently we have 4 organizations and 6 projects to choose from in January. Organizations are: New Life Furniture Bank, Meals on Wheels, Wesley Chapel Mission Center, The Center for Respite Care. All of the opportunities are in Hamilton county but our goal is to expand to all 7 counties in the Great Miami River District very quickly.

Super Serve Saturdays (S3) will take place on the 3rd Saturday of the month - January 20, February 17, March 16, April 20 and May 18. There is something for every age and ability - no superpowers necessary - just a willing, humble and flexible spirit and heart for all!

[Click here](#) to sign up for the first S3 day in January.

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## Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion In Faith & UMC – Brunch for All

### **How To Become a Reconciling Congregation: Brunch and Fellowship, Saturday February 3**

New worshipping communities are forming of United Methodists left behind in disaffiliation votes. Persons who are lgbtq+, their families and friends are looking for a spiritual home.

Congregations from Williamsburg in Clermont County to Englewood in Montgomery County and Wilmington in Clinton County are carving an identity as inclusive United Methodist congregations. The Gospel empowers them.

Want to be a part of this movement of the Spirit?

Inclusive and Reconciling United Methodist Congregations from the Great Miami River District and beyond (formerly Ohio River Valley & Miami Valley) will answer questions and offer guidance. Please join them for brunch and conversation. Learn from Reconciling congregations, inclusive congregations, and affirming new faith communities. Individuals (clergy & lay) and small groups are encouraged to attend.

February 3, 2024, 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Brecon UMC Fellowship Hall  
7388 E. Kemper Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45249

RSVP: [annieburton@gmail.com](mailto:annieburton@gmail.com) (Tri-State Reconciling Community)

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*Watch this newsletter, [GMD's Facebook](#),  
[Conference social media](#), and [WestOhioUMC.org](#)  
for the latest news and events right here in the Great Miami River District!*

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## Lay Servant Ministry Classes January 19-20, 2024 at Williamsburg UMC



Have you ever felt God calling you to become more involved in your local church and community? Or perhaps you have discerned the need to develop your leadership skills. If so, Lay Servant Ministries is a great way to get started. Taken as stand alone resources for your enrichment and education and to improve your leadership skills or you can go deeper and become a Certified Lay Servant in the United Methodist Church. [Click here](#) to learn more about that process.

The **Introduction (Basic)** course is a great place to get started. Your church and your pastor depend on you to pursue and accomplish the work of making disciples. Many journeys towards deeper faith and service in ministry have begun with the Basic class. You will explore the ministry of the baptized, servant leadership, spiritual gifts, Wesleyan tradition, caring, communication and more. [Click here to learn more/register.](#)

You may also consider an Advanced class like **Called to Preach**. It is designed for those who have not completed formal preaching training, for pastors seeking a basic refresher course, and for others who are called upon to preach in a pastor's absence. The course will cover the basics of researching, preparing and delivering an effective sermon. [Click here to learn more/register.](#)

### Date:

Friday, January 19, 2024 from 5:30 - 9:00 PM and,  
Saturday, January 20, 2024 from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**Location:** [Williamsburg United Methodist Church](#), 330 Gay St, Williamsburg 45176

**Cost:** \$30.00 per participant

Books must be purchased by participant and are readily available at Cokesbury and Amazon.

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## The Road to General Conference Webinar Tuesday Jan 30



The much-anticipated United Methodist Church General Conference will be held April 23-May 3, 2024, in Charlotte, NC. In preparation for this event, Bishop Palmer will be holding an online Town Hall to answer some of the questions West Ohioans have regarding this important work.

**The webinar will be held on Tuesday, January 30, at 7pm.**

Some of the questions that will be addressed are:

- What is the General Conference and how does it impact the local church?
- How does legislation get to the GC?
- Who votes at GC?
- Who attends the General Conference?
- What are the General Agencies of The United Methodist Church?

If you would like to submit a question for this webinar, please send it to: [townhallquestions@wocumc.org](mailto:townhallquestions@wocumc.org).

[Register Here](#)

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Resources

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## Youth Trip Grant Applications Now Open Applications Due February 16, 2024

"Each of you will be called to do something a little different that suits your group, your context, and the need that God has put on your heart. Regardless of what it is, we want you to know that the Great Miami River District is here to support you. Once again,

we are offering the \$1,000 youth mission and spiritual development grants this year. We are doing so with an expanded understanding of what a 'youth summer trip' means. I encourage you to dream, pray, and think in bold and creative ways about how to engage youth in mission, service, and spiritual growth safely this summer. If you'd like ideas on how to be involved with our local mission partners or smaller rural churches, please reach out to the district office. We would love to share ideas and resources from across the district with you.

Blessings!"

-Rev. Justin M. Fuhrmann, Great Miami River District Strategy Committee Chair  
on behalf of the Great Miami River District Mission Foundation

[Download the application from the "District Grants" section of the Great Miami River District website](#), or [download the Word file directly](#).



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### Resources for Students and Youth

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ExploreCalling



#### This February: Exploration

#### An opportunity for young adults to explore a call to ministry!

Exploration creates sacred space for young adults, ages 18-26, to be in meaningful fellowship, passionate worship, theological reflection, and practical workshops as they discern whether God's call on their life is to ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church and what faithful steps they can take in response.

Please share this with any young person within their congregations who might be interested. [Reach out to Jenn Lucas](#) if you have questions

[Learn more at https://www.explorecalling.org/exploration/](https://www.explorecalling.org/exploration/)

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#### Save the Date! Confirmation Event With Bishop Palmer March 3, 2024

Attention all confirmation teachers, students, and church leaders! On March 3, 2024, Bishop Gregory V. Palmer will be hosting a very special confirmation event for all confirmands of West Ohio.



[Registration is now open via WestOhioUMC.org!](#)

If you have questions, contact Rev. Ann Marie Carley [amcarley@wocumc.org](mailto:amcarley@wocumc.org).

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[Click here](#) to view/respond to the ads below  
[Click here](#) to submit your own classified ad

**Employment**

Director of Children's Ministries - *Epiphany UMC*  
Administrative Assistant - *Aldersgate UMC*  
Director of Youth Ministries - *Sharonville UMC*  
Children's Ministry Coordinator - *Oakwood UMC*

**For Sale or Free**

Padded Pews - *Shiloh UMC*  
Pews - *Norwood Grace UMC*

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Great Miami River District of the UM Church | 7388 E Kemper Road, Cincinnati, OH 45249

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