



Great Miami River District

News from The United Methodist Church

News and Notes: February 1, 2024

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Friends,

My name is Nick Federinko.

For nearly a decade I have worked in what is now the Great Miami River District- and, since 2017, have done a great deal of editing and arranging of this very News and Notes newsletter (except for events and classifieds, which have always been too bewildering for me – thank God for Nancy Newton!)



Frequently I am called on as the “tech guy”. (Once I got up on an at-least 20 foot ladder to change a projector bulb.) But I am most comfortable holding a camera, or a laptop editing that camera footage into something beautiful. [If you look at the Great Miami River District's YouTube](#), you can find a treasure trove of stories of United Methodists in southwest Ohio making disciples and transforming the world – stories I helped tell.

To evoke the Beatles, this message is a hello-goodbye: **On January 31, 2024 I bid farewell to my communications role with the Great Miami River District.**

It has been a great journey serving with everyone. My work began when Brian Brown was our Superintendent: at David Meredith's urging, I went to a communications roundtable in August of 2014, having no idea where it would lead. My email is still "presentorv" a decade later because of my very first project: using Facebook to encourage being present and tuning into the presence of God, through the storms of social media.

I served through Todd and Suzanne's entire tenure. We grieved the loss of Reggie and Cindi. We sought to build beloved community in a polarized nation. We weathered a pandemic together. Most recently I worked alongside Jenn as she steadfastly led us through the challenges of disaffiliations. Through all this, the United Methodist Church is still here – and most importantly, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer have been and will ever be.

It's not unlike the opening lines of indie rocker Alex G's latest record, *God Save the Animals*:

[“Things may come and things may go away, Yeah but God with me He stayed”](#)

If you listen through the fuzzy vocals and trippy sound textures, you can find a harmonious message to that of John Wesley: “the best of all is, God is with us.”

While this chapter of my vocation has closed, I'm excited to see what comes next- for me and for the United Methodist Church. It's a time of opportunity. Into an increasingly stormy world - reeling from political division, the pandemic, racial tension, economic and environmental turmoil, and shifting social norms – here comes the UMC. Here comes a

church ready to put up a “big tent” where conservatives, progressives, and moderates can be compatible together. Here comes a church equipped to speak to current tensions, with nuance, via our Social Principles. Here comes a church that can put up a [North Star Congregation sign](#) (and maybe even a rainbow flag) so that everyone in the neighborhood can feel welcome. Here comes a church that knows how to work together and throw an unbeatable potluck.

We have a great church, and the best of all is, God is with us.

I'll still be worshipping as a faithful United Methodist at Clifton UMC, and running tech and communications there alongside my growing work as a music teacher, videographer, and budding documentarian-memoirist-rockstar.

And if you need someone to make a video, or take a gander at your social media— or, God forbid, to climb a twenty foot ladder, I'm including my email and phone number here. I'd love to hear from you.

“But we shall still be joined in heart, And hope to meet again.”

In love,
Nick Federinko
269-650-7251
presentorv@gmail.com

The GMD Podcast Studio Is Now Open!

Did you know that the District Office can help you with podcasting? Microphones and a recording mixer are set up in an office at the Great Miami River District's headquarters at Brecon UMC.



If you have a dream of starting a podcast - or doing any voiceover, sermon recording, or audiobook work - the District Office is here to help! [Contact Seth Lindemann to learn more](#)

Circuit Ministry: "Grace and Possibilities"

We are excited to announce another Circuit that has formed in the Great Miami River District. Please welcome Grace and Possibilities. A group consisting of the following churches; Clifton, Elizabethtown, State Ave and York Street. We have been working hard on scheduling our first joint event, Jesus and Me-MAD Camp (Music, Art and Drama) which we will be holding in June. See future News and Notes for details.



Any questions about the circuit, or you would like to join us, please contact Jayne Lash at jklash616@cinci.rr.com

2023 Statistical Reporting

It's that time of year again - 2023 statistical reporting. Recently an email was sent to pastors, treasurers, administrative council/leadership team chairs, and church office administrators with the information you need to complete your reports.



These reports are due by April 15, and online submission is preferred. Providing accurate information is essential, as this reporting affects how your 2025 apportionments are calculated. You can access all information that you need to complete those reports [here](#).

For questions around these reports contact Jack Frost, jfrost@wocumc.org.

Super Serve Saturday - a monthly serving opportunity

The Great Miami River District is 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.



For February there are 4 organizations and 7 projects to choose from. Organizations are: New Life Furniture Bank, Meals on Wheels, Wesley Chapel Mission Center and The Center for Respite Care. All of the opportunities are in Hamilton county but we want to expand the opportunity across all 7 counties in the Great Miami River District. If you know of any organizations who may want to participate, please contact [Nancy](#) at 513.421.2057.

Super Serve Saturdays (S3) take place on the 3rd Saturday of the month. The dates remaining before the break in June are 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 February 17.

Annual Conference Legislation Deadline is March 1

As stipulated in our conference rules, all legislation must be submitted to and received by the Conference Secretary Chris Clough by 11:59pm, Friday, March 1, 2024. Any legislation received after that date will be returned. The maker of that legislation can decide if they want to ask to suspend the rules for consideration of the Annual Conference body.



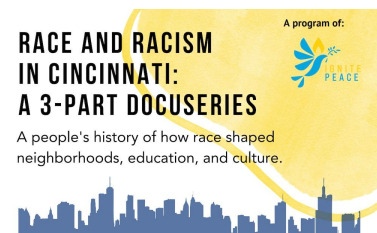
Legislation should be sent to Conference Secretary Chris Clough: cclough@wocumc.org.

*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!*

Educational Opportunities

Tuesday Evenings in February via Zoom: Race and Racism in Cincinnati Docuseries

This docuseries is a telling of Cincinnati's history from the racial margins. It shares a people's history that places storytelling authority in the hands of common people, rather than political leaders or other figures in power.



This series (Tuesdays, Feb 6, 13, and 20 from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM) features three separate hour-long videos that each tackle a different time span, starting from Cincinnati's birth then bringing us to the present day.

To Register visit: <https://bit.ly/3RGn2fp>

Lay Servant Ministry Zoom Classes

Basic Course being offered in February
February 23-24, 2024 -Via Zoom
Friday evening: 6:30-9 PM; Saturday 8:30-5 PM
Instructors: Harry and Ann Peat



This course is foundational for all courses in Lay Servant Ministries. Lay Servant Ministries will give you a variety of opportunities to serve your local and the greater church. The ministries of Lay Servanthood are Leading, Caring, and Communicating. We can all find a calling in one or more of these areas of ministry. This class will familiarize you with these areas of ministry and give you a chance to explore each one.

Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course Participant's Book available in the links below
Cokesbury - [here](#) and Amazon - [here](#)

[Register Here](#)

Advanced Course: Discover Your Spiritual Gifts being offered in April
April 19 - 20 2024 - Via Zoom - Registration Opens In March
Friday eve: 6:30-9 PM and Saturday 8:30 AM -5PM
Cost for Classes: \$15.00 per participant zoom
Instructors: Harry and Ann Peat

The early church knew about the gift of the Holy Spirit and the spiritual gifts flowing from the Holy Spirit through the believer. Today, the church is still discovering this. Learn more about how your spiritual gifts support your lay servant ministries. This course is one of the required courses for Lay Speakers.

Be sure to purchase and read the book, "Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts" by Charles V. Bryant prior to the class. (using one of the following links, please purchase the text from either Cokesbury - [here](#) or Amazon - [here](#))

Resources

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

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

"We Love Jesus and Our UMC" Photo Contest

Contest Theme: Capture moments that showcase your church's love for Jesus and the spirit of The United Methodist Church.

Submission Criteria:

1. Photos should reflect the theme of love, faith, and community within the context of the UMC.
2. Images can include church activities, worship services, community service, or any other aspect that embodies the spirit of your congregation or ministry setting. Images should reflect events from January 2023 to February 13, 2024.
3. Submit up to 20 digital images to: WOCMedia@wocumc.org.
4. Include photographer's name, phone number and email address, and photograph location/church.

Technical Requirements:

1. Submissions should be in color.
2. High resolution preferred.

Judging Criteria:

1. Relevance to the theme.
2. Creativity and originality.
3. Composition and visual appeal.
4. Emotional impact.

Prizes:

1st place: \$100.00

2nd place: \$50.00

3rd place: \$25.00

Images submitted may be displayed at the West Ohio Conference Center and on our social media channels. Photos will also be used at the 2024 Annual Conference. Photo credits will be included.

Submission Deadline: February 14, 2024

How to Enter: Send digital images to WOCMedia@wocumc.org



Local Church and Ministry Partner Events



Epiphany UMC

Women's Brunch

February 10

Click [here](#) for more details



Concord UMC

Renewed, Refreshed & Revived

February 11-14

Click [here](#) for more details



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

EmploymentDirector of Children's Ministries - *Epiphany UMC*Administrative Assistant - *Aldersgate UMC*Director of Youth Ministries - *Sharonville UMC*Children's Ministry Coordinator - *Oakwood UMC***Needed**Softball Players - *Clifton UMC*

Let us remember in prayer those grieving the loss of their loved one, and remember in thanksgiving the life and ministry of:

Jeffrey Wayne Walker of Newark, who passed away Thursday, January 25, 2024. Jeff served as the Disaster Response Coordinator for the West Ohio Conference. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Carol, their two children and grandchildren. [Obituary](#). Visitation is being held today from 1-3pm and 5-7pm at Brucker and Kishler Funeral Home, 985 N 21st. St, Newark, Ohio 43055. A 1pm funeral service will take place Thursday, February 1, 2024, at First United Methodist Church, 88 N 5th. St. Newark, Ohio. Friends and family may call from 12-1pm, one hour prior to the service. Pastors Barb Salyer and Peter Borhauer will officiate. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Jeff's memory may be made to UMCOR, 458 Ponce de Leon Avenue NE, Building A, Suite 1 Atlanta, Georgia 30308 or the American Red Cross, 2111 Dana Ave, Cincinnati, Ohio 45207.

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

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