



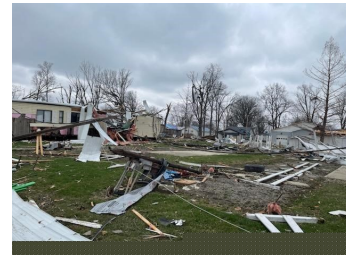
Great Miami River District

News from The United Methodist Church

News and Notes :: March 20, 2024

Update on Logan County Tornadoes

Governor Mike DeWine has declared a state of emergency in 11 Ohio counties following last week's devastating tornadoes. In addition, the Ohio National Guard has been activated to help clean up debris in Logan County, one of the hardest hit areas, where three people were killed by the storms. At this time, Logan County officials are asking that you not self-deploy to the area as many roads are still littered with debris.



WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

- **PRAY** - Prayers are needed for all those who lost homes and vehicles, or whose property was damaged. We especially pray for the families of those who lost their lives during the storms.
- **GIVE** - Donations to the West Ohio Disaster Response fund allow us to be ready to provide assistance wherever and whenever it is needed. There are two ways to give:
 1. By mailing a check to West Ohio Conference, 32 Wesley Blvd, Worthington OH 43085, with "West Ohio Disaster Response" in the memo line.
 2. Online on the [West Ohio Conference website](#)
- **LEARN** - Learn how to respond to disasters both near and far by becoming a trained Early Response Team member. The next training is April 13 in Findlay. [Click here to learn more/register.](#)
- **WAIT** - If and when an open invitation for volunteers is issued, it will be communicated here, in NewsNet, on social media and on our websites.

Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee Training

Bishop Palmer has arranged for Staff/Pastor Parish Training events to take place this spring in all districts in the conference. These trainings will follow a uniform format and will be led by our Superintendents. All local church pastors and S/PPRC teams are highly encouraged to attend one of the trainings, either within our district or in another as your schedule allows.



Post-pandemic church practices are not the same as they once were. However, the sacred relationship between pastors and congregations hasn't changed. These meetings will bring best practices and the latest updates to you, strengthening your connection and your ministry.

Superintendent Jenn Lucas will lead trainings in our district on these Sundays at 2pm:

- April 14 at Xenia Faith Community UMC
- April 21 at Monfort Heights UMC
- April 28 at the former Mason UMC

[Click here to register your church.](#) Click here for a list of all the locations across the conference.

Bob Edwards Memorial Grants Available

Application due date: April 19, 2024



The Bob Edwards Memorial Fund Grant Application for Summer Enrichment and Nutritional Support for children is now open.

If your church or agency offers educational, spiritual and nutritional support for children who are under resourced in these areas, the Great Miami River Valley District invites you to apply for a grant to support this important ministry. We will also consider applications for projects related to scouting ministries.

The fund is named in honor of Bob Edwards, a long time supporter of missions, children's ministry, and Scouting. The memorial fund serves to continue his good work. Please email your applications and accompanying documents by 4pm on Friday, April 19 to: Rev. Justin Fuhrmann at jfuhrma@hotmail.com.

Download the application here or visit our [website](#) to learn about all the grants offered by the district.

Calling All Laity! District At-Large Members Needed for Annual Conference

The district has several At-Large Member positions still available. If you are a member of your church, no matter how young or old, you are invited to attend Annual Conference as an At-Large Member. The goal is to have a balanced and diverse group to represent our diverse district. This means that we will do our best to be inclusive in ethnicity, age, demographic context (rural, urban, suburban, small membership church, large membership church) and more.



If you are interested in filling one of the spots, please complete the [Application Form](#). If you know anyone else who would be interested in this position, please share the information and form with them as well. Submit completed applications to Nancy in the district office at nnewton@wocumc.org.

West Ohio Conference Alford-Cantlin Fellows Doctor of Ministry cohort at MTSO



Applications for the Alford-Cantlin Fellowship program are now available for West Ohio clergy. In partnership with Methodist Theological School in Ohio, and with financial support from [the United Methodist Foundation of West Ohio](#), the West Ohio Conference Office of Ministry is offering this special cohort with the [Methodist Theological School in Ohio Doctor of Ministry program](#) beginning in July 2024.

This partnership between West Ohio and MTSO is designed to support United Methodist clergy who are seeking next-level leadership opportunities and academic training focused on transformational change. Interested clergy should contact Donnetta Peaks at dpeaks@wocumc.org or April Casperson at MTSO at acasperson@mtso.edu.

Applications are available [here](#) and due by May 1. Courses begin the week of July 22, 2024.

West Ohio Annual Conference
May 29-June 1

The 55th session of the West Ohio Annual Conference is set to convene from Wednesday, May 29, through Saturday, June 1, 2024, at Capital University in Bexley, Ohio. This year's theme, "God is Able," draws inspiration from Ephesians 3:20-21, promising a gathering that celebrates the limitless power of God. Information regarding meals, housing, and special events is posted on the [conference website](#).



[Click here](#) to register for Annual Conference.

[Click here](#) to register for the Clergy Spouse Brunch with Mrs. Palmer.

[Click here](#) to give to the Love Offering for Bishop and Mrs. Palmer.

General Conference Information and News

Next Month, General Conference, the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church, will convene in Charlotte, North Carolina, April 23-May 3, 2024.

Although General Conference is a business meeting to review legislative law, policy and budgets, it also includes time for passionate worship, an exhibition of general church agencies, and fellowship with our brothers and sisters across the global connection.



For more information on the West Ohio Delegation, answers to frequently asked questions, and news updates, [click here](#). This webpage will continuously be updated as more information becomes available.

EDUCATIONAL and SERVE OPPORTUNITIES

West Ohio Conference Ministry Intern Program

Hurry! Applications due Friday, March 22

The West Ohio Conference annually supports a Ministry Intern Program designed to assist college students who are interested in serving in a local church setting to further explore a call into ministry. This is accomplished by working in a local church during a seven-week paid Internship. The Internship includes trips to the Ohio Methodist Seminaries and to at least one of the other 13 United Methodist Seminaries in the United States. Students are introduced at Annual Conference and provided many opportunities for networking and ministry engagement to help them in their journey. Mentors and host church partnerships are also needed to complete the experience.



[2024 Ministry Intern Application](#)

[2024 Mentor & Host Church Application](#)

Ministry Monday with All In Community March 25 at 7pm - Zoom

This month during All In Community's *Ministry Monday* information session on Zoom, they will be sharing about The First 72, an inspirational framework designed to guide community members wanting to make a difference in the lives of those returning home after an incarceration experience.



The first minutes, hours, and days after a person's release from incarceration is a most

vulnerable time. When there is not adequate support during the initial phase of reentry, a returning neighbor often responds out of desperation to fulfill needs instead of having hope for a better future.

Being welcomed home is the first step to restoring a returning neighbor's dignity, identity, safety, and self-worth. Join others to learn where gaps in the reentry process can be filled by providing both tangible help and a hopeful presence for returning neighbors.

Advance registration is required. [Click here.](#)

Family Engagement Program Monday, April 1 from 5:30-7pm

Do you or does someone you know have a loved one being released to Hamilton County from an Ohio prison in 2024?



Join State and County agencies at the Hirsch Recreation Center on Monday, April 1 to learn:

- What you and your loved one should expect from the release preparation process
- Ways to help them transition home successfully
- How Hamilton County Office of Reentry can help

Resource information will be available and there will be a forum to ask questions. Staff from ODRC and ODYS prisons, reentry & parole will present information alongside important community resources. [Learn more/register.](#)

Mission u Registration Starts April 1

All are invited to attend Mission u this year, which will be held in-person June 21-23, 2024, at the Bergamo Life-Long Learning Center in Beavercreek, OH.

A virtual Mission u will also be held during the month of July. Mission u is co-sponsored by the West Ohio Conference United Women in Faith and the West Ohio Conference.



This year's theme is "The Kin-dom is Among You...Drawing Closer to God and One Another." Adults and youth (6th-12th grades) will participate in dynamic discussions, meditative worship, engagement with the natural world, and reflection on the lovely grounds of the Bergamo Center.

Martha Scholarships for first-time attendees will be available as well as Mission u scholarships. All this and more, including registration info and flyers, can be found [here](#). Registration begins April 1. Questions? Contact Linda Bales Todd (Dean) at joylab47@yahoo.com or Carolyn Johnson (Assistant Dean) at cjohnson3253@yahoo.com.

Is your Congregation Looking to Grow Younger? Saturday, April 13 :: 9am-4pm Tickets are going fast!

If your congregation has ever said, "Where are the young people?" Generate is an event you want to bring a team to. Whether growing younger means reaching baby boomers, gen X, millennials, gen z or gen alpha, you do not want to miss the opportunity to learn from nationally known experts in helping congregations grow younger.



Pastors, bring your staff and administrative board members! Administrative board members, bring your pastor! There are just 100 tickets left for the event at Ohio Wesleyan University in

Delaware. You, and your team will walk away with your next step towards growing younger! Questions? Contact Ann Marie Carley, amcarley@wocumc.org.

[Click here to learn more and register](#)

LOCAL CHURCH & MINISTRY PARTNER EVENTS



My Neighbor's Place (Westwood UMC)

Immigration Advocacy Training

March 20, 2024

Click [here](#) for more details



Wilmington UMC

Jesus Christ Superstar

March 24, 2024

Click [here](#) for more details



Clifton UMC

Way of the Cross for Justice

March 29, 2024

Click [here](#) for more details



Armstrong Chapel UMC

Easter Egg Hunt

March 31, 2024

Click [here](#) for more details

CLASSIFIEDS

[Click here](#) to view/respond to the ads below

[Click here](#) to submit your own classified ad

Employment

Serve Director - *Kettering Christ UMC*

Director of Communications - *Church of the Saviour UMC*

Youth Director - *Church of the Saviour UMC*

Finance Director - *Hyde Park Community UMC*

Administrative Assistant - *Aldersgate UMC*

Free to a Good Home

Baldwin Upright Piano

Needed

Softball Players - *Clifton UMC*

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The District office will be closed on March 29, 2024 in observance of Good Friday.

*Watch this newsletter, [GMD's Facebook](#),
[Conference social media](#), and [WestOhioUMC.org](#)
for the latest news and events.*

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