



Great Miami River District

News from The United Methodist Church

News and Notes :: March 27, 2024

A New Church is Chartering! Sunday, April 7 at 10am

[New City Church](#) in Dayton was established in 2017 to minister to people with the purpose of reaching people for God. On Sunday, April 7 they will charter as West Ohio's newest congregation - and we're all invited to the party!



New City Church's mission "to know God, love people, and change lives" has guided their way to this special day. District Superintendent, Jenn Lucas, will bring the message at the service. After, the celebration continues with food trucks and activities on the church grounds. The first 250 receive free t-shirts. Congratulations to Pastor Jason Perkins and congregation on reaching this huge milestone!

Creating Debt-Free Communities as a Mission

Last year, [Church of the Cross United Methodist Church](#) in Kettering searched for a creative way to be the hands and feet of Christ and expand what it means to be in ministry to their community.



Member Tiffany Washburn presented the idea of working with RIP Medical Debt to the lead pastor, Rev. Scott Campbell, and the church's leadership team. RIP Medical Debt is a nonprofit whose mission is to alleviate the burden of unpaid medical bills for those who are experiencing financial hardship.

According to the [KFF](#), formally known as the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, more than half of U.S. adults report they have experienced debt because of medical or dental bills in the past five years. These expenses are a result of cancer treatment, emergency medical events, or instances of insurance companies not covering care required by the patient.

Campbell and the leadership team agreed to the mission. By fundraising their goal of \$10,000, RIP could eliminate \$1 million in debt. With an energized congregation, the church exceeded the goal and raised \$15,000. By Christmas, 2,600 families in Montgomery, Warren, Miami, Green, and Butler counties received a letter from RIP advising that, thanks to Church of the Cross UMC, their medical debts, totaling \$1.9 million, were paid.

"This gives [families] a chance to breathe and know they had some prayers answered," Campbell said.

[Click here](#) for more information on RIP Medical Debt and see if it might be a fitting mission for your church.

April is National Second Chance Month

All In Community means that regardless of what you've

done, what a loved one has experienced, or what has been done to you or a loved one, we are here for ALL of you IN this COMMUNITY.



As disciples of Jesus Christ, National Second Chance month proclaims our common belief that everybody has dignity and potential. Since 2017, National Second Chance month has become a rally cry within states, government agencies, coalitions, and faith communities do justice and love mercy in ways that truly provide over 80 million people living with the stigma, shame, and barriers of an arrest or conviction a second chance.

Bishop Palmer is challenging all congregations in West Ohio to demonstrate that we believe in and offer second chances just as Jesus did repeatedly in his ministry among us by declaring one Sunday in April as **Second Chance Sunday**.

By recognizing **Second Chance Sunday** you are saying to those burdened with marginalizing stigma and shame that we see and hear you. We want good things for you. We will help you rebuild your life. We want to be proximate to you on this journey. We love you.

[Click here for resources to show your support.](#)

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.

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 see the Schedule

[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

West Ohio Welcomes New Disaster Reponse Coordinator

Tom Clinch is West Ohio's new Conference Disaster Response Coordinator, effective March 1. Originally from Oneida, NY, Tom worked within the Department of the Air Force (enlisted, contractor, civilian) until his retirement in 2019. Tom became involved in disaster response in West Ohio when he was asked to help out an Early Response Team by moving its trailer - and his involvement grew from there.



Tom has been the Western Lakes (formerly Miami Valley) District Disaster Coordinator for about five years. Tom became trained as an Early Response Team member in 2018 and earned his ERT trainer certification last year from UMCOR.

"Disaster Response ministry is an opportunity to show God's love to those that find themselves in a dire situation, in a time without hope," Tom says. He hopes to see an increase in the number of ERT volunteers in the coming years.

For more information on West Ohio Disaster Response, [Click here](#).

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.

EDUCATIONAL and SERVE OPPORTUNITIES

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.

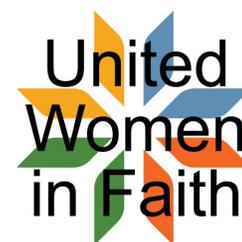
This year's theme is "The Kin-dom is Among You...Drawing Closer to God and One Another." Adults and youth (6th-12th grades) will participate in dynamic discussions, meditative worship, engagement with the natural world, and reflection on the lovely grounds of the Bergamo Center.

Martha Scholarships for first-time attendees will be available as well as Mission u scholarships. More information is available [here](#).

[Click here](#) for Save the Date flyer.

[Click here](#) for Youth Save the Date flyer.

Registration begins April 1. Questions? Contact Linda Bales Todd (Dean) at joylab47@yahoo.com or Carolyn Johnson (Assistant Dean) at cjohnson3253@yahoo.com.



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.](#)

Generate

Saturday, April 13 :: 9am-4pm at OWU
Hurry! Ticket sales end April 3rd



What is Generate?

Generate is a one day event designed to help your congregation grow younger. Younger can range from reaching young families to reaching those who consider themselves former church goers, currently in their golden years or mid-life. You can bring a team of three people for the price of 2 and you will leave with your next step toward growing younger! [learn more about our keynotes by clicking here](#)

Cost:

- \$75 for a single ticket
- \$150 for a team of 3 ticket

Ticket includes:

- Three dynamic keynotes
- Time to vision with your team
- Lunch, snacks, and drinks throughout the day
- A follow up coaching call to see you through your congregation's first steps

Questions? Contact Ann Marie Carley (amcarley@wocumc.org)

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

Super Serve Saturday - a monthly serve opportunity

The Great Miami River District is partnering with Hyde Park Community UMC to offer monthly community serve opportunities from September through May. This is a way for families, multiple generations, small groups, youth groups, friends and people of all backgrounds to put their faith into action by serving in the community.



Our next opportunity to serve together is April 20, 2024. There are 5 projects to choose from with 3 different organizations in Hamilton county. [Click here](#) to sign up.

We are hoping to expand the reach of this initiative to all of the counties in the Great Miami River District. If you know of any organizations who may want to participate, please contact Nancy at nnewton@wocumc.org or 513.421.2057.

Super Serve Saturdays (S3) take place on the 3rd Saturday of the month. May 18 is the last day before the summer break. There is something for every age and ability - no superpowers necessary - just a willing, humble and flexible spirit and heart for all!

Living City Project - Saturday, April 20

The 2024 Living City Project Citywide Cleanup is a day of service that will impact over 25 neighborhoods across the city of Dayton. Last year there were 700+ volunteers who picked up over 128 tons of trash and debris.

The event is a collaboration is between the [Living City Project, Declare](#), Kettering Health, churches, neighborhood organizations and the City of Dayton. On April 20th, groups will start out at different host locations all across the city to pick up litter, remove debris, branches, etc. around Dayton. The project concludes with celebratory lunches at the Dayton Dream Center and Revival Center Ministries.

If you have a group that would like to volunteer or your church would like to be a host site, please contact Harold Nuss at hnuss@declare.org.



Learn about Creation Care during Earth Day Connect A-Round Table - April 22

On Earth Day from 5:30-6:30pm, you are invited to Connect A-Round Table for a virtual conversation on creation care.

Brought to you by West Ohio's Connectional Ministries team, the panel of speakers will include Bob Downs, founding member of the West Ohio Creation Care Task Force (CCTF); Rev. Ryan Grace, current chair of CCTF and pastor of the Urban Farm Church in Columbus; and Rev. Jessica Stonecypher, a Deacon who is a vocational agriculture instructor and chair of West Ohio's Net Zero team.

Bring your dinner and break bread with us as we learn more about caring for God's earth! [Click here to register](#). Questions? Contact Julie Carter at jcarter@wocumc.org.



2024 Summer Camp Opportunities Offered in Partnership with East Ohio

West Ohio is partnering again this year with East Ohio Camps to provide churches and families with summer camping opportunities. Former West Ohio campers and local churches have been mailed the 2024 East Ohio summer camping brochures so be on the look out.

To learn more or register for the 2024 summer camp opportunities, [click here](#). For more information, contact Director of Camps, Retreats, and Next Gen Engagement, Ann Marie Carley at amcarley@gmail.com.



LOCAL CHURCH & MINISTRY PARTNER EVENTS



Clifton UMC
Way of the Cross for Justice



Armstrong Chapel UMC
Easter Egg Hunt

CLASSIFIEDS

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

Employment

Treasurer - *Memorial UMC*
Administrative Assistant - *Hyde Park Community UMC*
Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry - *Scioto Ridge UMC*
Serve Director - *Kettering Christ UMC*
Director of Communications - *Church of the Saviour UMC*
Youth Director - *Church of the Saviour UMC*
Administrative Assistant - *Aldersgate UMC*

Free to a Good Home

Baldwin Upright Piano

Needed

Softball Players - *Clifton UMC*

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Notes

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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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