



# Great Miami River District

*News from The United Methodist Church*

## News and Notes :: April 17, 2024

### Bob Edwards Memorial Grants Available Hurry! Application deadline is Friday!



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.

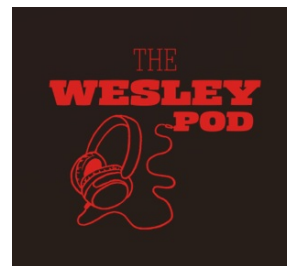
The fund is named in honor of Bob Edwards, a long time supporter of missions, children's ministry, and Scouting. The memorial fund serves to continue his good work. Please email your applications and accompanying documents by 4pm on Friday, April 19 to: Rev. Justin Fuhrmann at [jfuhrma@hotmail.com](mailto:jfuhrma@hotmail.com).

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

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### The Wesley Pod

Did you know? Wesley Campus Ministry at the University of Cincinnati has launched a new podcast! They talk about all things faith and student life as they relate to their 3 foundational pillars -- authentic community, faithful exploration and radical love. A special guest speaks on a topic related to one of the themes and each episode also includes a segment from the wider community called "views from the pews" and a "good news segment" from persons living out radical love on campus and in the community. The podcast is hosted by Jeff Snyder, Programming Director of the Wesley Foundation in Cincinnati. Find the Wesley Pod on Spotify or wherever you listen to podcasts. [Follow them on Instagram.](#)



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### General Conference begins April 23

The United Methodist Church General Conference is set to begin on April 23 in Charlotte, NC. This conference takes place every four years and is the only entity that speaks for the denomination. The United Methodist Book of Discipline is updated every four years to incorporate changes made by the General Conference.



The voting delegates for this conference will come from various parts of the world, including the United States (55.9%), Africa (32%), the Philippines (6%), Europe (4.6%), and concordat churches that have close ties to The United Methodist Church (1.5%). Half of the delegates will be clergy and the other half will be laity.

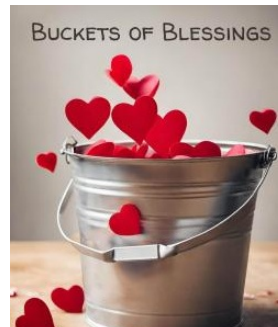
In the days ahead, many will have opinions about what happens at the General Conference. Please see these reliable sources for the most accurate information:

- The United Methodist Church: [Website](#), [Facebook](#)
- West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church: [Website](#), [Facebook](#)
- West Ohio Conference Delegates - [These persons](#) have been elected to serve as General Conference Delegates. You may send your prayers and messages to West Ohio Conference delegates via email: [GCDelegates2024@wocumc.org](mailto:GCDelegates2024@wocumc.org).

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### Bucket of Blessings Challenge for UMCOR

Each year at Annual Conference, West Ohio Disaster Response Ministries collects kits and supplies for Midwest Mission Distribution Center, our North Central Jurisdiction UMCOR depot. However, this year's collection will also include the *Bishop's Buckets of Blessings* Challenge, an opportunity for districts to compete to see who can donate the most buckets of cleaning supplies! These *Home Care Kits* include liquid household cleaner, dish soap, liquid laundry detergent, and a scrub brush, all in a 5-gallon bucket. [Click here](#) for more on how to make *Home Care Kits*. [Read more](#).



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### Thank you, West Ohio!

Where there's a need, there's a way to respond. Thanks to the generosity of West Ohioans, **\$15,000** has been raised to provide a roof over seven classrooms for preschool and primary school students in Tanzania.



"Once again, West Ohio has responded generously. Tanzanian children can now focus on learning about Jesus Christ and academics in this United Methodist school. Thank you, West Ohio," said Bishop Gregory V. Palmer.

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## EDUCATIONAL and SERVE OPPORTUNITIES

### Staff/Pastor Parish Committee Trainings

The West Ohio Conference has created a standardized Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee training that is being offered throughout all districts. The GMD hosted our first training this past Sunday at Xenia Faith Community. Two more are coming up ---

- Sunday, April 14, Monfort Heights UMC , Cincinnati, from 2-4pm
- Sunday, April 28, Mason UMC, Mason, from 2-4pm



Staff-Pastor-Parish  
Relations  
Committee

At the meeting pastors and SPRC committees learn best practices and the latest updates relative to the sacred relationship between pastor and congregation. ALL churches are encouraged to attend. If you have not yet registered, please [click here to sign up now](#).

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### Urban Pop Up Shop May 4 at New Vision UMC, Cincinnati

You are invited to an informative and exciting Urban Pop Up Shop on Saturday, May 4 from 10am-1pm. This event is open to all, but focuses specifically on Urban Church needs. It is being brought to you by [The Global Village](#).



The Global Village is an African American United Methodist Church Community Development Corporation and Church Cooperative sponsored by the Miami Valley Church District, the Western Ohio United Methodist Church Conference, and the Methodist Theological School in Ohio. The mission of Global Village is to create faith-based, education-driven pathways that drive life-changing worship, service, and stewardship to revitalize church communities. The Global Village aims to serve its church community by forming symbiotic partnerships among multiple faith-based service providers, consultants, and educational organizations.

Please take a moment to review the [news release](#) that gives more information about this event. [To register - click here](#)

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## Race and Racism in Cincinnati: Moving from Awareness to Action

*Race and Racism in Cincinnati*, a 3-part docuseries, is the 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 power figures who have crafted narratives to benefit their agenda. The series features three separate hour-long videos that each tackle a different time span, starting from Cincinnati's birth and bringing us to the present day. Each viewing is followed by a facilitated discussion session.

**RACE AND RACISM IN CINCINNATI:  
MOVING FROM AWARENESS  
TO ACTION**

Wednesday, May 8  
6:30 - 8:30 PM  
Calvary Episcopal Church  
(3766 Clifton Ave B)

IGNITE PEACE

CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The next discussion session is scheduled for May 8 from 6:30-8:30pm at Calvary Episcopal Church in Clifton. The conversation will collectively answer the question, "How do I dismantle systemic racism in Greater Cincinnati?" [Click here for details](#). If you have watched the docuseries, you are invited to attend. If you haven't seen it yet, another opportunity is scheduled for June 7, 14 and 21. [Click here to learn more](#).

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## Connect with others working with Emerging Generations

Volunteers or staff persons who oversee local church ministry with children, youth, or young adults are invited to connect and network with others in the West Ohio Conference. Family Ministry or College Ministry networks have been created that are designed to help share resources, best practices, and provide support for those engaging emerging generations across the connection. Each district is working on developing Family Ministry networks for those working with children and youth, and the College Ministry Network is for anyone who is working with college-aged students either on a college campus or in a local church. Information about network development, key leaders, and any upcoming Zoom meetings are below. If you would like information on how to connect to these networks, email Director of Camps, Retreats, and Next Gen Engagement, Ann Marie Carley ([amcarley@wocumc.org](mailto:amcarley@wocumc.org)).



- College Ministry Network Zoom Meeting, April 23rd, 12-1 pm (Sammi Shivener)
- Great Miami River District Zoom Meeting, May 1, 1-2 pm (Abby Lightle)
- Hocking River District, look for a survey by May 1 (Jayke Hinze)
- Maumee River District Zoom Meeting, May 2, 12:30-1:30 pm (Jodi Packard)
- Olentangy River District Zoom Meeting, May 2, 10:30-11:30 am (Ami Peacock)
- Scioto River District, TBD (Serena Wolfe)
- Western Lakes District Zoom Meeting, April 18, 11:30 am-12:30 pm (Matt Overman)

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## 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.

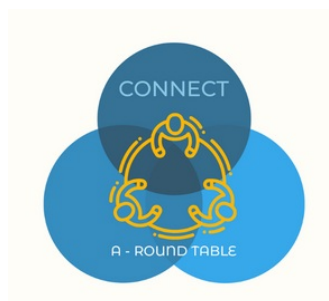
The event is a collaboration between the [Living City Project, Declare](#), Kettering Health, churches, neighborhood organizations and the City of Dayton. On April 20th, groups will start out at different host locations all across the city to pick up litter, remove debris, branches, etc. around Dayton. 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](mailto:hnuss@declare.org).

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

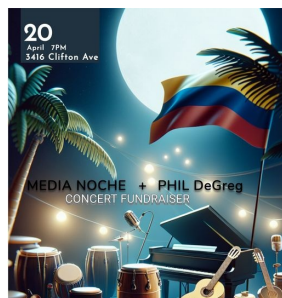
On Earth Day from 5:30-6:30pm, you are invited to Connect A-Round Table for a virtual conversation on creation care.



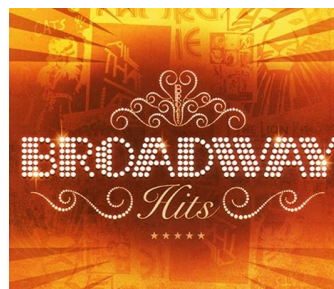
Brought to you by West Ohio's Connectional Ministries team, the panel of speakers will include Bob Downs, founding member of the West Ohio Creation Care Task Force (CCTF); Rev. Ryan Grace, current chair of CCTF and pastor of the Urban Farm Church in Columbus; and Rev. Jessica Stonecypher, a Deacon who 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](mailto:jcarter@wocumc.org).

## LOCAL CHURCH & MINISTRY PARTNER EVENTS



**Clifton UMC**  
Media Noche/Phil DeGreg Concert  
April 20, 2024  
Click [here](#) for more details



**Franklin First UMC**  
Broadway Hits Concert  
April 28, 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

- Director of Music - Fairview UMC
- Youth Director - Sulphur Grove UMC
- Young Family Ministries Director - Friendship UMC
- Director of Youth Ministries - Friendship UMC
- 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**

Allen Organ - Jacksonburg UMC  
Baldwin Upright Piano

**CELEBRATION OF LIFE AND MINISTRY**



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

***Mrs. Marjorie E. Uth***, who passed away February 10, 2024. She was married to the late Rev. Dr. Ralph E. Uth, an Elder in West Ohio who retired in 1988. Marjorie served with her husband at Hoytville Charge; Lewisburg Charge; Ironton, Immanuel; Mt Blanchard; West Jefferson; Mason; Delphos Trinit; and Blanchester. [Obituary](#). A memorial service is planned for Saturday, April 27, 2024 at 2pm at Twin Towers Senior Living Community Chapel, 5343 Hamilton Ave, Cincinnati 45224. Condolences will reach daughter Carol and family at

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[Conference social media](#), and [WestOhioUMC.org](#)  
for the latest news and events.*

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