



Great Miami River District

News from The United Methodist Church

News and Notes :: April 24, 2024

Great Miami River District Spring Conference

Our annual District Conference will be held **Sunday, May 19 at 3-5 PM at Middletown Christ UMC, 700 S. Marshall Rd, Middletown 45044**. We will celebrate the many milestones of ministry that have taken place over our first year as the Great Miami River District. We will also recognize those serving on our district leadership teams, fellowship together and worship God through song and scripture.



And speaking of **District Leadership Teams** - we are in need of clergy and laity to join the Mission Foundation, Church Location and Building, and Strategy teams as folks transition off these committees. Please contact District Superintendent, [Jenn Lucas](#), if you have an interest in serving. None of the teams are a huge time commitment and many meet over Zoom. Your input would be greatly appreciated as we seek to represent all in the 7 counties that make up the GMD.

Church Reporting

Statistical Reporting - Year End

2023 statistical reporting information was recently emailed out to pastors, treasurers, and administrative council/leadership team chairs.



- Reports were due April 15 - Please complete as soon as possible. Reach out to the district office for any questions or needed help.
- Please make every effort to complete the information online.
- Have your church's GCFA# ready
- Open this link: <https://stats.gcfa.org/Login.aspx> and input your GCFA# and the password ACStats2023#
- Once you're in the system, you'll establish new credentials for accessing your church's information. Note that more than one person at a church can establish credentials for inputting data, which should make it easier if in your church different people have access to different data.

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

Annual Reporting

The information for the church and clergy Annual Reports has also been updated recently and is available for access. These reports include the Fund Balance Report, Trustee Legal & Property, Parsonage Inspection, Clergy Self-Assessment and SPRC Assessments. They can be found by clicking [HERE](#). **They are due June 1st.**

General Conference is Underway

The long-delayed 2020 General Conference began yesterday with another slight delay, this time by the fire marshall. During an

inspection before opening worship, it was determined there was a lack of sufficient fire extinguishers, smoke detectors and emergency exit signage in the plenary hall of the Charlotte Convention Center. Once the issue was resolved, the General Conference, postponed by four years and a few minutes, finally began with United Methodist bishops marching to the altar to the strains of Charles Wesley's "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing." [Read more](#)
Stay up to the minute by [clicking here](#)
See [photos](#) from the first few days.



West Ohio Annual Conference May 29-June 1

The 55th session of the West Ohio Annual Conference will convene Wednesday, May 29 and go through Saturday, June 1, 2024, this year at Capital University in Bexley, Ohio. Our theme is "God is Able," inspired by Ephesians 3:20-21, promising a gathering that celebrates the limitless power of God.



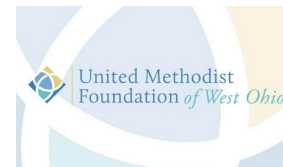
Almost daily new information is being added to the Annual Conference 2024 site: www.westohioumc.org/west-ohio-annual-conference-2024-god-able. Be sure to check frequently for the latest updates. Some highlights include:

- [Mission Opportunities](#)
- [Events Registrations](#)
- [Schedule](#)
- [Bishop and Mrs. Palmer Love Offering](#)
- [Clergy Spouse Brunch with Cynthia Palmer](#)
- [Meal Options](#)
- [Housing Opportunities](#)

Annual Conference registration deadline is May 1. If you have any problems logging into the conference website, don't take a hammer to your computer, create a new record or request a new password. Your district office is happy to help! [Email Nancy](#) or call 513.421.2057.

Churches Receive VBS Mini-Grants

Fifteen churches across West Ohio received help with their upcoming VBS programs from the United Methodist Foundation of West Ohio. Thanks to the generosity of a Foundation donor, \$5750 was provided for VBS programs in this year's grant cycle.



"We're so excited to be able to support so many programs," said Maddy DeWitt, Donor Relations Manager for the Foundation. "59 churches applied – which is incredible! And although we don't have enough funding to support them all, we were able to provide funding to churches in every district this year."

Funds were provided by Ketha Robbins, who established the Clara's Kiddies/Jesse's Vine Endowment with the Foundation in 2017 to support VBS programs in honor of her grandmother and great-grandfather who encouraged her faith. To Ketha, this is what made, and continues to make, VBS so special. In her words, "It is a bookend. It is the start of what a person's spiritual life can become."

Congratulations to the following churches: **Clifton UMC** on behalf of the Grace and Possibilities Circuit (Great Miami River District) **New Paris - St Paul UMC** (Great Miami River District) South Perry UMC (Hocking River District) Canaanville Stewart UMC (Hocking River District) Hopewell UMC (Hocking River District) Gilboa UMC and Pandora UMC Charge (Maumee River District) Edgerton UMC (Maumee River District) Hilliard UMC (Olentangy River District) Smith Chapel UMC (Olentangy River District) Iglesia Hispana St. Marks (Olentangy River District) Urbana UMC (Western Lakes District) West Jefferson UMC (Western Lakes District) Ada UMC (Western Lakes District) Rushsylvania UMC (Western Lakes District) Five Points UMC (Scioto River District)

EDUCATIONAL and SERVE OPPORTUNITIES

How is your Spiritual Well-Being?

What happens to spirituality when trust in the system is compromised and a church experiences immense change and conflict? For some UMC clergy, faith is challenged, too.



Rebuilding trust in local and conference leaders and processes as well as within their ministry context is essential to repairing spiritual well-being. Improved clergy spiritual well-being can also positively impact clergy vocational satisfaction and other dimensions of well-being—leading to a more vital UMC.

Pastor, [click here](#) for resources to improve your spiritual well being.



Do Unto Others is a grassroots movement launched by Rev. Adam Hamilton's [Resurrection United Methodist Church](#) in Kansas City, to encourage people to be intentional about treating one another with kindness, overcoming the polarization in our country through civility and respect. Resurrection launched the Kindness Campaign in 2020 with the idea to offer a new campaign with a new theme every two years. The 2024 campaign theme is from Jesus' command in Matthew 7:12 - ***Do unto others as you would have them do unto you***. This universal rule holds the power to bring people together again.

The hope is to blanket the Great Miami River District with kindness, respect, empathy, humility and love by having all 130 of our churches launch this in their own communities this fall. And it's easy to get started! Resurrection has digital and print graphics, videos, implementation ideas that can all be customized with your church name and logo, sermon resources and curriculum for all ages. Click the link to learn more about the campaign and order your supplies: www.resurrection.church/kindness.

Basic & Recert ERT Classes May 11, 2024 in Plain City

UMCOR's Early Response Team (ERT) Basic class will be offered on Saturday, May 11, 8am-4pm at Jerome UMC in Plain City. A four-hour recertification class will also be offered. West Ohio ERT trainers will teach participants how to assist survivors of natural disasters in their time of need. Trainees will learn how to provide a caring, Christian presence while taking steps to prevent further damage to the family's personal property.



Skills that are taught include tarping, debris removal, mucking out flooded homes, etc. FEMA recognizes this training to enter a disaster scene. A background check is required, and a link to complete this will be provided upon registration.

The cost is \$40 for the basic class or \$35 for recertification. *ERT members are not required to be United Methodist but must deploy with a United Methodist-led team.* For more information or to register, [click here](#).

Preschool Training Day
May 23, 10am-4pm

Mark your calendar for Thursday, May 23 for a training at the West Ohio Conference Center in Worthington. The training will be approved by Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association (OCCRRA) for use in credentialing.

Storytelling, theming, and prayer as professional development will be the focus of the day. Come share your thoughts and ideas with other leaders in the preschool world. Enjoy conversation over lunch, which will be provided. To register, please email lmoore@wocumc.org.



Mission u June 21-23, 2024

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.

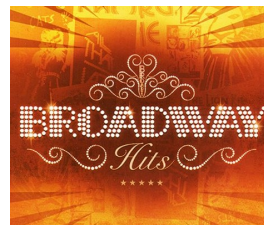
This year's theme is "The Kin-dom is Among You...Drawing Closer to God and One Another." Adults and youth (6th-12th grades) will participate in dynamic discussions, meditative worship, engagement with the natural world, and reflection on the lovely grounds of the Bergamo Center.

More information is available [here](#). Questions? Contact Linda Bales Todd (Dean) at joylab47@yahoo.com or Carolyn Johnson (Assistant Dean) at cjohnson3253@yahoo.com.

LOCAL CHURCH & MINISTRY PARTNER EVENTS



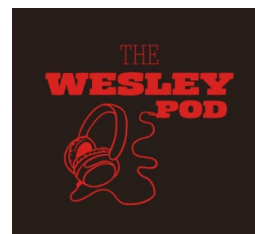
Vandalia UMC
Organ Concert with Frederick Chatfield
April 28, 2024
Click [here](#) for more details



Franklin First UMC
Broadway Hits Concert
April 28, 2024
Click [here](#) for more details



St Mark's UMC
Spring Salad Luncheon & Crafts
May 2, 2024
Click [here](#) for more details



Wesley Foundation at UC
The Wesley Pod
Podcast Series
Click [here](#) for more details

CLASSIFIEDS

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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:

Rev. Beverly Ann (Beeghly) Avers, age 86, who passed away on April 16, 2024. Beverly was a retired full member Elder in the United Methodist Church. She served at Catawba, Nation Chapel and Rosewood United Methodist churches. After retirement, she led or assisted the bible studies at Powell United Methodist Church (ORD) and the Riverbend condo association. In her seventies, Beverly received a new call to write three books: *Intertwined: Beverly and Barbara in the Womb*, *Intertwined with Jesus*, and *I'm Up*. Visitation will be held at Powell United Methodist Church, 825 Olentangy Rd, Powell, Ohio, on Saturday, April 27, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. A Celebration of Life service follows at 2:00 p.m. The burial service will be at Fairview Cemetery, 420 W. National Rd., Englewood, Ohio, on Monday, April 29, at 10:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations in Beverly's name are requested to Powell United Methodist Church, 825 E. Olentangy St, Powell, Ohio, 43065 or Short North Church, 25 W 5th Ave, Columbus, OH 43201. [Obituary and Condolences](#)

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Notes

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