



Great Miami River District

News from The United Methodist Church

News and Notes :: April 3, 2024

Dixon United Methodist Church Engages Seniors in Aging Mastery Program

Seniors who engage in lifelong learning enjoy many benefits, including adaptability, increased cognitive health and amplified self-confidence.

At Dixon UMC in Dayton, the outreach team led by Dr. Mary Walker in partnership with West Care Ohio through the East End Community Services in Dayton, presented the *Aging Mastery Program*. This program is an initiative of the National Council on Aging.

The Aging Mastery Program includes courses on healthy eating, falls prevention and financial fitness, to name a few. The classes were facilitated by Nanci McGuire, Seniors Prevention Program Coordinator with East End Community Services. [Read more](#)

What is your church doing? Email Nancy at nnewton@wocumc.org to share your story.



A New Church is Chartering this Sunday and we're all invited to the celebration!

[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 at 10am they will charter as West Ohio's newest congregation!



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!

Native American Ministries Sunday observed April 14

Native American Ministries Special Sunday is a denomination wide celebration designed to raise awareness and remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society.



A gap in knowledge exists in The United Methodist Church, in congregations and other United Methodist entities, relative to comprehending concepts of Native American life, cultures, languages, spirit, values, contemporary issues, and such.

On this Special Sunday, 25% of every donation provides scholarships to Native American students. To learn how your giving impacts ministry in other ways, [click here](#). [Resources](#)

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 list of items for donation to Midwest Mission

[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

Cokesbury Resources for Vacation Bible School Available

Now is the ideal time to spring into your summer planning — including laying the groundwork for vacation Bible school. Cokesbury has great programming and resources to help you offer the love of Christ to the students in your community this summer. To get started, [click here](#).



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 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

An engaging event for Second Chance Month *Navigating the Chaos of Reentry*

TONIGHT at 7:00pm via YouTube - **FREE!**

Alii in Community invites you to an equipping event that highlights the challenges of reentering a community after an incarceration experience. Valuable insight and information to navigate well this challenging transition for successful reintegration will be shared.



Panelists for the discussion will represent several viewpoints and will include . . .

- Roxanne Coey, ODRC Office of Reentry
- Restored neighbors with lived experiences
- Reentry coalitions doing the transitional work in our communities

[Click here to join the live broadcast.](#)

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

Foundation Survey Deadline Approaching

If you have not taken the UMFWO strategic planning survey, please do so by the deadline of April 8. The survey is intended for all clergy and any lay persons involved in finance, endowments or stewardship at their local church. It takes about 10 minutes to complete. Your input will help create the roadmap for the Foundation's future programming and resource options.



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/UMFWOChurchLeaderSurvey>

Mission u Registration is Open

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.

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

Foundation Webinar to Feature Rev. Dr. Ken Sloane, April 11

The United Methodist Foundation of West Ohio is pleased to offer a live Zoom webinar at 6:00pm on April 11 featuring Rev. Dr. Ken Sloane, CFRM, ECRF, Director of Stewardship and Generosity at UMC Discipleship Ministries. The webinar will focus on one of the Foundation's stewardship standards: Creating an intentional discipleship system.



Dr. Sloane describes his presentation this way: "The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. This goal has the best chance of being successful in congregations that have intentional discipleship systems in place and a clear image of what a maturing disciple looks like. Across the church, we need to see generosity for the key ingredient it is in a maturing disciple of Jesus Christ."

Attendees will learn the value of having an intentional discipleship system (IDS) and a shared commitment to it; see the connection of mission, values, and vision as they support the congregation's IDS; and explore how a deeper intentionality in our disciple making helps us clarify to people outside the church who we are as United Methodists.

Registration is not required. [Click here](#) to join this Zoom presentation. Please contact Susan Black for more information at sblack@wocumc.org

Basic & Recert ERT Classes to be offered April 13 in Findlay



UMCOR's Early Response Team (ERT) Basic class will be offered on Saturday, April 13 8am-4pm at [St. Mark's UMC in Findlay](#). 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. 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](#).

Generate Saturday, April 13 :: 9am-4pm at OWU **Hurry - today is the last day to register!**

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 the 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 register.](#)

Grief and Next Steps Seminar with Rev. Elaine J. Sturtz Saturday, April 10 from 10am-12pm

You're invited to Peace UMC in Pickerington for a workshop with Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor, pastor, former Hospice chaplain and author, Elaine Sturtz. Rev. Sturtz will discuss how to define grief, how to experience life after loss or grief and how to take next steps. There is no cost or registration required. Learn more by clicking [here](#).



[Peace UMC](#) is located at 235 Diley Rd, Pickerington 43147. Questions? Contact Elaine at ejsturtz7@gmail.com.

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 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.

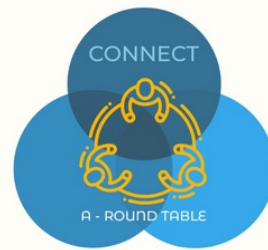
If you have a group that would like to volunteer or your church would like to be a host site, please contact Harold Nuss at hnuss@declare.org.

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.

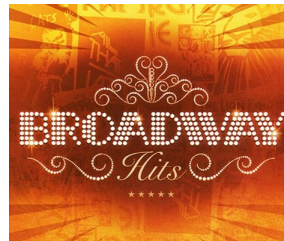
Bring your dinner and break bread with us as we learn more about caring for God's earth! [Click here to register](#). Questions? Contact Julie Carter at jcarter@wocumc.org.



LOCAL CHURCH & MINISTRY PARTNER EVENTS



Mosaic Church
Racial Wealth Gap Simulation
April 23, 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

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

Needed

Softball Players - *Clifton UMC*

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. Oliver "Gene" Wells, who passed away on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at the age of 88. He was a retired Elder in the United Methodist Church and served Spring Valley; Eaton, St Paul; Maize Manor; Zanesville Grace; Findlay St Marks; St Paul Community; Groesbeck; and Brecon. Gene was married for 45 years to Kathleen Ann (Clemons) Wells, who preceded him in death in 2001. He later married Janet (Crist) Wells who survives. [Obituary](#). A Memorial Service will be held on Friday, April 5, 2024, 11:00 a.m. at [St. Paul Community UMC](#), 8221 Miami Road, Cincinnati. Clergy in attendance are invited to wear robes with white stoles for the processional. A reception will follow the service. Gene will be inurned in the columbarium at Hyde Park UMC at a later time. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial gifts be given to St. Paul Community UMC or [Asbury University](#). Condolences will reach Mrs. Janet Wells at 4690 Mallard Creek Dr., Mason, Ohio 45040 and son, Rev. David Wells, at 10093 Zig Zag Rd, Cincinnati, Ohio 45242.

Rev. Howard D. Preston, who passed away on Monday, April 1, 2024. He was a retired Elder in the United Methodist Church who served South Point, Lucasville, Oak Harbor, Friendship and Anderson Hills before retiring in 1998. In retirement he served Newtown UMC for over 10 years. He is survived by his faithful wife and partner in ministry, JoAnn and family members. His Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, April 6 at 11:00 a.m. at Anderson Hills Church, 7515 Forest Rd, Cincinnati 45255. Visitation will take place from 10:00-11:00 a.m. A reception will be held following the service. [TP White and Sons](#) are serving the family and will have more information soon. In lieu of flowers, donations are requested to the Howard and JoAnn Preston Endowment Fund at [MTSO](#). Please send condolences to Mrs. JoAnn Preston at 4865 Orland Road, Cincinnati 45244.

Subscribe to News & Notes

View this email in your browser

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

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

[Unsubscribe nnewton@wocumc.org](mailto:nnewton@wocumc.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by gmd@greatmiamiriverdistrict.ccsend.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!