



Great Miami River District

News from The United Methodist Church

News and Notes :: May 1, 2024

John Wesley UMC Helps Restore Community Pool

The John Wesley United Methodist Church in Cincinnati has had a long-standing relationship with the Pleasant Run Farms Civic Association (PRFCA). During an October 2022 meeting, PRFCA described a huge issue with their swim club. The 50+ year-old complex was dealing with deteriorating concrete and plumbing issues that threatened the viability of keeping the pools open and they didn't have the needed skills to address the issues. They were certain they'd have to close within the year.



The community was formed before the HOA era, so they had no revenue stream to pay for needed repairs. One vendor had indicated that full restoration could easily reach \$150,000, but he doubted contractors would even bid on the project given the limited access to the pool area and the age of the pools.



As a result, the PRFCA asked if there was any way that John Wesley UMC could help, if just to keep the pool open for one last season. The church responded that they would not only help, but also co-lead the effort! The rest, as they say, is history but not after thousands of dollars and volunteer hours and more obstacles than the church volunteers could have imagined.

[Continue reading to see how John Wesley volunteers blessed their community.](#)

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.

General Conference Highlights

The 2020 General Conference is still in session in Charlotte, NC and will conclude this Friday, May 3. Last week was filled with worship, inspired preaching from various episcopal leaders, and significant work in legislative committees. This week, the delegates began voting on legislation from the various committees.



Bishop Palmer provides a video update of the proceedings as of Monday of this week. Click [here](#) or on his picture to watch it.

As General Conference ends its meeting, our [annual conference](#), [ResourceUMC.org](#) and [UMNews.org](#) will post articles and videos that sum up key happenings – from voting results to highlights of special presentations and much more. Share this content with congregants so that they are aware of what took place at General Conference and how the business handled there will impact the denomination's future.

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](#)
- [Buckets of Blessings Challenge - Let's win this GMD!](#)
- [Bishop and Mrs. Palmer Love Offering](#)
- [Clergy Spouse Brunch with Cynthia Palmer](#)
- Annual Conference Offering for Africa University - come prepared

Annual Conference registration deadline is TODAY. 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.



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.

EDUCATIONAL and SERVE OPPORTUNITIES

Urban Ministry Pop Up Shop is this Saturday

You are invited to an informative and exciting Urban Ministry 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 this [news release](#) that gives more information about this event. [To register - click here.](#)

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.](#)

Super Serve Saturday - a monthly serve opportunity

Don't miss the May 18th opportunity to serve before Super Serve Saturday takes a break June-August. These monthly events are 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.



On May 18 there are 3 organizations and 5 projects to choose from.

[Click here to view the Sign Up Genius to learn more about each and to sign up your group](#)

Saturday, September 21 will be the next serve date. By then we hope to have at least one project in all 7 counties of the Great Miami River District. If your organization or one you know of wants to get involved, please contact [Nancy](#) at 513.421.2057.

Super Serve Saturdays have something for every age and ability - no superpowers necessary - just a willing, humble and flexible spirit and heart for all!

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 Imoore@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



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



Grace & Possibilities Circuit
Just Like Me Summer Day Camp
June 10-14
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 Bibles, books, robe, stole - *Rev. Gary Boucher*
Allen Organ - *Jacksonburg UMC*

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