



# Great Miami River District

*News from The United Methodist Church*

## News and Notes :: May 15, 2024

### Ministry with Young People Flourishing at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Dayton

Amidst the hustle and bustle of [St. Paul United Methodist Church in Dayton](#), there's a vibrant energy pulsating from the heart of their ministry with young people. This year, their focus has been laser-sharp, thanks to the generous support of a grant from the Great Miami River District.



Maryuri Samira Alvarado (13)  
Worship Leader



Isaac Ortiz (13)  
Worship Tech Apprentice

Evenlyn Samantha Monroy (12), Photographer

St. Paul's commitment to nurturing the spiritual growth and leadership potential of young minds has led them to implement an innovative leadership development system. Designed to engage youths aged 12-17, this program encourages active participation across various facets of their ministry. From spiritual formation and meditation classes to hands-on roles in worship services, fundraising events, and community outreach activities, their young members are seizing every opportunity to make a difference.

[Continue reading...](#)

### The Great Miami River District Spring Conference is this Sunday!

Our annual District Conference is this **Sunday, May 19 at 3-5 PM at [Middletown Christ UMC, 700 S. Marshall Rd, Middletown 45044.](#)**

At this event, we celebrate the many milestones of ministry that have taken place in our first year as the Great Miami River District - those who received a license, those being credentialed and ordained, those who began or will begin a new appointment, as well as several new church starts. We will also recognize those serving on our district leadership teams and approve them for service. Don't miss this fun afternoon of worship, fellowship, food and song. Reservations are not needed.



### Annual Conference is May 29-June 1

The 55th session of the West Ohio Annual Conference will soon convene 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.



A significant aspect of the conference includes voting on crucial business matters that will shape the future of the West Ohio Conference. The conference will also shine a spotlight on the ordination of clergy, symbolizing a commitment to nurturing new leaders and fostering spiritual growth within The United Methodist Church. [Get all the details by clicking here.](#)

Annual Conference will also provide opportunities for celebrating Bishop and Mrs. Palmer for their service among us. In addition, an Open House is being held at the conference office on Tuesday, June 4 from 4-6pm. Light refreshments will be served. Don't forget to:

- Contribute to their love offering. Financial contributions may be made [here](#).
- Leave your words of appreciation [online here](#). Your cards and gifts must be received by tomorrow, May 15, 2024. The Palmers will be presented with these gifts at Annual Conference on May 31.

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## Conference Archives Moving to MTSO

The archives of the East and West Ohio conferences will be moving to the Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO) this summer.



For more than 50 years, the archives were housed at Ohio Wesleyan University (OWU). Last year, OWU notified the conferences that the Beeghly Library was closing for renovations and that relocation of the archives would be necessary.

“We are grateful to Ohio Wesleyan for caring for our archives for all these years, and we look forward to working with MTSO. The United Methodist Church has a rich history, and our archives are about cultivating our past to help engage our future,” said Dave Boling, West Ohio Conference Archives and History Chairperson.

It is anticipated that the materials will be moved to MTSO in June. Once the archives are relocated to MTSO, attention will turn to accessibility and use of the archives. Watch for more details later this summer. Should you have any questions, please contact Dave Boling at [historyarchives@wocumc.org](mailto:historyarchives@wocumc.org).

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## New Resource for Congregations Looking to Grow Younger

Last month over 160 leaders from 45 different congregations across West Ohio came together for Generate 2024. There were six different generations represented during this transformational day of learning, listening, and launching a movement of growing younger.



If you missed the event, you can access the resources and hear what others thought by visiting [www.generateohio.org](http://www.generateohio.org). You'll also find additional resources like summer camp options, connecting with our family ministry networks, and micro-grant information. Stop by often as resources are added frequently.

Consider the Lakeside Institute, a camp like no other. Located inside the gates of the Lakeside Chautauqua community, Lakeside Institute has been helping youth and young adults, ages 14 through age 20, further their personal faith journeys for over 100 years. The theme for this year's camp, which runs July 21-27 is “Finding the ME in the WE.” Using Luke 1:28 and the story of Mary as an entry point, youth will explore what it means to claim their God given identity, while also remaining deeply connected to the larger community where they have been called. For more camp opportunities, [click here](#).

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## EDUCATIONAL and SERVE OPPORTUNITIES

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### Super Serve Saturday is THIS Saturday

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!

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### Online Legacy Planning Seminar May 21

The United Methodist Foundation of West Ohio is offering a seminar on estate planning and legacy giving on May 21 at 6 p.m. via Zoom. All congregations and their members are welcome to attend. No registration required. The seminar will cover basic estate planning and legacy giving options. Participants can join the seminar at this link: [Join Zoom Meeting](#) or contact Susan Black for more information at [sblack@wocumc.org](mailto:sblack@wocumc.org).



### 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](mailto:lmoore@wocumc.org).



### Mission U Registration Deadline Approaching

The in-person Mission u 2024 will be held at Bergamo Conference Center in Beavercreek, OH, June 21-23, and the deadline for registration is June 1. A virtual experience of Mission u will be held on Wednesdays and Thursdays during the month of July, and the deadline for registration is June 23.



For more information and to register, [click here](#). The theme for this year is "The Kin-dom of God is Among You...Drawing Closer to God and One Another." Questions? Contact Linda Bales Todd, Mission u Dean, at [joylab47@yahoo.com](mailto:joylab47@yahoo.com). We'd love to have you attend!

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### LSM Advanced Course - Leading Public Prayer Instructor: Rev. Joel Harbarger

Praying in public can be daunting, but prayer is something one learns. This course on praying in public will help participants grow in confidence and skill in public prayer and enrich their personal prayer life. If you are on the track to become a Certified Lay Speaker, this is a CORE course that you need to take.

#### Dates:

- Friday, June 7, 2024 from 6:30-8:30pm
- Saturday, June 8, 2024 from 8:30am-5pm

#### Locations:

- ZOOM
- Hocking River District Office, 47 Johnson Rd, The Plains, OH 45870

#### Costs:

- ZOOM - \$15
- In person - \$30





**Contacts:**

- Lesley Moore - lmoore@wocumc.org / 567-221-7013
- Barb Conover - bconover@wocumc.org / 740-677-0136

**Text:**

- "Shaping the Prayers of the People: The Art of Intercession," by Samuel Wells and Abigail Kocher. Students must purchase and read prior to class
- Available at Cokesbury or through Amazon.

### Vacation Bible School Opportunities



**Grace & Possibilities Circuit**

*Just Like Me*

June 10-14

Click [here](#) for more details



**Loveland UMC**

*Breaker Rock Beach*

June 17-21

Click [here](#) for more details

### CLASSIFIEDS

[Click here](#) to view/respond to the ads below

[Click here](#) to submit your own classified ad



**Employment**

Children's Ministry Program Coordinator - *Shiloh UMC*

Children & Youth Director - *Hope UMC*

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*



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

Joyce Fry, age 80, of Troy, Ohio passed away peacefully on May 13, 2024. Joyce was born in Bellville, Ohio, on Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 1943. Joyce enjoyed pastoral ministry in congregations at Northwood (Toledo), St. Paul (Delphos) and Ridge (Elida), South Park (Dayton), Fort McKinley (Dayton), and Central (Springfield). For the balance of her appointed ministry, she served in the following administrative positions: District Superintendent of the

Dayton North District, and the Assistant to the West Ohio Conference Bishop Bruce Ough. She retired in 2011, but then served as interim pastor at Scioto Ridge (Hilliard). [Obituary](#). Joyce enjoyed travelling and was an advocate and supporter of mission and ministry with the Vietnamese in Ohio and Vietnam. She was active in developing mental health services for Wood County, and urban ministries in the Toledo, Dayton, and Springfield areas. Her memorial service will be held at 1pm on Saturday, May 25 at [First United Methodist Church](#), 110 West Franklin Street, Troy, Ohio 45373. Clergy are encouraged to wear a stole (no robe). A reception will follow. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to First United Methodist Church and/or the Vietnamese United Methodist Church.

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Notes

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

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

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