



Western Lakes District

News from The United Methodist Church

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WLD Important Information



2024 West Ohio Annual Conference: God is Able

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.

The conference will offer a rich tapestry of events, with powerful worship experiences at the core. Members will engage in thoughtful reflections on the scripture, exploring the profound message in these verses. A significant aspect of the conference includes voting on crucial business matters that will shape the future of the West Ohio Conference. Members will actively participate in decision-making processes that impact churches within the conference.

Furthermore, the conference will be a time of celebration as it marks the retirement of esteemed Bishop Gregory and Mrs. Cynthia Palmer. Their dedicated service and profound impact on the West Ohio Conference will be honored with heartfelt tributes and expressions of gratitude. 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.

"We are thrilled to come together under the theme 'God is Able,'" said Rev. Lou Seipel, Chair of the Annual Conference Planning Team. "This conference is not just a gathering; it's a testament to our shared commitment to faith, community, and the transformative power of God's grace."

Registration for conference members will open March 1. There will be limited guest seating; however, the conference is expected to be livestreamed on the home page of the West Ohio Conference website: westohioumc.org. More details will be made available in NewsNET, the conference website, and social media channels.

Annual Conference Legislation Deadline is March 1

As stipulated in our conference rules, all legislation must be submitted to and received by the Conference Secretary Chris Clough by 11:59pm, Friday, March 1, 2024. Any legislation received after that date will be returned. The maker of that legislation can decide if they want to ask to suspend the rules for consideration of the Annual Conference body. Legislation should be sent to: Conference Secretary Chris Clough at

Raise the Roof for Tanzania School

On Tuesday, January 18, people attending Bishop Palmer's Leadership Clinic learned of an immediate need from our brothers and sisters in Tanzania. They need our help to complete a project that was left undone by a church that chose to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church. Seven classrooms for preschool and primary school children have been built but there is no roof.

"We have the opportunity to Raise the Roof," said Bishop Gregory Palmer. "There is a need and I know West Ohioans will rise to the occasion and supply the \$15,000 that is needed for this special project." Palmer was the first to contribute to the cause. With a comprehensive approach on evangelism and church planting, the Tanzania Annual Conference, led by Bishop Mande Muyombo, and Global Ministries started a mission center in Mwanza District. The center includes an orphanage with 85 children, United Methodist schools, and a hospital.

"I believe West Ohio will complete this project so Tanzanian children can focus on learning about Jesus Christ and academics in this United Methodist school," Palmer said. To contribute to "Raise the Roof," you may donate online through the link below or send a check to the United Methodist Foundation of West Ohio, 32 Wesley Blvd, Worthington, OH 43085, with 'Advance #00205A-Raise the Roof' in the Memo line. If you give online, be sure to mark the donation 'In Honor of' and include 'Advance #00205A-Raise the Roof' in the Name line.

[Give now...](#)

East Ohio Conference and West Ohio Conference to Share an Episcopal Leader Effective September 1

A special-called session of the North Central Jurisdiction (NCJ) Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church was held on Tuesday, January 23 "for the sole purpose of approving new episcopal areas for episcopal assignments to be effective September 1, 2024."

Delegates to this special-called NCJ Jurisdictional Conference voted to form two new episcopal areas, one to include the East Ohio Conference and the West Ohio Conference, and one to include the Northern Illinois Conference and the Wisconsin Conference. The two conferences in each new episcopal area will share one bishop.

By the action of the special session, the North Central Jurisdiction will transition from nine to seven episcopal areas. The North Central Jurisdiction Committee on the Episcopacy assigns the bishops to the episcopal areas and all assignments will be announced at the NCJ Jurisdictional Conference July 10-13 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The new episcopal areas and the bishop assignments to each of the seven episcopal areas will be effective September 1.

Executive staff leaders and members of the Committee on the Episcopacy in both the East Ohio Conference and the West Ohio Conference have been engaged in strategic conversations to explore the sharing of an episcopal leader since the NCJ Committee on the Episcopacy proposed the possibility during the 2022 Jurisdictional Conference

"I and Bishop Palmer convened a leadership team that has been working to identify the key administrative matters that need to be addressed and to examine the best practices of other episcopal areas where shared episcopal leadership has worked well. This work will continue as we prepare the conferences for this transition," said Bishop Tracy S. Malone, resident bishop of the East Ohio Conference.

"I am confident the people of the East and West Ohio Conferences are well suited to be served by one bishop with a single eye to living the mission of 'making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world,'" said Bishop Gregory V. Palmer, resident bishop of the West Ohio Conference.

One-Day Mission Trip with DS Jim Wilson

Join District Superintendent Rev. Jim Wilson on a bus trip to the Cincinnati area to volunteer at Matthew 25 Ministries, an organization that reaches

out to the poorest of the poor and disaster victims around the world. Join the 96 United Methodist churches throughout our 13 county area as we unite in reaching out to others in the name of Jesus.



Date:

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Time:

Passenger pick-up at: 7:00 a.m. Cridersville UMC (105 Shawnee Road, Cridersville)

Passenger pick-up at: 8:00 a.m. Ginghamburg UMC (6759 S County Road 25A, Tipp City)

Arrive at Matthew 25 Ministries at 9am

Depart Matthew 25 Ministries at 3pm

Passenger drop-off at Ginghamburg UMC 4:00 p.m.

Passenger drop-off at Cridersville UMC at 5:00 p.m.

Cost: \$15.00 per person (in cash payable upon departure)

(cost includes bus transportation, gratuity, and lunch)

No large bags or backpacks are allowed. Small purses are fine. Please wear closed toe shoes.

Registration:

Contact Cortney at the District Office to register. creed@wocumc.org

Deadline to register is March 1st

Western Lakes District -- Making a World of Difference

2023 Statistical Reporting

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

These reports are due by April 15th, and online submission is preferred. Providing accurate information is essential, as this reporting affects how your 2025 apportionments are calculated. You can access all information that you need to complete those reports [here](#).

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

Racial/Ethnic Local Church Grant Applications

The 2024 Racial/Ethnic Local Church(RELC) Grant and the Annual Conference Multiethnic Ministries Grant applications are now available! RELC Grant and Multiethnic Ministries Grant applications will be accepted January 2 – March 1, 2024. Application forms can be found here: <https://umcmmission.org/multiethnic-ministries/>

RELC Grants are provided to assist local racial/ethnic congregations with projects and programs on one of three areas: 1) Leadership Development; 2) Church Growth and Development; and 3) Pastoral Salary Support. The maximum RELC programmatic grant is \$15,000 and the maximum pastoral salary support grant is \$12,000. The church's membership must be at least 51% majority racial/ethnic.

Multiethnic Ministries Grants are provided to annual conferences to assist with programs



"We Love Jesus and Our UMC" Photo Contest

Contest Theme: Capture moments that showcase your church's love for Jesus and the spirit of The United Methodist Church.

Submission Criteria:

1. Photos should reflect the theme of love, faith, and community within the context of the UMC.
2. Images can include church activities, worship services, community service, or any other aspect that embodies the spirit of your congregation or ministry setting. Images should reflect events from January 2023 to February 13, 2024.
3. Submit up to 20 digital images to: WOCMedia@wocumc.org.
4. Include photographer's name, phone number and email address, and photograph location/church.

Technical Requirements:

1. Submissions should be in color.
2. High resolution preferred.

Judging Criteria:

1. Relevance to the theme.
2. Creativity and originality.
3. Composition and visual appeal.
4. Emotional impact.

Prizes:

- 1st place: \$100.00
- 2nd place: \$50.00
- 3rd place: \$25.00

Images submitted may be displayed at the West Ohio Conference Center and on our social media channels. Photos will also be used at the 2024 Annual Conference. Photo credits will be included.

Submission Deadline: February 14, 2024

How to Enter: Send digital images to WOCMedia@wocumc.org

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

Judith A. (Long) Steigleder, passed into Heaven on Thursday, January 18, 2024

She was the daughter of Albert R. and Martha A. (Bauer) Long, both of whom preceded her in death, as did her only sibling, Frederic.

Judy met the Reverend Richard Steigleder, the love of her life, in 1972, when he was appointed pastor of her home congregation, Green Camp United Methodist Church. Following a brief courtship, the couple's wedding took place in the Green Camp sanctuary with Reverends Anita Watson and C. Joseph Sprague officiating. The couple enjoyed nearly 39 years of marriage prior to Richard's death in 2011. Until his retirement in 2002 Judy supported Richard in serving these congregations in both East and West Ohio Conferences: Polk, East Ohio Conf 1963; Hoover-Elizabethtown Charge - Cincinnati Dist 1965; Shiloh - Cincinnati Dist 1967; Findlay St Marks (F) 1970; Green Camp (F) 1972; South Charleston (S) 1976; Belmont (DS) 1980; Northridge (S) 1987; Lima Grace (L) 1994; Retired 2002

As she is reunited with Richard and their beloved dogs --Heidi, Scotty, Jake, Joey and Bailey, a memorial service were held at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at CHILES - LAMAN FUNERAL AND CREMATION SERVICES, SHAWNEE CHAPEL.

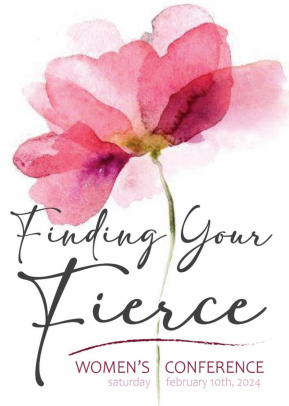
Pastor Dan Lee officiated

In Lieu of flowers, contributions in Memory of Judith A. Steigleder may be sent to the Mark C. Sprague Fund at the Methodist Theological School, 3081 Columbus Pike, Delaware, Ohio 43015 or to the Spiritual Growth Fund of the Westside United Methodist Church 604 Gloria Ave., Lima, OH 45805.

Condolences may be expressed at chiles-lamanfh.com.

To see the obituary for Judith Steigleder click here: <https://chiles-lamanfh.com/obituaries/judith-a-steigleder/>

Events



Women's Conference set for February 10th

Calling all women to gather for a day of empowerment at the Finding Your Fierce Women's Conference, a collaborative effort of 5 sister churches. First UMC Lancaster is excited to host the day on Saturday, February 10th from 9am-4pm. It will be filled with inspiring teaching from Pastor Rachel Billups, soulful small groups, and the company of women who are on a quest for spiritual growth and empowerment. The cost is \$25 and includes everything!

[Register Now](#)

Laity Discernment Retreats Returning In Early 2024

Do you feel God's call on your life but are uncertain how to discern that call or what to do next? If so, then this is the retreat for you!

At the Laity Discernment Retreats, we will talk about call, discernment and what it means to be "called by our baptism." We will learn ways to intentionally enter into a time of prayer about discernment and we will discover Spiritual Rhythms that can help guide our journey. We will also discuss the variety of ways laity can serve both in our churches and in our communities.

[Read more...](#)



Basic Course being offered in February

February 23-24, 2024 -Via Zoom

Friday evening: 6:30-9 PM; Saturday 8:30-5 PM

Instructors: Harry and Ann Peat

This course is foundational for all courses in Lay Servant Ministries. Lay Servant Ministries will give you a variety of opportunities to serve your local and the greater church. The ministries of Lay Servanthood are Leading, Caring, and Communicating. We can all find a calling in one or more of these areas of ministry. This class will familiarize you with these areas of ministry and give you a chance to explore each one.

Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course Participant's Book available in the links below
Cokesbury - [here](#) and Amazon - [here](#)

[Register Here](#)



Registration for Bishop Palmer's Confirmation Event Ends February 15th

If you have confirmands from last year, current students, or students who will be entering confirmation this fall, you do not want to miss this special event with Bishop Gregory V. Palmer. During our time together we will be reviewing United Methodist history, polity, experience the unique connections of being a part of West Ohio, fellowship, worship, and time talking with our

Bishop. This event will begin at 2pm and will conclude with a meal together, able to leave Ohio Wesleyan by 6:30pm. [Registration will close February 15th, so make sure to register your group today!](#) If you have questions or difficulty registering contact Ann Marie Carley, amcarley@wocumc.org.

Basic & Recert ERT Class to be offered March 2 in Beavercreek

UMCOR's Early Response Team (ERT) Basic class will be offered on Saturday, March 2, 8:00 am-4:00 pm at Aley UMC in Beavercreek. 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: <https://www.westohioumc.org/event/early-response-team-training-recert-ale-y-umc>.



Bryan Stevenson of "Just Mercy" Leadership Clinic March 11 - Online

Bryan Stevenson, founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), a human rights organization will be the featured guest for Bishop Palmer's Leadership Clinic on March 11, 2024.

Under his leadership, EJI has won major legal challenges eliminating excessive and unfair sentencing, exonerating innocent death row prisoners, confronting abuse of the incarcerated and the mentally ill, and aiding children prosecuted as adults. Mr. Stevenson has received over 50 honorary doctoral degrees and numerous awards.

He is the author of the critically acclaimed New York Times bestseller, *Just Mercy*, which was named by Time Magazine as one of the ten Best Books of the year. *Just Mercy* was adapted as a major motion picture. Mr. Stevenson is also the subject of the Emmy Award-winning HBO documentary *True Justice*. He is a graduate of the Harvard Law School and the Harvard School of Government.

The first 200 to register will receive a copy of *Just Mercy*.

[Learn more and register at WestOhioUMC.org](#)

Resources

All In Community - Ministry Monday

Are you a trained Stephen Minister ready to help those in crisis?
Are you a Stephen Leader looking for new ways to provide care to those in need?

All In Community, a mission initiative through the West Ohio Conference, exists to engage individuals, churches, criminal justice professionals, and community leaders in local efforts to restore hope and support healing during these lived experiences with the criminal justice system. One of its signature initiatives is the Good Samaritan Ministry.

Each correctional facility in the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) system has an active Stephen Ministry program where inmates are trained to provide care to other inmates. Through the Good Samaritan Ministry, All In Community is working to create a network of Stephen Ministers to assist each of the ODRC's facilities to enhance this vital program and keep it moving forward.

On Monday, January 22, beginning at 7:00pm, join All In Community as valuable information will be shared to engage Stephen Ministers throughout Ohio to utilize their many hours of training in new ways. This information session will be held online via ZOOM.

Questions and requests for the ZOOM link can be directed to Jami Nathan, AIC Ministries Coordinator, by email (jami.nathan.22@gmail.com) or by phone (419-591-9717).

For Flyer and Zoom Link [CLICK HERE](#)

2023-2024 Appointments



The list of pastoral appointments beginning July 1, 2023 can be accessed [clicking here](#).

Please refer back to these lists as they are updated frequently.

Western Lakes District | 32 Wesley Blvd, Worthington, OH 43085

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