



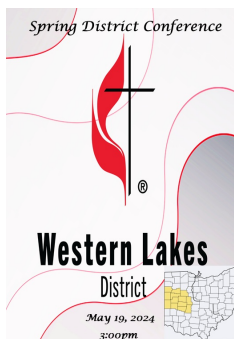
Western Lakes District

News from The United Methodist Church

WLD Office (937) 739-4445 Email: westernlakes@wocumc.org

Volume 22 - May 10, 2024

WLD Important Information



WLD Spring District Conference

The Western Lakes District will hold our Spring District Conference on Sunday, May 19th at 3:00pm. The Spring Conference will include the Pre-Annual Conference briefing, recognition of persons in ministry, 2024-2025 nominations, etc. Clergy, lay delegates, and district officers should attend, but all are welcome to join in. It will be held at Anna United Methodist Church 201 W North St, Anna, OH 45302.

Dublin Church Delivers Boxes of Love, Hope and Joy

Some students at Hopewell Elementary School in Dublin, Ohio live in poverty; a few are identified as unhoused. Jerome United Methodist Church, located near the school discovered this to be an opportunity for ministry partnership.



It began with a casual conversation between a member of Jerome UMC and a Columbus City Schools teacher who revealed how teachers offer students “to -go” snacks after school to stave off hunger before their next meal. Michele Blackburn, Jerome UMC mission coordinator and other church members met with the lead faculty at Hopewell to discuss a collaboration to serve those children.

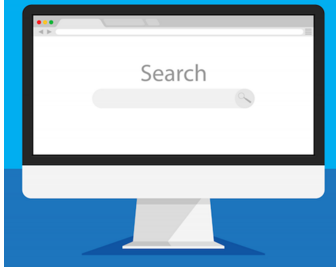
In the Fall of 2022, *Boxes of Hope* was born, and the Jerome UMC congregation rallied behind it. This ministry donates boxes of non-perishable food, personal hygiene products and *joy* to student’s families at Hopewell. Bi-monthly, seven families identified by the faculty receive a box filled with items such as cereal, protein bars, toilet paper and toothpaste. To add *joy*, each box contains a game for family fun.

[Visit our Website](#)

Are You Up To Date?

Is your church website up to date? How about your Facebook page? Can new families in the community find your church service times? Is the information outdated? People often go to the internet to see what the church has to offer before visiting. So many times we see websites with no

Is Your Church Website Up To Date?



church address, no worship time, or outdated information. Help others find out more about your church by updating your website and Facebook page.

Annual Conference 'Picnic in the Park' set for May 30

Join in on the fun! Connectional Ministries will host a 'Picnic in the Park' over our dinner break on Thursday evening, May 30, from 5:30-7:00 pm, between the afternoon and Laity Sessions that evening.

The party will be held on the lawn just north of the Student Union, about a block from the Capital Center. We will have music, lawn games, and a great variety of FOOD TRUCKS for you to purchase your dinner! We may even have a game of sand volleyball, weather permitting! Young clergy and their families are invited to meet up at this event. The rain location will be inside the student union in the Schneider Conference Room. No preregistration is required. Remember to bring your own lawn chairs or picnic blankets! [Click here](#) for the list of food trucks; most accept credit card payments.

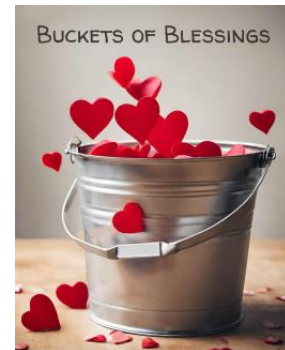
Clergy Spouse Brunch set for May 31

Clergy spouses are invited to a special brunch hosted by Mrs. Cynthia Palmer. The event will be held on Friday, May 31, at 10:00am in the Schneider Room on the campus of Capital University in Bexley, Ohio. Come celebrate the ministry of clergy spouses with great food, good music, and a few words from Cynthia. This will be her final annual conference with us. Be sure to bring your good wishes as she and Bishop Palmer plan to move out of state following the conclusion of their service to the West Ohio Conference.

[Register now...](#)

UMCOR Collection & Buckets of Blessings Challenge

As we do every year at Annual Conference, West Ohio Disaster Response Ministries will be collecting kits and supplies for Midwest Mission Distribution Center, our North Central Jurisdiction UMCOR depot. However, this year's collection will also include the Bishop's Buckets of Blessings Challenge, where we see which District can contribute the most buckets of cleaning supplies! Also called Home Care Kits, these buckets include liquid household cleaner, dish soap, liquid laundry detergent, and a scrub brush, all in a 5-gallon bucket. [Click here for more on how to make Home Care Kits.](#)



For his final Annual Conference as West Ohio's Bishop, let's make sure we shower Bishop Palmer with Buckets of Blessings!

In addition to Home Care Kits, we will also be collecting the following items:

- [UMCOR Hygiene Kits](#)
- Shampoo (12-19 oz.)
- Deodorant (2-3 oz.)
- Lotion (8-10 oz.)

Kits and supplies will be collected on Thursday, May 30, from 7:30am-5:30pm, and on Friday, May 31, from 8:00am-1:30pm. Take all donations to the Midwest Mission truck located west of the Capital Center near the golf cart station. Please do not bring supplies into the Capital Center where Annual Conference is being held.

*In order for your donation of Home Care Kits to count toward your District total, be sure you notify the Midwest Mission personnel at the truck about which District your supplies

are from.*

If you have questions or need more information, email mgrace@wocumc.org.

Annual Conference Mission Opportunities

Clergy and Lay Members of the Annual Conference are invited to participate in various mission opportunities in the Central Ohio area before the start of Annual Conference, on Wednesday afternoon May 29, 2024.

Come participate and learn about a new ministry! All mission opportunities take place on Wednesday afternoon, and will be finished in time for you to have dinner before Annual Conference opens at 7:00 pm.

Click on the links below for more information and to register. Registration closes May 23, 2024 or when full.

[Urban Farm Church](#) - located in north central Columbus

[The Charitable Pharmacy](#) - located in downtown Columbus

[The Church for All People Free Store](#) - located in downtown Columbus

[The Church for All People Market](#) FIRST AFTERNOON SHIFT - located in downtown Columbus

[The Church for All People Market](#) SECOND AFTERNOON SHIFT - located in downtown Columbus

[Lewis Center UMC's 'Amina's Dream' sewing ministry](#) - located in Lewis Center, north of Columbus

Opportunities to Celebrate the Palmer's Lifetime of Ministry

Bishop Gregory Vaughn Palmer is retiring after serving 24 years in Episcopal leadership. We in West Ohio, have been blessed to have him lead our conference for the last twelve. First Lady Cynthia Palmer has had a significant role in this conference and in every aspect of Bishop's stellar career.



In honor of their service to the Church, you are invited you to express your appreciation in the following ways:

- Send a card to the Palmers. Please send them to: Bishop Gregory and Mrs. Cynthia Palmer, West Ohio Conference, 32 Wesley Blvd., Worthington, Ohio 43085.
- Contribute to a love offering. Financial contributions may be made [here](#) or by sending a check made payable to West Ohio Conference c/o the Foundation (UMFWO), 32 Wesley Blvd., Worthington, OH 43085 with "Palmer's Gift Fund" in the memo line.
- Leave your words of appreciation online [here](#) and those sentiments will be shared with them as well.
- Your cards and gifts must be received by May 15, 2024. The Palmers will be presented with these gifts at the West Ohio Annual Conference on May 31.
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Please keep the Palmer Family in your prayers as they begin this next chapter of their lives. May they feel the presence of the Holy Spirit as they are surrounded by this outpouring of love and appreciation.

Events

Leading Public Prayer LSM Advanced Course

Instructor: Rev. Joel Harbarger

Praying in public can be daunting, but prayer is something one learns. This course on praying in public will help the participants grow in confidence and skill in public prayer and enrich their

personal prayer life. This is a CORE course for becoming a certified lay speaker.



Dates/Times:

Friday, June 7, 2024 – 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Saturday, June 8, 2024 – 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

TWO options for taking the class: In-person OR ZOOM

Location:

Hocking River District Office

47 Johnson Rd, The Plains, OH 45870

Cost: \$30.00 in person or \$15 for zoom

[Register Now](#)

Mission U Registration Now Open - United Women in Faith

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. All this and more, including registration info and flyers, can be found [here](#). Questions? Contact Linda Bales Todd (Dean) at joylab47@yahoo.com or Carolyn Johnson (Assistant Dean) at cjohnson3253@yahoo.com.



Preschool Training Day is May 23

Join us for a Preschool Training Day on Thursday, May 23, from 10am-4pm, at the West Ohio Conference Center, 32 Wesley Blvd, Worthington. We are hopeful that this five-hour training will be approved by OCCRRRA for use in credentialing. Storytelling, theming, and prayer as professional development will be the areas we focus on. 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.

Resources

Free Tools to Help Manage Small Groups

One of the most important aspects of church life is a vibrant small-group and Sunday school ministry. You can find many free tools to help leaders increase their effectiveness in facilitating these vital programs.

[Read More Now](#)

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. To get started, [click here](#) for 2024 programs and resources from Cokesbury.



2024-2025 Appointments



The list of pastoral appointments beginning July 1, 2024 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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