



Western Lakes District

News from The United Methodist Church

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

WLD Important Information

We are in the process of reaching out and checking in with all 96 of our Western Lakes District churches after the storms and tornados last night to access damage. Please keep all those affected by the storms in your prayers.

***Clergy - please reach out to Cortney at creed@wocumc.org if your church or area has damage and there is an immediate need.**

Matthew 25 Ministries Mission Trip A Success

Western Lakes District was making a world of difference on Wednesday while volunteering at Matthew 25 Ministries in Blue Ash, Ohio! 60 people from 21 different churches in our district came together to re-pack 60,000 latex gloves along with 400 bottles of lotion to be shipped around the world. It was great to come together to enjoy fun and fellowship while volunteering. We are proud of you for being the hands and feet of Jesus.



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 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.

A significant aspect of the conference includes voting on crucial business matters that will shape the future of the West Ohio Conference. There will be a time of celebration as it marks the retirement of Bishop Gregory and Mrs.

Cynthia Palmer.

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.

Registration is open - [Register Here](#)

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...](#)



Register Now -Bishop Palmer General Conference Town Hall March 19th

On January 30, Bishop Gregory Palmer held the first of two Town Hall meetings regarding the upcoming General Conference. After his opening comments, Bishop Palmer answered questions that were submitted by West Ohioans. The second Town Hall is scheduled for March 19th at noon. You may submit your questions to: townhallquestions@wocumc.org

[Watch Video Here](#)

[Register Here for March 19th Zoom](#)

The West Ohio Conference Ministry Intern Program Applications Are Now Open

The West Ohio Conference Ministry Interns (formerly the Next Generations Leadership Ministry Intern Program) is a great opportunity for young adults who are considering ministry as a vocation to discern calls to ministry in a variety of ways. Internship placements are made with innovative and engaging congregations and church leaders throughout the West Ohio Conference. The dates for the Internship are May 29 – July 12. The stipend for the seven-week internship is \$4,000.00 provided by the West Ohio Conference. Applicants must be current college students **who are available for the duration of the Internship** and returning to college during the fall of 2024.

Please encourage students who have expressed a desire to explore a call to ministry and/or service to apply: [West Ohio Conference Ministry Intern Program | West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church \(westohioumc.org\)](#)

The Application Deadline is **March 22, 2024**, 5:00 p.m. For questions, please email Rev. Donnetta Peaks, dpeaks@wocumc.org or call 614-844-6200, 314.

Applicants are encouraged to discuss the possibility of being hosted by their home church and mentored by their Pastor/Pastoral team. We do not provide housing accommodations.

West Ohio Conference Ministry Intern Program – Mentor and Host Church Application

The West Ohio Conference Ministry Interns (formerly the Next Generations Leadership

Ministry Intern Program) is now taking applications for Mentors/Host Churches for the summer of 2023. For clergy and congregations with a passion for developing young leaders, this is a great opportunity to mentor a young person who has a desire to serve in the church and explore a call to ministry.

The applications are located online at [West Ohio Conference Ministry Intern Program | West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church \(westohioumc.org\)](#). The deadline for the Mentor-Host Church Application is **March 22, 2024**.

For questions, please contact Rev. Donnetta Peaks, dpeaks@wocumc.org or call 614-844-6200, 314.

Foundation and Office of Ministry Announce 2nd Fellowship Cohort with 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.

The 2024 cohort will be the second diverse cohort of ordained West Ohio clergy participating in the Alford-Cantlin Fellowship at MTSO. Ordained West Ohio clergy who have completed the [Reflecting, Equipping, And Flourishing Process \(REF\)](#) and who meet the criteria for admission to [the MTSO D.Min. program](#) may apply. Diverse candidates are encouraged to apply.

Known as Alford-Cantlin Fellows, participants will receive additional support from the Office of Ministry beyond that provided by their academic program at MTSO, including:

- peer support;
- one-on-one clergy mentoring;
- and scholarship funding.

The length of the program is three to four academic years. The West Ohio Conference will work with each potential cohort participant to determine what financial aid they may qualify for, including local church funding, the Ministerial Education Fund, outside grants, and aid from MTSO. West Ohio will offer last-dollar support for up to half of the cost of the program to eligible applicants. from the Alford-Cantlin Family Endowment of the United Methodist Foundation of West Ohio. The West Ohio Conference is grateful for this financial support toward the continued formation of pastoral leaders.

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.

Events



SCAN ME

All In Community's Ministry Monday

ADVANCED REGISTRATION REQUIRED - Scan the QR code.

This month during All In Community's Ministry Monday information session, we will be sharing about an inspirational framework designed to guide community members wanting to make a difference in the lives of those returning home after an incarceration experience.

The first minutes, hours, and days after a person's release from incarceration is a most vulnerable time. When there is not adequate support during the initial phase of reentry, a returning neighbor often responds out of desperation to fulfill needs instead of having hope for a better future.

Being welcomed home is the first step to restoring a returning neighbor's dignity, identity, safety, and self-worth. Join others to learn where gaps in the reentry process can be filled by providing both tangible help and hopeful presence for returning neighbors on Monday, March 25, beginning at 7:00pm on ZOOM.

Cost: FREE

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).

An engaging event for April's **Second Chance Month***

Navigating the Chaos of Reentry

Join us for this 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.

Wednesday, April 3, 2024
7:00-8:30pm

In-person:

United Methodist Church of Kent
1435 E. Main Street
Kent, OH 44240

Online:



<http://www.youtube.com/@kentmethodist/streams>

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

- ✦ **Roxanne Coey**, ODRC Office of Reentry
- ✦ **Joe Tucker**, South Street Ministries
- ✦ **Two Restored Neighbors with Lived Experience**
- ✦ **Representatives from Kent State University** active in reentry efforts

Questions??

Contact: **Jami Nathan**
All In Community Ministries Coordinator
jami.nathan.22@gmail.com

This event is brought to you by:



* **Second Chance Month** is a national effort each April to highlight the collateral consequences individuals face to become contributing citizens after an incarceration experience.



United
Women
in Faith

2024 Spring Spiritual Day Western Lakes District

Saturday, April 13, 2024, 10AM-12PM
Bellefontaine First United Methodist Church 201 N.
Main St., Bellefontaine

“Moving Forward Together”

Speaker: Pastor Charlotte Hefner Come, Reconnect, Make new friends

Continental breakfast will be served

All women are invited to this FREE event!

Please call Sheila Rowe at 419-230-5361 or email sheilabug100@hotmail.com for reservations by April 8th. Please provide your name, your contact info and your church name.

Is Your Congregation Looking to Grow Younger?

Join us at Generate 2024! In this one-day event, you and your team will generate momentum across generations. Hear from

leaders who are experts in generating a culture of intergenerational leadership, worship, and sustainable multiplication. Plan to come away feeling empowered to cultivate a presence for all generations in your church. There are only 300 spots, so space is limited. Questions? Contact Ann Marie Carley (amcarley@wocumc.org) . [Reserve your tickets today](#)



Advanced Course: Discover Your Spiritual Gifts Being Offered

April 19 - 20 2024 - Via Zoom

Friday eve: 6:30-9 PM and Saturday 8:30 AM -5PM

Cost for Classes: \$15.00 per participant zoom

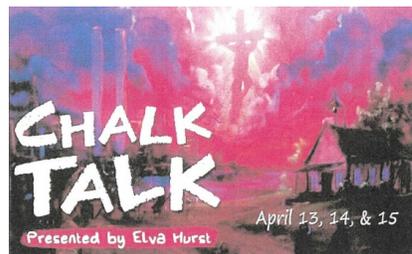
Instructors: Harry and Ann Peat



The early church knew about the gift of the Holy Spirit and the spiritual gifts flowing from the Holy Spirit through the believer. Today, the church is still discovering this. Learn more about how your spiritual gifts support your lay servant ministries. This course is one of the required courses for Lay Speakers.

Be sure to purchase and read the book, "Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts" by Charles V. Bryant prior to the class. (using one of the following links, please purchase the text from either Cokesbury - [here](#) or Amazon - [here](#))

[Register Now](#)



Chalk Talk - April 14th

Elva Hurst is a professional artist and author from Lancaster County, PA. Growing up in a large old order Mennonite family, she spent most of her time teaching herself art between chores on the family dairy farm. After graduating 8th grade from her one room school, she discovered the lost performance art of chalk talk.

Watch as Elva takes you and the audience through an inspiring show, sharing her stories through florescent chalk, music, and sound effects. Enjoy the grand finale as colored lights and an ultraviolet black light create beautiful effects on her artwork, ending the show with a memorable experience.

Join us **Sunday, April 14th** for "Our Great American Songs" 2:30pm Fortnightly Music Group at Northridge UMC, 4610 Derr Road, Springfield, OH. Free will offering donations will be taken.

2024 Summer Camp Opportunities Offered in Partnership with East Ohio

West Ohio has partnered, once again, with East Ohio Camps to provide churches and families with summer camping opportunities. Former West Ohio campers, and local churches have been mailed 2024 East Ohio summer camping brochures from West Ohio. See the button below for more information.



If you are looking for options outside of East Ohio, we suggest you check out these collaborative West Ohio partners:

- [United Church of Christ Camp](#) in Bellville, Ohio
- [Michigan United Methodist Camping](#) across Michigan
- [First Community Church Camp](#) in Logan, Ohio

Additional youth options:

- [Senior High Christian Youth Fellowship](#) at Malone University
- [Reach Out](#) for grades 8-12 at Lakeside
- [Lakeside Institute](#) for grades 9-age 20 at Lakeside

If you would like more information about any of the above options, please contact Director of Camps, Retreats, and Next Gen Engagement, Ann Marie Carley (amcarley@gmail.com).
[East Ohio Camps...](#)

Resources



vanco

Beat the Summer Slump with Vanco's Fee-Free Promotion

While your church is busy making plans for a successful Lent and Easter season, summer will be here before we know it. With the joys of summer comes warmer weather, summer vacations and fewer members and visitors physically joining you for worship. But that doesn't have to mean a decrease in donations.

Set your church up for a strong summer of giving with the right online giving tools from Vanco. Inspire generosity and allow members and guests to give whenever and wherever the feeling of generosity is present. And get the added benefit of spring Vanco's fee-free promotion. Whether you're new to eGiving or transition from another provider, Vanco's easy-to-use giving platform, exceptional customer service and simple church management software integrations help generosity soar for the benefit of your church while saving church staff time.

Ready to let your great work inspire members to give? Sign up with Vanco before March 15, 2024 and you'll experience:

- Compelling **storytelling and visual** giving pages that bring your missions to life for anyone from first-time donors to established members.
- **Free one-on-one implementation support where we'll help you launch your online giving program with best practices used by the over 25,000 churches we work with.**
- **No processing fees on gifts, up to \$50,000 in total, received in May.**

Let Vanco help you transition from the Lenten season to a strong summer of giving. Request a demo today to learn more!

[Request a demo](#)

P.S. Feeling overwhelmed about creating your promotional materials to inspire generosity for Easter? Access our [free Easter Giving Kit](#) and gain access to free templates your church can use as is or personalize to match your church's branding.

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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