



Western Lakes District

News from The United Methodist Church

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

Volume 21 - April 26, 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 also. 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.



2024 West Ohio Annual Conference: God is Able

***Registration Ends May 1st**

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](#)

West Ohio Annual Conference to Collect Mission Items

The West Ohio Conference will collect items for Midwest Mission during the 2024 Conference. These life-changing items will go to people in need, both globally and locally.

Join us in making an impact from right here in West Ohio! Home Care Kits, Personal Dignity Kits, and other items will be accepted. Click [here](#) for a list of items.

The Midwest Mission Truck drive-through drop off will be located across from the Capital Center at Capital University along E. Mound Street on Thursday, May 30 from 7:30 am - 5:30 pm and Friday, May 31 from 8:00 am - 1:30 pm

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.

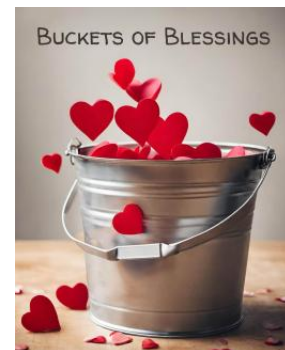
Clergy Spouse Brunch set for May 31

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

Drivers License Clinic

APRIL
30TH
10 - 2 PM

REINSTATE YOUR LICENSE
OR LEARN HOW!

High Street United
Methodist Church
230 E High St,
Springfield, OH

**Has Your License Been Suspended by the BMV?
Or Due to Unpaid Child Support in Clark County?
Let Us Help at our Drivers License Clinic**

The Ohio BMV will be on site to help you learn how to reinstate your suspended license.

Clark County Child Support will reinstate suspended licenses for community members with open Clark County CSEA cases that are employed or agree to work with OMJ or Clark County Dept of Reentry for employment support.

Take this opportunity to clear up any misunderstandings and get back behind the wheel safely!

Questions: Contact us at 937-521-3860



West Ohio Conference Alford-Cantlin Fellows Doctor of Ministry Cohort at 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. 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.



Thank you, West Ohio!

Where there's a need, there's a way to respond. Thanks to the generosity of West Ohioans, \$15,000 has been raised to provide a roof over seven classrooms for preschool and primary school students in Tanzania.

"Once again, West Ohio has responded generously. Tanzanian children can now focus on learning about Jesus

Christ and academics in this United Methodist school. Thank you, West Ohio," said Bishop Gregory V. Palmer.

Churches Receive VBS Mini-Grants

Fifteen churches across West Ohio received help with their upcoming VBS programs from the United Methodist Foundation of West Ohio. Thanks to the generosity of a Foundation donor, \$5750 was provided for VBS programs in this year's grant cycle.

Previous support was limited to the former Capitol Area Districts but was recently expanded at the discretion of the donor.

"We're so excited to be able to support so many programs," said Maddy DeWitt, Donor Relations Manager for the Foundation. "59 churches applied – which is incredible! And although we don't have enough funding to support them all, we were able to provide funding to churches in every district this year."

Funds were provided by Ketha Robbins, who established the Clara's Kiddies/Jesse's Vine Endowment with the Foundation in 2017 to support VBS programs in honor of her grandmother and great-grandfather who encouraged her faith. To Ketha, this is what made, and continues to make, VBS so special. In her words, "It is a bookend. It is the start of what a person's spiritual life can become."

Congratulations to the following churches:

Clifton UMC on behalf of the Grace and Possibilities Circuit (Great Miami River District)

New Paris - St Paul UMC (Great Miami River District)

South Perry UMC (Hocking River District)

Canaanville Stewart UMC (Hocking River District)

Hopewell UMC (Hocking River District)

Gilboa UMC and Pandora UMC Charge (Maumee River District)

Edgerton UMC (Maumee River District)

Hilliard UMC (Olentangy River District)

Smith Chapel UMC (Olentangy River District)

Iglesia Hispana St. Marks (Olentangy River District)

Urbana UMC (Western Lakes District)

West Jefferson UMC (Western Lakes District)

Ada UMC (Western Lakes District)

Rushsylvania UMC (Western Lakes District)

Five Points UMC (Scioto River District)

For more information or to receive notification of next year's grant cycle, please contact Maddy DeWitt at mdewitt@wocumc.org.

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

[Rev. Beverly Avers](#)

[Mrs. Marjorie Uth](#)

[Rev. Howard Preston](#)

[Rev. Gene Well](#)

Events

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.

Basic & Recert ERT Classes to be offered May 11 in Plain City

UMCOR's Early Response Team (ERT) Basic class will be offered on Saturday, May 11, 8:00 am-4:00 pm 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. East Ohio Conference members are also welcome! 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-jerome-umc>.



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 OCCRRA 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 imoore@wocumc.org.

Resources

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

[Unsubscribe miamivalley@wocumc.org](mailto:miamivalley@wocumc.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by cortney@westernlakesdistrict.ccsend.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!