



Western Lakes District

News from The United Methodist Church

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Volume 24 - June 7, 2024

WLD Important Information

Annual Reporting

Reminder that the Fund Balance Report, Trustee Legal & Property, Parsonage Inspection, Clergy Self-Assessment and SPRC Assessments were due June 1st. The end of year reports (formerly EZRA) was due April 15th.

2024 West Ohio Annual Conference Summary

The 55th session of the West Ohio Annual Conference was held May 28-June 1 on the campus of Capital University in Bexley, Ohio. Bishop Gregory V. Palmer presided over the conference under the theme, "God is Able," drawing inspiration from Ephesians 3:20-21.



Addressing the 1100 members of the conference, Bishop Palmer said, "When the flunk is on you, God is able. When you think you've hit it out of the park, God is able. When you are ready to hang it up, remember God is able."

Worship included powerful preaching from Bishop Palmer, Rev. Jessica...

[Read More](#)



Congratulation to this year's retirees.

From the WLD:

Del Bonar, Rebecca Wingo-Bowling, Leland Brehm, Bill Davis, Julie Fairchild, Pam Hitchcock, Timothy Lehman, Greg Wack, and Ken Woode. We thank you for your many years serving in ministry.

Commissioning of Provisional Elders

Congratulations to Jordan McKenzie and David Richey who were commissioned as Provisional Elders.



Commissioning of Provisional Members

Congratulations to Cynthia Atwater and Pamela Connolly who were commissioned as Provisional Members.



One Matters Award

Congratulations to Pastor April Phillips of the Rushsylvania United Methodist Church and Zanesfield United Methodist Church. Recipient of the One Matters Award for the Western Lakes District.

The One Matters Award was created by Discipleship Ministries to honor those churches that experienced an increase in the number of professions of faith and baptisms from zero through a renewed focus on discipleship.



Butler Honored With The Harry Denman Evangelism Award

The Harry Denman Evangelism Award honors United Methodist whose ministry of evangelism—expressed in word, sign, and deed—brings people into a life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ.

Congratulations to Karla Butler, member of Rockford United Methodist Church

NEED TO REVITALIZE YOUR CHURCH?

DISCOVER FX

<https://www.westohioumc.org/discover-fx>



JUL 17	JUL 18	JUL 23	AUG 20	AUG 24	AUG 29	SEPT 3
Western Lakes District	Olentangy River District	Maumee River District	Great Miami River District	Scioto River District	Hocking River District	Western Lakes & Maumee River Districts
First UMC First Place Christian Center 16 W Franklin St. Troy	Maize Manor UMC / Urban Farm Church 3901 Maize Rd Columbus	First UMC 1526 E Wooster Bowling Green	Christ UMC 700 S. Marshall Rd Middletown	Walnut Street UMC 16 S. Walnut St Chillicothe	First UMC 2 S College St Athens	First UMC 301 N Main St Ada
9:30am — 2:30pm	9:30am — 2:30pm	9:30am — 2:30pm	9:30am — 2:30pm	9:30am — 2:30pm	9:30am — 2:30pm	9:30am — 2:30pm

WHAT IS IN IT FOR ME?

- Go outside the norm and build relationships with those in your community.
- It's church—in a new way.
- Be immersed in what Fresh Expressions are and what it can do to revitalize your church.



Discover FX is coming to the Western Lakes District! You've heard about Fresh Expressions popping up all across West Ohio. Here is your chance to explore how fresh expressions could revitalize your church and reach people in your community. Is God stirring something new within you? Fresh Expressions are an effective way to build relationships, serve the people within your context and community, and revitalize your church.

Fresh Expressions are about going outside of the norm, going beyond the typical boundaries of ordinary church to build human community with and among people with whom the church has forgotten, ignored, marginalized, or dismissed.

Discover FX is a 5-hour immersion into what Fresh Expressions are and how to launch your own expression of church. After the training, optional coaching sessions will be available via zoom to walk with you through launching a fresh expression of church.

Discover what FX can do for your church in a convenient location in your district and learn from your colleagues who are already doing Fresh Expressions in your region. Training is from 9:30am - 2:30pm and lunch is included.

July 17 | Wednesday | WLD | Troy First UMC, First Place Christian Center | 16 W Franklin St, Troy, OH 45373 [Register Here](#)

Sept 3 | Tuesday | WLD & MRD | Ada First UMC | 301 N. Main St, Ada, OH 45810 [Register Here](#)

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.

Avoid a Higher HealthFlex Deductible in 2025

Are you covered by the HealthFlex active (non-retired) healthcare program? If so, you will want to complete the Health Check Questionnaire by August 31 to avoid a higher plan deductible in 2025.

To get started, join VIRGIN PULSE by [clicking here](#). This is a quick, easy, and confidential way to complete the Health Check Questionnaire and boost your overall well-being.

Once you're in, you'll gain access to a range of wellness resources, including the opportunity to:

- Earn up to \$410 per year by participating in HealthFlex well-being programs.
 - \$100 by taking your annual/Biometric Exam with Quest Blueprint for Wellness Screening.
 - 8 free counseling sessions per concern through the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) with Optum.
 - Free Telemedicine and Behavioral Health Service offered by MDLive.
 - Access to Chronic Disease Prevention and Diabetes Management offered by Omada.
 - Discounts on Weight Watchers membership.
-

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

Debra Sue “Deb” Berry passed away peacefully June 4, 2024 in her home. A beloved and cherished member of the community, she dedicated 25 years of her life serving as a beacon of faith and hope.

Debra was born November 27, 1956 in Norwalk OH to the late Theodore and Mildred (Deitrick) Kearney. She was also preceded in death by her brother Theodore Kearney, sister Donna Feichtner, brothers-in-law John Feichtner and Mike Berry, as well as a nephew Owen Feichtner.

Debra went on to the Duke Seminary receiving a pastoral degree and would ultimately become an Associate Pastor through the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church in 2010. From 1999-2010, she passionately preached at Holgate Methodist Church, leaving an unforgettable mark on all who had the privilege to hear her. Alongside her duties, in recent years, she shared her wisdom and kindness as a part time pastor and a friend to all in the congregation at Rhinehart United Methodist Church.

Prior to her passing, Pastor Deb was appointed to start as pastor at LaRue United Methodist Church, where her guidance touched countless lives. Debra served as the church secretary, bringing her dedication and organizational skills to the community she loved.

Deb is survived by her husband, Richard (Rick) Berry, and they were married September 16, 1978 in Columbia, SC after just 3 months of knowing one another. This September would've been 46 years of marriage. Also surviving is their son, Tony (Amanda Harvey) Berry of LaRue; a granddaughter, Korryn Berry of LaRue; a grandson, Coltin Berry of St. Paul, MN; sisters-in-law Sharon Kearney and Sokim Berry; and a cousin and lifelong friend Luana (John) Mathew. Last but not least, she is survived by her 3 dogs and 2 cats whom she and Rick shared together.

Funeral Services will be held Monday June 10, 2024 at 11:00 am at the LaRue United Methodist Church, pastor Mike Raypholtz will officiate, burial will follow in the LaRue Cemetery. Friends may call Sunday from 2-4 pm at the Stofcheck-Ballinger Funeral Home in LaRue.

Events

Upcoming Lay Servant Ministries Classes

Lay Pastoral Care Giving: August 18, 20, 22, 25, 27 from 6:30-8:30pm on Zoom only. Sponsored by the Great Miami River District. Registration coming soon.

United Methodist Polity: Friday, August 23 from 6-8pm (Zoom) & Saturday, August 24 from 9am-5pm (either in person at the Hocking River District office or by Zoom). Registration coming soon.

Public Prayer: September 8, 10, 11, 15, 17 from 6:30-8:30pm on Zoom only. Sponsored by the Great Miami River District. Registration coming soon.

Basic Course Friday, October 11 from 6-8pm (Zoom) & Saturday, October 12 from 9am-5pm (either in person at the Hocking River District office or by Zoom). Registration coming soon.

Remember, even if you have completed the Basic Course and all of the Core Courses, you need to take an Advanced Course every 3 years as part of maintaining your certification.

* * *

Introduction to Servant Lay Ministry - LSM Basic Course

Instructors: Sandra Combs and Jack Hott

This course is foundational for all courses in Lay Servant Ministries. Participants are encouraged to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended and to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in their discipleship. This Basic Course is the first step for those seeking certification as Lay Servants.

Dates/Times: TWO options for taking the class: In-person OR ZOOM
6:30-8:30 PM for each session: July 23, 25, 28, 30, 2024 and August 1, 2024

(In-person) location: 6400 Inner Blessing Way Centerville, OH 45459

Cost: \$30.00

~OR~

Zoom Cost: \$15.00

Contact: Lesley Moore - lmoore@wocumc.org - 567-221-7103 or Glen Lash - grlash1015@gmail.com

Students will need to purchase their own text:

Lay Servant Ministries, Basic Course Participant's Book, Sandy Jackson with Brian Jackson, available at Amazon.com, Cokesbury.com, and store.upperroom.org.

[Flyer](#) - for more information

* * *

Embracing Personal Prayer

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Alice Kay Lovelace

Prayer is a relationship with God. Prayer grows and matures over time. This course combines scriptural teaching and personal experience that will help you overcome obstacles to intimacy with God. This course is divided into four sessions which will help you encounter God in new and different ways.



This course will be offered on Zoom at 5:00 - 7:30 pm EDT on Tuesdays for 4 consecutive weeks: July 16, July 23, July 30, and August 6, 2024

Zoom Cost: \$15

Book required: *Lord, Teach us to Pray* by Margie Burger. Purchase book prior to class - available on Amazon.

Instructor: The Rev. Dr. Alice Kay Lovelace, OS�, is a retired clergy Elder in the West Ohio Conference currently serving New Jasper United Methodist Church. She enjoys companioning others in their spiritual life, and is particularly fond of cats.

Event Sponsored By Western Lakes District

Contact Lesley Moore at lmoore@wocum.org

[Register Now!](#)

Deconsecration Services Set for Camps

Former campers, employees, camp counselors, and supporters of Camps Widewater and Otterbein are encouraged to attend deconsecration services this summer. The services are set for Saturday, June 15, 2pm at Camp Widewater and Sunday, June 16, 4pm at Camp Otterbein.



Lakeside Institute July 21-27, 2024

Lakeside Institute is 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!

Through daily messages, small group conversations, large & small group activities, devotionals and worship opportunities, each youth is encouraged to develop

their individual relationship with Christ. Supported by adult volunteers, the camp Chaplain and their peers, Lakeside Institute provides a place for them to explore their personal faith beliefs, deepen their understanding of God's work in the world, ask questions, and prepare for a lifelong journey of faith.

The theme for camp this summer 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.

While Lakeside Institute runs through East Ohio Conference, there is a long history of involvement from West Ohio as well. Hilliard UMC has several leaders on staff, including one of the deans (April Andrick) and this year's chaplain (Rev. April Blaine). The leadership works to create an accommodating and inclusive environment for all young people, including LGBTQIA+ youth.

Campers stay in Wo-Ho-Mis and nearby cabins on the grounds of Lakeside. Youth are welcome to come on their own, or with others from their church. Come and join the fun at Lakeside Institute this summer!

Promo Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JjMNP4glseE>

Register Here: <https://lakesideinstitute.wordpress.com/register/>

Save the Date for CLM Retreat in August

Save the Date for the Certified Lay Ministry Academy Retreat, August 8-10, 2024, at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO). More information coming soon!

Resources

Children's Curriculum Available from United Women in Faith

As part of United Women in Faith's Mission u, a children's curriculum is available for local churches to use anytime throughout the year. "Me in the Kin-dom" by Kathy Cook helps children explore the kin-dom of God through the lens of the Lord's Prayer. Children will experience how they are unique members of God's kin-dom and learn they are also part of a larger community that welcomes all of God's children. Curriculum can be ordered by [clicking here](#). Cost is \$14.99.

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 US

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