



# Western Lakes District

*News from The United Methodist Church*

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## WLD Important Information Volume 29 - August 16, 2024

### Jots From Jim...

Today I turn 60. For all of those who celebrated their birthdays with me on Sunday mornings you know what I say, "This is a big one." On one hand I don't like turning 60. But then I think of the alternative and I guess it isn't all bad. 60 sounds old. But so did 50, 40, and 30. If I make it to 100 like my Grandma then I need to focus and get ready for the next 40. Grandma would always tell me, "Getting old is not easy."

I went thru my "shoebox" this morning. We each have a shoebox of our pictures that capture the moments over the years. I wanted to post a picture of the day I was born but apparently my two older sisters must have used up all the film that day because I don't have such a picture. But this photo captures innocence, happiness, and a little bit of baby charm. I have been pondering this morning what I must have been thinking when I was so tiny. The last 60 years would have been beyond imagination for me in this picture. The joys and tragedies and the ups and the downs would have paralyzed me with fear. I assume I must have been thinking about who is going to get my bottle, hold me in their arms, and rattle a toy for my amusement.



Fast forward 60 years and much different things are upon my mind today. I could rattle off several issues that are "big ones". They are ugly and complicated. Or, I could set them aside and focus on the former things. My bottle today will not be a liquor bottle but probably a Mexican restaurant with chips and salsa, two tacos, and unsweetened iced tea. I won't be held in somebody's arms but will focus my arms in holding others both human and canine. My toy rattle will be a saw as I work on finishing our basement.

But one thing that has not changed over 60 years is the image of God placed upon my life. In the image of God we are created and then set loose to reflect that image of God in all we do. Some days I have gotten it right. Other days I have failed miserably. So maybe birthdays are calibration moments when we reset our thinking and priorities. My hope for the next 40 years is that I will continue to find ways to make sure everyone has a bottle to drink from and food to eat. For the next 40 years I want to continue to make sure the embrace of my arms conveys the compassion of God. And in regards to toys? May I eventually learn that the one with the most toys does not win in the end.

Thank you for the part that you have played in my 60 years. The joy and memory you have contributed to this little kid's journey around the world in the name of Jesus has been part of God's plan for my life. Thank you, Lord, for the gift of bearing the image of God and countless friends who make it a joy to travel thru life.

## Installation Service For Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

Please join us as we welcome Bishop Hee-Soo Jung and his spouse, Rev. Im-Hyon, to the West Ohio Annual Conference at his installation service on October 12 at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1581 Cambridge Blvd, Columbus. The service will begin at 4:00 pm. Bishop Hee-Soo Jung has been assigned to The Ohio Episcopal Area, which includes the East and West Ohio Conferences. His assignment will begin September 1, 2024.



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## 2025 Go Grants

Need help brainstorming your Go Grant ideas? Have questions about your Go Grant ideas? Join us for a WhiteBoard Zoom sessions over your lunch hour at one of the following dates:

Wednesdays at noon. Click on the date to register:

[8.21.24](#) | [8.28.24](#) | [9.4.24](#)

Feel free to check out our [Q&A page](#). We offer answers to our most frequently asked questions about Go Grants.



For a list of the ideas, please click [here](#) to see the 2024 Go Grant recipients.

**2025 Go Grant Applications go live on September 1, 2024 and are due in by October 15, 2024!**

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## Engage with UMC Leaders in Upcoming Well-Being Webinars

Wespath and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) are partnering together to engage leaders and changemakers in the UMC to address systemic issues affecting clergy well-being.

This fall, you are invited to three webinars on clergy well-being. Learn more about each of the five dimensions of well-being, the current state of each dimension based on the 2023 Clergy Well-Being Survey results and various resources available to you.

Clergy input on well-being is essential. Register now for any or all of these sessions:

- September 19, 1-2pm Central – Financial Well-Being [Register Now](#)
- October 24, 1-2pm Central – Physical and Emotional Well-Being [Register Now](#)
- November 7, 1-2pm Central – Spiritual and Social Well-Being [Register Now](#)

### ***Your Feedback is Important***

How does the UMC impact clergy well-being? What steps could we take to create a work environment more conducive to clergy well-being? [Complete this short form](#) to share how the church can be more supportive of clergy well-being.

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## It's Stewardship Season!

With mid-August upon us, many pastors and church leaders are beginning to think about annual stewardship campaigns. Many are finding themselves in the same place they were last year: unsure what to do, unsure what to say, and generally feeling like it's time for the annual doctor's checkup: *everyone knows it's good for them, but no one wants to go!*

Don't be that church! The United Methodist Foundation of West Ohio is YOUR go-to resource for stewardship education information. If you need help with this year's

campaign, give us a call and we will discuss it with you.

If you just want to get through this year but know that changes are needed, our program, ***Generosity Abounds!*** is free to any church to use. It is NOT a plug and play one-size fits all annual campaign package. It's a step-by-step guide to help you increase discipleship and engagement and start on a path to creating a culture of generosity in your church. ***The best time to start this program is about a year in advance of when you want to start seeing results.*** So start now for next year! We can walk you through it or you can do it on your own. Find out more at <https://umfwestohio.org/services-for-churches/stewardship-education-resources/> or give us a call.

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## Job Posting

First United Methodist Church of Van Wert, Ohio is hiring an Administrative Assistant for the church office. Skills required include proficiency in MS Office/Google Suite and office equipment, plus competency in keeping accurate records of church data. This is a ministry position. We're looking for someone with a heart for serving God's people and confidence working with others to create a welcoming environment. Catch a vision of First United Methodist by visiting our website at [www.vanwertfirst.net](http://www.vanwertfirst.net). You can also find this position description at our website. To explore this part-time opportunity, send your cover letter and resume to the attention of Pastor Christian Taylor at [christian.taylor@vanwertfirst.net](mailto:christian.taylor@vanwertfirst.net).

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## Foundation Offering Townhall with Investment Manager

The Foundation will be offering a virtual town hall with our partners at Wespath Institutional Investments on August 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM. Foundation staff and Wespath representatives will delve into the current state of the markets, investment performance, and answer questions about endowment management. The



Foundation encourages those with assets invested through the Foundation to attend, as well as those who are interested in potentially investing with the Foundation. To access the zoom link, click here: [Join Zoom Meeting](#).

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## New Clergy Financial Wellness Resource Guide

Financial issues can be a serious problem for clergy at all phases of their ministry and can adversely impact their effectiveness, health, and spiritual well-being. The United Methodist Foundation of West Ohio has partnered with the WOC Office of Ministry, the Office of Benefits & HR, Communications and Wespath to create a new resource guide that is meant to be a comprehensive source of information on the many resources available to assist clergy with their financial health. The guide can be accessed online [here](#) or can be requested from the Foundation or District offices.

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## Healthy Boundaries/Clergy Sexual Ethics/Safer Sanctuaries Essential Trainings

On behalf of the Episcopal Office and the Board of Ordained Ministry, we are pleased to invite you to an essential training event designed for both lay staff and clergy. These sessions aim to reinforce our commitment to maintaining safe and respectful environments within our communities. We encourage you to invite one key lay staff person to attend the Safer Sanctuaries Training with you for the afternoon session. Please read this letter in its entirety as training locations and registration information are listed below.

To facilitate this, please register for your preferred training event and complete the "Permission to Release Information" form by August 15, 2024, which can be found here: [Background Check Form](#). The required training is to be fully completed by November 21, 2024.

### Scheduled Dates and Locations:

- October 17, 2024: Ginghamburg Church - Hosted by Pastor Dennis Miller [Register Here](#)
- October 18, 2024: Christ Church - Hosted by Pastor Brian Law [Register Here](#)
- October 19, 2024: Athens First UMC – Hosted by Pastors Robbie Scott and Victoria Burgoon [Register Here](#)
- October 22, 2024: Chillicothe Trinity Church - Hosted by Pastor Wes Souders [Register Here](#)
- October 23, 2024: Lancaster First Church - Hosted by Pastor Nikki Baker [Register Here](#)
- October 24, 2024: Epworth Church - Hosted by Pastor Cecil Thompson [Register Here](#)
- October 29, 2024: Christ Church (Makeup Date) - Hosted by Pastor F. Willis Johnson [Register Here](#)
- November 1: Digital training becomes available. Those who register for this option will be able to complete the training online beginning November 1. [Register Here](#)

### Program Schedule for Each Location:

- **Gathering (8:30 AM – 9:00 AM)**
- **Morning Session (9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon): Healthy Boundaries and Clergy Sexual Ethics**
- **Lunch: Laity join for the meal with Clergy and stay for the afternoon session**
- **Afternoon Session (1:00 PM - 4:00 PM): Safe Sanctuaries**

### Training Costs for Clergy, Certified Lay Ministers, and Lay Pulpit Supply:

- **Healthy Boundaries/Clergy Sexual Ethics**
  - Background Check: \$75.00 (required for Healthy Boundaries and Clergy Sexual Ethics)
  - Materials: \$10.00 per participant (required for both trainings)
  - Lunch: \$15.00 per participant
- **Safer Sanctuaries: Lay person registration**
  - Lunch: \$15.00 per participant

For questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Susan Thomas ([stthomas@wocumc.org](mailto:stthomas@wocumc.org)) or Rev. Donnetta Peaks ([dpeaks@wocumc.org](mailto:dpeaks@wocumc.org)).

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### All In Community: Building Bridges

In August at All In Community's Ministry Monday information session, Reba Collins will be sharing a SNEAK PEEK of what will be available at this year's Building Bridges of Opportunity Community Experience: Bridging Pathways to Hope.



The purpose of the Community Experience is to convene Ohio's reentry community to provide high quality reentry education, emerging Ohio reintegration efforts, reintegration best practices, network opportunities, environments for sharing ideas, and advocacy opportunities for systemic reform.

Join Reba and others on Monday, August 26, beginning at 7:00pm on ZOOM.

ADVANCED REGISTRATION REQUIRED at <https://qrco.de/bfF6or>

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](mailto:jami.nathan.22@gmail.com)) or by phone (419-591-9717).



Worship and music both aid in self-regulation/healing and each holds value individually and collectively. In 2023, the National Institute on Health reported that more than 1 in 5 adults live with mental illness. This is heavily attributed to the variety of traumatic experiences one has endured in a lifetime. However, there is an antidote readily available to assist. Music has been intricately woven into society's fabric, and held individuals, entities, and movements together for more than two centuries. From ancient medical practices to modern day science, music has been consulted for its' vast healing properties. This session offers participants the chance to unpack the gift known as music while identifying its' neurological impact. Additionally, participants will learn how to incorporate trauma-informed worship practices within their respective churches to assist congregants navigating challenging times. Lastly, participants will have the opportunity to depart with 2-3 practical applications that promote positive emotional health and well-being. Come join Dr. Camisha Chambers for this invigorating – and timely - conversation designed to build and maintain thriving congregations! There are two different options to attend Registration details are below.

Time: 11:30AM-1PM

Cost: Free

Facilitator: Rev. Dr. Camisha Chambers, All In Community Nurturing Communities Coordinator

Registration Links:

August 21: [Register Here](#)

August 28: [Register Here](#)

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## All In Community - Fall Offerings

Please see the attached flyers for information on events that the All in Community Team will be hosting this fall.

[Lunch, Learn & Live Well Workshops](#)

[Resilience Clergy Retreats](#)

[Trauma Resilience Worship Arts Workshops](#)

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## Avoid a Higher HealthFlex Deductible in 2025

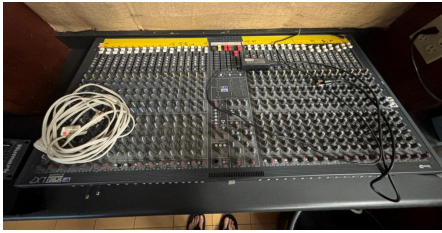
Are you covered by the HealthFlex active (non-retired) healthcare program? If so, you will want to complete the Health Check Questionnaire by August 31 to avoid a higher plan deductible in 2025.

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.

## Sound Boards For Discounted Sale



Urbana UMC has two sound boards that they are selling for a discounted price. Reach out to Macie at [uumcfamilyministry@gmail.com](mailto:uumcfamilyministry@gmail.com) for more information.



## The New Zenler Platform

The West Ohio Conference provides an on-demand learning platform for local church leaders to engage in training to help them lead successfully. The New Zenler platform includes courses on pastoral transitions and *Leadership Labs* for justice involved ministries.

**LEARN MORE**

## Do You Have Students Heading To College Soon?

It is almost Christmas in July which means it is almost time to head back to school. Your high school students are probably conditioning for fall sports and activities while your college students are getting dorm supplies ready.



What you may not realize is there are several campus ministries connected to West Ohio. To help connect your college students, we wanted to make sure you have contact information for ministers who provide spiritual support on college campuses within West Ohio and local congregations with robust young adult ministries in areas where your students may be headed. We encourage you to print this list or bookmark the [College Connections Blog Post](#) in order to share with students headed out for college in a few weeks. Each of the leaders listed would love to connect with students before they even hit campus to help them acclimate to the area, have a listening ear before they arrive, and begin to build community with students already present.

### College Campus Ministries Across West Ohio Bowling Green University-Bowling Green, Ohio

United Methodist Student Organization-Rev. Andrea Curry ([revandrea Curry@gmail.com](mailto:revandrea Curry@gmail.com))

### Bluffton University-Bluffton, Ohio

Refuge 461-Rev. Marcella Ciccotelli ([umcpastormarcella@gmail.com](mailto:umcpastormarcella@gmail.com))

### Central State University-Wilberforce, Ohio

Interfaith Ministry-Rev. Kima Cunningham ([kima@mikeandkima.org](mailto:kima@mikeandkima.org))

### Miami University-Miami, Ohio

Wesley-Rev. Katie Steele ([katie@wesleyuc.org](mailto:katie@wesleyuc.org))

### Ohio Northern University-Ada, Ohio

Campus Chaplain-Rev. David MacDonald ([d-macdonald@onu.edu](mailto:d-macdonald@onu.edu))

### The Ohio State University-Columbus, Ohio

Jacob's Porch-Sammi Shivener ([sammib929@gmail.com](mailto:sammib929@gmail.com))

Short North OSU-Rev. Hannah VanMeter ([hvanmeter@shortnorthchurch.org](mailto:hvanmeter@shortnorthchurch.org))

**Ohio University-Athens, Ohio**

Impact-Linsay Hinze ([linsayhinze@gmail.com](mailto:linsayhinze@gmail.com))

Athens First-Rev. Lucy Crawford ([lucy@firstumc.org](mailto:lucy@firstumc.org))

**Ohio Wesleyan University-Delaware, Ohio**

Campus Chaplain-Dr. Chad Johns ([cejohns@owu.edu](mailto:cejohns@owu.edu))

**Otterbein University-Westerville, Ohio**

Faith & Spiritual Life Coordinator-Rev. Lucy Kelly ([associate@chmaster.org](mailto:associate@chmaster.org))

**University of Toledo-Toledo, Ohio**

Campus Ministry-Rev. Amy Remaklus ([tcexecudivedirector@gmail.com](mailto:tcexecudivedirector@gmail.com))

**University of Cincinnati**

Wesley Foundation-Rev. Becky Schofield-Motter ([director@weselyuc.org](mailto:director@weselyuc.org))

Wesley Foundation-Jeff Snyder ([jeffsnnyder@wesleyuc.org](mailto:jeffsnnyder@wesleyuc.org))

**Xavier University-Cincinnati, Ohio**

Campus Ministries-Rev. Peter Matthews ([matthewsp2@xavier.edu](mailto:matthewsp2@xavier.edu))

**Columbus, Ohio Area Young Adult/College-Age Ministries**

King Ave UMC-Gwen DeRosa ([Gwendolyn.derosa@gmail.com](mailto:Gwendolyn.derosa@gmail.com))

Jerome UMC-Tara Moore ([tara.moore@jeromechurch.org](mailto:tara.moore@jeromechurch.org))

Bethel International UMC-Rev. Glenn Schwerdtfeger ([pastorglenn@mybethel.org](mailto:pastorglenn@mybethel.org))

Columbus Korean UMC-Rev. Kim Sun-young ([Sykc31@gmail.com](mailto:Sykc31@gmail.com))

**Cincinnati, Ohio Area Young Adult/College-Age Ministries**

Shiloh UMC-Nathan Cheney ([ncheney@shilohumc.org](mailto:ncheney@shilohumc.org))

We are certain this is not an exhaustive list. If you have a college campus ministry or robust young adult ministry and would like to be added to this list, please contact Director of Camps, Retreats, and Next Gen Engagement Rev. Ann Marie Carley ([amcarley@wocumc.org](mailto:amcarley@wocumc.org)).

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NEED TO REVITALIZE YOUR CHURCH?

# DISCOVER FX

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



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

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

## 2024-2025 Appointments



### 2024 Appointments

The list of pastoral appointments beginning January 1, 2024, can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

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





Try email marketing for free today!