



# Western Lakes District

*News from The United Methodist Church*

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## WLD Important Information Volume 28 - August 2, 2024

### Jots From Jim...

It had been two years since I had returned to Nicaragua in Central America. Much had changed yet other things had not. Whether it be in the second poorest country in the western hemisphere like Nicaragua or in the land of the free and of great prosperity like the USA, poverty is cruel and a daily reality for so many. One of the things that is so harsh is hunger. Most of us have not been chronically hungry. I believe food brings security and stability to the core of our humanity.



Recently I had the opportunity to preach at Ginghamburg. During the sermon the worship team helped me share the Disney tune "It's a Small World." There is just one moon. There is just one sun. And a smile means friendship to everyone. Even though mountains are high, and oceans divide, it's a small, small world. And in my opinion the world is too small for poverty to rip apart the daily living of anyone's life.

A dear friend of mine in Nicaragua told me, "Jim, there is a lot of things we struggle with living in this country. But when you have rice and beans in your house you feel like it is going to be OK." Not shrimp, not steak, not potato chips and candy, but the simplicity of rice and beans.

Another dear friend in Cuba told me, "Jim, when you bring rice and beans God has answered our prayer for that day. Don't let other people discourage you by telling you it makes no long-term difference. God used you today. We have faith that God will provide someone for tomorrow. But today, God used you."

A missionary once explained to me her frustration when people told her that she should teach people how to fish because that would empower someone to eat for a lifetime. She said, "That only works if there are fish in the pond. I am working with people whose pond is empty and there are no fish to catch."

The logistics of loading, transporting, and distributing 1,300 pound of rice and beans in less than 24 hours was not easy. But I like to say, "If it was easy, someone else would have already done it." And the only way it is possible is thru the generosity of many friends who believe the world is just too small for poverty to win.

I could post a picture here of the strong men who loaded the rice and beans. I could post the picture of the donors who financed the rice and beans. I could pose for a picture with the rice and beans. But I chose to post a picture that captures the reality of rice and beans. Everything is going to be OK today, little friends. It's a small, small world. And we have a big, big God who orchestrates compassion amongst His people.

## 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:

[8.14.24](#) | [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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## 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.

Our goal is to better prepare our leaders for ministry and to comply with West Ohio Conference policies to serve our congregations and communities effectively. Consequently, all Clergy under appointment, including those in Extension Ministries, Lay Pulpit Supply, and all Certified Lay Ministers within the West Ohio Conference, are now required to undergo a comprehensive background check every four years. Clergy on Leave of Absence are also encouraged to participate in the training and background check updates as they are able.

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)).

Thank you for your attention and commitment to maintaining safe and respectful environments within our ministry settings.

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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).

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## Nurturing Communities Fall '24

All In Community Lunch, Learn, & Live Well Workshops  
August 21 & 28, On Zoom

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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## Mustard Seed Migration Grants

Every day, thousands of people flee their homes in search of a better life for their families. Global Ministries and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) provide support for refugees and migrants around the world, seeking to fulfill the biblical mandate to “love thy neighbor” and “welcome the stranger.”



The Mustard Seed Migration Grant program is designed to encourage local United Methodist churches to engage in ministry to migrants in their midst. UMCOR will award grants of \$2,000 to up to 100 United Methodist local churches in the U.S. to engage in new, one-time community-based service projects and ministries focused on migrants and refugees. The goal of this program is to nurture a deeper understanding and care for the most vulnerable in our communities.

[Learn more/apply here](#)

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## Lay Ministry Academy

The Certified Lay Ministry Academy team seeks to make it possible for as many people as possible to attend the Academy. If you are still hearing the voice of God calling you to do more, reach out to us to discuss your next steps in ministry. As a result, we have decided to push the Retreat originally planned for early August to a time in early 2025.

Classes begin September 23<sup>rd</sup> through our on-line partner at [Beadisciple.com](#)

Kathy Moore- [Kathymoore@wocumc.org](mailto:Kathymoore@wocumc.org)

Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministry

Barb Lee-**Western Lakes**

[bjcwapak@bright.net](mailto:bjcwapak@bright.net)

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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

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.

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## Lay Servant 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. [Register](#)

**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). [Register](#)



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## 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>



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.

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

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

**Jerry Sutton**, 77, passed away Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at Adams Lane Care Center.

He was born May 14, 1947, to the late Ned and Exia Sutton in Goshen, New York. He attended Warwick High School in Warwick, NY. He met his future wife, Elsie Bonnema at a friend's house party in 1962.

Jerry and Elsie were married on March 15, 1969 in Warwick, NY. Together they started their journey of love, faith, and family. They raised their three children in Woodstock, NY. This was home for many years. Their second love and the anchor of the family for over 40 years was spending family vacations at Lake George, NY. Family for Jerry and Elsie included close and dearly loved friends.

In 1993, Jerry and Elsie joined Coburn United Methodist Church. He was involved with youth groups and Sunday school. Jerry also attended the Newark Walk to Emmaus #3 which had a profound impact on his path to becoming a pastor. The Emmaus community

was very near and dear to his ministry and service. He enjoyed leading many Emmaus teams and sharing the love of Christ.

Jerry had a passion for serving. He attended the United Methodist Church Seminary in Westerville on weekends and became a licensed local Pastor with the United Methodist Church. He served as a Pastor at Roseville United Methodist Church for 15 years, and was very involved with the youth groups.

Jerry was a runner. It was a passion and provided him comfort and release. He loved to be on the road. Jerry ran with endurance and determination to complete multiple marathons. His final race was completed as he crossed the ultimate finish line, straight into the arms of Jesus.

In addition to his wife, Elsie Bonnema Sutton; he is survived by his son Christopher (Kelli) Sutton; two daughters: Erika (John) Brennan and Kerri (Jay) Buchholz; grandchildren: Paige Sutton, Jack Sutton, Brooke Sutton, Xioleynis Sutton, Luis Sutton, Shane Brennan and Tommy Brennan; a sister Betty Lou Demarest; niece Lisa Fitzgerald; and a nephew Wayne Demarest.

Memorial contributions may be made to Genesis Hospice, 713 Forest Ave., Zanesville, Ohio 43701 or Coburn UMC Scholarship fund, 3616 Maple Ave., Zanesville, Ohio 43701.

Graveside services will be held at noon on Saturday, July 27, at Mattingly Settlement Cemetery with Chaplain Tim Patton officiating.

For the complete obituary or to send a note of condolence to the family, visit [www.snoufferfuneralhome.com](http://www.snoufferfuneralhome.com), find us on Facebook or call our locally owned caring staff at 740-450-8000.

## 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.

West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church | 32 Wesley Boulevard | Worthington, OH 43085 US

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