



Western Lakes District

News from The United Methodist Church

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WLD Important Information Volume 39-January 10, 2025

Jots From Jim...

You have to know who you are and where you are at as you navigate life. I got a pretty good handle on who I am, realizing there is much room for improvement. And in regards to where I am at? Well, there's room for improvement in that area too. Let me explain.



Last Fall I shopped at Macy's and upon checkout shared my email and phone number for some type of rewards program. As a result, I get multiple emails from Macy's every week if not every day. That is a fact. Hard stop. Period.

I went shopping at Macy's prior to Christmas and upon checkout was told I was not part of the rewards program. I argued politely, remembering who I am, and decided to fight the battle another day because of Christmas and the line of people behind me. Mercy.

This week I went shopping again because there is usually good deals at the beginning of January. I went to the checkout lady and once again was told my phone number and email are not in the system. I said repeatedly I know I am part of the rewards program because of the numerous emails I get from Macy's. I said, "Let me show you the emails." However, I had deleted them all. I said, "OK, let me sign up again" knowing as soon as she entered my phone number and email it would verify I am already part of the Macy's reward program.

In the meantime my wife is standing next to me listening to me trying to convince the checkout lady that I was part of the Macy's reward program. As I entered my phone number and email the system accepted it. It is impossible. I know I am part of Macy's. My wife finally spoke up and said, "Jim, you realize this is JC Penny and not Macy's."

Sometimes we forget where we are at for a variety of reasons. In the Bible I would make the case multiple people forgot where they were in the biblical narrative. As Adam and Eve hid in the bushes they thought they were at a place where God could not find them. The Israelites, wandering the desert without food and water, thought they were at a place of death and demanded a return to the slavery of Egypt. Yet we know Adam and Eve were at a place of conversation with God, learning how to go forward into a new reality, and recipients of God's mercy when they received clothes to cover their nakedness. The Israelites soon learned that their location in the desert was not a place of the death, but a place of a miraculous moment of manna from heaven that would sustain them as they continued the journey to the promised land.

As we begin a new year, are you certain you know where you are at? There are resolutions made on where we want to go. There are mission and vision statements made all of the time about where we are going as a church and/or denomination. But where are we right now?

I believe we are at a place of opportunity. I believe we are at a place where we have been showered with all we need by the grace of God. I believe we are at a place where we realize that God has brought us out of the past and God has no intentions of walking away from us. We are with God.

As we begin yet another year may we remember who we are and strive to be all we can be. We are in the palm of God's protecting and guiding hand. I believe God will position us accordingly to go forward. God will protect us from all harm. God will do what God has always done.

I once was lost but now am found. I thought I was in Macy's but found myself in JC Penny. Either way, when you see me in a \$250 pink jacket that I bought on sale for \$25 you will know the back story. I am dressed up and ready to go into the new year. I know who I am, I know where I am at, and I trusted God with where I will go. May it be so for you too.

Jim

East and West Ohio Conferences To Commemorate MLK Day on January 19th

The East and West Ohio Conferences of The United Methodist Church are coming together to honor the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a joint worship service on Sunday, January 19, 2025, at Garfield Memorial United Methodist Church in Pepper Pike. Themed "Living the Dream: Bold Faith, Hopeful Future," the event hosted by Bishop Hee-Soo Jung will focus on building Dr. King's vision of a beloved community rooted in justice, love, and hope.



The service, scheduled from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., will open with gathering music at 3:45 p.m. and feature retired Bishop Julius C. Trimble, General Secretary of the General Board of Church & Society of The United Methodist Church as the keynote speaker. Known for his commitment to justice and reconciliation, Bishop Trimble will offer a message of inspiration and challenge.

Music will be provided by Garfield Memorial UMC's praise band, setting the tone for a meaningful and uplifting gathering. The service will be live-streamed, allowing broader access for those unable to attend in-person.

Following the service, an informal reception will take place, offering light refreshments and opportunities for fellowship and conversation.

This event, which is free and open to the public, aims to inspire participants to carry forward Dr. King's God-given vision of unity and hope. "Our hope is that people will leave this worship experience inspired to build on Dr. King's vision of beloved community," organizers said.

Join us as we celebrate the legacy of Dr. King and seek to embody his dream for a bold faith and hopeful future.

Carpool To the MLK Event January 19th

Did you want to attend the MLK event on January 19, 2025 and didn't want to drive alone? We have an option for you.

CARPOOLING with three easy steps:

- Review options below
- Click on District/Church that works best for you.
- Register (please provide contact info for updates)

TRANSPORTED BY VAN - (ONE LOCATION AVAILABLE) GMR District, New Vision UMC, 4400 Reading Rd., Cincinnati, 45229 - use same steps as carpooling

We have collected a few churches along with their addresses that are graciously allowing us to use their parking lots to carpool from. When signing up, please provide your full name, a phone number and email address so you can be reached to be provided info the Friday (17th) before.

The address of the event is: Garfiled Memorial UMC, 3650 Lander Rd, Cleveland, OH 44124 Please notice in the location on the registration section that we have provided the approximate driving time it should take from the location you have chosen to Cleveland.

Should you have any questions, please email Lesley Moore at lmoore@wocumc.org

[Sign Up Here](#)

Join Us For The Day of Service January 20th

Join the East and West Ohio Conferences of the United Methodist Church as we honor the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a day of service across all 10 districts. This is an opportunity for individuals, families, and communities to unite and embody the spirit of love, justice, and service Dr. King championed.

Whether through volunteering at a local food pantry, assisting with community clean-up efforts, mentoring youth, or supporting other impactful projects, everyone can make a difference.

Let's turn this National Day of Remembrance into a day of action! Visit Day of Service for service opportunity suggestions in your area, or gather your family and friends to create your own opportunity to serve. We can continue Dr. King's dream of building a beloved community together.

[VIEW THE MISSION SITES HERE](#)

Bishop Announces Day on the District Events

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung has announced Day on District gatherings for clergy and laity. The theme is "Healing and Restoration in Community," with the scripture Mark 2:1-12 as a guiding principle.



Clergy sessions will begin at 10am and conclude at 3:30pm. Bishop Jung highly encourages all clergy to attend as district strategy and visioning will be part of the agenda. If you cannot attend the date assigned to your district, please contact your district superintendent and select another district event to attend.

Lay leaders are invited to meet at 4:00pm. Laity sessions will begin with dinner at 5pm and will conclude by 8:30pm. The schedule includes worship, Bible study led by Bishop Jung and a visioning and ministry conversation.

Mark your calendar - registration is coming soon ---

- Maumee River District – Maumee UMC, Saturday January 25
- Olentangy River District – Stonybrook UMC, Saturday, February 1
- **Western Lakes District - Bellefontaine First UMC, Monday, February 3**
- Hocking River District – The Plains, Saturday, February 8
- Scioto River District – Walnut Street UMC, Thursday, February 20
- Great Miami River District – Monroe UMC, Saturday, February 22

[Register Here](#)

ERT Training in January

The eight-hour basic class ERT training will teach you how to assist survivors of natural disasters in their time of need. You will learn how to provide a Christian presence while taking steps to prevent further damage to the family's personal property; this may include tarping, debris removal, cleaning out flooded homes, etc. FEMA recognizes this training to enter a disaster scene. The recertification class will end at 1:00pm and is only for those who have completed the basic course and are within one year of the date their badge expired. Cost is \$40 for the basic class; \$35 for recertification.

Deadline to Register: Monday, January 6

NOTE: A background check is required to receive an ERT badge from UMCOR. You will receive a link to run a background check with UMCOR when you register online. Please complete the background check prior to the class. Your badge cannot be processed without a current background check on file with UMCOR.

Date: Sat, 01/11/2025 - 08:00 - 4:00

North Broadway United Methodist Church
48 E N Broadway St, Columbus, OH 43214
Contact Mariellyn Grace at mgrace@wocumc.org
Price \$40.00

[Register Now!](#)

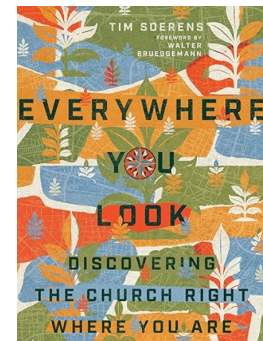
Expanding Connection Book Club

Join the Expanding Connection Book Club for a Zoom discussion of, "Everywhere You Look" with the author, Tim Soerens on January 7, 2025.

Everywhere You Look examines why the emerging generation is opting out of the church in large numbers. Are they dismayed at what appears to be their options for participation? Is church really necessary anymore?

Tim Soerens sees this unsettled state of affairs as an extraordinary opportunity: the church, he says, is on the edge of a new possibility at the very moment so much of it feels like it's falling apart. In his extensive travels in all kinds of neighborhoods, Soerens has seen the beginnings of this movement firsthand.

You are invited to read the book and join the discussion with the author and others January 7th at 7pm. [Click here](#) for more information.



Leadership Training 2025

[Registration Now Open!](#)

Plan to join us on Zoom if you'll be serving on Finance, S/PPRC or Trustees, or to explore the One Board Leadership Model.

These one-hour training sessions are for new and seasoned leaders. They will help you understand the duties and responsibilities of Finance, S/PPRC, Trustees, and the One Board Leadership Model, respectively. Each session will include time for Q&A so you can serve effectively in your role.

The sessions are scheduled as follows. Please use the link below to register for the sessions that pertain to your role.

- **Finance: Tuesday, Jan 28, 2025**



LEADERSHIP TRAINING
2025

Live on Zoom from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.:
• **Finance:** Tuesday, Jan 28, 2025
• **S/PPRC:** Wednesday, Jan 29, 2025
• **Trustees:** Friday, Jan 31, 2025
• **One Board Leadership Model:** Tuesday, Feb 4, 2025

recordings will be available on
westhioumc.newcenter.com

- S/PPRC: Wednesday, Jan 29, 2025
- Trustees: Friday, Jan 31, 2025
- One Board Leadership Model: Tuesday, Feb 4, 2025

[Register for one or more of the training sessions here](#)

Please Note:

- All sessions will take place on Zoom from 10:30 - 11:30 am on the designated date.
- Please register if you can attend live OR if you'd like to receive access to the recording.
- Each session will last one hour.
- No in-person Leadership Training Day will take place in early 2025.
- All sessions will be recorded and available on the [West Ohio Conference Learning Platform](#).

[Register for the 2025 Leadership Training](#)

Scholarship Information Available

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) Scholarships offers financial aid to United Methodist students pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees. Every year, an average of \$4.5 million is awarded to help students in the United States and abroad pursue their dreams through higher education. With this financial aid, GBHEM is opening pathways for students of all backgrounds to earn their degrees and serve as the next generation of leaders for the church and the world.



GBHEM scholarship applications open in January each year. You may only submit one application per year, which will be screened for all possible eligible programs. You may indicate on the first page of your application which of the below listed programs you would most like to be considered for. Scholarship programs are divided into three categories:

- **General Scholarships**
- **HBCU Scholarships**
- **Ministry as a Career Scholarships**

Ohio Minimum Wage Increases

Please note that **Ohio's minimum wage** has increased from **\$10.45 to \$10.70 per hour**, effective **January 1, 2025**. As a result, **new labor posters** reflecting this increase must be posted by the effective date (January 1, 2025). While these posters can be costly, **free downloadable labor posters** are available. Please see the following link to access and print the required poster. Please post the updated Ohio minimum wage poster as soon as possible.

[Download Ohio Minimum Wage Poster.](#)

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

Rev. Theron (Ted) Homer Smith, Jr, 96, passed into glory early morning of December 12, 2024. He was born on September 28, 1928 in Gowanda, New York to T. Homer and Edith Mackey Smith. He graduated from Lisbon High School in Lisbon, Ohio followed by Asbury (then College) University, Asbury Theological Seminary and Oberlin University Graduate School of Theology/Vanderbilt University Divinity School. He met Betty Jean Durham in 1950 and they married when she graduated from Asbury College in 1952. The couple began their married life in Wharton, Ohio where Theron had been

appointed pastor to Wharton Methodist Church. He and Betty served additional Methodist Church appointments to Linworth, Troy, Forest Park (Cincinnati), Walnut Creek, Livingston (Columbus), and Westerville. Theron also served 8 years on the faculty of Ashland Theological Seminary by special appointment from the UMC Bishop to create and implement the Methodist studies program there, including managing the extension programs at Cleveland State University and Wayne State University in Detroit. Theron retired from the United Methodist Church in 1997 and joined the staff at Cypress Wesleyan Church to lead the seniors' ministry as well as Wednesday evening Bible study and prayer meetings. During this time, he was invited to join the board of International Leadership Group developing and implementing Christian studies classes at the University of Beijing, traveling to campus in China semi-annually for three years.

Theron is preceded in death by his beloved wife of 68 years, Betty: daughter Jocelyn (George) Gibbs, and sons, Kevin (Kimbalyn) Smith and Matthew Todd (Patricia) Smith; and his grandchildren.

A memorial service for Theron is scheduled for 11:00am on January 11, 2025 at Cypress Wesleyan Church, 377 Alton Darby Creek Road, Galloway, OH. For the entire obituary or to sign the on-line register and leave a message for the family, please visit www.tiddfuneralservice.com. <https://www.tiddfuneralservice.com/obituaries/theron-ted-smith>

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Asbury University / 1 Macklem Drive / Wilmore KY 40390 / www.asbury.edu noting the Myron R. Smith Scholarship Fund in the memo field, or to Hollow Rock Holiness Campmeeting c/o Rob Aukerman, Financial Secretary / 1958 County Road 51 / Toronto OH 43964 / www.hollowrock.org.

Dr. Philip Walter Compton, age 82, of Bluffton, passed away on Wednesday, January 1, 2025 at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, Columbus, surrounded by his family. He was born on September 8, 1942 in Washington, DC to the late Ralph and Olivia (Crickenburger) Compton. On August 1, 1964 Philip married LaDonna G. Shively and she survives in Bluffton. Also surviving are his daughter, LeAnn (Raymond) Pryor of Ada; two grandchildren: Kelsey (Brendan) Tisher and Kyle (Raina) Zimmerly; great grandchildren: Isla and Brewer; brother, Ralph (Patti) Compton; a sister, Carol (Wayne) Spangler; and a bonus sister, Jaci (Joel) Cox.

Philip retired from Ohio Northern University, Ada where he was a professor. He was a member of the Ada First United Methodist Church. Philip served as the former pastor for Rhinehart United Methodist Church and the chaplain for the Ada Liberty Fire Department. He was a co-founder of the West Ohio Food Bank and Table One Restaurant. Philip was very involved with his community and was a Jefferson Award Recipient for voluntary service.

A memorial service will begin at 12:00 PM on Friday, January 24, 2025 at the First United Methodist Church, 301 North Main Street, Ada, Ohio 45810 with Rev. Brandi Rigsby officiating. Visitation will be held two hours prior to the service from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Friday, January 24th at the First United Methodist Church, 301 North Main Street, Ada, Ohio 45810. Memorial contributions may be made to the West Ohio Food Bank and/or the Mennonite Memorial Homes Benevolent Aid Fund.

Scottie Sue Crabtree, age 87, of Hillview Retirement Community, Portsmouth, Ohio, passed from earthly life into her heavenly home on December 24, 2024. She was born January 4, 1937 in North Carolina, and was preceded in death in 2019 by her husband of 61 years, Rev. Dr. Lowell Dean Crabtree.

The greatest role of Scottie's life was that of pastor's wife alongside her husband, Lowell, who was called by God into the pastoral ministry in 1974. She dedicated her life to being his partner in ministry, serving for five years at Frazeysburg and Perryton (Muskingum County) United Methodist Churches, and Bethel United Methodist Church (Clermont County), from 1979 until retirement where they then attended Mt. Nebo United Methodist Church (Brown County). Upon moving to Hillview Retirement Center in Portsmouth, they attended Cornerstone United Methodist for several years. Her greatest passions in the church were love and care of the congregations and serving as the choir director for many years.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Wesley Village renovation fund. Checks

should be made out to Hill View Retirement Center and in the memo line, denote that the donation go to the Wesley Village renovation fund. Address is 1610 28th St., Portsmouth, OH 45662. Memorial services will be held at Hillview Retirement Community in the Forest Room on Saturday, February 8, 2025, with visitation at 12:30 p.m. and service at 1:00 p.m.

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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