



Western Lakes District

News from The United Methodist Church

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WLD Important Information Volume 27 - July 19, 2024

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung Assigned to the Ohio Episcopal Area

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.

Bishop Jung is the resident bishop in the Wisconsin Annual Conference and has served in this role since September of 2012. He played a key role in Wisconsin's Imagine No Malaria Campaign, which raised more than \$1 million.



Prior to leading the Wisconsin Conference UMC, Bishop Jung served eight years as bishop of the Northern Illinois Conference (Chicago area). He was instrumental in inspiring the Harvest 2020 movement in Northern Illinois, which resulted in many new faith communities. [Read more...](#)

[Watch Bishop Jung's Message to West Ohio](#)

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 (sthomas@wocumc.org) or Rev. Donnetta Peaks (dpeaks@wocumc.org).

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

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.

Introduction to Lay Servant Ministries (Basic Course): July 23, 25, 28, 30 & August 1 from 6:30-8:30pm (Zoom or in person in Centerville). Sponsored by the Great Miami River District. [Register](#)




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](#)

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 9:30am — 2:30pm	Maize Manor UMC / Urban Farm Church 3901 Maize Rd Columbus 9:30am — 2:30pm	First UMC 1526 E Wooster Bowling Green 9:30am — 2:30pm	Christ UMC 700 S. Marshall Rd Middletown 9:30am — 2:30pm	Walnut Street UMC 16 S. Walnut St Chillicothe 9:30am — 2:30pm	First UMC 2 S College St Athens 9:30am — 2:30pm	First UMC 301 N Main St Ada 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](#)

Foundation Offering Saving Grace Webinar

The United Methodist Foundation of West Ohio invites you to join via zoom on July 23 at 6:00PM for a presentation from Rev. Anna Guillozet, WOC clergyperson and co-presenter of *Saving Grace*. Rev. Guillozet will be discussing one of the Foundation's stewardship standards, incorporating personal financial

literacy into your church. *Saving Grace* is a curriculum to achieve this goal for church members and clergy. This presentation is free and all WOC clergy and church leadership are encouraged to attend. To access the zoom link, click here: [Join Zoom Meeting](#).



Registration Now Open for the 2024 Laity Retreats

We invite all lay volunteers and staff across West Ohio to join us for a day of rest, rejuvenation, and time together. This year's retreat will be centered around Exodus 13:21, "The Lord went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night." Come be renewed in your call to be a disciple who makes disciples for Jesus Christ.



There are 6 opportunities to attend a Lay Retreat across West Ohio this summer. Each day will begin at 10am and end by 2pm.

- July 23 Hocking River District Lay Retreat @ Central Ave (Athens, OH)
- July 24 Scioto River District Lay Retreat @ First UMC (Greenfield, OH)
- July 25 Great Miami River District Lay Retreat @ Christ UMC (Middletown, OH)
- July 30 Maumee River District Lay Retreat @ First UMC (Perrysburg, OH)
- **July 31 Western Lakes District Lay Retreat @ Trinity UMC (Lewistown)**
- Aug 1 Olentangy River District Lay Retreat @ Harlem Rd UMC (Galena, OH)

[Register Here](#)

PEER Ministry is coming to the Great Miami River District. PEER Ministry is People Ministry. Using the parable of the Good Samaritan at its core, PEER Ministry gives youth and young adults specific skills in caring for friends. They learn how to listen, ask caring questions, and guide friends through tough choices, changes, and challenges. They welcome people, even those who are not always welcomed. If youth aren't leading, they are leaving and PEER Ministry helps youth become leaders both in the church and in the world.



Sponsored by The Wesley Foundation in Cincinnati and hosted by Monroe UMC, PEER Ministry's own National Director and Owner, Lyle Griner, will join us for two days of unparalleled training August 2-3. Come for one day or come for both! Check out www.peerministry.org to learn more about the program and more about Lyle.

Day one, Friday August 2, will consist of PLAN-IT, a one day guided planning event. This day is geared toward your adult leaders and board members tasked with calendaring your ministry year. Using Lyle's guided planning method, you will walk away with the next 12-18 months of your ministry year planned!

Day two, Saturday August 3, will focus on the PEER Ministry model and training of your adult and youth/young adult leaders. Please bring your student leaders to join your adults in learning the core principles of PEER Ministry for use in your local context.

Wesley Foundation hopes to host 10-12 congregations and student ministries across the district and conference. We hope you will be one of them, and that you'll invite a friend!

Date: August 2 & 3, 2024

Time: Friday 9:00am-3:30pm; Saturday 9:00am-5:30pm Location: Monroe UMC (206 East Ave Monroe, OH 45050)

Cost: Tiered pricing based on the number of people you are bringing and if you are attending one day or both days.

Learn more/Register

Questions: Reach out to Katie Steele at The Wesley Foundation at katie@wesleyuc.org

All In Community Ministry Mondays

This month during All In Community's Ministry Monday information session, we will be discussing our signature initiative, HOPE Letters. HOPE Letters is a mentorship through correspondence program that reaches inside our state correctional facilities to offer hope to those who are incarcerated. Come learn about how we can send hope to neighbors who are returning to our communities through this valuable ministry on Monday, July 22, 7:00pm on ZOOM.

The session is free but advanced registration is required. Questions and requests for the ZOOM link can be directed to Jami Nathan, AIC Ministries Coordinator, by email (jami.nathan.22@gmail.com) or by phone (419-591-9717), or register below.

[Register now...](#)



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

Rev. Jack Chalk, who passed away Thursday, July 18, 2024.

Born October 29, 1933, in Sharonville to the late George Fountain and Ruth Florance (Williams) Chalk, he married Janice E. Covault November 4, 1984, in Piqua; and she survives.

He is survived by sons Scott (Jennifer) Chalk of Frankfort, Kentucky, Kevin Chalk of Newnan, Georgia; a daughter, Betsy (Charlie) Simmons of Newnan, Georgia; a stepdaughter, Deanna (Garry) Frock of St. Paris; nine grandchildren, Katelyn, Kimberly, Zoe, Dylan, Abigail, Levi, Ethan, Natalie, Isaiah; and two great grandchildren. He was

preceded in death by two brothers, George Chalk, Jean Chalk; a sister, Edith Mae Chalk; and two sisters-in-law, Jean Carroll, and Myra Chalk.

Jack became a Deacon in the United Methodist Church in 1964 and a Full Elder in 1966. He served as the pastor at Zoardale Charge; Church of the Cross in Toledo; St. Paul Trinity in Elmore; Grace United Methodist Church in Piqua; Groesbeck Church in Cincinnati; St. Paul's Church in Piqua; and Hardin United Methodist Church in Sidney. He "officially" retired in 1998 and served as the Interim Pastor at five different churches during that time. Jack was instrumental in revitalizing St. Paul's Church and was bestowed the honor of Pastor Emeritus, as well as an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity. He served as the Dean of youth camps; district committee of Evangelism; as well as on the Board of Ordained Ministry in the Dayton North District. Additionally, he was an annual speaker at the Community Good Friday Service.

A service to honor his life will begin at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, July 23, 2024, at St. Paul's Church, 500 N. Downing St., Piqua. Visitation will be held from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Monday at the Jamieson & Yannucci Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are encouraged to be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 6077 Far Hills Ave. #117, Dayton, OH 45459; or the Ronald McDonald House Charities Dayton, 555 Valley St. Dayton, OH 45404. [Leave Condolences](#) [Obituary Link](#)

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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