



# Western Lakes District

*News from The United Methodist Church*

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## WLD Important Information Volume 26 - July 5, 2024

### Jots From Jim...

I've debated within myself whether or not to "jot" this 'jot.' There is enough negative thoughts and political venom in the world without me adding to it. The body of Christ does not need for me to add another argumentative voice to the chorus. However, sometimes I just can not help myself. So, bear with me as I try to find the silver lining in a recent conversation.

When I go on vacation, which includes four Sundays a year, I make it a point not to take a vacation from God because I do not want God to take a vacation from me. I found myself in Tennessee. It was a very nice worship service lead by the youth director as the senior pastor was on vacation. We were greeted outside, loved inside, and at the end of the service an elderly man offered us a tour of the building. He did not know who I was or where I was from. I got a tour of the whole building.

The wheels fell off the bus, though, when we entered the administrative wing. One of the clergy was in their office and I was kindly introduced. I have a friend who is a District Superintendent somewhere in Tennessee. I simply asked this question to the clergyperson, "Is your D.S. Vona?"

Now in my simple understanding of United Methodism that question can be answered with a "yes" or a "no." But not in this situation. The pastor tried to go on the internet to figure out the name of the D.S. The pastor was unable to verify the name.

The conversation quickly went downhill. Even though the pastor was a United Methodist with no clue to the name of their D.S., the pastor was quick to rattle off where this church stood in the midst of all that is unfolding in United Methodism. The pastor was well-informed on an upcoming vote. I shared fully who I was and what I believed. I tried not to embarrass my family who was standing next to me and the elderly church member who was just giving a tour of the church he loved. I will spare you the details of the rest of the conversation and my opinion of what this was really about.

The tour continued as if that moment never happened. The elderly man showed me the youth room, the choir room, and another person came up and invited us to Sunday School. I thought to myself, "I don't think they really want me in Sunday School because I am going to go off the rails." I kindly said, "I think we better get going. We got a big day ahead of us."

As we departed the old man said to me, I don't care about that vote. I am going to keep coming to this church no matter what happens. At that moment I realized the beauty in the tour. Here is a man who simply loves Jesus. He is so proud of his church building. He gave me a yellow wristband with the words "God Can!" I was given a bulletin with the



church logo “You Belong Here.” I wanted to respond to the pastor by saying “you might need to add a word to your wristband, like “If.” But I held my tongue. Because the moment was more about an old man who loved Jesus and wanted to share that love with me.

Thank you, old man, for showing your love for Jesus. As for the rest of us? Jesus take the wheel.

Jim

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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.
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## 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 your 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, OSL, 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](mailto:lmoore@wocum.org)

[Register Here](#)

**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.westhioumc.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](#)

## Survivors are Real Winners of Buckets of Blessings Challenge

During this year's Annual Conference session in Bexley, OH, churches and individuals donated 6,183 pounds of kits, buckets, and other supplies for survivors of disasters. In the Bishop's Buckets of Blessings challenge, the winning district was Olentangy River with 64 Home Care Kits! Other district totals were as follows: Maumee River-55; Great Miami-54; **Western Lakes-34**; Hocking River-3; and Scioto River-1. A total of 211 Home Care Kits were collected, along with numerous UMCOR Hygiene Kits and other materials. "The real winners, of course, are the people whose hopes will be lifted in the midst of disaster," Bishop Palmer remarked. All supplies will be distributed through Midwest

## New Zoom Book Discussion focused on Diversity and Inclusion July 16 at 7pm - *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man*

Join people from all over West Ohio as we expand our connection with one another and with people we haven't met yet. Each month the book selections will be diverse, accessible, and empowering. This community of readers will be a hub promoting equality, equity, and inclusion, sharing the stories of the world to generate empathy and peace through books. Book titles will be announced the 15th of each month, and a time for gathering and sharing will take place around the same time the next month.

The first book to be explored is *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man* by Emmanuel Acho. The gathering and conversation will take place on Zoom on July 16 at 7pm. Be sure to read the book before you join the conversation but if you don't have time to read, come anyway! You'll be transformed by the conversation that happens around you.

[Click here to register](#)

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## Explore Your Call to Leadership

Is God calling you to lead or serve in your church congregation? Are you interested in building a ministry team for community impact? Are you interested in receiving theological, cultural, and practical ministry training?

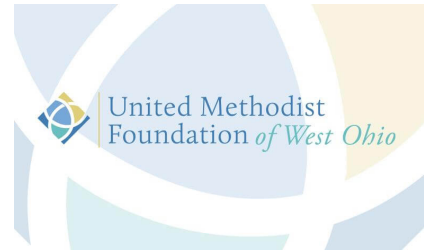
The Certified Lay Ministry Academy was established for spiritual formation, community connections, and academic training. Certified Lay Ministers (CLM's) are trained, equipped, and certified to fulfill their unique God calling, enhance the quality of ministry to small membership churches, and to expand team ministry in churches.

[Read more.....](#)

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## 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)

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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](http://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](mailto:katie@wesleyuc.org)



### Is your Church Ready for the Storm?

The United Methodist Insurance Program has tips for you and your church leaders to consider while making sure your church is protected and insured.

[Click here](#) to read more.

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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:*

**Rev. Mickey Alan Kimball** passed away Monday, June 24. Born September 1, 1953, Reverend Kimball served faithfully in the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church for many years with these congregations: South Bloomfield Charge (CS) 1979; Bradner (F) 1980; Bascom (F) 1985; Edon (D) 1988; Phillipsburg (DN) 1992; Lafayette (L) 2000; Bowersville (DS) 2002

He used his gift of imagination to share the message of Jesus and entertain his family. A lover of music, he enjoyed singing with the United Methodist Men's Choir and in the churches where he was a pastor. He was a longtime suffering fan of the Cubs, Browns and Bears. He also enjoyed classic horror films, and was prepared for the zombie apocalypse long before zombies entered popular culture.

He is survived by his brother and children.

There will be a memorial service for Reverend Kimball on June 30, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. at the Phillipsburg Community Church in Phillipsburg. Online condolences can be made by visiting [www.gilbert-fellers.com](http://www.gilbert-fellers.com).

**Sandra "Sandy" Lowe**, 75, of Sunbury, Ohio passed away Wednesday, June 19, 2024 with her loving family by her side. Born April 16th, 1949, to Floyd Leonard and Virginia Russell Leonard in Columbus, Ohio. Sandra attended United Methodist Church in Lewis Center. Sandra was someone God created to be on this earth at this time for loving, caring and listening. Her journey on earth has ended, but her journey in heaven has just begun.

In her youth, Sandra met the love of her life, Randy Lowe Sr., during Junior High in Columbus. They married on August 24, 1966, and enjoyed 58 years of devoted marriage together.

Sandra is survived by her loving husband Rev. Randy Lowe Sr.; her sons Randy (Tammy) Lowe Jr. and Patrick (Darlene) Lowe; her daughters Melinda (Todd) and Tasha (Ron) Henderson; her grandchildren Crystal, Caleb, Alexander, Savannah, Spencer, Rachel, Philip, Elizabeth, Isaiah, Bentley, and Destini; and her great-grandchildren Theodore, William, and Kaya. She is also survived by her brother David (Audrey) Leonard, sister Becky (Tom) Urton, her sister-in-law Mary Lou Leonard, and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents Floyd and Virginia Leonard, and brother Doug Leonard.

Snyder Funeral Homes, DeVore Chapel is privileged to assist the Lowe family with funeral arrangements. Share memories and condolences with the family at [www.snyderfuneralhomes.com](http://www.snyderfuneralhomes.com)

**Judith Grace (Morgan) Sagendorf**, 82, of Lakeside Marblehead, Ohio passed away peacefully on June 19, 2024 at Hospice of Northwest Ohio, following a brief illness. Born January 4, 1942 in Barberton, OH to Bill and Marian (Raffensberger) Morgan, Judie was a graduate of Green High School and later earned her Registered Nursing degree from Akron General Hospital School of Nursing. Throughout her career, she worked in numerous physician's offices and health care facilities caring for others. Judie loved reading, cooking, gardening, birding, spoiling her pets, and spending time with her family and friends. Judie is survived by her husband of 61 years, The Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Sagendorf; daughters Emily (Randy) Dickman of Elmore & Kristen Chapman of Columbus; her beloved grandchildren Madeline (Austin), Jeremy, Lauren & Ellison; great-granddaughters Makenna and Blaire; sister Marian (Al) White, and sisters and brothers-in-law Mary (Jack) Siebers, & Ruth (Curt) Holleman; and numerous nieces & nephews. Judie was preceded in death by her parents, and brother Harley ("Butch") Morgan.

A private service will be held at a later date. The family would like to extend their deepest gratitude to the staff of the Toledo Hospital Surgical ICU and Hospice of Northwest Ohio for the excellent care that was provided to Judie in her last days and the sincere caring that they extended to the family. The staff and friends of Otterbein Senior Living have been of great support to the family as well. For family and friends who wish to celebrate Judie's life, tributes may be made to Hospice of Northwest Ohio or First United

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## 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.

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## 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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