



# Western Lakes District

*News from The United Methodist Church*

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## WLD Important Information

Volume 35-November 8, 2024

### Bishop Jung to host all-Ohio Day of Thanksgiving and Unity

Bishop Jung invites all Ohio United Methodists to join together for an inspiring day of prayer, worship, and learning on **Saturday, November 23**. With the theme "Hearts Strangely Warmed," the day will begin at 10am at Worthington United Methodist Church, 600 High St, in Worthington and will conclude by 3:30pm.



This day of prayer, centered around Romans 5:1-5, will focus on hope, endurance, and the transformative power of God's love. Attendees will explore how these principles align with the core mission of The United Methodist Church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The guest speaker for the day is **Rev. Dr. Paul W. Chilcote**, an award-winning author, Methodist historian, and renowned scholar in Wesleyan theology and Christian discipleship. His theme for our day together is "A Hope-filled United Methodist Future: A Rediscovered Deep Connection and A Refreshed Wesleyan Vision."

Bishop Jung's transformative day of prayer and learning will include opportunities for worship and celebrating our unity in the UMC. The registration fee is \$10 and includes lunch. Let's seek to grow together in grace and reaffirm our commitment to #BeUMC. [Read more and register here.](#)

### Fall Charge Conferences Are In Full Swing

Just a reminder that you must have a church council/ leadership /ad council meeting before the regional Charge Conference to vote on all materials. **ALL CHURCHES MUST COMPLETE THE FORMS ON-LINE** before attending Charge Conference as always. Login through your WOC account.



# NEW ADVENT & CHRISTMAS RESOURCES

*Free worship planning materials to help you for the upcoming season.*

START PLANNING TODAY

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES  
The United Methodist Church



Click here for the Advent resources

## Join Us for the Fall Youth Gathering on November 15th

We are excited to announce that Powell United Methodist Church will be hosting a **Fall Youth Gathering** on **Friday, November 15th, from 6:00-9:30 PM**. This event is open to youth across the conference, providing a night of **food, games, worship, small groups, and a youth panel**. Our featured speaker will be **Rev. Amy Aspey**, who will share a powerful message for our youth.

## DISTRICT YOUTH GATHERINGS



EVENINGS FILLED WITH FUN, FOOD, WORSHIP & CONNECTING WITH OTHERS!

Please help us spread the word and encourage youth from your churches to register for this impactful gathering. We look forward to welcoming young people from all over the conference as they come together for a night of faith and fellowship.

Registration is open now at the link below:  
<https://powell.breezechms.com/form/915d5e104267>

Upcoming youth gatherings will also take place on February 7th and May 9th, so please keep these dates in mind!

## HealthFlex Open Enrollment Is Here - Deadline Nov 15th

HealthFlex Open Enrollment for all eligible participants is happening now through Friday, November 15, 2024. It's time to act for your health coverage!

Who Needs to Participate?

- Full Time Local Pastors (100%)
- Elder, Provisional, Deacon, and Associate Members (appointed 75% - 100%)
- Conference or district staff members working 30 or more hours per week

How to Enroll: Go to [my.benefitsaccess.org/login](https://my.benefitsaccess.org/login)

Need Help? If you encounter any issues while enrolling online, contact Annual Election Assistance: 1-844-688-1375, Monday - Friday from 8am – 8pm

Waiving Coverage: If you wish to waive coverage, please complete the [HealthFlex Waiver Form](#) and return via email to Stacy Jefferson at [sjefferson@wocumc.org](mailto:sjefferson@wocumc.org).

For More Information: Visit the [West Ohio Health and Wellness Page](#) for additional details.

Don't miss out—ensure your health coverage is set for the upcoming year!

[LEARN MORE](#)

## Connect-A-Round Table: Spiritual Direction

Spiritual direction is an interpersonal relationship in which we learn how to grow, live, and love in the spiritual life. Who are Spiritual Directors? What does Spiritual Direction mean

for me? Want to learn more? Join Linda Young and others to learn more about Spiritual Direction. Bring your dinner and questions to our zoom gathering on Tuesday, November 19, at 5:30pm. You can expect some really good conversation! If you have questions, contact Julie Carter at [jcarter@wocumc.org](mailto:jcarter@wocumc.org).

## REGISTER NOW

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### MissionInsite Guide

MissionInsite is the program used to create demographic reports for our churches, districts and conference. They have made some updates and we, as a conference, are part of the Early Adopters program and will test it before it is made public to others. The log in is slightly different. Your username is the same, but your password will need to be reset. Please see the links below for a Step-by-step user guide for logging in to MissionInsite. The changes will take effect November 1 - 4. Please contact Terri McClain at [tmccclain@wocumc.org](mailto:tmccclain@wocumc.org) in the Office of Fresh Starts and New Beginnings if you have any questions or have trouble logging in.



[Step-by-step login and guide](#)

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### 2025 Planning Resources Available

The 2025 Worship Calendar and the Revised Common Lectionary Calendar with Special Sundays are both available for download at Discipleship Ministries. These resources are helpful for pastors, worship leaders and planners, musicians, choirs, committees, Sunday School teachers, and more.

[DOWNLOAD HERE](#)

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### 2025 Virtual Laity Discernment Retreats

Do you feel God's call on your life but are uncertain how to discern that call or what to do next? If so, then this is the Retreat for you! At the Laity Discernment Retreats, we will talk about call, discernment and what it means to be "called by our baptism." We will learn ways to intentionally enter into a time of prayer about discernment and we will discover Spiritual Rhythms that can help guide our journey. We will also discuss the variety of ways Laity can serve both in our churches and in our communities.

In 2025, the virtual laity discernment retreat will consist of two, two-hour ZOOM sessions, followed 6 weeks later by a two-hour ZOOM debriefing. In the 6 weeks between sessions, there will be opportunities to read, reflect, and practice Spiritual Rhythms that will lead you to a better understanding of your own call.

"I would recommend a Laity Discernment Retreat to someone who is searching or has questions about how they can serve their community or their church. It can help guide them through the process, provide resources and help provide a sense of peace about what they can be doing right now." -Twila Boyd, 2019 participant

Dates (please plan to attend all 3 sessions):

- Tuesday, February 18, 2025, 6:30-8:30pm
- Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 6:30-8:30pm
- Tuesday, April 8, 2025, 6:30-8:30pm
- [Register Now!](#)

For more information, contact Kim LaRue at [kimlarue@powellumc.org](mailto:kimlarue@powellumc.org).

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### Virtual Candidacy Summit In January 2025

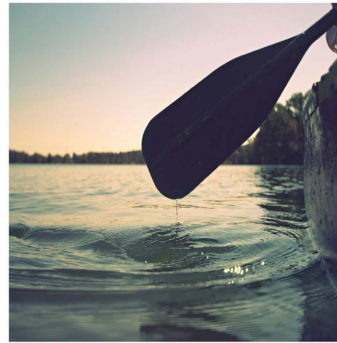
Do you feel God calling you to ministry in a deeper way? Are you seeking guidance to understand what it means to be called to ordained ministry in the church? If so, the virtual Winter Candidacy Summit Retreat is a place for you! The virtual Winter Candidacy Summit Retreat is an opportunity for candidates to worship, fellowship, meet with a mentoring

group, learn in large and small group settings, and reflect with others who are also exploring God's call on their lives. To be eligible, candidates must be recommended by their District Superintendent AND complete all the necessary preparatory work.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## Save the Date!

The UMFWO invites you to Save the Date of September 15-16, 2025 for our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Generosity Summit. Next year's summit will be held at beautiful Maumee Bay State Park Lodge and Conference Center near Toledo, OH. The event will feature speakers from across the Connection on topics to help pastors and church leaders build a culture of generosity in their church. Registration will open in April! Stay tuned!



## SAVE THE DATE GENEROSITY SUMMIT 2025

**Maumee Bay State Park Lodge and Conference Center**  
Join your clergy colleagues and local church leaders from across the Ohio Episcopal Area for a two-day summit focused on growing a culture of generosity in the local church. Hear from experts in the field and relax at beautiful Maumee Bay on the shores of Lake Erie.



SEPT. 15-16,  
2025

REGISTRATION  
OPENS APRIL 2025

\$350  
REGISTRATION FEE  
INCLUDES 1 NIGHT  
STAY

SPEAKERS FROM  
ACROSS THE  
CONNECTION

PLAN NOW TO  
ATTEND!

MAUMEE BAY  
1750 State Park Rd. #3  
Oregon, OH 43616

More info at  
[umfwestohio.org](http://umfwestohio.org)  
[sblack@wocumc.org](mailto:sblack@wocumc.org)

## Music Ministry Director

Covenant UMC located in Springfield, is seeking a Music Ministry Director. The Music Director prepares music for the choir and meets with the choir and the pastor a minimum of once per week to prepare for Sunday Worship. This is a salaried position with duties primarily on Sunday. Contact Covenant UMC at (937)324-3501 for more information and to apply.

## Pianist/Organist Needed - New Carlisle First United Methodist Church

• Part-time • New Carlisle, OH • \$6.5k - \$8.5k / year depending on experience •  
New Carlisle First United Methodist is looking for a piano/organ player. This person would be part of our staff, working in a part-time position, helping us in our mission to follow Jesus, grow in faith, and make a difference.

Availability is needed for Sundays from 9:30am-10:45am, practice during the week, special occasions and Holiday services.

### To apply, send your letter of interest and resume to

New Carlisle First United Methodist Church  
Attention: Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair  
220 South Main Street  
New Carlisle OH 45344

937-845-8435 Or email to [ncfirstumc@gmail.com](mailto:ncfirstumc@gmail.com) For full job description, [click here](#).

## West Ohio Conference Family Advent Resources Available

The Emerging Generations Ministry Team is excited to release the 2024 Family Advent Resources. If your

congregation is looking for a fun way to engage families throughout Advent, simply click on this link: [Family Advent Resources](#) and download the advent calendar. This year's calendar follows the lectionary texts and utilizes the UM Discipleship graphics. Social media posts will also be available. Contact [Ann Marie Carley](#) to learn 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. Dr. Thomas E. Sagendorf**, who passed away peacefully in his sleep on October 30, 2024, at Otterbein NorthShore Assisted Living. Rev. Sagendorf, an ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church, served at the Powhatan Point Charge, NE OH Conf 1965; Internship For Clergymen In Urban Ministry, Case Western Reserve 1966; East Glenville, Cleveland, EO Conf 1967; Dir. Interfaith Action Council, Flint, Michigan Detroit Conf 1968; Dir. Grand Rapids Youth Ministry, Grand Rapids MI 1972; Director, Youth Contact Center, Muskegon, Mich 1974; Zanesville First (N) 1976; Linworth (CN) 1980; Marietta Christ (A) 1982; Monroe Street (T) 1989; and Bexley (CN) 1995.

Tom was preceded in death by his faithful wife of 61 years, Judith Grace (Morgan) Sagendorf. He is survived by daughters Emily (Randy) Dickman of Elmore & Kristen Chapman of Columbus; his beloved grandchildren Madeline (Austin), Jeremy, Lauren & Ellison; great-granddaughters Makenna and Blaire; sisters Mary (Jack) Siebers, Ruth (Curt) Holleman and sister & brother-in-law Marian (Al) White; and numerous nieces & nephews.

No memorial service will be held. A family celebration of Tom's life will be held at a later date. For family and friends who wish to celebrate Tom's life, tributes may be made to First United Church of Christ, Marblehead. [Obituary link and condolences](#)

## 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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