



Western Lakes District

News from The United Methodist Church

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WLD Important Information Volume 34-October 25, 2024



Jots From Jim...

Recently I checked something off of my bucket list. Harvest time is a beautiful time of year. The trees, the weather, and the fields active with farmers. Riding in a “corn picker” was on my list of things to do someday. Now I realize you do not “pick” corn but these huge machines harvest the field by “shelling.” However, I still like to think it’s about “picking corn” so give me some grace and show me some mercy.

As I rode along with the farmer for about 6-8 acres of excitement I was soaking it in. I was fascinated with the logistics and how a whole lot of things have to be orchestrated to successfully accomplish the “picking.” I could watch the computer screen in the cab of the combine that showed how many bushels of corn per acre were being picked. I could watch the moisture level be recorded of the incoming corn. And then there was a GPS map of the field which color-recorded the results of the field. In other words, the green areas of the harvested field produced good yields while a few red spots became areas the farmer will study in the “off season” to see why the yield was off in that area.

What would happen if I put a GPS monitor on my life where data could be received and I could analyze what part of my daily living yielded “green” and what times showed “red?” I pondered mapping the Western Lakes District but then reminded myself our churches are simply the sum faithfulness of its people. And I am one of the people, so I best start with my own field before I mess with other fields.

The farmer mentioned that a red area might be poor drainage, bad seed, or deer damage. It’s still part of the overall acreage and contributes to the sum total of the harvest, and every acre is part of the farm. Some acres contribute more than others. However, you



celebrate the green, correct the red, and learn from both. Not a bad approach to living life.

I am not sure what color this season of my life is at the moment. But as I look back on my life to prepare for the next season, I pray that God gives me the ability to learn from the unproductive red seasons, appreciate the success of the green seasons, and learn from every season of my life.

I've left your field alone. I have used my acres in this Jot from Jim. After all, am I my brother's keeper? Oh, that's right. I am. And so are you.

May every acre of the Western Lakes District yield the harvest for the kingdom of God. According to the Bible, the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few.

Together we can do it.

Jim

PS Next on the bucket list....visiting the pig farms in the WLD

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.](#)

Hurricane Helene and Milton: How to Donate & Assist

Things you can do to support those affected by Hurricane Helene: PRAY, GIVE, PAUSE. Please PRAY for those affected by the recent hurricane and the first responders providing care, safety, and immediate needs. You may GIVE to [UMCOR - United Methodist Committee On Relief](#) and finally, PAUSE: do not self-deploy to the area. Due to the nature and magnitude of this disaster, it will take months, maybe even years to recover. Just so you know, you will be needed. Just not yet. We will provide more updates as they become available. [Click here to donate.](#)

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 ALL OF THE FORMS ON-LINE before attending Charge Conference as always. Login through your WOC account.



Apportionment E-Statement Update!

We previously announced that The Conference is now offering apportionment statements by e-mail and wanted to share additional information as well as some minor changes. Please carefully read the following: (changes are shown in red.)

· To register:

1. If a treasurer relationship is not listed for your church at westhioumc.org, please reach out to your district administrator to set one up. This is needed to receive e-statements. Registration and **appropriate permissions are required** as well, which your district administrator can also assist you with.
2. Once step 1 is complete, Go to "MyChurch" in the upper righthand corner > Choose "Apportionments" from the red menu > Choose "Apportionment Statements."

· Once registered for e-statements:

Paper statements are no longer sent to your church by mail.

Treasurers will automatically receive statements by email.

To **add additional emails to the distribution list, such as your pastor or accounting firm, please email Rhonda Tyree** at rttyree@wocumc.org.

This service is optional. If you prefer mailed statements, you do not need to do anything further. Please e-mail any questions concerning e-statements to rttyree@wocumc.org.

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!

Early Response Team Training and Recertification

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 take place during the morning session 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. All Districts welcome!

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.

Sat, 11/09/2024 - 08:00- 4:00

Event Sponsored By West Ohio Conference Disaster Response Ministries

Hocking River District Office

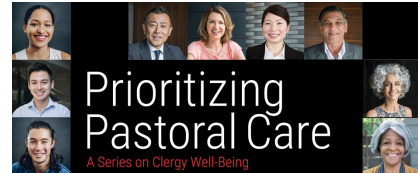
47 Johnson Rd, The Plains, OH

Contact Mariellyn Grace at mgrace@wocumc.org

[Register Now!](#) Deadline to Register: Monday, November 4

Engage with UMC Leaders in Upcoming Well-Being Webinar

Wespath and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) are partnering together to engage leaders and changemakers in the UMC to address systemic issues affecting clergy well-being.



- November 7, 1-2pm Central – Spiritual and Social Well-Being [Register Now](#)

Your Feedback is Important

How does the UMC impact clergy well-being? What steps could we take to create a work environment more conducive to clergy well-being? [Complete this short form](#) to share how the church can be more supportive of clergy well-being.

HealthFlex Annual Open Enrollment October 30 - November 14

Active clergy, if you are on the West Ohio Conference health insurance plan, it will soon be time to sign up for your individualized plan for 2025. HealthFlex offers more healthcare options, expanded health savings account (HSA, HRA, Flexible Spending, and Dependent Care) choices, and premium credit to support your healthcare elections. There are no significant changes coming so this year's enrollment process should go smoothly. In addition, if you are an active clergy who has chosen NOT to participate in the plan, you will need to complete a new waiver for the upcoming year.

For helpful resources, meeting dates, forms and more: [click here](#).

Volunteers in Mission (VIM) Team Leader Training

Are you planning a mission journey in 2025 or beyond? Join West Ohio for a Volunteers in Mission (VIM) Team Leader Training! With an experienced team leader as instructor, you will learn how to plan and lead a mission experience in Ohio, the United States, or around the world. You will also be provided with checklists, timelines, team forms, and practical resources for nurturing the spiritual life of your team. A background check is required.



Cost: \$35 (training, materials & lunch) Sat, 11/02/2024 - 09:00 - 1:00pm

Stonybrook UMC 485 Cherry Bottom Rd, Gahanna, OH 43230

Contact Mariellyn Grace at mgrace@wocumc.org

Price \$35.00 Deadline to register: October 28

[Register Now!](#)

Upcoming Class

Living Our United Methodist Beliefs (United Methodist Heritage):
November 3,5,7,10,14, 2024 – Sponsored by Olentangy River District.
Registration opens 9/27/24



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.

All In Community: October Ministry Monday & other Monthly Ministries

All In Community's *Ministry Monday* information session in October will discuss how to get involved with Christmas Miracle, an annual event through the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) that is held at various state correctional facilities. In conjunction with The Four Seven Ministries out of Cincinnati, ODRC has created a beautiful opportunity for families to experience the Christmas holiday with their incarcerated loved ones.



Join us on October 28 beginning at 7:00pm to hear details about this year's plans. You will find out how you can help to make Christmas magical for those who are often forgotten and left out of holiday celebrations.

ADVANCED REGISTRATION REQUIRED: <https://qrco.de/bfQRAo>

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) or by phone (419-591-9717).

[October Ministry Monday Flyer](#)

[Hope Letters Ministry Flyer](#)

[Four Friends Ministry Flyer](#)

Save the Date!

The UMFWO invites you to Save the Date of September 15-16, 2025 for our 2nd 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.

 United Methodist
Foundation of West Ohio

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. #2
Oregon, OH 43616
More info at
umfwestohio.org
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.

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.



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

Reverend Linda Rue Scott (Freitag), 77, of Westerville, Ohio, was called to her eternal rest on October 12, 2024. Born on March 1, 1947, in Wooster, Massachusetts, she dedicated her life to the service of others as a compassionate respiratory therapist and as a devout minister within the United Methodist Church.

A graduate of North High School, Reverend Scott pursued higher education at Columbus State Community College and Delaware Theological Seminary. Her ministry began at Spring Valley Methodist Church and continued at The Church of the Messiah, where she served until retirement.

Reverend Scott's life was a testament to her unwavering faith and her boundless love for her family and community. She was a beacon of hope and solace, a nurturing mother, sister, grandmother, and friend. Her resilience and determination were sources of inspiration to all who knew her.

An avid reader and card player, she enjoyed the simple pleasures of life, including the company of her dear friends at Innis Woods and cherished moments with her family. Her presence brought joy to every gathering, and her memory will be treasured in the hearts of those she touched.

Reverend Scott is survived by her loving daughter, Lisa Lee and her husband Mike Davidek; her son, Todd and his wife Amber Pickney; her brothers, Greg Freitag and his wife Sharon, and Rick Freitag and his wife Marilyn. She was a proud grandmother to Courtney Lee, Justin Pickney, Taylor Davidek, Grayson, and Mia Pickney. She is also remembered by her cousin Judi Berry, and a host of nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her mother, Nedra Greenlee, stepfather, Bill Greenlee, father, Otto Freitag, and grandson, Josh Pickney.

Funeral services were held at The Church of the Messiah, 51 North State St., Westerville, Ohio. The family received friends on October 17, 2024.

Rev. Theodore “Ted” L. Yewey, age 90, of Wapakoneta, Ohio, formerly of Celina, Ohio, who peacefully passed away at his home on September 21, 2024. Ted devoted 38 years to the Methodist ministry, serving with grace and compassion. He played a pivotal role in establishing the Otterbein Communities in Cridersville and St. Marys, leaving a lasting impact on the lives of many. [Obituary](#). Funeral services were held on September 24, at the Cisco Funeral Home, officiated by his son, Pastor Randall Yewey. Memorial contributions may be made to [Grand Lake United Methodist Church](#)

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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