



# Western Lakes District

*News from The United Methodist Church*

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## WLD Important Information Volume 32- September 27, 2024

### **Jots From Jim...**

The last few weeks have been heart-breaking for our churches in Clark County where Springfield sits beautifully as the county seat. In fact, the heartbreak extends across our nation as we live into the realities of mass migration as a nation. A comment was made about cats and dogs. For whatever reason that comment awakened our nation and as a result people have been hurt. The living reality in Springfield is larger than Trump or Harris. The pain existed way before any political debate between candidates and the pain is not unique to this area.

Life is always changing and people are always moving. I've been reflecting back upon the arrival of foreigners into our nation. I think the ship was named the Mayflower. I wonder if anyone was in this nation before those we name as "Native" Americans established it as their home. My wonder takes me all the way back to the beginning of creation. Ahh. The real owner of Springfield, and our entire nation, is Almighty God.

So, if God is the creator and owner of the land I find myself as a Christian with the conviction that I have to live according to God's rules. It's His house, His land, His way of living. I'm not the smartest cookie in the box, but I am pretty sure God's desire is that no one is hurt. God said something about everything being declared "good" when He made it. He also sent His son, Jesus Christ, to make our joy complete.

I had breakfast with one of our pastors who is under appointment in the Western Lakes District and is here legally on "protected status" as he fled the violence in Haiti. I heard in his stories of the past few weeks much hurt and fear and uncertainty. I watch A LOT of nightly news and I try to balance the sources. But the pastor's report on life these past few weeks far exceeds any Democratic or Republican spin on an electoral process. It was real and straight from the heart.

While many on social media want to use the current events of the day to advance a cause, position a politician for election, or sway the community opinion, I have decided to take a road less traveled. I want to learn more about who has been hurting. I want to learn if I have any ability to help with the healing. I want to continue to pray what I often pray saying "Help those of us who have, help those who do not."

Is that too simple? If so, there are many others who will welcome you into their conversations and debates. But for me this is what I am doing:

1. Join me and others from across the West Ohio Conference for a noon worship service in Springfield on October 11<sup>th</sup>. Bishop Jung will be preaching during what is being called a "A Time of Prayer, Praise, and Community: Springfield, Ohio." The service will be held at Springfield Grace UMC, 1401 W. Main Street, Springfield.

2. I have worked with several pastors to establish the "Love Your Neighbor: Haitian

Assistance Fund” which will directly assist Haitian immigrants in Clark County. Contributions are being received by mail:  
Love Your Neighbor: Haitian Assistance Fund  
c/o Springfield High Street UMC  
230 E. High Street  
Springfield, Ohio 45505

3. “Love Your Neighbor” yard signs have been generously donated to the Western Lakes District. They are available to Clark County churches for free by contacting New Carlisle First UMC at 937-845-8435.

4. The Wilson Family Rice and Bean Fund will be working with the Haitian community directly in the distribution of rice and beans to those in need.

Does this solve the problem? No. Will an election result solve the problem? No.

Perhaps this is more of a wake-up call that awakens the core of our humanity to those who are hurting. The Haitians are not the only ones hurting. There are other migrant communities throughout our district that are hurting. Many persons born in the Western Lakes District are hurting. May we use this time before us to awaken to the hurt and discern how to respond in love.

I trust God with all the other stuff.

Jim

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## Springfield Prayer, Praise, and Community Event

Springfield Healing Event Set for October 11. Join Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, Western Lakes District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Jim Wilson, and pastors from the Springfield area for a time of Prayer, Praise, and Community for the people of Springfield. The event will be held on Friday, October 11th at noon at Springfield Grace United Methodist Church at 1401 W. Main Street, Springfield, Ohio 45504.



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## Installation Service For Bishop Hee-Soo Jung Oct 12th at 4:00pm

Please join us as we welcome Bishop Hee-Soo Jung and his spouse, Rev. Im-Hyon, to the West Ohio Annual Conference at his installation service on October 12 at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1581 Cambridge Blvd, Columbus. The service will begin at **4:00 pm**. Bishop Hee-Soo Jung has been assigned to The Ohio Episcopal Area, which includes the East and West Ohio Conferences.



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## Upcoming Free Foundation Educational Opportunities:

**Foundation Offering Stewardship in the Extraordinary Church with Horizons CEO Joe Park**  
The United Methodist Foundation of West Ohio invites you to join us via zoom on October 22nd at 6:00PM for a presentation from Horizons Stewardship CEO, Joe Park as he reprises his Generosity Summit Session on Stewardship approaches for extraordinary churches. To



Mr. Joe Park reprises his Generosity Summit session on stewardship approaches



Join Here

United Methodist Foundation of West Ohio



access the zoom link, click here: [Join Zoom Meeting](#).

**Foundation Offering Leaving a Lasting Legacy with Executive Director Susan Black**  
Join Foundation Executive Director and Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy (CAP®) Susan Black as she helps unravel the mystery of planned giving for your congregation. All churches and individual members are encouraged to join this legacy giving presentation via zoom on November 10th at 6:00PM. The zoom link will be available here: [UMFWO Program Calendar](#).

**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!

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## 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!

Deadline to Register: Monday, November 4

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](mailto:mgrace@wocumc.org)

[Register Now!](#)

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## 2025 Go Grants Now Available

West Ohio Go! Grants are open to resource new innovative ministry ideas that help West Ohio churches develop relationships beyond the walls of our buildings and within our communities.

If you or your church are eager to explore a fresh perspective of ministry, you are encouraged to apply. Applications will be available September 1, 2024, to submit online by October 15, 2024.

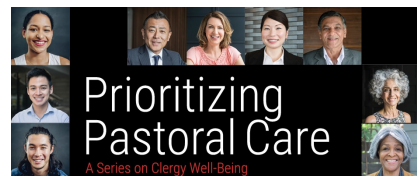
For more information and application, [click here](#)



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## Engage with UMC Leaders in Upcoming Well-Being Webinars

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.



This fall, you are invited to two webinars on clergy well-being. Learn more about each of the five dimensions of well-being, the current state of each dimension based on the 2023 Clergy Well-Being Survey results and various resources available to you.

Clergy input on well-being is essential. Register now for these sessions:

- October 24, 1-2pm Central – Physical and Emotional Well-Being [Register Now](#)
- 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.

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## **Frankly Speaking with Four Friends**

Learning what it is like to know you are being released and leaving prison

This is a brand new ministry from All In Community called Frankly Speaking with Four Friends, hosted by Rae Lynn Schleif and Jami Nathan. Every first Tuesday of the month we are hosting a Zoom meeting open to everyone and inviting two persons who have experienced incarceration and reentry to share their stories and teach us through their experiences.



This next conversation is Tuesday, October 1, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Two of our speakers will be sharing their personal experience of learning what it is like to know you are being released and leaving prison. The emotional and mental adjustments, the leaving friendships on the inside, and preparing for release and what comes next. These stories are personal and powerful.

All of our speakers are involved in giving a part of their time in some way; from supporting others who are currently incarcerated, to mentoring those going through the reentry process as they move towards stability.

Each month we will have a different topic. First Tuesdays Frankly Speaking conversations are free and we invite you to come and learn from those who have first-hand personal experience. You can join by the QR code here or this zoom link. <https://qrco.de/bfJyoa>

Frankly Speaking [FLYER](#)

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## **Fall 2024 UMCOR Kit Collection**

After another year of natural disasters occurring in the U.S. and around the world, Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) needs our help replenishing their stock of UMCOR Hygiene and Menstrual Hygiene kits. From October 1-31, 2024, hygiene and menstrual hygiene kits - as well as other supplies - can be dropped off at the following locations:

- Hocking River District Office (South/Southeast)
  - 47 Johnson Rd, The Plains, OH
  - Drop-off hours: Mon-Thurs, 9:00am-5:00pm
  - Contact Barbara Conover at 740-677-0136 or [hockingriver@wocumc.org](mailto:hockingriver@wocumc.org) for questions
- Brecon UMC/Great Miami River District Office (West/Southwest)
  - 7388 E Kemper Rd, Cincinnati, OH
  - Drop-off hours: Mon-Thurs, 9:00am-4:00pm
  - Contact Nancy Newton at 513-421-2057 or [nnewton@wocumc.org](mailto:nnewton@wocumc.org) for questions
- Maumee River District Office (West/Northwest)
  - 1729 Indian Wood Circle, Maumee, OH
  - Drop-off hours: Mon-Thurs, 10:00am-4:00pm

- Contact Michelle Robinson at 419-897-9770 or [maumeeriver@wocumc.org](mailto:maumeeriver@wocumc.org) for questions
- West Ohio Conference Center (Central)
  - 32 Wesley Blvd, Worthington, OH
  - Drop-off hours: Mon, Weds, & Thurs, 10:00am-4:00pm
  - Contact Mariellyn Grace at 380-223-9212 or [mgrace@wocumc.org](mailto:mgrace@wocumc.org) for questions

[Click here](#) for instructions on how to make hygiene and menstrual hygiene kits. Other items that will be accepted include dish soap (42-64 oz.), liquid laundry detergent (100-150 oz.), and rakes, shovels, or brooms (new or gently used). For more information, contact Mariellyn Grace at [mgrace@wocumc.org](mailto:mgrace@wocumc.org).

## 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](mailto:mgrace@wocumc.org)  
 Price \$35.00 Deadline to register: October 28

[Register Now!](#)

## 2024 United Women in Faith Fall Celebration

Saturday, October 19, 2024, 10AM-12PM  
 Zanesfield United Methodist Church  
 2880 Main Street, Zanesfield, OH 43360 (Logan County)



United  
 Women  
 in Faith

“Harmonizing with the Invisible” - Speaker: Jami Nathan, All In Community Ministries Coordinator

- Morning refreshments will be served (Freewill donations accepted)
- All women are invited to this FREE event!

Please call Brenda Coleman at 937-335-6071 or email [climbrenda@aol.com](mailto:climbrenda@aol.com) for reservations by October 14th. Please provide your name, your contact info and your church name.

Building harmonious communities and embracing the invisible to restore hope and support healing in communities within Ohio.

## Apportionment E-Statements Now Available

The Conference is now offering apportionment statements by e-mail.

- Service begins 11/1/24.
- To receive your first e-statement in October, **sign up by 10/18/24.**
- After the initial 10/18/24 deadline, registration will remain open indefinitely; however, your first emailed statement will not begin until the following month after you've signed up.



Once registered:

- Paper statements are no longer sent to your church by mail.
- Treasurers as well as lead pastors are automatically added to the e-statement distribution list.
- Additional email addresses may be added by emailing Rhonda Tyree at [rtree@wocumc.org](mailto:rtree@wocumc.org).
- If a treasurer is not named for your church, please reach out to your district to set one up. This is needed to receive e-statements.
- This service is optional. If you prefer mailed statements, you do not need to do anything further.

Treasurers: To sign-up, register or sign on to our website at [Homepage | West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church \(westohioumc.org\)](#). Then go to MyChurch in the upper righthand corner > Choose Apportionments from the red menu > Choose Apportionment Statements.

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## Upcoming Classes

**Introduction to Lay Servant Ministries (Basic Course):** Friday, October 4 from 6-8pm (Zoom) & Saturday, October 5 from 9am-5pm (either in person at the Hocking River District office or by Zoom). [Registration](#)



**Leading Worship:** October 18-19, 2024 – Sponsored by Olentangy River District - [Registration](#)

**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

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## All In Community - Fall Offerings

Please see the attached flyers for information on events that the All in Community Team will be hosting this fall.

[Resilience Clergy Retreats](#)  
[Trauma Resilience Worship Arts Workshops](#)



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. **Cost: FREE**

**ADVANCED REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

<https://qrco.de/bfQRAo>

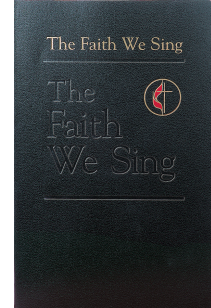
Questions and requests for the ZOOM link can be directed to Jami Nathan, AIC Ministries Coordinator, by email ([jami.nathan.22@gmail.com](mailto:jami.nathan.22@gmail.com)) or by phone (419-591-9717).

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## The Faith We Sing

Do you have extra copies of The Faith We Sing? The Faith We Sing is

a hymnal supplement to The United Methodist Hymnal. We have a church in our district that is in need of some copies. Please reach out to Cortney at [creed@wocumc.org](mailto:creed@wocumc.org) if you would like to donate your extra copies.



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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:**

**Kay Michaelan Kinney**, age 81, of Wauseon, passed away September 11, 2024.

She was born on May 12, 1943 to parents Richard and Ruby (Hall) Morris of Buchanan, Michigan, Kay attended Adrian College where she met her husband, Roger. On June 19, 1965 she married Roger Kinney, and he preceded her in death on August 31, 1994. Kay put passion and grace into every aspect of her life; whether it was dinner with family, card games with friends or Bible study with small groups. Her passion and joy for life was widespread and captivating.

She is survived by her children; Rob (Marie) Kinney and Amanda Weber, brother Ron (Sandy) Morris; grandchildren Zach, Alexis, Chelsie, Hannah, Matt, Emma, Gavin, Sam, Ethan and Addison; six great-grandchildren; and life-long friend and neighbor, Jan Krause. She was preceded in death by both of her parents and her husband, Roger.

Kay was known to exude warmth and was a pivotal figure in her community. She retired after teaching 21 years at Pettisville Elementary School, and also served as a leader in her church, the Pettisville Missionary Church. She will be remembered fondly for her faith, kindness and devotion to serving those around her.

A Celebration of Kay's Life was held on Thursday, September 19, 2024 at the Pettisville Missionary Church, with Pastors Kent Norr and John Siegel, officiating. contributions be given to Pettisville Missionary Church. Online condolences may be offered to the family at

[www.grisierfh.com](http://www.grisierfh.com).

## 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.



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