



## Multiplying Love

◇ Emerging  
Generations

2 Dear Hocking River District Family and Friends

◇ Dessert &  
Dialogue

3 After the journey through the Lenten wilderness has come to an end, the joyous season of Easter has begun! We have moved from reflection and introspection to celebration and exaltation! *Let the party begin! Or not!*

◇ Dates to  
Remember

4 Perhaps some of us may be feeling like Jesus' Disciples may have felt during those dark days preceding the Resurrection. Could it be that we, at times, like the Disciples, need to be in a safe space, all together, for encouragement, support, acceptance?

◇ CIVI, Annual  
Reports, PRC  
Training

5 I invite you to read these words again.

◇ VBS Grants

6 “That evening, the disciples gathered together, and because they  
7 were afraid of reprisals from the Jewish leaders, they had locked  
the doors. But suddenly Jesus appeared among them and said,

◇ General  
Conference

8 *‘Peace to you!’*

Then he showed them the wounds of his hands and his side—they were overjoyed to see the Lord with their own eyes! Jesus repeated his greeting, *‘Peace to you!’* And he told them, *‘Just as the Father has sent me, I’m now sending you.’*

◇ Annual  
Conference

Then, taking a deep breath, he blew on them and said, *‘Receive the Holy Spirit. I send you to preach the forgiveness of sins—and people’s sins will be forgiven. But if you don’t proclaim the forgiveness of their sins, they will remain guilty.’* (John 20:19-23 TPT)

Jesus, the Crucified and Risen Savior, died for our sins and rose again to give us Hope and Peace and Life. After conquering sin and death, He appeared to the Disciples and many others. His message on that first evening of Resurrection Day was simply this: *“Peace be with you. Receive the Holy Spirit. Preach forgiveness. Forgive.”*

[Reverend Chow’s message continued on page 2....](#)

The Apostle Paul often used a similar greeting. “May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.” (Philemon 1:3 NLT)

Whatever is going on in your life, whatever challenges you may be facing, remember this: God’s grace and peace can be yours.

May God’s Grace and Peace surround you!

*Mark*



## Connect with others working with Emerging Generations!

We’d love to be able to gather to share resources, best practices, and dream together, but want to hear from you about best way to connect with others who are doing the same across our district. If you are a volunteer or staff person who works with children or youth in the Hocking River District, take a few moments between now and May 10<sup>th</sup> to fill out this short survey to let us know! [Hocking River District Children and Youth Worker Survey](#) If you have any questions, please contact Director of Camps, Retreats, and Next Gen Engagement, Ann Marie Carley ([amcarley@wocumc.org](mailto:amcarley@wocumc.org)).



**PHONE NUMBER FOR HOCKING RIVER DISTRICT OFFICE:**  
**(740) 677-0136**

**Pastor Victoria Burgoon  
Bill Brownson**



**Pastor Randy Hardman  
Bill Brownson**



**Thank you** to all the churches that hosted the *Dessert and Dialogue* trainings in the Hocking River District:

**Hopewell UMC in Perry County (Board of Trustees/Finance Committee Trainings)**

**McArthur First UMC in Vinton County (Board of Trustee/Finance Committee Trainings)**

**The Coolville UMC in Athens County (S/PPRC Committee Training)**

**Bethany UMC in Perry County (S/PPRC Committee Training)**

**Pastor Phil Thomas**



**Pastor Peter Smith**



## District Leadership Training Days -

Sunday, April 28th - focus will be on Circuit Ministry

2:00pm - Chester UMC (Meigs/Gallia/Vinton)

6:00pm - First UMC of Nelsonville (Athens/Hocking)

Sunday, May 5th - focus will be on Circuit Ministry

2:00pm - (Zanesville) Coburn UMC (Muskingum/Perry)

6:00pm - (Marietta) Gilman UMC (Washington/Morgan)

## Clergy Session

Wednesday, May 15, 2024 - 9:00am - Christ UMC, Kettering

## District Spring Conference -

Sunday, May 19, 2024 - 2:00pm - (Belpre) St Mark's UMC

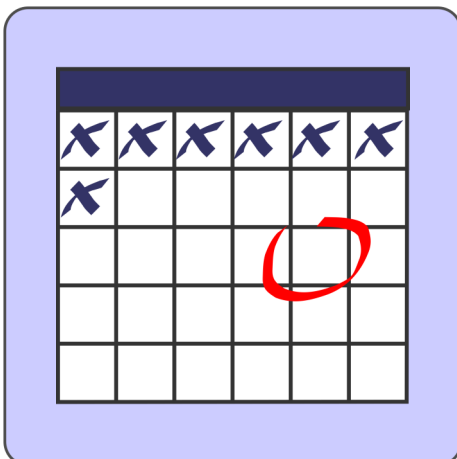
## West Ohio Annual Conference -

Wednesday, May 29, 2024 - Saturday, June 1, 2024 - Capital University, Bexley OH

## Starting Well

Wednesday, July 24, 2024 - 6:00pm - 9:00pm - (Zanesville) Grace UMC

**Need help with registration for Annual Conference? Call Barbara (740) 677-0136**



**IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2024**

## **If you need to change your electronic record with the West Ohio Conference,**

**PLEASE** contact the Hocking River District Office at the number listed on this page.

Creating a new account creates problems for registration for Annual Conference and other events.

If your primary email address or phone number is changed, or you have moved, or gotten married, etc., we need to use the original record and make changes there. Call or email me with any changes, and I am happy to make updates!

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### **S/PPRC Training**

We are grateful for your leadership in the Hocking River District! This is an important time of transition and cultivating a Christ-centered community is vital to moving forward focused on our mission. It is also important that we know the responsibilities and tasks that we are called to do as we move forward. These discussions are important training. If you are a **member of the S/PPRC Committee**, it is important that you attend one of these trainings.

**If you are a pastor, please make certain that you or someone from your church attends these trainings!**

If your committee has not already attended one of the trainings offered in March 2024, you will need to attend S/PPRC Training in another district. Following is a training date at the closest remaining location across the West Ohio Conference:

**Sunday, April 21, 4pm—Winchester UMC, 70 E. Washington St., Winchester**



**Use the Conference Website for Annual Reporting OR Fill Out the Paper Forms That Have Been Mailed Out and Return to the District Office By June 1st**

**All forms must be sent in by June 1, with the exception of the Statistics (Year End Report), which was due by April 15.**

**Copy and paste the following link into your browser to complete Statistics online:**

**<https://westohioumc.org/stewardship-finance/end-year-reports>**

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## **Churches Receive VBS Mini-Grants**

Fifteen churches across West Ohio received help with their upcoming VBS programs from the United Methodist Foundation of West Ohio. Thanks to the generosity of a Foundation donor, \$5750 was provided for VBS programs in this year's grant cycle.

Previous support was limited to the former Capitol Area Districts but was recently expanded at the discretion of the donor.

"We're so excited to be able to support so many programs," said Maddy DeWitt, Donor Relations Manager for the Foundation. "59 churches applied – which is incredible! And although we don't have enough funding to support them all, we were able to provide funding to churches in every district this year."

Funds were provided by Ketha Robbins, who established the Clara's Kiddies/Jesse's Vine Endowment with the Foundation in 2017 to support VBS programs in honor of her grandmother and great-grandfather who encouraged her faith. To Ketha, this is what made, and continues to make, VBS so special. In her words, "It is a bookend. It is the start of what a person's spiritual life can become."

Congratulations to the following churches:

Clifton UMC on behalf of the Grace and Possibilities Circuit (Great Miami River District)

New Paris - St Paul UMC (Great Miami River District)

**South Perry UMC (Hocking River District)**

**Canaanville Stewart UMC (Hocking River District)**

**Hopewell UMC (Hocking River District)**

Gilboa UMC and Pandora UMC Charge ([Maumee River District](#))

Edgerton UMC (Maumee River District)

Hilliard UMC ([Olentangy River District](#))

Smith Chapel UMC (Olentangy River District)

Iglesia Hispana St. Marks (Olentangy River District)

Urbana UMC (Western Lakes District)

West Jefferson UMC (Western Lakes District)

Ada UMC (Western Lakes District)

Rushsylvania UMC (Western Lakes District)

Five Points UMC (Scioto River District)



For more information or to receive notification of next year's grant cycle, please contact Maddy DeWitt at [mdewitt@wocumc.org](mailto:mdewitt@wocumc.org).

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# General Conference

## General Information:

The 2020 General Conference was set to happen in Minneapolis, Minnesota, until the pandemic made it necessary to postpone the quadrennial legislative event until 2024. **Delegates from Africa, Europe, Asia and the U.S. will attend the 11-day gathering, which could attract as many as 7,500 people. Some 862 delegates, elected from around the world, will gather to set policy and direction for the church, as well as handle other important business.**

**Meeting every four years, General Conference is the only entity that speaks for the denomination.** The United Methodist Book of Discipline, updated every four years, incorporates changes made by the General Conference.

Voting delegates will come from the United States (55.9%), Africa (32%), the Philippines (6%), Europe (4.6%) and concordat churches that have close ties to The United Methodist Church (1.5%). **Half will be clergy, half lay.**

## Legislation

Following the progress of legislation through the General Conference process can be a challenge. Most issues come before delegates in the form of petitions sent by individuals, groups, annual conferences and governing bodies of general agencies. These appear in the [Advance Daily Christian Advocate](#) and on the General Conference [website](#).

## Trusted resources:

Many people have an opinion about what happens at General Conference. These organizations will provide you with the most accurate and up-to-date information.

## The United Methodist Church [Website](#)

Facebook and X (formerly Twitter) follow #UMCGC

## West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church

Website: [westhioumc.org](http://westhioumc.org)

Facebook: [West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church](#)

Instagram: westhioumc

## West Ohio Conference Delegates

These persons have been elected to serve as General Conference [Delegates](#). You may send your prayers and messages to West Ohio Conference delegates via email: [GCDelegates2024@wocumc.org](mailto:GCDelegates2024@wocumc.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

## REGISTER NOW!

### **West Ohio Annual Conference Session Wednesday, May 29 - Saturday, June 1, 2024 Capital University, Bexley OH**

#### **New! 'Picnic in the Park' at Annual Conference**

On Thursday evening over dinner, we will be having a Picnic in the Park, complete with food trucks for you to purchase dinner, music and outdoor games. Located on the north side of the Student Union, plan to bring your own lawn chairs and picnic blankets. No registration required.

#### **New! Mission Opportunities at Annual Conference**

Plan to arrive early on Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> to participate in a mission opportunity that afternoon! Options include Amina's Dream sewing ministry at Lewis Center UMC, the Urban Farm Church in North Columbus, the Church for All People Free Store and Market in downtown Columbus, and the Charitable Pharmacy downtown. Volunteer for a ministry you may be interested in learning more about! Registration ends on May 23<sup>rd</sup> or when spots are full.

#### **New! 'Buckets of Blessings' Donations**

As we do every year at Annual Conference, West Ohio Disaster Response Ministries will be collecting kits and supplies for Midwest Mission Distribution Center, our North Central Jurisdiction UMCOR depot. However, this year's collection will also include the Bishop's Buckets of Blessings Challenge, where we see which District can contribute the most buckets of cleaning supplies!

#### **In Appreciation of Bishop and Mrs. Cynthia Palmer**

In celebration of Bishop Palmer's retirement after 24 years in Episcopal Leadership, twelve of those serving in West Ohio, you are invited to send cards and letters to them c/o the West Ohio Conference Center, 32 Wesley Blvd., Worthington, OH 43085, by May 15<sup>th</sup>. And if you wish to contribute to a love offering, checks can be sent c/o the United Methodist Foundation of West Ohio at the Conference Center address.



#### **Register for Annual Conference by May 1**

Annual Conference registration is required by May 1 to ensure we have adequate accommodations.

#### **Clergy Spouse Brunch**

Clergy spouses are invited to brunch with Mrs. Cynthia Palmer on Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am. You are welcome to stay for the Celebration of Bishop and Mrs. Palmer later that afternoon.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**Office Hours: M-F 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.**

**E-Mails: Office - [hockingriverdistrict@wocumc.org](mailto:hockingriverdistrict@wocumc.org)**

**Mark Chow, DS - [mchow@wocumc.org](mailto:mchow@wocumc.org)**

**Barbara Conover, Office Admin. - [bconover@wocumc.org](mailto:bconover@wocumc.org)**