



# Western Lakes District

*News from The United Methodist Church*

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## WLD Important Information

### Annual Reporting

Reminder that the Fund Balance Report, Trustee Legal & Property, Parsonage Inspection, Clergy Self-Assessment and SPRC Assessments are due June 1st.

### Bid Farewell to the Palmers at 32 Wesley Open House

Bishop Gregory Vaughn Palmer is retiring after serving 24 years in Episcopal leadership. West Ohio has been blessed to have Bishop and First Lady Cynthia Palmer serving us in this conference.



On Tuesday, June 4, from 4:00pm-6:00pm there will be an Open House celebrating the Palmers at the West Ohio Conference center, 32 Wesley Blvd., Worthington. You are invited to attend to share well wishes in person. Light refreshments will be served.

In addition, these are the final days to express your appreciation in the following ways:

- Contribute to a love offering. Financial contributions may be made [here](#).
- Leave your words of appreciation [online here](#) and those sentiments will be shared with them as well.



### New Resource for Congregations Looking to Grow Younger!

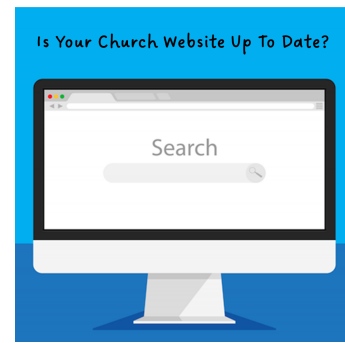
Last month over 160 leaders from 45 different congregations across West Ohio came together at Ohio Wesleyan University for Generate 2024. There were six different generations represented during this transformational day of learning, listening, and launching a movement of growing younger. There will

be many more stories to share from this day as churches across West Ohio continue to take their next steps in growing younger.

If you missed this event or lost your notes, you can now find the resources shared during the day and hear what others thought by visiting [www.generateohio.org](http://www.generateohio.org). Not only will you find the notebooks and slides shared during Generate, additional resources like summer camp options, connecting with our family ministry networks, and micro-grant information is available. Stop by often as resources are being added frequently.

## Are You Up To Date?

Is your church website up to date? How about your Facebook page? Can new families in the community find your church service times? Is the information outdated? People often go to the internet to see what the church has to offer before visiting. So many times we see websites with no church address, no worship time, or outdated information. Help others find out more about your church by updating your website and Facebook page.



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## Annual Conference 'Picnic in the Park' set for May 30

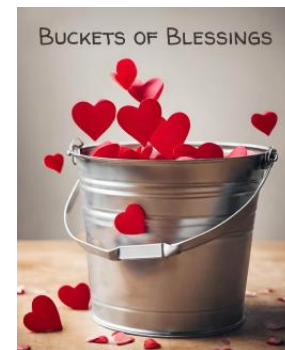
Join in on the fun! Connectional Ministries will host a 'Picnic in the Park' over our dinner break on Thursday evening, May 30, from 5:30-7:00 pm, between the afternoon and Laity Sessions that evening.

The party will be held on the lawn just north of the Student Union, about a block from the Capital Center. We will have music, lawn games, and a great variety of FOOD TRUCKS for you to purchase your dinner! We may even have a game of sand volleyball, weather permitting! Young clergy and their families are invited to meet up at this event. The rain location will be inside the student union in the Schneider Conference Room. No preregistration is required. Remember to bring your own lawn chairs or picnic blankets! [Click here](#) for the list of food trucks; most accept credit card payments.

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## UMCOR Collection & Buckets of Blessings Challenge

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! Also called Home Care Kits, these buckets include liquid household cleaner, dish soap, liquid laundry detergent, and a scrub brush, all in a 5-gallon bucket. [Click here for more on how to make Home Care Kits](#). For his final Annual Conference as West Ohio's Bishop, let's make sure we shower Bishop Palmer with Buckets of Blessings!



In addition to Home Care Kits, we will also be collecting the following items:

- [UMCOR Hygiene Kits](#)
- Shampoo (12-19 oz.)
- Deodorant (2-3 oz.)
- Lotion (8-10 oz.)

Kits and supplies will be collected on Thursday, May 30, from 7:30am-5:30pm, and on Friday, May 31, from 8:00am-1:30pm. Take all donations to the Midwest Mission truck located west of the Capital Center near the golf cart station. Please do not bring supplies into the Capital Center where Annual Conference is being held.

\*In order for your donation of Home Care Kits to count toward your District total, be sure you notify the Midwest Mission personnel at the truck about which District your supplies are from.\*

If you have questions or need more information, email [mgrace@wocumc.org](mailto:mgrace@wocumc.org).

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## Conference Archives Moving to MTSO

The archives of the East and West Ohio conferences will be moving to the Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO) this summer.

For more than 50 years, the archives were housed at Ohio Wesleyan University (OWU). Last year, OWU notified the conferences that the Beeghly Library was closing for renovations and that relocation of the archives would be necessary.

“We are grateful to Ohio Wesleyan for caring for our archives for all these years, and we look forward to working with MTSO. The United Methodist Church has a rich history, and our archives are about cultivating our past to help engage our future,” said Dave Boling, West Ohio Conference Archives and History Chairperson.

It is anticipated that the materials will be moved to MTSO in June. Once the archives are relocated to MTSO, attention will turn to accessibility and use of the archives. Watch for more details later this summer. Should you have any questions, please contact Dave Boling at [historyarchives@wocumc.org](mailto:historyarchives@wocumc.org).

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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. Joyce Fry**, age 80, of Troy, Ohio passed away peacefully on May 13, 2024. Joyce graduated from Bellville High School, Ashland College, United Theological Seminary (Dayton) and was ordained an Elder in the United Methodist Church.

She enjoyed pastoral ministry in congregations at Northwood (Toledo), St. Paul (Delphos) and Ridge (Elida), South Park (Dayton), Fort McKinley (Dayton), and Central (Springfield). For the balance of her appointed ministry, she served in the following administrative positions: District Superintendent of the Dayton North District, and the Assistant to the West Ohio Conference Bishop Bruce Ough. She retired in 2011, but then served as interim pastor at Scioto Ridge (Hilliard).

Memorial service will be held at 1:00 PM on May 25, 2024,  
First United Methodist Church  
110 West Franklin Street, Troy, Ohio 45373.  
Clergy are encouraged to wear a stole (no robe)

A reception will follow. <https://www.richlandsource.com/2024/05/15/joyce-fry/>  
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to First United Methodist Church and/or the Vietnamese United Methodist Church.

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**Rev. Beverly Ann (Beeghly) Avers**, age 86, who passed away on April 16, 2024. Beverly was a retired full member Elder in the United Methodist Church. Her biggest call, becoming a pastor, led her to study at Dayton Theological Seminary, where she completed her Masters of Divinity in 1998. As Pastor Bev, she touched many lives at Catawba (S), Nation Chapel (S) and Rosewood (S) United Methodist churches as demonstrated in the growing attendance and engagement of multiple generations.

Donations in Beverly's name may be made to Powell United Methodist Church, 825 E. Olentangy St, Powell, Ohio, 43065 or Short North Church, 25 W 5th Ave, Columbus, OH 43201 [Obituary and Condolences](#)

\* \* \*

**Mrs. Lois Brunstrup**, who died on May 13, 2024. Lois was the wife of Rev. Thomas Brunstrup, who retired from serving Chattanooga UMC in the Western Lakes District. Lois and Tom were married at the Decatur Church of God, and he survives. [Obituary](#). Preferred memorials may be given to Willshire Union United Methodist Church or C&C Bible Fellowship. You may leave your condolences online by clicking [here](#).

\* \* \*

**Mrs. Martha Buckalew** who passed away May 15, 2024. Martha was the wife of the late Rev. Louis Buckalew. Rev. Buckalew served in West Virginia and Missouri before coming to West Ohio. Here he served North Broadway, Asbury South, and Summit before becoming the Director of the Office of Representative Ministries. He retired in 2002 from his position as Assistant to the Bishop. Martha's visitation (10am) and Celebration of Life

ceremony (11am) is scheduled for June 11, 2024 at King Ave. United Methodist Church in Columbus. Obituary will be available soon.

\* \* \*

**Rev. Linda Hedden**, age 82, of Troy, OH passed away on May 15, 2024 at her residence. She was born in Hornell, NY to the late Marjorie and William “Bill” Hedden. She is survived by her sister-in-law Sheila Hedden of Chambersburg, PA, nieces Beth Shustack (Dan) of North Adams, MA, Danielle Hedden of Williamsport, MD and nephew Andrew Hedden of Austin, TX. She has loved being the quirky aunt of Savannah, Jacob, Liam, Lydia, Josie, Joel, and Rosie! Her cousins Hank, Sue, Marjy, Mary Lou, Allen, Jamie, Marline, and Dougie have scattered but stayed “tight” over the years. Many friends she has made over the years of a wonder full life also survive. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother Bill Hedden and her friend and colleague Joyce Fry.

Her academic experience prepared her for work in the Veterans Administration where she served in Bath, NY, Dublin, GA and Dayton, OH developing treatment teams and working with the Federal Women’s Program before becoming an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church. She served churches in Springfield, Pleasant Ridge, Oxford and Napoleon and after retirement part time on the district level in missions. She also served on several Conference Boards and committees. One of her most memorable experiences was being part of the ministry teams that trained the first pastors for the United Methodist Church in Vietnam.

Condolences may be expressed to the family through [www.bairdfuneralhome.com](http://www.bairdfuneralhome.com).

CELEBRATION OF LIFE Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at 2:00 PM First United Methodist Church 110 West Franklin Street Troy, OH 45373

## Events



### Online Certification Institute for Administrators

An online certification course for administrators

is available through PAUMCS – Professional Administrators of the United Methodist Connectional Structure.

The institute begins June 1 and is a self-paced curriculum with a few live sessions. Admins will learn more about taxes and the church, connectional giving, ethics and confidentiality, conflict resolution, polity and office finances.

[Click here](#) for more information and to register. Registration deadline is June 1. The National Chapter is offering 10 scholarships of \$150 (1/2 price tuition) so apply soon!

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### Upcoming Lay Servant Ministries Classes

**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). Registration coming soon.

**Basic Course** Friday, October 11 from 6-8pm (Zoom) & Saturday, October 12 from 9am-5pm (either in person at the Hocking River District office or by Zoom). Registration coming soon.



Remember, even if you have completed the Basic Course and all of the Core Courses, you need to take an Advanced Course every 3 years as part of maintaining your certification.

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## Mission U Registration Now Open - United Women in Faith

All are invited to attend Mission u this year, which will be held in-person June 21-23, 2024, at the Bergamo Life-Long Learning Center in Beavercreek, OH.

A virtual Mission u will also be held during the month of July. Mission u is co-sponsored by the West Ohio Conference United Women in Faith and the West Ohio Conference.

This year's theme is "The Kin-dom is Among You...Drawing Closer to God and One Another." Adults and youth (6th-12th grades) will participate in dynamic discussions, meditative worship, engagement with the natural world, and reflection on the lovely grounds of the Bergamo Center.

Martha Scholarships for first-time attendees will be available as well as Mission u scholarships. All this and more, including registration info and flyers, can be found [here](#). Questions? Contact Linda Bales Todd (Dean) at [joylab47@yahoo.com](mailto:joylab47@yahoo.com) or Carolyn Johnson (Assistant Dean) at [cjohnson3253@yahoo.com](mailto:cjohnson3253@yahoo.com).

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## Deconsecration Services Set for Camps

Former campers, employees, camp counselors, and supporters of Camps Widewater and Otterbein are encouraged to attend deconsecration services this summer. The services are set for Saturday, June 15, 2pm at Camp Widewater and Sunday, June 16, 4pm at Camp Otterbein.



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## Lakeside Institute July 21-27, 2024

Lakeside Institute is a camp like no other. Located inside the gates of the Lakeside Chautauqua community, Lakeside Institute has been helping youth and young adults, ages 14 through age 20, further their personal faith journeys for over 100 years!

Through daily messages, small group conversations, large & small group activities, devotionals and worship opportunities, each youth is encouraged to develop their individual relationship with Christ. Supported by adult volunteers, the camp Chaplain and their peers, Lakeside Institute provides a place for them to explore their personal faith beliefs, deepen their understanding of God's work in the world, ask questions, and prepare for a lifelong journey of faith.

The theme for camp this summer is "Finding the ME in the WE." Using Luke 1:28 and the story of Mary as an entry point, youth will explore what it means to claim their God given identity, while also remaining deeply connected to the larger community where they have been called.

While Lakeside Institute runs through East Ohio Conference, there is a long history of involvement from West Ohio as well. Hilliard UMC has several leaders on staff, including one of the deans (April Andrick) and this year's chaplain (Rev. April Blaine). The leadership works to create an accommodating and inclusive environment for all young people, including LGBTQIA+ youth.

Campers stay in Wo-Ho-Mis and nearby cabins on the grounds of Lakeside. Youth are welcome to come on their own, or with others from their church. Come and join the fun at Lakeside Institute this summer!

Promo Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JjMNP4glseE>  
Register Here: <https://lakesideinstitute.wordpress.com/register/>

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## Save the Date for CLM Retreat in August

Save the Date for the Certified Lay Ministry Academy Retreat, August 8-10, 2024, at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO). More information coming soon!

## Resources

### 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.

### Free Tools to Help Manage Small Groups

One of the most important aspects of church life is a vibrant small-group and Sunday school ministry. You can find many free tools to help leaders increase their effectiveness in facilitating these vital programs.

[Read More Now](#)

### Cokesbury Resources for Vacation Bible School Available

Now is the ideal time to spring into your summer planning — including laying the groundwork for vacation Bible school. To get started, [click here](#) for 2024 programs and resources from Cokesbury.



## 2024-2025 Appointments



The list of pastoral appointments beginning July 1, 2024 can be accessed [clicking here](#).

Please refer back to these lists as they are updated frequently.

Western Lakes District | 32 Wesley Blvd | Worthington, OH 43085 US

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