



Western Lakes District

News from The United Methodist Church

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WLD Important Information



Bishop's Summer Reading List is Here!

Reading as one way of nurturing both the head and heart is an ongoing process. There are, however, rhythms and cycles of our work and life that create the opportunity to concentrate some of our reading. Below is my current reading list. I hope you will pursue it and find one or more of these volumes useful if you have not already read them. [Here is the list](#)

Annual Reporting Due

Reminder that the following items were due June 1. If you have not turned them in yet, please do so now.

Committee Driven Reports (click on the title for the form)

- [Parsonage Inspection](#)
- [Trustee Legal & Property Report](#)
- [Fund Balance Report](#)
- [Clergy Evaluation](#)

Rev. Rodrigo Cruz
The Nett Church: Atlanta
Multi-Ethnic Ministry Exchange



Fresh Starts
Multi-Ethnic Ministry Exchange

Fresh Starts Multi-Ethnic Ministry Exchange

Coming up on August 17th, we are offering a Multi-Ethnic Ministry Exchange at Mosaic Church in Beaver Creek. If you're doing multi-ethnic church or if you'd like to learn more about doing church with people different than you, we would love to have you at the table. Each session will only have 20 people. We will have two sessions, a morning session from 9-12 and an afternoon session from 1-4. An opt-in lunch will be available provided by the Christian Family Credit Union. Our special guest is Rev. Rodrigo Cruz from The Nett UMC in Atlanta. In 2016, he launched his multi-ethnic movement so

that Sunday mornings would better reflect the school systems. In 2022, The Nett Church was voted by Outreach Magazine as one of the top 100 reproducing churches in the country, having 5 campuses across Gwinnett Co, GA. For more information and/or to register go to <https://www.westohioumc.org/event/fresh-starts-multi-ethnic-ministry-exchange>. For a look at our other exchanges that we are offering on small/rural church ministry, large church ministry and evangelism, go to <https://www.westohioumc.org/fresh-starts-exchange>. Space is limited so register soon!



West Ohio Team Takes Mission Journey to the DRC

Leaders from the West Ohio Annual Conference returned from a two-week mission journey to visit Bishop Mande Muyomobo and our partners in mission, the North Katanga Conference. Arriving to the Wings of the Morning hangar on the aircraft, the team was welcomed with singing and dancing by a host of

leaders, choirs and people from the area – a welcome that is unique and distinct to the North Katanga Conference in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

“This trip was incredibly eye opening. The people of Kamina showed a graciousness and hospitality I’ve never experienced before. And their love for Jesus Christ is abundantly clear,” said Kenzie Kuhn, West Ohio Conference Multi-Media Producer.

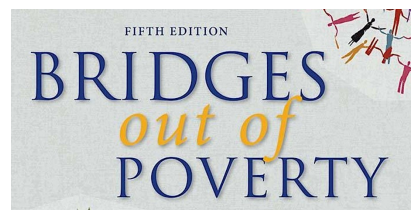
The 14-day journey provided opportunities to visit mission sites and to see firsthand the impact of our partnership which began in the late 2000’s. Together, the group discussed strategies to strengthen the partnership by including ways we can learn from one another and continue to support the growth of The United Methodist Church in North Katanga. Traveling many unpaved roads in sport utility vehicles, the team visited various mission sites: the 330-acre Kamisamba Farm, a sustainable farm and learning center, Wings of the Morning Aviation Ministry, Kamina Children’s Home, the Women’s Sewing Center, Lupandilo Clinic and new churches under construction.

[Read more...](#)

Bridges Out of Poverty Virtual Cohort Beginning September- Wednesdays

This cohort hosted by Missions and Community Engagement in the East Ohio Conference of the UMC will begin this fall! This is an in depth book study of the 5th Edition Bridges out of Poverty Strategies for Professionals and Communities. Participants will meet

via Zoom to read, discuss and investigate opportunities for Bridges implementation within their communities. Participants will meet twice a month, on Wednesdays over lunch (11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.) for 6 months, September 2023-March 2024. The cohort is free, however, purchase of Bridges books is required for all participants.



[Learn more and register via Eventbrite](#)

Generosity Summit

The Foundation invites West Ohio clergy, church leaders, and lay persons to attend the inaugural **Generosity Summit**, September 11-12, at Deer Creek State Park. The one-and-a-half-day conference features expert speakers from around the connection on the topics of stewardship, clergy finance, planned giving, and much more. Sponsors of the Summit include Wespath and Horizons Stewardship.

Registration is online with a fee of \$100 per person which includes all meals. More information on topics and speakers can be found at <https://umfwestohio.org/generosity-summit-2023/>. Registration deadline is September 1.

Housing for the Summit is still available at Deer Creek State Park Lodge. Access to the discounted UMFWO block of rooms now closes on August 14 and can only be reserved by calling 740-869-2020 and asking for the United Methodist Foundation of West Ohio block or referencing code UNIT. A limited number of rooms may still be available after August 14 at regular rates.

For questions or more information, contact Susan Black at sblack@wocumc.org.

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

Rev. Richard Leroy Thomas passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, July 12, 2023

Richard was born August 6, 1949 to H. Leroy Thomas and Polly Jane Kerns Thomas. He married the love of his life, Jeanette Robinson June 3, 1971 three days before their graduation from Otterbein. They moved to United Theological Seminary in Dayton, where he finished school and became Deacon, and a few years later became a Full Elder. Following his Ordination as an Elder by Bishop Gerald Ensley, January 11, 1976 at his home church in Circleville, Rich served the following churches in the West Ohio Conference: Arlington United Methodist Church in Brookville; Vandalia United Methodist Church; Fort Jefferson United Methodist Church; Woodville United Methodist Church; Maize Manor United Methodist Church; and Milford First United Methodist Church, and retired in 2012.

Rich is survived by his loving wife of 52 years Jennie; his son John Mark, wife Samantha Jean and grandson Aiden Francis, his son Matthew Richard, wife Ashley Dawn, grandson Nicholas Matthew and granddaughter Hayden Elizabeth; his brother Reverend Robert L Thomas, wife Mary Beth and his niece Kate.

Rich was a loving, compassionate, generous person to all he knew and he will be missed by all his family, residents of Wesley Ridge and his many friends.

A Memorial Service will be held at Broad Street United Methodist Church, 501 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215-3822 on Saturday August 19 at 1:00 pm with a reception to follow.
Parking is available in the lot across from the church

A Memorial Service for Wesley Ridge will be on Sunday, August 20 at 2:00pm
To view the entire obituary please
click <https://www.newcomercolumbus.com/Obituary/266176/Reverend-Richard-Thomas/Columbus-OH>

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to Broad Street United Methodist Church, 501 E Broad Street Columbus, Ohio 43215 or to the Wesley Ridge Charitable Fund (Online: <https://lec.org/foundation/donate/wesley-general-donation/>)

Events

Meal with AG Missionary From the Congo Aug 15th

On Aug 15th, Christ UMC at 3440 Shroyer Rd in Kettering OH will host a program on sustainable farming with a missionary from the North Katanga Conference in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Lorraine Charinda will share information about Kamisamba Farm, a mission project providing training in agriculture and sustainability [for more material see <https://www.westohioumc.org/conference/news/sustainable-farm-trains-future-farmers-and-fights-poverty>]. The event will start with a coverdish supper at 6 pm in the Picnic Pavilion behind the church (or inside if weather is inclement) followed by the program at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. Come for the program or both activities. If you attend the supper please bring personal plates, cups and eating utensils (we are trying to be sustainable ourselves) a salad, vegetable, or dessert to share (church will provide meat and beverage); and RSVP at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A4FA5AD2FA46-mission>. Hoping to see you on Aug 15th.

Darke County Fair Spiritual Life Center August 19, 2023

For many years the Darke County Fair has had what is called a Spiritual Life Center, which is operated by churches within Darke County throughout the length of the Fair. This year August 19th will be United Methodist

Day in the Spiritual Life Center and will be operated by various UMC churches from Darke County from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm. If you are at the fair, please stop in and see us!

10:00 am – 12:00 pm: First United Methodist,
Greenville: Rev. Gary Blacklidge

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm: Fort Jefferson UMC: Rev. Bill
Davis

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm: Union City Community UMC: Rev. G. Scott Trittschuh

4:00pm – 6:00 pm: Arcanum Faith UMC: Sharon Troutwine

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm: SonRise UMC (formerly Gordon Grace): Rev. Maggie Sykes



Date of Festival of Sharing: Friday/Saturday, September 29-30, 2023

The annual Festival of Sharing will be collecting kits the month of September. For more information on the several kinds of kits that you and your church can pack, please go to the [FOS website](#). There you will find the list of different kits needed and the packaging instructions for those kits. The kits should be dropped off at one of the locations below between September 18 and September 22, 2023

Drop Off Sites:

Defiance St. Paul's UMC, 400 Wayne Ave., Defiance 419-782-3751, Mon - Fri 8:30am to 4:30pm (Please call ahead)

Findlay Journey at Christ, 225 W. Bigelow Ave, Findlay, 419-422-6662, Mon - Fri 9:00am - noon, (Please call ahead)

Spencerville Trinity, 119 N. Main St., Spencerville, 419-647-4451, Mon - Fri, 9:00am - noon (Please call ahead)

NWP District Office, 910 E. Third St. Ottawa, 800-589-7828, Mon - Wed, 9:00am - 3:00pm (Please call ahead to make drop off arrangements)

Van Wert First UMC, 113 W. Central Ave., Van Wert 419-238-0631, Mon - Thu, 8:30am - 1:30pm & Friday 8:30am - noon (Please call ahead)

Dates for the kits to be dropped off to the locations above will be: September 18 - September 22 or what works best for your location, but these dates will be communicated in the newsletters - always best to call ahead first to be sure and use the above list details.

Resources



Proud to Be #BeUMC

As Christians, we are people of God who are called to follow Jesus in making the world a better place. As United Methodists, we embrace our Wesleyan heritage and live into the mission to #BeUMC and become the church our communities need us to be.

The #BeUMC campaign is rooted in these key messaging themes:

- Disciple Making
- Belonging and Inclusion

- Influence, Connection and Impact
- Experience of God through The UMC

Stay tuned to NewsNET, westohioumc.org and our social media channels as fellow West Ohio clergy and laity share why they are United Methodists.

[Click here for #BeUMC Resources](#)



Ask The UMC Series Available

Ask The UMC offers a series of questions and answers to help clear up some common misperceptions or misinformation around disaffiliation.

[Ask The UMC Series: Is The United Methodist Church really...?](#)

2023-2024 Appointments

The list of pastoral appointments beginning July 1, 2023 can be accessed [clicking here](#).

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

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