



Great Miami River District

News from The United Methodist Church

News and Notes: March 6, 2024

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55th Session, West Ohio Annual Conference, May 29- June 1 Capital University, Bexley

Our theme this year, God is Able, draws inspiration from Ephesians 3:20-21, promising a gathering that celebrates the limitless power of God.



A significant aspect of the conference includes voting on business matters. There will be a time of celebration as it marks the retirement of Bishop Gregory and Mrs. Cynthia Palmer. The conference will also shine a spotlight on the ordination of clergy, symbolizing a commitment to nurturing new leaders and fostering spiritual growth within The United Methodist Church.

Registration is now open! [Click here to sign up](#). Information regarding meals, housing, and special events is posted on the conference website and can be found by clicking [here](#).

Our district still needs lay members at large. If you'd like to serve, please complete an interest form by [clicking here](#) or contact [Nancy Newton](#) for more information. We have room for you.

All members, clergy and lay, must register to attend the conference.

Love Offering to Celebrate the Palmers' Lifetime of Ministry

The West Ohio Conference invites friends, colleagues, and church members to contribute to a personal monetary gift for Bishop Gregory and Mrs. Cynthia Palmer in celebration of their service to our conference and The United Methodist Church.



“Bishop and Mrs. Palmer have faithfully served the West Ohio Conference for the last 12 years, but their ministry extends far beyond their time in Ohio to previous Episcopal appointments in the Iowa and Illinois Great Rivers Conferences, as well as local churches in East Ohio, Eastern Pennsylvania, and North Carolina,” said Rev. Linda Middelberg, Assistant to Bishop Palmer. “As they begin their retirement in Charlotte, NC, to be near their children, we want to send them with a token of appreciation, our love, and thanks from those whose lives they have touched.”

Bishop Palmer is the longest-tenured active Bishop currently serving The United Methodist Church. The Palmers will be presented with the gift at the West Ohio Annual Conference in June 2024. Financial contributions may be made online by [clicking here](#) or by sending a check made payable to West Ohio Conference c/o the Foundation (UMFWO), 32 Wesley Blvd., Worthington, OH 43085 with "Palmers Gift Fund" in the memo line.

Harry Denman Evangelism Award Nominations due March 15



The Harry Denman Evangelism Award, sponsored by The Foundation for Evangelism, honors United Methodists in each Annual Conference whose exceptional ministry of evangelism brings people into a life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ.

What distinguishes a Harry Denman Evangelism Award recipient is the commitment to consistently introduce others to the Good News of Jesus Christ in all ministry settings. Their ministry is exceptional for the number of new Christ followers who credit encounters with this person as critical in helping to start or reignite their faith journey. One award may be given in each category: clergy, laity, and youth. Questions? Contact [Mariellyn Grace](#).

[Click here for more information and the application.](#)

Vanco Offers Fee-Free Promotion



Set your church up for a strong season of giving with the right online giving tools from Vanco. Inspire generosity and allow members and guests to give whenever and wherever the feeling of generosity is present. And get the added benefit of Vanco's fee-free promotion. Whether you're new to eGiving or transitioning from another provider, Vanco's easy-to-use giving platform, exceptional customer service, and simple church management software integrations help generosity soar for the benefit of your church while saving church staff time. Ready to let your great work inspire members to give? Sign up with Vanco before March 15, 2024, and you'll experience:

- Compelling storytelling and visual giving pages that bring your missions to life for anyone from first-time donors to established members.
- Free one-on-one implementation support where we'll help you launch your online giving program with best practices used by over 25,000 churches.
- No processing fees on gifts, up to \$50,000 in total, received in May.

[Request a demo](#)

2024 Summer Camp Opportunities Offered in Partnership with East Ohio



West Ohio is partnering again this year with East Ohio Camps to provide churches and families with summer camping opportunities. Former West Ohio campers and local churches were mailed the [2024 East Ohio summer camping brochure](#).

Looking for options outside of East Ohio? Consider these collaborative West Ohio partners:

- [United Church of Christ Camp](#) in Bellville, Ohio
- [Michigan United Methodist Camping](#) across Michigan
- [First Community Church Camp](#) in Logan, Ohio

Additional youth options:

- [Senior High Christian Youth Fellowship](#) at Malone University
- [Reach Out](#) for grades 8-12 at Lakeside
- [Lakeside Institute](#) for grades 9-age 20 at Lakeside

If you would like more information about any of the above options, please contact Director of Camps, Retreats, and Next Gen Engagement, Ann Marie Carley: amcarley@wocumc.org.

EDUCATIONAL AND SERVE OPPORTUNITIES

Addiction Training is March 8

You are invited to attend Ohio Faith Leaders Responding to Addiction, a comprehensive training designed to increase knowledge about addiction and develop skills and strategies to assist faith leaders and organizations. This webinar will be held on Friday, March 8, from 10:00am - 12:30pm.



Like CPR, the training program is designed to build the skills to support and respond to someone who needs help. The training will also aid participants in navigating the resources available in their own community.

[Click here to register](#)

All In Community Leadership Lab: Personal Leadership March 9 :: 9am-5pm

Doing justice-involved ministry is hard. Leading it is even harder. All In Community provides an anchor of support and guidance on the journey. All In Community Leadership Labs are environments for Matthew 25 co-laborers who minister with justice-involved persons and/or who are transforming their own justice-involved journey. Together, we are learning and growing in our mission of restoring hope, supporting journeys toward healing, and transforming lives and communities to reflect Kingdom values of justice and belonging.



Led by justice-involved persons and All In Community leaders. Leadership Labs provide theological exploration, reflective practices, tools and resources, and mutual learning environments for more affective leadership. Breakfast and lunch are provided.

PERSONAL LEADERSHIP LAB

In the Personal Leadership Lab, the focus will be on identifying, or re-discovering, the personal values from which we lead and our barriers to leading from our values. In the afternoon, we will discover our [Working Genius](#). Everyone has two God-given geniuses that are our "sweet spots" for finding meaning and joy in our ministry labors. Knowing our geniuses and the geniuses of those we lead helps us be good stewards of God's people.

[Learn more and register here](#)

March 11 Leadership Clinic with Bryan Stevenson

Bryan Stevenson, author of "Just Mercy" will be joining Bishop Palmer on March 11, 2024 from 10am - Noon for an online edition of the Leadership Clinic. An option to view later will also be available. The first 200 to register will receive a copy of "Just Mercy." Bryan Stevenson is the founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative, a human rights organization in Montgomery, Alabama. Under his leadership, EJI has won major legal challenges eliminating excessive and unfair sentencing, exonerating innocent death row prisoners, confronting abuse of the incarcerated and the mentally ill, and aiding children prosecuted as adults. "Just Mercy" was adapted as a major motion picture and the film won the American Bar Association's 2020 Silver Gavel Award as well as four NAACP Image Awards.



[Click here to register](#)

Super Serve Saturday - a monthly serve opportunity

The Great Miami River District is partnering with Hyde Park Community UMC to offer monthly community serve opportunities from September through May. This is a way for families, multiple generations, small groups, youth groups, friends and people of all

backgrounds put their faith into action by serving in the community.

On March 16 there are 8 projects to choose from in Hamilton county. We really want to expand the reach of Super Serve Saturday to all of the counties in the Great Miami River District. If you know of any organizations who may want to participate, please contact [Nancy](#) at 513.421.2057. Super Serve Saturdays (S3) take place on the 3rd Saturday of the month. The dates remaining before the break in June are April 20 and May 18. There is something for every age and ability - no superpowers necessary - just a willing, humble and flexible spirit and heart for all!

[Click here to sign up for March 16.](#)



Family Ministry Network Zoom Meetings
Join on March 14 from 6-7:30pm OR
March 17 from 1-2:30PM

Do you work with children, youth, or young adults? Join Rev. Ann Marie Carley as she introduces you to the new Great Miami River District Family Ministry Network.

Ann Marie is offering two Zoom opportunities designed to shape the future of ministry with children, youth and young adults in our district with a focus on leaning into our connection. Each meeting is the same; she's offering two options to better accommodate your schedule. Questions? Contact Ann Marie at amcarley@wocumc.org.

[Click here to learn more and register](#)



The Road to General Conference Webinar #2
Tuesday, March 19 at 12pm

The much-anticipated United Methodist Church General Conference will be held April 23-May 3, 2024, in Charlotte, NC. In preparation for this event, Bishop Palmer is holding online Town Halls to answer some of the questions West Ohioans have regarding this important work.



The second webinar is coming up on Tuesday, March 19, at 12pm. Bishop Palmer will answer previously submitted questions he wasn't able to get to last month as well as any new questions you may have. Send them to: townhallquestions@wocumc.org.

[Register here](#)

Advanced Lay Servant Ministry Course: Discover Your Spiritual Gifts April 19-20 2024 on Zoom (Friday 6:30-9pm/Saturday 8:30am-5pm)
Cost \$15

The early church knew about the gift of the Holy Spirit and the spiritual gifts flowing from the Holy Spirit through the believer. Today, the church is still discovering this. Learn more about how your spiritual gifts support your lay servant ministries. This course is one of the required courses for Lay Speakers.



Harry and Ann Peat will be the instructors. You are to purchase and read the book, "Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts" by Charles V. Bryant prior to the class.

[Register here](#)

West Ohio Conference Ministry Intern Program

The West Ohio Conference annually supports a Ministry Intern Program designed to assist college students who are interested in serving in a local church setting to further explore a call into ministry. This is accomplished by working in a local church during a seven-week paid Internship. The Internship includes trips to the Ohio Methodist Seminaries and to at least one of the other 13 United Methodist Seminaries in the United States. Students are introduced at Annual Conference and provided many opportunities for networking and ministry engagement to help them in their journey. Mentors and host church partnerships are also needed to complete the experience.



[2024 Ministry Intern Application](#)

[2024 Mentor & Host Church Application](#)

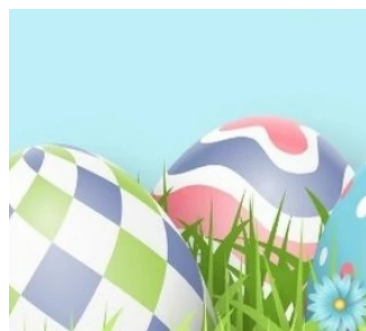
LOCAL CHURCH & MINISTRY PARTNER EVENTS



Seven Mile UMC

Stained Glass Window Dedication

March 24, 2024 Click [here](#) for more details



Armstrong Chapel UMC

Easter Egg Hunt

March 31, 2024 Click [here](#) for more details

CLASSIFIEDS

[Click here](#) to view/respond to the ads below

[Click here](#) to submit your own classified ad

Employment

Serve Director - *Kettering Christ UMC*

Director of Communications - *Church of the Saviour UMC*

Youth Director - *Church of the Saviour UMC*

Finance Director - *Hyde Park Community UMC*

Administrative Assistant - *Aley UMC*

Administrative Assistant - *Aldersgate UMC*

Needed

Softball Players - *Clifton UMC*



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

Douglas J. Upton, 79, of Englewood, FL who passed away on Sunday, February 18, 2024. For 20 years he taught music in public schools in Ohio. After attending seminary, he became an ordained minister of the United Methodist Church. Over the next 21 years, he served as pastor of the following Ohio churches: West Leipsic, Bethel, Mt. Victory, Ridgeway, and St. Paris. After retirement he served at Logansport (IN) Memorial Hospital as both a volunteer and chaplain. [Obituary](#). He is survived by his wife Julie. His funeral was held February 22 in Venice, FL. Memorial contributions are requested to the Alzheimer's Association or Tidewell Hospice.

Carolyn Lillian Edwards, age 93 of The Plains, Ohio, who passed away on Friday, February 23, 2024. Carolyn was married to the late Rev. Benjamin Edwards who served as Athens District Superintendent from 1980-1986 as well as these West Ohio churches: Laurel Charge, Spring Valley Charge, Swanton Trinity, Linworth, Washington CH Grace and Laurelville Charge. No service has been planned at this time. Letters of condolence may be left [here](#).

Reverend Clarence Dinnen, who passed away peacefully Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at the age of 92. He was preceded in death by his loving wife Marjorie Dinnen. Clarence served Mt Holly, Sardinia-Buford, Batavia Faith, Greenfield, Union Chapel, and Bryan Faith. [Obituary](#). His funeral service was held March 4 and he was buried at Woodlawn Cemetery in Bowersville.

Rev. T. Irene Moore, who passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at the age of 88. Nora first worked as an office manager and accountant, but then attended Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln, Nebraska, and St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Missouri. Upon graduating from seminary Irene went on to be the Director of Christian Education for various churches in Oklahoma. In West Ohio she served as pastor at Harrod Charge, Pickerington Gethsemane, Wilshire-Union, St Paul, Sabina, and Lilly Chapel Trinity. In 1997, Irene retired to care for her mother in Fairmont, Minnesota, where she took on the role of Associate Pastor with the Fairmont United Methodist Church until 2007. Her memorial service will be 11:30 a.m. on Monday, March 11, 2024, at the United Methodist Church in Fairmont. Interment will be at a later date in Lincoln, NE. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church. The Lakeview Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Fairmont is assisting the family with arrangements. [Obituary and condolences](#)

Watch this newsletter, [GMD's Facebook](#),
[Conference social media](#), and [WestOhioUMC.org](#)
for the latest news and events right here in the Great Miami River District!

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