

New this week: Lay Servant Ministry Basic Course and Accountable Discipleship course offered in March – registration deadline is March 6; Free Social Media Graphics library for churches – link below; remember that we are offering a free workshop on the new tax laws over lunch on March 12 – *open to everyone* - sign up below; Town and Rural Resource Programming (TARRP) is offering a training on April 27 ‘Envision How Your Local Church Can Transform the World’ with Bishop Tracy Malone speaking and a round-table discussion with District Superintendents, including Rev. Linda Middelberg; Riverside UMC hosts Women’s Retreat April 26 – 27

District News and Information

Bishop Gregory V. Palmer will host a simulcast this **Saturday, March 2 at 10:00 am** in response to the actions of the special session of General Conference. These are the confirmed host sites for the simulcast in Capitol Area North and in Capitol Area South: **Marysville First UMC, Trinity UMC, Pickerington Peace, Grove City, Reynoldsburg, and Newark First.**

The video of Bishop Palmer’s simulcast this Saturday will be available on the West Ohio Conference website following the simulcast, as soon as conference staff can get it done and uploaded, so please let your church members know that they will be able to view it online at www.westohioumc.org.



EVERYONE WELCOME!

Brown Bag Lunch and Learn: Tax Cuts and Jobs Act March 12

Do you have questions about the changes to your taxes for 2018? Confused about how much you should be withholding from your paycheck this year? Join us on **Tuesday, March 12** as Rev. Deb Oskin, Clergy Tax Specialist, presents on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Deb will give an overview of the changes and how they affect us all. Deb was the presenter at the 2018 CAN Leadership Training Day on Clergy Taxes, and we are fortunate that she is willing to share her expertise with us around the changes to tax law this year. Join us from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm at the CAN District Office in the West Ohio Conference Center, 32 Wesley Blvd, Worthington. This session is appropriate for clergy and laity - anyone who pays taxes! **Please bring your lunch. Light snacks and beverages will be provided. Register here:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094faaac22a6fc1-brown5>



Lay Servant Ministry is our United Methodist system for lay leadership development and includes lay speaking as one of the certifications. The basic and advanced courses are designed to help develop skills in witnessing to the Christian faith through spoken communication, church and community leadership, and care-giving ministries. Specific coursework is required to become a lay speaker, if desired.

These courses are offered to anyone who has a desire to develop leadership skills and learn more about the United Methodist Church. Registration.

Registration is open:

[Basic Course - March 16th - Saturday Only - Parkview UMC](#)

This course is foundational for all courses in lay servant ministries. Participants are encouraged to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended and to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in their discipleship. **REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 6**

[Accountable Discipleship - March 15 and 16th - Parkview UMC](#)

This course focuses on the concept of the household of God, Scripture as divine revelation, Wesleyan understandings of grace, and the importance of the class leader in the development of the Methodist movement. **REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 6**

[Spiritual Gifts – April 26 and 27 – Church of the Master, Westerville](#)

The early church knew what today's church is rediscovering: that Christians depend on God's spiritual gifts to provide the foundation for their ministry. We will look at ways in which God's gifts are practical as well as spiritual. Learn more about how your spiritual gifts support your lay servant ministries. This course is one of the required courses for Lay Speakers.

[Leading Prayer – April 26 and 27 – Church of the Master, Westerville](#)

For many people, prayer remains a mystery, and praying in public is a test of faith left to the "professionals" of the church. This course on praying in public will help the participant grow in confidence and skill in prayer, both public and personal. This class is an advanced lay servant ministry course and will be led by Rev. Matt Van Winkle and Rev. Dr. Kevin Orr.



2019 Annual Conference

Sunday, June 2 - Thursday, June 6, 2019

Hoover Auditorium at Lakeside Chautauqua

Trainings and Resources

Free Social Media Graphics Library

Need a last-minute image for a Facebook post? Lack the time or tools to create your own? Good news, we've done the work for you! We've gathered ready-to-post imagery representing the most important seasons of the church and calendar year. Browse through our collection of graphics and download your favorites at no cost! [Graphics Library](#).

All in Community - Creating a Community of Healing March 9 and 30

10:00 am – 2:00 pm. The same training will be offered on both dates. It will be simulcast at Whitehall UMC, or you can participate via the online webinar at home. The first half of this training focuses on why experiences with incarceration and victimization are pervasive in our churches and what a faith community's appropriate response should be. Participants, also, learn how to create a community with healing as its primary focus. The afternoon component offers three focus areas for (1) pastors, (2) congregation members, and (3) people with personal incarceration experience. Participants leave with an action plan for creating a community of healing with people touching the criminal justice system. Online participants will also have a facilitator to help build community and guide discussion. Pricing for *in-person training* is \$25 for meals and materials; the *webinar* cost is \$10 for digital materials. **Once you register for an in-person training, you will be contacted about which site we can expect to see you at.** Registration available through the [West Ohio Conference website](#).

Training Offered for Youth & Children's Ministry Leaders March 18

Training is a critical ingredient for quality youth ministry. That is why West Ohio Camps is excited to offer youth training to church leaders on **March 18 at Camp Widewater in Liberty Center, OH**. This opportunity aims to enhance the skills of new and longtime staffers and provide useful tools for improving and expanding your youth ministry. The training runs **9am-4pm** with lunch included. Keynote speaker will be Jeremiah Lewis. Lewis is a coach for Leadership Dayton Academy and a church planter with Ginghamburg Church. He formerly served at Fort McKinley UMC and Ginghamburg in youth ministry. Several workshop sessions will be offered during the training. They include Debriefing Activities with Youth, Encouraging Inclusive Youth Groups, Adapting Activities for ADA, Encouraging your Congregation to get Involved with your Youth Group, and Prepping your Youth Group for Community Service Projects. Cost for this training is just \$20. [Register online here](#).

3rd Annual Faith Leaders Symposium 'Practicing Self Care, Developing Support Systems' March 21

Sponsored by ADAMH of Franklin County in partnership with NAMI Franklin County, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at The Columbus Foundation, 1234 E. Broad St, Columbus, 43205. The event is free but requires registration, [here](#).

"Roots & Wings" Parents Workshop March 30

Saturday, March 30 at 10:00 am – 12:00 pm at King Avenue United Methodist Church, 299 King Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201. "Roots and Wings" will introduce parents, caregivers, and grandparents to some very creative and practical ways to pass their faith on to their children and grandchildren. Using Deuteronomy 6:6-9 as a blueprint for creating a "Home Seminary" within your family, workshop facilitator Chip Richter offers some practical real-life applications to creating an environment for your children to both grow in their faith ("Roots") and live their faith beyond the walls of the home ("Wings"). Parents will learn how to have "devotions in disguise" and practical ways to engage and encourage children with scripture and prayer. As parents we all want our kids to have the "Roots" to keep them connected (John 15:5, Psalm 1:1-3) and the "Wings" to take them where we have only dreamed of going (Isaiah 40:31). The Roots and Wings Workshop can be a great resource for parents and grandparents looking to do just that. **Workshop Registration Deadline:** March 15th [here](#); **Cost:** \$20 per family (Scholarships available if needed– contact erin@kingave.org). Lunch option available for attendees of "Roots and Wings" between Workshop and Family Concert. Childcare will be provided upon request for kids under age 4 from 9:30 am – 12:00 pm. An interactive Children's Program will be provided from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm for kids Age 4 - Grade 3 for registered families.

All in Community - Juvenile Justice Engagement Webinar April 9

Let's invest in the next generation of citizens. This Webinar will provide an overview of the Department of Youth Services, the current trends in the rehabilitation of youthful offenders, and opportunities for ministry with this population involved in the criminal justice system. Webinar presenters: Department of Youth Services professionals. Register with Reba Collins at rebakco@gmail.com

All-In Community Webinars [Faith-based Mentoring](#) [Jail Ministry 101](#)

TARRP: Envision How Your Local Church Can Transform Your Community and the World April 27

Held at Pleasant Grove UMC (Muskingum Co.) 400 Pleasant Grove Road, Zanesville, OH 43701 TARRP, the Town and Rural Resource Programming Consortium of East & West Ohio Conferences, invite Small Membership Church Members & Pastors to "Envision How Your Local Church Can Transform Your Community." Keynote Speaker is Bishop Tracy S. Malone, Resident Bishop, East Ohio Conference Topics of the Day Include: How small membership church members can engage in faithful lay ministry, How the decisions made at the Special Session of the General Conference will be lived out, and with the appointment season in full swing, District Superintendents answer your questions about The UMC and your local setting(s). Rev. Linda Middelberg will be a part of the panel of District Superintendents. Registration begins at 8:00 am and worship begins at 9:00 am, and the conference runs through the afternoon. [Registration information.](#)

Events and Information

Ash Wednesday Drive-Up Ashes at Epworth March 6

Epworth United Methodist Church, 5100 Karl Rd., will offer a drive-up observance of Ash Wednesday in their church parking lot. People are welcome to come anytime between 11:00 am- 1:00 pm on March 6 to receive ashes. There is no need to get out of your car. "Not everyone is comfortable coming to a

church service or has time to do so,” the Rev. Jennifer Casto said. “We want to make the love of God as evident to people as possible. Offering this holy act in a public and accessible way provides an opportunity to do so.”

Spirit and Truth Conference March 7 - 9

Held at Stillwater UMC, Dayton, Ohio, Spirit and Truth is excited to partner together with The Pohly Center of United Theological Seminary to host our first ever Spirit & Truth Conference in 2019! Gather with other believers to get equipped, be encouraged, and worship together. Come learn from respected teachers on ways to spark a new movement of back-to-the-basics, full-time, power-infused, multiplying, Christianity! [SPEAKERS SCHEDULE LOCATION COST, MEALS & LODGING](#)

Lenten Study from Living Streams Flowing Water

THE RESOUNDING WORD: A LENTEN JOURNEY TOWARD RESURRECTION

An Online opportunity of small group and formation for the Lenten Season, 2019

March 6 – April 27, 2019, 2 CEU Credits

Contemplative listening shapes our lives from the inside of our being to our exterior actions!

Through the spiritual disciplines presented in Fryling’s book *The Art of Spiritual Listening* and daily devotionals from Brenda’s newest manuscript *The Resounding Word: a Lenten Retreat & Devotional Journey towards Resurrection*, participants will discover how to attune heart-listening for and to the Word of God that resounds through all generations. Participants will experience: Creative arts prayers, Guided meditation, *Audio, Visio and Lectio Divina*, Contemplative seeing and listening. Registration open at www.livingstreamsflowingwater.com

Sister-to-Sister Women’s Event March 8

Join us Friday, March 8 for an evening of encouragement, worship, and sisterhood at Reynoldsburg UMC for our annual Sister-to-Sister Women's Event filled with laughter, music, eating and shopping. Doors open at 5:00 pm to browse our many local vendors. Then, choose one of our dinner seatings to enjoy a delicious meal prepared by our own Chef Don. The main event will feature best-selling author Donna VanLiere -- best known for her book, *The Christmas Shoes* -- which was adapted into a movie starring Rob Lowe and Kimberly Williams-Paisley. Friday, March 8 | doors open 5:00pm | Two dinner seatings to choose from 5:30pm | 6:30pm, Program | 7:30pm Early Bird price till February 10 | \$25 After February 10 tickets are \$30. Order tickets at www.ReynoldsburgUMC.com/Sister

Stonybrook Community Enrichment Series on Diversity March 17, 31 and April

14

Stonybrook UMC, 485 Cherry Bottom Road, Gahanna, will offer a free series on Sunday afternoons from 2:00 – 3:00 pm, with an additional 30 minutes for discussion. Events are free and are open to the public. March 17 will be “Learning about Muslim Beliefs and Traditions.” March 31 will be “Negro Spirituals: Spirituals and Symbolism.” April 14 will be “The Importance of Cross-Cultural Excellence in the 21st Century.” For additional information contact the church, info@stonybrookchurch.net, 614-471-0252.

As I Am: A Conversation in Faith and Sexuality March 22 - 23

Maple Grove UMC, 7 W. Henderson Rd., Columbus

This retreat is designed for 5th-7th graders and their parents/caregivers. It’s an overnight event for the kids and parents/caregivers will attend Friday night and Saturday afternoon. Topics will include sessions about physical changes and development during the early tween/teen years, social issues, recognizing

emotions and questions about sexuality, types of relationships, staying sexually safe and healthy, the importance of consent, how to communicate within your family about these topics, and community resources that are available to families, so they may continue these important conversations in their own homes. The basis of the retreat will have a faith-based approach and encourage participants to remember that God has made each of us perfect and as we are supposed to be. Development and leadership of the retreat includes staff members and volunteers from local reconciling UMC congregations and community partners. **Cost:** \$40 per youth or \$60 per family (more than one child attending). [Registration](#)

Deacon Formation Event March 29

All Deacons in any status, Provisional, Ordained, Retired, and Exploring in West Ohio and throughout the Connection are welcomed to participate. This event will meet the Book of Discipline requirement for a Deacon Formation Event. Please note that in order for this event to count as a formation event toward ordination as a full member deacon, participants must attend both Friday night and all-day Saturday. Our featured presenters are Bishop Gregory Palmer, Presiding Bishop for West Ohio and Rev. Michelle Foster, a Deacon from the Western North Carolina Conference who specializes in Self Care and Healthy Boundaries Training. Providing leadership to the work of a Deacon and updates on how Deacons will move forward are Rev. Rachel Miller, Chair of the Division of Deacons and Rev. Benji Sayre, Chair of the Order of Deacons. To register, <https://www.westohioumc.org/conference/event/2019-deacon-formation-event-order-deacons-gathering>



Family Concert Featuring Chip Richter March 30

Saturday, March 30, 1:30pm at King Avenue United Methodist Church, 299 King Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201. Open to all – Free Event! Singer-Songwriter Chip Richter serves up stories, songs, and smiles “Family Style.” Chip’s Family Concerts feature something on the menu for everyone. It’s a recipe for “more fun than a kid should be allowed to have” as Chip delivers healthy portions of love and laughter for all ages to enjoy! Touring nationally as a solo artist or with his band “The Munks”, Chip’s delightful performances are filled with his gentle spirit, pleasant and winsome style, and an unmistakable connection with family audiences. He brings a clear message through concerts, seminars and workshops; encouraging and inspiring families to be all that God intends. His passion is to see children know Christ's love expressed through healthy family life and helping parents discover their unique calling in passing their faith onto their children. Chip's songs and performances have become almost an "institution" at Lakeside, For more information on Chip and his music, visit chiprichter.com. “Roots & Wings” Workshop & Family Concert Co-Sponsored by King Avenue UMC and the Family Pride Network of Central Ohio.

Harry Denman Evangelism Award Nominees Sought

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. Awards are given to clergy, laity, and youth. [Nomination Form](#). [Information](#) Please submit nominations by March 31.



Watoto Read Benefit Concert: Ernie Haase + Signature Sound April 6

Join us for a concert by the renowned group [Ernie Haase + Signature Sound](#). All proceeds benefit Watoto Read, a non-profit dedicated to the education of refugee children in Africa. Held at Powell UMC, 825 E. Olentangy St., Powell, on Saturday, April 6 at 3:00 pm. Tickets available at www.watotoread.com/concert, or contact Claudine Leary, 304-612-4168.

Young Clergy Retreat April 22 – 24

Held at Deer Creek State Park. Monday at 2:00 pm through Wednesday at 12:00pm. [Information and registration](#).

Women’s Retreat at Riverside United Methodist Church April 26 – 27

There’s No Healing in Hiding, so come out of the dark and into God’s light! *Isaiah 58:8: “Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.”* Are you trying to “make it” on your own? Too often we think we are alone in our struggles and we don’t want to be a burden to anyone else. During this retreat, we want to help you to know that *you are not alone*, and that God will walk with you or carry you through your troubles, often with the help of a Christian Sister in Christ! So, mark your calendars and invite a friend, neighbor or relative. This retreat is open to all women. It is a Friday evening and all-day Saturday. For information contact Susan Dick, sueandherm@yahoo.com, or contact the church 614-486-5201.

UMC Summer Camp Registration is now open. Learn more [here](#).

YOUTH 2019: Love Well Conference July 10 - 14

This is a once in a quadrennium opportunity for youth to gather with other United Methodists to worship, study, be in mission, and hear and live more fully into their call. Registration for this event is open! <http://youth2019.com/> If you’d like more information or have youth who’d like to attend contact Rebecca Hug, rhug@wocumc.org.

Next Generation Leadership Ministry Interns

It is with great pleasure that we announce the opening of the **Next Generation Leadership Ministry Intern** Application process. Since its inception, the Next Generations Leadership Ministry Interns have been able to discern calls to Ministry and Service in a variety of ways. The pay for the Internship is \$4600.00 during the summer, starting May 20 and ending July 29. Internship placements are with engaging local churches throughout the West Ohio Conference and include trips to local Ohio Seminaries as well as in the Mid-Western part of the United States. Applicants must be college students **who are available for the duration of the Internship**. Please encourage students who have expressed a desire to explore a call to ministry and/or service to apply at www.westohioumc.org. The Application Deadline is March 6, 2019. For questions, please email Rev. Donnetta Peaks, dpeaks@wocumc.org or call 614-844-6200, 314.

Next Generation Leadership Ministry – Mentor and Host Church Application

The Next Generation Leadership Ministry Program is now taking applications for Mentors/Host Churches for the summer of 2019. For clergy and congregations with a passion for developing young leaders, this is a great opportunity to mentor a young person who has a desire to serve in the church and explore a call to ministry. The applications are located [here](#). For questions, please contact Rev. Donnetta Peaks, dpeaks@wocumc.org or call 614-844-6200, 314.

Job Opening – Intern Coordinator

The Next Generation Leadership Ministry Intern Program is now taking applications for an Intern Coordinator. This position is full-time, May 13 - August 3 with the potential to be part-time August through May 2020. Interested persons should submit a Resume with a cover letter to Rev. Donnetta Peaks, dpeaks@wocumc.org. Please click [here](#) for the Job Description.

Classifieds

Help Wanted

[Church Treasurer, Lewis Center UMC](#)

[Accompanist, Summit UMC](#)