New this week: The Book of Reports is now available online; Retired Ministers Luncheon May 25 at MCL Cafeteria with program by Dorothy Croy; Annual Conference schedule and events posted; Fall Lay Servant Ministry classes announced

News, Trainings, and Events

**District Conference and Pre-Annual Conference Briefing May 16**
The CAN District Conference and briefing on Annual Conference will be held on **Tuesday, May 16 at 7:00 pm at Indian Run UMC, 6305 Brand Rd., Dublin, 43016**. Join us as we recognize our new provisional and full members, our retirees, and our new appointments in the district. We will also be reviewing the resolutions to be voted on at Annual Conference. Plan now to attend!

**Find-a-Pastor Listings**
Please use this link to verify that the ‘Find a Pastor’ feature includes the address, phone and email that you want displayed. Contact the district office if you’d like your information updated.

**2018 Church Revitalization/Capacity Building Grant Applications Available**
Grant applications can be found here and are due **July 1**.

**Fallen Comrade Ceremony – Honor the Living May 7**
Veterans, members currently serving, their families and the community are welcome! This unique ceremony honors living warriors and their resulting "Soul Injuries" from military service and/or combat experiences. Family members affected by their loved ones' service are also provided a safe place to remember. Civilians are offered a meaningful way to show support. Sunday, May 7, 2017, 3:00 – 4:30 pm at Trinity UMC, 1581 Cambridge Blvd., Columbus, Ohio, 43212 Please RSVP: https://goo.gl/F0WkBQ. Child care will be provided. A time for fellowship will follow.

**The Gathering - A Joint Celebration of Openness and Inclusion May 7**
Sunday, May 7, 2017 at the Livingston UMC, 200 E. Livingston Ave, Columbus, OH.
Join us on May 7th for another gathering of West Ohio Reconciling United Methodists and Friends! Laity and clergy alike are invited to hear an update from David Meredith, share fellowship, and hear another testimony about the significance of the reconciling work we do as community. Details: Sunday, May 7th, 3:00 - 5:00 pm at Livingston United Methodist Church, 200 E. Livingston Ave, Columbus. Childcare is provided. RSVP not necessary.

**Union County Coffee with Community Ministries May 11**

Church pastors and laity are invited for a time of coffee and conversation around visioning for mission and ministry in the Union County area, and how Capitol Area Community Ministries can partner with you. We welcome everyone from our Union County churches and the surrounding area to join us for this informal time of visioning and dreaming. Thursday, May 11 at 10:00 am at the Fifth Street Café, 117 E. 5th St., Marysville. [Register here](#).

**Spring Fling at Messiah UMC May 13**

Church of the Messiah invites the community to a great event they are hosting in the parking lot at 74 N. State St., The Gathering Place, on Saturday, May 13 beginning at 11 am and continuing until 1 pm. Messiah’s “Spring Fling” takes the place of their annual Egg Hunt and will include all kinds of free, family-friendly events like face painting, carnival games, cotton candy and other tasty food, and a Video Game Truck from [Mr. Game Room](#) – video party on wheels! So much fun you won’t want to miss this great day in Uptown Westerville! At 1:00 we are especially excited to bring [Real Encounter](#) to Westerville – as seen nationally on [America's Got Talent](#). Unlike anything you would usually see in Uptown Westerville, Real Encounter brings thrilling motocross and BMX Stunt Bikes to the parking lot to engage your entire family. Call us for any questions or further information at 614-882-2167 or contact Rev. Kathy Currier at kcurrier@messiahumc.net.

**Honoring Mothers on Mother's Day**

Mother's Day is a special day to honor mothers and grandmothers, but it also can be a painful day for many women. Some women struggle to get pregnant or to carry children to term. Others may have lost children during the previous year. There are even women who are struggling with their roles as mothers, while some women (and men) have recently lost their own mothers. For those who already are experiencing pain, this day of celebration can make things worse. So, how can the church appropriately honor mothers while also respecting the feelings of other people in the congregation? [Read more](#).

**Rx Riders May 20**
Please plan to join us on Saturday, May 20, for the first-ever Rx Riders. All proceeds will go to purchase breathing medication and inhalers for low-income individuals and families in Franklin County. Riders can choose from a 25-mile or 50-mile trek through the bike paths of German Village and downtown Columbus. Registration is $35 and all participants are encouraged to invite support from friends, co-workers and family. We'll give you all the tools you need to meet your own personal fundraising goal. To sign up, email melanie.charitablepharmacy@gmail.com and put "Bike Ride" in the email subject line to get started now!

**Retired Ministers Luncheon May 25**

The purpose of our times together as the Central Ohio Fellowship of Retired United Methodist Clergy and Spouses is mutual support, fellowship, and learning. Invite another pastor or clergy spouse to join us. An excellent program is scheduled for our next luncheon which will be Thursday, May 25 at 11:30 am at **MCL Cafeteria** in Kingsdale Shopping Center, 3154 Kingsdale Center, Upper Arlington, OH 43221. When you arrive, go through the serving line then bring your meal to the adjacent separate dining room immediately opposite the serving line, and we will eat together. After lunch, our program will be from Dorothy Croy, widow of Rev. Bill Croy, Jr. who was a friend to many of us. Bill died in January 2015 from ALS. His book of reflections while dealing with ALS has just been published and Dorothy will speak about the book and her experiences with Bill. The book is already in short supply but she will have a few copies available for sale if you’d like to purchase one. The title is *Giving WINGS to Thoughts* published by Fairway Press. Proceeds go to help find a cure for ALS. This will be an inspirational and insightful program as Dorothy speaks of her journey with Bill. If you have any questions about our fellowship luncheons, please don’t hesitate to call Bill or Emma Lee Tolliver, 614-267-6556 or 614-620-6556, or me 614-361-2435. Blessings always, Philip Brooks

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**Annual Conference 2017: Be Not Afraid**

The Book of Reports is now available [online](#).

New to Annual Conference? Click [here](#) for information.

Annual Conference Agenda [information](#)

**Clergy Session** is Monday 8:00 am – 10:00 am at Hoover Auditorium. Registration is not required, check-in prior to Clergy Session to receive your name tag and other important information.

**Lay Member Workshops** Monday 8:00 am – 10:00 am [information](#)
Family Connect Events information

Health Kits, School Kits, Layette Kits, Flood Buckets accepted at Annual Conference
Our conference will be accepting relief supply kits at Annual Conference. For more information on what is needed click here.

Bishop Palmer Invites Us to Join in Light the Way Campaign
At Annual Conference this year, Tuesday morning worship will be of special importance as we launch the Light the Way Campaign to support the bold leap of starting new diverse worshiping communities and collaborating with congregations to extend their vitality for our mission across Ohio. I am inviting you to join me in raising at least $200,000 in this offering. Our mission is clear - to equip local churches to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world...a world of justice, love and peace filled with people growing in the likeness of Jesus Christ. Our strategic plan guides us in reaching more people, more young people, more diverse people with the love of God through Jesus Christ. We have already made significant progress in just one year of identifying, assessing, training and preparing a new band of new church pastors. At the same time, vital congregations are reaching out in new and significant ways to those on the margins. To read more of Bishop Palmer's letter, click here.

Capitol Area North Clergy Spouse Gathering June 5
The CAN and CAS Clergy Spouses are invited to a gathering and fellowship on Monday, June 5, 9:30 am-11:00 am, 157 Lynn Street. Light refreshments will be served.

Reentry COPE Simulation at Annual Conference June 5
This year at Annual Conference immerse yourself in the post-release challenges and suffering that is present in the lives of the imprisoned and their families. Join us on Monday, June 5th, at 8:00am for the Reentry COPE Simulation, a powerful learning experience you won’t forget. Are you looking for a way to mobilize more of your members into authentic relationship with people impacted by incarceration and marginalization? Reentry COPE is an easy and engaging first step. This is a “must do” experience for lay leaders, mission teams, Freedom School coordinators, prison/jail ministers, and social justice advocates who want to make a greater impact in the lives touch through your church’s ministries. Please Note: The Reentry COPE Simulation is open to the first 50 people who register and begins promptly at 8:00 am. Please be seated and ready to engage by 7:50 am. Look for registration details coming out soon! Click here to check out the Reentry COPE video.

West Ohio Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members Luncheon June 6
Join us at Wesley Lodge in the North room for lunch on Tuesday June 6, 12:00 pm. Cost is $12.00. Register and pay online here. Deadline for lunch reservation is May 12. We will hear from Rev. Dr. Ned Dewire who is Director of Religious Life at Lakeside. He will share about an upcoming FLPAM joint retreat with East Ohio and West Ohio scheduled for early August. We will also be discussing the dreams of hosting our own retreat early 2018. Come join us for lunch! Todd Wallace-West Ohio Fellowship Lead Team Captain and Dave Weaver-West Ohio Fellowship Board of Ministry Representative

EXPLORE Institute for High School Juniors and Seniors June 12 – 17
Do you know a high school student who would benefit from a spiritually-grounded, academically-solid week exploring God’s Call for their life? Ohio Wesleyan University, in partnership with Lilly Endowment, Inc., will be holding a week-long Theology Institute for Protestant and Catholic youth who are rising high school junior and seniors. This institute is called EXPLORE: Faith, Service, and Calling and will be held June 12 – 17, 2017. A copy of the nomination form and additional information can be found at www.owu.edu/EXPLORE, or explore@owu.edu, 740-368-3091.

World Refugee Day: Documentary Film “War Dance” shown at Powell UMC

June 24

Saturday, June 24 at 7:00 pm at Powell UMC, 825 E. Olentangy St., Powell, OH. War Dance is the tragic and triumphant story of Ugandan refugee children, who, thanks to the school in their refugee camp, become the pride of their tribe, their region, and even their country. www.wardancethemovie.com Popcorn, water and soda will be served. Admission is free; donations to build schools in refugee camps in Chad, Africa will be appreciated. Sponsored by www.watotoread.com.

CAN District Picnics July 15 and 16

Save the Date! Rev. Linda Middelberg will host the District at her home for summer picnics on Saturday, July 15 from 3:00 – 7:00 pm and again on Sunday, July 16 from 4:00 – 7:00 pm. More details will follow!

Camp Hope for those facing grief due to the loss of a loved one August 4 – 5

Ohio Health Hospice, Nationwide Children’s Hospital Hospice, Heartland Hospice and Schoedinger Funeral Home are sponsoring Camp Hope, for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one, on August 4 and 5, 2017. Click here for more information.

Fall Lay Servant Ministry Classes Announced

September 22 and 23 – Spiritual Gifts Advanced Course at Centenary UMC
September 23 - Basic Course at Centenary UMC
November 17 and 18 – Leading Worship Advanced Course, location TBA
More details will follow.

Save the Date! Watoto Reads 1st Annual Charity Golf Outing October 7
Will be held at Bent Tree Golf Club in Sunbury, Ohio. Contact Rev. Claudine Leary for information, cleary@mtso.edu.

2017 All People Conference: Rise Up and Build! October 21 - 23
Key Note Speakers include Bishop John R. Schol from the New Jersey Episcopal Area; Rev Junius B. Dotson, General Secretary, Discipleship Ministries; and Rev. Olu Brown, leader, author, visionary and lead Pastor at Impact Church. Information.

Classifieds
Help Wanted

- Part-time Associate Minister, Northwest UMC
- Finance Manager, North Broadway UMC
- Office Administrator, Indian Run UMC
- Custodian/Building Manager, Indian Run UMC
- Youth Pastor, Indian Run UMC
- Intern – Youth group and Music/Worship leader, Chatham UMC
- Director of Worship (Non-traditional), Trinity UMC