

New this week: Retired Clergy and Spouse lunch December 13 at MCL Kingsdale; Drive-thru Living Nativity at Epworth UMC Columbus December 15 and 16; Last call for participation in the Hallelujah Chorus Flash Mob December 15 at Polaris Mall – details below; Resources on Ministry with Persons with Disabilities available on the conference website; Save the date - Watoto Read Benefit Concert featuring Ernie Haase+Signature Sound April 6; Youth 2019: Love Well Conference July 2019

Conference's Special Session Webpage Holds Key Information

Would you like to learn more about the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference but aren't sure where to look? [This page](#) on The West Ohio Conference website is full of information about the February 23-26, 2019 meeting. Meet West Ohio's delegates, pray for the Special Session, read about each of the proposed models, and even pre-register as a guest! Click [here](#) for information.

District News and Information



CAN District Epiphany Party January 10

District clergy, retired clergy, and their families are invited to the annual CAN Epiphany Party, Thursday, January 10, 2019 at Der Dutchman Restaurant, 445 S. Jefferson Ave., Plain City, OH 43064. Doors open at 5:30; dinner is served at 6:00 pm. Dinner will be served family-style and includes broasted chicken, roast beef, noodles, green beans, salad, rolls, and pie. Cost is \$10/adult, children and youth are free. Money will be collected at the door. RSVP's are due by January 7th to capitolareanorth@wocumc.org. Contact the District Office with any questions.

2019 Health Insurance Information Meetings

The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits has set details for the 2019 Active and Retiree Health Insurance Plans. Please attend one of the events listed below so you can learn about any changes to the plan and how the changes might impact you. The agenda for each meeting is the same so attend the one that best fits your schedule. Aetna/Humana, Credit Union and Conference staff will be available to answer questions specific to your circumstances after each meeting. Questions may be directed to Sandi George at sgeorge@wocumc.org or at 614.844.6200.

A light lunch will be provided between the active and retiree sessions. Options in the CAN District include:

Tuesday, December 11

Location: West Ohio Conference Office (32 Wesley Blvd., Worthington, OH 43085)

Active: 10:00 am - 11:30 am, Retiree: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

2019 Minimum Salaries and Pension Calculations – [click here.](#)

Automatic Pension Contributions will begin on January 1

Passed at Annual Conference 2018, automatic enrollment will become effective 1/1/19. But what is automatic enrollment? Automatic enrollment is a feature in the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) that automatically enrolls participants at a 3% before-tax contribution percentage. The reason your Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits advocated for this change is because it is a tried and true method to help participants save more money for retirement. Are you wondering what this means for you? Here's your answer: If you are enrolled in UMPIP and making a 3% or more pre-tax contribution, then you have nothing to do. There will be no change. If, on the other hand, you are enrolled in UMPIP and not contributing, or making a 1% or 2% pre-tax contribution, you will be raised to the 3% contribution level. You can find a Q&A [here](#) for more information, and [here](#) is the contribution election form. Contact Mike Kremnitzer at mkremnitzer@wocumc.org with any questions.

2019 Apportionment Amounts were sent to churches. If you didn't receive your amounts you can contact the district office.

The 2019 Health Insurance rates for Active Clergy can be found [here.](#)

Leadership Interest Form

To continue providing our Conference with innovative, qualified, and effective leadership, the nomination team would like to identify persons with passion, gifts, and a commitment to serve beyond their local church. I wanted to make you aware of the West Ohio Conference Leadership Interest form available on the West Ohio Conference Website. **If you are interested in serving in conference leadership, please click on the following link to complete the interest form.**

<http://www.westohioumc.org/conference/webform/west-ohio-conference-leadership-interest-form>

As leadership positions come open on conference boards, lead teams and committees throughout these next three years, members of the nomination team will review the interest forms to fill these openings. Additionally, in 2019, the nomination team will be tasked with developing leadership slates for all conference boards, lead teams, and committees and having a pool of committed and gifted laity when we begin that process will assist us in balancing lay and clergy representation in our conference leadership. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of serving as a potential volunteer leader within the West Ohio Conference.

Peace and Blessings, *Rev. Laura Bensman*, Chair of West Ohio Conference Nominations

Resources

Ministry with Persons with Disabilities

We have terrific online resources for local congregations to better engage persons with disabilities. If your district desires training sessions for local churches to better engage persons with disabilities, please let me know and we can discuss options! Rebecca Hug, rhug@wocumc.org Online resources: <http://westohioumc.org/pwd>.

Ohio Overdose Family Support Toolkit

Support for families, children, and first responders impacted by opioid use and overdose
This toolkit was designed by OSU for families and first responders. It provides good information about how trauma manifests in different ages of childhood and a brochure explaining childhood trauma after witnessing an overdose. You can access this toolkit here: <https://u.osu.edu/toolkit/sample-page/support/children/>

Trainings

Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition Meeting December 12

9:00 am – 1:00 pm at Hocking College, 3301 Hocking Parkway, Nelsonville.
The Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition brings together state agencies and community stakeholders to facilitate successful community reintegration after incarceration. These entities work together to address returning neighbors' needs systemically. You will learn about what is being done on the state and local level to create more access to resources and relationships. Expect to get an overview from statewide stakeholders in the areas of education, addiction, children and family support, job development, etc. Then, there will be a focus on Athens County Reentry Coalition's efforts with a few specific highlights from its members. To register: visit <https://www.drc.ohio.gov/oerc-meeting>

2019 Convocation for Pastors of Black Churches January 8 – 10, 2019

[The Convocation 2019](#) "Resourcing congregations with catalytic tools for fresh vision in pastoral leadership, the congregation and community toward relational, missional and transformational experiences/encounters with Jesus Christ." Tuesday, January 8 – Thursday, January 10, 2019
Atlanta Airport Hilton, 1031 Virginia Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30354. Facebook event information can be found [here](#). You can find the ticket purchase link on the Facebook event.

Continuing Education Opportunities from Living Streams Flowing Water

Spiritual Formation Course offered at Ashland Theological Seminary

Jan. 11 & 12, Feb. 8 & 9, Mar. 8 & 9, Fridays, 6:00 pm – 9:00pm, Saturdays, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
This course introduces students to the nature and processes of spiritual formation and its goal of the formation of believers into the image of Christ for the sake of the church and the world. Students will practice a variety of individual and corporate spiritual disciplines, with an in-depth focus on prayer, for growth in personal and social holiness. Focus on contemporary and ancient spiritual practices for transforming current culture. [Information](#).

ERT Training February 23

Basic Class and Recertification held at Neal Avenue UMC, 12 Neal Avenue, Newark, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
[Information and registration](#)

Events and Information

Meek Quartet "Sweet Sounds of Christmas" Concert December 7

Join Warrensburg United Methodist Church for "The Sweet Sounds of Christmas" featuring music provided by the MEEK Quartet and refreshments that highlight sweets of the season. The concert will be held on Friday, December 7 at 7:00 pm at the church located at 1025 State Route 257 between Route 36 and Route 37. We hope you can join us for the musical celebration of the season! All are welcome to join us.

Retired Clergy and Spouses Lunch December 13

Hope you will be able to attend our next Central Ohio United Methodist Retired Clergy and Spouses on December 13th at 11:30 a.m. at the MCL Cafeteria in the Kingsdale Shopping Center, 3154 Kingsdale Center, Upper Arlington, OH 43221. Jim Freshour will be in charge. His topic will be "Neverisms: A Pastor's Light-Hearted Look at the Advent and Christmas Seasons." His wife, Mary Kay will bring her guitar and accompany the group singing some Christmas songs that we don't always get to sing on Sunday morning at church. It sounds like a fun time! We look forward to seeing and/or hearing from you. Emma and Bill Tolliver

Drive-thru Living Nativity December 15 and 16

Epworth United Methodist Church, 5100 Karl Road, Columbus, is having a "Live Drive-Thru Nativity Scene" on Saturday & Sunday, December 15 and 16 beginning at 6:00 pm through 8:00 pm.



Christmas Flash Mob at Polaris Mall December 15

Last call for participation in our Christmas Flash Mob of the Hallelujah Chorus at Polaris Fashion Place on December 15th at 7:15pm. We will have a brief rehearsal at 5:45pm at Linworth UMC. Contact Christine Hiester for more info or to sign up. christinehiester73@gmail.com.

An Evening of Joy, Love, and Hope – Celebrating the Birth of a Savior

December 15

Asbury North UMC, 1586 Clifton Ave., Columbus, Join us for an evening of music on Saturday, December 15th at 6:00 pm.



Hope for All Seasons Tour featuring Citizen Way & Chris August December 16

Jerome United Methodist Church, Plain City, Sunday, December 16 at 6:00 pm

The *Hope for All Seasons Tour* featuring award-winning recording artists Citizen Way and Chris August is coming to Jerome United Methodist Church (Plain City/Dublin area) on Sunday, December 16 for an amazing evening of music and ministry. General admission tickets are \$15 (pre-sale) and \$20 (at the door), limited VIP Tickets are available for \$25. Tickets for this event can be purchased online here: <http://www.itickets.com/events/407480.html>

Blue Christmas Service December 19

North Broadway UMC, 48 E. North Broadway, Columbus, will hold a Blue Christmas service on Wednesday, December 19 at 7:00 pm. All are welcome.

Winter Camps offered December 28 – 30

Yes, you can go camping during winter! The West Ohio Conference offers 3-day & 2-night camping (Dec 28 – 30) at all 3 camps. (Otterbein, Wesley and Widewater) All three camps start on 5:00 pm Friday, and end at 7:00 pm Sunday. Cost \$89 students and financial assistance is available. Yes, you'll stay plenty-warm indoors, and yes, you'll also be outside having fun in whatever weather God provides! Enjoy God's creation in winter with winter games, campfires, winter crafts, ice blocking and plenty of hot chocolate. Also enjoy warm worship and Bible study. This is for ages 7 - 17. Register online and download forms at www.westohiocamps.org. Deadline is December 21. Winter Camp would make a wonderful Christmas gift!

5th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Brunch "A Celebration of Unity" January 21

Christ UMC, 1480 Zettler Rd., Columbus is hosting their 5th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Brunch on Monday, January 21, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. Rev. Dr. Timothy Bias is keynote speaker. Tickets are \$20; tables of 8 are \$150. Proceeds support the Christ Church Scholarship Fund. For tickets call 614-231-4568

SAVE THE DATE: Winter Youth Lock-In 2019 February 15 – 16, 2019

All CAN District youth grades 6-12 are invited to the 3rd annual Winter Youth Lock-In on February 15-16. Cost will be \$20 per youth if registered by January 28, 2019. (\$25 per person after January 28th). Further event details and registration information will be sent out in the coming weeks. Mark your calendars now for this fun overnight event for your youth group! Contacts: Jessica Cavinee (Linworth UMC) jcavinee@linworthumc.org and Erin Kendall (King Avenue UMC) erin@kingave.org.

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](#)



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.



Interns Needed for Summer Impact at Hyde Park Community Church

Do you know a college aged young adult that wants to make an IMPACT over the summer? Please let them know about a summer internship opportunity in Cincinnati, Ohio! Summer Impact, a ministry of Hyde Park Community UMC, is looking to hire 4 interns. As a way to deepen their love and understanding of God while exploring God's call on their lives, interns will lead groups in serving, worship, and reflection. This internship will not only include making an impact in Cincinnati but also leading a mission trip to Tijuana, Mexico. The link has more information and an online application. Thanks for help me get the word out! Applications are due February 11, 2019.

<http://hydeparkchurch.org/summer-impact-internship/>

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.

Classifieds

Help Wanted

[Part-time Finance Manager, North Broadway UMC](#)

[Minister of Music, Centenary UMC](#)

[Part-time Financial Position, Worthington UMC](#)

[Part-time Development Assistant for Kindway](#)

[Full-time Contemporary Worship and Creative Arts Director, Linworth UMC](#)

[Part-time Finance Manager, King Avenue UMC](#)

[Children's Coordinator, Short North Church](#)

[Nursery Coordinator, Short North Church](#)

[Administrative Secretary, Lewis Center UMC](#)