



Visit Our  
Website

## DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT ISSUES ADVENT CHALLENGE

*Without faith, it is impossible to please God.  
Hebrews 11:6*

Let us walk together in faith as we explore God's Words during the upcoming four weeks of Advent. Our journey together would allow us to witness God's love in sending His Son in order that we may have life and life more abundantly.

The scripture reminds us...*believe in the Lord your God and you shall be saved.*

*Acts 16:31*



## INTO THE WORD ADVENT READING

*The links will take you to the General Board of Discipleship Ministries' web page with resources for each Sunday as well as the entire week.*

### WEEK OF DECEMBER 1

#### [FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT](#)

Isaiah 2:1-15; Psalm 122  
Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 3:1-12

### WEEK OF DECEMBER 8

#### [SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT](#)

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:7, 18 & 19  
Romans 15:3-13; Matthew 3:1-12

### WEEK OF DECEMBER 14

#### [THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT](#)

Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:46b-55  
James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

### WEEK OF DECEMBER 22

#### [FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT](#)

Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

During the 2019 Advent Season, may you, your family, friends and sphere of influence enjoy all that the Lord has in store for you. Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year  
In Jesus's Name

*Calvin Alston, Jr.*

## PARTNERING ANGEL TREE CHURCHES TO COVER THE NEED

*Six of our nine counties in the Shawnee Valley District still have children to sponsor. Angel Tree Ministries supports the families of those incarcerated by purchasing gifts on their behalf at Christmas. For more information, please contact Rev. Tom Knauff, District Prison Ministries Coordinator [tom.cindyknauff@gmail.com](mailto:tom.cindyknauff@gmail.com)*



**A note from the Coordinator:** We are working hard to get the remaining Angel Tree children in Ohio sponsored this Christmas, but we still have over 1,600 children waiting - some of those are in your area.

I know you are doing all you can to take care of the children already assigned to you and I'm so very grateful to you. I'm planning to reach out to churches in areas of the state where all the children are already sponsored to see if they would be willing to partner with churches,

like yours, to provide funding for gifts for some of these un-sponsored kids.

Would you consider partnering with one of these churches if I can make that connection? You would reach out to the families, narrow down the gift choice and then purchase and deliver the gifts and the partner church would supply the funding for the gift purchase.

Please let me know ASAP if this is something you would be able to help with and I will begin working to match you with a partnering church. I'd love to have all the children assigned by Thanksgiving.

Also, please keep Angel Tree in your prayers. Although we're making headway, we still have many children across the U.S. waiting to be sponsored.

Blessings,

Mary Hamelin

## 2020 DISTRICT WINTER MISSION TRIP January 19 - 25, 2020

Join others in the Shawnee Valley District as we travel to Laurinburg, North Carolina to assist with clean-up, REPAIR and rebuilding after past hurricane damage.

Partners in Ministry, Inc is the organization that will be coordinating our work. We had a wonderful experience with them last year and they are looking forward to our return.



Here is some basic information as you consider working alongside us:

- **A deposit of \$50 by December 19** to confirm your spot on the team (deposit will go towards purchase of breakfast & lunch items the team plus the daily fee for materials, etc.). Make your check payable to Shawnee Valley District UMC, 573 E Main Street, Chillicothe, Ohio 45601.
- **A final payment of \$150 due by January 13.** Please don't let this additional amount deter you from joining us - if this is a hardship, pay as much as you can and we'll make arrangements to cover the balance.
- **We will worship together in the District Office at 8:00 a.m. Sunday morning, January 19,** pack the vans and leave Ohio via vans / cars around 10:00 a.m. (we will work out travel arrangements once we know who has committed to the team). Fuel expenses will be covered for the van(s) and pick-up truck/work trailer only.
- Accommodations will be at a local church in North Carolina close to our assigned work site. There will be showers. You will need to bring a cot / air mattress / sleeping bag and all personal toiletries. If you prefer to secure other accommodations, it will be at your cost.
- Work days on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
- Return to Ohio on January 24 or January 25
- Each day we will have breakfast at the church, pack our lunches to eat at the work site, then go to dinner at a local restaurant at your own expense. (Breakfast and lunch items will be purchased with the deposit money and district funds).
- **Anyone may join us; there will be jobs for every age and every skill level** (students must be at least 13 and anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult)
- Verification of Safe Sanctuaries training is requested

If you need more information, contact Diana Hall at the District Office. We hope you join us for a time of work, fun and new friendships!



## MAKING WORSHIP PLANS FOR 2020?

Join us in these Conference-wide series in early 2020!

**The Gospel & Race** is a 4-week worship and study series beginning on January 6, 2020.

**A Perfect Love** is a 5-Sunday worship and study series for Lent (March 1) *John Wesley's A Plain Account of Christian Perfection*. A complimentary copy of the book will be available provided you order directly from the West Ohio Conference.

Order forms and additional resources to help in your planning will be available soon at [www.westohioumc.org](http://www.westohioumc.org).

Should you have any questions about The Gospel and Race, please direct them to [acasperson@wocumc.org](mailto:acasperson@wocumc.org). Questions about "A Perfect Love," may be sent to [sallen@wocumc.org](mailto:sallen@wocumc.org).



**Mission Opportunity for Building a House in the Henderson Settlement Area during the Spring and Summer of 2020**

What: SOWER (Sharing Our Witness - Enriching Relationships) is a conference wide construction mission to build new housing in the area served by Henderson Settlement.

Objective: To construct a house from the foundation up for a family in need

Where: Henderson Settlement, Frakes KY (Part of the Red Bird Missionary Conference)

When: May 3-9 & 10-16; July 12-18 & 19-25; August 16-22 & 23-29 of 2020

Cost: \$260/volunteer (covers room and board at Henderson Settlement)

Materials: Funds/pledges are needed to cover the materials cost

Contact: Ralph and Carolyn Brandon - 740-344-5581 or sowervimproject@gmail.com

[Newsletter](#)

[Brochure](#)



**Is it time for a Building Check-Up?** Whether you are getting set to launch fall ministries and programs, building your congregation's budget for 2020, or both, be sure to include a check-up of your building on your to-do list. An annual building check-up can prevent small maintenance issues from becoming major - and may ward off endangering the health and safety of

your congregants and guests. Get started by downloading this [checklist](#) produced by The Academy of Church Business Administrators.



"United Methodism's six churchwide *Special Sunday offerings* are an example of a critical web of interactive relationships. When we add our dollar to the dollar of another, the gift is multiplied. It is that gift of abundance that makes a difference and serves as a beautiful witness to the world and to the gifts of the gospel." *Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey, President, Council of Bishops* [More Information and Resources](#)



[Jackson Area Ministries Newsletter](#)



Safe Sanctuaries policies prepare your congregation and its ministries to provide safety and care to children, youth, and vulnerable adults, as well as to those who serve them. In 2014, the West Ohio Annual Conference adopted a recommendation stating that every church would have a Safe Sanctuaries policy. [MORE INFORMATION](#)



Do you feel God's call on your life but are uncertain how to discern that call or what to do next? If so, then this is the Retreat for you! At the **Laity Discernment Retreats**, we will talk about call, discernment and what it means to be "called by our baptism". We will learn ways to intentionally enter into a time of prayer about discernment and we will discover Spiritual Rhythms that can help guide our journey. We will also discuss the variety of ways Laity can serve both in our churches and in our communities. [Read More](#)

**Read a Letter of Encouragement from West Ohio Conference's Lay Leader [HERE](#)**



[UMC Cyber Campus](#) is a multilingual learning portal to theological and higher education that aims to enhance global access to free and affordable high-quality digital educational resources. We strive to develop confident and knowledgeable Christian leaders on an ongoing basis. The United Methodist Church (UMC) is a worldwide church. We believe in connecting people through faith and education globally. There are 13 United Methodist seminaries, 119 UMC universities, schools, and colleges in the United States, and we are connected to 750 Methodist related schools around the world. The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) leads and serves The United Methodist Church in educating, nurturing, and preparing leaders for the church and the world. UMC Cyber Campus is a multilingual Christian learning space where you can get these higher educational materials anywhere and anytime.



The Preachers' Relief Society is a voluntary, non-profit benevolent organization of clergy and their families in the West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church. [\(READ MORE\)](#)



Drama Programs available through [Martin Denes Ministries](#). *Lifting Up Jesus / Bringing the Bible to Life*. Click on the link above for more details.

## LOVE PACKAGES

Please continue to donate used and new Christian CDs, DVDs, books, tracts, daily devotionals, magazines, Bibles, and Sunday School materials for any age. The date of the materials does not matter. Love Packages is an endorsed organization of the General Commission on United Methodist Men, Nashville, TN. See [www.lovepackages.org](http://www.lovepackages.org) for more information. Thank you for all donations in 2018. They are shipped overseas to Christians who have none. [\(READ MORE\)](#) **\*\*Donations may be brought to the Shawnee Valley District Office\*\***

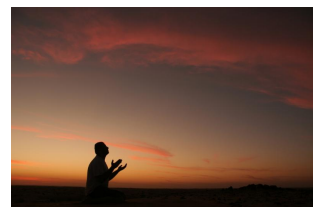


### PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THESE DISTRICT EVENTS DETAILS CAN BE FOUND OUR WEBSITE

- December 24-25 - Christmas Break - All Offices in the West Ohio Conference will be closed
- January 1 - New Year's Day --All Offices in the West Ohio Conference will be closed
- January 19-25 - District mission trip to North Carolina
- January 20 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - All Offices in the West Ohio Conference will be closed
- February 29 - Regional Training Event - Details & Locations TBA
- March 7 - Regional Training Event - Details ^ Locations TBA

### CHURCHES TO PRAY FOR THIS MONTH

***Please add these churches to your prayer list - pray for the congregation, the pastor, their ministries and the community they serve***



***(We are praying for multiple churches each week so every church will be included within one year)***

- Week of December 1
  - Fruitdale UMC (Pastor Jeff Barnhart)
  - Georgetown UMC (Pastor Dan Pelzel)
- Week of December 8
  - Good Hope UMC (Pastor Jon Silveous)
  - Greenfield UMC (Pastor Kevin Hall & Sam Mincey)
- Week of December 15
  - Haverhill UMC (Pastor Bob Morrow)
  - Highland UMC (Pastor Mary Cyrus)
- Week of December 22
  - Hillsboro First UMC (Pastor Derek Russell)
  - Ironton First UMC (Pastor Sam Peters)
- Week of December 29
  - Shawnee Valley District Staff
  - West Ohio Conference Staff
- Week of January 5
  - Aberdeen UMC
  - Alma UMC (Pastor Keith Richardson)
  - Andersonville UMC (Pastor Dennis Ray)

**HAVE A WEBSITE, FACEBOOK PAGE OR LIVESTREAM? LET US KNOW!**

We trying to compile a list of which churches have websites, Facebook pages and livestreams. If you have a page, we'd like to list them on our district website. It's a good resource for other churches to see ideas from others. We will compile a list as we receive information.

Diana K Hall, Communications Coordinator | Shawnee Valley District - UMC |  
(740) 637-0829 | [dhall@wocumc.org](mailto:dhall@wocumc.org) | [www.shawneevalleydistrict.org](http://www.shawneevalleydistrict.org)

STAY CONNECTED:

