



Visit Our Website

### DISTRICT DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM RETURNS FROM TEXAS

When the immediate danger is over, the media tends to move on to the next news-making story. Hurricane Harvey administered its wrath on the Gulf Coast in August of 2017. Five months later there are still hundreds of homes that were flooded, cleared out and now awaiting rebuilding.



As our team toured the Beaumont and Lumberton areas, house after house was just a shell - nothing but bare studs, windows and the outside walls. The flood line could be seen on the brick and siding. Trash lined the curbs awaiting refuse trucks to haul it away. Throughout the neighborhood, sounds of saws and hammers echoed. Campers filled the front yards, housing the survivors while they continue to rebuild their homes.

The area received record amounts of rain - over 50 inches in a few days' time. The houses in the Rose Hill neighborhood had water to the eaves. Every inch of drywall, insulation and flooring - from floor to ceiling - had to be removed. And then the waiting began. Waiting for insurance checks (if the homeowners had flood insurance), waiting for assistance, waiting for supplies. And many are still waiting.

Texas Recovers, a ministry of the Texas Annual Conference, provides the case workers to contact survivors in need. Through grant money given to them by UMCOR, three regional relief centers were opened to provide support to survivors. They then coordinate the teams who express an interest in assisting in recovery work. The Beaumont relief center has helped many families and currently has 18 active cases. Many contacts have been made and 13 teams have worked over 10,000 hours since December. Survivors who need assistance complete an application and are assisted based on their needs.

Our team helped two families - a widow and a gentleman receiving disability assistance for a work injury. Both had amazing attitudes considering they had lost everything. That impressed us about everyone we spoke with - and everyone we spoke with had endured damage. They were so appreciative and impressed that people from Ohio were willing to take time out of their busy schedules to drive two days to Texas to spend a few days helping them. [\(READ MORE\)](#)

[TEXAS RECOVERS WEBSITE](#)

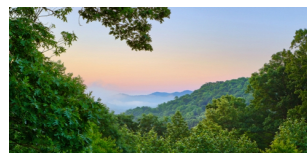
### DISTRICT INVITES FAMILIES TO PARTICIPATE IN FUN EVENTS

In order to get to know members of our fellow congregations in the Shawnee Valley District, our District Superintendent is inviting anyone to participate in the following activities.

**Outdoor Club:** Many of our folks enjoy hiking, kayaking and other outdoor activities. The intention is to enjoy the great outdoors, interact with fellow enthusiasts and meet new friends. The first opportunity to join us will be **Saturday, March 17 at 9:00 a.m.** at [The Edge of Appalachia Preserve near West Union](#). Plan to join the D.S. and others. Watch for more details.

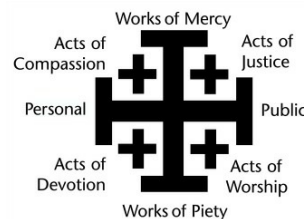


**Family Fun Day:** Last year, we planned a weekend outing for pastors and their families at Great Wolf Lodge at a deeply discounted price. It was ultimately opened to any family in the district. This summer, we have reserved a block of rooms at Shawnee State Park Lodge near Portsmouth for anyone in the district. Campsites will also be available, but cannot be reserved as a block. Check in will be **Friday, June 15** with a campfire, s'mores and singing. Saturday morning there will be a complimentary breakfast and the opportunity to explore the trails and lakes within the park. Watch for more details.



### DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES SEEKING INFORMATION

Our mission is to challenge and support local churches for their task of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The Discipleship Ministries of the UMC is seeking to gather information from across the denomination. We are looking for churches in our District that demonstrate exemplary and intentional discipleship systems as well as bear fruit. Please let the DS, Brent Watson, know if your church has a discipleship system that is working well in the life of your congregation. Thanks!



### JACKSON AREA MINISTRIES "GREEN THUMB" MINISTRY

Spring is Coming! It's time to begin collecting seed packets to donate to Jackson Area Ministries' "Green Thumb" ministry. **The deadline for donations is April 15.**

Jackson Area Ministries Gardening Project helps people to help themselves. We help persons who have lost their jobs, senior citizens, and low-income families. In addition to seed potatoes and tomato plants, we collect and distribute beans (pole and bush), beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, corn, cucumbers, lettuce, pumpkins, radishes, spinach, squash, turnips, watermelon—just about anything that is hardy for zone 6.



[JAM Gardening Webpage](#)

### TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE WEST OHIO CONFERENCE

- February 8 - [Engaging & Discipling Your Church's Financial Leaders](#) (Free Webinar)
- February 10 - [Creating a Legacy for Your Church's Future](#)
- February 15 - [Ohio PAUMCS \(Professional Administrators of the United Methodist Connectional Structure\) Membership Fees Due](#)
- February 24 - [Stewardship 101 for the Smaller Church](#)
- March 3 - [Town & Rural Resource Program Training](#)
- March 8 - [Clergy Day Apart](#)

- [All-In Community First Quarter Opportunities](#)
- [Mt Carmel Hospital Health Ministries Training Opportunities](#)
- [2018 Spring Traction Tracks](#)
- [Nominate Someone for Harry Denman Evangelism Awards](#)

### WEST OHIO CONFERENCE CHURCH REVITALIZATION GRANTS AVAILABLE

Revitalization/Capacity Building Grant Application for the 2019 award year is available through the Office of Missional Church Development. Churches will be able to complete the application online [here](#). Churches in any of the eight districts within The West Ohio Conference will have an opportunity to apply for a grant. Funding goes to existing churches in support of their efforts to revitalize their congregations for increased fruitfulness. Emphasis is placed on the missional work that must be done in turning a plateaued or declining church around, or fueling its capacity for fruitfulness. Award recipients will need to be ready to hit the ground running to develop and implement their plans, and to show



significant progress by a specified time. The total funding available for the Revitalization/Capacity Building Grant Awards will be determined by the 2019 WOC budget. The award period is January through December 2019. Interested churches are encouraged to submit an application by midnight July 1, 2018. Please direct any questions to Kim Anderson at 800-437-0028 or kanderson@wocumc.org.

### WINTER SHV MINISTRY SESSIONS TO FOCUS ON COMMUNITY MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Sessions are planned from 10 a.m. to Noon followed by a complimentary lunch. Anyone may attend these events. Plan on joining us and bring a friend!

- **March 13** will focus on Veteran & Military Ministries. Chaplain Joseph White will speak. [FLIER](#)
- **April 10** will focus on Ministries for the Aging.



Details can be found on our website [HERE](#)

### TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PASTORS WHO SERVE SMALLER CHURCHES

Two sessions have been scheduled in 2018 to provide insight to those who serve smaller churches in our district. These are two-hour sessions led by clergy in the Shawnee Valley District.

- **April 7** - "Marriage Preparation & Wedding Ceremonies". Rev. Brent Watson will lead this session. RSVP to the District Office.



[DETAILS](#)

### CHURCHES TO PRAY FOR THIS MONTH

- **Week of February 4, 2018**
  - Grace UMC, Waverly - Pastor Dan Evory
- **Week of February 11, 2018**
  - Hope UMC, Wellston - Pastor Leland Brehem
- **Week of February 18, 2018**
  - Wesley UMC - Pastor Bill Goodall
- **Week of February 25, 2018**
  - West Union UMC - Pastor Al Bolte

### 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.

Here's a new site to check out:

[South Webster Christ website](#); [SW Christ facebook](#)

STAY CONNECTED:

