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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING THE BUSINESS OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE



- On **Tuesday, July 28, 10 a.m.-noon, the Clergy Session will be held via Zoom.** We will tend to a few necessary matters having to do with clergy status and conference membership. Preregistration is required. Click [HERE](#) for details.
- **CHANGE IN SEPTEMBER 12 SESSION LOGISTICS.** As previously stated, **the Annual Conference Session will convene on Saturday, Sept. 12.** This week, Ohio has experienced a surge in the number of coronavirus cases, and this is repeated across much of the country. Planning one week in advance is challenging. Planning 2.5 months in advance is based on hope. **INSTEAD OF SATELLITE LOCATIONS IN EACH DISTRICT, THE CONFERENCE WILL NOW BE HELD ENTIRELY VIRTUALLY. LOGISTICS ARE BEING FINALIZED REGARDING REGISTRATION AND VOTING. PLEASE WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION IN FUTURE CORRESPONDENCE.**

WHAT PHASE ARE WE IN?



This question has been a big one the last few weeks as pastors and leadership begin making decisions on when to begin in-house worship. Your guess is as good as ours (sorry to say).

The most recent correspondence from the West Ohio Conference Office came from the Executive Assistant to the Bishop, Rev. Linda Middelburg offering this advice:

"We are encouraging churches to go back to in house worship on their own schedule using all the safe guidelines around social distancing, masks, and sanitation. We are suggesting that instead of considering phase language like max 10 or 50, they look at the capacity and layout of their sanctuary. We strongly suggest that they allow no more than 50% capacity, always including the ability to social distance. Most churches are using 30-40% capacity as their guide to be safe."

BEST PRACTICES FOR PREPARING TO GO BACK INSIDE FOR PRISON MINISTRY



Pivot. Adjust. Adapt. Yeah, yeah. But how, when you can't even go inside? On **Thursday, July 16, 12:00-1:30 pm**, join our panel of practitioners who have led the way in shifting their models for ministry and programming so they can continue serving those inside our Ohio prisons. Including ODRC administrators, our panel will provide guidance and tips for sustaining efforts from the outside in, building capacity for remote engagement, and what you should be thinking about before restarting your prison ministry and programming. This is a follow-up discussion to last month's ODRC Live Video Chat. Guest speakers include Ms. Chris Money, Executive Director of Kindway; Mr. Mike Swiger, Executive Director of True Freedom Ministries; Ms. Sylvia Moseley, Chaplain, Dayton Correctional; Dr. Mike Davis, ODRC Religious Services Administrator; and Mr. Gary Croft, ODRC Faith-based Initiatives Coordinator. The event is free but registration is required [here](#). For more information, contact Reba Collins at allincommunity@wocumc.org or 513-262-0184.

TECHNOLOGY ON A BUDGET Saturday, July 18 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Andersonville UMC



A wonderful opportunity for churches that have struggled during the Covid-19 Pandemic with technology. Come to this training to

learn tips and tricks for reaching out to congregations in new ways and on a limited budget.

Contact Sam Peters if you plan to attend: samjoypet@roadrunner.com

NEW CLERGY APPOINTMENTS IN THE SHAWNEE VALLEY DISTRICT



Even though Clergy Session won't be held until July 28, all new changes in appointments were effective July 1.

New Appointments by Cabinet and Bishop Palmer

Bainbridge UMC - Rev. Kathleen Kisner
Walnut Street UMC - Rev. Therese Lehman
Frankfort UMC - Rev. AJ Bernard
Jeffersonville UMC - Rev. Emory Clark
Russellville UMC - Rev. Mary Cyrus
WCH Grace UMC - Rev. Matthew Brookes

New Assignments by Cabinet and D.S. Calvin Alston

Auburn and Highland UMCs - Mr. Timothy Buchanan
Austin UMC - Mr. Scott Wise
Center and Spring Grove UMCs - Mrs. Rebecca Barnard
Moore's Chapel UMC - Mr. Richard W Owens
Portsmouth Christ UMC - Mr. Rob Krebbs
Sardinia UMC - Mr. James E Schroeder
Winchester UMC - Mrs. Dorothy J Countryman

Moving from Shawnee Valley District to Other Appointments

Joe Fox from WCH Grace UMC to Piqua Grace UMC
Tina Fox from WCH Grace UMC to Fletcher UMC
Joe Ziraldo from Walnut Street UMC to Bellefontaine UMC

Retiring

From Frankfort & Austin UMCs - Rev. Neil Foster
From Jeffersonville UMC - Rev. Tom Knauff
From Moore's Chapel UMC - Rev. Dennis Grooms
From Portsmouth Christ UMC - Rev. Terry Cavanaugh
From Wesley UMC - Rev. Bill Goodall (serving interim)
From Winchester UMC - Rev. Greg Roberts

WELCOME NEW DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS



Our District uses the same structure as many of the local churches by selecting a leadership team to serve as the governing body. Most team members serve a three year term. We welcome the newest group of leaders:

Rev. Karen Farr (Richmond Dale & Jackson Grace UMCs)
Rev. Jay Madigan (Jackson Christ UMC)
Rev. Vera Welker (Clarksburg Charge)
Rev. Kevin Hall (Greenfield UMC)
AJ Bernard (Frankfort UMC)

We also welcome Rev. Jamie Mosley, who will serve as Co-Coordinator of Smaller Church Ministries. Jamie serves South Point UMC.

DISTRICT PRE-ANNUAL CONFERENCE BRIEFING



A Pre-Conference Briefing has been scheduled for Saturday, August 29 to share information about the September 12 West Ohio Annual Conference.

Due to the uncertainty of event venues and the possibility of more quarantine restrictions, we will not make a decision on how this meeting will take place until mid-August.

Please watch for more updates via email.

LOCAL CHURCH CHARGE CONFERENCES TO BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER

Church / Charge
Conference Info

Each year in the fall, every church is asked to hold a charge or church conference to prepare for the upcoming year. *"The primary responsibilities of the Local Church Annual Church/Charge Conference is to review and evaluate the total mission and ministry of the church, receive reports, and adopt objectives and goals recommended*

by the church council/leadership team that are in keeping with the objectives of The United Methodist Church." (2016 UMC Discipline, ¶246-52)

Your church leadership should begin planning for 2021 soon. Minutes should be kept of the proceedings where this information has been presented and approved. The following items should be addressed:

- Prepare an annual budget
- Assess and set the 2021 compensation for the pastor
- Recommend candidates for ordained, licensed or lay ministry
- Review membership records
- Elect new leadership
- Review church property and update insurance policies
- Review and update safe sanctuary policies
- Inspect the parsonage
- Update Church History
- Update Church information (worship hours, basic church information)

Forms will be accessed and completed online and it is ultimately the Pastor's responsibility to ensure the reports are submitted. Information will be entered under '2020 Charge Conference' on the My Church tab of the West Ohio Conference website.

This information will be submitted to and approved by the District Superintendent at meetings which will begin in mid-September. In the past, The Shawnee Valley District has hosted district-wide, regional or county-wide events to gather and approve the reports. This year, a more traditional way of holding charge conferences has been chosen. Your church/charge will be assigned a time and date to meet with an Elder who has been selected by the District Superintendent to preside. The pastor and key leadership team members should attend. The presiding elder will review and sign off on the church reports, noting anything outstanding. Please note that that paperwork must be completed before the scheduled time to meet and the only item that needs to be presented is the Official Record of the Charge Conference and the minutes (Item#13 in the Local Church Reports).

Letters will be mailed to each pastor, ad council/leadership team chair, trustee chair and S/PPRC Chair with the date and location of their church's charge conference.

LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES CLASSES STILL SCHEDULED FOR FALL

Classes are tentatively scheduled and instructors are ready to prepare new servant leaders. Pastors, please encourage people in your congregation to enroll in the classes. Many options are available both in our district as across the conference.

[SHAWNEE VALLEY FALL CLASSES](#)

[OTHER CLASSES ACROSS THE CONFERENCE](#)



ANGEL TREE 2020 UPDATE

The most common question I receive lately is, "Is Angel Tree happening this season?" and "How will COVID-19 have an impact?" The answer is "YES", Angel Tree is taking place this Christmas season and we are excited to share with you the new additional opportunities to participate. [READ MORE](#)



THANK YOU FROM VIETNAM

Thank you so much for the generous gifts to the Health Kits and Women's Ministry despite the financial stress amid the pandemic. I am grateful that the Shawnee Valley District keeps engaging in God's mission in Vietnam.

VMI was able to respond to the emergency needs of the people who were affected by the coronavirus lockdown in April. Most of them were those making their living in the street including street vendors, lottery ticket sellers, waste pickers, motorbike taxi drivers. We distributed 746 food packets to both people in the church and in the community. I will send a newsletter very soon, in the meantime, I want to share with you a link to the photos of the relief project: [CLICK HERE](#)

May God protect you and all friends at the Shawnee Valley District. Quynh--Hoa Nguyn

Editor's note: Shawnee Valley has continued to support Quynh's ministry by contributing \$5,000 to the Health Kits and Women's Ministries in Vietnam.



CONNECTIONS, RESOURCES, MINISTRY & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



New Short video **Traction Tracks** for quick ways to gain traction at your church! TOPICS AVAILABLE: [\(click here for website\)](#)

- How to Perform an Ethnography
- How to Start a Fresh Expression
- Creating a Social Media Calendar
- Four Non-Negotiables to Keep Your Breakthrough Prayer Initiative Fresh
- First Quick Steps to Connection with online Worship Visitors
- Strategies for Making your Church the "Go to" Place during the Pandemic Season
- Move Ministry With Families To The Next Level - Even During A Pandemic Season



You're invited to consider Joni & Friends' *Change Everything* campaign as your church's mission project for VBS. This program will help provide wheelchairs for individuals in need. Help us bring the hope of Jesus to hurting and desperate people as we lift them out of the dirt and into a seat of dignity! Visit [Joni & Friends](#) for more information.



KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY. INTERESTED? Contact District Prison Ministry Team Member, Bruce Gabriel for many opportunities. [READ MORE](#)



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](#)



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](#) [ONLINE VIDEOS](#)



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 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****



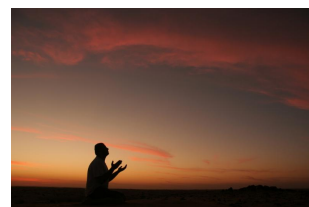
PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THESE DISTRICT EVENTS DETAILS CAN BE FOUND OUR WEBSITE

PLEASE CHECK THE WEST OHIO CONFERENCE AND SHAWNEE VALLEY DISTRICT WEBSITES FOR UPDATES ON ALL SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES. IF YOU ARE UNSURE, CONTACT THE OFFICE.

- July 4 - Independence Day
- July 14 - Leadership Team Meeting
- July 18 - Smaller Church Training
- July 18 - Outdoor Enthusiasts (location TBA)
- July 28 - West Ohio Clergy Session
- August 8 - District New Pastor Orientation
- August 8 - Smaller Church Training
- August 15 - Outdoor Enthusiasts (location TBA)
- August 29 - District Annual Meeting & Pre-Conference Briefing
- Sept 12 - West Ohio Annual Conference (locations TBA)
- Sept 19 - Outdoor Enthusiasts (location TBA)
- Sept 26 - Smaller Church Training
- October 10 - Lay Servant Ministries Classes
- October 17 - Outdoor Enthusiasts (location TBA)
- November 14 - Lay Servant Ministries Class
- November 21 - Smaller Church Training

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 listing multiple churches each week so every church will be included within one year)

- Week of July 5
 - Moore's Chapel UMC (Pastor Richard W Owens)
 - Mt Carmel UMC (Pastor Mike Rhoads)
- Week of July 12
 - Mt Nebo UMC (Pastor Mike Starkey)
 - Mt Orab UMC (Pastor Al Bolte)
- Week of July 19
 - Nauvoo UMC (Pastor Pete Shaffer)

- New Faith UMC (Pastor Don Mundy)
- Week of July 26
 - New Harmony UMC (Pastor Tracy Taylor)
 - New Hope UMC (Pastor Anthony Thomas)
- Week of August 2
 - Nipgen UMC (Pastor Haden Davis)
 - Oak Hill Faith UMC (Pastor Becky Wingo-Bowling)

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.

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STAY CONNECTED:

