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Website

LOCAL CHURCH SPRING REPORTING



In the spring of each year, each local church is asked to complete and submit the following reports:

- Trustee Legal & Property Report
- Fund Balance Report
- Parsonage Inspection
- Clergy Evaluation

The District Finance Chair will be reaching out to treasurers who haven't submitted the Fund Balance Reports, which were due by April 30

Some churches choose to submit the Trustee & Parsonage reports in the fall with Charge Conference Reports. A reminder will go out to every church noting which reports are still due.

The Clergy Evaluation forms are available on the District website and a letter will be sent to each SPRC Chair and Pastor with guidelines.

ONLINE GIVING TO YOUR LOCAL CHURCH IS NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH WEST OHIO CONFERENCE WEBSITE

When an offering plate can't be passed, we need other ways to receive tithes and offerings. While mailed checks can work, on-line giving is even better. Many churches already provide ways to give online. Others are new to this way of giving and still rely mostly on passing an offering plate and mailed checks.



Recognizing the critical importance of providing for online donations, the Conference has created a portal on its website where contributions can be made to any West Ohio United Methodist Church. Click on the [church donation link](#) at westohioumc.org and follow the prompts. The Conference will accumulate contributions and forward them at the beginning of each month via ACH to churches that received them. If online giving is new to your church, this will be a good way to start your journey toward an online giving program of your own. The questions and answers below will help you take advantage of this giving option.

Q: When is this giving option available?

A: It's available now through the [Donation link](#) on the Conference website at westohioumc.org.

Q: What does my church need to do to get started with online giving through the Conference?

A: There are two steps to receiving donations in this way:

1. Promote online giving and provide [this link](#) to your constituents.
2. Send to Rhonda Tyree an ACH authorization form so the Conference can deposit contributions to your church's bank account. The ACH instructions and form can be found [here](#).

Q: When will my church receive online donations given in this way?

A: At the beginning of each month, the Conference will deposit prior month contributions to your bank account via ACH. The conference will not be writing and mailing checks for this program.

Q: How much does this program cost?

A: The program is free to local churches with the donated amounts being forwarded in full to the church. Donors will be asked if they wish to contribute \$2.50 on top of their church donation toward transaction fees incurred by the Conference. If they do, the conference will retain the \$2.50 to offset Conference expenses. If they elect not to, your church will still receive the full amount of the donation with the Conference paying transaction costs.

Q: How will gift acknowledgement work?

A: Donors will immediately receive an email thanking them and acknowledging their gift. This email, which is the only communication from the conference donors will receive, includes all information needed to report the gift as a charitable contribution for IRS purposes.

Q: What notice will churches get when donations are made?

A: At the time of the contribution, an email will be automatically generated to the lead pastor of the church, the treasurer and the church financial secretary. The message will indicate the donor's name and amount and remind the church that the gift acknowledgment for IRS charitable giving purposes has been provided by the Conference. Please contact your district office to confirm correct email addresses for these roles.

Q: How should donations made this way be recorded on individual giving records?

A: You may show the gift as given "on behalf of" the donor. You may not report it as a charitable contribution for IRS purposes since in this case it is made to the Conference initially.

Q: Can a donor make a gift recurring?

A: Yes, recurring gifts can be made weekly or monthly.

Q: What restrictions or designations can donors to local churches establish with gifts through the Conference?

A: All local church contributions will be passed through to the church without designations or restrictions. Donors should contact their church if their gift is for anything other operating fund support or otherwise is for a specific purpose.

[Click Here to Donate to Your Local Church](#)

(you must log on to the West Ohio Conference website)

MANY RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR NAVIGATING COVID-19 ISSUES

Trying to find information you need quickly can be frustrating especially when you are not sure where to look. We are committed to equipping churches throughout West Ohio with the information they need. We will continue to add information as it becomes available. Be sure to check your district website for information, too. If you know of a resource that may be helpful to others but do not see it on this list, please email: agraham@wocumc.org. Thank you for your commitment to God and to the Church.



[Click HERE for the most up-to-date information.](#)

Please know there is an overwhelming amount of information that has been sent to our office and it has been difficult to ensure everything has been conveyed to you. If you have ANY questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. We are working in the office some and from home some - leave a message if we don't answer and we'll return your call as soon as we can. We're here for you!

DISTRICT ANNUAL GATHERING AND PRE-ANNUAL CONFERENCE BRIEFING

August 29, 2020

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

StillWater Event & Conference Centre,
Chillicothe, Ohio



Plan now to attend a free meal and gathering to discuss the happenings in Shawnee Valley and how West Ohio Annual Conference will be conducted on September 11 & 12.

CONNECTIONS, RESOURCES, MINISTRY & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



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

- 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



[West Ohio Camps & Retreats](#). Traditional favorites and new camp themed weeks are available now to read about and register. [Summer Camp Guide](#)



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](#)



2020 ANGEL TREE REGISTRATION. It is not too early to register for 2020 Angel Tree Christmas. The earlier you register, the better Angel Tree can plan for new church recruitment in areas that need more support to serve local families.

Please contact Mary Hamelin, Angel Tree Program Specialist for Ohio, to register mary_hamelin@pfm.org Web: www.prisonfellowship.org



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](#)



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****



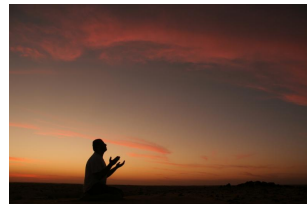
PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THESE DISTRICT EVENTS DETAILS CAN BE FOUND OUR WEBSITE

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

- May 12 - Leadership Team Meeting
- July 4 - Independence Day
- July 18 - Smaller Church Training (tentative)
- August 29 - District Annual Meeting & Pre-Conference Briefing
- Sept 11 & 12 - West Ohio Annual Conference
- Sept 26 - Smaller Church Training
- October 10 - Lay Servant Ministries Classes
- 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 praying for multiple churches each week so every church will be included within one year)

- Week of May 3
 - Island Creek UMC (Pastor Elvis Horsley)
 - Jackson Calvary UMC (Pastor Garry Hogue)
- Week of May 10
 - Jackson Christ UMC (Pastors Jay Madigan & Janie Karl)
 - Jackson Grace UMC (Pastor Karen Farr)
- Week of May 17
 - Jeffersonville UMC (Pastor Tom Knauff)
 - Kingston UMC (Pastor Jammie Wilhelm)
- Week of May 24
 - Leesburg UMC (Pastor Rich Allen)
 - Liberty Chapel UMC (Pastor Chuck Reeves)
- Week of May 31
 - Liberty Chapel at Scrub Ridge UMC (Pastor Chuck Reeves)
 - Londonderry UMC (Pastor Dennis Ray)
- Week of June 7
 - Lucasville Emmanuel UMC (Pastor Michael Musser)
 - Lynchburg UMC (Pastor Harold Miller)

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:

