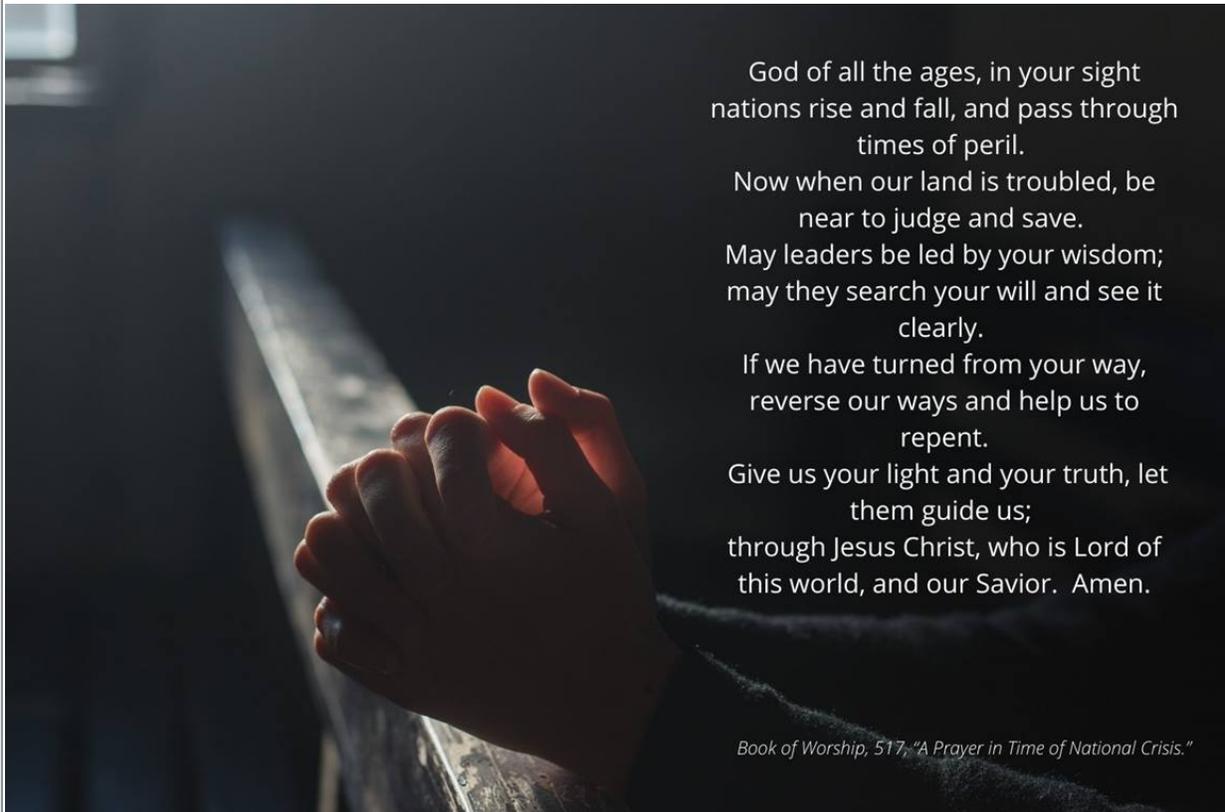




News and Notes: January 12, 2021

[View This Email in Your Browser](#)



God of all the ages, in your sight
nations rise and fall, and pass through
times of peril.

Now when our land is troubled, be
near to judge and save.

May leaders be led by your wisdom;
may they search your will and see it
clearly.

If we have turned from your way,
reverse our ways and help us to
repent.

Give us your light and your truth, let
them guide us;
through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of
this world, and our Savior. Amen.

Book of Worship, 517, "A Prayer in Time of National Crisis."

A Statement from Your Ohio River Valley District Leadership

Because we, United Methodists of the Ohio River Valley District, understand that "our allegiance to God takes precedence over our allegiance to any state,"* (164.V) therefore, we shall prayerfully discern a faithful response to the violent attack on the United States Capitol, its leaders, and staff on Wednesday, January 6, 2021.

While "we acknowledge the vital function of government as a principal vehicle for the ordering of society,"* (164.V) . . . "the strength of a political system depends upon the full and willing participation of its citizens. The church should continually exert a strong ethical influence upon the state, supporting policies and programs deemed to be just and opposing policies and programs that are unjust."* (164.V.B)

Therefore, we urge each United Methodist of the Ohio River Valley District to participate fully as citizens to influence local, state, and federal officials, policies, concerns, and

programs to be just and equitable.

The words of John Wesley offer a framework; particularly his instructions prior to a 1775 election are wise admonitions for United Methodists in the U.S. today. "I . . . advised them, 1. To vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy: 2. To speak no evil of the person they voted against: And, 3. To take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side. – John Wesley, October 6, 1774

Yet the violent attack on the U.S. Capitol, members of congress, law enforcement, and related governmental staff demands an even larger response.

"Governments and laws should be servants of God and of human beings. Citizens have a duty to abide by laws duly adopted by orderly and just process of government. . . . We recognize the right of individuals to dissent . . . Even then, respect for law should be shown by refraining from violence and by being willing to accept the costs of disobedience. We do not encourage or condone any form of violent protest as a legitimate exercise of free speech or civil disobedience. We offer our prayers for those in rightful authority who serve the public, and we support their efforts to afford justice and equal opportunity for all people."* (164.V.F)

Therefore, we call on all United Methodists to stand down from any violent inclination or action toward elected officials or government institutions. Furthermore, we call on all United Methodists to express their dissent in non-violent ways and to prepare to accept the consequences for any laws broken as part of civil disobedience.

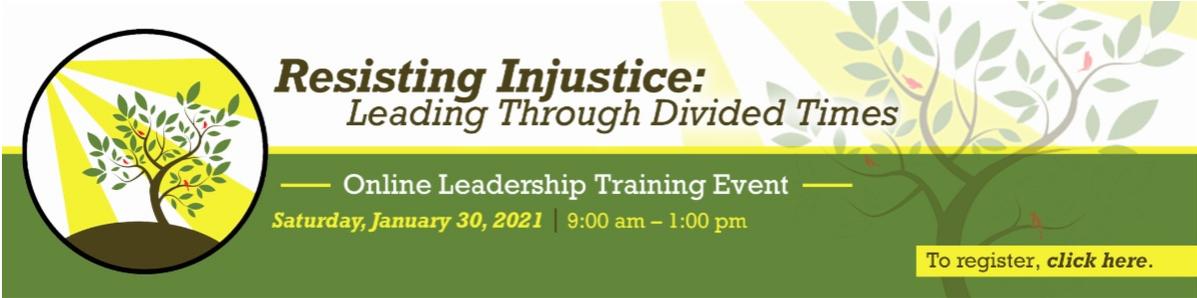
Finally, the challenges of the attack are felt locally when United Methodists sharpen their spirit toward one another because of partisan political divisions. It is on us to stop this.

Once again, John Wesley gave us abundant instruction. His simple rules should govern how we respond to one another: 1) Do no harm, 2) Do Good, and 3) Love God (together)! Furthermore, an admonition attributed to him but with roots in the Lutheran Reformation and in the great early theologian Augustine is deeply informative. **"In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity."**

In other words, let's discover unity with one another in the essentials of our shared faith. Let's offer freedom (liberality) in the many non-essentials of faith. And most importantly, let's commit to love and kindness in all things. These three rules and three admonitions would strengthen us individually, congregationally, and connectionally during these difficult days.

*2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline, Social Principles, Para. 164.V.A, B, & F

Please share this statement as a sign of your affirmation and commitment to our United Methodist Social Principles. It will be posted on our Facebook page ([facebook.com/orvdistrict](https://www.facebook.com/orvdistrict)) and our website (orvumc.org)

A banner for an online leadership training event. On the left is a circular logo featuring a tree with a sunburst behind it. The main text reads "Resisting Injustice: Leading Through Divided Times" in a serif font. Below this, it says "Online Leadership Training Event" and "Saturday, January 30, 2021 | 9:00 am - 1:00 pm". On the right side, there is a call to action: "To register, click here." The background of the banner is a stylized tree with green leaves and a yellow sunburst.

**Resisting Injustice:
Leading Through Divided Times**

— Online Leadership Training Event —
Saturday, January 30, 2021 | 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

To register, [click here.](#)

Register Now for Training Day! Saturday January 30, 9 AM - 1 PM
Resisting Injustice: Leading Through Divided Times

The last Saturday of January each year has traditionally been set aside as the Ohio River Valley District's Leadership Training Day. This year will be no exception; however, since

the virus is not behind us yet we'll be meeting virtually.

Using an exciting event platform called Whova, we are planning a very special day for you. This year's timely focus will be on leadership in divided times and courageous responses to various forms of injustice, with two extraordinary keynote speakers.

Our first keynote address will be given by Rev. Dr. Doug Powe, Jr. After two breakout sessions for classes, the day will conclude with a special conversation with our West Ohio Bishop, Gregory Palmer.

Our voices need to be heard now more than ever. Please mark your calendar for January 30 and join us for this special event. [Register today!](#)

Schedule of Events

9:00 am - 10:00 am Opening worship with The Warehouse Praise Band, and Keynote Address by the Rev. Dr. F. Douglas Powe, Jr. on "Leading, Sustaining and Disrupting Change."

10:10 am - 10:55 pm Session 1 Workshops

11:05 am - 11:50 am Session 2 Workshops

12:00 pm - 12:45 pm A Conversation with Bishop Gregory V. Palmer



The Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) Economic Hardship Water Debt Forgiveness Program, also known as the "Forgiveness Program," will **help customers avoid water shutoffs at their home**. Customers must demonstrate they are experiencing economic hardship due to COVID-19 or be at or below specified income levels. GCWW will forgive past-due amounts related to water and City of Cincinnati stormwater services accrued during the pandemic, from March 1, 2020, through September 30, 2020.

All applications must be submitted by March 31, 2021 to qualify.

For more information and to access the applications, visit www.Forgive.myGCWW.org. Hard-copy applications - including Spanish translated versions - will also be available upon request from GCWW at (513) 591-7700 and at several public locations.

ORV Education Opportunities

Wondering Wednesdays - This Week (Jan 13) at 11:30 AM

As we all know, C-19 has changed a lot of things - including the way we do ministry. It seems like every new season brings a Covid first.

Suzanne and I have learned from pastors and laity in phone

calls, emails and Connecting Points that you have a lot on your mind. We thought it would be helpful to get together every couple of months with you to talk about issues brought on by this period of pandemics. We hope you will be part of the conversation.



Please join us next week for our next installment of *Wondering Wednesdays* as we consider together **Ash Wednesday and Lent in the time of COVID.**

Wondering question: "How are we going to impose ashes in a COVID-safe way?"

[Sign up via SignUpGenius](#) and the Zoom link will be emailed.

Resources



Ways to celebrate Martin Luther King Day under COVID

Churches throughout West Ohio celebrate Martin Luther King Day in various ways to honor the vision and dream of this courageous leader. On King Day, January 18, 2021, [consider these options](#) to safely give witness to the legacy of this civil rights icon.



Clergy Day Apart slated for Jan. 28

The West Ohio Conference Clergy Day Apart will be held virtually on Thursday, January 28 at 2:00 p.m. Rev. Dr. Vergel Lattimore III, President and Professor of Pastoral Psychology and Counseling, Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury, North Carolina will be the keynote speaker. His focus will be *Life Stress and Care Beyond Ordinary Pain & Relational Loss*.

The event is free [but registration is required - register here.](#)

Lattimore is Professor Emeritus of Pastoral Care and Counseling and former Director of the M.A. in Counseling Ministries, Methodist Theological School in Ohio (1990-2012). He served as Director of Counseling, Addiction and Psychological Services (CAPS), Syracuse Community Health Center, Inc. (1988-90). He also worked as a Core Staff Pastoral Counselor/Area Coordinator, Onondaga Pastoral Counseling Center (1983-88), Syracuse, NY. He was Assistant Dean, Office of Minority Affairs, Duke University (1977-79).

He is an ordained an Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. In the Air

National Guard (ANG), he served as Assistant to the Chief of Chaplains, U.S. Air Force, Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, DC (2003-2005). He was the first African-American chaplain to attain the rank of Brigadier General in the U.S. Air Force and the ANG. Lattimore is He is a native of Charlotte, NC. He is married to Joy Renee and they have three adult children.



ONLINE LEADERSHIP TRAINING EVENT

Saturday, February 13, 2021
8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

To Learn More & To Register, [Click Here](#)

Moving Forward - Sat Feb 13

The West Ohio Conference is pleased to offer this online training to our pastors and church leadership across the conference this year, featuring three nationally-known, dynamic speakers. We hope that they will inspire you with ideas about how to navigate beyond our current environment and work together to reach others and make Disciples for Jesus Christ. Because we know that different-sized churches face different challenges, this event will feature workshop tracks focused on both small churches and on medium-sized/larger churches. [Register here.](#)



Bill Brownson Finance Facebook Live *In case you missed it*

Last week, Conference CFO, Bill Brownson, hosted a brief Facebook Live event that focused on current financial administration matters including the Paycheck Protection Program, W-2's, 2021 apportionments and more. If you missed it, or would like to view it again, [please click the link](#)

A Call to Prayer



Let us remember in prayer those grieving the loss of their loved one, and remember in thanksgiving the life and ministry of:

Rev. Michael W. Smith who died Thursday, January 7, 2021. He was a local pastor from the West Ohio Conference who served appointments at Gallipolis Christ, Payne and Owensville churches. His wife Rhonda survives. His memorial service was held at Owensville UMC, [2580 US-50, Batavia, Ohio 45103](#) today 11:30 am. Donations are requested to the LaCroix New Testament Mission, Haiti, c/o New Beginnings Church of Belfast, 10863 Grog Run Road, Loveland, Ohio 45140. To read his obituary and leave condolences online [click here.](#)

Rev. Don Fruechtemeyer who died Thursday, January 7, 2021. He was a retired local pastor from West Ohio who served St. Paul Community, Hamilton Grace and the Camp Dennison/Miamiville Charge, all in the Ohio River Valley District. A service will be held at a

later date. Expressions of sympathy will reach his wife, Trudy Fruechtemeyer, at 7389 Village Dr, Mason Ohio 45040.

Classifieds

Paid and unpaid job openings:

Shiloh UMC - Director of Student and Family Ministries

Wesley Chapel Mission Center - Children's Pre K-6 Teacher

Miami Whitewater UMC - Custodian

John Wesley Early Learning Center - Assistant Teacher

Anderson Hills UMC - Director of Student Ministry

North Bend UMC - Pianist

Otterbein Lebanon Senior Life - Hospice Chaplain



Items needed and available:

A friend - *Free!* Small electronic piano

Faith Community UMC member - *Free!* Handmade cloth masks

[Click here](#) to view/respond to the ads above

[Click here](#) to submit your own classified
