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Fresh Expressions - Rebekah Clapp
Our own Rebekah Clapp offers a look at the Fresh Expressions vision of church outside the walls of the church.

**Video link**

Fresh Expressions Vision Day is coming to the ORV/MIV on Friday, May 18th at Parkview UMC in Miamisburg!

"All over the world, established churches are crossing barriers to experiment with new ways to gather and make disciples. Instead of expecting people to come to them, these churches are doing what Jesus did: They are releasing missionaries from within their congregations to go to the people... God is moving in the world in ways that we might never imagine! "

- Brad Aycock

You can learn more about the Vision Days and register here:

[https://freshexpressionsus.org/WestOhioVisionDays/](https://freshexpressionsus.org/WestOhioVisionDays/)

**District News**

**Clergy County Coffee Conversations with Todd and Suzanne**

Last year's Clergy Coffee Conversations were an excellent opportunity for fellowship and nourishment (and if you need a reminder, check out the video!)

These gatherings for active and retired pastors begin this week! [Sign up for one here!](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10F0D4AAA85B2A74-klickitat)
Weds April 11 @ 10 AM
True West Coffee, 313 Main St, Hamilton (Butler County)

Monday April 16 @ 10 AM
Redtree Coffee, 3210 Madison Rd in Oakley (Hamilton County)

Thursday April 26 @ 10 AM
Panera, 1066 OH-28, Milford (Clermont County)

Monday April 30 @ 1:30 PM
Jen's Deli, 28 W Main, Wilmington (Clinton County)

Tuesday May 1 @ 1:30 PM
Lot No. 1, 9 E. Main St, Lebanon (Warren County)

Celebrating The Resurrection Throughout Eastertide

Easter at Branch Hill UMC was wonderful! We had a packed house and I counted 18 kids. We also baptized little Miss Nora (Adam & Amanda).

- Suzanne Allen

ERT Update and Road Trip Opportunity

A huge thank you to so many churches who put together Flood Buckets during and after the flooding at the end of February. Several churches in our district have agreed to be ongoing collection and storage sites for Flood Buckets including: Newtown, Christ the Prince of Peace, and Bethel.
There has also been a wonderful outpouring of support as churches across the conference have gathered and delivered Flood Buckets for use in our district. There are currently 360 buckets at the Foothills District office that they would like to share with our district. We are looking for someone who could help transport 30-50 buckets to each of the storage site churches in our district. If you have a large vehicle or a box truck or a truck with a trailer, and would like to take a day trip to help pick up and deliver these buckets, please contact Pam Follmer at 513.539.8691 or pfollmer@cinci.rr.com.

MLK "I Am the Dream" Recap

Despite technical difficulties, last week's gathering at Faith Community brought together folks from all over the district to celebrate the life and ministry of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr!

You can view the West Ohio Conference's service - including Bishop Palmer's message- via their Facebook live stream here.

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Resources for Clergy

Boundary Training Dates And Locations Announced

Boundary training focuses on developing healthy boundaries in ministry and is specific to the role of a clergy person. One of the most interesting dynamics is the power difference between a person in a ministerial role and a member of his or her congregation. Other topics include personal and professional health and the use of social media. This training is required for all actively serving
clergy and retired clergy under appointment. The cost is $25.00 per person. All events will be held from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

One training will be offered at Lakeside on the Thursday after the close of Conference.

June 7- Wesley Lodge, Lakeside To Register Click Here
June 27- Grace UMC, Waverly To Register Click Here
August 25- Linworth UMC To Register Click Here
August 29- Christ UMC, Kettering To Register Click Here
August 30- Grace UMC, Perrysburg To Register Click Here
September 12- Reynoldsburg UMC To Register Click Here

The Center for Health Newsletter is designed to share useful guidance for United Methodist clergy for self-care and burnout prevention. Reprinted here are some good words from this month's edition, on resiliency:

Ways to Incorporate Resiliency Into Everyday Situations

* Make connections. Cultivate relationships with people who care and listen.
* Avoid seeing problems as too big to overcome. We can change how we interpret and respond to stressful events.
* Realize change can be a good thing. Sometimes our goals need to change with our circumstances.
* Move toward your goals. Focus on tasks that seem achievable.
* Take decisive actions. Rather than wishing issues would go away, move in a new direction and take steps to solve problems.
* Seek opportunities for self-discovery. We often learn new things about ourselves in the midst of pain.
* Keep things in perspective. If a situation is stressful, look at it in a different light for a broader, more optimistic perspective.
* Nurture yourself. Pay attention to needs and feelings. Engage in activities that are enjoyed.

Read the entire newsletter here.
Support Native Ministries on April 15

On Sunday, April 15, your congregation can support spiritual development and help to educate Native American seminary students during Native American Ministries Sunday.

Giving to this effort equips Native congregations to worship and serve as only they can.

To build awareness and encourage generosity for the effort, a free, downloadable kit of resources is available, including new videos, social media assets, worship resources, e-books, posters and more.

For more information, click here or download resources here.

Educational Opportunities

Next Week:

Safe and Healthy Communities Ballot Initiative Training

Hear a few words from our Urban Ministry director about next week's Teaching Tuesday. The Safe and Healthy Communities Training will be offered at lunch (11:30 AM) and dinner (6 PM) and is free! Sign up now!

The Safe and Healthy Communities Amendment would reduce nonviolent drug possession offenses to misdemeanors in Ohio, reunite offenders with their families, remove criminal records that prevent people from getting jobs or housing, and reinvest the money saved on rehabilitation, treatment, and prevention. This is the way of Jesus: justice that leads to reconciliation, accountability that leads to restoration. Learn about the biblical foundation. Understand the United Methodist way. Here about the injustices of the current
reality. Learn how to carry a petition or host a signature collection meeting at your home or church.

Read the full description here.

Sign up for Teaching Tuesdays here.

April 24 #TeachingTuesday
Evangelism in a world that's not looking for Jesus.

We live in a world where religion and church are no longer automatic value adds in people's minds, a world that has grown skeptical of the effectiveness of organized religion and has learned to live in a "post-Christian" era.

So how do we fulfill the Great Commission in a world that isn't looking for Jesus? We'll explore the 3 most important questions to ask if we want to introduce people to a Savior they aren't really sure exists. Sign up here!

Healing Communities Training
Saturday April 14

Join National Director of Healing Communities, Dr. Harold Dean Trulear, on Saturday, April 14 for a day of training that builds relationships of healing, redemption, and reconciliation in families and communities impacted by crime and mass incarceration.

Healing Communities Training helps you identify and mobilize the existing resources and relationship already within your congregation that provide hope, practical help, and healing for all parties touched by crime - victims, the incarcerated, families of both, and the community. You will leave with practical steps toward creating a network of support and a community full of forgiveness, reconciliation, and healing.

The training will be at Second Baptist Church in Middletown from 9:30am - 2:30pm. The first 15 spots are for this training are FREE to UM members. You can also stay for the Train-the-Trainer training from 3:30-6:30pm to become a Healing Communities Trainer. claim a free spot, contact Reba Collins at rebakco@gmail.com or 513-262-0184 by April 10th.
Greetings in Christ Jesus:

Earlier this year I spoke to you about 1968 being a watershed year in many ways. That is probably true of every year, depending on your social location and/or your reading of history. That said, 1968 stands out in my mind as BIG. The assassinations, presidential politics, where we were in Viet Nam and on and on. We who lived through it could regale one another with our recollections.

One of my firm recollections of 1968 is the creation of The United Methodist Church, formally consummated and ritualized on April 23, 1968, in Dallas, TX. It was a number of years in the making and followed a number of years of conversation, relationship building and negotiation. Two churches came together to create a new church, embracing for a new era relationships first kindled in the 18th century. In a real sense, the new church was bright-eyed and full of hopeful possibilities.

So here we are at the 50th anniversary of our church, and I see and sense hopeful possibilities. Yes, I know what's going on in the Church, in our church
and in the world, and I still see hopeful possibilities - if only we would follow the Risen Christ into the world where he is already at work in the power of the Holy Spirit. As a sign of our commitment to join the resurrected Jesus in the world and mark the 50th birthday of the UMC, I am inviting us all to a one-day prayer meeting.

Here's the deal. **On Monday, April 23 (our birthday as the UMC), I am asking you to do two things:**

1. **For every West Ohio United Methodist to spend some focused time in prayer-**
   - Praising God for the Church
   - Thanking God for The United Methodist Church
   - Confessing to God our "failure to be an obedient church"
   - Seeking God's missional will for The United Methodist Church (local, regional, national, global)

2. **For every United Methodist church building in West Ohio to be open for at least one hour on the 23rd with a designated place for people to pray.**

If your church facility can be open for this purpose for more than one hour, please do so. Here are a few things to keep in mind as we engage this opportunity for focused prayer on April 23rd:

   - Pray as you are able. You don't have to be in a church building or do it at a specific time of the day;
   - There is power in private prayer and praying with others, so feel free to do both;
   - Invite people in your community who are not members to stop in to pray;
   - Some resources and suggestions for prayer on this day will be made available via the conference website.

Please know that even now my prayers join yours that the mission of the Church would be lived through us in the power of the Risen Christ. I am,

Your servant in Christ Jesus,

+Bishop Gregory V. Palmer

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**Summer Opportunities**

"Camp Gives Kids a World of Good"

I used to have a t-shirt with this on it. That was back in the day, right out of college, when I worked full time at Camp Joy. I was on full time camp staff for four and a half years. Camp is where I learned a lot about what kind
of person and leader I am today. Camp is where I met my future wife. One would say that summer camp is core to who I am.

This summer I will be heading to Camp Wesley from July 8-13. This week of camp is open to all ages-elementary, middle, and high school. The elementary campers will participate in Wacky Water Week; a week of fun centered around water games. The middle school campers will participate in Challenge and Mission Week; a fun week of camp that included offsite service activities that help them learn about how to be on mission for God. The high school campers will participate in Adventure and Leadership Camp; a week of camp focused on adventure activities that help the campers explore what it means to be a leader.

This week of camp originated, many years ago, as ORV District Camp. There are many ORV churches who have in the past or currently send campers to Camp Wesley during this week. Churches like Shiloh, Groesbeck, Hyde Park Bethlehem, Lebanon, and Esparanza Viva to name a few. If you are considering camp for the summer of 2018, perhaps you might consider this week. You can find out more about camp or register at www.westohiocamps.org.

See you at camp!

Rev. Benji Sayre
Wesley Foundation in Cincinnati

Calling All Youth Leaders!
Calling all youth team leaders!
There is a joint Miami Valley/Ohio River Valley event at the end of April:
Saturday, April 28, 2018 9:00AM - 4:00PM Centerville UMC

Cost is $35 and includes lunch, supplies and background screening

Centerville UMC 63 E Franklin Street Centerville, OH 45459
Trainer: Rebecca Hug
Cost: $35-includes lunch, supplies and background screening.

This VIM Team Leader training will focus on:
* Selecting a Mission Project for Youth
* Identifying UMVIM Mission Locations for Minors
* How to include families in Team Trainings and fundraising
* Safe Sanctuaries, Forms, and understanding "Loco Parentis"
* Communication with the Family- Before, During and After
* Youth Storytelling after the mission experience
* How to incorporate the mission experience into ongoing ministry

Get the newly updated flyer here!
Go to westohiumc.org/VIM to register!

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Local Church & Ministry Partner Events

Westwood UMC, 1st Time Home Buyer Workshop - Apr 10, 17, 24

Armstrong Chapel UMC, Women Serving Women - April 14
Wesley Chapel Mission Center, Dinner Fundraiser - April 15

Epiphany UMC, Active Shooter Response Training - April 16

Wesley Chapel Mission Center, Family Reunion - April 20-22

Epiphany UMC, Teen Talent Competition - April 21

McGonigle Millville UMC, Fried Chicken Dinner & Silent Auction - April 28

Forest Chapel UMC, Uniting Communities through Prayer - May 3

Classified Ads

**Paid & unpaid job openings:**
- UM Financial Credit Union: Accountant
- Loveland UMC: Music Director
- Hartzell UMC: Director of Worship
- Transforming Jail Ministries: Board Member
- New Life Furniture Bank: Movers and Drivers
- Springboro First UMC: Church Office Manager
- Faith Community UMC: Director of Children's Ministry
- UM CFood Ministry: Americorps Workers
- Williamsburg UMC: Music Director
- Lindenwald UMC: Administrative Secretary/Office Manager
- Monroe UMC: Director of Youth Ministries
- West Ohio Conference: Controller
- Hyde Park Community UMC: Full-time Director of Administration

[View classified ads](#)
[Submit a classified ad](#)