Calling All House Flippers!

Are you skilled with fixing up houses? There are several congregations that need help stripping wallpaper, painting and updating bathrooms with tile, new fixtures, etc. Are you a retired contractor/construction worker, or do you know one in your church? Is your UMM or UMW group looking for a project? Do you just love working on houses? We need you!

Interested people should contact Todd at ohiorivervalley@wocumc.org.

Please send your latest happenings, stories of celebration, and local events to orvstories@wocumc.org. The deadline for inclusion in a Tuesday newsletter is 3pm the previous Friday.

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District Wide Events

Registration is open for our annual Leadership Training Day, Saturday, January 27 at Armstrong Chapel!

A list of workshop offerings is now available as well.
The District Office will be at 4400 Reading Road until January 11, 2018. On that date we will have moved to Brecon United Methodist Church 7388 E Kemper Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45249

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Conference Updates

Changes to your health insurance?
If you are enrolled in the conference health insurance and have any changes - for example adding someone new or removing someone who was previously covered - you MUST notify Sandi George in writing (email is fine) to get those changes put through, sgeorge@wocumc.org, 614-844-6200

2017 Apportionment Deadline January 12
All 2017 apportionments must be received by January 12, 2018 at the District office and West Ohio Conference Center in order to be counted towards your 2017 apportionment giving.

Year-end Reports
Be on the look-out for a mailing this week from the West Ohio Conference around year-end reporting. Those reports are due no later than February 9, 2018. https://www.westohioumc.org/conference/end-year-reports

Blessings to you and your ministries as we bring 2017 to a close and appreciate the rest of Christmas. This communication provides guidance on preparing IRS Forms W-2 for the 2017 tax year.

2017 IRS Form W2 Preparation Guidance
Fortunately, there are no substantive changes to the instructions for preparing 2017 W-2's in comparison to 2016. Last year's process should again be followed for 2017. Please see the W-2 quick reference preparation at this link. Additional information can be found here.

HSA Employer Contribution Reporting
Our return last year to employer-funded HSA Contributions require disclosure on Form W-2. This is applicable to you for clergy and lay persons who were insured under the Conference's insurance plan in 2017 (through Aetna). This information is reported in Box 12 of the W-2 with a code W.

2017 HSA contributions were handled as follows:

- In January 2017:
  - $500 was deposited to persons enrolled in single plans
  - $1,000 was deposited to persons enrolled in plans providing coverage for two or more people

- In July 2017:
  - $500 was deposited to persons enrolled in single plans
  - $1,000 was deposited to persons enrolled in plans providing coverage for two or more people

For anyone employed for all of 2017 and in the same plan type, applying the above information will produce the correct HSA contribution reporting amount. If 2017 employment and enrollment was for less than a year or the plan type in which your employee was enrolled changed during the year, please email Sandi George at sgeorge@wocumc.org requesting confirmation of amounts contributed for specific individuals. Be sure to include the participant's name and your church name. All 2017, HSA contributions were included in the total invoiced premium; they were not billed separately as was the case a few years ago.

**Forward to Your Payroll Preparer**

If you do not prepare the W-2s for your church, please forward this notice to your payroll preparer as soon as possible. This notice is being sent to the current church Treasurer and Lead Pastor on file, and therefore you may receive more than one notice per church.

**Thank You!**

Thank you for your administrative contributions to our church. If you have health insurance plan questions, please contact our Conference Benefits Officer, Mike Kremnitzer at mkremnitzer@wocumc.org. Tax questions other than HSA reporting, which should go to Sandi George as indicated above, can be directed to me.

In Christ's Service,

Bill Brownson

Resources
Human Relations Day-
Sunday January 14

Turn on the news or drive around the outskirts of your town and you will find what Jesus called "the least of these." Those living in the margins of society, struggling to survive. People like:

- An immigrant teenager in Texas' poorest county, being recruited by a local gang
- A father struggling for sobriety in Little Rock, Arkansas
- An Oklahoma woman recently released from incarceration looking for work

Over and over Jesus served people like this, embracing them. And that's what we want to model as the people of The United Methodist Church. To continue the ministry of Jesus we established Human Relations Day as a Special Sunday that calls all of our churches to participate in helping all God's children to realize their potential.

Get resources for this special Sunday here.

Coming for Lent 2018:
A Journey Home

Take your congregation on a journey this lenten season to explore that we are all spiritual refugees, journeying home to our Father in Heaven. Each of us is called to turn around in the midst of a broken and hurting world and travel in the wilderness as we seek the God who is calling us. Jesus teaches us through example and lessons what is expected of us as we journey home to Him.

Each week we will travel with Jesus to experience the trials, joys and triumphs of refugees around the world. As we see and experience the plight of refugees
we are challenged to look out for them, care for them and love them. This series calls us to a new narrative for refugees caught in the United States' political system and those without a home around the world.

In this lectionary based series we will explore both the refugee’s story as they struggle to relocate and settle into a new home and our own spiritual journey as we travel this earth knowing our true home is not here, but in heaven.

*The series website is nearing completion and can be viewed here.*

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Local Church & Ministry Partner Events

**Otterbein Lebanon UMC, Yuletide Celebration - January 5**

**Hartzell UMC/West Ohio Conf, Church Disaster Training - Jan 6**

**Prof. Pastoral Counseling Inst, Pastor’s Lunch - January 9**

**Groesbeck UMC, O Susanna! Auction for State Ave UMC- January 20**

**Otterbein-Lebanon, Walter Brueggemann Lecture - January 31**

**Clifton UMC, Emergency Response Training - February 3**
Classified Ads

**Paid & Unpaid Church/Ministry Partner positions:**
- Hartzell UMC: Part-time Director of Music
- Faith Community UMC: Associate Pastor of Family Ministries
- Clough UMC: Office Administrator
- Otterbein Lebanon: Chaplains

**Free to a good home:**
- Brecon UMC: Children's table
- Springboro First UMC: Two nametag holders
- New Vision UMC: Two 16-unit locker systems
- Wilmington UMC: Collapsible doors/walls

View classified ads
Submit a classified ad

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:

**Marilyn Burley**, who died Sunday, December 24, 2017. Preceding her in death was her husband, Rev. William Burley. He was a retired West Ohio pastor who served Wesley Chapel-Goodale Chapel, East Fultonham-White Cottage, Ansonia-Dawn, Monroe-Excello, Monroe, Bethel, Medway, Westwood, Church of the Good Shepherd, and Hyde Park Bethlehem. His funeral service was held at Monroe United Methodist Church on December 27. Memorial donations are requested to any of the churches that Bill & Marilyn served. You can view Marilyn's obituary and leave condolences online by clicking here.

**Lou Anne Mussman**, who died Thursday, December 21, 2017. Surviving her in death is her husband, Rev. James Mussman. He is a retired pastor from West Ohio. He served the following churches: Versailles Webster; St Paris; St Mark; Portage Christ; Arcanum Faith; Fostoria High Street; and Shiloh. A memorial service was held December 29, 2017 at Wesley Glen Retirement Community. Burial will be at Evergreen Cemetery in Southgate, Kentucky at a later date. Please send condolences to Rev. James Mussman, 5155 North High Street, Apt. 303 E., Columbus, Ohio 43214. View Lou Anne's obituary and leave condolences online by clicking here. Memorials are requested in Lou Anne's name to Wesley Glen Retirement Community.

**Belle Elizabeth Hiles** who died Saturday, December 23, 2017. She was married to Rev. Glen Hiles who preceded her in death. He was a retired pastor from West Ohio who served Stockdale-Stockdale Pike Circuit; Gettysburg Pitsburg, Pomeroy, Lucasville Emmanuel, Frankfort Austin, and Concord-Mt Carmel Charge. Surviving Belle in death are her children: David (Natalie), Rebecca (John) Costello, and Mark (Lisa). Visitation was held last Thursday at Tufts Schildmeyer Funeral Home in Loveland. Then on Friday another visitation and Belle's funeral service were held at Emmanuel UMC in Lucasville. Memorial gifts may be directed to the Wesley Chapel Mission Center or to your choice of charity. You can view Belle's obituary and leave condolences online by clicking here.
Rachel S. Hite who died Sunday, December 17, 2017. Surviving her in death is her husband, Rev. Tom Hite who is a retired West Ohio pastor. Together they served Union Plains, Gallipolis Christ, Walnut Grove, Malta, Arcanum Faith, and Port William churches. He is currently appointed to serve Xenia Evangelical UMC. Funeral arrangements are pending. To read Rachel's obituary click here.

Ann Marie "Nancy" Gray who died Friday, December 15, 2017. Surviving her in death is her husband, Rev. David Gray who is a retired pastor from West Ohio who served Cygnet-Jerry City, Morrow, Gibsonburg Trinity, Ashville Zion, Marion Greenwood, Northwest, Wagram, and Springfield Lagonda churches. Funeral arrangements are pending. Nancy's obituary may be found here.

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