



Western Lakes District

News from The United Methodist Church

WLD Office (937) 739-4445 Email: westernlakes@wocumc.org

WLD Important Information

Western Lakes District Charge Conferences

Regional charge conferences are coming up in November. This is always an important time together as we elect church officers, establish compensation packages, and review our membership rolls. Our plan is to hold regional gatherings by county circuits on November 12 and 19.

Please sign up for your church's regional conference [here](#).

You may go ahead and have your committee meetings and begin collecting your information now. The forms needed for charge conferences can be found below. The website is not ready for online entry yet, but will be very soon.

[Charge Conference complete worksheet packet](#)

[Charge Conference complete worksheet packet - Word Doc](#)

[2024 Minimum Salary guide](#)

[Trustee Legal & Property Report](#) - if not completed in June

[Parsonage Inspection Report](#) - if not completed in June



OCTOBER IS
PASTOR
APPRECIATION
MONTH

It is Pastor Appreciation Month and praying is a simple thing you can do for them daily. Take a look at this article for 15 ways to pray for your pastor.

[15 ways to pray for your pastor](#)

Listening Sessions Offered Around The Special Annual Conference

Three opportunities via Zoom will be offered to learn more about the items being considered at the upcoming Special Annual Conference.

Each of these sessions will include information on the proposed 2024 West Ohio Conference Budget and a recommendation from the Board of Trustees of the Annual Conference regarding West Ohio Camps. Additionally, a member of the Elections team will present information on the voting process.

Upon registering you will be sent a confirmation email with the Zoom link. [Click here to](#)

HealthFlex Update From Conference Benefits Office

The collaboration between the West Ohio Board of Pension and Health and Wespath Benefits and Investment has made the HealthFlex program increasingly popular. This program provides comprehensive health and wellness solutions for WOC-eligible active clergy (non-retired), conference/district employees, and their families.

To stay current on *HealthFlex*, [click here](#).

News and Updates:

· The *HealthFlex* Introduction Sessions, held September 11 to 14, were well-attended and received an overwhelming response from more than 120 participants who attended in person and virtually. We extend our gratitude to everyone who participated. Don't forget to visit the webpage for frequently asked questions.

· The *ALEX* Benefits Counselor is up and running for you to test before enrolling into HealthFlex! Click [Medical - ALEX \(myalex.com\)](#) to estimate costs, explore your benefit options, and contribute to health accounts (i.e., HSA, FSA, DCFSA).

[Read More](#)

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

Rev. Donald C. Meadows, 80, of Scioto Furnace passed away Saturday September 23, 2023 at SOMC Hospice Center.

He was born June 21, 1943 in Beckley, WV a son of the late James and Marjorie (Moody) Meadows.

Don was well known and served as a pastor for many years with the West Ohio Conference UMC, and these congregations: Pleasant Valley-Hallsville Community 1978 (P); South Salem Parish 1980 (P); Wharton-Big Oak 1982 (F); Countryside Chapel 1985 (D); Pomeroy (A) 1988; Portsmouth First (P) 1991; Lancaster Maple Street (N) 1996; Franklin Furnace & Scioto Furnace (SHV) 2006; Haverhill (SHV) 2013

He enjoyed his family, watching westerns, shooting guns, doing his Gospel Magic for children and loved his pets, especially Hot Dog and Scooter.

Don is survived by his wife, Janet (Fenton) Meadows whom he married on June 9, 1977 in Scioto Furnace; three sons, Donald C. (Susan) Meadows II of Charleston, SC, James A. Meadows, and Joel W. (LaVerne) Meadows all of Ft. Worth, TX; two brothers, Ron (Robin) Meadows of Shelby Township, MI and Jerry (Reva) Meadows of Cross Lanes, WV; a sister, Sue (Jerry) Callison of Mocksville, NC; sister-in-law, Reva Meadows of Rock Wall, TX; 4 grandchildren, Donald C. Meadows III, Andrew Meadows, Jason (Sara) Meadows and Michael Meadows, 1 great-granddaughter, Emma Meadows.

The family request donations be made to SOMC Hospice Center, 2201 25th St., Portsmouth, OH 45662 or the Wheelersburg United Methodist Church, 11605 Gallia Pike, Wheelersburg, OH 45694.

Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Janet Meadows, 16 Williams St, Scioto Furnace, OH 45677. To view the obituary please use this link: <https://www.dswickfuneralhome.com/obituary/donald-meadows>

Funeral Services were held Wednesday September 27, 2023 at D.W. Swick Funeral Home in South Webster, Rev. Perry Prosch and Frank Fenton officiated.

Franklin D. Cooley, 92, passed away peacefully on September 5, 2023, at his residence.

Franklin was born on October 23, 1930, in Warren, Ohio to Merrill F. and Nelle (Copeland) Cooley. On January 31, 1951, he married Barbara H. (Turner) Cooley who preceded him in death in May 2001. In June of 2002, he married Alice (Cummins) Cooley who preceded him in death in February 2022.

Franklin was the former pastor of Wesley United Methodist Church, and formerly owned Edu-Caters in Lima, Ohio. He was a member of the Lima Men's Garden Club, Trinity's Free Store, the Breakfast Program at Trinity, and also a member of Trinity United Methodist Church. He loved woodworking, gardening, photography, poetry, and traveling.

He is survived by his children and stepchildren: Sharon L. (William) Kelley of Lakeside, OH, William M. Cooley of Lima, OH, Dr. David A. (Amada Aguina) Cooley of Pueblo, CO, Kevin D. (Barbara A.) Cooley of Lima, OH, Jan (Tom) Reinsel, Angie (Dennis) Hefner, and James Scott (JoAnn) Cummins; eight grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Charles F. Cooley.

Funeral services were held on September 15, 2023, at Trinity United Methodist Church, Lima, Ohio.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Habitat for Humanity, Trinity Church, or the Gardeners Club of Lima, Garden Club.

* * *

Dr. Charles Norman Dillman of Spring Arbor was called to heaven by our Lord on September 15, 2023. He was born March 31, 1938 in North Robinson, Ohio. He was 85 years old. He leaves his wife, Marie Dillman, a daughter, Angie Dillman Shaw (Pat Shaw), a son James Dillman, three grandsons, Jake Dillman, Zach Shaw (Emma Southerland), and Alex Shaw.

Dr. Dillman graduated from Otterbein College, Evangelical Lutheran Theological Seminary, Columbia Theological Seminary and ultimately earned a Ph.D from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Charles lectured in East Germany and studied German at a Goethe Institute in Prien, Germany. He taught in the Religion Department at Greenville College, (IL) for 4 years. While there he led two student groups to Israel. For 30 years he was a Professor of Religion at Spring Arbor University (MI) Along with his teaching career he was Pastor of churches in Ohio and South Jackson Community Church in Jackson, MI. Dr. Dillman published several articles and is the author of the book, "Conversations with Mark." A respected Christian Bible Scholar, a beloved father, grandfather. Dr. Dillman was known for his wisdom and love of puns.

Service was held at the Arbor Church in Spring Arbor on Friday September 22, 2023.

* * *

Richard L., "Dick" Schaefer age 84 of Beaver Creek, passed away Wednesday, October 4, 2023. He was born May 16th, 1939 in Dayton, Ohio to the late Frank and Elizabeth Schaefer. He was preceded in death by his first wife Phyllis. Dick was a 1957 graduate of Fairview High School and then graduated in 1961 from DePauw University. He was the owner and operator of The Schaefer Group. He was a member of Fairview United Methodist Church. Survived by his loving wife Katharine Schaefer, his children David (Caroline) Schaefer, Douglas (Deb) Schaefer, Katherine Schaefer, Somona (Rudy) Zuniga, Karla (Adolf) Lane, David Robinson, 14 grandchildren, a sister Barbara Winslow and numerous nieces, nephews, family, friends and "Drew Gang".

Memorial services 12 noon Friday, October 20th, 2023 at the Fairview United Methodist Church 828 W. Fairview Ave. Dayton, OH by Rev. Neil Gaiser. The family will receive guests Friday from 10 a.m. until time of services. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to UMCOR, Fairview Church or a charity of one's choice. Arrangements entrusted to Baker-Hazel & Snider Funeral Home. Online condolences for the family may be sent to www.bakerhazelsnider.com.

Basic ERT Class to be Offered October 28 in Cincinnati

UMCOR's Early Response Team (ERT) Basic class will be offered on Saturday, October 28, 8:00 am-4:00 pm at Mount Moriah UMC in Cincinnati. West Ohio ERT trainers will teach participants how to assist survivors of natural disasters in their time of need. Trainees will learn how to provide a caring, Christian presence while taking steps to prevent further damage to the family's personal property. Skills that are taught include tarping, debris removal, mucking out flooded homes, etc. FEMA recognizes this training to enter a disaster scene. A background check is required, and a link to complete this will be provided upon registration. Cost is \$40 for the Basic class plus lunch and materials.

For more information or to register, click here:

<https://www.westohioumc.org/conference/event/early-response-team-training-basic-class>

Mission Team Leader Training is November 11 at Conference Center

Thinking about leading a mission journey in 2024? Now is the time to prepare! Join West Ohio for a Volunteers in Mission (VIM) Team Leader Training on Saturday, November 11 from 9am-1pm. With experienced team leaders as instructors, you will learn how to plan and lead a mission experience in Ohio, the United States or around the world. You will also be provided with checklists, timelines, team forms, and practical resources for nurturing the spiritual life of your team. Cost of the training is \$35 per person and includes lunch. Click here to register: <https://www.westohioumc.org/conference/event/volunteers-mission-vim-team-leader-training>. Questions? Contact mgrace@wocumc.org

Nonprofit Partners Summit Returns for 3rd Consecutive Year

The United Methodist Foundation of West Ohio is gearing up for the *Nonprofit Partners Summit*, a free two-day educational conference intended to benefit nonprofits with close ties to the UMC in West Ohio.

"The goal of the Summit is to provide capacity-building resources to faith-based nonprofits that are actively working to meet the needs of their communities," said Foundation Donor Relations Manager, Maddy DeWitt. "In addition to our Nonprofit Partners Program participants, we welcome any nonprofit with close ties to a UM congregation in our Conference to participate."

The two-day event, scheduled for November 2nd and 3rd, offers two experience options. The first day will be online and focused on personal development training, while the second day will be in-person at the West Ohio Conference Center with a focus on nonprofit fundraising and administration. Attendees will hear from expert presenters on both days.

Participants have the option to attend one or both days. Space is limited on the 2nd day, so organizations interested in attending should sign up as soon as possible.

Registration opens on October 2nd. Links to the registration pages are below:

Online Experience: [Online Experience Registration](#).

In Person Experience: [In Person Experience Registration](#).

Questions can be directed to Maddy DeWitt, at mdewitt@wocumc.org.

Fall UMCOR Kit Collection for Midwest Mission

After a year that saw record-breaking disasters occurring around the world, Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) – our North Central Jurisdiction UMCOR supply depot – needs our help replenishing their stock of hygiene and menstrual hygiene kits. From **Oct 16 - Nov 10**, hygiene and menstrual hygiene kits can be dropped off at the

following locations, to then be picked up by MMDC:

Chillicothe Trinity UMC, 24 S Mulberry St, Chillicothe (South/Southeast)

Drop-off hours: Mon-Thurs, 9am-3pm

Contact Trish Barber at 740-412-1529 for questions or to make other arrangements.

Monroe UMC, 206 East Ave, Monroe (Southwest)

Drop-off hours: Tues-Thurs, 10am-2pm

Contact Edna Miller at 513-539-7290 for questions or to make other arrangements.

Lima Trinity UMC, 301 W Market St, Lima (West/Northwest)

Drop-off hours: Mon-Fri, 8am-3pm

Contact Rev. Jim Nathan at 419-591-8148 for questions or to make other arrangements.

West Ohio Conference Center, 32 Wesley Blvd, Worthington (Central)

Drop-off hours: Mon, Weds, Thurs, 10am-4pm

Contact Mariellyn Grace at 380-223-9212 for questions or to make other arrangements.

Instructions for how to make hygiene and menstrual hygiene kits can be found here:

<https://umcmmission.org/relief-supplies/> Cleaning kits (flood buckets) will also be accepted at the drop-off locations.

For more information, contact Mariellyn Grace at mgrace@wocumc.org.



SCHOOL OF NURSING
Indiana University



ADVANCE CARE PLANNING WORKSHOP

*Learn how to talk to your loved ones about your
values, goals, and preferences for future medical care*

Pick Your Day
September 23
October 21
November 18

Saturday
1-4pm



Registration
ruth.myers@adaumc.org
or (419) 634-4626

**Childcare available
for those registered**

*Hosted by Ada First United Methodist Church
301 N. Main St., Ada, OH 45810*

Please join us! Ada First United Methodist Church will host an Advance Care Planning Workshop facilitated by Deacon Ruth Myers for her doctoral nursing degree as faith community outreach. The workshop involves viewing video scenarios and answering questions relating to choices at the end of life. This workshop is designed for adults at any age or stage of health and is free and open to the public. You're invited to one of these workshops and can come alone or bring family or loved ones. Please register by scanning the QR code above or contact Ruth Myers or the church office, as listed in the information above.

Resources

Churches Invited to Partner with UM Dollars For Scholars Program to Send Students to College

The United Methodist Higher Education Foundation's

UM Dollars for Scholars program matches a church's sponsoring scholarship for a total of up to \$4,000!

[Nashville, TN – September 27, 2023] The United Methodist Higher Education Foundation's UM Dollars for Scholars program matches a church's sponsoring \$1,000 scholarship for a total of up to \$4,000! Pastors and church leaders, plan now to partner with UMHEF to make it more affordable for your Methodist students to attend UM-related colleges, universities, and seminaries next school year. Matches are made possible by UMHEF as well as participating UM-related schools and UM conference foundations.



UMHEF is a private non-profit organization that aims to make it financially possible for qualified students to attend UM-related institutions of higher education. The foundation awards \$2+ million in scholarships annually. For full details, please visit <https://umhef.org/umdfs>.



Free Book Discussion Group

In *My Grandmother's House: Black Women, Faith, and the Stories we Inherit* by Yolanda Pierce is a masterful work of storytelling, a gift of God's presence, and a vision of hope.

Here is what people are saying about the book:

" Dr. Yolanda Pierce gives us the gift of inviting us into the faith of her grandmother, and so many others who have gone before. For those of us born entrenched in white patriarchal Christianity, this gift is profound. In her poetic, theologically rich reflections on growing up in the Black church, Dr. Pierce invited our gaze to honor the women who have upheld a profound yet overlooked aspect of American Christianity. This is a wonderful introduction to womanist theological that is life-giving and nurturing even as it invites constant reflection on the part of the reader." ~ D.L. Mayfield, author of *The Myth of the American Dream and Assimilate or God Home*.

When: Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm ET

Dates: Beginning October 17, 2023 for 6 weeks. (Oct. 17, 24,31, Nov. 7,14, 21)

Where: Via zoom

Please register through the Living Streams Flowing Water web site using the Contact Brenda form. Registration is now open. <https://livingstreamsflowingwater.com/contact/>
Please purchase your own book.

2023-2024 Appointments

The list of pastoral appointments beginning July 1, 2023 can be accessed [clicking here](#).

Please refer back to these lists as they are updated frequently.

Western Lakes District | 32 Wesley Blvd, Worthington, OH 43085

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