



# Great Miami River District

*News from The United Methodist Church*

**News and Notes :: July 17, 2024**



## **Bishop Hee-Soo Jung Assigned to the Ohio Episcopal Area**

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung has been assigned to The Ohio Episcopal Area which includes the East and West Ohio Conferences. His assignment will begin September 1, 2024.

Bishop Jung is the resident bishop in the Wisconsin Annual Conference and has served in this role since September of 2012. He played a key role in Wisconsin's Imagine No Malaria Campaign, which raised more than \$1 million.

Prior to leading the Wisconsin Conference UMC, Bishop Jung served eight years as bishop of the Northern Illinois Conference (Chicago area). He was instrumental in inspiring the Harvest 2020 movement in Northern Illinois, which resulted in many new faith communities.

[Read more...](#)

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## **Youth Delegates Ready to Lead**

While other teenagers were sleeping in or deep into video games, Landon Balmos-Ruddock and Nehemiah (Neha) Priebe were helping form United Methodist policy.



Particularly, they want The United Methodist Church to live into a fully inclusive church where all are welcome and received into the church as beloved children of God. Landon (15) and Neha (16) were two of the 175 North Central Jurisdictional Conference delegates that met in Sioux Falls, SD, last week.

Though they are young, their passion for the church runs deep. Landon, pictured on the right, attends Clifton UMC in Cincinnati. He is active in his church, serving as a worship leader and liturgist. Immediately following the NCJ gathering, he left for a church mission project. [Read](#)

[more...](#)

[Click to see more pictures from Jurisdictional Conference](#)

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## Mustard Seed Migration Grants

Every day, thousands of people flee their homes in search of a better life for their families. Global Ministries and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) provide support for refugees and migrants around the world, seeking to fulfill the biblical mandate to “love thy neighbor” and “welcome the stranger.”



The Mustard Seed Migration Grant program is designed to encourage local United Methodist churches to engage in ministry to migrants in their midst. UMCOR will award grants of \$2,000 to up to 100 United Methodist local churches in the U.S. to engage in new, one-time community-based service projects and ministries focused on migrants and refugees. The goal of this program is to nurture a deeper understanding and care for the most vulnerable in our communities.

[Learn more/apply here](#)

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## 2025 Great Miami River District Grant Cycle begins August 1

Through the faithful generosity and long-term vision of those who gave toward the Mission Foundation endowment, our district has the great blessing of being able to offer grant funds to both local churches and United Methodist related ministry agencies in the Great Miami River District.



**Local Church Grants** fund ministries and projects that help local churches reach people more effectively with the healing love and grace of Jesus Christ. Grant funding is available for New and Emerging Ministries, Adaptive Ministry, Social Justice Ministry, Ministry with Young People, and Outreach Ministry. These annual grants are distributed quarterly.

**Non-Profit Agency Mission Partner Grants** are available to agencies whose mission is in alignment with the mission of the District and Conference and have relationships with local United Methodist churches and/or the Great Miami River District. These annual grants are distributed monthly.

Applications go live August 1 with a return deadline of October 4, 2024. They will be available here and on our website. Questions? Contact Rev. Justin Fuhrmann, Strategy Committee Chair at [jfuhrma@hotmail.com](mailto:jfuhrma@hotmail.com).

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## Great Miami River Youth Ministries Event

Youth pastors, get your students involved in a district-wide Sand Volleyball tournament on Sunday, July 28th! It will take place at [Grand Sands Volleyball](#) in Loveland, OH from noon to 3pm. All middle school and high school teens and youth leaders are invited.



The cost is just \$9/person for volleyball, pizza and drinks. Reach out to Rev. Scott Russ with questions and to let him know how many are coming by July 24 at 513.677.9866 or [sruss@epiphanyumc.org](mailto:sruss@epiphanyumc.org).

## Healthy Boundaries/Clergy Sexual Ethics/Safer Sanctuaries Essential Trainings

On behalf of the Episcopal Office and the Board of Ordained Ministry, we are pleased to invite you to an essential training event designed for both lay staff and clergy. This event aims to reinforce our commitment to maintaining safe and respectful environments within our communities. We encourage clergy to invite one key lay staff person to attend the Safer Sanctuaries Training with you for the afternoon session.



All Clergy under appointment, including those in Extension Ministries, Lay Pulpit Supply, and all Certified Lay Ministers within the West Ohio Conference, are now required to undergo a comprehensive background check every four years. Clergy on Leave of Absence are also encouraged to participate in the training and background check updates as they are able.

To facilitate this, please register for your preferred training event and complete the "Permission to Release Information" form by August 15, 2024, which can be found here: [Background Check Form](#). The required training is to be fully completed by November 21, 2024.

### Scheduled Dates and Locations:

- October 17, 2024: Ginghamburg Church - Hosted by Pastor Dennis Miller [Register Here](#)
- October 18, 2024: Christ Church - Hosted by Pastor Brian Law [Register Here](#)
- October 19, 2024: Athens First UMC – Hosted by Pastors Robbie Scott and Victoria Burgoon [Register Here](#)
- October 22, 2024: Chillicothe Trinity Church - Hosted by Pastor Wes Souders [Register Here](#)
- October 23, 2024: Lancaster First Church - Hosted by Pastor Nikki Baker [Register Here](#)
- October 24, 2024: Epworth Church - Hosted by Pastor Cecil Thompson [Register Here](#)
- October 29, 2024: Christ Church (Makeup Date) - Hosted by Pastor F. Willis Johnson [Register Here](#)
- November 1: Digital training becomes available. Those who register for this option will be able to complete **the training online beginning November 1.** [Register Here](#)

For questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Susan Thomas ([stthomas@wocumc.org](mailto:stthomas@wocumc.org)) or Rev. Donnetta Peaks ([dpeaks@wocumc.org](mailto:dpeaks@wocumc.org)).

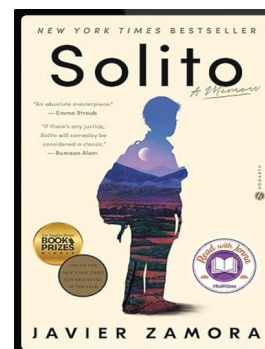
## Expanding Connection Book Club Shares August Selection

Join people from all over West Ohio as we *Expand our Connection* with one another and people we haven't met yet.

Each month a book is selected that is diverse, accessible, and empowering and the community of readers is a hub promoting equality, equity and inclusion, sharing the stories of the world to generate empathy and peace through books.

Books are announced around the 15th of each month, and a time for gathering and sharing will take place around the same time.

*Solito: A Memoir* by Javier Zamora is this month's book. Group discussion will be held on Zoom, August 13 from 7:00-8:30pm.



**All in Community Ministry Monday**  
July 22, 7-8:30pm on Zoom

Ministry Mondays are opportunities for learning about specific All In Community ministry pathways both connectionally and within local congregations that radiate out into the community at-large. This month during All In Community's *Ministry Monday* information session, the discussion will focus on their signature initiative, [HOPE Letters](#).



HOPE Letters is a mentorship through correspondence program that reaches inside our state correctional facilities to offer hope to those who are incarcerated. Endorsed by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, HOPE Letter writers are touching many lives to offer encouragement, non-judgmental companionship and a listening ear. And the good news is, *anyone* can write letters or sign cards. It's an easy way to make a big difference in a person's life.

Questions and requests for the ZOOM link can be directed to Jami Nathan, AIC Ministries Coordinator, by email ([jami.nathan.22@gmail.com](mailto:jami.nathan.22@gmail.com)) or by phone (419-591-9717). [Register here](#).

## Discover FX

**Discover FX** is coming to the Great Miami River District! You've heard about Fresh Expressions popping up all across West Ohio. Here is your chance to explore how fresh expressions could revitalize your church and reach people in your community. They are an effective way to build relationships, serve the people within your context and community, and revitalize your church. Fresh Expressions are about going outside of the norm, going beyond the typical boundaries of ordinary church to build human community with and among people with whom the church has forgotten, ignored, marginalized, or dismissed.

NEED TO REVITALIZE YOUR CHURCH?  
**DISCOVER FX**  
<https://www.westohiounc.org/discover-fx>

<b>JUL 17</b> Western Lakes District First UMC First Plaza Christian Center 16 W Franklin St. Troy 9:30am - 2:30pm	<b>JUL 18</b> Oleentang River District Maize Manor UMC / Urban Farm Church 700 Maize Rd. Columbus 9:30am - 2:30pm	<b>JUL 23</b> Maumee River District First UMC 1526 E Woodrow Bowling Green 9:30am - 2:30pm	<b>AUG 20</b> Great Miami River District Christ UMC 700 S. Marshall Rd. Middletown 9:30am - 2:30pm	<b>AUG 31</b> Scioto River District Walnut Street UMC 16 S. Walnut St Chillicothe 9:30am - 2:30pm	<b>AUG 29</b> Hocking River District First UMC 2 S College St Athens 9:30am - 2:30pm	<b>SEPT 3</b> Western Lakes & Maumee River Districts First UMC 501 N Main St Ada 9:30am - 2:30pm
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We are being challenged by the Office of Fresh Starts and New Beginnings to get 60 people to this event. The payoff? The Great Miami River District will receive \$1500 to use as FX micro-grants to help churches try a fresh expression. And Pastor Jenn has pledged to match their offer - so that means we have **\$3000** to give to churches in our district to help you launch your unique fresh expression! Please prayerfully consider this opportunity. It just may help revitalize and rejuvenate your church!

**Date:** August 20, 2024

**Time:** 9:30am-2:30pm

**Location:** Christ UMC (700 S. Marshall Rd, Middletown 45044)

**Cost:** \$50/person or \$25/per team member (Pastor + at least one layperson is recommended)

[Learn more/Register](#)

## PEER Ministry Training August 2-3, Monroe UMC



PEER Ministry is coming to the Great Miami River District! *PEER Ministry is People Ministry*. Using the parable of the Good Samaritan at its core, PEER Ministry gives youth and young adults specific skills in caring for friends. They learn how to listen, ask caring questions, and guide friends through tough choices, changes, and challenges. They welcome people, even those who are not always welcomed. If youth aren't leading, they are leaving and PEER Ministry helps youth become leaders both in the church and in the world.

Sponsored by The Wesley Foundation in Cincinnati and hosted by Monroe UMC, PEER Ministry's National Director and Owner, Lyle Griner, will be in our district for two days of unparalleled training August 2-3. Come for one day or come for both! Check out [www.peerministry.org](http://www.peerministry.org) to learn more about the program and more about Lyle.

[Continue reading/register](#)

## Micah 6:8 Love Your Neighbor Tour

Registration is open for the Micah 6:8- Love your Neighbor Tour to Montgomery, Alabama to visit the Legacy Museum September 24-27, 2024. This museum is a walk through 400 years of American history from enslavement, segregation and mass incarceration. This event, inspired by Bishop's Leadership Summit with Bryan Stevenson is designed to educate, to give an opportunity to see and reflect how dominate world views have been formed over time, and to see the world through the eyes of our indigenous and black brothers and sisters in Christ. For more information, email [pastorruthcarter@gmail.com](mailto:pastorruthcarter@gmail.com).



## Lay Servant Ministries Classes

Lay Ministry is the work of mission or ministry to which each believer is called. As Christians we are all called to this ministry or priesthood – not just clergy. Each of us has a responsibility to proclaim the Good News and reach out to others in love.



**Introduction to Lay Servant Ministries (Basic Course):** July 23, 25, 28, 30 & August 1 from 6:30-8:30pm (Zoom or in person in Centerville). Sponsored by the Great Miami River District.

[Register](#)

**Lay Pastoral Care Giving:** August 18, 20, 22, 25, 27 from 6:30-8:30pm on Zoom only. Sponsored by the Great Miami River District. [Register](#)

**United Methodist Polity:** Friday, August 23 from 6-8pm (Zoom) & Saturday, August 24 from 9am-5pm (either in person at the Hocking River District office or by Zoom). [Register](#)

**Public Prayer:** September 8, 10, 11, 15, 17 from 6:30-8:30pm on Zoom only. Sponsored by the Great Miami River District. Registration opens July 29.

**Introduction to Lay Servant Ministries (Basic Course):** Friday, October 11 from 6-8pm (Zoom) & Saturday, October 12 from 9am-5pm (either in person at the Hocking River District office or by Zoom). Registration opens September 2.

**A reminder:** Even if you have completed the Basic Course and all of the Core Courses, you need to take an Advanced Course every 3 years as part of maintaining your certification. Not sure what you need next? Contact Glen Lash, Chair, GMD Lay Servant Ministries Committee at [grlash1015@gmail.com](mailto:grlash1015@gmail.com).

## July Laity Retreats

All lay volunteers and staff across West Ohio are invited to a day of rest, rejuvenation and time together. Renew your call to be a disciple who makes disciples for Jesus Christ!

There are 6 opportunities to attend a Lay Retreat across West Ohio. You may attend any of them whether in the district where you live or in another. Each day will begin at 10am and end by 2pm:

- July 23 - Hocking River District @ Central Ave (Athens, OH)
- July 24 - Scioto River District @ First UMC (Greenfield, OH)



- July 25 - Great Miam River District @ Christ UMC (Middletown,OH)
- July 30 - Maumee River District @ First UMC (Perrysburg,OH)
- July 31 - Western Lakes District @ Trinity UMC (Lewistown)

The theme for the retreats focuses on Exodus 13:21, "The Lord went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night."

[Click here to register](#)

## LOCAL CHURCH AND MINISTRY PARTNER EVENTS



**Xenia Faith Community UMC**  
 Camp Firelight VBS  
 July 15-19  
 Click [here](#) for more details



**Franklin First**  
 Exploring God's World VBS  
 July 16-18  
 Click [here](#) for more details



**Batavia Faith UMC**  
 Sean Rodriguez in Concert  
 July 18  
 Click [here](#) for more details



**Declare Dayton**  
 RiverScape MetroPark  
 July 19  
 Click [here](#) for more details



**Southern Hills UMC**  
 Christmas in July Bazaar  
 July 27  
 Click [here](#) for more details



**Richards Chapel UMC**  
 The Vacation Bible Experience  
 July 29-31  
 Click [here](#) for more details

## CLASSIFIEDS

[Click here](#) to view/respond to the ads below  
[Click here](#) to submit your own classified ad

### Employment

- Director of Congregational Care - Hyde Park Community UMC
- Choir Director - Brookville Community UMC
- Associate Pastor of Community Outreach - Armstrong Chapel UMC
- Music Director & Organist - Monfort Heights UMC
- Communications Director - Scioto Ridge UMC
- Music Director - Mt. Moriah UMC
- Youth Director - Trinity UMC, Milford



Children's Ministry Program Coordinator - *Shiloh UMC*  
Children & Youth Director - *Hope UMC*  
Youth Director - *Sulphur Grove UMC*  
Young Family Ministries Director - *Friendship UMC*  
Director of Youth Ministries - *Friendship UMC*

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Clergy robes

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