

One Body. One Spirit. One Hope.



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**Are you connected with your district?!**



One Body. One Spirit. One Hope.



Visit our website!



[miamivalley@wocumc.org](mailto:miamivalley@wocumc.org)

Contact us!



Like us on  
Facebook!

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**Important MIV Items to Remember...**

**Year End Reports**

Your Year End Reports need to be entered by Wednesday, February 15, 2017 into the Ezra database. You should have received your paper copies from Jack Frost at the Conference office in December. Questions about your year end reports need to be directed to Jack at the Conference office at 614-844-6200.

**2017 Lenten Resources**



Get a **SNEAK PEAK** at the graphics that will be available for this year's lenten series! All the rest of the materials should be available for download by the end of next week.

It's been said that life is a journey.

And no matter where we've been or where we're going, our baggage tends accompany us wherever we go.

Different types of bags are designed to carry different types of burdens.

While some bags may look alike, we each carry a burden that is unique to who we are.

But you don't have to carry it alone.

In this season of preparation, we'll take a look at how Jesus offers to lighten the load as he journeys to the cross.

Six weeks, Six stories. Six bags.

Let go and allow him to take your...

Baggage

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## **AT LARGE MEMBERS NEEDED FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE June 4-7, 2017**

Every year each district has a number of openings for the election of additional lay members to the Annual Conference. These additional lay members come from the heart of our United Methodist congregations. We invite you, the laity in our churches, to consider offering your name to represent the Miami Valley District at Annual Conference June 4-7.

The criteria for becoming a lay member to attend Annual Conference and vote on the recommendations of the Annual Conference is that you must be a professing member of one of the United Methodist Churches in the Miami Valley District. A professing member is a person 12 years of age and older who has taken the membership vows of The United Methodist Church. We expect those who apply to be active in their congregation.

Our goal, as always, is to have a balanced and diverse group of individuals to represent our diverse district. This means that we will do

our best to be diverse in respect to ethnicity, age, demographic context (rural, urban, suburban, small membership church, large membership church) and more.

If you are willing and want to represent the District for the 2017 Annual Conference, please contact the district office ASAP! During these next few weeks we will begin seeking new names for at-large members to represent the MIV District through the e-news and through asking clergy to send us names. If you know of others who may want to attend Annual Conference, especially young people, please contact the Miami Valley District office to receive an application. [miamivalley@wocumc.org](mailto:miamivalley@wocumc.org). Thank you for assisting in this process!

**If you have previously served in this capacity, You must let me know that you want to continue or your name will be removed from the list.**

Annual Conference begins Sunday, June 4 and concludes Wednesday, June 7.

Registration begins on March 1st for Annual Conference @ 10am. FYI, you will be responsible for finding your own housing once you are approved and you will be responsible for your expenses while you are there.

If you have any questions, please e-mail Terri McClain @ [miamivalley@wocumc.org](mailto:miamivalley@wocumc.org) and she will assist you!

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## Spring Courses for Lay Servant Ministries

Our Spring classes are now ready for registration!

All classes will be held on Friday, March 24, 6:30-9:30 pm and Saturday, March 25, 8:30 am-4:30 pm @ Tipp City UMC, 8 W. Main St, Tipp City OH 45371.

All classes are \$35 and included materials, lunch & snacks.

Contact Mary Frantz, 937-848-2909, [education@bellbrookumc.org](mailto:education@bellbrookumc.org) with questions.

\*\* New Lay Servants must fill out an application (online at [wocumc.org](http://wocumc.org)) and secure their pastor's approval. Get church's approval at yearly fall charge conference, before or after the class.



1. LEADERSHIP 101 (Fulfills basic course requirements)

Leader: Nancy Byrd, CLM

This course is the foundation for all other Leading & Learning courses. In this course you are encouraged to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended. Participants are invited to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in their discipleship. This course offers guidelines for best practices as a church leader and in mission and ministry in the community and daily life.

Required text: Sandy Jackson, Lay Speaking Ministries Basic Course

Participant's Guide, ISBN: 9780881776263. This will be mailed to participants after March 1st.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

2. Leading worship (Course of Study) (Fulfills Advanced and Core course requirements)

Leader: Rev. Wendy Lybarger

This course focuses on the ministry of the lay servant who either regularly or occasionally leads a group or congregation in worship.

Required text: Hoyt Hickman, Worshiping with United Methodists (Revised), ISBN: 978-0-6873-3526-8, \$11.99. This will be mailed to participants after March 1st.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

3. Dancing with words (Fulfills Advanced course requirements)

Leader: Janet Steele, CLM

Participants in the course will learn what constitutes a good story, discover storytelling styles, learn the techniques of effective storytelling, and practice creating stories from their experience.

Required text: Ray Buckley, Dancing with Words, ISBN: 978-0-88177-407-8. This will be mailed to participants after March 1st.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

4. God's Mission...Our Journey (Fulfills Advanced course requirements)

Leader: Rev. Lisa Ellison

This course will provide participants with a better understanding of a holistic approach to participation in God's mission to the world and equip lay servants for more effective missional engagement in their communities and beyond.

Required text: A Mission Journey: A Handbook for Volunteers, ISBN: 978-08817-7669-0. These will be mailed to participants after March 1.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Biblical Storytelling was listed as a class offering at our information sessions. It is now a two week online course.

## Ministries

Over the past year, the Greater Dayton Hispanic/Latino Ministries team has been working to develop strategies to further reach the Hispanic/Latino population in our community and begin to realize our vision of a "transformational, multigenerational, and multicultural faith community."



In partnership with Pastor Randy Coleman at Belmont United Methodist Church and Pastor Edinson DeArco of Esperanza Viva - a United Methodist Hispanic/Latino congregation in Mason, OH, we held a Multicultural Christmas Party in December. The party was attended by many of Belmont's ESL students along with some members of the community and leadership from Esperanza Viva. About 25 people gathered to celebrate Christmas representing Mexico, Columbia, Honduras, Brazil, Iraq, and also the U.S. This diverse group shared in fellowship and international food, as each person brought a cultural dish to share. We sang Christmas carols in English and Spanish, read the Christmas story, and ended the evening with a piñata. The goal of this event was to express to the community that "we are here" and our doors are open to welcome them.

Over the next year our team is making plans to continue to live into the multicultural reality of God's kingdom, and lead our churches in doing the same.

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## NEW in 2017! West Ohio Conference "Traction Tracks"



....to help your congregation gain traction and begin to move forward towards new vitality!

West Ohio's Missional Church Consultation Initiative (MCCI), a focused training/coaching/resourcing initiative of the Episcopal office and cabinet that has included several dozen congregations and pastors over the last six years, has identified a number of key components that we've seen can provide a congregation of any size and setting with a dose of traction to begin to move ahead in vitality.

These individual components from the MCCI research and learnings are now becoming available across the entire conference to every church that would like to learn and apply a new step forward, including ongoing implementation guidance by a ministry leader "guide" who has already demonstrated that fruitfulness and can bring experience and expertise alongside you.

Here's information about the first foundational Traction Track, a one-day

training event that will be offered on four of our West Ohio districts this spring and the other four districts later this year. And look for more information soon on more Traction Tracks to come!

Breakthrough Prayer Initiative Traction Track

*The Breakthrough Prayer Initiative forms the foundation of the MCCI (Missional Church Consultation Initiative), and its implementation has shown itself to be the single greatest factor contributing to a church's revitalization and renewed fruitfulness. This may be the most important ingredient to add to your church to help shift from plateau or decline into a new season of hope and possibility! [READ MORE](#) and/or [REGISTER...](#)*

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## Upcoming MIV Events

**Saturday, February 26, 2017**

**Saturday, March 26, 2017**

**Saturday, April 23, 2017**

*UMC Membership Class (for any UMC Church)*

McKinley UMC (16 Hawthorne St, Dayton)

10am - Noon

4 week class, teacher: Rev. Dr. Jocelyn Roper

Methodist History, Spirituality & Polity



**Saturday, February 18, 2017**

*SAFETY & SECURITY IN THE CHURCH - plus - THE DIFFICULTIES OF OPIATE & HEROIN ADDICTION*

New Life - Hebron UMC, 925 W. Main St, Hebron, 9am - 3pm

[See Flyer Here](#)

**Friday, March 24, 2017 - Saturday, March 25, 2017**

*Lay Servant Ministry Training*

Tipp City UMC, 8 W. Main Street, Tipp City, OH

6:30pm-9:30pm Friday and 8:30am - 4:30pm Saturday

*Leadership 101 (Basic Course)* [Register Here](#)

*Leading Worship (Course Study, Advanced Core Course)* [Register Here](#)

*Dancing With Words (Advanced Course)* [Register Here](#)

*God's Mission... Our Journey (Advanced Course)* [Register Here](#)

**Sunday, April 2, 2017**

*Traction Tracks - A Breakthrough Prayer Initiative*

Xenia Faith Community UMC, 100 Country Club Dr, Xenia

2pm - 7pm

[Register Here](#)

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## Job Opportunities in MIV

Pianist - Red Lion UMC (ORV District)

**CLASSIFIED**

WED  
Visit our office at: 1165 Beave  
00 to place your classified ad | Visit our office at: 1165 Beave  
from the Messenger: \$125 for 20 words or less, 25¢ each additional word. Deadline: 2:00 p.m.  
your ad with payment to Messenger office (1165 Beaverswood Rd.) Or call us at 413-493-6000

**Financial**  
REAL ESTATE can earn an excess of 12% return. If you invest and don't give you the kind of return, we'll make you one. Call Leo Bonato, Broker, 613-254-4000. Sutton Group/Broker Realty (2008) CMAA, Brokerage: 2008, 44, 45

**Property For Sale**  
IMMACULATE BUNGALOW on 65 acres, north of Westchester. Renovations complete. Two plus one bedroom home. Finished basement, on quiet dead-end road. Wood-trimmed out, updated kitchen. Renovated linen closet. One water, two walk-in, insulated rooms. Paddock, driveway, utility barn. Thirty acres cleared, thirty

**Services**  
A MAN AND HIS TRUCK. As Your "Shovel" - Excavation, construction, full service water removal and more. We get what it takes, to take what you get. We load. You relax. Satisfaction guaranteed. Free estimates. 613-255-1111. 1111, 11-11-11

**ACCOUNTING BOOKKEEPING**

Full-time Christian Education Director - Christ UMC, Kettering

Full-time Children's Ministry Director - Centerville UMC

[View Classified Ads](#)  
[Add Classified Ad](#)

[Click Here for Recent Passings](#)

[Click Here for Recent Appointments](#)

## Upcoming Local Church Events

Watcha doin'?! Let us know so we can help spread the word! Click on the picture for more information.



**BELOVED @ The Point**  
Tuesday, February 28th



**ASHES to GO - Ginghamburg**  
Wednesday, March 1st

## Free Legal Clinic



Saturday Feb. 11, 2017  
10:00 a.m. to Noon

Fairview United Methodist Church  
828 West Fairview Avenue  
(Corner of Fairview & Catalpa)  
Dayton, OH 45406  
Phone: 937-274-2189

*Bring your problem and your papers.  
Get brief consultation to see if your problem  
might need legal help.*

*Application to Legal Aid if appropriate, or  
referral to private attorney or public defender.*

**RIDE THE BUS!**  
• RTA Route 12 stops at the church at the corner of Fairview and Catalpa  
• Routes 8 & 14 stop 3-4 blocks from the church, at Salem and Catalpa, and at Good Samaritan Hospital

sponsored by:  
**Fairview United Methodist Church**  
Connecting people to legal services  
"...and justice for all."

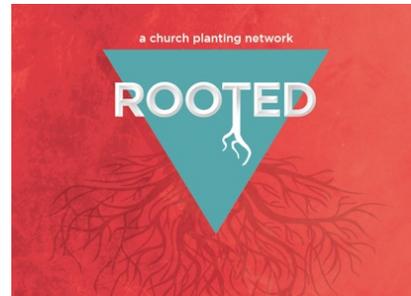
**FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

**Fairview UMC**  
**Saturday, Feb. 11th**

## GINGHAMSBURG: Change the World - the passionate church/Rooted - a church planting network Conferences



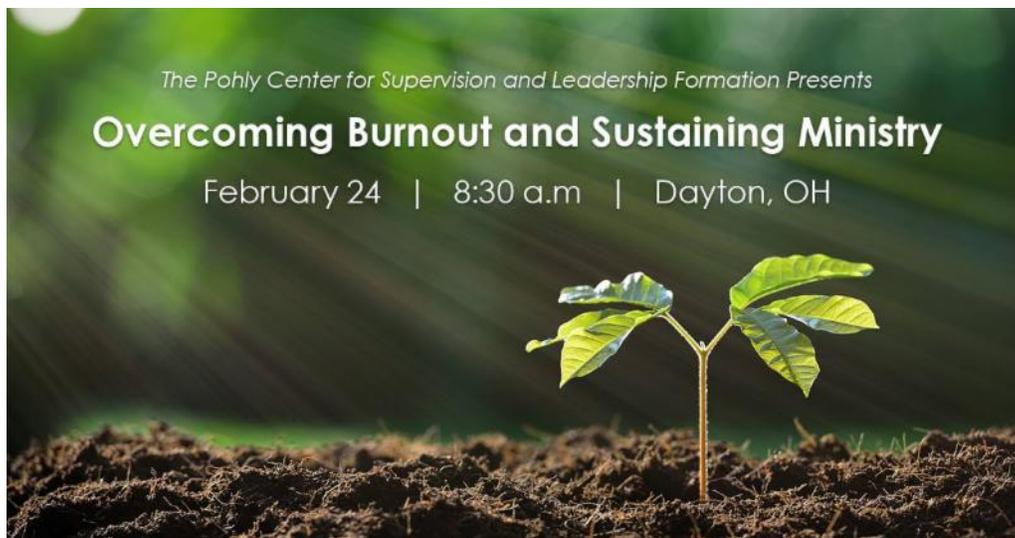
CHANGE THE WORLD - the  
passionate church  
Thursday & Friday, March  
16 & 17, 2017



ROOTED - a church  
planting network Tuesday &  
Wednesday, March 14 &  
15, 2017

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### United Theological Seminary



Overcoming Burnout and Sustaining Ministry  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dan Gildner  
8:30am - 3pm, Cost \$20, 1 CEU Credit \$10



## Journey Through Lent With Jesus:

Spiritual Practice and the Gospel of Mark

Online Devotional Study | March 1 - April 19

Journey Through Lent With Jesus: 6 week online Lenten study

Cost: \$20, 1 CEU Credit: \$10

## RACING EXTINCTION

Climate change, human population growth, urban sprawl and human greed all contribute to the mass extinction of species and depletion of the biodiversity required by a healthy planet. Left unchecked these trends will result in destruction of critical links in our ecological systems jeopardizing our very existence. All faith communities call for responsible stewardship of Creation - learn more about this issue through a dinner/dialogue and screening of *Racing Extinction*, a stunning documentary by Oscar-winning director Louis Psihoyas. **The free tacobar dinner starts at 6:30 pm on Thursday, Feb 16 in the Kennedy Union Ballroom at University of Dayton followed by the film at 7 pm and discussion from 8:30-9 pm.** Student and community attendance is invited for this event co-sponsored by the Greater Dayton Christian Connection (GDCC) Creation Connection; University of Dayton, College of Arts and Sciences; Hanley Research Center, Human Rights Center; and the Marianist Environmental Education Center. Non-students should register for the dinner and film at the [GDCC facebook page](#)

## Upcoming WOC Events

For a complete listing of WOC events, click [here](#).

**Saturday, March 4, 2017**

*Stewardship 101 for the Smaller Church*

Hope United Methodist Church

4183 E. Columbus Street, Canal Winchester, OH

43110

10am - 2:30pm (Registration begins at 9:30am)

[Register Here](#)



**Saturday, March 18, 2017**

*VIM Team Leader Training*

West Ohio Conference, 32 Wesley Blvd

9am - 4pm

[Register Here](#)

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## **Scholarship Opportunities**

The West Ohio Conference is offering two scholarship opportunities for undergraduate students attending accredited institutions of higher education during the 2017-18 academic years. To learn more about the scholarship criteria visit [westohioumc.org/conference/undergraduate-scholarships](http://westohioumc.org/conference/undergraduate-scholarships).

All seniors graduating from high school this May and all current college undergraduate students who plan on attending an accredited college this fall are encouraged to apply.

### **The Call to Leadership Scholarship**

A \$2,500 to \$5,000 award available to a full time undergraduate student who has completed one semester full time credit hours; has a minimum 2.5 GPA; demonstrated leadership in church, and school or community; is a member of local United Methodist Church or United Methodist campus ministry. Candidates may be asked to participate in a conversational interview with members of the West Ohio Conference Scholarship Task Force. This scholarship may be renewed twice through an application process. The West Ohio Conference reserves the right to alter or cancel this scholarship grant due to eligibility or funding. Submission deadline: March 15, 2017. [Click here for application](#)

### **The Ethnic Minority Scholarship**

A \$3,000 award available to an incoming freshman of ethnic origin who plans to attend any United Methodist college or university, has a 2.5 GPA minimum, financial need, and meets the basic criteria. If there is no qualified applicant, the funds may be awarded to the highest rated student(s). Submission deadline: April 15, 2017. [Click here for application](#)

Questions? Email [rstreet@wocumc.org](mailto:rstreet@wocumc.org) or contact the West Ohio Conference Scholarship Task Force Chair, Rev. Lori Reiber at [pastorlorireiber@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlorireiber@gmail.com).

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## **VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION TEAM TO NICARAGUA**

The June mission team to Managua Nicaragua, June 20-28, 2017, is now forming. This team will continue working at the Christian School of Fundacion El Samaritano, a relationship that has been going on annually with United Methodist teams since 1996. The activities may include interaction with the students and possibly some construction and

maintenance projects. The team may also engage in some community projects and other projects with the Nicaragua Methodist Church. Time for worship in a local church, sightseeing and shopping will be available. The June team is for all but is especially appropriate for students and young adults. The cost is \$1,500 per volunteer which is all inclusive except for personal purchases. A brochure and application form can be obtained by contacting Jack Reif at [jack.reif@zoomtown.com](mailto:jack.reif@zoomtown.com) or by phone at 513-831-5550.

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