



Great Miami River District

News from The United Methodist Church

News and Notes: November 8, 2023

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2024 HealthFlex Annual Open Enrollment Is Here! Enroll by November 16

November 1 – 16 is open enrollment for HealthFlex. To do so, go to BenefitsAccess.org to make your healthcare and health savings account (HSA) elections.



If you have any trouble enrolling online, contact the Annual Enrollment Support Center at 1-844-688-1375, Monday - Friday from 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM (CST).

If you do not enroll by November 16, your coverage will default to the H5000 medical plan, Exam Core or one eye exam only, no dental, and no personal contributions to the Health Savings Account (HSA)

[Read more and get the forms to complete here](#)



Circuit Ministry in the GMD Featuring: Eastside Connector Circuit

The Eastside Circuit was birthed into being with the help of Great Miami River District officials the Rev. David Meredith and the Rev. Wendy Lybarger with the following congregations, Gaines UMC, Pastor Rev. Alethea Botts, Armstrong Chapel UMC, Pastor Rev. David Brown, Rev. Sara O'Connor and the Rev. Elizabeth Brown, The Wesley Foundation at the University of Cincinnati, Rev. Rev.

Becky Schofield Motter, Executive Director, Jeff Snyder Associate Director, Rev. Katie Steele, Oxford Associate Director, Hyde Park Bethlehem UMC, Pastor Rev. Barb Schneckner, Hyde Park Community UMC, Pastors, Rev. Dr. Suzanne Allen, Rev. Kate Smith and Rev. Dr. Todd D. Anderson. There is a Champion for each of our 4 areas of focus.

Through months of excellent work the Circuit has come to several broad areas of agreement:

- Affordable Housing
- Service in the Community
- Serving in Food Ministry/Food Insecurity
- Pet Pastoral Care, Spiritual Outreach in our defined area.



Additional items to be explored include:

- Mental Health for Young Adults
- Grief Share Ministry
- Circuit Communication in our defined area
- Teaching Children
- Circuit Fundraiser: combined concert using our outstanding musical ministries

Meetings will be chaired by Rev. Becky Motter (Wesley Foundations) and Tommy Botts (Gaines UMC). Todd Anderson is the communications liaison.

Watch this newsletter, [GMD's Facebook](#),
[Conference social media](#), and [WestOhioUMC.org](#)
for the latest news and events right here in the Great Miami River District!

Educational Opportunities

Volunteers in Mission Leader Training **Next Saturday Nov 11 In Columbus** **Registration Deadline Today**

Is your church thinking about taking 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, at the West Ohio Conference Center in Worthington. With experienced team leaders as instructors, participants will learn how to plan and lead a mission experience in Ohio, the United States or around the world. They will also be provided with checklists, timelines, team forms, and practical resources for nurturing the spiritual life of the 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.

Foundation to Offer **Online Legacy Planning Seminar Nov. 12**

The United Methodist Foundation of West Ohio will be offering a seminar on estate planning and legacy giving on November 12 at 6 p.m. via Zoom. **All congregations and their members are welcome to attend. No registration required.**



The seminar will cover basic estate planning and legacy giving options. Participants can join the seminar at this link via Zoom: <https://wocumc.zoom.us/j/86291369665>

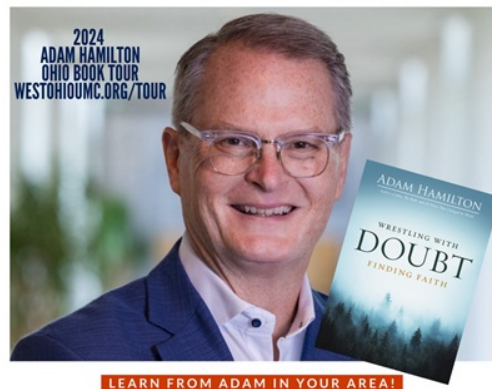
Contact Susan Black at sblack@wocumc.org for more information.

Adam Hamilton is Coming to the District! **January 16 at 6:30 PM- [Register Here](#)**

Rev. Adam Hamilton is touring Ohio with the release of his upcoming book, *"Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith."* This is an incredible opportunity to learn from a successful author of church resources and pastor of one of the most influential churches in America, The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Kansas

City. Each stop will be 90 minutes with a short presentation followed by a Q & A about the book. The event is free, but registration is required. Books will be available to purchase on site. [Register here.](#)

If you'd like to be part of Bishop Palmer's Leadership Clinic with Adam Hamilton discussing "The Future of the UMC," that is a different event- read more below. All registrants for the Leadership Clinic will receive Adam's new book.



LEARN FROM ADAM IN YOUR AREA!

January 16 1:30-3pm Athens 6:30-8pm Cincinnati	January 17 9-10:30am Findlay 1:30-3pm Cleveland
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Each stop is 90-minutes with a presentation and Q&A about the book. Event is free for laity & clergy but registration is required. Books will be available at event.

Leadership Clinic : Tuesday Jan 16 Virtual Registration Still Open

On Tuesday, January 16, 2024, Hamilton will be featured at Bishop Palmer's Leadership Clinic, live and in person at the Church of the Redeemer United Methodist Church in Reynoldsburg, Ohio from 9:00 AM -11:00 AM EST. Hamilton will share his perspective on the topic "The Future of the United Methodist Church", followed by an interview with Bishop Palmer and questions from the audience.



While all 250 in-person spots filled up almost immediately, the virtual and "stream later" option is still available. [Register here](#)

Each registration will receive a complimentary copy of Hamilton's upcoming book, Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith.

NYT Bestseller Kate Bowler to Join Bishop Palmer for Clinic Thurs Jan 25 Online

3 Time New York Times bestselling author and award-winning podcast host Kate Bowler will be a guest on Bishop Palmer's Leadership Clinic on January 25, during launch week for her new book. Kate is the author of "Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I've Loved."



Everyone will receive a copy of Kate's newest book which releases that week "Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day! Daily Meditations for the Ups, Downs, and In-Betweens."

[To learn more about Kate or to register for this online clinic, click here.](#)

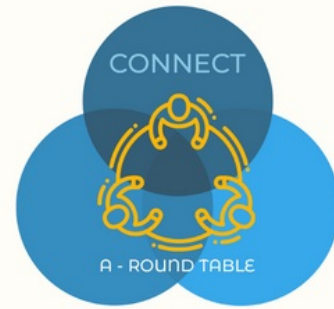
Resources

Connect A-Round Table: Weds Nov 29 Via Zoom [Register Here](#)

Sharing around a table is one of the most uniquely human things we do. No other creature consumes its food at a table. When we share around the table with

each other, we are reminded that food is more than fuel.

Gathering around a table is the most important place of human connection; fellowship while sharing a meal. We shouldn't be surprised, then, to find that throughout the Bible God has a way of showing up at tables. In fact, it's worth noting that at the center of the spiritual lives of God's people in both the Old and New Testaments, we find a table: the table of Passover and the table of Communion.



Connect A-Round Table is a time to gather on zoom, share a meal together, and connect over subjects that peak interest. Each Connect session includes a 45-minute round table discussion with a panel discussion followed by a Q&A. The session will conclude with creating actionable steps to the topic being discussed. Everyone is encouraged to bring a meal with them to each session.

Our first Connect A-Round Table is scheduled for Wednesday, November 29 at 6:00 pm. The topic for that evening is call. Each of us has a calling but do we know what it is? Come to learn more about what a call is, learn how to identify your call and the call in others.

If there is a topic you are interested in, please submit those ideas to jcarter@wocumc.org.

Annual Charge Conferences

It's time to prepare for your fall church/charge conference. This is the annual meeting where pastor salaries are set, church leaders are elected, membership rosters are aligned, ministry reports are reviewed and plans are made for ministry in the new year.



This year, as in recent years, each church will hold their own church/charge conference and choose their own Elder to preside (preferably clergy not related to the church). These may take place between now and December. Remember when scheduling your date to allow enough time to have all of your forms completed and uploaded to your online record by December 1, 2023.

Forms are available now on the West Ohio Conference website: www.westohioumc.org under *MyChurch*. You must be logged in and designated as a church data administrator to access them. All pastors are set up with this designation. Others can be added if given permission by the pastor. [Email Nancy](#) to add a new church data administrator. [Click here](#) for more information to help you get started.

In an effort to keep track of our district's charge conferences, pastors are asked to send the date and the name of your elder to Nancy or [click here to record it on Sign Up Genius](#).

Resources for Students and Youth

Save the Date! Confirmation Event With Bishop Palmer March 3, 2024

Attention all confirmation teachers, students, and church leaders! On March 3, 2024, Bishop Gregory V. Palmer will be hosting a very special confirmation event for all confirmands of West Ohio.



To register for updates about this event or ask

questions, contact Director of Camps, Retreats, and Next Gen Engagement Rev. Ann Marie Carley amcarley@wocumc.org. More details around this special event will be coming soon!

Local Church and Ministry Partner Events



Dixon UMC
Community Celebration & welcome
November 12
Click [here](#) for more details



Loveland UMC
22nd Annual Living Nativity
December 1-3
Click [here](#) for more details



Mt. Moriah UMC
Beautiful - Connection
November 19
Click [here](#) for more details



Westwood UMC
Holidays in Harmony
November 7
Click [here](#) for more details

For a full detailed list,
see WestOhioUMC.org/GreatMiamiRiver/Events



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

Employment

Director of Youth Ministries - *Sharonville UMC*
Children's Ministry Coordinator - *Oakwood UMC*
Office Manager - *Brookville Community UMC*
Director of Children's Ministry & Director of Youth Ministry - *St Paul Community UMC*
Administrative Assistant/Office Manager - *Dayton Grace UMC*
Administrative Assistant - *Yellow Springs UMC*
Praise Band Leader - *Milford First UMC*
Learning Center Director - *Cheviot UMC*
Youth Ministry Director - *Monroe UMC*
Contemporary Worship Leader - *Church of the Saviour UMC*
Youth Leader - *Waynesville UMC*
Director of Music and Worship - *Cheviot UMC*



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