Upcoming Events

**VIM Leader Training**
Feb. 6
Jefferson Ave. UMC, Washington

**Clergy Tax Seminar**
Feb. 10
Sponsored by UM Foundation at Regional Learning Alliance

**School for Lay Servant Development**
*Beginning February 14*
Community UMC in Irwin, PA. Sponsored by Greensburg District, but open to all

**Confirmation Class Tours**
*Nine dates/times available*
Conference Center, Cranberry Twp.
Confirmation tour sessions fill up quickly. Reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis.

**The Crucifixion and Resurrection of Ministry**
March 5
for Pastors and Candidates for Ministry

**Clergy Tax Seminar**
March 9
Sponsored by UM Foundation at Holiday Inn Johnstown

**Mini Mission u**
April 17-19
Olmsted Manor

---

**BUCKET LIST**

*E-news January 28, 2016 Volume V Issue 4*

**DISTRICT CALENDAR**

- January – Cabinet Meetings – January 26, 27, 28
- February – District Committee on Superintendency – February 1 – 7 PM
- District Committee on Ordained Ministry – February 6 – 8 AM
- Lay Servant Ministry School – February 14 – March 13 – Sunday Afternoons
- One on One Conversations – February 16, 17, 18
- Cabinet Meetings – February 9, 10, 11, 23, 24, 25
- March – Sub district clergy gathering – watch for details.
- One on One Conversations – March 1
- Cabinet – March 8, 9, 10, 22, 23, 24
- Clergy Family Christmas, Valentine, St Patrick’s Party – March 18

**HELPFUL LINKS**

- Western PA UM Conference - [www.wpaumc.org](http://www.wpaumc.org)
- Butler District - [http://www.wpaumc.org/butler-](http://www.wpaumc.org/butler-
- In Focus Publication - [http://www.wpaumc.org/infocus](http://www.wpaumc.org/infocus)
- Joyful Noise - [http://www.wpaumc.org/joyfulnoise](http://www.wpaumc.org/joyfulnoise)
- Subscribe to Publications - [http://www.wpaumc.org/subscribe](http://www.wpaumc.org/subscribe)
- Conference Resources - [http://www.wpaumc.org/resources](http://www.wpaumc.org/resources)
- Reflections! [wpaumc.org/blogs](http://www.wpaumc.org/blogs).
- *Imagine No Malaria* - [https://www.facebook.com/ImagineNoMalaria](https://www.facebook.com/ImagineNoMalaria)


- Discipleship Ministries [umcdiscipleship.org](http://umcdiscipleship.org).
- Learn how to update your Find-A-Church profile.
- People are looking for a church to visit during Advent. Help them find you! [update-your-find-a-church](http://update-your-find-a-church)
- Special Sundays for 2016: Conference and General Church Special Sundays/Weekends for 2016 are listed on the Conference website. See the dates at [wpaumc.org/SpecialSundays](http://wpaumc.org/SpecialSundays)
- Official Journal Online: [wpaumc.org/2015journal](http://wpaumc.org/2015journal)
Friday March 18, 2016

Harmony-Zelienople UMC, 123 N Pittsburgh St, Zelienople, Pa 16063

6:00 PM Gathering/Appetizers

6:45 PM - Dinner (Buffet)

8:00 PM – Entertainment (Dan Schall)

Watch for your invitation – coming soon.

Please mark your calendar now!

Save the Date:

May 2, 2016 Bishop Evening on the Butler District. Watch for details.

Clergy and laity are urged to save Saturday, October 1, 2016 to celebrate the appointment of a new bishop here. A special worship service will be held at 2 p.m. at the Crossfire Campus of the First UMC in Butler. New episcopal assignments will be made at the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference in July.
UPDATED One on One Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adkins</td>
<td>Chuck</td>
<td>Mar 1</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hutton</td>
<td>Harriet</td>
<td>Feb 16</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott</td>
<td>Thom</td>
<td>Feb 16</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith</td>
<td>Rod</td>
<td>Feb 16</td>
<td>2:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith</td>
<td>Jean</td>
<td>Feb 17</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thayer</td>
<td>Nelson</td>
<td>Feb 17</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanderhoff</td>
<td>Jeff</td>
<td>Feb 17</td>
<td>2:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaughn</td>
<td>David</td>
<td>Feb 17</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verner</td>
<td>Andy</td>
<td>Feb 18</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson</td>
<td>Rob</td>
<td>Feb 18</td>
<td>2:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young</td>
<td>Jim</td>
<td>Feb 18</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OBITUARIES

Read obituaries at www.wpaumc.org/obituaries

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Clergy Family Birthdays

January

30 Mary Grey Emmett
31 Janice Hall

February

7 Wayne Schar
8 Chad J. Bogdewic
9 Allen O Grimm III
11 Cherie Smith
18 Barbara Ann Turpish
22 Nathan Anderson
26 Gary Hilton
27 Dorothy Youngdahl

Wedding Anniversaries

PRAYER CONCERNS AND JOYS

- Please remember to keep in prayer:
- Rev Mary Ann Long – upcoming surgery.
- Bishop Bickerton and the Cabinet during the appointment season.
- Pastors/congregations in transition.
- Rev. Paul Taylor - health concerns
- Oliver Herzog (Thelma Castor’s father) lung cancer.
Day of Prayer and Fasting: Feb. 15, 2016 was designated as a Day of Prayer and Fasting for Christian Martyrs by the 2015 annual conference. The Conference Youth Ministry Team referenced this on Saturday when it released an open letter decrying terrorism and called on all to join in prayer for victims. Read letter.

WPA Joys and Concerns: Following in the tradition created by the late Norman and Janet Young, four Conference clergymen -- Dale Reese, Alan Morrison, Jeff Bobin, and Tom Carr -- have relaunched the WPA Joys and Concerns ministry of connection for clergy and their families. If you aren’t receiving the weekly email or you have an update to share with your colleagues, send an email to wpajoysoandconcerns@gmail.com

APPOINTMENT SEASON BEGINS!

Rev Jeffrey Vanderhoff From: Brackenridge: Trinity To: McMurray: Trinity (Washington District)

Appointment Changes: Four new clergy appointments have been announced in local churches. They’re effective July 1. See the list

CLASSIFIEDS:

There are a few new positions advertised on our website. Visit wpaumc.org/classifieds.

UMC Discipleship Ministries is seeking a new CEO and there’s a free Lowrey organ available to a good home. Visit wpaumc.org/classifieds.

DISTRICT BULLETIN BOARD

Butler District “Spring” Lay Servant Ministry School

Please mark your calendar for the upcoming Lay Servant Ministry School.

Harmony-Zelienople UMC

Sunday afternoons – February 14, 21 28 & March 6, 13

Watch for details coming soon.
• **2016 Confirmation Class visits to the United Methodist Center.** During the visits, Confirmation class students will have a chance to meet and talk with Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton and Conference staff members and explore the many ways United Methodists can make a difference in the world through our connectional ministries. The theme for the 2016 visits is Building the Kingdom, based on Ephesians 2: God is building a home. He's using us all... in what he is building. He’s using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. As the students talk with Conference staff members and the Bishop, they'll explore the many ways they can be part of building that Kingdom. They'll learn about Volunteers in Mission opportunities and what role they might play, discuss how they can connect with God, and explore ways to move forward on their journey. The first opportunity for Confirmation groups to visit the Center will be **Saturday morning, February 27.** The schedule runs through **Saturday, April 2.** A complete list of dates, with details and links to register, is at [wpaumc.org/ConfirmationTours2016](http://wpaumc.org/ConfirmationTours2016). See photos of 2015 Confirmation visits at [flickr.com/photos/wpaumc/albums](http://flickr.com/photos/wpaumc/albums).

**2015 YEAR END STATISTICAL REPORTS DUE JANUARY 30, 2016**

Yes, it’s time to do your church’s 2015 Statistical Reports! The deadline for filing is Jan. 31. Conference Secretary/Statistician John Wilson has some tips to make it easier for you. [Read his letter.](http://example.com)

---

**Friday, February 5, 6-8 p.m.** Riverview United Methodist Church, 1099 Darlington Rd, Beaver Falls, PA 15010 - A fun evening learning how to master the Rubik’s Cube, and how to use the cube as an evangelical tool for telling others about Jesus. All ages 11 to adult are welcome. Ages 7-11 must be accompanied by an adult. Please RSVP by February 1 to 724-843-3620 or [riverviewumchurch@gmail.com](mailto:riverviewumchurch@gmail.com)
February 2, 2016

Will Punxsutawney Phil see his shadow?

---

Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday February 6, 2016

Monaca United Methodist Church
813 Indiana Ave, Monaca

Serving 4 to 7 pm
Take-outs Available

$9.00 - Adults
$3 - Children 3-12
Under 3 Free

Contact
Ann (724) 544-1159 or
Linda (724) 728-2342 for tickets
Cabot United Methodist Church will host

FAMILYLIFE’s the art of marriage, a Christian marriage event

February 12th 7pm and February 13th 9am-4:30pm

God can turn any marriage into a masterpiece.

For more than three decades, FamilyLife® has been helping couples understand God’s plan for relationships. In The Art of Marriage video event, we weave together expert teaching, engaging stories, man-on-the-street interviews, humorous vignettes, and much more to portray both the challenges and the beauty of God’s design for marriage.

The art of marriage video event is accompanied by a workbook that is so much more than a workbook, this manual has helpful articles and tips for building a stronger marriage. This manual is included in your registration fee of $45. The six sessions included in the art of marriage event are -

- Love Happens: God’s Purpose and Plan
- Love Fades: Overcoming Isolation
- Love Dances: Fulfilling Our Responsibilities
- Love Interrupted: Communication and Conflict
- Love Sizzles: Experiencing Real Intimacy
- Love Always: Leaving a Lasting Legacy

Cost Per Couple $45.00

Contact Carrie Rodgers at program@cabotumc.com or visit the CUMC website at www.cabotumc.com to register. You may also pick up registration forms in the Welcome Center at CUMC Registration deadline is January 31st.

Cabot United Methodist Church 707 Winfield Road, Cabot, PA 16023
**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**Black Heritage Stamp:** As Black History Month begins, the U.S. Postal Service will formally unveil the Richard Allen Black Heritage Stamp on Feb. 2. Allen, who was born a slave, founded the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1816 in Philadelphia. [Read more from Philly.com](http://www.philly.com).

**Worship Resources:** UMC Discipleship Ministries offers Black History Month [worship resources](http://discipleship.umc.org/).

**UM History Resources:** Hear radio recordings and learn about UMC involvement from Commission on [Archives and History resources](http://www.umcarchives.org).

---

**GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS**

**UMC Scholarships:** There are a variety of scholarships at [http://scholarship.umc.org/](http://scholarship.umc.org/)

Olmsted Manor has activated The Perry Trust for Educational Travel to offer scholarships for clergy and their spouses to travel to Palestine and Israel from [February 29–March 10, 2016](http://www.olmstedmanor.org/perrytrust) with students from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and laity from Westminster Presbyterian Church. - [See more](http://www.olmstedmanor.org/perrytrust).

**UMW Grants:** The Conference United Methodist Women this week announced 2016 grant recipients and 2015 mission giving totals. [Learn more](http://www.umw.org/whatsnew/Announcements/Announcements-20160211_1415059508.aspx).  

---

**CONTINUING EDUCATION**

**For Clergy Continuing Education & Formation events click here:** [CCEF EVENTS](http://www.ccefevents.com/)

Continuing Education Opportunities

---

**CLERGY CORNER**

**Graduate Certificate Program In Thanatology**

(Dying, Death, and Bereavement Studies)

Washington & Jefferson College, Washington, PA

Boost your professional skills with this fully accredited program. Invest your time in twelve Saturdays that will strengthen your ability to help those in need. The three-course Graduate Certificate in Thanatology provides special education and training to enhance skills you’ve already gained by working in the field. You’ll have the opportunity to study this specific area intensely through both academic and practicum work.

The Graduate Certificate in Thanatology is open to those who already have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution and have an interest in the field of Dying, Death, and Bereavement. The program is offered in both the Spring and Fall 2016 semesters.
All sessions are conducted at the Howard J. Burnett Center on the W & J campus on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Each of the three sessions will be four weeks long with a week (or more) break between each session.

**Spring offering Feb. 27 – June 4th or Fall offering Aug. 9 to Nov. 12.**

Contact Dr. Daniel Stinson, Thanatology Program Coordinator at dstinson@washjeff.edu for further information.

**Meet Your Instructor:**
Dr. Dan Stinson brings almost fifty years of pastoral experience including 5½ years as a part time hospital chaplain, 3 years as a part time nursing home Spiritual Care Director and Palliative Care Coordinator. He is a Certified Bereavement Facilitator (1999), Certified Palliative Care Specialist (2000), and a Certified Advanced Bereavement Facilitator (2002) He has more than thirty years of experience as a volunteer chaplain with various hospices as well as serving as a Hospice Consultant. He has been serving as an Adjunct Instructor at W & J since 2004 in the Religious Dept.

**Clergy Housing:** [Living and Working Conditions of the Pastor](#)

**YOUTH**

- **Called & Sent 2016-2017:** A year-long learning experience for senior high youth who feel a call into ministry and/or want to explore their role as a Christian leader in today’s world. Applications for the class of 2016-2017 are being accepted January 1, 2016. For more information, visit [www.wpaumc.org/called](http://www.wpaumc.org/called)

- Finally, you will see a Save-The-Date Card for the “Spring Thing” Youth Event **April 29- May 1, 2016.** Individual and group registration starts January 15th at [www.wesleywoods.com](http://www.wesleywoods.com) or call the camp office: 814-436-7802.

**DATES TO REMEMBER IN 2016**

- **April 9, 2016** – Butler District Spring Meeting/Mission Study held at Aliquippa UMC

**UM Women’s Northeast Jurisdictional Quadrennial Meeting**

- **Syracuse NY, June 16-18th.** The biblical theme is “A Fresh Wind Blowing” based on John 3:8. The purpose is to elect women to the national UMW Board, so elections will be a part of our time but there will be workshops to attend or time to work at area missions. Select the type of workshop or mission activity you’d like to do on Friday. Bus transportation is available. Early bird registration is due no later than Jan 27, 2016. [Program](#) Volunteers needed - Get involved!
Olmsted Manor for Christian retreats - Experience spiritual renewal, sacred space and Christian hospitality. Nestled in the woods of the Allegheny National Forest, Olmsted facilities include unique overnight accommodations, meeting spaces and beautiful grounds. View rates. Our ultimate purpose is to serve your group. We will work on an individual basis to design your perfect retreat. Contact us to plan your next retreat at 814-945-6512 or info@olmstedmanor.org. More information at www.olmstedmanor.org.

Olmsted Upcoming Events

- **Men’s Woodworking Retreat** – April 1-3, 2016 – $212

  With Rev. Joe Patterson and Pastor Denny Belknap

  "Expertly Crafted: The Transformation from Sinner to Disciple"

  Just as the woodworker masterfully crafts a project, Jesus transforms the broken sinner into a faithful disciple. During this retreat, we will compare the steps it takes to achieve a finished woodworking project and the work that needs to be done in order to be transformed by Jesus. Each participant will complete their own project during the retreat and all levels of skill are welcome.

  [http://www.olmstedmanor.org/mens-woodworking-retreat.html](http://www.olmstedmanor.org/mens-woodworking-retreat.html)

- **Women’s Spirituality Retreat** – April 3-5, 2016 – $232

  With Rev. Dr. Diana Holbert

  “Made in the Image of God: Celebrating and Caring for our Lives”

  We need to re-engage and hone our abilities that allow us to truly engage with each other in meaningful ways. This retreat will give you a set of tools needed to be a better listener, to get closer to your more authentic self and, with the ultimate focus of learning how to listen for God, be able to speak the truth in love.

• **Mini Mission u – April 17-19, 2016** - $160

With Ruth Higginbotham

“Created for Happiness: Understanding Your Life in God”

This three-day retreat will dive deeper into one of the topics from this year’s Mission u event. Leader Ruth Higginbotham will lead a spiritual growth study on the Christian search for happiness, based on the book *Created for Happiness: Understanding Your Life in God* by Cynthia A. Bond Hopson and Sarah Heaner Lancaster. “Created for Happiness” will take us on a journey to a richer and deeper contentment in our lives and the Lord.

http://www.olmstedmanor.org/mini-mission-u.html

• **Pastors’ Academy – May 9-11, 2016** - $282

With Rev. Grace Imathiu

This year’s Pastors’ Academy will be led by Rev. Grace Imathiu of the Northern Illinois district. Grace is the head pastor at Community UMC in Naperville, IL. She was born and raised in Kenya, and is the daughter of a retired Bishop of the UMC in Kenya. Grace received her education in Kenya, in the USA at Methodist Theological School in Ohio and Vanderbilt University in Tennessee, at the University of Cambridge, and at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She was ordained in the Methodist Church in Kenya in 1988 and served six years in Kenya, and has since served in Washington, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

http://www.olmstedmanor.org/pastors-academy.html

• **Writing Workshop – May 14-16, 2016** - $252

With Maureen Ryan Griffin ([www.wordplaynow.com](http://www.wordplaynow.com))

“Writing Ourselves Whole”

We invite you to come and explore the benefits writing can provide—physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. In this workshop, you will learn and practice simple yet profound ways to use words to heal, to transform, and to grow, as well as to reflect on the way God is working in your life. Our time together will be ideal for beginners as well as for seasoned writers as we explore the renewal and deepening of our relationship with God, self, others, and the world.

http://www.olmstedmanor.org/writing-workshop.html

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

• On **Sunday January 31st**, Lakeside United Methodist Church in DuBois will host an Indiana District Evangelism Event in collaboration with Mustard Seed Ministries and Lakeside UMC evangelism committee called "Reviving Evangelism for Today".

The event will be led by United Methodist General Evangelist, Rev John Zimmerman of About Face Church Outreach Consultants and .5 CEU's are available.
Worship will be led by Greensburg First UMC lay leader Jill Croushore and Mission Co-Chair Janet Craig. They will give testimony of how this teaching transformed their outreach after spending 3 months implementing.

Registration starts at 1:30 and costs $10. The event will run from 2 to 5pm and will consist of 3 different teachings/workshops: "Love Always Wins", "Ministry With" and "The Value of a Soul". There will be take home resources for the first 50 registered.

Register online at [www.af180.org](http://www.af180.org) or can be mailed to Lakeside UMC 420 first st. DuBois, PA 15801. write on registration "for evangelism event: Attn Paul Morelli"

For more information, call Lakeside UMC at [814-371-8930](tel:8143718930) and ask for Paul (or [814-771-4486](tel:8147714486) cell)

- **On Sunday January 31st,** Lakeside United Methodist Church in DuBois will host an Indiana District Evangelism Event in collaboration with Mustard Seed Ministries and Lakeside UMC evangelism committee called "Reviving Evangelism for Today".

The event will be led by United Methodist General Evangelist, Rev John Zimmerman of About Face Church Outreach Consultants and .5 CEU's are available.

Worship will be led by Greensburg First UMC lay leader Jill Croushore and Mission Co-Chair Janet Craig. They will give testimony of how this teaching transformed their outreach after spending 3 months implementing.

Registration starts at 1:30 and costs $10. The event will run from 2 to 5pm and will consist of 3 different teachings/workshops: "Love Always Wins", "Ministry With" and "The Value of a Soul". There will be take home resources for the first 50 registered.

Register online at [www.af180.org](http://www.af180.org) or can be mailed to Lakeside UMC 420 first st. DuBois, PA 15801. write on registration “for evangelism event: Attn Paul Morelli"

For more information, call Lakeside UMC at [814-371-8930](tel:8143718930) and ask for Paul (or [814-771-4486](tel:8147714486) cell)

- **FUSION: The Future Of Worship In The UMC**

  Feb 4-6 Raleigh, NC

United Methodist pastors, musicians and worship leaders will meet to explore how to use the wide variety of worship styles and resources currently available to revitalize their worship services now and for the future. Fusion, hosted by Edenton Street UMC in Raleigh, N.C. will be three days of worship, inspiration, practical instruction and networking designed for clergy and lay people from both large and small churches. Registration is $149 per person. Student registration for seminary and course of study students: $89.

Website: [www.esumc.org](http://www.esumc.org)  Phone: 919-832-7535

- **MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID SEMINAR** at Murrysville First UMC, 3916 Old William Penn Hwy, Murrysville, PA 15668 on Saturday, February 6th in our Wesley Hall from 9 am - 5 pm. Do you have or work with teenagers? Do you know the early warning signs of mental health issues? Call 724-327-5049 for details and reserve your spot. Registration is limited and costs $15. Take the course, save a life, strengthen your community. Sometimes first aid isn't a bandage, or CPR, or the Heimlich, or call 911. Sometimes it is YOU!

- **Save with Early-bird Registration to the “Optimizing Annual Financial Campaigns” Conference and Live Stream** Saturday, March 5 10 am–1 pm. Registration: $35 Early bird: $25 through February 9. [Register now](#).
Conference: Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC. Church members who pledge give 30% more than those who do not, and congregations that seek annual financial commitments have significantly higher levels of overall giving. At the Optimizing Annual Financial Campaigns Conference, you will learn to reap the harvest of generosity through best practices for a more effective annual financial campaign. Cost $50. Early bird: $35 through February 9. Register now.

Live Stream: Can’t attend the conference? Log in to the Optimizing Annual Financial Campaigns Live Stream.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORIENTATION INTO MINISTRY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The next two orientation options are:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• February 20, 2016 - Brackenridge: Trinity UMC (Natrona Heights, PA) Click here to register.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• June 8, 2016 - Grove City (prior to Annual Conference)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you are interested in attending either Orientation for information or to begin the process of candidacy for ministry, registration information will be posted in the near future at www.wpaumc.org.

All questions should be sent to Rev. Janet Lord, Coordinator of Ministerial Services at jflrd425@aol.com.

• ‘THERE’S NO PLACE LIKE HOME’! – Church secretaries retreat- Kansas -- Apr 14-16th
Rev. Adam Hamilton and Bishop Scott Jones will be the keynote speakers when the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries gathers Apr 14-16 in Wichita, Kansas. Send your secretary. Get details

• The Final Journey? Probably not, but Bishop Bickerton’s 2016 Wesleyan Heritage Tour to England probably will be his last as leader of Western PA United Methodists. You and your church members are invited to travel with the group from April 17-26, 2016. Download a brochure for details.

Friday, April 1 – Saturday, April 2: A Retreat for Your Soul at Wesley Woods, 1001 Fiddlersgreen Road, Grand Valley, PA 16420. The Christian Ashram provides fellowship in a retreat setting where lives are transformed under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Evangelist: Rev. Terry Collins
We Believe, GOD’S NOT DEAD Tour – Featuring Newsboys with Audio Adrenaline at the Warner Theatre, 811 State Street, Erie, Pennsylvania 16501 on **April 7, 2016**! [Tickets](#)

- **Congregational Care Ministry Seminar** April 7–9, 2016 at the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection. *This three-day seminar, presented by Executive Pastor Karen Lampe and Pastor Wendy Chrostek and the Congregational Care team is designed to prepare lay volunteers to work alongside pastors and staff to minister to and care for your congregation as Congregational Care Ministers. Early Bird Registration ends February 3, 2016.*
Sowing Seeds—Caretakers of God’s Creation Conference: April 8–9, 2016 at First UM Church, Decatur, Georgia. This year’s event focuses on food and food systems. Keynote speakers include Norman Wirzba of Duke University, Jennifer Ayres of Emory University's Candler School of Theology, and Alice Rolls of Georgia Organics. Scholarships are available. Discounted registration deadline is March 15. Register here.

Want to be a Messy Church? It’s a way to reach families who may not feel comfortable in a regular worship setting. And it can be used by any size congregation. Learn more at an April 29-May 1 event at Dutilh UMC, 1270 Dutilh Rd, Cranberry Township, PA 16066 Get details and register.

April 10-11, 2016
Hilton Garden Inn
Southpointe, Pennsylvania

Keynote Speaker          Worship Leader          Main Speaker
Joel Comiskey            Joshua Price            Eric Detar

1.0 CEU available
Come hear from practitioners on the leading edge of ministry in areas including:

- Cell Groups
- Worship
- Millennial Ministry
- Campus Ministry
- Children, Youth, and Family Ministry
- Media and Communications
- And more

Find a vision and strategy for yourself and your congregation to experience results in areas vital to ministry in the 21st Century.

Registration includes conference, hotel, and meals. Register by December 31 for super early bird pricing of as low as $194 for commuters, $234 for double occupancy, and $274 for single occupancy.

Register at www.thrive2016.us and like us on Facebook for up to the minute news at facebook.com/thrive2016

Sponsored by: WPA’s Higher Education and Campus Ministry Team
**Algonquin Canoe Trip 2016**: Monday, August 1 to Wednesday, August 10, 2016. This event offers a week-long wilderness experience of canoeing and primitive camping in the north woods of Ontario’s Algonquin Provincial Park. Campers enjoy seeing wildlife in a rugged and beautiful land of lakes, rivers, and forests. Around the campfire, we talk about God, the wonder of his creation, and what it means to live our faith in fellowship with others. Prior canoeing and camping experience is helpful, but not necessary. The cost of the trip includes most canoeing and camping equipment, as well as transportation from Erie, PA to and from Algonquin Park. This event is open to adults and teens that are at least 15 years old.

**Cost:** under 18 as of 8/1/16 - $420  ~~~  18+ as of 8/1/16 - $450  [Register]

---

**Jumonville Homecoming Weekend**: August 5-7, 2016 – Part of the 75th Anniversary Celebration.

Click here for more information.

---

**Photos Wanted**: The Jumonville 75th Anniversary Committee is looking for historic photos. If possible, include the date taken, names of those in the photo and the camp name.

**Email to**: larry@jumonville.org

**Mail to**: Lynn Hartenstein c/o Jumonville 887 Jumonville Rd., Hopwood, PA 15445

*If you would like your photo returned, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.*

---

**75th Anniversary Merchandise**: We have items that are available for sale to help celebrate Jumonville’s 75th Anniversary. We have polo shirts, Jumonville calendars, Christmas Ornaments, and travel mugs. [Click here]

---

**Global Clergywoman’s Gathering**: Registration is now open for this August 29-31,2016 global gathering in Houston, Texas. Learn more and sign up for GBHEM’s clergywomen’s newsletter at gbhem.org/clergy/clergywomen.
Follow United Methodist news on Facebook and Twitter: Want to follow developments as the 2016 General Conference approaches? You can find the latest news on UMNS Facebook page and Twitter feed.

To follow on Facebook  To follow on Twitter

2016 Daily Bible Reading Guides: The Conference Center will not offer printed copies of the Pennsylvania Bible Society’s 2016 Daily Bible Reading Guide this year. This guide will be available for download in PDF form from the PA Bible Society website. Visit pabible.org.

RACISM AND DIVERSITY

Understanding Racism: Since last year’s Witnessing Whiteness workshop with Shelly Tochluk, some Conference staff members have been reading and exploring issues of implicit bias through lunchtime discussions. Several will share their experiences in a series of blogs posted from now through February, Black History Month. See them at wpaumc.org/diversityblogs.

Racism in Western PA: Post-Gazette Columnist Tony Norman writes about the African-American cameraman who maintained his cool in the midst of a racist rant in Butler County last week. Read more.

A Christian-American? As a follow-up to a fall triologue with Bishop Bickerton, a rabbi and an imam, Christ UMC in Bethel Park will offer a 9:30 a.m. series entitled Christian and American: Dual Citizenship in a Polarized Era on Sundays in February. Get details.

UPCOMING TRAINING/EVENTS

Safe Sanctuaries: Safe Sanctuaries training will be offered at two locations this month: Sunday evening, Jan. 10 at Beulah UMC in Johnstown and Saturday morning, Jan. 23 at Christ UMC in Franklin. For details, check the calendar listings at wpaumc.org/events.

Help for Tax Time! The UM Foundation of Western PA offers two seminars: How to Complete Your Pastor’s Form W-2 is a webinar on January 20 that will help treasurers understand the unique reporting requirements of ministers and how to properly complete their W-2. The annual Clergy Tax Seminar will be offered on both February 10 and March 9. For complete information and registration details, see the Events section of www.umfoundation.org.

Spring Licensing School: The deadline to apply for the Spring Commuter Licensing School, held at Manorville UMC, is Feb. 1. It begins with a weekend retreat Feb. 25-27. Sessions will be on Saturdays through March and early April, with an ending retreat April 14-16. Get application with details at wpaumc.org/BoomFiles.
Download the Licensing School Syllabus.
- **Preaching Institute**: Mike Graves of Saint Paul School of Theology will lead the Schooler Institute on Preaching Feb. 8 and 9 at Methodist Theological School in Ohio. Get details and register at mtso.edu.

## RESOURCES AND IDEAS

- **Spiritual Gifts**: Help your church members identify their gifts using the free online Spiritual Gifts Assessment at UMC.org.
- **WPAUMC Disability Concerns**: How accessible is your church? Find out using the Accessibility Audit for the local church under the Forms and Resources heading at wpaumc.org/disabilityconcerns.
- **WPAUMC Disability Concerns**: Accessibility Audit under the Forms heading wpaumc.org/disabilityconcerns.

**Ash Wednesday**: UMC Discipleship ministries offers worship resources and a variety of ideas for observing Ash Wednesday, including an article on how to make it meaningful for children. Learn more.

**Be prepared for tax time!** The UM Foundation’s annual Clergy Tax Seminar will be offered at two separate sites this year to reach as many clergy as possible. Plan to attend at the Regional Learning Alliance in Cranberry on February 10 or at the Holiday Inn Johnstown on March 9. The seminar will help clergy members as they file federal, state, and local tax returns. Details and registration information

**Valentine’s Day**: Show God’s love on Valentine’s Day by using these three simple tips.

**Leadership Tips**: Craig Gilliam lists seven components of “conversational leadership” that can cultivate healthy congregations and communities. Read them in Leading Ideas.

## Clergy Development: Vital ministry requires a plan. Let this be a tool to create your continuing education plan. Opportunities are listed here by area of focus to allow you to target an area where you need to grow. Our Conference focus for 2016 is Leadership. There are some great leadership development events coming up! Which ones could help strengthen your ministry? Find details, as well as a scholarship application for continuing education, at wpaumc.org/GrowthOpportunities.

**Mission Celebrations** are events planned by local church leaders and resourced by Global Ministries’ staff and missionaries. They provide a variety of activities and learning opportunities to meet local church members where they are, and challenge them to reflect, learn, and engage in mission locally and around the world. Watch this video, and consider holding a mission celebration that is tailored to your church needs.

**UMW Celebrate 60 Years of Clergy Rights for Women in the Methodist Tradition and 20 Years of Full Connection Deacon’s Ministry in 2016!** In August 2016, we will be celebrating 20 years of Deacon’s ordination and 60 years of Elder’s ordination of women. For this worldwide gathering, we are offering your church several options to give and affirm your support for clergywomen. For your generosity we will list your church as a sponsor of the 2016 Global United Methodist Clergywomen Gathering in our program book and display your church’s name during the event. The giving options for your church are the following:

1. To support one clergywoman with a minimum salary or a seminarian from the US: $300
2. To support one clergywoman from Africa, Europe/Eurasia, and the Philippines: $700
If you are interested in supporting a clergywoman please contact: clergylifelonglearning@gbhem.org or send your check to: GBHEM, Attn: Clergy Lifelong Learning, P.O. Box 340007, Nashville, TN 37203-0007

**U.S. TORNADOES AND FLOOD RESPONSE**: Over the Christmas and New Year’s week, severe storms caused major flooding that inundated parts of the South and Midwest, and also spawned powerful, deadly tornados. As severe weather and flooding continue in to the New Year, you can respond with your gifts to [U.S. Disaster Response, Advance #901670](http://www.gbhem.org/giving/advances/donate-now/district-Assistance-901670).

**RESOURCE: TRANSFORMATIONAL MINISTRIES BLOG**: Global Ministries recently launched [Transformational Ministries](http://www.gbhem.org/umc/ministries/transformative), a bi-weekly blog that will lift up stories, testimonies, and best practices of Ministries With the Poor—living examples of ministry with and alongside those struggling with poverty. Read the introductory post here! Sign up for Ministry with the Poor email updates here.

**Ecumenical Sunday**: This is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and Sunday, January 25 is Ecumenical Sunday. Let Chuck explain what it means.

**The 2016 Program Calendar** in all its formats helps you explore a new level of organization as you keep up with your busy schedule. Save 25% off all 2016 calendars. If you are always on the go, be sure to order a 2016 Program Calendar App from the [iTunes store](http://apple.com) or [Google Play](http://googleplay.com).

**GENERAL/JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE**

- **Vital Conversations**: The UMC Connectional Table this week begins a month-long series of online conversations on key topics related to General Conference 2016. A video is posted each week. This week’s features Bishop Sally Dyck and Thomas Kemper of Global Ministries. Learn more.
- **GENERAL CONFERENCE –Portland, Oregon—[May 10-20, 2016](http://www.gbhem.org/gcevent)**
- Volunteers are needed for a variety of roles at the 2016 General Conference, The UM Church’s top legislative assembly, which will meet in Portland, Oregon from [May 10-20, 2016](http://www.gbhem.org/gcevent). Get details at UMC Press Center.
- **GC2016 App**: A redesigned 2016 General Conference app is now available. It will feature news, photo and social media feeds, video and audio archives, live streaming of worship and plenary, the DCA and ADCA, and petition tracking. There are also some features to make the experience easier for delegates. Visit your app store or the [general conference app website](http://www.gbhem.org/app).
• **Portland Briefing:** WPAUMC Delegation Chair Sharon Gregory, Vice-Chair Alyce Weaver Dunn, Bishop Bickerton, DCM Greg Cox and communicator Jackie Campbell attended the pre-General Conference news briefing in Portland, Oregon last week. Tracy Merrick was among the presenters, explaining the Northeastern Jurisdiction proposal on the worldwide structure of the church. Read United Methodist News Service report.

• **Inclusion Issues:** Many expect the most intense debates at General Conference to be around how the denomination includes people of different sexual orientations. The pre-GC news briefing offered a preview of the debate and a proposed alternative process for considering the legislation. Get details.

---

**WEBINARS**

**See full list of upcoming webinars at gbod.org/webinars**

- **How to Complete Your Pastor’s Form W-2** is a Webinar sponsored by the UM Foundation of Western PA that will help church treasurers as they prepare W-2 forms for 2015 taxes. Clergy have some very unique tax reporting issues that must be carefully handled each year. This Webinar will be held at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 – in time to process all information needed to successfully complete the W-2. Details and registration information can be found at http://www.umfoundation.org/Module/Events/EventDetail/default?id=34.

- **Where Mercy and Justice Meet:** Drew Theological School will offer a three-webinar course designed to guide clergy and laity interested in advocacy through the steps of building a dynamic grassroots campaign to address an issue or concern. It begins **Thursday, Feb. 18.** Get details.

---

**MISSION NEWS/OPPORTUNITIES**

**WPA/Zimbabwe Partnership -Butler/Mutare Districts**

*To learn more about the Zimbabwe Partnership, contact Sandra Matoushaya sandra.matoushaya@wpaumc.org 724.776.2300 ext. 249.*

Get Imagine No Malaria donation boxes — free! Children around the world are suffering from a completely treatable disease, but hope starts with you! This Valentine's Day, your church can spread the love of Christ by helping to prevent needless death and suffering.

Imagine NO Malaria is getting closer to reality. The Global Fund recently received more than $4 billion from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the United Kingdom for its fight against malaria. It will be used over the next five years for research and other work to eradicate malaria. Read more.

---

**ZIMBABWE PARTNERSHIP – BUTLER DISTRICT/MUTARE DISTRICT**

For more information, contact: Sandra Matoushaya, Zimbabwe Partnership Coordinator 724.776.2300 x249

*To learn more about the Zimbabwe Partnership, contact Sandra Matoushaya at sandra.matoushaya@wpaumc.org or 724.776.2300 ext. 249.*
Butler Mutare District Parsonage and Gwese Orphanage Trust
Thank you to Sarver: Zion and Cabot UM Churches for your faithful contributions!!!

NEJ Council on Youth Ministries MISSION OF PEACE 2015-2016

Mission of Peace Information Sheet - with updated information including contact information>>


When UMCOR donors give their time, money, and supplies, they join UMCOR as the hands and feet of Christ. Cleaning buckets are not needed at this time. There is a need for School kits, sewing kits and health kits.

Eastbrook Mission Barn is responsible for some of the costs of shipping kits to Sager Brown or other distribution points. Consider undesignated gifts toward "any kits" or Eastbrook Mission Barn expenses OR give generously to Material Resource Ministry, Advance #901440, which allows the depot to purchase disaster relief supplies in bulk. umcor.org. Get Kit Instructions.


Click here to access the latest Mission News publication.
http://wpa-email.brtaapp.com/viewinsite/d9b036670a9b8b366b04310f5583cf11?email=Butler.Office@wpaumc.org

2016 VIM Mission Teams

Several Conference mission teams are forming to serve Christ by serving others this summer. Deadlines to apply for the teams are March 1 or April 1 and VIM scholarship deadline is May 1st. Get details at wpaumc.org/OpportunitiesToServe. Learn more/register

Download a bulletin insert to invite others.

VIM Leader Training:

Volunteers in Mission Leader Training will be offered at various locations around Western PA beginning in February.

- February 6 Saturday 10am-3:30pm Jefferson Avenue UMC in Washington, PA
- February 21 Sunday 2:30-7:30pm New Beginnings UMC in Apollo, PA
- February 28 Sunday 2:30-7:30pm Edinboro UMC in Edinboro, PA
- March 6 Sunday 2:30-7:30pm St. Mary's UMC in St. Mary's, PA
- March 12 Saturday 10am-3:30pm First UMC of Franklin in Franklin, PA
- April 20 Wednesday 10am-3:30pm Conference Center in Cranberry
- April 23 Saturday 10am-3:30pm Community UMC in Uniontown, PA
- April 24 Sunday 2:30-7:30pm Oakland UMC in Johnstown, PA
- May 1 Sunday 2:30-7:30pm Sewickley UMC in Sewickley, PA
- May 21 Saturday 10am-3:30pm Latrobe UMC in Latrobe, PA
- June 4 Saturday 10am-3:30pm Conference Center in Cranberry

Each registration is $8 and a copy of "A Mission Journey: A Handbook for Volunteers" is required. Paper copies can be purchased through the Conference Center for $12 or online through Barnes and Noble. Registration is online under Missions.
**DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION**

Butler District Office  
317 German Street  
Harmony PA 16037  

Phone: 724-452-0589  
Fax: 724-452-1628  

Email:  
- Butler.District@wpaumc.org (Rev. Joel Garrett)  
- Butler.Office@wpaumc.org (Thelma Castor)