



Valley Vision

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Ohio Valley District
United Methodist Church

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“UMCOR - Love In Action” James 2:14-17; 1 John 3:18

Dear Ohio Valley Friends,

There is a story in Harold Kushner’s book, *Living a Life that Matters*, about a Native American tribal leader who described his own inner struggles. He said, “There are two dogs inside me. One of the dogs is mean and evil. The other dog is good. The mean dog fights the good dog all the time.” Someone asked him which dog usually wins, and after a moment’s reflection, he answered, “The one I feed the most.”

I was reminded of this story as we face the immense challenges of recovery following devastation from three monstrous hurricanes here in the U.S. and two major earthquakes in Mexico. Hurricane Harvey brought unprecedented flooding to Houston and other areas of Texas, particularly startling to me since my brother’s family and the families of two Winkler cousins live in Houston in areas that were threatened with flooding. Then Hurricane Irma hammered Florida, taking aim at the newly purchased and renovated mobile home of Lynelle’s parents. Thankfully our family members weathered the storms with only minor damage. But many, many people were not so fortunate. We as a nation are still assessing the damage in Texas and Florida at the same time the increasingly desperate plight of people in Puerto Rico is becoming known with each passing day.

We feed our inner “good dog” when we take to heart the suffering of people whose lives have been upended by these disasters. We feed our inner “good dog” when we decide to do deeds that will make a difference to those who face the many hardships disasters bring. We feed our inner “good dog” when we put our love into action.

James reminds us that faith, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead (James 2:17).

John reminds us that we are to love not just with words or speech but with actions and in truth (1 John 3:18).



One way we can put our love into action as United Methodist Christians is to offer our help and support for humanitarian relief offered through our United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). The Mission of UMCOR is this: “Compelled by Christ to be a voice of conscience on behalf of the people called Methodist, UMCOR works globally to alleviate human suffering and advance hope and healing.” Of particular importance is the knowledge that 100% of our support for specific UMCOR projects goes directly to that project. 100% of our dollars such as for Hurricane Harvey Recovery (Fund EOC 1310) or Hurricane Irma (Fund EOC 1320) or U.S. Disaster Response (Advance 901670) goes to that relief effort. Our apportionment dollars provide the administrative and logistical structures that allow all our designated dollars to go directly to disaster relief. In giving through UMCOR, we represent a caring United Methodist Christian presence and the very presence of God in the aftermath of a disaster.

It is true that our response as Christian people represents the very best of who we are as we live a life that matters and make a difference in the world, choosing to “feed the good dog” within us as we stand as witnesses to the presence of God in Christ to people in desperate need of courage, hope and healing.

Following Harvey’s brutal assault, heart-warming images and stories appeared on TV and in news reports. We saw brave first responders of every color assisting people of every color in scene after scene of rescue and relief. Then we saw the volunteer “Cajun Navy” – many of whom had been devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita – hook up their boats to high water pick-up trucks as they headed to Texas to assist in every way possible to the rescue efforts.

There is something about this picture that tells the story of people at their best, with courage and heart and honor united by love in action. It is heart-warming – a much needed picture of unity and teamwork at a time when we are much too divided as a church and a nation.

Can we stand together as God’s people in partnership, in teamwork, in unity of spirit and purpose?

I trust we can in Christ Jesus who brings us together and holds us together!

Jim

New Somerset UMC Outreach to EOCC

By Amber Lewandoski

For the Past two years the United Methodist Church of New Somerset, led by Pastor Frank Rogers, has been welcoming guests from the Easter Ohio Correctional Center to join us in our church service followed by a dinner afterwards. This is a result of one of our members, Terry Latynski, reaching out to EOCC in an effort to give them a steppingstone onto a better way of life.

As we are all just humans, we all recognize we have made our mistakes and hold no judgment towards these men, for it says in the Bible that “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). We enjoy having our guests with us every three months. This gives us a chance to bring them closer to God and giving them a place to go once they are released.

We have had the pleasure of having anywhere from a total of ten to fifteen guests each time. It brings joy to our congregation whenever we hear our guests say that they had enjoyed their visit to our church and that they were thankful for our kindness to them. We really enjoy our fellowship with each other. After the service we all meet downstairs and enjoy a great dinner together and sometimes play games with verses from the Bible, and our guests are well-knowledgeable of the Bible verses, and to my understanding it appears that they attend a Bible Study at EOCC. Once we are done with dinner and the games, we all join together in a circle of prayer.

Having our guests join us as often as they can is truly a joy as we get to see numerous new faces in our church each time. We try to have the men join us whenever we have Communion at our church. This gives them a chance to be more intimate with our Lord.

When asked, one of the guards had this to say about our Church inviting our guests from the EOCC: “The men are chosen to go to the Church by looking for those who have good behavior and those who are trying to turn their lives around and are trying to better themselves. The guys feel pretty good about being invited; they feel uplifted and like to know that there’s somebody out there that cares about them. They’re grateful and thankful for being invited. Some of them haven’t had a big meal like the ones at the Church in a long time; they’re used to jail food.”

He then went on to say that, “I wish that I could go and visit them after they are released, but it doesn’t work out that way. But I am glad to hear that some are positively impacted by their visits to the Church and that they are doing better.

District UMW Fall Meeting - October 19

Our Fall UMW meeting will be October 19, 10-2 at the Wintersville United Methodist Church, 702 Main St., Wintersville, OH 43953

Betty Spencer will be speaking about “Human Trafficking” especially here in Ohio. However unpleasant the topic is, we need to be informed so that we know how to pray and be a part of the solution. Also planned: devotions, singing, new recipient of 2 Cents and a Prayer presented, great music, and a delicious lunch. Social time of coffee, juice, and pastries will be from 9:30-10.

The host church is asking that those attending bring non-perishable food items and canned goods for the Wintersville Good Neighbor Food Pantry. Reservations of \$6 may be sent to Pat Grimes, 252 Overlook Drive, Wintersville, OH 43953-7401 or phone 740-264-4310 by October 17. Her email address is grimes252@comcast.net

Sure hope to see you on the 19th,

Dorothy Turner

Conversations on the Way Forward

The Commission on a Way Forward was proposed by the Council of Bishops and approved by the 2016 General Conference to do a complete examination, and possible revision, of every paragraph of *The Book of Discipline* concerning human sexuality, and explore options that help to maintain and strengthen the unity of the church.

On September 16, clergy and laity from across EOC participated in a pilot conversation that provided opportunities for intentional, meaningful dialogue to discern together how we might strengthen and maintain the unity of the United Methodist Church, and find a way forward through the present impasse related to human sexuality.

All clergy and laity in the East Ohio Conference are invited to participate in one of the following future Conversations on a Way Forward:

Mon. Oct. 23 6 - 9 PM, Mentor UMC

Tues. Nov. 14, 6 - 9 PM, Western Reserve UMC

Sat. Feb. 3, 10 AM - 1 PM Thoburn UMC

Sun. Feb. 4, 2 - 5 PM, Willard First UMC

Mon. Feb 5, 6 - 9 PM, Lakewood UMC

Sat. Mar 3, 9 AM - Noon, Church of the Lakes UMC

It is important that you register in advance for the conversation you wish to attend, as each location has a seating capacity for small group sessions. To register go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/conversations-on-a-way-forward-registration-38001533610>

October is DisAbility Awareness Month

Please select a Sunday in October to celebrate the importance of DisAbility Awareness as part of our witness to God’s Ability. Resources for a Disability Awareness Sunday are available at www.eocumc.com/disability Sunday

Training event, “Belonging: Becoming An Inclusive Church” will be held on October 21 from 9 - 3 at Ashland Theological Seminary. The cost is \$25 or \$20 if you are a group of 5 or more (includes box lunch and resources). Registration deadline is October 11. Register at <https://becominginclusive.eventbrite.com>

Meet and Hear the Author of "God Cannot Do Without America" November 1, 6:30 PM

Subtitled, "Matthew Simpson and the Apotheosis of Protestant Nationalism"

The Harrison County Historical Society, The Puskarich Public Library and the Scott Memorial United Methodist Church present, *God Cannot Do without America, the first comprehensive biography of Cadiz native and Methodist Bishop Matthew Simpson in over 60 years.* You are invited to attend this program.

Author Dr. Darius Salter will discuss his new book at the Scott Methodist Church, 817 East Market Street, Cadiz at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 1st. **Bishop Simpson's ministry spanned 50 years of Methodism from its itinerant beginnings to becoming a major force in American life. Matthew Simpson served as first president of Indiana Asbury College, went on to become the youngest Methodist Bishop and Lincoln's favorite preacher. He was one of America's foremost orators of the 19th Century and was called upon to preach at President Abraham Lincoln's funeral. Simpson's vision can still be felt in today's Methodist Church.**

Darius Salter, PhD, received his Master of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary and his Doctorate of Psychology and Religion from Drew University. He currently devotes his time to writing and itinerant evangelism, in the United States and abroad. He is the author of seven other books including *America's Bishop: The Life of Francis Asbury; Spirit and Intellect – Thomas Upham's Holiness Theology; The Biblical Mandate for the 21st Century Pastor;* and *Preaching As Art: Biblical Storytelling for a Media Generation*, as well as contributing author to numerous journal and religious periodicals.

Copies of his book are available at Scott Methodist Church for \$15, regularly \$25, for those interested in reading it before the talk. Mr. Salter will sign copies of his book following the presentation November 1st.

PROJECT FEED: CHANGING THE WORLD, ONE MEAL AT A TIME



Saturday, November 11 at West Elementary, Newcomerstown

Sunday, November 12 at Wadsworth Middle School, Wadsworth

Doors Open both days at 1:30 PM; Meal packing for developing nations from 2:00 - 4:30 PM;

Cost \$10 (\$5 with a canned food for local food bank).

Donation taken for Youth Service Fund.

Our goal is to pack a total of 50,000 meals!

Look for updates at <http://projectfeedevent.org>

Live "Journey" Production

"Live Journey Production: An eye-Witness Account" will be performed on Sunday, October 15, 2017 at 3 PM on the wooded grounds of Pleasant Grove UMC, 5230 Arrow Road, Minerva, 44657. Church members will dress in costume and portray characters from the Bible. Come and experience a unique recreation of the Gospel message. Communion will be served in the Outdoor Chapel. Groups of any size are welcome. Donations are also welcome. For more information, contact Beth Zbasnek at 330-495-7265 or zbasnibe@mountunion.edu

Fall For All Clergy Retreat 2017

November 13,14,15 at The Carlisle Inn, Sugar-creek, OH. 2 CEU's for attending all sessions.

"The Worship Architect", A Blueprint for Designing Culturally Relevant and Biblically Faithful Services. Guest Speaker is Dr. Constance Cherry, Professor of Worship and Pastoral Ministry at Indiana Wesleyan University. She is an elder in the West Ohio Conference.

Brochures with the costs are available by calling the District Office. Registration deadline is October 13.

Prayer Concerns

- Rosie Thomas, wife of Pastor Tom Thomas, (Rayland/ Yorkville)
- Pastor Frank Rogers (New Somerset) broken wrist
- All victims of the recent hurricanes and storms

Deaths - Please pray for the families of:

Winifred Hickson, surviving spouse of Rev. George Hickson, died August 31.

Leslie M. Hamilton, spouse of Rev. Glenn Hamilton, died September 6.

Pastor Julian B. Huffman, retired local pastor, died September 5.

Vernice M. Densmore, surviving spouse of Pastor Gordon Densmore, died September 7.

Marilyn Goetz French, spouse of W. Maynard French, retired elder, died September 10.

Happy October

Birthdays

- 5 Cynthia Crowe (Irondale/ Hammondsville)
- 11 Pastor Tom Dawson (Bowerston First/ Trinity)
- 14 Rev. Jim Winkler (DS)
- 16 Pastor John Carpenter (Mt Zion/ Pleasant Grove)
- 22 Pat Bowers (Bethel)
- 26 Josephine Helms (Old Wegee/ Neffs)

FREE ORGAN; 1976 Allen Electronic Theatre Organ with Pedals and Bench; Model Theatre 12 Special;

Free - just need to pick up. Call Steve Hawkins at 740-543-3094

**Ohio Valley District United
Methodist Church**

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Upcoming Events

The Rock of Salvation Ladies Retreat, October 7 from 10 AM to 1 PM at the Bethel UMC, Rt 151, Jewett, 43986. Fill a new or gently used purse to be delivered to various sites in Harrison County and Urban Mission. Go to www.eocumc.com/ohiovalley/events-local for a list of items for the purses. For more info call or text Patti Sabo at 740-381-8288 or home 740-937-2864

Reminder to Pastors and SPPR Committees: All paperwork for your meetings are due **one week before** the meetings. Forms are on the website at www.eocumc.com/ohiovalley under the Forms tab, Church Forms.
Save the forms to your computer before you begin completing them. If possible, send them to the office via email to ovoffice@ovdumc.com

THE MISSION

The Mission of the United Methodist Church is to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

THE OHIO VALLEY STRATEGY

FROM REVIVAL TO DISCIPLESHIP TO MISSION:

To align resources, develop leaders and inspire growth to increase the number of vital congregations in the Ohio Valley District.

THE GENERAL RULE OF DISCIPLESHIP

To witness to Jesus Christ in the world and to follow his teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship, and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Where is the DS in October?

2	10 AM—5 PM	Ministry Consultations at District Office
3	9 AM	dCOM Training
3	6 PM - 9 PM	SPPR Meetings at Amsterdam UMC
4	10 AM - 5 PM	Ministry Consultations at District Office
5	9 AM	Health Benefits Informational Meeting at Cambridge First UMC
6	1:00 PM	Consultation
7	10 AM - 5 PM	SPPR Meetings at Yorkville UMC
10 - 12		Cabinet
16	9 AM - 4 PM	Ministry Consultations at District Office
17	5 PM	Ministry Consultation at Sugar Grove
17	6 PM - 9 PM	SPPR Meetings at Sugar Grove UMC
18	9 AM - 4 PM	Ministry Consultations at District Office
19 - 20		Black Methodists for Church Renewal
23	5 PM - 9 PM	SPPR Meetings at Scio UMC
24	9 AM - 4 PM	Ministry Consultations at District Office
25	5 PM	Ministry Consultation at Pleasant Valley
25	6 PM - 9 PM	SPPR Meetings at Pleasant Valley UMC
26	9 AM - 3 PM	Ministry Consultations at District Office
28	10 AM - 4 PM	SPPR Meetings at Wintersville UMC
29	3 PM - 6 PM	SPPR Meetings at Sherrodsville Calvary
30	6 PM - 9 PM	SPPR Meetings at Christ UMC
November 2	4 - 9 PM	Ministry Consultation & SPPR Meetings at Mt Pleasant (Carroll) UMC