



## FROM THE DS



John Ortberg, in his book, God Is Closer Than You Think, (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005) says that sometimes people pray a version of the Star Trek prayer to Scottie: “Beam me up!” It’s as though our faith journey is all about getting ready for “up there” and being prepared for the “end times.” But I find that the Bible more often talks about bringing heaven down here, now.

For a long time now one of my favorite scripture passages has been Micah 6:8—“*What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God?*” I recognize that my position doesn’t have a lock on the truth. But it’s the way I feel called to live out my spirituality. I want to be ready for eternity (whatever that may look like) and I want to help others be ready, but I also want my life to make a difference now... in **this** time!

In fact, I understand that to be the heart of the Lord’s Prayer: “*Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*” If we could endeavor to live by the principles of the kingdom of heaven in our relationships with one another **here and now**, it seems to me that would go a long way in us reflecting the love of Jesus **and** being ready for the life to come.

## BISHOP MALONE'S VISION FOR EAST OHIO



"I hold out a vision and a hope that you will be bold, faithful and courageous in your Christian witness and behold the power, the Holy Spirit’s power, that has been poured out upon you!" said Bishop Tracy S. Malone during her Episcopal Address at Annual Conference 2017.

Bishop Malone has spent countless hours touring each East Ohio district with their superintendents, listening to candidates, meeting pastors, preaching to congregations, and having conversations with faith communities. “I saw places where ministry was strong, vibrant and viable, and places where there is new emerging ministries,” Malone said. “I also saw places and communities where there are great needs and opportunities for us to expand our witness and reach.” She now shares her mission vision to encourage us to Bear Fruit that Last. [View video.](#)

**Discipleship: Foundation**  
**Covenant: Guides**  
**Connection: Strengthens**  
**Leadership: Moves Us**

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“To be United Methodist... is to hold together a passionate and personal evangelical gospel and a serious and sacrificial social gospel.” (quoted from the Statement of Purpose from The East Ohio Conference “Way Forward” discussions)

First, do no harm; secondly, do good; thirdly, stay connected with God. (adapted from the “General Rules of The Methodist Church, 2016 Book of Discipline, p.77-80)



## A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT

by Rev. Dr. J. Gary Campbell, Pastor Emeritus, Fredericktown UMC

Every clergy person, one assumes, understands that we receive our salvation “by faith.” It is to be hoped that every believer who professes salvation would know that we are “saved by faith.” When I entered seminary so many years ago, I certainly knew I was “saved by faith.” To the everlasting credit of one of my theology professors, I came to understand the full significance of this familiar phrase.

Dr. Franz Hildebrandt taught courses in the theology and hymnody of John and Charles Wesley during my years at Drew University School of Theology (1955-58). Dr. Hildebrandt had been a minister in the Confessing Church...that segment of the Lutheran Church in his native Germany that resisted the Nazi take-over of the German Church. A close friend and associate of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Dr. Hildebrandt also suffered for his stand, and was prematurely gray because of Nazi harassment and persecution. He escaped to England, and there became familiar with the Methodist movement and theology according to the Wesleys. A fine pianist/musician, Dr. Hildebrandt also was an expert in the Hymns of Charles Wesley.

From his Lutheran background, my professor perceived how wonderful it was when Martin Luther discovered that we are not saved by good works, but by “faith.” So great was this truth to Luther that he actually added the word “alone” to Romans 5:1: “...since we are justified by faith ALONE, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Perhaps it was when Dr. Hildebrandt came to appreciate the Wesleyan teaching about Christian Assurance that he realized that we believers are NOT actually saved by OUR faith. My faith, like everything human, may waver from time to time. In the experience of most of us, our faith is sometimes accosted by doubt. It's even possible to have faith in the wrong thing! So, we are not actually “saved by faith!” Rather, we are saved by the great GOOD NEWS of God's love and Christ's atoning blood shed on the cross. No, not saved “by faith” – rather, saved by the ONE IN WHOM we believe!

Consequently, in the seminary courses I had with Dr. Hildebrandt, I heard him repeatedly affirm that we are saved “by Grace, through Faith, on account of Christ.” He taught us that “saved by faith” is really a shorthand way of referring to the full truth about our salvation, and our assurance of that salvation: We are saved BY GRACE, THROUGH FAITH, ON ACCOUNT OF CHRIST. Thanks be to God! And let's all keep a Good Lent!

*[The Rev. Dr. Gary Campbell chairs the Three Rivers District Superintendency Committee and we appreciate and benefit from his wise and discerning leadership.]*

## Tilling the Ground of God's Call

**April 16-17, 2018** with Guest Speaker: Rev. Cara Stultz Costello

Registration deadline: March 19.

Call the Wallhouse Hotel (2870 Cove Ln, Walnut Creek) at 1-800-824-2013 to reserve your room and mention "CEF." Upon confirmation, call [Deb Lansman](mailto:Deb.Lansman@ceff.org) (440-213-7912) with name and contact information to finalize your registration for the Christians Engaged in Faith Formation Retreat.



## **CONVERSATIONS ON A WAY FORWARD -- Sat, Mar 10 (9 AM - Noon) Fredericktown UMC**

These conversation provide opportunities for prayerful discernment about the issues being addressed through the Commission while listening to others who may have differing perspectives regarding the challenges that are emerging around human sexuality in The United Methodist Church. **All clergy and laity are encouraged, to attend.** You must register online. [Register here.](#)



## **WAY FORWARD UPDATES : Bishops see progress in unity effort**

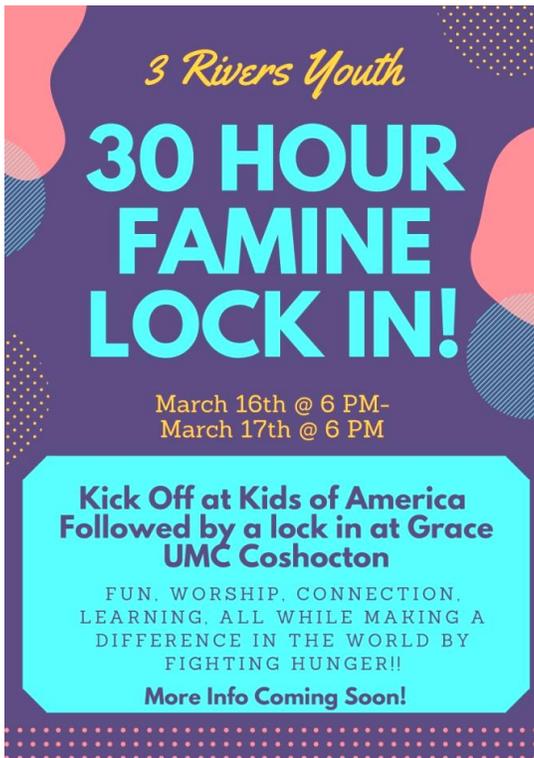
The Council of Bishops wrapped up four-days of deliberations about how to prevent denominational schism over homosexuality, with a focus on two possible church futures. In a report to the council, the commission shared two revised sketches based on the three models released last November. "The two sketches provide avenues for unity, contextualization and mission," said Bishop Kenneth Carter, designated successor as council president. The news release contained a summary of the two models:

- The one-church model would give conferences, churches and pastors the flexibility to "uniquely reach their missional context in relation to human sexuality without changing the connectional nature of The United Methodist Church."
- The multi-branch, one-church model would include shared doctrine and services and one Council of Bishops, while also creating different branches that have clearly defined values such as accountability, contextualization and justice. The five U.S. jurisdictions would be replaced by three connectional conferences, each covering the whole country, based on theology and perspective on LGBTQ ministry — progressive, contextual and traditional branches. Annual conferences would decide with which connectional conference to affiliate.

A traditionalist model, [which was among three models](#) outlined to an international group of United Methodist leaders earlier this month, was not listed in the press release. In that presentation, Way Forward Commission members had listed three models, or sketches. Under a traditionalist model, the church would have continued to declare the practice of homosexuality incompatible with Christian teaching, prevent clergy from officiating at same-sex unions and prohibit the ordination of self-professed practicing homosexuals.

The one-church model appears to align with a centrist model discussed earlier, which would see the removal of restrictive language from the Book of Discipline, letting conferences decide how inclusive to be, while protecting clergy who could not, as a matter of conscience, perform a same-sex union or support ordination of openly gay clergy. It's too early to say if the bishops favor one model over another, and a blend might be possible, according to the council president.

The United Methodist Church's conflict over how accepting to be of homosexuality has gone on for more than four decades. A threat of schism was clear at [General Conference 2016](#). Delegates instead postponed consideration of sexuality-related petitions and created the Commission on a Way Forward to help the bishops find ways to maintain as much church unity as possible. A special General Conference to consider proposals is set for Feb. 23-26, 2019, in St. Louis. The commission's last scheduled meeting is May 14-17. The bishops meet again April 29-May 4, their final gathering before a July 8 deadline for legislative petitions to the special General Conference. --By Sam Hodges Feb. 28, 2018 | DALLAS (UMNS)



### ATTN DISTRICT YOUTH:

This event starts at Kids America (1600 Otsego Ave, Coshocton) with various activities including soccer, volleyball, tennis, basketball, pickleball, four-square, dodgeball and board games! Then, we will head to Grace UMC (422 Walnut Street, Coshocton) for the remainder of the event. Please note that everyone will begin fasting after lunch on Friday. If you have students who are unable to go 30 Hours without food, they can still be part of the famine! Alternative fasts are an option and include fasting from things such as talking or electronics, instead of food. **Please RSVP the number of students and adults to Chasity Opphile at [bokuvu@yahoo.com](mailto:bokuvu@yahoo.com) or (740)498-8134 x 210 no later than Friday March 9** so we can send you important info about the event and how the famine works. Let Chasity know if you have a student who needs to do an alternative fast so she can send the proper info for them! Check out our group fundraiser page <https://youth.worldvision.org/team/3Rivers>

### EOC YOUTH LEADERSHIP RESPONDS TO SCHOOL VIOLENCE

CCYM, the Conference Council on Youth Ministry, held their winter meeting last weekend during which time they discussed the current issues in our communities and country around suicide and school shootings. They came to the conclusion through an unanimous vote to support the March for Our Lives on March 24<sup>th</sup>. This is a march in Cleveland and in Columbus. These are to be peaceful marches to empower our teens to take a stand on safety in their schools.



On behalf of CCYM, I invite you to support this movement by praying, being present, encouraging others and organizing teens to join a march. Taking action for injustice is at the core of who we are as United Methodist, making this a firsthand opportunity for teens to learn. For more information on the movement and what the East Ohio teens are recommending, visit the <https://www.marchforourlives.com/> website. For details visit their respective Facebook links: [Cleveland March: Facebook](#) or [Columbus March: Facebook](#) For information on the UMC's stance on gun control or mental health issues: <https://www.umcjustice.org/>

Thank you for supporting and loving our teens,

*Kaye Wolfinger,  
Director of Young People's Ministries*



### YAC: YOUTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE: Early Registration is OPEN!

\$40/person through April 4. Registration is \$50 from April 5 - May 23. Walk-Ins: \$70 (t-shirt not guaranteed) Food package: \$32 per person for 4 meals. For more information go to <http://www.eocumc.com/yac/>



**ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2018:**

**Lakeside Chautauqua June 11-14**

*Bearing Fruit that Lasts: Called, Committed, Connected* is the quadrennial theme. This year we will focus on what it means to be called and equipped as followers of Jesus Christ based on John 15:13-17. The

Reverends Kimberly Arbaugh, Chip Freed and Becky Weamer will be leading morning worship. Rev. Dr. Joseph Daniels, Jr. (Baltimore-Washington Conf) is the speaker for Shared Learning on Thursday.

**NEW SCHEDULE LINE-UP** this year includes following highlights:

- **Executive Clergy Session** (will be held off-site two weeks prior on May 30 at University of Mt. Union)
- **Service of Commemoration and Holy Communion** (Mon., June 11, 10:00 AM)
- **Celebration of Retirement** (Mon., June 11, 7:30 PM).
- **Service of Commissioning and Ordination** (Wed., June 13, 4:30 PM)

Housing Packets have been mailed. If you did not receive yours please call the district office. The **Three Rivers District Gathering will be held on Monday from 5:30-7:00 p.m.** at the Lakeside UMC at 450 Central Ave. All clergy, lay members and their families are welcome.

**FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT**

**Three Rivers District UMW Spring Meeting**  
**Saturday, April 7, 2018 -- 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**Canal Lewisville UMC (198 E. Church St, Coshocton)**  
 [Just off US 36, 1 mile east of Walmart & Career Center]

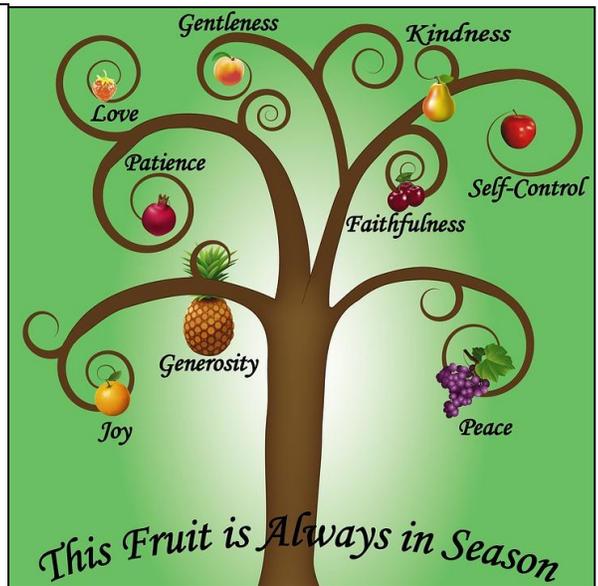
Guest speaker is a missionary from Haiti who helps children suffering from aids. Come hear how she has to practice all the fruits of the spirit in her daily walk.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: March 24, 2018**

**Registration Fee:** \$7.00 includes lunch

**Mail to:** Martha Stuller 1 Fairway Dr, Mt. Vernon OH 43050

Make check payable to: **Three Rivers District UM Women**



Church Name \_\_\_\_\_

Church Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Person Making Reservations \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fee is waived for young women age 12-23 to encourage attendance. Indicate ages with names & write "free" under amount. Please list any dietary restrictions that any of your team members may have. \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Registrants Please have one person register for your Unit.		Amount	
Total participants Attach list if more space is needed for additional names		<b>Total \$ Enclosed</b>	

# MARCH 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>Crossroads of Ohio United Methodism: April 20-21</b>            UM Historical Society of Ohio            Registration deadline is Monday April 9            -- Optional: Fri, April 20 at Roscoe Village w/Local Tour -\$15            -- Sat, April 21: \$20/members or \$25/others            Contact District office for details or visit <a href="http://www.umhso.org">www.umhso.org</a></p>				1	2	3
4	5 CABINET	6	7	8	9 Lay Training Prairie Chapel 7-9p Basic Only	10 Lay Training 8a-4p Both Groups  Way Forward Conversation 9a - 12pm Fredericktown
11 Don't be late for church! Daylight Savings Clocks ahead on Sat night. UMCOR SUNDAY	12	13	14	15 TR Youth Leaders Network 6:30 p. Subway in Utica	16 TR District Youth 30 Hour Famine Lock In!	17 dCOM 8-3
18	19 Dr. Call out of office to attend ARAP	20	21	22	23 2017 Audits due	24
25 Palm Sunday	26	27	28	29 Maundy Thursday	30 Good Friday Office Closed	31
Dr. Call on Vacation						

# APRIL 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <i>Alleluia!</i> <i>He is Risen</i> <b>Happy</b> <b>Easter</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>TR Finance</b> <b>Committee:</b> at 3:00 p.m at district office	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Three Rivers</b> <b>UMW</b> <b>Spring Mtg</b> Canal Lewisville 8:30a - 1:00p
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>CCOM</b>
		<b>CABINET</b>				
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Joy out of office for <b>PAUMC</b> <b>Spring Mtg</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Crossroads of</b> <b>Ohio United</b> <b>Methodism**</b> Roscoe Village Optional	<b>21</b> <b>UM Historical</b> <b>Society Ohio</b>  Canal Lewisville 8:30a - 3:30p
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>Spring</b> <b>District</b> <b>Conference</b> 3PM Prairie Chapel UMC	<b>30</b>	<b>Summer Camp Registration is Open!</b> 300-499-3972 x 108 or visit <a href="http://www.eocsummercamps.org/">www.eocsummercamps.org/</a> <b>Not sure which EOC Camp to send your kids too?</b> Take advantage of their Preview Weekend Events in April. <b>Sat April 7: Camp Wanake: Resurrection Egg Hunt 2-6p</b> <u>Open House &amp; Camp Previews</u> <b>Sat, April 14: Camp Aldersgate: 2-6p</b> <b>Sun, April 15: Camp Asbury: 2-5p</b>				



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[3riversdist@sbcglobal.net](mailto:3riversdist@sbcglobal.net)

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**TOGETHER, WE DO MORE -- UMCOR SUNDAY MARCH 11**

UMCOR has been providing compassion and relief services to nations in crisis since 1940. They have a presence in over 80 countries and have helped tens of thousands of people receive help after war, disaster, conflict and other disruptive events that leave communities unable to recover on their own. Even now, we have relief workers on the ground all over the world helping people recover from the 2017 floods in Africa and in the United States and the Caribbean after the 2017 hurricane season. When you give today, you help cover the annual operational costs for UMCOR. Your gift allows UMCOR to apply 100% of other donations directly to relief efforts as well as long-term education and support. **YOUR GIFT HELPS UMCOR BRING LIGHT OUT OF DARKNESS.** To [donate online](#) or through your local church.