

Mid-Ohio District News



Open Hearts,
Open Minds,
Open Doors...

The people of the
United Methodist
Church

Visit our website at www.eocumc.com/mid-ohio

August 2023



Charge Conference season is upon us and all clergy consultations for Firelands and Mid-Ohio will be carried out in the month of August. Staff parish meetings will be held in September and charge conference will be concluded in October.

The schedules and forms have been emailed to all clergy, staff parish chairs and admin assistants. You can also access the forms via the conference website [here](#).

Please remember all forms are due two weeks prior to clergy consultations, staff parish meetings and charge conferences via email to the district office at midohiodistrict@gmail.com. Scanned copies with signatures are acceptable.



ARCHIVES & HISTORY
General Commission on Archives and History

Local Church Historians' School

Looking Back. Moving Forward.

Launching again September 4, 2023!

Are you ready to discover, document, and share your local church's story?

Local Church Historians' School is an intensive, self-paced course wherein you'll learn from leading Methodist scholars, archivists, and historians. Through this course you'll gain the skills to discover, document,

and share the stories of your local church community. Connecting with your cohort, you'll establish and build relationships with fellow Wesleyan time-travelers. Coming alongside you, GCAH offers expert teachers, diverse content, innovative ways to think about our past, and ongoing support for your local ministries and personal vocation. You and your congregation will benefit from a renewed historical awareness, exposure to unique stories, and a call to deeper connection with those around you... both past and present. Once completed, you will receive a certificate from GCAH.

For more details, and to register, click [HERE](#).



I'm sure that many of you are aware of the positive impact Blue Rose Mission has within the Mansfield and surrounding areas. Already this year, we've renovated the entire first floor of the Uyoa family home in Shelby. We've replaced windows at a residence in Mansfield for an elderly widow, and repaired plumbing at a small church that was unable to afford the repairs. We've also replaced a hot water heater for a gentleman that had gone three weeks without hot water before contacting us. Currently, there are two different wheelchair ramps underway and three additional jobs we're working on with the Mansfield Reach youth program. At this time, we have a total of thirty-four homeowners seeking our help and more calling every day. We not only change lives at Blue Rose, but we improve living conditions and neighborhoods.

However, Blue Rose is still suffering financially from the impact of the pandemic. In the past, much of our income stemmed from groups that came to the area, stayed at a camp, and worked for a week at a time. Since the shut-down in 2020, that model no longer works. Groups just aren't coming as they once were. We've been aware of this trend for the past year and are working to change our business model to accommodate it. As part of this effort, we are looking for more local churches and groups to partner with, as well as additional sources to help us find more volunteers. We're also working to maximize our income from grants and donations.

Right now, however, we're in an interim period in which income has dropped and our new way of doing business is still developing. At this moment, our checking account has less than \$2200.00. There are people in need of wheelchair ramps and other vital projects, but we lack the funds to buy the materials. (As an example: Each ramp costs roughly \$1400.00. We have two in process, and three more homes that need them.) We are asking each of you to consider donating to help us continue to operate through the remainder of the summer. There are potential grants down the road, but we need income now to continue to spread the love of Jesus Christ and help transform the lives of the less fortunate through our home repair mission. Please prayerfully consider donating. You can give by mailing your donation to Blue Rose Mission, 12 N. Diamond St., Mansfield, OH. 44902 or through our website at www.bluerosemission.org.



Rubies

Appetizers & Awareness

Rubies Womens Group assists women in the community coming out of Human Sex Trafficking and Addiction. Since 2016, Rubies allows women to discover themselves and their worth in Christ by learning to build a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, attending church, attending faith-based counseling, healing physically, mentally, and spiritually, becoming employed, learning life skills, gaining family, and integrating back into society with support.

A Rubies speaker will come to your church to give education, awareness and to deliver a message regarding the effects of human sex-trafficking and what Rubies is doing about it. Rubies Womens Group will provide the appetizer and beverages. It's an hour together of awareness and discussion.

Rubies is in the heart of the issue of human sex-trafficking. Please contact Candace Watson-Cole, Exec. Director at 419-612-6399 or Courtney Collins, Board Member at 419-571-7119 to learn more or visit the website at www.rubiesoutreach31.com.

Church sees signs of renewal even as exits rise

By Heather Hahn | UM News

At the end of June, [a United Methodist News review](#) has found that U.S. annual conferences had approved the exit of 6,181 churches with property. That translates to about 20% of U.S. congregations. About 80% of U.S. United Methodist congregations - or eight in 10 - remain in the denomination, and many longtime church observers see reason to hope that the tide of disaffiliation is starting to ebb.

[Jesus likened his disciples to vine branches](#) that need trimming to flourish, and many United Methodists also see the potential that the current pruning of anger and infighting will enable the church to bear more fruit.

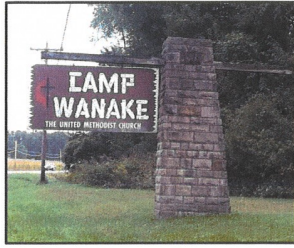
Lifelong United Methodist Pat Luna said she left the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference feeling encouraged. "The people who are staying in The United Methodist Church are excited and fired up and ready to move towards the future where we believe God is leading us," said Luna.

The Rev. Kim Goddard told the Holston Annual Conference that she and other district superintendents who have been on the frontlines of administering disaffiliation votes have shifted their conversation "to a new 'D' word." "Not disaffiliation," she said. "That word is discipleship."

Ashley Boggan, historian and top executive of the United Methodist Commission on Archives and History, sees an opportunity for the people called United Methodist to use this season of separation to become a new people.

Goddard of the Holston Conference put it this way: "There's no reason to waste a good crisis. I really think that we can have a much brighter future having gone through this."

[Click here to read this interesting, informative article in it's entirety.](#)



FALL 2023 EOCUMC CLERGY DAY APART

*In celebration of you, your call, and for clergy
appreciation month . . .*

Saturday, September 30 and/or

Wednesday, October 4

Both days: 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at Wanake Camp and Retreat Center

The morning will be spent gathering around spiritual practices being led by Debbie Baker, spiritual director with music led by others.

Additional options for the day and afternoon include;

12-minute chair massages, artisan circle conversations,

hikes, painting instruction, ropes course, drumming circle, and naps.

Active Local Pastors, Deacons, Associate Members, Elders (full or part-time) are all invited. You can register for one or both days, the \$10 registration fee includes lunch and most activities.



Register at <https://fallclergydayapart2023.eventbrite.com>

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors... The People of the United Methodist Church

Mid-Ohio District Office of the UMC

410 Park Ave. West, Suite 2

Mansfield, OH. 44906-3121

Contact Us

Articles for the district newsletter must be submitted by the 15th of each month and are subject to editing and availability.

Mid-Ohio District Office

410 Park Ave., W. Suite 2
Mansfield, OH. 44906

(419) 522-3881

(419) 522-5485 fax

midohiodistrict@gmail.com

Visit us on the web at

www.eocumc.com/mid-ohio

**Please help us be better
stewards of our resources
and read the newsletter
via email or on the web-
site and let us know to
remove you from the
postal mailing list.
Thank You!**

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
MANSFIELD, OH
44902
PERMIT NO. 348