

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

July 2023



Regrouping in the Wake of Disaffiliation

The Launchpad course has been around since 2010, equipping hundreds of United Methodist new start leaders. Launchpad does not prescribe a set timeline for planting a new church - but flexibly adaptable to multiple scenarios, from mergers to parachute drops, to second campuses to groups coming together in the wake of church disaffiliations. Launchpad 2023 focuses on all of the seasons that occur in the emergence of a healthy new church: Grieving, Discerning, Gathering, Loving/Serving, Visioning, Discipling, and Worshiping.

Launchpad 2023 is specialized around the challenges of forming new churches and fellowships arising from the disaffiliation crisis in the UMC. It is being offered digitally to enable ease of participation without travel, to as many persons as possible, at a minimal cost (\$395 for a team of up to five). Sessions will be held across five consecutive Thursday afternoons, from 4-6:30 p.m., starting on July 20 and concluding on Aug. 17, 2023.

[Learn More & Register Here](#)



Are you on a pilgrimage searching for a new church to call home? You are invited to visit a Lighthouse church near you. These are congregations dedicated to The United Methodist Church that welcome those seeking a new church home.

[Find a Lighthouse church in your area.](#)

United Women in Faith



LIVING THE GOOD NEWS

Reflecting God's Love

Mission u - July 21-22

The theme for Mission u at the University of Mount Union is *Living the Kin-dom: Exploring the Lord's Prayer as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation*. For Jesus, the kin-dom was not simply something to talk about but something we could live and experience. From the Lord's Prayer to the beatitudes to the parables, this good news is at the heart of Jesus' preaching, teaching and ministry.

All women, and girls K-12, are welcome to Mission u, which will begin with dinner on Friday, July 21 and conclude at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 22. All age groups will study the Lord's Prayer and all age groups will come together for meals and worship. This is a wonderful time to encourage kids and youth to learn more about their faith and the importance of relationships in the church.

[Learn more and register](#)

24x7

Emergency Ready



Virtual ERT Recertification Class

The West Ohio Conference will host a virtual Early Response Team recertification training **using Zoom on July 29 from 9a - 1p**. The four-hour course will be taught by West Ohio ERT trainers and is approved by United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Registrants must complete a background check and submit a photo prior to the training to participate. The class is only for West Ohio and East Ohio ERTs who have already completed the eight-hour basic course and need recertification, which needs to be completed every three years. The cost of the training is \$20. If you have questions about this training, please [e-mail Marilyn Grace](#), [Mission & Communication coordinator in West Ohio](#).

[Learn more & register for the recertification class.](#)

Discover... Mission

Meeting for Puerto Rico UMVIM Mission Journey - August 1

Rev. Kathy Dickriede is looking for mission-minded people ages 18-35 for a life-changing experience in the mission field in Puerto Rico January 5-15, 2024. The next online meeting for those interested in being part of the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) team is at **8:30 p.m. on August 1**.

The January 2024 team will do construction work and participate in lots of worship, relationship building, and discussions with young people from Puerto Rico and around the world. Missionaries will travel to the cities, mountains, and beaches of Puerto Rico as they learn and share life together. The cost per person for the trip is approximately \$2,000 and scholarships are available. [E-mail Rev. Kathy Dickriede](#), Connectional Ministries office Missions & Community Engagement director, with any questions about this opportunity.



[Learn more about UMVIM Discover... Mission](#)

EarthKeepers Training Opportunities in October



If you'd like to act on the call to care for God's creation, Global Ministries' EarthKeepers program can help you to make a lasting difference. EarthKeepers is a training program that equips laity and clergy to launch and grow environmental projects in their communities. When you become an EarthKeeper, you receive training in project planning, community organizing, ecotheology, and antiracism. You also connect with a whole community of United Methodists who are passionate about caring for the earth. Back home, you'll receive ongoing project support and technical guidance as you carry out your project. Training will be held October 5-8, 2023 in three locations: Birmingham Alabama, Denver Colorado and Hartford Connecticut. Except for your transportation to the training location, the cost of the program is underwritten by Global Ministries. To learn more and to apply, go to: [EARTHKEEPERS](#)

Nature Connects us to God by Laura Buchanan

God equipped us with five senses to help us discover and better appreciate the natural world - it's up to us to step outside, engage and explore. Being intentional about spending time in nature, and paying attention while we are there, can help us find peace.

Whether you have use of all 5 senses or just 1, or if time spent at your window is the safest way for you to experience nature, God invites you to use any and all your innate gifts to encounter the beauty of creation.

Each year, a new chaplain hits the trail to build relationships and share the love of God through [Appalachian Trail Chaplaincy](#). One chaplain's devotions below and more in his book, "[On the Trail w/Chappy Jack: Devotions for the Path You're On](#)"

Look: Go outside or gaze out of your window. What's the smallest thing you see? The biggest? Take a moment to marvel at God's creativity and your own place in creation. Read Scripture: Psalm 96:11-12

Hear: Begin each day sitting on the porch, listening to the birds and soaking in the quiet stillness of the morning. Read: John 10:27-30

Taste: Pack a simple snack or meal and find a picnic spot. Eat slowly, with intention, and savor each bite. Give thanks for your surroundings, the food and anyone who might be with you. Read: Psalm 23

Smell: Sit outside for several minutes and close your eyes. Take a few deep breaths. What do you smell? Try to identify more than one scent. Read Scripture: 2 Corinthians 2: 14-17

Touch: Plant a seed. Hold the dirt. Get muddy. Care for your new plant over time and touch the leaves. Think about growth cycle and how you might emulate it in your spiritual life. Read: Genesis 1:9-12

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 website and let us know to remove you from the postal mailing list. Thank You!

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