

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

November 2023

Praying for Peace

United Methodists are saddened by the significant loss of life caused by the ongoing violence and we pray for peace in the Holy Land. We continue to pray for those who have lost family members and livelihoods, the injured, for those who perpetuate violence and for World Leaders that they may work for peace, the churches and all religious leaders and for those who work for peace in the region.

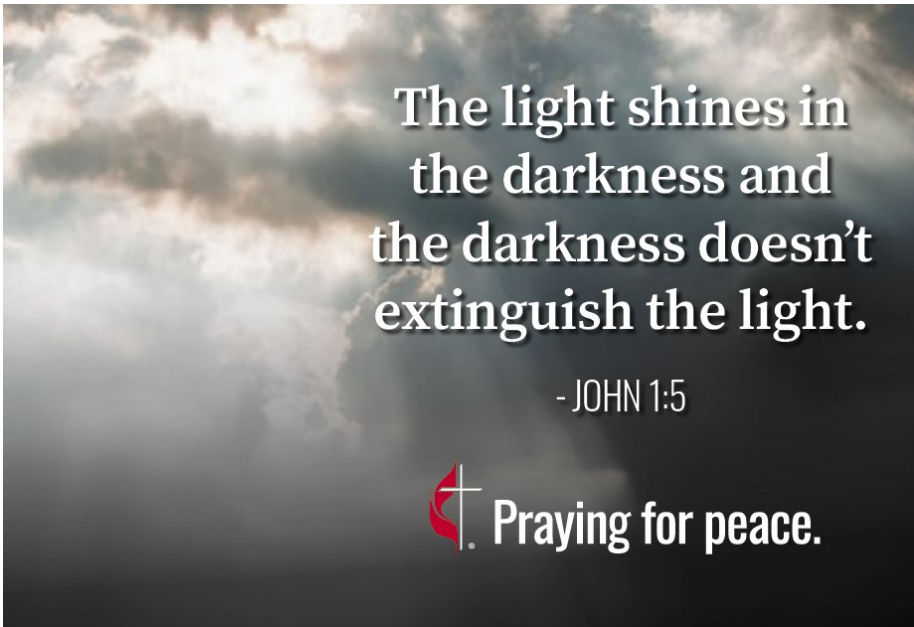
We know the situation is complicated, and we recognize the fear and sense of injustice that is felt, but we call on both sides not to resort to further violence and to engage in negotiation to establish a peaceful solution for all who live in the Holy Land. As Christians, “we believe war is incompatible with the teachings and example of Christ. We therefore reject war as an instrument of national foreign policy.” (2016 Book of Discipline, Social Principles ¶165.C)

UMCOR has awarded an emergency grant to a local partner who used the funds to procure and distribute 300 hygiene kits for internally displaced people in Gaza. UMCOR is working with partners in Israel to provide humanitarian relief there as well.

You can help war-torn Israel and Gaza and donate through UMCOR’s international disaster relief fund #1301 or indicate “Israel/Gaza” on the memo line of your check. This is the same process when donating to natural disasters. Donate online at <https://www.eocumc.com/missions/disaster-response.html> 100% of your donation is sent to UMCOR International Disaster Response.

Your church can also donate to Fund 1301 using the myvanco app. Click below to access <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZEDZ/campaign/C-13T4P>

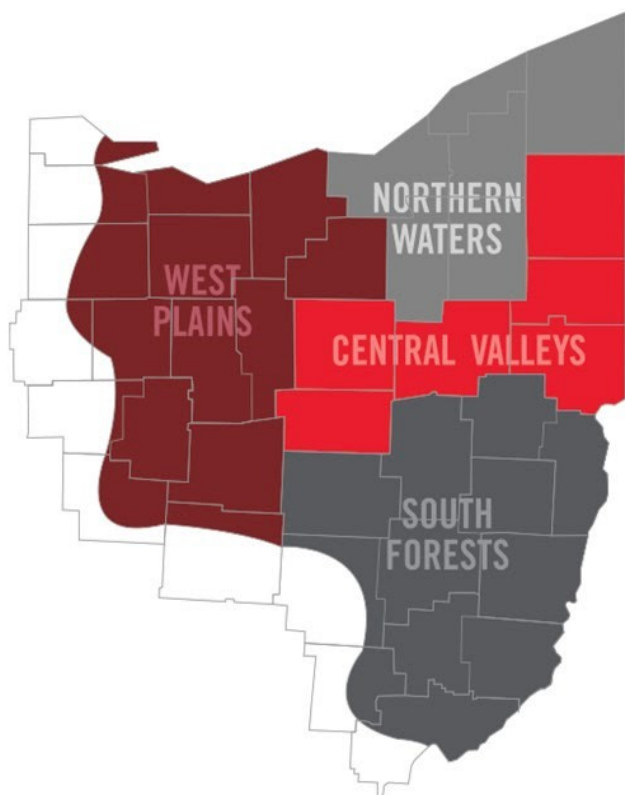
For more UMCOR statements and updates follow the [UMCOR Facebook page](#) or read the latest news at umcmmission.org



The light shines in
the darkness and
the darkness doesn't
extinguish the light.

- JOHN 1:5

 Praying for peace.



EOC Announces District Names

The re-mapping of the four new districts of the East Ohio Conference was announced September 27 and an invitation was extended to submit potential names of the new districts, which were designated as A, B, C, and D in the release. Thank you for your suggestions. After prayerful consideration and discussion with Cabinet, the names of the new districts are: West Plains (A), South Forest (B), Central Valley (C), and Northern Waters (D).

District superintendents will serve together in teams to facilitate ministry by working closer with our local churches offering spiritual leadership and oversight, clergy and congregational coaching, strategic ministry assessment and development, shared-learning opportunities, leadership and ministry resources, and district communications.

Bishop Malone announced the following appointments of the district superintendents as of January 1, 2024.



Rev. Nestor Nazario
West Plains District
Superintendent



Rev. Donna Van Trees
West Plains District
Superintendent Associate



Rev. Kelly Brown
South Forests District
Superintendent



Rev. Laura White
South Forests District
Superintendent

The task of remapping the districts, naming the districts, and appointing the district superintendents takes us one more step closer to the implementation of the four new districts in January of 2024. We have determined the general vicinity of where the four district offices will be located but there is more work to be done and conversations that need to take place before these details are announced. We have begun the work of training district superintendents on the new leadership structure and other training opportunities will be offered for district teams. And the Re-Districting Administrative Team has met and begun the work of identifying all the administrative matters.



Rev. Edgar Brady
Central Valleys District
Superintendent



Rev. Cara Stultz Costello
Central Valleys District
Superintendent



Rev. Bruce Hitchcock
Northern Waters District
Superintendent



Rev. Angela Lewis
Northern Waters District
Superintendent

In the next few months, there will be more information forthcoming about the district structure, leadership, office locations, staffing and more. To help shepherd the process and to help shape the structure and leadership teams on the districts, we will continue to work in collaboration with the newly formed Re-Districting Administrative Team, the executive directors, the Cabinet, the Connectional Ministries office, and the ministry leaders in the East Ohio Conference.

Read the full [re-districting announcement from Bishop Tracy S. Malone](#).

Access the [re-districting pdf](#) for district maps, lists of churches, and more.

HOPE Letters Informational Meeting – November 8

Laity and clergy of the East Ohio Conference are invited to learn more about All In Community, a ministry of the West Ohio Conference that is engaged in creating pathways for churches to connect with men and women in your community who are incarcerated and need hope and restoration. On Wednesday, November 8 from noon until 1:00 p.m. you can participate in an informational meeting to learn more about HOPE Letters.

HOPE (Healing, Opportunity, Presence, and Empowerment) Letters is an Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (ODRC)-approved faith-based reentry mentoring-by-correspondence program. HOPE Letters writers offer encouragement, guidance, and restorative relationships with men and women incarcerated in Ohio's prisons and HOPE Letters groups provide a welcoming presence for the men and women they are corresponding with upon their return to the community.

E-mail [Jami Nathan](#), All In Community Training/Ministries coordinator w/questions. [Learn More Here](#)



This year, Giving Tuesday is happening on November 28. The date is always the Tuesday after Thanksgiving and “kicks off” the Giving Season. It directly follows three major shopping days: Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday. It’s a day set aside that encourages people to Do Good.

GivingTuesday reimagines a world built upon shared humanity and generosity. The global network collaborates to inspire Radical Generosity around the world. Whether it’s making someone smile, helping a neighbor or stranger out, showing up for an issue or people we care about, or giving some what we have to those who need our help, every act of generosity counts, and everyone has something to give.

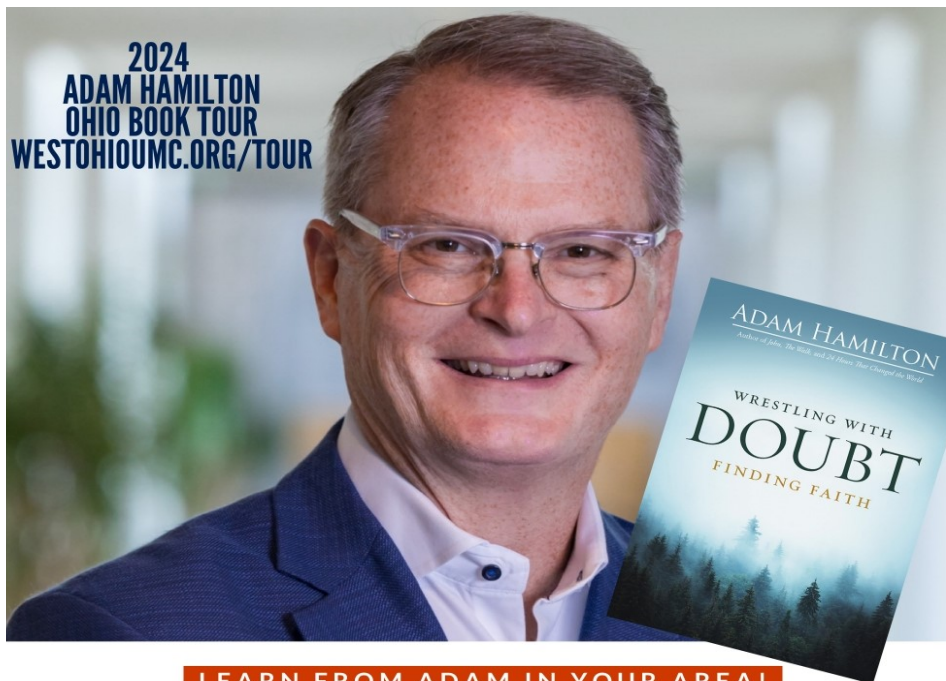
Again, this year, the EOC Board of Missions will match donations of up to \$500 made to [Advances online through the Conference on #GivingTuesday November 28](#). Last year, the conference matched over \$5,000! Plan now to Donate and/or Do Good on November 28.

Christmas Giving Opportunities for East Ohio Churches

There are many charitable organizations that vie for our attention this time of year. While their intentions may be good, East Ohio Missions seeks to develop relationships and partnerships that are healthy and seek justice for the recipients. The Board of Missions encourages all East Ohio Conference congregations to support our Advance mission partners!

We asked all our Advances to share their Christmas wish lists and their respective needs are posted on the sidebar of the Missions & Community Engagement pages of the Conference website. Financial gifts may be made online or sent directly to the mission through their designated conference Advance Fund. If you have questions about Christmas giving opportunities, please [e-mail Melanie Thomas](#), administrative assistant in the Connectional Ministries office.

[View the Christmas wish lists of our Advance mission partners.](#)
[Support the Conference Advances.](#)



LEARN FROM ADAM IN YOUR AREA!

January 16
1-2:30pm Athens
6:30-8pm Cincinnati

January 17
9-10:30am Findlay
1:30-3pm Cleveland

Each stop is 90-minutes with a presentation and Q&A about the book.
Event is free for laity & clergy but registration is required. Books will be available at event.

[Learn more/register for the book tour in EOC area at Strongsville UMC](#)

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

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Contact Us

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

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Thank You!

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