

EOCUMC Mission News 2021-Archived Items

Since some of these items are older, some links may no longer work. [Contact Melanie Thomas](#) if you have any questions about past events.

<https://www.eocumc.com/missions/news.html>

February 15, 2021

Tools for Missions in Local Churches

UMVIM Mission Academy recorded their winter 2021 virtual session and the topic was Local Missions Engagement. It might benefit some of your church and community goals for outreach and mission.

Watch online [here](#), passcode is X&Ng&9Va.

This would be a great tool for a mission's committee to listen to before their next meetings. You'll hear many good conversations and ideas about how to start a local outreach ministry.

Check out [this video series from UMVIM](#) for more mission tools.

February 26, 2021

North Coast of Haiti Mission from Walt Merrill

Have a heart for mission but don't know where or how to begin? Want to be a part of the Great Commission but are unsure of your call? The **North Coast of Haiti Mission (NCHM)** is looking for hearts that are ready to be challenged and changed by the people of Haiti. Our mission is to provide a Christian based education to children in Haiti. Working with five Methodist Schools in the Cap-Haitien Circuit, NCHM has helped with tuition, books, uniforms, teacher salary shortfalls, security gates, internet access, running water, new roofs, building maintenance, and even latrines. Our scholarship program currently supports 11 worthy students who would not otherwise be attending high school due to poverty. Although travel to Haiti is almost impossible now with pandemics and political unrest, this has not stopped us from starting to plan a virtual mission trip to Haiti in June and, with God's help, an actual feet-on-the-ground visit to Haiti by the end of the year. If you have interest in one or both trips or would just like to hear more, please let us know. You can contact me, Walt Merrill, by [e-mail](#) or by calling (440) 328-5832. We are also a current EOCUMC **Advance Special** so it's easy to **make a donation** to NCHM using Fund 9947. Find out more in our [latest newsletter](#).

Covered Bridge Mission in Jefferson

A new ministry and mission is coming to Ashtabula County, Western Reserve District, and East Ohio Conference! The Covered Bridge Mission site is being established out of Jefferson UMC and their district ministry of H2O. They address small home improvement projects that other charitable organizations do not always provide, such as wheelchair ramps. They are looking to host mission teams in 2021. Find out more in [their brochure](#). To send a financial gift use EOC Fund 9975.

March 19, 2021

UMCOR Kit Collection for Annual Conference June 7-13

East Ohio Missions is asking all churches and members to start collecting items for Midwest Mission (MMDC). Since Annual Conference is virtual this year, we will arrange for collection points around East Ohio. Then MMDC will drive through and pick up your donations. Full details are on the [Mission Training and Events page](#), drop-off locations will be announced no later than May 1.

Missions 5K Run/1-Mile Walk June 19

The annual Missions 5K/1-Mile will be held virtually on Saturday, June 19. Participate wherever you are, make it a fundraiser for the mission of your choice, and share on social media using #EOCMissions5K. More details and ideas for hosting a group events can be found on the [Mission Training and Events page](#).

April 14, 2021

Epworth Center Mission Monday Recap by Kimberly Perkins Cheng

I was fortunate to attend the Mission Mondays in March led by Kathy Dickriede at Epworth Center in Bethesda, Belmont County, OH. Located through the parking lot of Bethesda UMC, in the historic Epworth Park (and former EOCUMC Chautauqua), it offers serenity in a woodland setting near a lake in the Appalachian hills.

The group of us who attended learned much about the mission opportunities and the community while working and serving on the grounds doing spring cleaning. A couple facts include that 15% of Belmont County is in poverty, and 40% of the students in the local schools receive free or subsidized lunches. As much of the area is economically depressed, area homeowners have a great need for SOWER outreach work mission teams to come and help with completing home repair and ramp construction projects.

Epworth Center can house teams in on-site cabins in a peaceful and restful setting which curve around a spacious campfire pit nearby the Epworth Center lodge. In fact, as we cleared the grounds of branches and twigs, we were able to enjoy a fire ourselves while we were at work. The 50-year-old cabins are also being renovated, so mission teams are welcome to come help with that work as well. Cabins have three or four rooms that house anywhere from eight to sixteen people, and have a bathroom with a shower. One cabin is air-conditioned. The Epworth Center could also be the location of your next church retreat. The women who prepared a meal for us during our stay were most hospitable and Christlike in their service, which they completed with evident joy as they laughed in the kitchen enjoying their own company. It may be possible to arrange service for one meal during your stay.

Their Project Manna Choice Pantry hosts a food pantry with fresh produce, as well as Holiday baskets, gifts, and other necessary items. The pantry also needs volunteers periodically as well as various donations. Another program is being developed to provide people with Garden Soxx, an above-ground garden box to grow their own food and participate in a summer sack lunch program for area school children. Epworth Center is also known for its community support through Bridges Out of Poverty workshops, partnerships with a local group home and correctional institute, and serves as an emergency warming/cooling shelter.

For more information, or to donate online, visit the [Epworth Center website](#). Epworth is also an East Ohio Health and Welfare Agency, and you can [donate through the conference](#) using Fund 9140. Director Darla Schnegg will also be happy to take your call at (740) 484-4705.

UMCOR Mustard Seed Migration Grant Program

UMCOR's Mustard Seed Migration Grant program will grant up to \$2000 each to 50 United Methodist churches in the United States to engage in service with refugees and migrants in their own cities and towns. The link to additional information and the brief application can be found [here](#), application deadline is May 16.

May 14, 2021

Midwest Mission Collection Update

We're less than a month away from our annual summer collection for MMDC! Have you started collecting items yet? Updated item list and drop-off locations are listed on the [Missions Training & Events page](#).

#StillInMission May

Join moderator Tammy Kuntz, NCJ UMVIM Coordinator, for the next #StillInMission on May 27 at 12:00 p.m. It's your chance to learn about and talk to UMC Missionaries from around the world! The event is free, but you do need to **register in advance**.

Virtual Mission Journeys this Summer

We have 2 virtual mission journeys on our schedule for this summer: Guatemala starts June 13 and Liberia starts June 23. Both virtual journeys are free, but you need to register in advance. Full details and registration info can be found on the **Mission Journeys page**. Keep checking there as we add more virtual and in-person journeys to the list!

Guatemala details and registration

Liberia details and registration

North Coast of Haiti Mission Journey Recap

Four lay members recently traveled to Dondon, Latannerie, and Cap Haitien in Haiti. Tim Persons wrote up a great recap of their time in Haiti, you can read the full report **here**.

Mission Trip to Lake Charles, LA: October 18-22, 2021

Strongsville UMC is partnering with area UM churches on a long-term Recovery UMVIM Journey to Lake Charles, LA for Hurricanes Laura/Delta relief. Beginning in late August 2020, Southwest Louisiana was devastated by two hurricanes that followed the same path just six miles apart, one being the strongest hurricane in Louisiana in over 100 years! Eight months later and the region is still in massive disarray with many people displaced from their uninhabitable homes, some even living in their cars. While our original mission trip date last January was postponed due to COVID restrictions, the area is now ready to accept help from mission trip teams.

The work week is October 18-22, 2021. Travel to and from will be during the weekends prior and following the work week. The price is yet to be determined, however our church host has indicated they are able to work with us to make it as affordable as possible given our travel distance. The only skill required for this outreach is a strong desire to reach out to these folks in the name of Christ and bring them hope. There are many places and ways for you to serve! The mission team is also seeking people with mission trip experience, especially work team leaders with the gifts of leading the on-site project teams. If you are interested in joining the team to help restore lives in Lake Charles or have questions, please contact Becky Zatezalo at (440) 476-8248 or via **e-mail**. Becky is on staff at Strongsville UMC and grew up in Lake Charles with family and friends still in the area. This devastation hits close to home for her and she would love to have you join us in bringing love to the people of Southwest Louisiana.

July 28

UMVIM Journey to Michigan | October 17-23

The Michigan Conference is continuing to rebuild and recover from severe floods in 2019 and Rev. Kathryn Adams will be leading a team to Detroit October 17-23 to help renovate flood damaged homes. Construction skills are helpful but not required. For more info, [e-mail](#) Rev. Adams.

Other long-term UMVIM recovery projects are listed online [here](#).
Other upcoming trips can be found on our [Mission Journeys webpage](#).

October 20

UMC Declares Covid-19 Vaccination a Missional Priority

A United Methodist leadership body declared increasing vaccinations against COVID-19 a denomination-wide "missional priority." The Connectional Table's move aims to make the fight against the coronavirus as much a focus as previous denominational initiatives to combat malaria and Ebola. The leadership body also hopes to bolster current United Methodist efforts to counter misinformation and get more shots in arms.

The EOC Health & Welfare Committee and the Board of Missions will be discussing how our conference can support this mission to increase the vaccination rate in East Ohio and reduce the spread of this horrible virus that's affected so many lives.

[Read the full article online.](#)

UMC Creation Justice Workshops start November 1

To build and strengthen your Annual Conference Creation Justice impact be sure to attend these free, online workshops. For inspiration, information, and ideas to move ahead with vision and energy, invite your current team and potential recruits. The UM Creation Justice Movement will be offering a series of seven online workshops focused on building and strengthening Conference-level Creation Care ministries and teams.

Workshops are free of charge and will be offered via Zoom starting mid-day Monday, November 1.

Details and Registration

Upcoming Mission Journeys

Please be sure to check the [Mission Journeys page](#) for upcoming virtual and in-person

trips. If you have a trip you'd like to publicize, [contact Kathy Dickriede](#) and we will add it to this list.

November 16

Giving Tuesday and Conference Advances

Giving Tuesday comes the Tuesday after Thanksgiving (November 30 this year), and The Board of Missions is encouraging you to consider a financial gift to one of our Advances. Giving to our conferences Advances has dipped in recent years and the pandemic has hit some of them very hard. Every little bit helps! Here's just a few of the missions and ministries you can support:

- ACCESS Ashland Emergency Shelter | Fund 9953 | [Flyer](#)
- Blue Rose Mission, Mansfield | Fund 9940 | [Flyer](#)
- East Ohio Camps | Fund 9899 | [Flyer](#)
- Christian Children's Home of Ohio, Wooster | Fund 9977 | [Flyer](#)
- C.H.O.A.I.D.S, Haiti | Fund 9922 | [Flyer](#)
- Covered Bridge Mission, Ashtabula Co. | Fund 9975 | [Flyer](#)
- Flat Rock Homes & Care Center, Flatrock | Fund 9174 | [Flyer](#)
- Gifted Gaits, Quaker City | Fund 9919 | [Flyer](#)
- Heart 4 the City, Akron | Fund 9941 | [Flyer](#)
- Interchurch Social Service of Knox Co. | Fund 9196 | [Flyer](#)
- Journey's End Ministries, Newcomerstown | Fund 9931 | [Flyer](#)
- Martha's Cupboard, Fresno | Fund 9964 | [Flyer](#)
- North Coast of Haiti Mission, Haiti | Fund 9947 | [Flyer](#)
- Project Hope for the Homeless, Lake Co. | Fund 9143 | [Flyer](#)
- South Street Ministries, Akron | Fund 9195 | [Flyer](#)
- Urban Mission Ministries, Steubenville | Fund 9107 | [Flyer](#)
- West Side Community House, Cleveland | Fund 9933 | [Flyer](#)

Details on how to give through the Conference Advance can be found **online**. Visit the [Advance Special webpage](#) for the full list of Advances. Kick off the Advent and Christmas season of giving by supporting a mission with connections to East Ohio!

Advance Special 2022-23 Application Now Available

If you are part of a mission or ministry with ties to the UMC, you may be eligible to become a conference Advance Special. Becoming an Advance raises awareness of your mission/ministry throughout the conference and creates an easy way to receive donations from churches and individuals. Applications are due by January 15, 2022. More details are available on the application process can be found on the [Ministries and Mission webpage](#). [Contact Melanie Thomas](#) if you have any questions.

Advance Special Application 2022-23

Farmer to Farmer article from Pryde

On October 10 Bucyrus UMC celebrated 200 years of Methodist presence in the Bucyrus, Ohio. In 2011 Bucyrus UMC was created from the successful merger of First Methodist UMC, Grace UMC and Epworth UMC. That same year, Bucyrus UMC established a sister church relationship with St. John United Methodist Church in Harrisburg, Liberia. When the Epworth UMC pews were donated to St. John UMC in Liberia, Bucyrus UMC members Sharon Hahn and Nathan Brause traveled to Liberia with a Farmer to Farmer United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) team. Hahn reassembled the pews in the St. John UMC sanctuary and Brause taught farming and trained individuals on how to make repairs and maintain farming equipment.

The relationship has grown over the years and is still growing. Bucyrus UMC member Sally Ruth, a local educator, partnered with school superintendent Amy Taylor-Sheldon to create a drive aimed at collecting 200 pairs of shoes that have adjustable on the top and sides to fit growing children. The collection barrels are full and waiting to be shipped to Liberia in time for Christmas. Bucyrus UMC also provides scholarship funds for at-risk elementary school students in the community. The money pays for the students' mandatory school uniforms, pays school fees, and buys supplies.

We invite Churches, groups, and individuals with a burden for making Disciples to join a ministry that is making a difference in lives and the Harrisburg community. If you have questions about the Farmer to Farmer ministry [e-mail Pryde Bass](#).

[Support Farmer to Farmer \(EOC Advance # 9026\)](#).

December 9

Virtual Mission Journey to Cameroon January 22 & 29

Join UMVIM NCJ for a virtual mission to Cameroon on January 22 and 29, 2022! Share in the discussion and learning with the leadership team of the Cameroon Mission and Ebenezer Community UMC. A mission journey to Cameroon is planned for October 15-31, 2022. This is a great opportunity to begin to build relationships!

Details and Registration | [Flyer](#)

Mission Journey to Montana July 5-15

Join Rev. Tammy Kuntz on a mission journey with the Blackfeet UM Parish in Browning,

MT. This trip is open to young adults ages 18-30. Cost is \$1,400 and scholarships are available.

Details and Registration | [Flyer](#)

Virtual Early Response Team (ERT) Training January 14-15

West Ohio Conference will offer Basic UMCOR ERT training online in January. During ERT training you will learn best practices for responding in disaster situations. Training includes how to interact with survivors, help survivors recover belongings, tarp roofs, and safely remove debris.

Details and Registration

UMVIM Team Leader Training March 20

Enjoy a day of fellowship & conversation to learn best practices for leading a mission team locally, nationally, or internationally. Registration is free, lead by Rev. Kathy Dickriede.

Details and Registration | [Flyer](#)

2021 Annual Conference Special Offering

The Annual Conference special offering totaled \$11,077 this year and was split three ways between Board of Ministry Young Clergy Initiative Scholarships, UMCOR General Advance for Missionaries Around the World, and the Bishops Discretionary Fund. Thank you to everyone who donated! East Ohio Missions would also like to thank everyone who collected items for Midwest Mission and/or donated to conference Advances for Giving Tuesday! We don't have all the details yet but look for an update in the next e-news.