

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**.