



FROM THE DS

“Taxes” have been on my mind lately. April is sometimes thought of as “tax month.” I spent a couple of days working on my taxes. I like to do them myself rather than farm them out. Well, maybe not “like to,” but prefer to. I’ve been doing my own taxes all my adult life. The capper was the first year I did my taxes as a partner in an LLC consulting business and, as a precaution, took my tax return to a CPA friend for review before submitting it. He looked it over and offered me a job!

Shortly after I started as pastor at the last church I served, I talked about how much tax collectors were despised in the New Testament times, adding, “It’s probably not much different today.” After the service, I was greeted by one fellow who introduced himself with, “Hi! I’m John. I work for the IRS.”

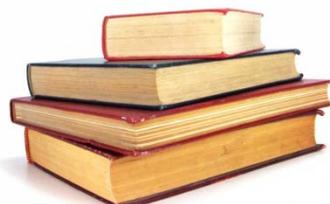
Some Pharisees came to Jesus once and asked him if it was right to pay taxes. His answer was indirect (smart man!): “Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and give to God what belongs to God.” He actually went on to affirm that there is a good reason to pay taxes, but used this as a teaching opportunity to remind us that we have a stewardship responsibility regarding all that God gives to us, which is namely everything!
(Matthew 22:17-21)

As Christians, we are called to be good citizens, and paying taxes is among our responsibilities as citizens. But Christians are ultimately citizens of heaven who know that everything we have comes from God. We are stewards of what God entrusts to us, and thus are called upon to invest both our money and ourselves into things with eternal value.

By the way, you might remember that on another occasion when someone asked Peter if Jesus paid the temple tax (Matthew 17:24-27), Jesus asked Peter. "What do you think? From whom do the kings of the earth collect taxes—from their own sons or from others?" Peter answered, "From others." Then Jesus said, "Then the sons are exempt. But so that we may not offend them, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours."

So I’ll ask you to excuse me now; I’m going fishing.

BOOKS LOOKING FOR NEW HOME



Dr. Call has a large number of books that need new homes now that he is retiring. He will bring these to District Conference (**Sunday, April 28 at 3:00 PM at Roscoe**) where they will be available free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis. Come early for the best selection!

DISTRICT OFFERING TO BENEFIT JAMES HUMPHREY CAMBERSHIP FUND

Regarding our faith development, studies report most people make a commitment to Christ before their senior year. This was true for the Rev. James Humphrey, former Three Rivers DS. He often recounted the stories of how camp life impacted his decision to live for Christ. What a blessing that Rev. Jim had the foresight to set up a fund to assist tomorrow's youth. This fund will allow children to have life-changing experiences and create opportunities to encounter Christ for themselves. I encourage you and your churches to prayerfully consider investing into the spiritual development of children in your congregation and community. *[Make checks payable to Three Rivers District with Humphrey Campership in the memo.]* This investment will pay dividends that last for eternity. Promotional camp material will be at the District Conference (April 28 at 3 PM at Roscoe UMC) or visit the [EOC Camps Website](#).



SERVANT LEADERS TO BE RECOGNIZED



Marilyn Wyler, of Fresno UMC and one of Three Rivers' first Certified Lay Speakers, will be recognized at the District Conference as our 2019 Lay Servant of the Year. She will be joined by Pastor **Pamela Lashley** (Adamsville UMC) who credits Lay Servant Ministries as foundational to her start into pastoral ministry.



Both ladies will be honored during Annual Conference during the **Lay Servant Gathering** where their contribution to servant leadership will be celebrated. For those who are interested in attending this special luncheon at Lakeside on June 10, tickets are \$12 and can be purchased [online](#). If you are interested in opportunities as a Lay Servant in East Ohio [visit their webpage](#) or contact Three Rivers Director, [Mandy Armstrong](#). You can learn more about Lay Servant Ministries at the [United Methodist Discipleship website](#).

SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS FELLOWSHIP OF THE EOC



Spiritual direction is the practice of sacred, one-on-one conversation that nurtures awareness of and response to God's presence in your everyday life. As companions on the journey of faith, a trained spiritual director and their directee turn their attention toward the presence of God. A spiritual director does not offer solutions to problems, but rather helps nurture spiritual practices that are most meaningful as they work toward a more balanced and meaningful spiritual life. People meet with a

Spiritual Director for a specific purpose, to complete a set of spiritual exercises or for faith exploration. There is usually a fee. No one is turned away due to lack of funds. You may use your continuing education or reimbursable funds. In order to learn more about spiritual direction in East Ohio (including a listing of Certified Spiritual Directors), check out the East Ohio Pastoral Care tab on the EOC web page: <http://eocumc.com/pastoralcare/spiritual-direction.html>



Connecting Young People to God, the Church, and the World

Youth Annual Conference 2019

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.

Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

A backdrop of fun and fellowship will be intertwined with devotions and business throughout the weekend. Saturday's concert will include the drumming duo **A1 Chops** demonstrating you can be anything you dream of, no matter your circumstances or your upbringing. Spoken word artist **Egypt Speaks** who has shared the stage with bands like Switchfoot, Mandisa, and TobyMac, will bring God's word through her unique gift. **Jacob Finn**, contemporary Christian worship artist, will deliver a positive message at the highest quality of musicianship. This year's keynote speaker, **Stephanie Caro**, has been involved in ministry for "a long time." Her humorous, straightforward style is very engaging and informative.

Registration is open until May 24, 2019 -- \$51 Registration Only, \$81 w/meals (walk-ins \$71 no meals) **Housing** is typically arranged by your church leader but Lakeside housing is available on a first come, first serve basis at a cost of \$24 +Tax/person. Contact YACHousing@lakesideohio.com or 419-798-4461 x 230

To register for YAC '19 visit East Ohio's Young People's Ministry website at <http://eocumc.com/yac/index.html> If you have questions, call 1-800-831-3972 x 132

CLERGY EXECUTIVE SESSION

On May 20, 2019, East Ohio clergy will meet at Ashland University's Convocation Center as a visible and tangible expression of commitment to foster relationships and live into their clergy covenant. The day begins with fellowship at 8 AM followed by worship and business at 9 AM. The day will end at 3 PM after a time of learning sessions. Clergy should [register online](#) by May 1. Cost is \$15 and includes lunch. **All commissioned and ordained clergy are expected to be in attendance for the full day.** Bishop Malone encourages all clergy under appointment to participate.



THREE RIVERS GATHERING AT LAKESIDE

Monday, June 10 from 5:30 – 7:00 PM

Lakeside UMC (450 Central Ave)

All clergy, lay members and their families are welcome.

Sandwiches and light refreshments will be served.

This will be another opportunity to visit with Dr. Call before his retirement or to meet our new District Superintendent, Rev. Ed Fashbaugh

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2019



When we gather at Lakeside Chautauqua June 10-13 for AC 2019, we will highlight the joy of making a commitment to take up residence in God's love and extend that love to others. John 15:9-15 will guide the worship services, while business sessions will reinforce the EOC vision to equip and support pastors, congregations and faith communities to grow in their capacity to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. [Click here to register](#). The deadline for AC registrations is **May 10**. Contact Joy at the district office if you need assistance registering online.

Check-in Times: (where you receive your badge & voting card) will be in the Chautauqua Room of Fountain Inn
Sunday, June 9 2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. **Monday, June 10** 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Special Events; Time of Worship & Celebration during Annual Conference 2019:

- Sun, June 9 6:45 p.m. – Prayer & Praise Service in Orchestra Hall
- Mon, June 10 10:30 a.m. – Service of Commemoration and Holy Communion in Hoover Auditorium
- Mon, June 10 7:30 p.m. – Celebration of Retirement in Hoover Auditorium
- Tues, June 11 4:30 p.m. – Service of Commissioning and Ordination in Hoover Auditorium
- Wed, June 12 7:00 a.m. -- Missions 5K Run/1 Mile Walk in front of Orchestra Hall [Register/Flyer](#)
- Wed, June 12 9:00 a.m. -- Clergy Spouse Breakfast & Marketplace (until noon) Wesley Lodge
- Wed, June 12 6:30 p.m. – Ministry Fair, Connecting through Mission and Conversation
- Friday June 14 9AM – 5PM: **Early Response Basic Training** (Fountain Inn) [Registration](#) | [Flyer](#)

Credit Union Providing FREE Pool Access for AC

Compliments of the United Methodist Financial Credit Union, East Ohio Clergy and Lay Delegates will receive admission privileges to [The Grindley Aquatic & Wellness Campus](#) during Annual Conference 2019. At check-in your registration packet will contain a pass on which you will write the names of your family members that will be kept at the pool house for admission.



Pool rules require children under age of 12 to be accompanied by an adult. You must be 14 years or older to use the equipment in the Wellness Center. You can visit their website for hours of operation and other rules.



The UMF Credit Union's full range of banking and financial services are available to all East Ohio UM staff, clergy, churches and their members. The UMFCU staff will be

available to answer your questions at the Green Gable's Women's Club (end of Walnut St. near Central Park) during Annual Conference on Mon – Wed from 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM (and also on Mon and Tues from 3-5 PM). You can also find them at the Ministry Fair on Wednesday evening. **They have recently added new services to benefit their members.** Membership is easy. Just open a share savings account and deposit a minimum of \$25. Reach them at their North Canton office (800-831-3972) or visit them online at <https://www.umethodist.com/>

MISSIONS 5K RUN / 1-MILE WALK

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12 AT 7:00 A.M.

Sponsored by the Conference Board of Missions

All proceeds benefit East Ohio Conference Mission Partnerships

Walkers, runners, strollers, and pets on leashes are welcome!

Cost: \$20 is the minimum suggested donation

See how much money you can raise for this ministry by having people sponsor your walk or run.

You can also [donate online](#) or bring funds at the time of registration (available at Hoover Auditorium between business sessions. Make checks payable to: *East Ohio Conference UMC with '5k Fund 9936' in the memo.*

T-Shirt: Bring your own t-shirt (BYOT) from a previous run, a mission project, or church event.

The Challenge: To have 200 participants in celebration of 200 years of Global Ministries! We are trying to have at least one runner or walker from every East Ohio United Methodist church. District Challenge Trophies will be awarded to the (1) district with the highest percentage of churches participating, and (2) district that raises the most funds. Pre-register online at <https://missions5krun1miwalk.eventbrite.com>



FLOOD BUCKET DROP-OFF LOCATION



The Midwest Mission and Eastbrook Mission will have trucks at the **South Gate Parking Lot** (off SR 163) **Sunday afternoon through Tuesday morning**. Donations of Cleaning Buckets, Personal Dignity Kits, and Schools Kits will be collected and delivered as needed. These may look like ordinary buckets to you, but to thousands of people around the world they declare HOPE and LOVE in the Name of Jesus Christ! You can also make a monetary donation! Checks should be payable to: *East Ohio Conference UMC, memo 'Fund 9944 Mission Trucks'* For a complete list and instructions for buckets and kits [click here](#) or contact the district office.

UNITED METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF OHIO

The UMHSO annual spring meeting will be **Saturday, May 4, 2019, at Otterbein University, Westerville** from 8:30 AM – 3 PM. The day begins with registration and breakfast followed by devotions and a presentation of the history of Otterbein. There will also be a variety of historical presentations, break-out sessions and a time of 'show and tell' from local United Methodist historians. The cost for Saturday's event is \$25 (UMHSO members) \$30 (non-members). Optional activities are planned for members wishing to arrive the night prior. Contact the [Three Rivers District office](#) for a registration form (740-622-8880) that includes all details for this event. Registration deadline is April 24.



DID YOU MISS IT?

Don't miss out on the latest United Methodist news updates, local church celebrations and special district events. [Contact the district office](#) (740-622-8880) if you would like to receive a digital copy of **THE CURRENT** newsletter or be added to the Three Rivers weekly e-news, "**What's Happening?**" Don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#).

APRIL 2019

Unfailing love and truth have met together. Righteousness and peace have kissed! Truth springs up from the earth, and righteousness smiles down from heaven. (Ps. 85:11)

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|----------------|--|----------------------------|---|---|
|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 UMW Spring Mtg ----- Re-Imagine Charity Event |
| 7 | 8 Superint'dcy Committee 5-7:00 PM | CABINET | | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Palm Sunday | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 Holy Thursday | 19 Good Friday District Office closed | 20 |
| 21 EASTER He's Alive & I Am Set Free | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 TARRP PANEL 8 AM – 3PM Pleasant Grove Zanesville (more info below) |
| 28 Three Rivers District Conf. 3:00 PM @ Roscoe UMC | 29 Regional Cabinet 1:30 PM CABINET | 30 | TARRP EVENT Keynote Speaker: Bishop Tracy S. Malone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn how small membership churches can engage in faithful lay ministry. • Also how the decisions made at General Conference 2019 will be lived out. Cost is \$25/person (\$20 with groups of 3 or more) RSVP by April 15, 2019. Contact district office for brochure | | | |

MAY 2019

I am writing to remind you, dear friend – that we should love one another. This is not a new commandment, but one we have had from the beginning. 2 John 1:5

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----|--|
|  | | | 1 | 2 National Day of Prayer | 3 | 4 |
| | | | CABINET | | | |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 Office Closed | 15 Office Closed | 16 | 17 | 18 New Appointment Transition Workshop North Canton Grace 9:30 - 12:30 p.m. |
| | | Admin Asst Retreat | | CABINET | | |
| 19 | 20 Clergy Executive Session Ashland Univ. REGISTER | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 Memorial Day Office Closed  | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | SUMMER HOURS Begin June 1st Mon-Thurs 9AM – 4PM Closed on Fridays |
| | | CABINET | | | | |



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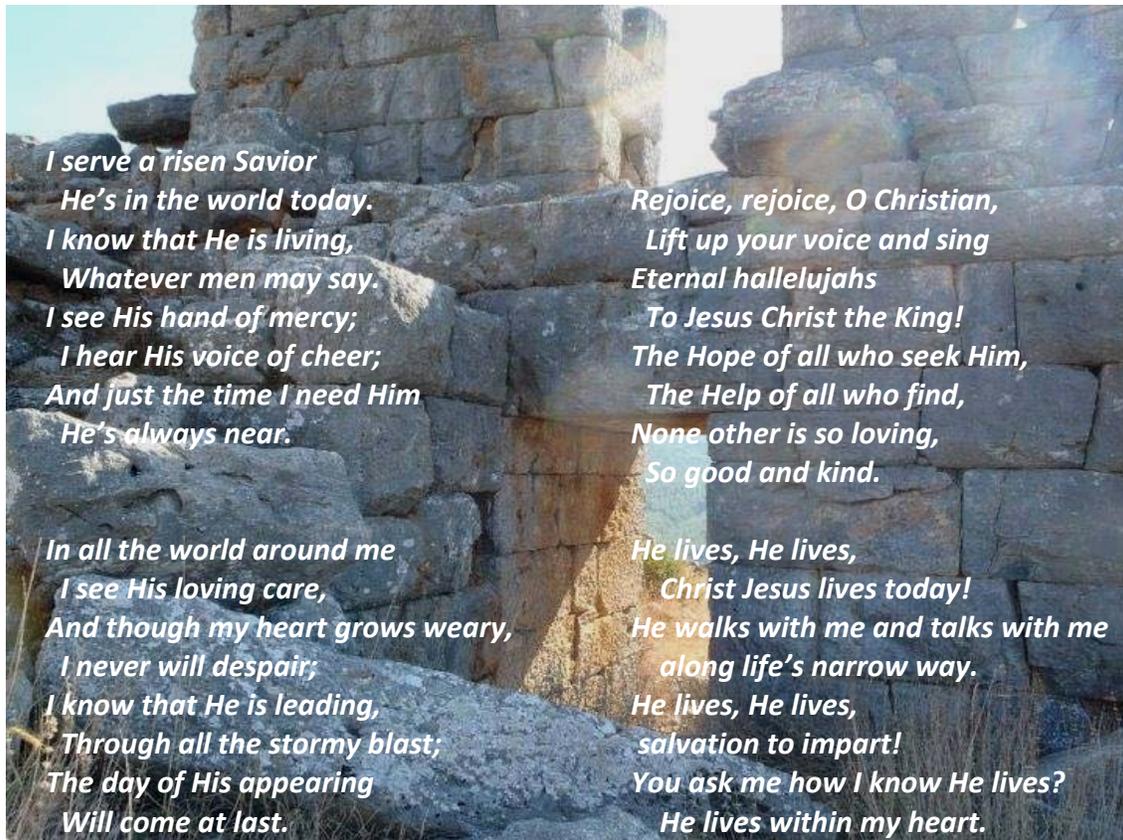
APRIL 2019
3 Rivers Current

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