



October is here. And although it is just getting started, at the end of this month we will once again be confronted with Halloween. Only once in all my years of ministry did I ever mention Halloween in worship, so I suppose it is a little odd that I should mention it now.

Did you know that Halloween is now in second place in holiday consumer spending, trailing only Christmas? The Halloween apparel and candy industry estimates that about a third of all American adults will don a costume this Halloween, about third will attend a Halloween party, about half of all households will put Halloween decorations in homes and yards, a quarter of us will visit a “haunted” house, and nearly three-quarters of the population will dispense candy to trick-or-treaters. We will collectively spend about six billion dollars doing so.

I want to confess to you that when our kids were growing up, after the first few very early years we did not allow them to participate in Halloween activities. It was our conviction at that time as their parents that Halloween involved some kind of thinly-disguised evil, what with the dressing up as witches, monsters, ghosts and goblins. In fact, I have a book on my office shelf even now that has to do with the pagan origins of Halloween, coming from the Druids and some of their questionable practices connected with the dark side.

The origins of Halloween are actually somewhat obscure, and the historical evolution of the holiday is a complicated and contested one. But this much seems clear: What we today call Halloween began as an agricultural festival in ancient Celtic society called *Samhain* (Gaelic for “summer’s end”). It was held at that point in the year when the powers of the sun to provide light, growth, and warmth were waning, and the months of darkness and killing frosts were encroaching. *Samhain* was an in-between time – between the light and the darkness, between the warmth and the cold, between the productive abundance of summer and the killing power of winter, between life and death, between this world and the next. *Samhain* was a time when the curtain between the natural and the supernatural was considered to be thin, and the spirits of the dead and the creatures of the other world were thought to roam the earth.

Eventually, as Europe was Christianized, *Samhain* became tied calendar-wise to the Christian church’s November 1 observance of “All Saints Day,” which was also sometimes called “All Souls Day” or “All Hallows Day,” and thus the evening before became known as “All Hallows Eve” or Hallowe’en. What may be important about Halloween’s history is not that the festival was pagan in origin, but that it emerged out of that social and personal anxiety that exists on the border between summer and winter, between life and death, between that which is fully visible in the light of day and that which lies hidden in the shadows. At its roots, Halloween allowed people to draw close to that which they most feared: to the dead, to their own death, to the powers of darkness, and for this one night, at least, make a light of it.

Some may think of Halloween as “Fright Night,” but in the church this willingness to come close to death and be unafraid is called the gospel and discipleship. By virtue of our acceptance of God’s call upon our lives, a call into the Christian walk, we know that the transition from this life to the next may be daunting, perhaps even frightening to some, if only because of what we *don’t* know about it, but we also know as Christians that it is a transition which finds its ultimate fulfillment in the arms of a loving, merciful, gracious God.

Dr. Bradley B. Cole

THREE RIVERS YOUTH LEADERS FALL MEETING:

Thursday October 11th at 10 am at Hannah Marie's in Coshocton (139B 3rd St, Coshocton 43812).

This is a time for youth leaders to connect, update each other about our respective ministries, and pray for one another. We will be planning our meeting dates for the coming year. If you have not been able to participate in this network of youth leaders, make plan to join us this year. We will be alternating of meeting between morning and evening times to accommodate our different schedules. If you cannot join us in October but wish to participate, please [email Chasity Opphile](#) with your interest and schedule

WORKING TOGETHER TO END WORLD HUNGER BY 2030

The East Ohio Conference Youth Service Fund (YSF) will once again sponsor **Project Feed**. Partnering with *Rise Against Hunger* (www.riseagainsthunger.org) this event offers teens an opportunity to pack meals that are sent to developing nations and places where natural disasters occur. In June, Rise Against Hunger presented East Ohio the Golden Gong Award because we have packed over 250,000 meals in four years!

This is the fifth year that we have held an event. Our goal is to pack 50,000 meals! Doors open at 1:30 p.m. and the day concludes at 4:30 p.m. There are two locations.

- Sat, November 10 at the Newcomerstown West Elementary (315 Beaver St, * 43832)
- Sun, November 11 at the Wadsworth Middle School (150 Silvercreek Rd, * 44281)



You do not need to pre-register for this event. It costs the leadership committee \$25 per person to pack these meals, so to help cover cost there is a request for \$10 per person at the door (or \$5 with a canned food). The canned food is donated to a food pantry in the local community. Visit projectfeedevent.org for more information. Working together we can help *Rise Against Hunger* accomplish their goal of ending world hunger by 2030.

HealthFlex – Workshop Explains 2019 Benefits

Open enrollment is approaching (first part of November). You **MUST** select any premium 'buy-ups' or other coverage electives at this time or you will only receive the basic H2000 plan. In 2018 there was 3 plans to choose from. For 2019 there are six plans.

- **H2000** is provided
- **H1500, C2000 & B1000** are 'buy up' options for participants
- **H3000** is a 'savings' option for HSA and/or pay vision & dental
- **C3000** is a 'savings' option to pay vision & dental

Workshops will be approx. 2 hours in length.

Wed, October 3 @ 9:30am -Ashland First UMC (220 Sandusky St., Ashland, 44805)

Thurs, October 4: @ 9:30am -Christ UMC (648 Oak St., Newcomerstown, 43832)

@ 1:30pm -Cambridge First UMC (641 Steubenville Ave., Cambridge, 43725)

A video of the workshop will be available on the conference website during the week of October 8

MINISTRY FOCUS: KILLBUCK UMC

Contributed by Pastor Ken Smailes

“Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.” --Philippians 2:1-2

Paul’s words to the church at Philippi resonated this summer in the Killbuck community as they looked beyond doctrinal differences to unite in ministry to the glory of God and as a blessing to the community of about 950 people. Looking for a more effective approach to traditional Vacation Bible School, the Killbuck United Methodist Church, the Killbuck First Church of Christ, Grace Pointe Community Church, and Killbuck Valley Christian Church collaborated on a summer-long children and youth ministry called “Wild Wednesdays.” Every Wednesday began with a free lunch provided through the Ohio Department of Education’s summer program followed by activities and Bible stories organized by the churches. The afternoon included guest speakers and ended with a 30 minutes reading session at the library. “It was a beautiful partnership,” Pastor Ken Smailes says. “Children were able to get library cards and participants kept a journal of books they read and the program themes from each week’s activities.” Some 60 kids were reached over the two months, which concluded with an “End of Summer” party.



As part of the planning, the churches agreed to provide ALL the school supplies for the 235 children at Killbuck Elementary School where the per capita income is 30% below the state average. Each church served as a collection point for typical student and classroom supplies. Posters were placed throughout the community and dozens of individuals, groups and businesses donated financially toward the effort. On August 21, the churches united in prayer for students, staff and the schools, and delivered supplies valued at \$10,200 and presented the principal with a \$400 gift card. **Each student also received a hand-signed note of encouragement from a member of the one of the four churches welcoming them back to school.**



“The teachers were overwhelmed with the outpouring of support, and some questioned: ‘Why are you doing this?’ Smailes says. “To which we responded: ‘because God cares, and so do we.’” The churches also encouraged the teachers with gifts after Labor Day. “Wild Wednesday” programming is moving to Sundays to continue throughout the school year. And, the Killbuck churches are exploring other joint ventures.

If your church has a story to tell send it to the Three Rivers office to be considered as part of the next newsletter.



REGISTRATION - POSTMARK BY OCTOBER 15, 2018
EAST OHIO CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
ANNUAL CELEBRATION -- October 26-27, 2018

Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church
89 Canyon Rd. SW, Carrollton, OH 44615
330-627-2219

Friday evening – Registration @ 6:15 p.m. Snacks will be provided.

Program 7–9:00 pm. Keynote speaker: **Laura Burns**, Ohio Field Organizer, Mom’s Clean Air Force

Saturday morning - Registration @ 9:15 a.m. Continental breakfast

Program begins at 10:00 am in the sanctuary. Keynote speaker: **Rev. Lu Ann Youngman**,
Ordained Elder in the EOCUMC and author of *Just a Girl*.

Saturday afternoon - Lunch provided. Business meeting @ 1:00 pm.

Leadership development for District Officers @ 2:00 pm. Celebration ends @ 3:00.

Lodging: Days Inn (Behind Ponderosa) 1111 Canton Rd. (Rt. 43), Carrollton, OH 44615 330-627-9314

Mention that you are with UMW. Rooms are reserved at \$89.

Directions: Carrollton is south of Canton on Rt. 43. From Days Inn, take Canton Rd. south (Rt. 43). Turn right at the square (S. Lisbon St.) and at the top of the square take Rt. 332 S. Go (about 4 mi.). Turn left onto Canyon Rd. SW. Church will be about 1 mile on the left.

Please fill out one form for each person attending. Send your units reservations together in one mailing.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ District: _____

Email: _____ Church Unit: _____

Any Special dietary needs: _____ Attending: Friday ____ Saturday ____ Both ____

of Adult Reservations ____ @ \$16 per adult = _____

Childcare is available for children 12 years & under: Note that a sack lunch and beverage is needed for each child

Circle days for child care: Friday Saturday Both

Name(s) & Age(s) of Children: _____

of Children(ages 0–12) _____ @ \$4 per child per day = _____ Total Enclosed \$ _____

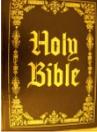
Make check payable to: EOCUMW. Mail with registration to: Linda Groves, 1135 Lake Shore Dr NW, Carrollton * 44615

Contact Person _____ Phone _____

Name of Voting delegate (one delegate from each local unit) _____

Voting cards will be at the registration table.

OCTOBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 (cc)	2	3	4 <div style="text-align: center;">  BRING YOUR BIBLE TO SCHOOL DAY </div>	5	6
		CABINET				
7 World Communion Sunday	8 (cc) Lay Ministries Committee 6:30 p.m. District Office	9 (cc)	10 (cc)	11 (cc) Charge Conf @ 7:00 p.m. @ WEST LAFAYETTE Plainfield/Orange, Isleta/Fresno, NCT Christ, Calvary & Kings	12 Did you send in your Fall-for-All Clergy registration?	13 Charge Conf @ 9:30 a.m. @ WEST UNION Irish Ridge, Wolf Birmingham, Kimbolton, Tipp. & Pl. Grove & Lakeland Parrish
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		CABINET				
21 Laity & VIM Sunday Knox County Crop Walk	22 (cc) Leadership Committee Mtg @ 2:00p	23 CABINET Charge Conf @ 7:00 p.m. @ PRAIRIE CHAPEL Roscoe, Warsaw & C. Lewisville, Keene, Grace Nellie, N. Guilford,	24	25	26	27 Charge Conf @ 9:30 a.m. @ MILLERSBURG Killbuck, Blissfield, Moreland, Baltic, Sugarcreek, Holm'vle/MtHope
28	29 (cc)	30 (cc)	31 (cc)	FALL-FOR-ALL CLERGY RETREAT: November 12-14 - Carlisle inn in Sugarcreek The Rev. Dr. John Ed Mathison will focus on 1) Servant Leadership 2) Visioning & Implementation. RSVP by Oct 12. Cost depends on room preference and meal plan. Commuters cost is \$40 plus meals. Complete details can be found in the flyer.		

NOVEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Lay Servant Certificates for those who completed a Lay Ministry Course in March 2018 will be available at your respective charge conferences.</p>				<p>1 Charge Conf @ 7:00 p.m. @ DANVILLE Amity, Jelloway, North Liberty, , Wesley Chp, Howard All Saints' Day</p>	2	3
<p>4 Day Light Savings Turn back your clocks</p>	<p>5 Superintend'cy Meeting 5:00 p</p>	<p>6 dCOM interviews</p>	<p>7 Charge Conf @ 7:00 p.m. @ UTICA Brandon/LockFed, Liberty Chp, Beulah, Hopewell, Ebenezer, Gambier Epw.</p>	8	9	<p>10 Charge Conf @ 9:30 a.m. @ MULBERRY Fredericktown, Waterford/Salem, Batemantown, Berlin, S. Vernon, GreenVally, Gay St</p>
<p>11 International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church Veterans Day</p>	12	13	<p>CABINET</p>		16	<p>17 CCOM</p>
<p>18 Charge Conf @ 3:00 p.m. @ LOUDONVILLE Lakeville, Bigelow, Perrysville, Nashville</p>	19	20	<p>21 Office Closes at noon</p>	<p>THANKSGIVING BLESSINGS</p>		24
25	26 (cc)	27 (cc)	28 (cc)	29	30	<p>Dec 1 TR Clergy Christmas party watch for details</p>



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RUNGS ON THE LADDER OF ACHIEVEMENT

100% -- *I did*
90% -- *I will*
80% -- *I can*
70% -- *I think I can*
60% -- *I might*
50% -- *I think I might*
40% -- *What is it?*
30% -- *I wish I could*
20% -- *I don't know how*
10% -- *I can't*
0% -- *I won't*

Whatever you do, do it from the heart for the Lord and not for people. You know that you will receive an inheritance as a reward. You serve the Lord Christ. Colossians 3:23-24 CEB

[taken from the West Union UMC September 2018 newsletter]