

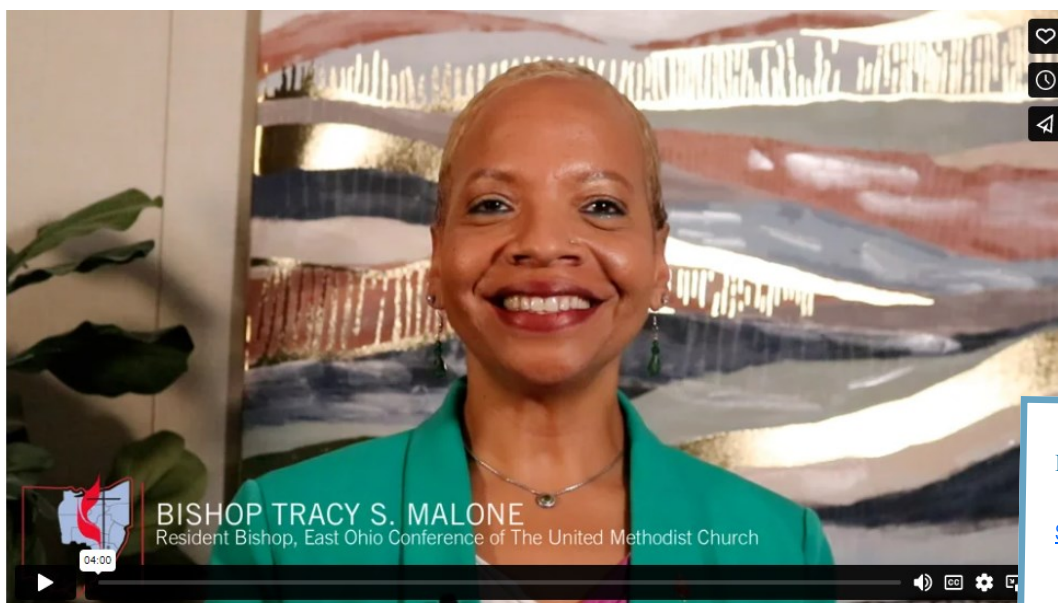
# Western Reserve Circuit Writer



Western Reserve District Newsletter

April 2023

## Stewardship and Apportionments



*Click the image to link to the Bishop's video message.*

A Budget Message from Conference Council on Finance & Administration:

*Hope in the Seasons of Change: God's Grace and Steadfast Love Abound!*

Seasons of change are all around us as we journey in 2023. Change is happening and we find ourselves both excited and apprehensive about what tomorrow holds. And yet, in the seasons of change are moments of transformation, rebirth and renewal. We marvel at the faithfulness of a loving God who guides us always, amidst both prosperity and challenges.

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Western Reserve District of The United Methodist Church  
440-352-2083 [WRDistOffice@eocumc.com](mailto:WRDistOffice@eocumc.com)  
[www.eocumc.com/WesternReserve](http://www.eocumc.com/WesternReserve)

Changing seasons bring both excitement and apprehension. Being United Methodist allows our local churches to touch lives both within our local communities and across the world. Friends, though the journey may seem difficult and uncertain, we see so much for which to be thankful. **God's grace and steadfast love abound!**

We give thanks for the gift of 665 local churches serving the mission fields across the East Ohio Conference in 2022. A total of 436 local churches paid 100% apportionments which included 11 churches that disaffiliated in June 2022. Of our current United Methodist Churches in East Ohio, 425 paid 100% of apportionments in 2022. The percentage of churches that paid 100% or more was 64%. We also give thanks for the 140 local church congregations that increased their giving to apportionment in 2022.

The seasons of change continue to challenge us as we assess the reality of some churches having not made any apportionment payments in 2022 and others that paid a smaller percentage of their apportionment payments than they did in 2021. As the seasons of change cause local churches and pastors to ask the hard questions, we give thanks that the desire to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world continues to echo forth from our East Ohio Conference. We know with absolute certainty that **God's grace and steadfast love abound!**

The pay-in rate from local churches to our East Ohio Conference budget was 78.4% in 2022 compared to 79% in 2021. The \$8 million contributed towards the mission and ministry of East Ohio in 2022 was 6.5% less than in 2021. Every dollar contributed is a gift enabling the good news of Jesus Christ to be shared. **God's grace and steadfast love abound!**

The 2022 Conference budget was reduced by 5.3% so that local churches would have more available funds for their respective mission fields. Our Conference Council on Finance & Administration (CCF&A) continues to monitor trends and examine budgetary needs as we begin this quadrennium. The postponement of General Conference until 2024 continues the challenges of navigating the financial implications of denominational changes that may come our way. We realize the coming years will bring both challenges and opportunities for the Conference to maintain the mission of making disciples amidst uncertainties of what the future holds.

Yes, change is inevitable, but in the seasons of change we find opportunity for transformation. We will continue to strive for transformation as we review financial trends, monitor our giving patterns, and adjust our Conference budget as necessary in the coming years. But we rest assured that **God's grace and steadfast love abound!**

For the 18th year, our East Ohio Conference paid 100% of our General Church apportionments. The General Church funds support global efforts of the Church through seven general funds: World Service, Ministerial Education, Episcopal, Black College, Interdenominational Cooperation, Africa University, and the General Administration Fund. As United Methodists we believe and support the saying, "the world is our parish". **God's grace and steadfast love abound!**

The faithfulness of our local churches continues to be the focal point of transformative ministry. As we journey together in 2023, we pray that you will be encouraged by the continued movement of God's Spirit guiding us in the uncertainties, decisions, and mission opportunities enabling all of us to share God's love and witness to a world hungering for justice, peace, and compassion. **God's grace and steadfast love abound!**

Be encouraged always,

Rev. Dan Bryant  
Chairperson, CCF&A

Vera Rebrovich, CPA  
Executive Director, Financial & Administrative Services

# #BeUMC

## — [ Oasis Churches ] —

The Western Reserve District is working on identifying churches that are staunchly United Methodist and are willing to receive members from churches that are disaffiliating. We have had a first informational meeting, but it is not too late to join. Next meeting is April 17 by Zoom. The District Missions Committee is making \$1000 in seed money available to Oasis Churches to help fund outreach and new member activities. For more information, call Lisa at the district office.

### Upcoming Dates:

4/22: Lay Servant Training	6/17: YAC Recharge
4/29: Spring District Conference	6/21: pastor move-out day
5/12: Suffragist Re-enactment	6/22: pastor move-in day
6/7: Clergy Session	7/14: Lake County Captains Game
June 8-10: Annual Conference	July 22-29: Youth 2023: BOLD

## —[ Spring District Conference 4/29/2023 ]—

**Spring District Conference** will be Saturday, April 29, 2023 at Mayfield UMC, gathering at 9:30. Business begins at 10 and we should be finished by 11 am.

We will have **two** ballots to elect members-at-large at the Spring District Conference. The first ballot will elect additional members to attend **this year's** annual conference (June 8-10, 2023). We can elect up to 11 additional members for our delegation. Pastors, please email Lisa with nominations before 4/10 and they can be pre-printed on the ballot. We will still take nominations from the floor.

We also need additional nominations for **2024 members-at-large**. Right now we have 21 persons nominated from charge conference paperwork. We should elect a pool of 45. So, again, pastors, please email Lisa with nominations before 4/10 or come prepared to nominate from the floor.

### Where's the DS?

Rev. Brady will be:

Apr. 1: Gageville and W. Farmington	Apr. 18-20: cabinet
Apr. 2: preaching at Thompson	Apr. 22: Harpersfield and Monroe
Apr. 6: preaching at St. John AME	Apr. 25: Board of Ministry
Apr. 12-15: BMCR conference	Apr. 26: district missions committee
Apr. 17: Oasis churches meeting	Apr. 27: dCOM
Apr. 17: Windsor	Apr. 29: Spring District Conference

## —[ Remember your 2022 Audit Report ]—

If your church has not sent a copy of your church's 2022 Audit Report to the District Office, please do so ASAP. Email is fine.

## Events Around the District

### Suffragist Parlor Talk Re-enactment and Dinner

The Painesville United Methodist Church, the Downtown Painesville Organization, and the Lake County Historical Society would like to invite you to join us for a Suffragist Parlor Talk Re-enactment and Dinner

\$25 Adults / \$20 Students (18 and under)

Friday, May 12, 2023

Painesville United Methodist Church  
71 N. Park Place

Dinner: 6:00 pm

(Catered by Flavors Around The Square)

Chicken a la King

Fried chicken

Mashed potatoes

Egg noodles

Salad

Dinner rolls

Water/Tea/Lemonade/Coffee

Re-enactment Presentation: 7:30 pm

Reservations Must be Made by

Friday, April 21, 2023

Tickets are limited to the first 120 guests



Click on the image to register.



Painesville United Methodist Church  
presents...

# Concert Series

2022-2023

**Jerry Marshall, Organ Feature**  
*Part of Ohio Open Doors 2022*  
Sunday, September 18, 2022 @ 4:00 pm

**Colin MacKnight, Organ Concert**  
Saturday, October 22, 2022 @ 7:30 pm

**Tina Bergmann & Bryan Thomas,**  
**Hammered Dulcimer and Double Bass**  
Sunday, November 20th, 2022 @ 4pm

**Lakeland Civic Orchestra**  
Monday, December 12, 2022 @ 7:30 pm

**Burning River Brass**  
Thursday, December 15, 2022 @ 7:30 pm

**Brass Band of the Western Reserve**  
Saturday, February 25, 2023 @ 7:30 pm

**Fine Arts Association Choir**  
Sunday, March 26, 2023 @ 4:00 pm

**Dennis Scott, Vintage Silent Films**  
**with Organ Improvisation**  
Friday, April 21, 2023 @ 7:30 pm

No charge for admission. A free-will offering will be taken.  
For more information, please visit [www.pumconline.org](http://www.pumconline.org)



Hope Ridge window. Photo credit: Erin Avram



**Friday, July 14, 2023 — Save the date!**

Western Reserve District goes to the ballpark! We are reserving a block of tickets to the Minor League Baseball game on one of their Faith Nights. Tickets are only \$12 each and we will offer free tickets to our incoming pastors and their families that are new to the district. Plan to come out and have a good time!

## Conference News and Events

### Registration for Annual Conference 2023 is Now Open; Will Close End of Day May 12



Annual Conference 2023 is Thursday, June 8 through Saturday, June 10 at the John S. Knight Center in Akron. This year's theme is *Faith Hope Love ...* and the worship services, mission and ministry celebrations, business sessions and learning component will be guided by the words of 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3:



Registration opened on Monday, April 3 and will close at end of day Friday, May 12. Again, this year, **registration is online only** and requires an e-mail address that is not shared by anyone else who will need to register for Annual Conference. **If you do not register by May 12, you will not receive a voting device when you check in.**

Click here for the Annual Conference website for information on all services, speakers, events, lunches, etc. [2023 East Ohio Annual Conference \(eocumc.com\)](https://eocumc.com)



## YOU ARE INVITED TO A GRANT WRITING WEBINAR!

*Grant writing tips for non-profit missions and ministries.*

*\$5 minimum donation will support the Urban Mission food pantry in Steubenville, OH.*

**Wednesday, April 19 from 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

**Fine Tuning Your Funding Search: Grants Prospecting  
&**

**Wednesday, May 3 from 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

**Persuasive Proposal Development: Intro to Grant Writing**

More details and registration at

<https://GrantWritingWebinarEOC.eventbrite.com>

or scan the QR code with your phone.

Contact Rev. Kathy Dickriede, EOCUMC Connectional Ministries  
Director of Missions and Community Engagement, with any  
questions: [kdickriede@eocumc.com](mailto:kdickriede@eocumc.com)



In Partnership with



# PERSPECTIVES: CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION

*"The earth is the Lord's  
and all that is in it."*  
- Psalm 24:1a (NRSV)

**SATURDAY, APRIL 22 | 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

Check-in begins at 9:00 a.m.

*Perspectives: Caring for God's Creation* is an event designed to inform you, your church, and your community how to respond to our current climate realities. Experts and local organizers will share their perspectives offering insight on how we can live into a more ecologically equitable and sustainable world for all.

The whole Earth is God's good creation and we have been granted stewardship of it. We, as people of faith, have responsibility for how God's creation is used – and need to accept our role in how it has been abused. It's time to rise and meet our stewardship duties through acts of loving care and respect.

## BREAKOUT SESSION TOPICS AND SPEAKERS

### Climate and Hunger

Rev. Nick Bates, executive director, Hunger Network in Ohio

### Climate and Racism

Bishop Marcia Dinkins, executive director, Ohioans for Sustainable Change

### Climate and Refugees

Patrick Kearns, executive director, Refugee Response

### Ecotheology 101

Dr. Tim Van Meter, associate professor, Methodist Theological School in Ohio

### Intergenerational Climate Care

Rev. Crystal Paul-Watson, author, *Harmony Creation Care Curriculum*

### United Methodist EarthKeepers

Barb Dawson and Claire Jenson, East Ohio EarthKeepers

## UMC OF BEREA

170 Seminary St.  
Berea, OH 44017

Cost: \$10, includes lunch  
(options available for dietary needs)

## REGISTER AT

[www.eocumc.com/eventregistration](http://www.eocumc.com/eventregistration)



**Keynote  
Speaker**

Dr. Tim Van Meter, associate professor  
and coordinator of Ecological Initiatives,  
Methodist Theological School in Ohio



**East Ohio Conference**  
The United Methodist Church



**EAST OHIO CONFERENCE  
MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES**



**PERSPECTIVES**  
A Multicultural Ministries Event of the East  
Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church

The East Ohio Conference and Multicultural Ministries invites you to join us on Earth Day April 22, 2023 for a day of learning about how we can care for God's Creation. Register at: [https://caring\\_for\\_gods\\_creation.eventbrite.com](https://caring_for_gods_creation.eventbrite.com)

# Re:New

Imagining New Ministries in  
New Ways with New People

REGISTER AT:  
[www.eocumc.com/eventregistration](http://www.eocumc.com/eventregistration)

Join clergy and laity colleagues and gain  
insight on new ways your ministries can  
reach new people in your community.

## April 29

### FAITH UMC

300 9<sup>th</sup> St. NW  
North Canton, OH 44720  
Cost is \$10, includes lunch

#### TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

##### Messy Church

*Rev. Carrie Antozak & Lisa Richards*

##### Dinner Church

*Pastor Keith Brown*

##### Children's Faith Formation

*Kathy Schmucker*  
Camp Read-A-Lot  
Sunday Morning Ideas

##### Theater & Ministry

*Tammy Palermo & Rev. Mikayla Doecker*

##### Online Discipleship

*Rev. Craig Moeck*

##### Portico Online Learning

*Rev. Beth Ortiz*

##### All In God's Image Curriculum Resources

*Corinne Dunn*

## RE:NEW SCHEDULE

9:00 - 9:30 a.m.

9:30 - 10:00 a.m.

10:00 - 10:45 a.m.

Check-in and gather

Keynote Presentation and  
Panel Discussion  
Workshop 1

10:45 - 11:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

12:15 - 1:15 p.m.

1:15 p.m.

Workshop 2

Workshop 3

Lunch as a Dinner Church

Closing



**East Ohio Conference**  
The United Methodist Church

**CONNECTIONAL  
MINISTRIES**





### **Every Summer Has a Story — Make Camp a part of your story in 2023!**

Want a chance to tour the sites, talk to the staff, and see what is being offered for Summer Camps 2023? Join us on the following dates.

**Camp Asbury:** Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

**Camp Wanake:** Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. (includes Resurrection Egg Hunt)

**Camp Aldersgate:** Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Do those dates not work for you? Contact the site directly and set up your own visit.

Aldersgate – [info@campaldersgate.org](mailto:info@campaldersgate.org) – 330-627-4369

Asbury – [info@campasbury.org](mailto:info@campasbury.org) – 330-569-3171

Wanake – [info@campwanake.org](mailto:info@campwanake.org) – 330-756-2333

### **Aldersgate, Asbury and Wanake are looking for Summer Staff**

Our summer program requires a great number of qualified staff to be successful. We are looking for outstanding Christian women and men for summer staff positions. We are looking for counselors, lifeguards, program staff, food service, administration and maintenance. Go to [www.EOCsummercamps.org](http://www.EOCsummercamps.org) and click on the “Staff & Volunteer” tab for more information. Or contact the camps directly:

Aldersgate – 330-627-4369

Asbury – 330-569-3171

Wanake – 330-756-2333

**[Learn more and register for Summer Camp 2023.](#)**

Western Reserve District Campership application can be found at <https://www.eocumc.com/westernreserve/pdf/Campership.pdf>

# Upcoming Youth Events



## RECHARGE

OHIO YAC 2023

EAST OHIO UMC

### Youth Annual Conference Recharge Rally on June 17 at Camp Wanake

All youth entering grades 6-12 in the fall are invited to Camp Wanake for Youth Annual Conference (YAC) 2023. The theme is *Recharge* and the focus scripture is Matthew 11:28. Conference Council of Youth Ministries (CCYM) is planning a full day of worship, games, hiking, food, and fellowship. Space is limited to 150, so register your youth groups soon!



**YOUTH 2023 | BOLD: Being Ourselves. Living Different.**  
**Daytona Beach, FL Tuesday, July 25 - Friday July 28**

Every four years, youth from throughout The UMC have gathered for four days of discipleship, fun, and fellowship at the YOUTH event. The event is filled with interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service opportunities, and fellowship time. Adult leaders who bring youth to our event can expect inspiration, support, and chances to authentically experience what it means to be part of the Methodist and Wesleyan family. YOUTH 2023 will be an especially important year for you and your youth to be a part of this gathering. COVID-19 restrictions have limited youth ministry opportunities over the last two-plus years. YOUTH 2023 is a chance for your church to again experience cutting-edge speakers, amazing artists, and broaden your youth's understanding of what they and their church are capable of!

Click on either of the images above for more information or to register.

## Mentor UMC Treasurer (part-time)

The person in this position is responsible for the financial administration of the church by maintaining accurate financial records, ensuring proper accounting & distribution of funds, and providing timely reports as required and requested. The Treasurer serves the members of Mentor UMC as the primary contact person among congregational members, community members, and business affiliates relative to the financial matters of the church. The Treasurer will work with coworkers, congregation members, volunteers, and other Mentor UMC leaders.

The Treasurer shall exercise any and all powers delegated to him/her by the Lead Pastor. The Treasurer will contribute to a positive working atmosphere in a team-based setting that supports the Church's mission. The Treasurer will be dealing with private matters and must maintain confidentiality at all times.

**\* Part-time position - minimum 24 hours a week**

Learn more about this position by contacting Mentor UMC @ 440-255-3496  
To apply: send resume to [jobs@mentorumc.org](mailto:jobs@mentorumc.org)

## — [ Want even more news? ] —

You can subscribe to the East Ohio Conference E-News or read archived editions by clicking [here](#). Archived editions and the subscription box can be found in the right hand column. E-News is a bi-weekly publication of the EOC.

UM News is the official news gathering agency of the UMC. You can find its page [here](#). You can also subscribe to their [Daily Digest](#) on breaking news that affects the church, or the [Friday Digest](#), a weekly summary.



Hope Ridge United Methodist Church is seeking to fill two nurture/discipleship positions.

### **1) Children's Ministry Area Coordinator - # RidgeKidz Leader**

Part Time – Exempt Position (September – May) Reports to Pastor

#RidgeKidz is Sunday School for children K-5. Classes take place during 10:30 worship.

#RidgeKidz operates from September to May on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> (5<sup>th</sup>) Sundays

\$500.00 per month ( Sept. - May )

#### **Basic Requirements**

- Pass a background check administered by Hope Ridge office.
- Must possess a genuine and demonstrable love of children.
- Open to learning and constructive criticism
- Able to maintain professional conduct and personal practices as found in the Hope Ridge Employee Handbook
- Ability to sit or stand for extended periods of time.
- Must be able to crawl, stoop, kneel, or crouch in order to interact with children.
- Must be mobile to include ascending and descending stairs.
- Must have reliable transportation.
- Ability to work independently without supervision.
- Adherence to Hope Ridge Child Protection and Safe Sanctuary policies.

#### **Specific Requirements**

- High School Graduate plus proven experience with children.
- 2-5 years creating, editing, presenting Christian children's curriculum.
- 2-5 years teaching Children's Sunday School
- Demonstrated administrative skills.
- Proficiency with MS Office products; Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook

#### **Responsibilities**

- Recruit, train, and schedule volunteers to assist with teaching.
- Set up, lead session and reset the room.
- Order supplies and materials as necessary
- Communicate at least bi-weekly with parents re; scheduling, activities, curriculum, etc.
- Research and select appropriate Church School curriculum for ages 5-11
- Work with pastor and Nurture Chair to develop creative and meaningful #Ridgekidz classes and activities.
- Monitor hardware/software needs in the #RidgeKidz ministry area.

#### **Work Schedule**

- Sunday mornings from 9:30 – 12 noon and special services/holidays as necessary
- Attendance at 8:45 worship, special services as necessary as well as Ash Weds, Holy Thurs., Good Friday, Easter, Christmas Eve, and Christmas day.
- Attend staff meetings as necessary (Zoom or in person)



Hope Ridge United Methodist Church is seeking to fill two nurture/discipleship positions.

## 2) Nursery Coordinator / Caregiver

Part Time Sundays 8:30 - Noon and occasional special services

\$55 per session Reports to Pastor

### Qualifications

- Experience in caring for children between the ages of 0 to 4
- Minimum 18 years of age
- Satisfactory completion of CPR training for infants and children
- Successfully pass a background check
- Must be able to lift & move objects weighing up to 35 pounds.
- Must be able to bend and reach from the floor to waist and sit on floor.

### Responsibilities

- Adhere to Child Protection Policies.
- Provide age-appropriate care to include feeding, changing diapers, assistance with toileting.
- Maintain a safe environment & clean environment, clean toys and remove trash.
- Hold or sit with and cheerfully interact with children through games, stories, play and/or prayer.
- Maintain attendance records.
- Stay until the children are secured with parent/guardian as listed on registration form.
- In the event of an emergency, notify the parent via the communication system
- Maintain professional conduct as well as appropriate personal practices and boundaries as found in the employee handbook while demonstrating love for children along with an appreciation of parental concerns.
- Assist with #Ridgkidz when there are no children in the nursery.

To apply for either position, or for more information email [hopeoffice@hoperidge.com](mailto:hopeoffice@hoperidge.com).