

# Western Reserve Circuit Writer



Western Reserve District Newsletter

August 2023

## 2023 Consultation/ Charge Conference Information

As in previous years, **pastoral consultations** will be at the district office in the mornings and early afternoons and **SPRC consultations** will be in the evenings. See the next page for the schedule.

Please turn all forms in by email (if possible) **two weeks before** your scheduled consultation or charge conference. All forms can be found on the conference website forms page: [East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church \(eocumc.com\)](https://www.eocumc.com) Remember that you must first save the document to your computer and then reopen it before working with it. Do not work in a browser tab.

**ALL** charge conferences will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2023.

- **10:30am:** Geauga, Portage, and Trumbull County churches at Middlefield First UMC
- **2:00 pm:** Ashtabula County churches at Jefferson UMC
- **4:30 pm:** Lake County churches at Mentor UMC

If anyone needs a refresher or is new to filling out charge conference forms, I am happy to walk you through them. **Good news: if there have been no changes since last year, you do NOT need to fill out either the Church Biography or Trustee forms.**

### Inside this issue:

<a href="#">Ch. Conference Info.</a>	1
<a href="#">District News and Events</a>	2
<a href="#">Conference News and Events</a>	5
<a href="#">Classifieds</a>	11

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)

# District News and Events

## Western Reserve District 2023 Pastor and SPRC Consultation Schedule

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Date → Time ↓	September 12, 2023 (forms due 8/28/23)	September 13, 2023 (forms due 8/28/23)	September 14, 2023 (forms due 8/28/23)
09:00 am	Bill Graham	Bev Wrobel	Jennifer Lam
10:00 am	Rich Thewlis	Ivy Smith	Karen Hollingsworth
11:00 am	John Bramley	Steve Stultz-Costello	Kris Patt
01:30 pm	Sandi Dennis-Greenberg	Tammy Palermo	Jim Szakacs
5:00 pm	Southington		Mentor Plains
6:00 pm	Nelson/Windham		Willoughby & North Mentor
7:00 pm	Garrettsville		Hope Ridge
8:00 pm	<b>Portage Faith</b>		<b>Mentor</b>
	September 19, 2023 (forms due 9/5/23)	September 20, 2023 (forms due 9/5/23)	September 21, 2023 (forms due 9/5/23)
09:00 am	Elgan Reynolds	Cathy McIlvaine	Will Applebee
10:00 am	Scott Walsh	Jack Childers	Linda Bradley
11:00 am	Jim Winkler	Karen Cico	Jason Hockran
01:30 pm	Kimmy Farone		
5:00 pm	Shoregate		Gustavus
6:00 pm	Willoughby Hills		Windsor/Colebrook
7:00 pm	Perry		Orwell
8:00 pm	<b>Painesville</b>		<b>Andover</b>
	September 26, 2023 (forms due 9/11/23)	September 27, 2023 (forms due 9/11/23)	September 28, 2023 (forms due 9/11/23)
09:00 am	David Miller	Betsy Schenk	Jody Baker
10:00 am	Lenore Robinson	Lizzie Weed	Paul Wilson
11:00 am	Randy May	Russ Ham	Beth Wilterdink
01:30 pm	Preston Watkins	John Germaine	Jill Scott
5:00 pm	Ashtabula	Cherry Valley	Middlefield
6:00 pm	Park	Amboy	Mayfield
7:00 pm	Chapel	New Leaf/ Bulah/ Monroe	Lighthouse
8:00 pm	<b>Geneva/Harpersfield</b>	<b>Jefferson/ Leon</b>	<b>Chardon</b>

The **host church** for each day's SPRC consultations is listed in bold.

Pastoral consultations will be at the District Office, with an option for Zoom. Please let Lisa know if you want to meet by Zoom. [WRDistOffice@eocumc.com](mailto:WRDistOffice@eocumc.com) or 440-352-2083 (text or voice)

*Please* note the deadlines listed for the forms to be returned to the District Office at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

## Where's the DS?

Rev. Brady will be:

On renewal leave for the month of August. Please contact the office if you have a need and Lisa will contact the DS who is covering for Rev. Brady.

## Upcoming Youth Events

**August 6th:** Canoe/Kayak Outing at Camp Hi Canoe & Kayak in Hiram  
1:30 pm start, end time TBD, **MUST RSVP** by August 1st. Talk to your youth group leader for more details (coming soon)

**August 13th** at Mayfield UMC — 2-4 pm

**August 26th** at Willoughby UMC — 1:30—3 pm

### Upcoming Dates:

**8/7-15:** District Office **Closed**

Lisa will be on vacation but will check voicemails and emails.

**9/12:** consultations begin

**10/14:** charge conferences

## Save the date!

The Western Reserve Fall Lay Servant Training will be held on **Saturday, September 23, 2023** at Middlefield First UMC from 8 am—6 pm. The Basic course will be offered as well as Advanced courses on Polity and Pastoral Care. The book for the polity course is:

*The Method of Our Mission* by Lacey C. Warner; and the book for the pastoral care course is: *Lay Pastoral Care Giving* by Tim Farabaugh.



### GOD PROVIDES A MEAL

Volunteers of Windham United Methodist and Nelson United Methodist prepare a free meal on July 28, 2023. Currently 142 families receive a balanced meal on the last Friday of a month. Photo credits: Pastor Sandi Dennis-Greenberg

### Church sees signs of renewal even as exits rise

By Heather Hahn | UM News

At the end of June, [a United Methodist News review](#) has found that U.S. annual conferences had approved the exit of 6,181 churches with property. That translates to about 20% of U.S. congregations. About 80% of U.S. United Methodist congregations - or eight in 10 - remain in the denomination, and many longtime church observers see reason to hope that the tide of disaffiliation is starting to ebb.

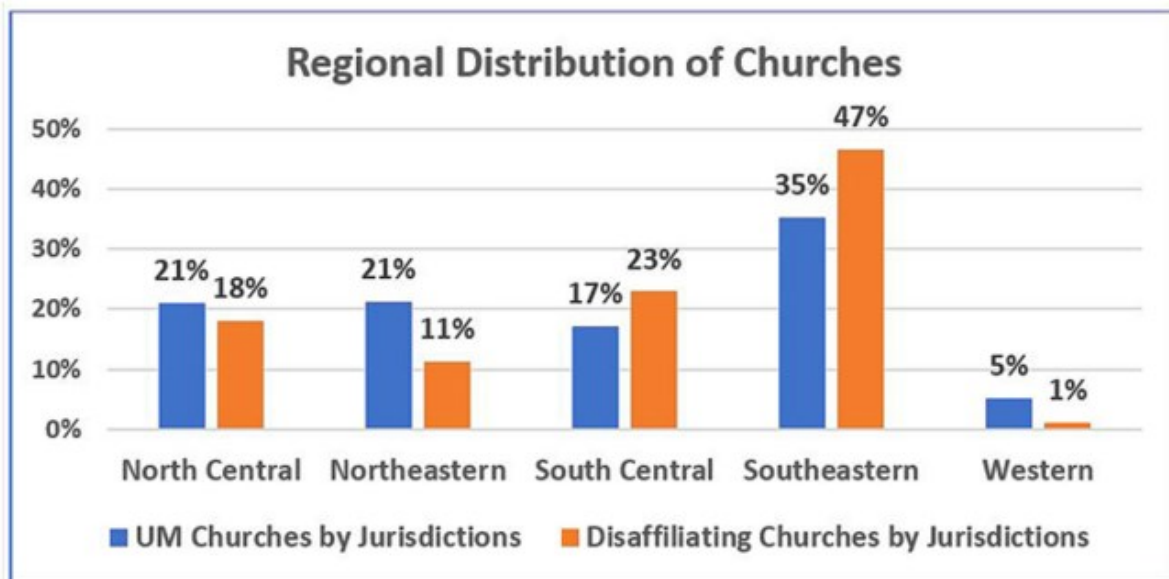
[Jesus likened his disciples to vine branches](#) that need trimming to flourish, and many United Methodists also see the potential that the current pruning of anger and infighting will enable the church to bear more fruit.

Lifelong United Methodist Pat Luna said she left the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference feeling encouraged. "The people who are staying in The United Methodist Church are excited and fired up and ready to move towards the future where we believe God is leading us," said Luna.

The Rev. Kim Goddard told the Holston Annual Conference that she and other district superintendents who have been on the frontlines of administering disaffiliation votes have shifted their conversation "to a new 'D' word." "Not disaffiliation," she said. "That word is discipleship."

Ashley Boggan, historian and top executive of the United Methodist Commission on Archives and History, sees an opportunity for the people called United Methodist to use this season of separation to become a new people.

Goddard of the Holston Conference put it this way: "There's no reason to waste a good crisis. I really think that we can have a much brighter future having gone through this." [Click here for the entire article.](#)



*Data from the Lewis Center for Church Leadership shows the regional distribution of United Methodist churches compared to the regional distribution of disaffiliations. Graph courtesy of the Lewis Center.*





# FALL 2023 EOCUMC CLERGY DAY APART

*In celebration of you, your call, and for clergy  
appreciation month . . .*

**Saturday, September 30 and/or  
Wednesday, October 4**

**Both days: 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at Wanake Camp and Retreat Center**

The morning will be spent gathering around spiritual practices being led by Debbie Baker, spiritual director with music led by others.

Additional options for the day and afternoon include; 12-minute chair massages, artisan circle conversations,

hikes, painting instruction, ropes course, drumming circle, and naps.

Active Local Pastors, Deacons, Associate Members, Elders (full or part-time) are all invited. You can register for one or both days, the \$10 registration fee includes lunch and most activities.

Use the QR code or the link below for details and registration.



<https://fallclergydayapart2023.eventbrite.com>

**WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US  
FOR RENEWAL, CONNECTION, HOPE, AND SABBATH!**



**ARCHIVES & HISTORY**  
General Commission on Archives and History

# Local Church Historians' School

Looking Back. Moving Forward.

**LAUNCHING AGAIN SEPTEMBER 4, 2023!**

**Are you ready to discover, document, and share your local church's story?**

LCHS is an intensive, self-paced course wherein you'll learn from leading Methodist scholars, archivists, and historians.

Through this course you'll gain the skills to discover, document, and share the stories of your local church community. Connecting with your cohort, you'll establish and build relationships with fellow Wesleyan time-travelers. Coming alongside you, GCAH offers expert teachers, diverse content, innovative ways to think about our past, and ongoing support for your local ministries and personal vocation.

You and your congregation will benefit from a renewed historical awareness, exposure to unique stories, and a call to deeper connection with those around you... both past and present. Once completed, you will receive a certificate from GCAH.

For more details, and to register, click [HERE](#).





**August 9-12**

## UMVIMNCJ Mission Academy

- Wednesday, August 9, 2023, 12:00 PM through
- Saturday, August 12, 2023, 1:00 PM
- Epworth Forest Camp and Conference Center
- 8531 E Epworth Forest Rd North Webster, IN, 46555

Join the fun August 9-12 at Epworth Forest Camp and Conference Center in North Webster, IN!

Registration is now open. For more details including the schedule of events, and to register, click [HERE](#).

## GLOBAL MINISTRIES EARTHKEEPERS

### EarthKeepers Training Opportunities in October

If you'd like to act on the call to care for God's creation, Global Ministries' EarthKeepers program can help you to make a lasting difference. EarthKeepers is a training program that equips laity and clergy to launch and grow environmental projects in their communities. When you become an EarthKeeper, you receive training in project planning, community organizing, ecotheology, and antiracism. You also connect with a whole community of United Methodists who are passionate about caring for the earth. Back home, you'll receive ongoing project support and technical guidance as you carry out your project. Training will be held October 5-8, 2023 in three locations: Birmingham Alabama, Denver Colorado and Hartford Connecticut. Except for your transportation to the training location, the cost of the program is underwritten by Global Ministries. To learn more and to apply, go to: [EARTHKEEPERS](#)







**184<sup>th</sup> Convocation**

---

**United Methodist  
Historical Society  
of Ohio**

---

**October 13 & 14, @ John Stewart UMC,  
2023 Upper Sandusky, Ohio**

---

*Friday, October 13, planned program 1 p.m. – 5 p.m., check out  
local sites such as Wyandot Mission Church, Wyandot County  
Museum, Wyandot County Courthouse, and more.*

*Saturday, October 14, planned program 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m., lunch included*

*Come connect with other church historians, history buffs,  
learn about resources, and our shared history.  
Everyone is invited!*

Questions, contact  
Christy Culver, Vice President, UMHSO,  
cculver1467@att.net  
or visit [www.umhso.org](http://www.umhso.org)



### Thank You, East Ohio!

We know that there are many things pulling kids in lots of different directions. Thanks for offering summer camp to the kids in your church and allowing us to be a partner in their spiritual formation.

### It's Always Time to Think Retreat!

Whether it's fall, winter or spring, it's time to make your retreat plans. Why take a group on retreat? Retreats offer encounters that can change the lives of individuals and the group in amazing ways. So, why not take your youth group, Bible study group, UMW circle, or any other group to which you belong on a retreat?

At our East Ohio Retreat Facilities: [Aldersgate](#), [Asbury](#) and [Wanake](#), our goal is to provide comfortable settings and quality programs through which people can experience Christ's love for them and all creation, and have the opportunity to share that love with others. Relax, enjoy the surroundings and get back in touch with God. We can provide accommodations year-round for a small intimate setting or a large group gathering. Our retreat staff looks forward to hosting your next gathering.

Our three retreat sites are in convenient locations: Aldersgate on Leesville Lake near Carrollton; Asbury in Portage County near Hiram; Wanake in Amish Country near Beach City. Take a look at what our sites have to offer on our website [www.EastOhioCamps.org](http://www.EastOhioCamps.org). **Ready to Book?** Call 1-800-831-3972 to book your reservation.

**Save the Date!**

*"Finding Our Way"*

#### Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors Retreat

Lakeside Chautauqua

Sunday, August 20 – Wednesday, August 23, 2023



Faith for Living Hour each morning, Monday through Wednesday  
and an opportunity for dialogue with  
**The Rev. Dr. James Harnish**

Pastor & Author, The United Methodist Church, Longwood, Florida  
Author of *Finding Your Bearings: How Words That Guided Jesus Through Crisis Can Guide Us*

Discussion on topics focusing on the specific interests and challenges facing  
Associate Members and Local Pastors

Lunch and Dinner on Monday and Tuesday are provided to facilitate group sharing and support.  
Plenty of Free Time for Personal Reflection and Meditation.

All Lakeside amenities included.  
(Shuffleboard, swimming pool, tennis, pickleball, shuttle service, etc.)

The registration fee of \$80 includes a three-day Chautauqua Pass and Auto Pass  
(Regular cost \$135), lunch and dinner on Monday and Tuesday,  
and materials for all events scheduled during the retreat.

#### Register Now for This Year's Retreat!

For more information and to receive a registration form,  
contact Dr. Charles Yoost, Senior Director of Religious Life & Pastoral Care  
[cyoost@lakesideohio.com](mailto:cyoost@lakesideohio.com)

## Hope Ridge UMC

### 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)

### **Willoughby UMC: PT Children's Education Coordinator**

Willoughby UMC is seeking a part-time Children's Education Coordinator. The position provides inspirational and encouraging leadership to provide vision and direction for all aspects of the Children's ministry (nursery/preschool-5th grade). This includes identifying and recruiting gifted servants as partners in team ministry and care for the spiritual growth and well-being of all children (within the church, the community, and beyond).

This includes:

- selection of appropriate and effective Sunday school curriculum;
- coordination of special programs (Back to school, Advent/Christmas, Lent/Easter, etc.);
- leadership for Vacation Bible School, Messy Church, and Commission on Education;
- encouragement, equipping and empowering of lay servants and teams
- development of relationships with families of the children

A complete job description and application form are available upon request at [spr@willoughbyumc.org](mailto:spr@willoughbyumc.org).

All employees of Willoughby UMC are required to live into the church's Safe Sanctuary policy which includes a background check.

Applicants may submit their completed application form and resume to the Staff Parish Relations Committee at [spr@willoughbyumc.org](mailto:spr@willoughbyumc.org).

The former Vernon UMC/ Living Water UMC has maybe 100 or so United Methodist Hymnals they would like to give away. If interested, please contact Pastor Ron McIlvaine at 440-487-5103.

## **Middlefield First UMC: PT Worship Music Coordinator**

Middlefield First UMC is seeking a part-time Worship Music Coordinator/ Team Leader.

Qualifications and Abilities would include:

- ~ Piano and/or guitar proficiency
- ~ Ability to read and play from regular notation as well as chord charts
- ~ Ability to sing and lead others in singing
- ~ Familiarity with traditional hymns and contemporary music to provide a blended style of worship
- ~ Fully support the mission, vision and worship philosophy of Middlefield First United Methodist Church

Responsibilities:

- ~ Plan worship services in consultation with the Pastor and select music for Sunday and special services
- ~ Arrange music to accommodate the various capabilities of the praise teams and coordinate the necessary musicians and vocalists for each service
- ~ Direct weekly rehearsals and play for worship services

Time Requirements:

- ~ Part-time position, 12 calendar months per year.
- ~ Breakdown: Per month – 6 hours rehearsal; 6 hours for 1 worship service per Sunday; plus planning time with pastor, and prep time.
- ~ Total: 30 hours per month, for 12 months;
- ~ plus 20 hours for special services and rehearsals/writing, arranging

This is a paid position.

Interested applicants should email resume to: [office@middlefieldumc.com](mailto:office@middlefieldumc.com)

## 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.