

# Western Reserve Circuit Writer



Western Reserve District Newsletter

March 2023

## Bishop Malone's Lenten Message



### Being Good Stewards of God's Creation

Beloved, as we begin this season of Lent, I am inviting you to join me on a journey of being stewards of God's creation. The season of Lent is a time for reflection and introspection. It is a time to go deeper in our discipleship, in our walk with Christ, in our journey of faith. (view the video here: <https://vimeo.com/799851670>)

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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)

The 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter can be a season of transformation should we choose to embrace the invitation, to slow down, to reflect, to ponder and pray, to take a step back from the busyness and the regularity of our daily routines and intentionally create space for the inward work of examination. This Holy season can be a season of transformation if we allow God's Spirit to heal the broken places in our lives, to expand our imaginations, and to give us renewed courage for our lives, for ministry, and for the future.

During this season of Lent, I am inviting us, together, to expand our imagination and to focus our attention, together, on the stewardship of God's creation. I encourage us, yes, to do the spiritual work of healing and self-examination and I'm also encouraging us to look outside of ourselves, to look outside of our circumstances and get a better grasp on our relationship with God's creation.

We are trustees of God's creation. We are an agent of God's handiwork. God declares all creation good, and, as Christians, we have a collective responsibility to be caretakers. In the *2016 Book of Resolutions* United Methodists, we've committed ourselves to take time to understand our responsibility to address, and our complicity in, the challenges facing God's creation. All United Methodists, local faith communities, boards and agencies, all the institutions of The United Methodist Church are urged to examine their roles, our roles, as caretakers of creation.

What if all of us see the call to environmental stewardship as part of God's calling in our lives, individually and collectively? What if we all were to begin by having conversations about the climate crisis?

Friends, we are on this journey together to be good stewards of God's creation.



Blue Ridge mountains in NC, part of God's creation. Photo credit: Lisa Huston



Western Reserve District

## Lay Servant Ministries Training

Saturday April 22, 2023

Perry United Methodist Church

3875 Main St. Perry, OH 44081

**Please Print Legibly:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Church: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name as you wish it to appear on your certificate: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Pastor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: We must have your email address for the instructors to best share directives and assignments)

**Classes** - Check which class you wish to attend.

BASIC: All first-time candidates and any candidate whose certification has expired. This foundational course guides participants to discover the gifts of caring, leading and communicating and offers practical suggestions for becoming an active congregational servant leader. **Order the book Lay Servant Ministries-Basic Course \*DR627\* 978-0-88177-626-3 from the Upper Room at 800.972.0433 or at UpperRoom.org/store or Cokesbury.com**

Lay Speaker Course: Living Our United Methodist Beliefs (UM Heritage) This course will explore the special gifts of theology, witness, and organization that the UMC brings to the church universal, how we got where we are today, and how our distinctive emphases are still needed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century church. **Order the book Living Our Beliefs: The United Methodist Way Kenneth L. Carder Participant's Book • DR571 • 978-0-88177-571-6 • from the Upper Room at 800.972.0433 or at UpperRoom.org/store or Cokesbury.com**

Advance Course: Leading Missional Small Groups This course teaches the Wesleyan way to form missional communities and congregations. It is based on the conviction that just as holiness of heart leads to holiness of life, it is communities of holy love that participate in god's mission in the world. **Order the book Transforming Community Henry H. Knight III & F. Douglas Power, Jr. \*DR754 \* 978-0-88177-754-3 from the Upper Room at 800.972.0433 or at UpperRoom.org/store or Cokesbury.com**

Please order your book promptly so you have time to read them. Credit will not be given for the class if you do not have and read the book.

**Please check one only:** I am taking this class for ☐ Certification; ☐ Education only

**REGISTRATION FEE: \$20.00 per student**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE MARCH 25, 2023**

**Make checks payable to: Western Reserve District**

Your registration fee is required with this form.

You are responsible for ordering your resources.

-----✂----- **Cut off and keep this lower portion for your records!** -----✂-----

**DATES: SATURDAY APRIL 22, 2023 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM**

**HOSTED BY: PERRY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
3875 MAIN STREET PERRY OHIO 44081

**FOR QUESTIONS OR INFORMATION CONTACT: KIMMY FARONE**  
(440) 724-0062 or email @ pastorkimmyumc@gmail.com

**SEND CHECK AND REGISTRATION TO: CHUCK FARONE-REGISTRAR**  
C/O CHARDON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
515 NORTH ST. CHARDON, OH 44024

## 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 before 11 am. Mark your calendars now!

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. Right now, the additional ballot for 2023 looks like this:

### 2023 LAY BALLOT

for **additional** Members at Large to **2023** Annual Conference

#### Already Elected

- 1 Sophie Hockran, Andover
- 2 Lisa Huston, Painesville
- 3 Brian Knotts, Willoughby
- 4 Marcia Schettler, Willoughby
- 5 Jack Childers, Orwell
- 6 Cindy Swank Cole, Geneva
- 7 Judy Doell, North Mentor Centenary
- 8 Jennie Foertch, Southington
- 9 Kate Greth, Middlefield
- 10 Sue Lefler, Perry
- 11 Dawna Mitchell, New Leaf
- 12 Jim Mizner, West Farmington
- 13 Janet Vickery, Madison-Chapel
- 14 Keith Webb, Geneva
- 15 Deborah Kramer, Living Water
- 16 Betty Chochran, Saybrook
- 17 Penny Vaughn, Saybrook
- 18 Pat Singelyn, Garrettsville
- 19 Denise Curtis, Harpersfield

#### Nominated before Spring Conference

- 20 \_\_\_ Cynthia Myers, Mayfield
- 21 \_\_\_ Andrew Ring, Mentor
- 22 \_\_\_
- 23 \_\_\_
- 24 \_\_\_
- 25 \_\_\_
- 26 \_\_\_
- 27 \_\_\_
- 28 \_\_\_
- 29 \_\_\_
- 30 \_\_\_

#### Ex-officio members:

- John Wilson, District Lay Leader  
Ava Haehn, Young Person 12-17  
Abby Colbow, Young Person 18-30  
Nathan Foulkrod, CCYM  
Jaime Ebersole, CCYM

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.



## — [ Church audits due March 31 ] —

Local church audits are required every year. The deadline is March 31. To help your audit committee get started, they can review the [Local Church Audit Guide](#) and the [Audit Guide FAQ](#). Both of these documents are found on the [Forms](#) tab of our district website. Once the audit is complete, the [Audit Report Form](#) should be filled out. One copy should be filed with the church secretary, the pastor, the church finance chair, and the district office. The district office will send it on to the conference office.

## — [ Send us a picture of your church window ] —

I love stained glass windows! Please send pictures of a window or windows from your church to share in the newsletter.

Would your church like to let the Western Reserve District know about an important event? Or are you excited to share a cool ministry that is happening at your church? Let everyone know how God is working through you by sending a short article and maybe a picture or two to the District Office ([WRDistOffice@eocumc.com](mailto:WRDistOffice@eocumc.com)). Let's be more connectional!

## Where's the DS?

Rev. Brady will be:

Mar. 1-3: cabinet

Mar. 18: Hartford

Mar. 7: district missions committee

Mar. 19: preaching at Painesville UMC

Mar. 8: Hope Ridge

Mar. 21: dCOM

Mar. 11: Plymouth, Saybrook

Mar. 23: dCOM

Mar. 11: State Line, Kelloggsville

Mar. 25: Board of Camps

Mar. 14-16: cabinet

Mar. 28-30: cabinet



Window over Mayfield Church's worship center. Photo credit: Mayfield



**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)



A **HUGE** thank you to the **Mayfield Church** for hosting our 2023 District Leadership Academy on 2/11/2023! They not only opened their facility for our event, but they brought their volunteers out in full force to ensure that the whole day ran smoothly.

From the volunteers at the doors and throughout the building to help people find their way, to the musicians who led in worship, to the kitchen volunteers who kept us fed, to Pastor Beth and Pastor Jan who helped with worship, to the tech-savvy folks who helped with the various presentations, to the custodians who helped with tables and unexpected cleaning after the squad left, to the childcare workers, to Cindy who helped with all the signage and other details of the day including ordering the lunch, each member of the Mayfield team made a contribution to the success of the event and we appreciate it. They also made sure the leftover food made it to shelters in both Lake and Geauga Counties so it was put to good use.

**Thank you also** to all of our presenters and all who attended the workshops.

**Rev. Dave Scavuzzo's** inspiring message from opening worship was recorded.

The recording is available at: <https://youtu.be/3mZ1M1lm4gl>

It was great to be together as a district to hear new ideas, make connections, and exchange information and experiences.



## Conference News and Events



### **UMHEF Scholarship Application Deadline Extended!**

The United Methodist Higher Education Foundation has extended its scholarship application deadline to March 10. Take advantage of the \$2+ million available in financial aid to qualifying students attending the 100+ United Methodist-related colleges, universities, and seminaries. Learn more and apply today at <https://umhef.org/apply>.

### ***Spring Micro Grants Available***



**Strategic  
Ministries**  
EAST OHIO CONFERENCE

The Board of Congregational Development and the Connectional Ministries office of Strategic Ministries invite churches and charges to apply for spring micro grants. These grants are for **new ministries that seek to reach those not already in the church**. Whether they're called small groups, Fresh Expressions, or ministries, sometimes they just need the seed money these grants can provide. Maximum grant amount is \$2,000 – and applications for the grants must be submitted by April 3.

[Learn more and apply by April 3 on the Scholarships/Grants/Aid page of the EOC website.](#)



## Disaster Response (excerpted from East Ohio E-News)



### Church, Leadership Assisting Community Impacted by Train Derailment

[Almost a month] ago, the eyes of the world focused on East Palestine as flames and smoke filled the sky of the 4,800-person town near the Ohio-Pennsylvania border following the derailment of nearly three dozen cars of a Norfolk Southern Railway train. The fire burned for days, and many businesses were forced to close because of chemicals that filled the air from the 11 derailed cars that were carrying hazardous materials. Local, state, and national safety agencies converged on the town and set up a command center inside East Palestine Centenary UMC (Mahoning Valley District).

- Pray for the communities impacted by the disaster, the lives forever changed, and those responding.
- [Make a financial donation to Disaster Response in Ohio Fund 9200.](#)

[Read the article in its entirety.](#)



### UMCOR Response to Earthquakes in Turkey and Syria

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has issued a solidarity grant to partners working in Turkey and Syria after the deadly earthquakes that have claimed tens of thousands of lives. International Blue Crescent and Forum for Development Culture and Dialogue will use the funds to provide tents, heaters, blankets, warm clothes, ready-to-eat meals, and first-aid kits to those who have been displaced.

East Ohio clergy and laity can assist in two ways:

- Make Personal Dignity Kits, which Midwest Mission will collect during Annual Conference 2023 to replace the kits it is now sending to Turkey.
- [Donate to EOC Fund 1301 UMCOR International Disaster Response.](#)

[Learn more about how The UMC is aiding in Turkey.](#)

**DISABILITY  
& THE  
CHURCH**  
**APRIL 28 & 29, 2023  
CLEVELAND, OHIO**

In collaboration with

**TIM TEBOW**  
**FOUNDATION™**

Key Ministry, in collaboration with the Tim Tebow Foundation, presents **DA-TC2023**: a two-day in-person national disability ministry conference in Cleveland, Ohio April 28 & 29, 2023 with pre-conference Ministry Intensives offered April 27. Conference venue is Bay Presbyterian Church in Bay Village, just west of Cleve-

For more information on Disability and the Church 2023, or to register, click here: [Disability & The Church 2023 — Key Ministry](#)

## — 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.



### Take advantage of the **Early Bird Savings** for Summer Camp 2023!

If you register by **March 15<sup>th</sup>**, campers will receive a limited-edition 2023 Summer Camp t-shirt that is not available in the camp store (Aldersgate, Asbury or Wanake). Plus, a \$20 discount will be taken off their summer camp fee. If you register by April 15<sup>th</sup>, campers will receive a limited-edition 2023 Summer Camp t-shirt that is not available in the camp store (Aldersgate, Asbury or Wanake). Find all you need to register online at [www.EOCsummercamps.org](http://www.EOCsummercamps.org) or contact us for a brochure or questions at [camp@eocumc.com](mailto:camp@eocumc.com) or (330) 499-3972 ext. 108.

Cost of Camp Stretching Your Budget? Camperships are available to ensure that all people have an opportunity to attend camp.

### Want to Become Part of our **Summer Camp Staff**?

The staff is a cornerstone of the ministry of East Ohio Camps. Our summer program requires a great number of staff to be successful. We are looking for outstanding Christian women and men for summer staff positions. We offer great Christian Community, excellent training, free room and board, opportunity for ministry, and growth in leadership skills. 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.

**[Learn more and register for Summer Camp 2023.](http://www.EOCsummercamps.org)**

Western Reserve District Campership application can be found on the last page of the newsletter, or by clicking [here](#).

# Western Reserve District Camperships

This application must be completed in its entirety and must be signed by the church pastor before being submitted. One application per camper. Please submit at least two weeks prior to the camp. Grant amount of up to one-third the Tier 1 fee for the camp, **paid directly to the camp listed on the application**. Campership funds are primarily intended for persons who would not otherwise be able to attend camp due to financial hardship.

## Camper Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship with the Church: (member, attends regularly, friend of a member, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_

## Primary Contact (other than pastor) Information

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Camp Information

Camp Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Event Name and Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Camp Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Tier 1 Cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Pastor's Verification

Church Campership Available? (Y/N)

Church Campership Applied for? (Y/N)

Pastor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor's printed name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Information from Pastor (optional):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Send completed Campership Application by email to: [WRDistOffice@eocumc.com](mailto:WRDistOffice@eocumc.com) or by mail to:  
71 N. Park Pl, Painesville, OH 44077-3416 no later than two weeks before camp date.