



Three Rivers Current

A Publication of Three Rivers District Union
of the United Methodist Church



Issue XI, Vol 13 Editor: Joy Snyder

www.eocumc.com/threerivers

DEC. 2017 / JAN. 2018

FROM THE DS



As we draw closer to the celebration of Christmas this year, it may be worth pausing to ask, “What’s really at the center of this celebration?” Of course, the answer is obvious: the birth of Jesus. But if I may wax theological for a few moments, we can look more deeply and see that the birth of Jesus was about the incarnation of God. “The Word became flesh [that’s what “incarnation” means] and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). God cared enough about us to become incarnate in our midst. Why? To be present in the world in a way that was visible, tangible, earthly, real. God wanted to be present, alive, in our midst. That’s incarnation, part 1.

Incarnation, part 2 (or maybe it’s all an extension of part 1) is about the presence of God becoming incarnate in you, in us. That’s what Jesus demonstrated and taught in his life among us. That was also the heart of his prayer for us:

“The goal is for all of them to become one heart and mind— just as you, Father, are in me and I in you, so they might be one heart and mind with us. Then the world might believe that you, in fact, sent me. The same glory you gave me, I gave them, so they’ll be as unified and together as we are— I in them and you in me. Then they’ll be mature in this oneness, and give the godless world evidence that you’ve sent me and loved them in the same way you’ve loved me” (John 17:21-23, The Message).

So here’s a question: In what ways is God incarnate in you in this season? (Or for that matter anytime?) As you live into that, do your best to help people see that. For example, when you sing (or hear) Christmas songs this year, listen for hints of incarnation. When you give gifts, when you gather together with others, look for (and show forth) signs of incarnation. You may just help this season become a more blessed one for others... and for yourself.

Dr. Bradley S. Coop

“I am a fragment of a mirror whose whole design and shape I do not know. Nevertheless, with what I have I can reflect light into the dark places of the world — into the black places in the hearts of people — and change some things in some people. Perhaps others may see and do likewise.” – (Alexander Papaderos)

Merry Christmas & New Year Blessings

from

Brad, Sue and Joy at the Three Rivers



MISSIONS & GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

I am thankful for your partnership in supporting EOC Fund 9948. This fund makes possible the ministry I perform in getting folks engaged in what God is doing locally and globally through The United Methodist Church. Your gifts help to send me into the mission field, into congregations on Sunday, across the ocean to lead UMVIM teams and into the local community to build relationships. I help access disaster areas and mission opportunities across the denomination, train mission leaders, interpret needs and appropriate giving through best practices and healthy ways to maintain partnerships. Contact me for Sunday worship and other speaking engagements. I can aid with strategizing and trainings. Kdickriede@gmail.com 330-468-2517 [More about 2018 trips on conference website](#): Liberia, Jamaica, South Carolina, Cuba, South Dakota & Russia
Kathy Dickriede, East Ohio UMVIM Coordinator, Partner in Mission & 3Cs Mission



The UMVIM seeks to equip volunteers with experiences that allow them to put Christian love into action in places around the world.

To support UMVIM Training

-- give to Fund # 9633

To support the 3Cs Mission

-- give to Fund # 9936

To support the leadership of Kathy Dickriede in developing Partners in Mission

-- give to Fund # 9948

Make checks payable to EOCUMC: PO Box 76019, Cleveland Ohio 44101 note the Fund # in the memo

"What does the Lord require of you?

To seek justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God. " Micah 6:8

MISSIONS & SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

- It is not too early to consider summer missions. Mission Volunteers is looking for people aged 18 and up who can give at least two months to serve with others around the world. Training is required - the next session is January 31 at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. MUST RSVP by **December 13, 2017!** [REGISTER ONLINE](#). or 404-460-7192.
- Now accepting applications for **Discover . . . Mission, China-2018** Contact [Tammy Kuntz](#), UMVIM-NCJ coordinator or call 614-325-8741 [More Mission Opportunities listed in the NCJVM newsletter](#)
- **UMVIM Leader Training:** Saturday, Jan. 6 from 9:30-3:30 at Ashland First UMC [RSVP by Jan 2 online](#)



CLEANING BUCKETS AND HYGIENE KITS SENT TO PUERTO RICO

Three shipping containers of cleaning buckets and hygiene kits were due to arrive in Puerto Rico on Thanksgiving Day from the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Sager Brown depot in Baldwin, Louisiana. Five containers, carrying \$794,000 worth of the buckets and health kits requested by the bishop and the conference in Puerto Rico, have been shipped since the deadly hurricanes struck the island in late September. In addition, an Action Response Team (ART) recently traveled to Puerto Rico to plan with the bishop and staff there the response of The United Methodist Church. The team took 12 satellite phones, solar lights, and solar chargers for cell phones. Questions? Contact [Jason Frazer](#), disaster response liaison.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM EOC FINANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:

ATTN CHURCH TREASURERS: Please REVIEW your January Health & Pension Statements. With the transition to HealthFlex there may be changes on the amounts billed depending on your pastor's personal selections. Even if the pastor’s salary has not changed, they may have other withholdings. If an individual on healthcare has opted for dental, vision or a Health Savings Account, these options will appear on their H&P bill. These options (also known as 'buy-ups') are at the expense of the pastor or employee, not the church! All buy-ups (including the HSA) are pre-tax monies that need to be deducted from the employees’ salaries. If your church is paying by automatic withdraw, there will be changes on your bank statement.

PAYROLL SERVICES

The Area Center has been providing payroll services for 200+ of the 718 churches in the East Ohio Conference. They recently reached an agreement with *Paychex* allowing them to **maintain the same cost of services with additional features** such as tax pay, direct deposit, pay cards and other services. This benefit cost \$1.75 per check with a quarterly fee of \$25 and includes 2018 W-2’s. [That is less than \$200/year for a pastor and one employee.] The deadline has passed for a Jan 1, 2018 start date. You must submit your application and paperwork by December 28, 2017 for a start date of Feb 1, 2018. **If you enroll by December 28 the \$1000 set-up fee will be waived.** If the Conference staff is currently processing your payroll, you will automatically be included in the new system. Questions? Contact [Vera Rebrovich](#) (330-499-3972 x 123) with the EOC or [Joe Walter](#), consultant with Paychex at 440-478-4072.

2018 ANNUAL LAY SERVANT TRAINING:

Friday, March 9, 2018 from 7 - 9:00 p.m. **(basic only)** -- Basic: **both days**
Saturday, March 10, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. -- Certified: **Saturday only.**
Where: **Prairie Chapel UMC, 45494 CR 23, Coshocton, 43812**



NAME: _____ **CHURCH:** _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE(home/cell) : _____ **Email address:** _____

Special Lunch needs _____

Course Level: pleased select one **NEW BASIC/LOCAL** (first time) or **BASIC/LOCAL RENEWAL** or **NEW ADVANCED/CERTIFIED*** or **ADVANCED/CERTIFIED RENEWAL**

** To participate in a certified course you must have completed Basic Course within past 3 years
You can renew at the local level and take an advance course. No need to repeat the Basic Coursework*

Which Advance Course? **UM Polity/ Organization** or **UM Way/History**

COST is \$25.00 (inc. materials &lunch) REGISTRATION DEADLINE is February 15, 2018.

Make check payable to: Three Rivers District with Memo : Lay Servant Training

Mail \$25.00 & this form to Three Rivers District, 415 Walnut St, Coshocton, OH 43812

Questions? Contact Three Rivers Lay Director, [Mandy Armstrong](#) 330-432-2024

PROJECT FEED PACKS 54,000 MEALS

East Ohio Conference youth continue to fight the war against hunger here in the United States and around the world. This year's Project Feed – one mission in two locations – saw more than 540 volunteers flock to West Elementary School in Newcomerstown and Wadsworth Middle School for the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people they have never met. Over two days teens packed 54,000 dry meals and donated 950 cans of food to [Rise Against Hunger](#). This is the fourth straight year the East Ohio Conference has partnered with the international relief agency formerly known as Stop Hunger Now. In that time, our youth have packed 240,000 meals and donated more than 2,700 cans of food!



Three Rivers' Youth Leaders Network {Gatherings start at 6:30p}

January 11 in Mt. Vernon: @ Panera Bread:

1555 Coshocton Ave, * 43050

March 15 in Utica: @ Subway: 45 E Columbus Rd, * 43080

May 3 in Newcomerstown @ McDonald's:

CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

1. Joseph was originally from...

- A. Bethlehem B. Nazareth C. Jerusalem D. None of the above

2. What did the innkeeper said to Mary and Joseph?

- A. "There is no room in the inn."
C. "Come back when I have some vacancies."
B. "I have a stable you can use."
D. The innkeeper didn't "say" anything

3. What did the angels say/sing?

- A. "Glory to God in the highest."
C. "Joy the world, the Lord is come"
B. "Unto us a child is born, a son is given"
D. "Glory to the newborn King"

4. What is a heavenly host?

- A. The angel at heaven's gate B. Angel who serves refreshments C. An angel choir D. An angel army

5. The wise men stopped in Jerusalem...

- A. To inform Herod about Jesus
C. To ask about the star
B. To find out where Jesus was
D. To buy presents

6. Who told (made) Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem?

- A. The angel chorus B. Caesar Augustus C. Herod D. The shepherds



ANSWERS ON PAGE 7

THREE RIVERS LEADERSHIP EVENT: *RESPONDING TO OUR CALLING...*

Saturday January 27, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Coshocton Roscoe UMC (475 High St, Coshocton 43812)

1.) ... through Effectiveness: *CREATING A CULTURE FOR AN EFFECTIVE CHURCH* (Mark McDaniels)

Culture has the greatest impact on the future of your church. Get the Culture right and everything else will take care of itself!

2.) ... through Giving: *WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?* (Vera Rebrovich)

What are apportionments and how do they fulfill the mission and vision of The United Methodist Church? Why does the shared ministry for the local church change each year? How does East Ohio Conference establish Funds 1 through 8. Learn how the funds are used locally and around the world.

3.) ... through Discernment: *CALLED TO LIVE RESPONSIVELY* (Tadd Sponseller)

Develop a discerning lifestyle through discipleship. Have you ever wondered what God's desire is for you? It is not intended to be a secret, join us as we look at developing a walk that lives in response to the Holy Spirit.

4.) ... through Administration: *A HEALTHY AND EFFECTIVE S/PPRC* (Brad Call)

A healthy and effective S/PPRC is key to a healthy and effective church. This workshop will help new and returning S/PPRC members know how to best nurture and strengthen the ministry within their church.

5.) ... through Leadership: *THE SINGLE BOARD MODEL* (Tim McCollum)

Discover an alternate way to handle small church business by empowering church ministry as a single team. There will be opportunity to hear about different structures and ask questions relating to your setting.

6.) ... through Witness: *RELATIONSHIP + OBEDIENCE = BOLDNESS* (Jill Rock)

Jesus modeled how we can live among humanity while presenting The Good News. The cultivation of our relationship with God and our response to His love develops our Testimonies. When we view ourselves from His perspective, recognizing His voice and prompts, then we can obediently step out with bold assurance.

7a.) ... through Connection: *CONNECTING TO YOUNG ADULTS* (Chasity Ophile)

Join an open 'round-table' discussion on how churches can better connect with young people. Hear valuable research on the state of young adult ministry, why young people are missing from our congregations, how better connections can be made, and gain insight as we share what is happening in our churches.

7b.) ...through Youth: *EMPOWERING TEENS TO BE WORLD CHANGERS* (Chasity Ophile)

Teens have potential to make a difference for the glory of God, but how do we empower, equip and unleash them to do that? Hear inspiring examples of teens already living out God's calling to be world changers.

Registration Form for 2018 TR Leadership Event

(Please fill out one form per person.)

Name: _____ Church: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Monday, January 15, 2018

Place the NUMBER of the workshops listed above that you would like to attend as well as an Alternate Choice

SATURDAY A. _____ B. _____ **ALT** _____

Mail registration & money: Three Rivers District, 415 Walnut Street, Coshocton, OH 43812 memo: Leadership Event

Cost: \$5/person with a \$20 per church team cap. **ONLINE Registration** eocumc.com/threerivers under events tab

Select One: Payment is enclosed Will pay at the door My church is paying for me/our group

DECEMBER 2017 / JANUARY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3	4 Lay Committee Mtg 6p	5	6	7 CABINET	8 District office closed	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 District office closing at noon	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 District Office Closed	23
24 	25	26	27	28	29	30
Office Closed for Holiday. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 2						
DEC. 31	JAN 1 District Office Closed	JAN 2	JAN 3	JAN 4 CABINET	JAN 5	JAN 6 VIM Team leader training Ashland
7	8	9	10	11 Youth Leadership Network Mtg. 6:30p Mt.Vernon	12	13
14	15 Offices Closed Martin Luther King's Birthday	16 CABINET	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 dCOM interviews	26	27 DISTRICT LEADERSHIP EVENT

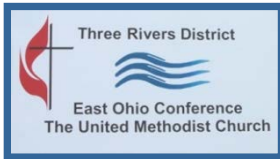
FEBRUARY 2018

* there will not be a January edition of the Current

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
JAN 28	JAN 29	JAN 30	JAN 31	FEB 1	FEB 2	FEB 3 Way Forward Conversation 10:00 a.m. Thoburn UMC St. Clairsville (more info below)
		CABINET				
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Boy Scout Sunday	12 <div style="background-color: yellow; text-align: center; padding: 2px;">CABINET</div>	13	14  Ash Wednesday	15	16	17
18	19 President's Day	20	21 Mission & Ministry Funding Grants due at District office	22	23	24
25	26 Leadership & Nominations Committee Mtg 3p	27 Mission Strategy Team Mtg 10a	28	<p>Conversation on a Way Forward is a process for intentional, meaningful conference-wide dialogue about our identity, purpose, and mission as a Church in regard to the challenges that are emerging given our differences around human sexuality in The United Methodist Church. All clergy and laity are invited, and encouraged, to participate.</p>		

*****CHRISTMAS TRIVIA ANSWERS*****

- 1.) **A.** [Luke 2:3](#) 2.) **D.** [Luke 2:7](#) 3.) **A.** [Luke 2:14](#) 4.) **D.** 5.) **B.** [Matthew 2:2](#) 6.) **B.** [Luke 2:1-5](#)



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**Three Rivers Leadership
One Day Event**

Saturday, January 27, 2018

Join us as we discover what it means to respond to the call of Christ in our lives through various ministries and discipleship.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, then you will produce much fruit. Without me, you can't do anything. ... My Father is glorified when you produce much fruit and in this way prove that you are my disciples." (John 14:5,8)

Details on page 5.