



Three Rivers Current

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



Issue V, Vol 13 Editor: Joy Snyder

www.eocumc.com/threerivers

JUNE/JULY 2017

Because God Loves Us



Probably most of you are familiar with these words from Romans 12:1– *“I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”* [Some translations have that last phrase as *“this is your reasonable service,”* which may be more accurate to the original New Testament language.] John Wesley may have described this as “going on to perfection.”

What may be less familiar are the words about **how to do that** which come just a few verses later in the same chapter. After outlining the diversity of gifts that God has assigned among the people who make up the church, he spells out some overarching principles for the Christian life with phrases like these: “Let love be genuine... hold fast to what is good... outdo one another in showing honor... be patient in suffering... persevere in prayer... contribute to the needs of the saints... extend hospitality to strangers... rejoice with those who rejoice... weep with those who weep... live in harmony with one another... live peaceably with all.” (There’s actually a lot more in there, which you can/should read for yourself, but for the sake of space, these are some highlights.)

These words are easy to read, but difficult to practice. Yet this is all a part of our calling, not just to be saved, but to live in a way that shows Christ lives within us. Paul says that this is our “reasonable service.” And it is, when we embrace and appreciate what Jesus has done for us! It is also our “spiritual worship” in the sense that worship is not just what we do in church; every aspect of our lives is part of our worship.

When you think about it, this is not so different from the way Jesus summed up all the commandments with these two; “Love God with all your being; and love your neighbor as yourself.” We don’t do this **so that** God will love us, but **because God does** love us!



THREE RIVERS FELLOWSHIP

MONDAY, JUNE 12

5:30 - 7:00P

Lakeside United Methodist Church
450 Central Ave, Lakeside

**Conference delegates, clergy and their families
are invited to join us in the parlor for light refreshments**

TR YOUTH NEED YOUR HELP WITH YAC

Three Rivers District has been asked to help with Youth Annual Conference by contributing supplies for Mission Moments Projects. If you would like to help, **please bring the following items to the district office by June 5th.**



- Men's or Women's socks
- Gently-used books (all ages)
- Non-perishable food that fits in a sock (i.e. granola bars, cracker packs)

Mission Moments are opportunities for conference youth to learn about and engage in mission. TR Youth will be stuffing socks with care items to be distributed to homeless individuals. They will also write "God-messages" in books that get passed out at soup kitchens and shelters. Others sessions include making cards for patients at VA Hospital, clean trash around Lakeside, or making care kits for weary parents at the Ronald McDonald House. There will also be a time for youth to learn about serving in short and long-term missions.

2017 CLERGY CONFERENCE DIRECTORY



The East Ohio Conference is putting together a 2017 Clergy Directory during Annual Conference. **These headshots will be the official clergy photos for all EOC publications for the next four years.** *No appointment is necessary.* Clergy members (both appointed and retirees) simply need to stop by the studios inside Bradley Temple to have their photo taken, during any of these times:

- Mon, June 12, 11a - 6p
- Tues, June 13, 9a - 6p
- Wed, June 14, 9a - 6p
- Thur., June 15, 9a - 2p



5K RUN/1 MILE WALK AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE Wednesday, June 14 at 7:00 a.m.



[Pre-register online](#) or outside Hoover Auditorium on Tues, June 13 or Wednesday prior to the race. Walkers, runners, strollers, and pets on leashes are welcome.

CHALLENGE: How much money can each church raise for 3 C's missions by having people sponsor you. **GOAL:** To have one participant from every church.

District Challenge Trophies: Awarded to 1) the district with the highest percentage of churches participating, and 2) the district that raises the most funds. **T-Shirt:** Bring your own t-shirt (BYOT) from a previous run, a mission project, or church event. **Fee:** \$10 minimum suggested donation.

THE MIDWEST MISSION DISTRIBUTION TRUCK

The truck will be parked at Sixth Street (between South Auditorium and Epworth Lodge) to receive donations from Sunday afternoon until Tuesday morning [Cleaning buckets, Personal Dignity/Health kits, Layette kits, and School kits] Instruction on how to assemble buckets and kits can be found on the [UMCOR website](#) or contact the district.



SPRING DISTRICT CONFERENCE

The Three Rivers 2017 District Conference was held on April 23 at Grace UMC in Coshocton. Upon welcoming everyone, Dr. Bradley Call, District Superintendent, referencing John 15:1-8, introduced the scripture as the basis for the East Ohio Conference quadrennial theme "*Bearing Fruit that Lasts: Called, Committed, Connected.*" Sharing from a personal experience of planting a peach tree and nurturing it until it began to bear fruit, he illustrated how we must sometimes prune dying branches in order to have a healthier tree. Jesus is our source and apart from Him we can do nothing. He noted that as believers in Christ we are connected to Jesus, Father and Holy Spirit. We are also connected to other children of God and we need to nurture these relationships. Discipleship within the church is where we, the branches, learn how to abide and become firmly grafted to the Vine. The natural result of being connected is to bear fruit. **"The acid test for vitality is the result of abiding."**



An offering was taken to benefit orphanages in Kinshasa, DRC, where Aaron and Mary Vandersommers have been serving as UM missionaries. Due to safety concerns they have been recently evacuated back to the States and are awaiting their new assignment. \$ 1,203 was collected and will be sent to the Advanced Special for Rural Congo Support where HBGM missionary Innocent Afful is still in place to oversee the use of the funds and buy mattresses for the orphanages.



Patty Maag (West Union UMC) was introduced as the Three Rivers Lay Servant of the Year and **Rev. Susan Stevens** (Gambier Epworth and Ebenezer UMCs) as Pastor of the Year.



Following reports on Mission, Ministry, Stewardship and Leadership, Dr. Call explained the ballot process for the 2018 Members-at-Large. Listed below are the results.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Hill, John | 8. Goodwill, Pam | 15. Sullivan, Sherri | 22. Burns, Lynn |
| 2. Vance, Roma | 9. Morrison, Karen | 16. Dunlop, Wayne | 23. Locke, Karen |
| 3. McMillin, Nicholas | 10. Vance, Tim | 17. Scott, Maxine | 24. Lovette, Patricia |
| 4. Crider, Dave | 11. Dickerson, Fred | 18. Lehner, Bee | 25. Miller, Mary Ann |
| 5. Payne, Joanne | 12. Tope, Janice | 19. Ruhl, Phil | ALT. #1 Spiker, Leroy |
| 6. Bowman, Margaret | 13. Winkle, Marge | 20. Spiker, Dixie | ALT. #2 - Lashley, Gail |
| 7. Brokaw, Perry | 14. Alan, Kris | 21. Winkle, Marshall | |

The 2017 spring district conference was closed by Dr. Call with an appeal that we consider our calling. We need to consider three components, our internal sense of doing "more", an external confirmation from another person or source followed by an examination of our hearts to determine our motivation. If we find ourselves meeting all three criteria then we should explore pathways to ministry and see how we can serve Christ through service in the church.

JUNE 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Jesus said "I am the vine, you are the branches: He that abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without me you can do nothing." John 15:5</p>				1	2	3
				CABINET	Office Closed	
				Licensing School		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
				Youth Annual Conference		
				Office Closed		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Annual Conference at Lakeside -- Office Closed All Week						
<p>Check-in times @ Fountain Inn Sunday from 2 - 8:00 pm Monday from 8 am - 1 pm</p>	<p>1:30 p.m. Service of Commemoration & Communion 5:30 p.m. TR Gathering 7:30 p.m. Retirement</p>	<p>Wear your Camp T-shirt 6:30 p.m. Ministry Fair</p>	<p>Clergy Spouse Breakfast 9-11a.m. @ Wesley Lodge 7:30 p.m. Ordination Service</p>		Office Closed	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
FATHER'S DAY			New Clergy Orientation	CABINET	Office Closed	
25	26	27	28	29	30	JULY 1
					Office Closed	

JULY/AUGUST 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4  Office closed	5	6	7 Office Closed	8
9	10	11	12 DS at Conference Office	13	14 Office Closed	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Office Closed	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Office Closed	29 Mission U (UMW @ Mt. Union Univ.)
30 JULY	31 JULY	1 AUG 2 AUG 3 AUG DS VACATION			4 AUG Office Closed	5 AUG New Pastor's Picnic 4-7p
6	7	8	9	10	11 Office Closed	12 DS at Conf. Office:
13	14	15	16	17	18 Office Closed	19 DS at Conf. Office:
20	21	22	23	24	25 Office Closed	26
27	28	29	30	31	FALL CONFERENCE FORMS WILL BE ON THE WEBSITE IN JULY	



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June/July 2017

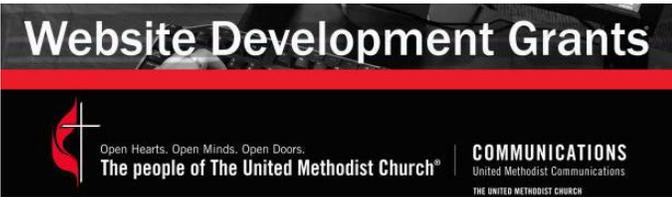
3 Rivers Current

415 Walnut St, Coshocton OH 43812-1533

740/622-8880 local 740/622-8884 FAX

3riversdist@sbcglobal.net

Return Service Requested



United Methodist Communications is now offering a Website Development Grant to local United Methodist churches and church entities who do not currently have a website or who want to replace their current website. Through this new grant, United Methodist Communications will offer the following:

- One year of webhosting
- One year of domain name registration
- Free WordPress online training through UMCOM
- Free online support throughout your training and during your year of web hosting
- Free pre-designed templates for easy development of your new website

United Methodist Churches who wish to replace their current website with a WordPress site may also apply. You can transfer your present URL, but please understand that **you will have to rebuild your entire website on WordPress**. Transferring a URL does not mean that the content transfers with it. All pages and functions will have to be rebuilt. Please consider this carefully before you apply. If have a two or three point charge and want to have a separate website for each church, you will need to fill out an application for each one. Visit UMCOM.ORG for [Website Development FAQ»](#)

All grants are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. [APPLY NOW](#)