

# Footnotes from the Foothills



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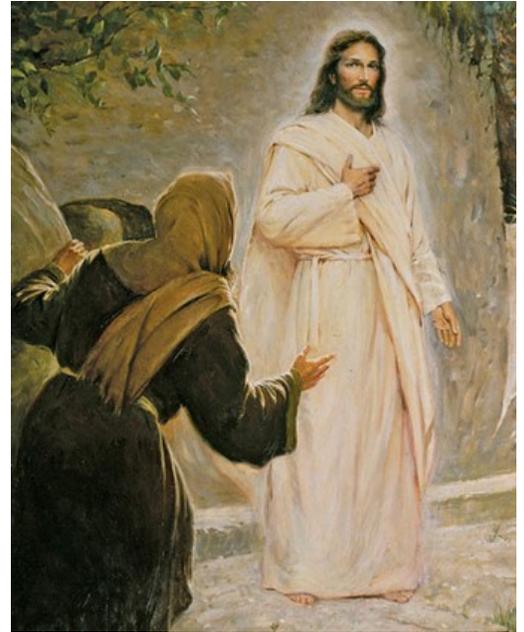
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April 2021

## Jesus Speaking Your Name

Dear Friends of the Foothills District,

Have you ever heard Jesus Christ call your name? Not long after I began serving as pastor of my first church nearly 30 years ago, I had a neighbor friend who was three years younger than me who lived in the house directly across the street from the parsonage. His name was Brian. We spent many evenings playing basketball together in his driveway. Then early one Spring morning, I received a call from his mother Julia with some very tragic news. She said that Brian had flipped his jeep on a narrow country road late that night and had been life-flighted to Miami Valley Hospital. I immediately got into my truck and made my way to Dayton only to discover that Brian was paralyzed. He would never play basketball or even walk again! Our entire little village was devastated. The small church that Brian and I attended together in the town was shocked and saddened. Our Easter joy was put to the test. But over the long months to follow, Jesus began to speak our names. As Brian and I met together during his long recovery, the Risen Christ began to assure us that he would never leave us or forsake us.



Have you ever heard Jesus call your name? It was early that first Easter morning that Mary Magdalene came to the tomb full of despair! When she arrived, she was shocked to find the tomb was empty! She couldn't believe the Romans or the Jewish authorities would have removed the body. She was filled with sorrow! But as she was crying, she felt someone standing behind her. The scripture says at first she thought it was the cemetery gardener. The man said, "Mary! Mary!" It was the familiar voice of Jesus! At that moment she realized that he was not dead but was alive! He had been resurrected! Death had been defeated. Mary was so excited that she rushed from that spot and went to the disciples and proclaimed, "He is not here! He is risen!"

When Jesus called Mary's name her life was changed. Her sadness was turned into great joy! Likewise, when the Risen Christ calls our name, we can never be the same! The miracle of Easter is not simply what happened 2000 years ago, but what can happen to us in this very moment.

How will you respond this month when Jesus calls your name? Will you continue

to sing the COVID-19 pandemic blues and choose to wallow in the defeat of Good Friday or shall you live in the joy of Easter Sunday morning?

May those going through a difficult season hear the voice of the Risen Christ speaking your name saying, "I will never leave you or forsake you!"

With hope and joy!




## Carey Nieuwhof "Burning Out and Coming Back" Thursday, April 15

Bishop Palmer's next Leadership Clinic guest is Carey Nieuwhof, best-selling author, pastor, and leading voice in church innovation. Carey Nieuwhof is a former lawyer and founding pastor of Connexus Church in Canada. He's the author of several best-selling books, including his latest, [\*Didn't See It Coming: Overcoming the Seven Greatest Challenges That No One Expects\*](#)

[\*But Everyone Experiences.\*](#)

Carey holds degrees in law, theology and history and speaks to leaders around the world about leadership, change, and personal growth. He writes one of today's most widely read Christian leadership blogs at [www.CareyNieuwhof.com](http://www.CareyNieuwhof.com) and hosts the top-rated Carey Nieuwhof Leadership Podcast where he interviews some of today's best leaders. His content is accessed over a million times a month. He is passionate about helping people thrive in life and leadership, both personally and within their organizations.

Carey's previous books include *Lasting Impact: 7 Powerful Conversations That Will Help Your Church Grow*, *Leading Change Without Losing It*, and *Parenting Beyond Your Capacity*, co-authored with Reggie Joiner.

Carey's title for the training portion of the Leadership Clinic will be "Burning Out and Coming Back." Chances are that you know someone who has burned out or might be on the edge of it yourself. Burnout today seems almost to be a rite of passage. In this talk, Carey looks at signs of burnout and identifies several types of burnout that impact more leaders than most people realize. He shares about how to recover from burnout and stay healthy.

Carey's LIVE training will be followed by an interactive interview with Bishop Palmer about the future of church, and your questions. The live webcast will be **Thursday, April 15 from 10:00am – 12:00pm EST.** [Register here](#)

## SPRING CONFERENCE AND FAREWELL SERVICE

The Farewell Service for Foothills District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Dennis Miller, and the retirement celebration of Foothills District Administrator, Sherri Rogers, will be held at the District Spring Conference on these two dates:

**Saturday, May 15th at 10:00 AM**  
Athens First United Methodist Church  
2 S. College St.  
Athens, OH 45701

**Sunday, May 16th at 6:00 PM**  
Zanesville Central Trinity United Methodist Church  
62 Seventh St.  
Zanesville, OH 43701

At these two events, we will honor Sherri Rogers' 22 years of service and DS Dennis Miller will share his final message entitled, "*My Hope & Prayer for the Church*" based on Philippians 1:3-11.

We will also welcome our new District Superintendent, Rev. Mark Chow.

Both of these sanctuaries are very large and social distancing will be observed. More information to come.

**Please mark on of these events/dates on your calendar!**

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## Office Administrator Job Opening

The Foothills District of the West Ohio of The United Methodist Church is seeking to fill the position of District Office Administrator. We ask you to please pass this information on to anyone you know that might be interested and who possess the skills we need to serve the District.

A letter of interest that includes a resume should be mailed to The Foothills District Office, PO Box 67, The Plains, OH 45780 or emailed to [foothillsdistrict@wocumc.org](mailto:foothillsdistrict@wocumc.org)

You may view the job description at the following link:

<https://www.foothillsdistrict.org/district/foothills/fth-dist-office-administrator-job-description>

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## Deaconess Virtual Discernment Opportunity

Many United Methodist Women and Men may be called to a full-time vocation as Laity in service with those who are marginalized and in need in the world today. There is an opportunity to be a part of a supportive community in connection with the United Methodist Church as a deaconess or home missionary. We want to give them an opportunity to get to know who we are and how we serve. We have bi-monthly virtual discernment events, and we would like to extend an invitation for lay people in the West Ohio Conference to attend. Our next event is **Thursday, April 8, 2021**. For more information contact Deaconess Jane Grays, Discernment Consultant, at [jgrays.dhmr@gmail.com](mailto:jgrays.dhmr@gmail.com)



## 2021 Annual Conference

### June 6th & June 7th

The 52nd session of the West Ohio Conference will be held **Sunday June 6, 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. and Monday, June 7, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

The theme of Annual Conference is “Run the race with perseverance” based on the scripture Hebrews 12:1-3.



**Online Registration begins April 5 and will close May 5.** Only Clergy and Lay Members will be allowed to register.



### Relevant, timely trainings to multiply your impact.

Over the past few months, the West Ohio Office of Fresh Starts and New Beginnings staff have been engaging in one-on-one conversations with leaders from around the conference to check in and ask three questions: What is going well in your church? What are your challenges? How can we best serve you in this next season? In response to the feedback, 22 different *Multiply Minis* have been created to meet the needs of West Ohio leaders. “I’m excited about the format, the variety, the follow-up options, and the innovative approach of the Multiply Minis, especially since they are based on the feedback we received. I encourage you to take as many as you would find beneficial,” says Bishop Palmer.

Multiply Minis are live trainings for ministry leaders to break out of the norm and hear fresh ideas. These 22 different options will encourage, inspire, and resource churches with the most current topics and innovative best practices from practitioners across West Ohio and beyond. Each participant will leave the 90-minute webcasts with practical, ready-to-use tools along with “the one big thing” to take home. After each Mini, participants can opt-in to ongoing “Co-Labs” which are learning groups designed to help participants move from information to action. Multiply Minis are free for West Ohio clergy and laity. Space is limited to 150 participants per Mini. To view the full listing of this year’s Multiply Minis and/or to register for any of the sessions, visit [www.multiplyminis.org](http://www.multiplyminis.org). CEUs are available for all Multiply Minis.

Minis in April include:

- ◆ **Both/And – Maximizing Hybrid Worship Experiences**
- ◆ **Youth Ministry – What’s Next**
- ◆ **Children’s Ministry – What’s Next**

## Prayer Concerns

Dee Rader—Pastor serving Philo and South Zanesville  
 David Roach—Pastor Nelsonville  
 Carrie Ator-James—Retired Local Pastor  
 John Chapman – Supply Pastor serving Salem Center and Wilkesville  
 Rod Brower—Pastor serving Little Hocking and Belpre Heights  
 All of our pastors who will be in transition this season

## Virtual ERT Recertification Class Set for April 10

On Saturday, **April 10, from 9am-1pm**, West Ohio will hold a virtual ERT recertification class using ZOOM online. The four-hour course will be taught by West Ohio ERT trainers and is approved by UMCOR. Registrants must complete a background check and submit a photo prior to the training in order to participate.

The class is only for ERT's who have already completed the 8-hour basic course and need to recertify. The class costs \$20 and is limited to 25 participants, so register now! Click here (<https://www.westohioumc.org/conference/event/virtual-ert-recertification-class-0>) for more information or to register. Questions? Email [mgrace@wocumc.org](mailto:mgrace@wocumc.org).

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### IRONTON FIRST UMC TO HOST EXTRAORDINARY MARRIAGE RETREAT April 16-17 at Shawnee State Park Lodge



Extraordinary marriages don't happen by accident, they are intentional. Satan is doing all he can to destroy our families. We want to do all we can to build them up. This event is not necessarily for those who believe their marriages are in trouble, it is an event where you can continuously invest in your marriage.

The Extraordinary Marriage Retreat will be held April 16-17 and is an all-inclusive event at Shawnee Lodge in Scioto County. The cost is \$199/couple and includes lodging, meals, activities, books and great encouragement for your marriage. \$50 discount for Clergy.

We feed our bodies all our lives, don't you think we should feed our relationships? No matter how healthy your marriage might be, there's always room to grow even closer together. There are always new dreams to share—new goals to set.

Plus, this event is going to be a lot of fun with plenty of time to relax and enjoy the beauty of Shawnee State Forest. Every couple needs that - especially those in ministry.

Click the link and use the discount code "FOOTHILLS" to get \$50 off the registration if you're a pastor in Foothills District. Our District believes in self-care of our pastors and their families.

We have limited rooms (30 couples) so sign up quickly.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/145742264035>

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### Spiritual Direction Online Course

As our churches renew with insight, new forms, and healing from pandemic changes, engage your ministry setting with new imagination, drawn from the wisdom of spiritual formation/direction. Join Rev. Dr. Brenda Buckwell, in dreaming new forms of church, through her a Rueben Job Institute (Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary) offering, based on her new book, *Spiritual Direction and the Metamorphosis of Church*. Register now for 6-week online course, beginning April 7. [Registration and information.](#)



To make up for the fun we missed last Summer, West Ohio camp directors have planned exciting programs for the upcoming camp season.

Ken Overholser, West Ohio Director of Camping and Retreat Ministries said, "We really missed having Summer camp last year. But, we look forward to making up for what we missed. We have great programs planned as we enjoy the outdoors."

Registration is now open for all summer camps. New health protocols as well as limits on capacities have been implemented to insure the safety of all attendees and camp directors.

## Internship Opportunities

It is with great pleasure that we announce the opening of the *Next Generation Leadership Ministry Intern* Application process. Since its inception, the Next Generations Leadership Ministry Interns have been able to discern calls to Ministry and Service in a variety of ways. The pay for the Internship is \$4000.00 during the summer, starting June 2 and ending July 23 . Internship placements are with engaging local churches throughout the West Ohio Conference. Applicants must be college students **who are available for the duration of the Internship**.

Please encourage students who have expressed a desire to explore a call to ministry and/or service to apply:

<https://www.westohioumc.org/sites/default/files/conference/documents/pdf/page/2021-nql-intern-application.pdf>.

**The Application Deadline is April 19, 2021.** For questions, please email Rev. Donnetta Peaks, [dpeaks@wocumc.org](mailto:dpeaks@wocumc.org) or call 614-844-6200, 314.

To accommodate unknown factors associated with the Coronavirus, Intern Applicants are encouraged to discuss the possibility of being hosted by their home church and mentored by their Pastor/Pastoral team. We will not be providing housing accommodations for 2021.

### **Next Generation Leadership Ministry – Mentor and Host Church Application**

The Next Generation Leadership Ministry Program is now taking applications for Mentors/Host Churches for the summer of 2021. For clergy and congregations with a passion for developing young leaders, this is a great opportunity to mentor a young person who has a desire to serve in the church and explore a call to ministry.

The applications are located online at:

[https://www.westohioumc.org/sites/default/files/conference/documents/pdf/page/2021-nql-mentor-application\\_0.pdf](https://www.westohioumc.org/sites/default/files/conference/documents/pdf/page/2021-nql-mentor-application_0.pdf).

For questions, please contact Rev. Donnetta Peaks, [dpeaks@wocumc.org](mailto:dpeaks@wocumc.org) or call 614-844-6200, ext. 314.

## Congratulations to our Foothills District Churches who have received a grant of up to \$1,000!

The churches had a representative attend Bishop Palmer's Leadership Clinic in March with Nona Jones and filled out an application stating what they would do with the amount requested for their communications or technology ministry. We have reviewed the applications and awarded these churches based on their request. We are excited to see how this grant will impact the churches and their communities.

Bremen UMC  
Carmel Sutton UMC  
Gilman UMC  
Rolling Plains UMC  
Stewart UMC  
Tunnel UMC  
Zanesville Grace UMC

Canaanville UMC  
Central Avenue UMC  
River of Life UMC  
Somerset UMC  
The Plains UMC  
Zanesville Faith UMC

## Camp Otterbein We're Hiring!

### Summer Camp Counselors & Program Staff

Get MORE out of your summer! Use this summer to make an impact. West Ohio Camps are a place where you can grow your Christian faith, gain practical leadership skills, and make an impact in the world! Form life-long friendships with your fellow staff members as you work together to provide life-changing experiences for campers.



### Year-Round Maintenance

We are seeking a person with a fix-it aptitude in basic plumbing, carpentry, small equipment, grounds keeping, etc. Someone who enjoys working in and outdoors while taking care of a great camp facility and working alongside other Christians. Flexible hours are 40 per week May through August; 24 hours per week the rest of the year

### Kitchen Assistants

Looking for summer camp kitchen helpers to assist with meal prep and cleanup. Work under the direction of our great Kitchen Manager in a friendly environment.

### Housekeeping

Looking for a person to clean and maintain facilities before, during and after summer sessions and weekend retreats. Possibility of year-round.

### Groundskeeping

Looking for a person to mow and take care of grounds a couple days a week during warmer months.

If interested, apply at

<https://westohioumc.campbrainstaff.com/>

**FOOTHILLS DISTRICT  
UMC**

PO Box 67  
47 Johnson Rd.  
The Plains, OH 45780-0067

Phone: 888-868-1225 or

740-677-0136

E-mail: [Foothillsdistrict@wocumc.org](mailto:Foothillsdistrict@wocumc.org)

## Bishops Cancel May 8 General Conference

The United Methodist Council of Bishops has canceled its call for a special virtual General Conference on May 8.

The bishops made the decision to cancel during a March 22 online meeting that was closed to the public.

The bishops also announced that they plan to use their regularly scheduled April meeting to discuss results of listening sessions and discern a possible new timeline.

“Much has been learned over the past few weeks and the extended timeline will allow for even deeper listening by the bishops at the general church level but also in our residential settings,” Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey, Council of Bishops president and leader of the Louisiana Conference, [said in a press statement after the meeting.](#)

Last month, the bishops called the special one-day session on the same day the Commission on the General Conference [announced that COVID-19’s threat had forced the postponement of the global denomination’s top lawmaking assembly a second time.](#) The full General Conference, originally set for May 2020, is now set for Aug. 29-Sept. 6, 2022. The meeting venue is still Minneapolis. [Read more..](#)

# HAPPY EASTER

From your Foothills District Staff

Dennis Miller

Steve McGuire

Sherri Rogers

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Lunch 12:00-1:00 p.m.**

**E-Mails: Office - [foothillsdistrict@wocumc.org](mailto:foothillsdistrict@wocumc.org)**

**Dennis Miller, DS - [dmiller@wocumc.org](mailto:dmiller@wocumc.org)**

**Steve McGuire, ADS - [smcguire@wocumc.org](mailto:smcguire@wocumc.org)**

**Sherri Rogers, Office Admin. - [srogers@wocumc.org](mailto:srogers@wocumc.org)**

**Check us out on the Web:  
[www.foothillsdistrict.org](http://www.foothillsdistrict.org)**