



EVENTS

Upcoming District Committee Meetings

Clergy Support & Development	6/29/17 @ 10:00 am @ Heartland District Office
Committee on Ordained Ministry	8/10/17 @ 9:00 am @ Heartland District Office
District Leadership Team	7/26/17 @ 10:00 am-2:00 pm @ Heartland District Office (with Lunch)
Intergenerational Ministries	TBD 2017
Lay Servant Committee	TBD 2017
Location & Building	TBD 2017
Outreach & Missions	TBD 2017
Superintendency	9/18/17 @ 10:30 am @ Heartland District Office

Full descriptions of the “Events” appear in our weekly newsletter for approximately three weeks in a row. After this time, more information on the events listed below and be found by clicking on the “District Calendar” link on the homepage of our website (www.umcheartland.org).

- June 22 – [Building Worship Bridges with Cathy Townley @ Rochester: St. Paul's UMC](#)
- June 22, July 15, July 27 & August 6 -- [Great Lakes Loons Fellowship Games @ Dow Diamond](#)
- July 10-13 – Melanie on Vacation/Heartland District Office Closed
- July 12-16 – [Heartland District Youth Missions Trip @ Harrison, MI](#)
- Begins July 16-20 – [Michigan Local Pastor School 2017 @ Lake Huron Retreat Center](#)



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- July 13-15 -- [Mission-U @ Albion College](#)
- July 22 – [Michigan Barefoot Mile @ State Capital Lawn, Lansing](#)
- July 24 (July 25 Rain Day) – [Heartland Clergy Family Beach Day @ Wiggins Lake](#)
- August 22-23 – [2017 School for Pastoral Ministry @ Kellogg Center, East Lansing](#)
- Fall 2017 – [Missionaries Coming Soon to West Michigan](#)
- September 5-7 – Melanie on Vacation/Heartland District Office Closed
- September 15 – [5th Annual Michigan UMC Baseball Night @ Comerica Park](#)
- September 15-16 – Heartland Fall 2017 Lay Servant Classes @ Albright Camp
- September 21 – [Heartland District UMW Annual Meeting @ New Life UMC](#)
- October 16-17 – Mission-U of the North @ Gaylord UMC
- October 20-21 – UMW Conference Annual @ Mt. Pleasant First UMC
- October 20-21 – [2017 Reach Summit @ Hilton Double Tree Inn, Grand Rapids](#)
- 2019 – [General Conference to Meet in 2019](#)

Michigan Annual Conference Design Team: Stay informed as we work to become one conference-- <http://design.michiganumc.org/>
Your ideas, questions, comments and concerns are needed to help move this important work forward. Please email DesignTeam@MlareaUMC.org.



Recurring Church Dinners: Looking to go out to dinner? Check out these dinners listed instead of going out to a restaurant. This is another way to give back to local churches. Any one-time, special dinners will be listed in the weekly newsletter as separate events.

Heartland District Youth Missions Trip July 12-16



A local (inside the Heartland District) missions trip is scheduled for July 12-16. This Wednesday through Sunday experience will be based in Harrison, MI where we will be partnering with The Gathering to build community, serve, and reach out with the love of Jesus to people of Harrison and beyond.

[Click here for a flyer with all the details!](#) Contact Anika Kasper at 269-228-0926 or anikakasper@gmail.com if you have any questions.



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“Building Worship Bridges” with Cathy Townley **June 22**

Rochester: St. Paul's (620 Romeo Rd, Rochester, MI) will host “Building Worship Bridges” with Cathy Townley on June 22 from 9:30 am-4:00 pm. In this seminar based on Cathy's new book, *Building Worship Bridges: Worship to Accelerate Neighborhood Connections*, you'll learn the technical side of worship service development (competent) and the adaptive, relational side (compelling). The two aspects of worship bridge building always go together. Learn the five phases of worship development (Worship, Hospitality, Technology, Discipleship and Artistry), and also learn how to organize and mobilize your people for the most powerful worship service possible for your context.

**BUILDING
WORSHIP
BRIDGES**

*Worship to Accelerate
Neighborhood Connections*



cathy townley
kay kotan
bishop robert farr

Cathy Townley is an experienced worship leader, church planter, speaker and writer. With 30 plus years' experience in starting worship services, revitalizing existing services, consulting with churches on how to improve their worship landscape and coaching church planters, pastors and worship leaders on how to communicate with their mission field through worship, Cathy makes worship design and leadership very practical and accessible for churches of any size.

Participants will receive a copy of *Building Worship Bridges*. Registration Cost: \$49 each or all three for \$125. [Click here to register.](#)

Michigan Barefoot Mile **July 22**



Come walk a Barefoot Mile to help rescue trafficked children! Join with [JOY International](#) on July 22 beginning at 9:00 am for this family-friendly walk around the State Capitol Lawn in Lansing. The Barefoot Mile is a wonderful way to gather your local community to stand against trafficking. As a walker, you will have the opportunity to ask friends and family to sponsor you as you walk barefoot in solidarity with trafficked children. Awareness is important, but we need people like you to take action in helping us raise the necessary funds it takes to rescue these precious, innocent children. Visit www.joy.org to register and to invite others to participate.

Heartland Clergy Family Beach Day **July 24 (25 Rain Day)**

Heartland Clergy (active and retired) are invited to attend a fun-filled day at the beach on July 24 (July 25 rain date) at the home of Pr. Cheryl Mancier on Wiggins Lake (Gladwin). [Click here for a flyer with all the details and instructions on how to register you and your family.](#)





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2017 School for Pastoral Ministry

August 22-23

The Michigan Area's 2017 School for Pastoral Ministry will be held at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing, Michigan, August 22-23.

Rooted Worship in Shifting Sands is the theme. Keynote speakers are Mary Scifres and Paul Chilcote.



A writer for Abingdon Press, Rev. Mary Scifres is author of *Searching for Seekers* and *Just in Time! Special Services*. She's the co-author of annual publications *Prepare!* and *The United Methodist Music and Worship Planner*. Mary also writes and edits *The Abingdon Worship Annual* with her husband B. J. Beu. In her role as motivational speaker, Mary Scifres offers innovative resources to understand today's emerging cultures and to guide organizations through change initiatives. She brings an optimism and enthusiasm that is infectious, transforming ordinary events into extraordinary experiences of inspiration and creativity.

Paul W. Chilcote is Professor of Theology at Asbury Theological Seminary in Orlando. He has been involved in theological education on three continents, having taught at Wesley College (England), St. Paul's United Theological College (Kenya), the Methodist Theological School (Ohio), and Duke Divinity School (North Carolina). Paul helped launch two new institutions – Africa University (Zimbabwe) and Asbury Theological Seminary (Florida). He is the author of more than 20 books, including *A Faith That Sings*, *The Works of John Wesley, vol. 13, John & Charles Wesley: Making Disciples in a World Parish*, *Praying in the Wesleyan Spirit*, and *Recapturing the Wesleys' Vision*. He is a frequent speaker and workshop leader in applied Wesleyan studies, particularly in the areas of spirituality, worship, discipleship, and evangelism.



For the schedule, registration, and more [click here](#).

Missionaries Coming Soon to West Michigan!

Fall 2017

This fall West Michigan will have the opportunity to host several missionaries from our 6-Lanes book. September 23rd through October 6th the Rev. Nkemba Ndjungu and his wife Mbwizu who are serving in Cameroon will be here. October 16th to November 22nd we will have Rev. Delbert Groves and his wife Sandy who are serving the New Life Center in Zambia. And starting around Labor Day we will have Rev. Paul Webster and Silvester who are serving in Mujila Falls, Zambia.



West Michigan is always generous and wonderful in supporting our missionaries around the world and this fall you will have the opportunity to extend some more radical hospitality to them by inviting them to join you for a meal and a time to fellowship while they share their stories. Through this time with our missionaries we are able to experience what being in mission is doing to change the world.

We know as believers, we are called to actively spread God's words and love and to make a positive difference in the world. Our missionaries are fulfilling what Mark says in



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16:15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." Each of you can be part of their mission journey by sharing your time and hearing their story.

If you are interested in hosting them for a visit at your church, please contact your Conference Secretary of Global Ministries, Sharon Burkart at sharonannburkart@gmail.com or 269-967-0301.

Heartland District UMW Annual Meeting September 21

The Heartland District UMW Annual Meeting will take place September 21 at New Life UMC (6584 M-66, Six Lakes) beginning at 9:00 am. Linda Huyck will be our guest speaker sharing on her Ubuntu Trip to Cartagena, Columbia. [Click here for a printable registration form.](#)



2017 REACH Summit October 20-21

The annual REACH Summit event is held in October each year and is designed to spark creativity, inspire your leadership and transform your church. If your church is ready to attract new members, make new disciples and take a leap of faith to become a vital and growing ministry, then you need to attend this important weekend.

Then, after the REACH Summit weekend, subsequent REACH Network Groups provide a year-long opportunity of learning and networking with other pastors and church leaders developing the same new ministry focus in their local churches.



The 2017 summit will be held October 20-21 at the Hilton Double Tree Inn in Grand Rapids, MI.

This year's keynote speaker:

OLUJIMI (Olu) BROWN serves as the Lead Pastor of Impact Church, a young congregation in the East Point community of Metropolitan Atlanta. With Olu's vision and leadership, Impact has grown from a core team of 25 people to more than 2,000 attendees each Sunday in ten years and was listed in *Outreach Magazine's* 2016 Top 100 Fastest-Growing Churches in America.

It all begins in October with the annual REACH Summit! [Click here for additional information and to register.](#)



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General Conference to Meet in 2019



For only the second time in its history, The United Methodist Church will hold a special session of General Conference. The last time was in 1970.

The special meeting of The United Methodist Church's top lawmaking assembly will be limited to acting on a report by Council of Bishops, based on the proposals from [the Commission on the Way Forward](#). The

32-member commission, appointed by the bishops, has the charge of finding ways for the denomination to stay together despite deep differences around homosexuality.

[Click here to read more.](#)

NEWS

Summer Edition of The Dove

Appointment Changes in the Heartland

New DS Coming to Part of the Heartland District

New Hope UMC Featured on Local News

Camping Summer Staff Opportunities

Spring Edition of Heartland UMW Newsletter

Classifieds—Free Books; Hymnals Needed

Summer Edition of The Dove

[Click here to read the Summer edition of The Dove!](#)





Appointment Changes in the Heartland

New Pastoral Appointments as of July 1, 2017:

- Janet Larner, Shepherd/Blanchard-Pine River UMCs
- Nancy Patera, Ionia LeValley/Berlin Center UMCs
- Jonathan Bratt Carle, Ionia First UMC/Lyons-Muir
- Marty Cobb, Farwell UMC
- Andy Hollander, Amble UMC
- Mark Johnson, Breckenridge UMC
- Dan Barkholz, Edmore Faith UMC
- Melody Surgeon-Rider, Ewart/Sears UMCs
- Devon Herrell, Wesley@FSU, Big Rapids Third Ave/Paris/Rodney UMCs
- Pulpit Supply, Barryton Faith UMC
- Irene Starr, Grant Center/Brooks Corners UMC



Retirements as of July 1, 2017:

- Kathy Kursch
- Bill Dye

Status Changes as of July 1, 2017:

- Jon VanDop, Leave of Absence

New DS Coming to the Part of the Heartland District

As of July 1, Rev. Dale Miller will be joining the Heartland District as District Superintendent to those churches currently working with DS Tamara Williams. Dale wrote this biography as an introduction to us.

As a child, living in a small town in Indiana, I found myself playing "preacher," standing on a tree stump addressing all of the kids in the neighborhood. I say "all" because it took everyone to accomplish an activity. I quickly discovered that if I would agree to play "frozen" tag or "hide-and-go-seek", then everybody else had to agree to play my congregation. It was a wonderful system of give and take. Three months after completing high school I received my License to Preach. The following summer, at the age of 19, I served two country churches (Amo and Coatesville) near Greencastle, Indiana. I served them again the following summer. The next summer I was assigned to three small churches south of Indianapolis (Banta, Waverly and New Harmony).

Upon graduation from Illinois Wesleyan University (B.M. in Piano Performance and a minor in Greek), I headed off to Garrett Theological Seminary. With a music background I served as a Children's Choir Director at First Baptist Church in Evanston, Illinois, and as a Youth Choir Director at Trinity Church of the North Shore (UMC) in Wilmette, Illinois. After my first year at Garrett I became the musical director of a semi-professional summer stock company in Michigan City, Indiana. There I met my wife, Susan, a graduate of Butler University (BA in Dance), who had been a member of the Peace Corps, stationed on the island of Yap in Micronesia, and also was a graduate of the University of Hawaii (BA in Teaching English as a Second Language). We were married on September 18, 1971.



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After seminary, Susan and I (and our brand new baby boy, Walker) began a new adventure by receiving an appointment in the Ann Arbor District of the Detroit Annual Conference as the associate minister at Plymouth First UMC.

Thus began a 42 year ministry that saw our family grow to two boys (Walker and Sam) and two girls (Kate and Sarah), as well as providing us with wonderful pastoral opportunities (Ypsilanti Stony Creek UMC, Gladstone UMC, Flint Central UMC, Waterford Central UMC, Superintendent of the Detroit East District, and Farmington Hills Nardin Park UMC).

In June, 2015, my widowed father received a pacemaker. Three weeks later he fell and broke his hip. A new family journey began as he arrived to permanently live with us. Faced with this new situation, I chose to retire in 2016. Susan, dad (Daryl) and I moved to Marshall, to be near our daughter, Kate and her family. (Oh, yes, we have two daughters-in-law, two sons-in-law, and eight grandchildren!) Our plan was to winter in Florida, living in an in-law suite of a home owned by daughter Sarah and her family.

"The plan" was interrupted by Bishop Bard on January 3rd of this year. He asked me to serve one year as the Superintendent of the Albion District. Didn't he know I was retired? Didn't he know I was a member of the Detroit Annual Conference? The short answer is, "Yes, he knew." West Michigan and Detroit Conferences will soon be no more. The Michigan Conference is just around the corner. The number of Districts needed for the new Conference requires a decision. If the number of Districts is reduced it would be awkward to ask someone to be a DS and then un-ask them the very next year. So a one-year interim DS may be unorthodox, but, hopefully, it will be practical. Our future is definitely in a state of flux. Something new is happening. Change creates either anxiety or eagerness, or, sometimes, both.

I said, "Yes," because I want to be a positive help in the chaos of this transition. I want the people of the Albion and Heartland Districts to know that in the midst of all of this "organizational creativity" they remain valued as the people of God and as the instruments of God's grace. It will be important for me to hear from all of you. So, I will attend every church conference and listen very carefully. As a Superintendent I am an extension of the Bishop to the Local Church and Ministry, but I am also an extension of every Local Church and Ministry to the Bishop. I look forward to an exciting year with you. May we be God-Led, Christ-Centered, and People-Focused.

Dale

New Hope UMC Featured on Local News

The Heartland's own Mecosta New Hope UMC was recently featured on 9 and 10 News. They started their weekly "Faithfully Fit" exercise class last fall, and they were happy to share their story with the area. Check it out using the links below.

Here's the video:

<http://www.9and10news.com/clip/13265086/get-fit-get-healthy-faithfully-fit>

Here's the storyline:

<http://www.9and10news.com/story/35200403/get-fit-get-healthy-faithfully-fit>





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Camping Summer Staff Opportunities



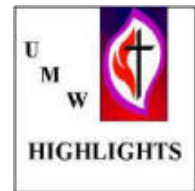
Do you know of someone who would enjoy working at camp this summer? Perhaps a family member who has the summer off from college and may enjoy working in an upbeat, friendly, Christian camp environment? If so... please send them our way!

The Michigan Area United Methodist Camping Ministries has the following camp staff opportunities, which you can help us fill: <https://umcamping.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Staff-Needs.pdf>

Thank you, for your ongoing support of camping ministries. We are looking forward to serving you and your family this summer. Check out: www.umcamping.org for summer camp and family campground opportunities.

Spring Edition of Heartland UMW Newsletter

[Click here to read the newest edition of Highlights—Spring 2017!](#)



Classifieds

Classifieds has been added to the weekly news as a place to list items in good condition that are for sale or free to other churches. If you have good "stuff" sitting around that you don't want anymore and could be of use to someone else, email Melanie the details!

- Clare UMC has the books listed below to gift to another congregation. Call Judy at 989-386-2591 to make arrangements to pick them up.
 - "Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study" (11 copies)
 - "Into the Word Into the World" (14 copies)
 - "Becoming a Contagious Christian" (15 copies)
 - "NetWork" series (kit with 5 copies)
 - "Making Children Mind without Losing Yours" workbook (2 copies)
 - "Prescription for the Pain of Overloaded Lives" study guide (1 copy)
 - "Life Is No Picnic!" leader's guide (1 copy)
 - "Stress Survival Skills for the Family" (1 copy)
- The Heartland District Office is searching for at least 65 copies of the purple (1994) UMC Hymnal. If your church has some to give away, contact Melanie at heartland@michiganumc.org or 989-775-2025.





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Newsletter Articles & Ideas

If you would like to feature an article in this newsletter, please email it to Melanie at heartland@michiganumc.org. It is at the discretion of the Heartland District Office to choose which articles are included. News and upcoming events appear in our bi-weekly newsletter for two to three editions. After that time more information on events previously included can be found by clicking on the "District Calendar" link on the homepage of our website (www.umcheartland.org). Check our website often, as information is added and changed often!