



## June 2018 Newsletter

Greetings one more time, Friends!

I have been going through files and emails and drawers cleaning up “stuff” to prepare this office space for Rev. Melissa Dodd who will officially begin her duties as Northwest District Superintendent on July 1. What an honor it has been to serve as superintendent of the Great Northwest for the past three years! I remember vividly the day Bishop Schnase called to invite me to be a part of the Missouri Cabinet. It has been a very special time in my ministry as I have traveled thousands and thousands of miles to worship with congregations large and small; as I have celebrated with you at the burning of mortgages; as we have grieved together at the closing of churches. I have been blessed to baptize several new Christians and to turn shovels of dirt at groundbreaking for new facilities. One of the “duties” that brings me the most joy is hearing those called to ministry share their call stories as they say YES and dream about how God intends to use them in the future.

There have been challenges, too. Ministry is hard work. And I give thanks every day for pastors and lay people who move out in faith each day to make disciples for Jesus Christ so that our very broken world might be transformed one life at a time. The next year will be an especially challenging one as The United Methodist Church is faced with pivotal decisions. Bishop Robert Farr spoke about The Way Forward at Annual Conference earlier this month. He will make a tour of our districts this fall to talk more about what options exist as our denomination moves toward a special called session of General Conference in February, 2019. Be watching for the dates and places of Bishop’s stops in our district.

I am very excited about continuing my ministry in the local church. I will be preaching this Sunday, July 1 at Ebenezer and Clair UMCs, located on the eastern edge of St. Joseph. The local church is where my heart is and where my gifts can best be used. I visited the last night of VBS at Ebenezer last Friday. As I started home, I was filled with joy knowing that I had made the right decision. We are going to have great fun!!

When our three sons were younger and living at home, I remember offering words of advice as their dad and I were headed out to some event. We rattled off last minute instructions and reminders of what to do and not do, how to behave and how to treat each other. For some reason, that scenario has been in my mind as I prepare to turn in my keys and pick up a new set for a new place with new people.

So... here goes. Remember who you are and whose you are. Remember that you are God’s representatives in our world. Change is hard; but change is also good and necessary if we are to live and grow into the future. Remember that it is not about you; it IS all about God and helping those who don’t know about God to hear the Good News. Be kind to each other. Relationship is so very important. Try to keep in mind that your opinion is as important to you as mine is to me. Respect each other and seek to interact with each other with a heart at peace. Read your Bible every day. Say a prayer. Do something to help somebody else. Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God. And... no wrestling in the living room!

Thank you, Friends, for being The United Methodist Church in Northwest Missouri. Thank you for allowing me to be your “leader.” I know you will love Rev. Dodd. She will bring her own style and Personality to this office. I look forward to having her as MY superintendent!

Blessings to you. And, as always, may God allow us to be a part of what God wants to bless. I’m headed out to meet some new people!!!! Woo Hoo!

*Cindy* 😊



We have a new website and email addresses!

To contact us via email, please use the following:

Rev. Melissa Dodd, District Superintendent - [mdodd@moumethodist.org](mailto:mdodd@moumethodist.org)

Megan Hayes, Executive Assistant - [mhayes@moumethodist.org](mailto:mhayes@moumethodist.org)

Morgan Scott, Administrative Assistant - [mScott@moumethodist.org](mailto:mScott@moumethodist.org)

Update your address book today!

## Woo Hoo! Celebrations from Local Churches



The Great Northwest is blessed with people living out our Wesleyan ways. This year at the Missouri Annual Conference Awards night two remarkable men received recognition for their faithfulness.

Congratulations to George Handy, from **Kearney UMC** who received the Harry Denman Evangelism Award. The Harry Denman Evangelism Award honors one lay and one clergy for their exceptional ministry of evangelism- expressed in Word(what), Sign (why) and Deed (how)- that brings people into a life transforming relationship with Jesus Christ.

Congratulations to Rogers Stickland, from **Weston UMC** who received the Robert and Martha Marble Mission Award. This award is given to an individual in the Missouri Annual Conference who exhibits outstanding commitment to mission.

To read more, see full articles at

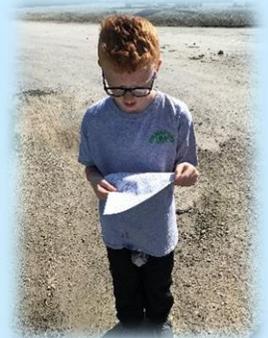
<https://www.moumethodist.org/magazine>



The **Parnell United Methodist Church** received the Gladys Rickard Charitable Trust Grant last fall for \$10,000. With this money, they constructed a Kids Zone area that includes a room to serve as a nursery and Sunday School room. They didn't have either of these spaces prior to this. They also constructed a Hospitality Room with Coffee Bar. In addition to the Kids Zone, they updated all of the speaker systems and added technology in the Kids Zone room.

Several people from **Gilman City UMC** walked a circle around the town and covered the town in prayer. Their prayers included the school, local businesses, families, children, addictions, sickness, and much more. We also had a truck pulling a trailer with hay bales so those that couldn't walk, could still be a part of the event.

Since they were circling the town and praying for many walls to come crashing down, this walk became 'The Jericho Walk/Ride'. This is the 'unofficial' beginning of a Breakthrough Prayer Initiative. Pastor Kobey Puls is excited to see what God is going to do.



# Celebration of Appointments

## Welcome Pastors to the District

Melissa Dodd – Northwest District Superintendent  
Melissa Bailey-Kirk – Gashland UMC      Scott Bailey-Kirk – Platte City UMC  
Brad Dush – Gallatin/Jamesport UMCs      Cassie O'Brien Graham – Broadway UMC  
David Lucas – Oregon/Forest City UMCs

## Welcome Newly Licensed & Commissioned Pastors

Greg Cox – First Braymer/Breckenridge UMCs      Scott Kiddle – Union Star UMC  
Arden Ratcliff-Mann – PD at Liberty UMC      Britton Fields – PE at Platte Woods UMC  
Dave Shadinger – Maitland/Graham UMCs

## Celebrate Pastors Moving within the District

Cindy Buhman – Clair/Ebenezer UMC      Dave Donaldson – Camden & Henrietta UMCs  
Tom Evans – Mt. Moriah UMC      Terry Sleppy – Paradise UMC  
Mike Tipton – Chillicothe UMC (Associate)      Leanna van Zandt Nauman – Evolution/Agency  
Chelly Mears – Helena UMC      Bob Caldwell- Stanberry

## Recognize Pastors Leaving the District

Kyle Butler – Mt. Zion UMC      Amie Littrell – Fellowship at Sunrise UMC  
Cody Oshel – Faith (Kirksville) UMC      Katie Trinter – Kirkwood UMC  
Megan Winget- Wesley UMC (Springfield) (Associate)      Joe Miller- Sabbatical  
Mark Morehouse – Winterset, First-Patterson UMCs (Iowa)      Ben Mulford- Leave of Absence  
Mi Hyeon Lee- Mid-State District Superintendent

## Honor Pastors Retiring

Joe Hendren – Prairie Chapel UMC      Clayton Smith – Extension Ministry at COR  
Bruce Bray – Chaplain at Crossroads Hospice



## Annual Conference 2018

If you were not at Annual Conference this year you missed some great laughs, great music, awesome worship, oh, and some official business. Cindy and Roger Ross, introduced everyone to New Places for New People. Be on the lookout for new people – you never know what they might look like. Be sure to allow room to multiply! Be like a Lego, be a connector and allow growth and partnership.





On Friday, April 13th, I went on a road trip with fellow Values Team members and United Methodist laity and clergy called the "Journey for Justice." We met in St. Louis and got on a bus that was headed for the historical Centenary UMC and the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee.

To fully prepare oneself for such a trip is impossible. No one can anticipate all of the feelings, emotions one experiences as one struggles to assimilate new information that might be shocking, disturbing, and infuriating. We can't know how our minds will be impacted, shaped and reshaped by future events.

What impacted me the most on the trip was a huge sculpture at the front entrance to the museum. It was a big, divided bronze wall laced with veins composed of human figures that might at first remind one of the masses of tortured people in a Dante Alighieri inspired Botticellian hellscape except for the fact that these souls were embracing, reaching out, and holding each other up in a way that seemed helpful and loving. As one backs away from the massive work, one can begin to see that the bodies are actually forming an outline or map of the United States. Somewhat off-putting is to see that the whole sculpture is not in one, but rather two separate pieces. The observer can clearly see that there is a huge gap or chasm dividing the image of the U.S. Our guide informed our group that, in the mind of the artist, this rift represented the many factors that have divided and continue to divide the African-American people from each other and keep them from fully realizing the dream of arriving at a "promised land" and truly becoming a whole people.

One of the main ideas I took away from visiting the National Civil Rights Museum, was that although famous individuals who were part of the movement like Rosa Parks, Medgar Evers, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr., did much to move the Civil Rights movement forward in the United States, there were so many other individuals that were extremely vital to the current success of the movement that we might even be tempted to call "key" lesser players or those who are all but unknown. Nevertheless, it is only through the presence, the thoughts, and the actions of everyone who made their contribution to the total movement that the overall achievements of the National Civil Rights movement were made possible.

From the origins of the African slave trade in 1619 that moved captives from the continent of Africa to the New World, until the present day when we are still dealing with issues such as sex trafficking and immigration, I believe that the members of our group and all visitors to the museum are confronted with the reality that although so much has been accomplished by so many over the last four centuries, there is still so much more work to be done in the area of human and civil rights, both in this country and throughout the world. It is almost a certainty that many successive generations, from this time forward, will have to be vigilant and take up the fight for human and civil rights within every society in order to make sure that every individual can experience what it is like to live in a free and just world.

Martin Luther King Jr. seemed to prophecy this truth in the following immortal words:

*"Well, I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it really doesn't matter with me now, because I've been to the mountaintop. And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live - a long life; longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land. So I'm happy, tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord."*

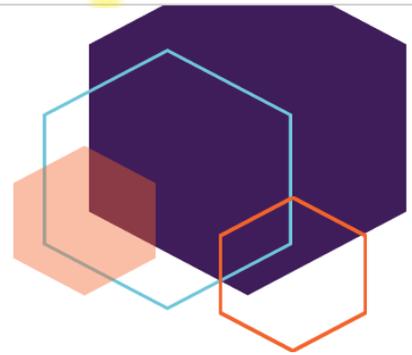
MLK said that he might not get there with them and the sobering truth is it may be many generations before anyone really "gets there", that is, if any human being will ever truly arrive there at all. Although I am hopeful that successive generations will indeed reach better places regarding human and civil rights than the generation before, it is possible that no one will see a "promised land" until the Lord Jesus Christ returns and we experience the fullness of God's Kingdom. Regardless, the most important truth that everyone should embrace who has been influenced by the Civil Rights movement in this country is to know that when we are fighting for a cause within our world that glorifies God, our efforts are never in vain. We should always be hopeful and encourage one another, knowing that the Holy Spirit will empower us as we work to transform this world to look more like God's Kingdom.

- Jeremy Blevins, Richmond UMC Pastor



# Upcoming Events & Workshops

## Northwest District Lay Servant Workshop



**Saturday, July 21 at Hamilton UMC**  
**8:30 AM – 5:00 PM**

Leading, Caring, Communicating: Lay Servant Ministries offer opportunities for laity who desire to use their witness, leadership, and service to inspire others to a deeper commitment to Christ and more effective discipleship. This may include the interpretation of the Scriptures, doctrine, organization, and ministries of the church.

**Basic Course:** Looking for leadership training? This course is foundational for all courses in lay servant ministries. Participants are encouraged to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended and to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in their discipleship.

### **Advance Courses:**

**Leading Missional Small Groups** -This course teaches the Wesleyan way to form missional communities and congregations.

**Afire with God** – urges ministries and congregation to become stewards-in-action in all God has entrusted to us.

For more information and registration, please [click here](#). Registration closes July 11.



Festival of Sharing is in its 38th year of making a difference in the lives of persons in need in Missouri and around the world. Through last year, donations gathered by local churches were brought to the state fairgrounds in Sedalia in October, sorted, and distributed from that central location. Beginning this year, that single gathering will no longer take place. Instead, 7 smaller events are taking place around the state. Cameron UMC will still be the NW District drop-off point from Oct 8 - 13 for donations from your church. All leading up to Sharefest, at Cameron UMC on Saturday, October 13.

If you want to know more about Sharefest, Sidney Owens, the statewide coordinator for Festival of Sharing, is coming to Cameron the evening of

**Tuesday, July 17 at 5:30pm.**

She will speak about this new format and share all pertinent information about ShareFest and the Quilt Auction. We invite representatives of your church to attend. We'll begin at 5:30 with pizza and beverages. Sidney will bring FOS booklets as well as tee-shirts, which are \$10 each.

Kindly RSVP to [charsphillips@gmail.com](mailto:charsphillips@gmail.com) or to Cameron UMC church office 816-632-3461, by July 16.

You can also find information on the Festival website, [www.festivalofsharing.org](http://www.festivalofsharing.org).

# Upcoming Events & Workshops Continued

## **ERT Training – August 4 – Woods Chapel UMC**

Early Response Teams (ERTs) fill a specific need in the early days after a disaster to help to prevent further damage, while providing a caring Christian presence. ERTs are not a first-response group of emergency workers, nor are they recovery, rebuild, or repair teams. Under very specific guidelines, ERTs assist survivors, without causing further harm or being a burden to the affected community. Come learn about where United Methodists are involved during a disaster, how do we get prepared for a disaster, what we can do when a disaster strikes. Learn more at [www.moumethodist.org/ert](http://www.moumethodist.org/ert) – **Registration closes July 27**

## **Pathway Out of Poverty Webinar with author Jake McGlothlin – August 4**

Learn to deepen and grow your partnership with your local school, so that together we can raise student reading levels in Missouri. The first webinar in this series of three will feature Jake McGlothlin, author of The Mission-Minded Guide to Church and School Partnerships. Learn more and register at [www.moumethodist.org/eduwebinars](http://www.moumethodist.org/eduwebinars)

## **RE: Flourishing in Ministry – August 6-8 – Branson**

Re: Flourishing in Ministry aims to give ministerial leaders an environment and community to address their needs and offer support. Ministerial leaders are often properly reminded of how to sharpen ministerial skills: preaching, mission, administration, etc. But ministerial leaders also desperately need space to deepen their commitments to God, self and community through spiritual and self-care practices. Clergypersons who have been in ministry for five years or more are invited to join us in Branson, August 6-8. Learn more at [www.moumethodist.org/re](http://www.moumethodist.org/re) – **Registration closes July 6**

## **Part-Time Ministerial Leaders Training – August 11 or 18**

Part-Time Ministerial Leader (PML) Curriculum is designed for part-time local pastors entering ministry following Licensing School. This practical curriculum may also be used to equip any ministerial leadership including pulpit supply or Certified Lay Ministry. Learn more at [www.moumethodist.org/pml](http://www.moumethodist.org/pml) – **Registration closes July 27**

## **Preaching Academy – September 11-12 – Unity Village**

Feel like you are in a preaching rut? We hope that you will join us for the preaching retreat on September 10-11 at Unity Village for several keynote addresses, the option to meet one-on-one with preaching coaches, and provide opportunities to have conversations with your peers about the joys and struggles of the preaching life. Learn more at [www.moumethodist.org/preachingacademy](http://www.moumethodist.org/preachingacademy) – **Registration closes August 8**

# GRANT OPPORTUNITY

The Northwest District offers an opportunity for churches to apply for ministry grants in the Spring and Fall. The Fall deadline is approaching! Grants will be awarded to churches that are requesting funds to support current ministries or develop future ministries. Below is the criteria that the Mission Council will use in granting funds:

1. Grants will be primarily used to help establish congregational ministries that extend the work of the congregation into the surrounding community;
2. The congregation must demonstrate a high level of financial commitment from its membership;
3. The congregation must demonstrate how it will fund the ministry on an ongoing basis after the ministry is established;
4. Grant requests will only be considered for congregations that paid 100% of conference and district apportionments the previous year.

Grant applications can be downloaded by [clicking this link](#).

**Fall Deadline:** August 1<sup>st</sup> with the announcement of grants by September 1<sup>st</sup> .

**Spring Deadline:** February 1<sup>st</sup> with the announcement of grants by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

District Office Closed  
In Observance of Independence Day,  
Wednesday, July 4.

## Save the Dates

- July 1: First Sundays for New Pastors and Congregations
- July 1<sup>st</sup> Pastoral Support Forms due to District office for New Appointments
- July 4: Office Closed
- July 17: Sharefest Meeting at Cameron UMC
- July 17: Learn + Lead Webinar Narrative Budgeting
- July 21: Lay Servant Workshop
- August 7 & 8: District Admins out of the office- Meeting in Columbia
- August 11: Small Group Train the Trainer

## Need Help!!!

If you have any questions, please call the office at (816) 649-5028 or email Megan Hayes at [mhayes@moumethodist.org](mailto:mhayes@moumethodist.org) and Morgan Scott at [mscott@moumethodist.org](mailto:mscott@moumethodist.org) | Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30 am – 5:00 pm Closed Fridays