

EAST DISTRICT E-ALERT FOR March 30, 2016

Editorial Policy of the East District E-Alert:

Check this out – have you really read this paragraph lately? Do you realize that the East District now has a website? Because of the recent launch of a redesigned Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Website (<http://www.epaumc.org/>) which has a link, at the bottom of the Home Page, to a new East District website (<http://www.epaumc.org/districts/east/>), articles will appear for only one week, and, if pertinent, will be posted on the District web site. Previously published E-Alerts will be posted to the East District website.

The E-Alert is sent to Pastors and Church Offices on the East District and to lay people who have requested being added to the distribution list. Feel free to clip or copy any article for your church's bulletin or newsletter unless permission has specifically been granted to the East District for publication, in which case, request permission from the source. The District Office requests that pastors forward the E-Alert to church leaders and congregants who might find the E-Alert helpful and informative.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM BISHOP JOHNSON



Easter Greetings to Pastors and Laity,

I hope that you had a blessed Easter and that with the spring comes new life in mission and ministry. I am writing to encourage churches to consider paying apportionments every month. I know many of our churches already do that and for that I am grateful. Some churches wait to pay apportionments later in the year. We are currently experiencing a cash-flow problem and regular payments from our churches could help that a great deal. If you have not paid anything into the apportionments and benefits this year, please do so as soon as possible and please make monthly payments.

Thank you,

Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

EAST DISTRICT NEWS

MINISTERIUM BREAKFAST MEETING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 12 AT BENSLEM KOREAN UMC

The next East District Breakfast Ministerium meeting is planned for **Tuesday, April 12**, from **9:00-10:30 am** at **Bensalem Korean UMC** (2820 Mechanicsville Road, Bensalem 19020). Please RSVP to cakrall@epaumc.org your intention regarding attendance by Thursday, April 7.

PRAYER CONCERNS

DEATH OF ROSS BRIGHTWELL

We are sad to report the death of Mr. Ross Brightwell, immediate past president of the Eastern PA Conference United Methodist Men (UMM), who, reportedly, died of illness while hospitalized on Easter Sunday morning, March 27. He was an active member and leader of Jarrettown UMC and was elected an alternate delegate to the 2016 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

As conference UMM president (and vice president of the Northeastern Jurisdiction UMM), Ross represented the organization on numerous other conference boards and committees. To advance UMM fundraising and overall church promotion, he organized annual "United Methodist Day" gatherings at many Philadelphia-area professional sports events and family entertainment venues—including Phillies and 76ers games, the Philadelphia Zoo, Dorney Park, and Wildwater King. He also led the men in facilitating yearly collection and distribution of free, donated bags of potatoes at Annual Conference, among other UMM ministry endeavors.

"The United Methodist Men were very dear to his heart" said current UMM president, Clifton Hubbard. "The Conference United Methodist Men came a long way from near extinction as a result of Ross' dedication. Ross will certainly be missed."

More information about any memorial service will be reported as it is received.

CONFERENCE NEWS

HEALING & HEALTH COUNCIL

The March-April issue of "Wellspring," the health newsletter of the Conference Health & Healing Council is attached to this E-Alert email for everyone's reading and information. Ms. Mary Wilson, RN and Chairperson of the Council, requests that this newsletter be distributed to all of the people in your congregation by email or hard copy so that everyone may get the information.

CAMP & RETREAT CENTERS

Eastern Pennsylvania Conference's four Camp & Retreat Centers are accepting registrations for **Summer Camp 2016**, as well as applications for staff and volunteers. The 2016 Summer Camp theme is **God's Love without Boundaries**. Children, youth, and families who sign up can look forward to thrilling, creative adventures and possibly life-changing encounters for campers of all ages and abilities. But here's an update on what exciting events are planned before the summer fun arrives:

Carson Simpson Farm Christian Camp

- Open House & Flower Sale: May 7
- Disciple Training: May 13-14
- Little Critters Camp: May 14

Innabah

- [Spring 5K Trail Run](#) & 1.5 Mile Run/Walk for Kid's & Families: April 16
- Spring Open House: May 14

Pocono Plateau

- [Youth Music Camp Retreat](#): April 8-10
- [Dangerous Retreat for Boys](#) (and Dads): April 22-24
- [Mothers & Daughters Retreat](#): May 13-15
- [Young Adults Retreat](#): June 3-5

Gretna Glen

- Final Free Youth Night: April 17 (4-6:30 PM)
- Confirmation Camp: April 1-3 & April 8-10.
- Gretna Gritty Mud Run: May 7
- Spring Fling Senior Adult Day: May 10
- Open House: May 21

Also, want to see a few cool videos? Check out the two on Gretna Glen's **Gretna Gritty 2016**:

<https://vimeo.com/154241545> and <https://vimeo.com/151246371>

The Gritty, May 7, is a 5k Mud Run and Walk-A-Thon fundraiser set in the beautiful rolling hills of Mt. Gretna. In its 4th year, it aims to impress and continue a strong tradition of fun, safety, and plenty of MUD in exhilarating, competitive and non-competitive events that are both accessible and challenging. The Gritty has raised over \$116,000 so far, and there are over 360 participants signed up so far for this year's event. Sign up today, and find out more at gretnaglen.org/gritty.

Gretna Glen is also looking for plenty of volunteers. [Contact them today](#) if you can help them keep the Gritty great. You can also call Dan Kirby, Gretna Gritty Coordinator, at [717-639-1813](tel:717-639-1813).

NORTHEAST JURISDICTIONAL NEWS

SOUVENIR PROGRAM BOOKLET BEING CREATED FOR NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

On **July 11-15** more than 300 leaders of the Northeastern Jurisdiction will gather within the confines of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The Northeastern Jurisdiction includes nearly two million members, thousands of local churches, and three of the denomination's major theological seminaries and comprises ten annual conferences stretching from Maine to West Virginia, organized into nine episcopal areas, each led by an assigned resident bishop. This Jurisdiction, which is one of five United Methodist areas across the United States gave birth to our global denomination more than two centuries ago.

A souvenir program booklet is being created for this significant event. This professionally printed booklet will include greetings from public officials, the Conference agenda and organizational information, and appropriate ads in various sizes to promote vendors' ministries, service, and products. You are invited to consider purchasing space for a greeting or an advertisement. For more information about placing an ad, refer to the Souvenir Booklet attachment to the email from which this E-Alert was sent.

GENERAL CHURCH NEWS

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY APRIL 10

In less than two weeks, thousands of United Methodists will celebrate Native American Ministries **Sunday, April 10**. The offering received on this special Sunday is the United Methodist family's way to support Native American congregations and ministries so they can serve and worship with their communities as only they can. The offering allows us to support Native American pastors and communities through scholarships and funds. God's church is amazing! Our ministry here can tangibly be a part of bringing the gospel to diverse communities across the United States. See the [impact of our giving on Native American Ministries Sunday](#). Be sure to **download the free resources**.

EARTH DAY: CARE FOR GOD'S CREATURES

Will your church celebrate **Earth Day 2016** on **April 22**, or on a nearby Sunday, either April 17 or 24? Every spring, **Creation Justice Ministries** (CJM) equips faith communities with Christian education resources on a timely theme. Scientists have released evidence that Earth is in the midst of its sixth mass extinction crisis, with one of five species facing threat of extinction. Therefore, CJM's 2016 theme is **Care for God's Creatures**; and they offer materials to help your church celebrate **Earth Day Sunday**. In [Care for God's Creatures](#), you will find Christian education resources, liturgical resources to plan a Blessing of the Animals or a creature-themed worship service, and action resources to engage in citizen science and advocate to protect the Endangered Species Act. Find prayer, Bible study, and Christian education materials for creature-care. [Download it now](#).

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