

EAST DISTRICT

E-ALERT FOR

September 28, 2017

Editorial Policy of the East District E-Alert:

Generally, articles will appear for only one week, and, if pertinent, will be posted on the East District website (<http://www.epaumc.org/districts/east>). Or, if you are on the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference website (<http://www.epaumc.org>), there is a link to the East District website at the bottom of any page. Previously published E-Alerts will be posted to the East District website.

This 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.

EAST DISTRICT RELIEF EFFORT FOR PUERTO RICO

District Superintendent Tracy Bass announces the beginning of an East District Relief Effort for Puerto Rico in collaboration with the North District, the Rev. Dr. Irving Cotto, Superintendent. Plans are also underway for some Eastern Pennsylvania Cabinet members to travel to Puerto Rico on a mission trip early next year.

Meanwhile, Dr. Cotto's family members in Puerto Rico report that the biggest obstacle the island faces at this time is that being without power has a domino effect on other issues. The greatest immediate needs for island residents are:

- **Batteries** (For the next few months until electricity is restored).
- **Cash** (The banking system is down without electricity and purchasing goods can only be done with cash. Gasoline, for example is scarce and people are waiting in line for 12 hours every other day to get gas for whatever generators they may have.).
- **Clothing** (Much has been lost, even in department stores).
- **Nonperishables**
- **Over-the-Counter items of hygiene, etc.** (Toothpaste, toothbrushes, soaps, shampoos)

Quakertown UMC is serving as a collection site for such items. **Plans are in the works for delivery to Puerto Rico for some time next week.** Quakertown UMC, where the Rev. Dr. Thomas S. Robinson III is pastor, is located at 1875 Freier Rd., Quakertown 18951. The church phone number is (215) 536-4992.

A WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY MESSAGE FROM BISHOP PEGGY JOHNSON: ALWAYS PRESENT--WIND, RAIN, EARTHQUAKE, FIRE

It seems like a week has not passed lately without a catastrophic disaster of nature. There have always been such things since the dawn of time, but scientists are confirming that the force and breadth of these events have been more severe than usual.



Humanitarian crises result, and it all leaves us unsettled, sad, and finding ways to alleviate suffering through the collection of flood buckets, health kits, and donations to the UM Committee on Relief. There

is hardly a person who does not know someone who has been displaced or adversely affected by hurricanes, floods and fires in our region.

Yet, the devastation from hurricanes, mudslides and earthquakes in countries around the world has left even more peoples' lives destroyed due to their fragile infrastructures and the poverty many of our global friends must suffer and struggle through.



As we prepare for **World Communion Sunday** on Sunday, October 1, let us remember all people around the world who are suffering and the rescuers who rush in to aid those in need with great sacrifice and love. May we continue to collect offerings to offer them our help.



But may we also remember to support the efforts of many diverse United Methodists who, through higher education and training for leadership, are preparing their hearts and minds to relieve suffering and improve the lives of their churches and communities. Our United Methodist World Communion Sunday offering supports many of them with scholarships and grants, thus helping to prepare the next generation of leaders among us.

As we give to this Special Sunday offering, may we plant seeds for a brighter future of principled leaders. Leaders who will be able to guide the church into the days ahead, when we will likely see more storms but also more heroic Christian acts to rescue victims and aid survivors.

The love of God in Jesus Christ is passed on into the future through Christ's devoted disciples and servant-leaders, as we help prepare those leaders with quality education today.

Please feel free to use this suggested "[Great Thanksgiving](#)" [Communion liturgy](#), prepared by the Rev. Michael Johnson, on this World Communion Sunday or any appropriate Sunday during these trying times. May God bless you and your faithful ministries.

In remembrance of Christ,

Bishop Peggy Johnson



PLANTING SEEDS FOR MINISTRY GROWTH 2017

In just **2 days** (Saturday, September 30), **Hopewell UMC** in Downingtown, PA will be the site of the 14th annual ***Planting Seeds for Ministry Growth***. If you have not yet registered, there is still time. Simply click this link (or copy it into your browser) -- <http://www.hopewellumc.org/planting-seeds-registration>.

With the theme of ***Pray for the City***, this year's event includes the very best leadership in missional outreach, instruction for effectiveness in the local church, and timely topics. You can find detailed information about the ministry workshops, schedule, faculty, and more by clicking [here](#).

Hopewell's Planting Seeds Ministry Team looks forward to seeing you!

SAVE THESE DATES

- **Saturday, September 30, 2017:** Planting Seeds for Ministry Growth 2017, Hopewell UMC.
- **Sunday, October 1, 2017:** World Communion Sunday
- **Friday, October 20-Saturday, October 21, 2017:** Ministry and Money 2-Day Seminar.
- **Friday, October 20-Saturday, October 21, 2017:** ReCall Summit, sponsored by The UMC NE Jurisdiction's Multi-Ethnic Center for Ministry (see article below).
- **Saturday, October 21, 2017:** **Hope! Talks** registration is open. Click [here](#) for more information.
- **Saturday, October 21:** Free Eye Care & Eyeglasses for children 17 years old and under, 8:30 am-1 pm, Jefferson Alumni Hall (10th & Locust, Philadelphia).
- **Sunday, November 5, 2017 at 3 pm** – "Joyful Noise Choir Concert" at **Tindley Temple**, 750-762 S. Broad St., Philadelphia 19146.
- **Saturday, November 11, 2017 at Noon**, luncheon meeting with representatives of TMS Global (formerly The Mission Society). Call the East District office for more information.
- **Thursday, November 16, 2017:** 7th Annual Fall Fest to benefit The Center for Grieving Children.
- **Tuesday, November 28** is UMC #GivingTuesday.
- **Friday, December 1-Saturday, December 2, 2017:** Christ Servant Ministry courses at St. John's UMC, 820 Almshouse Rd., Ivyland 18974.

- **Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at 9 am** – East District Ministerium Christmas Breakfast at **Jarrettown UMC**, 1460 Limekiln Pike, Dresher PA 19025.
- **Saturday, May 5, 2018** – encore presentation of **Walking With: The African American Experience** – East District Conversation on Race Relations. More information will be forthcoming. This event is designed for clergy and laity who missed this East District retreat event held in January 2017 at Washington Crossing UMC.
- **Sunday, May 6, 2018** – East District Pre-Annual Conference gathering, 3 pm-5pm, Lighthouse Fellowship UMC, 137 N. Easton Rd., Glenside 19038. Parking available in lot across the street at St. Luke’s Roman Catholic Church. Lighthouse Fellowship is located two blocks from Septa’s Regional Rail, **Glenside** station.

OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Here is a link to an article "(More than) 10 ways to appreciate your pastor" which was originally posted three years ago:

<http://www.umc.org/how-we-serve/more-than-10-ways-to-appreciate-your-pastor>

NATIVE AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE

The Eastern Pennsylvania Committee on Native American Ministries (CoNAM) appreciates the support of Bishop Johnson and the District Superintendents for “Continuing the Journey Toward Healing and Wholeness with Indigenous Peoples” established by the Act of Repentance. However, the Committee looks for intentional and specific actions to follow the guidelines in the Discipline and in the EPA Resolution to the 2017 Annual Conference.

Resources for following through on the resolution have been posted on the Conference website (www.epaumc.org) and can be found at the links below:

Promotion video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oR-ekvO3rfs&t=20s>

CoNAM brochure: <https://www.epaumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/conam-brochure.pdf>

Loss of Turtle Island flyer: <https://www.epaumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/LOSS-OF-TURTLE-ISLAND.pdf>.

These resources will help your churches see the purpose and importance of planning a Native American Sunday worship service and to become part of the process of healing with our Native American brothers and sisters.

The primary responsibility of the local church representative is to plan a Native American Sunday service once a year. The EPAUMC website has all the information needed – liturgy, songs, prayers – and CONAM can help provide a speaker as well as field any questions. Attached to this E-Alert is a document called “Role and Responsibility of the Native American Ministries Representative in the Local Church.” At the charge conference, each local church should elect a representative for Native American Ministries and include the name on the Nominations and Leadership Development Report. Where this is not possible, a representative may be elected to serve a group/cluster of churches or a Mission Connexion. These names, with contact information, may be sent, as soon as possible after the charge conference, to epaconam@gmail.com.

NE JURISDICTION MULTI-ETHNIC CENTER FOR MINISTRY’S ReCALL SUMMIT

The UMC Northeastern Jurisdiction's Multi-Ethnic Center for Ministry will sponsor the **ReCall Summit, Oct. 20-21**, to promote "racial justice and multicultural living." The ReCall Summit, at the BWI Marriott Hotel, 1734 W. Nursery Road in Linthicum MD (near the Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport), is inspired by the **NEJ Call to Action** racial justice and reconciliation resolution, passed at the 2016 NEJ Conference.

The Friday-to-Saturday event, co-sponsored by the Baltimore-Washington Conference, will feature a series of "courageous conversations to reimagine, redefine, reposition, and respond to racism." Invited speakers include:

- Pastor Zach Kerzee, of the Simple Church in Boston, who gathers people around the dinner table for faith experiences.
- Pastor Jeffrey Hooker, a young adult creatively ministering to young adults at Grace UMC in Newburgh NY.
- Pastors Ianther Mills and Matthew Wilke of Asbury UMC in D.C., an historically black church that is creating a new worship experience to reach out to its multicultural neighbors.
- Pastor Joe Daniels of Emory UMC in Washington, a church of 26 nationalities that is building a \$53 million affordable housing complex with a worship center, retail space, and community centers.
- Dushaw Hockett, the executive director of Safe Places for the Advancement of Community and Equity in D.C., who will assist people in recognizing and addressing bias as a critical step in creating communities of Hope - healing, opportunity, and possibility for everyone.

[Learn more and be sure to register](#) for this important, timely convocation. Deadline to register and get the special hotel rate is **Oct. 1**. Click [here](#) for a bulletin insert, or [here](#) for information for the whole event on the Baltimore-Washington website.

UNITED METHODIST SEXUAL ETHICS

While sexual misconduct is a problem in all religions and denominations, the UMC has been addressing the problem for about three decades. "But there is more to do," write leaders of the General Commission on the Status & Role of Women (GCOSROW). "In our efforts to hear from those who work and worship in UM churches and offices, and to better understand the extent, nature, and trends of this problem among both clergy and laity, we are inviting everyone in The United Methodist Church to participate in the 2017 Sexual Harassment Survey."

The voluntary, anonymous survey should take 5-20 minutes to complete, depending on one's experience with sexual harassment in the church. No answers will be tracked, but the study's results will "provide important feedback about the frequency and response to sexual misconduct within The United Methodist Church and help the Church address abuse." The agency wants the survey to be distributed as widely as possible and completed by a broad sample of clergy and laity. They hope to publish the findings later this year.

RACISM

The ReCall Summit
For racial justice and multicultural living
October 20 - 21 | Linthicum, MD

REIMAGINE. REDEFINE. REPOSITION. RESPOND.

re-CALL summit

Throughout history, people of faith have been called to address racism and hatred. Today, the church is hearing that call anew. We are called to action. Join United Methodists for a conference to reimagine, redefine, reposition, and respond to race and multiculturalism.
Sponsored by the Northeastern Jurisdiction Multi-ethnic Center and the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

REV. ZACH KERZEE
Pastor of Simple Church in Boston, who gathers people around the dinner table for faith experiences

REV. JEFFREY HOOKER
A young adult creatively ministering to young adults at Grace UMC in Newburgh, NY

REVS. IANTHER MILLS AND MATTHEW WILKE
Pastors of Asbury UMC in D.C., an historically black church creating a new worship experience to reach out to multicultural neighbors

REV. JOE DANIELS
Pastor of Emory UMC, a church of 26 nationalities that's building a \$53 million affordable housing complex with worship center, retail space & community centers

REGISTER TODAY

The registration fee, which includes meals, is \$99. The BWI Airport Marriott hotel is offering a special group rate of \$119.00 per night, plus applicable fees/taxes. Book by Oct. 1, 2017 to get the group rate.

<http://tiny.cc/ReCallSummit>

Here is the survey link: [UMC Sexual Harassment Survey](#). **The deadline for submitting surveys is Oct. 3.** If you have any concerns about sexual misconduct in your ministry setting or believe that you may be a victim of sexual harassment, contact Becky Williams at GCOSROW, 312-346-4900. If you have a question about the survey, contact Gail Murphy-Geiss at 719-389-6868.

RACIAL RECONCILIATION PROJECT GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



Racial Reconciliation Grants are now available for United Methodist young people with a passion and a project for pursuing racial justice. The UMC Discipleship Ministries Division on Young People program seeks to inspire young people in the UMC with a passion for racial justice "to take action in their church, community and the world." The grants of up to \$2500 per project will be awarded on a rolling, monthly basis, **with the first deadline being Oct. 15.** Monthly review and distribution will continue until all \$65,000 has been distributed. For questions about the application

process, contact Patrice Rullo at prullo@umcdiscipleship.org. The application can be found at <https://ypm-umc.fluidreview.com/>.

MINISTRY AND MONEY 2-DAY SEMINAR

October 20-21, 2017

Bethlehem UMC in Dallastown PA (Susquehanna Conference)

5 pm-8 pm Friday evening session

10 am-3 pm Saturday Session

Presenters: Drs. Phil and Janet Jamieson, *Best selling authors/leaders*

FRIDAY SESSION: Janet Jamieson has a passion for working with congregations and clergy to develop faithful and transparent ways of dealing with money in the church. She has a Master's of Science in Accounting and is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) with experience in both public accounting firms and in higher education. She was Associate Professor of Accounting and the Director of Summer School at the University of Dubuque for fourteen years. She currently serves as the Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer for Discipleship Ministries (General Board of Discipleship) and The Upper Room.

SATURDAY SESSION: Philip D. Jamieson is an ordained United Methodist pastor with over twenty years of pastoral experience. He is also President of the United Methodist Foundation of the Memphis/Tennessee Conferences.

Together they have authored two books on money in the church:

- *Ministry and Money: A Practical Guide for Pastors* (Westminster/John Knox Press, 2009), and
- *The United Methodist Guidelines for Finance Committees* (Abingdon Press, 2016 and 2012).

Here are some testimonials about their book:

"If I had my way there would be a special place in heaven for people who write books as helpful as this." Pastor Mark, Goodreads

"The Jamiesons offer an excellent guide, which could easily be a seminary course, required of all M.Div students." Rev. Lawton W. Posey, Amazon

In addition to writing, the Jamiesons speak extensively on matters related to stewardship, giving, financial reporting, transparency, and clergy tax for numerous denominations.

[Register at umstewardship.org/events link](http://umstewardship.org/events)

FREE EYE CARE FOR KIDS ON OCTOBER 21 – SPREAD THE WORD!

PCCY (Public Citizens for Children & Youth) announce **Free Eye Care for Kids** at **Jefferson Alumni Hall** on **Saturday, October 21** from **8:30 am to 1 pm**. This is for children (17 years and under) from Philadelphia and surrounding counties, who have not had, or who have not passed, an eye screening and/or who are uninsured. For more information, email gksd@pccy.org or call 215-563-5848 x21. Click [here](#) to download a flyer in English. The flyer is also available in Arabic, Chinese, French, Haitian Creole, Hindi, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Click [here](#) and scroll down the page for the language needed to post in your particular network. **Volunteers are also needed to make this a big success – especially Spanish interpreters.** If you or anyone you know, would like to volunteer, please register at www.pccy.org/sightday.

HOPE! Talks: Inspiration for Small Congregations, Oct. 21

HOPE! Talks: Inspiration for Small Congregations happens Oct. 21, from 9 AM to 3 PM, at **Lighthouse Fellowship UMC**, 137 North Easton Road, Glenside, PA. Be inspired as speakers from small congregations doing great ministries share how God is moving and imparting hope to and through them.

A link to live-streaming of the event, which is scheduled to begin at 9 am on the 21st, will be available on the Lighthouse Fellowship UMC website (<http://lfumcglenside.com/>) by the week of the event. There will also be a download available on the site so that those participating on the web can participate in a discussion that will take place around the tables during lunch. The discussion will be aimed at helping congregations to think in new ways, in God ways, about their situations.

Gain a new perspective. Ask questions. Connect. Be refreshed. Get hope! Join us for this live-streamed, TED talks-style event sponsored by Bishop Peggy Johnson and the Cabinet. ASL Interpretation and Handicapped Accessibility will be provided. Registration is \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door (includes breakfast and lunch). To register online, click [here](#). A flyer is attached for posting and distribution at your church.

CHARGE CONFERENCE FORMS NOW AVAILABLE ON CONFERENCE WEBSITE

Charge Conference forms are now posted on the Conference website. Click [here](#) to access and download. **All forms except the Church Budget and Fund Balance report are due two weeks before your charge conference.** Completed forms may be emailed as attachments to the East District Office at cakrall@epaumc.org, mailed (East District Office, Simpson House, Suite 1, 2101 Belmont Ave., Philadelphia PA 19131), or hand-delivered to the District Office.

Pay close attention to the [2017 Church Forms Schedule](#). This is the “on year” for submitting the “**Safety and Accessibility Inspection**” form. The **Action Plan** does not have to be submitted. All Safe Sanctuary policies should be updated according to the Resolution 2016-09. **The Accountability Agreement between the EPA UMC and the BSA** was introduced in 2016 and must be completed every three years. Therefore this must only be completed this year:

- if it was not completed in 2016
- if there is a new BSA troop at your church
- if there has been a change in scout leadership

District Superintendent Tracy L. Bass will be conducting all the charge conferences for the churches that have recently become part of the *new* East District. Churches that have been under the supervision of District Superintendent Bass as part of the previous East District will participate in cluster charge conferences with an elder officiating. Information about dates, times, and facilitators is available in two formats: click [here](#) for the alphabetical format by church “location: name” or [here](#) for the calendar format.

MissionInSite “TRAIN THE TRAINERS” EVENT FEATURING TOM BANDY

November 13 – November 15

- **Nov. 13**, 9 am – Noon: Advanced Training, Eastern PA Conference Office
- **Nov. 13**, 6:45 pm to 8:30 pm: Basic Training, at Bethany UMC in Wescosville
- **Nov. 14**, 9 am to Noon: Advanced Training, at Eastern PA Conference Office
- **Nov. 14**, 6:45 pm to 8:30 pm: Basic Training, Thorndale UMC in Thorndale

Advanced Training is for anyone or church who already has an understanding of MissionInSite and would like to be trained to do more for their church and to be a resource for other churches.

Basic Training is for those persons or churches who either have no understanding of MissionInSite or feel uncomfortable with using it.

Registration is \$10 per church group. Each registrant can choose to attend different sessions, even if registered together as a group. **Registration deadline is Nov. 8th.**

If you have any questions, call Gordon Hendrickson at [267-258-9507](tel:267-258-9507).

[Register Online Now](#)

3 WAYS TO BE A CHAMPION FOR HOPE

SAVE THE DATE: 7TH Annual Fall Fest to benefit **The Center for Grieving Children** on **Thursday, November 16.**

Here are 3 ways you can be a champion of hope for Philadelphia’s grieving youth on November 16.

- **Purchase a ticket or sponsorship, or donate if you aren’t able to attend** - Included in the ticket purchase: open bar cocktail hour, silent and live auctions, program, and dinner and dessert.
- **Donate In-Kind Items** – The silent and live auctions feature a variety of packages from local and national businesses. Individuals can donate items or help spread the word and solicit businesses for donations.
- **Volunteer** – Help on the day of the event with everything from set-up and registration to check-out and packing up.

[Register today](#) or contact Austin Egan at 267-437-3123 ext. 4 or email austin@grievingchildren.org for more information.

CLAIMING SABBATH FOR CLERGY SPOUSES RETREAT

November 11

9 am to 4 pm

lunch included

Jesuit Center, Wernersville, PA

Now only \$15, with discounts for early registration and partial scholarship.

FOR clergy spouses **BY** clergy spouses. Includes highly interactive small group activities with real-life clergy spouse scenarios to solve.



To download a PDF description of the retreat, see the attachment to this E-Alert.

To read what clergy spouses said about this retreat, click [here](#).

To register online, click [here](#), and be sure to ask for the partial scholarship.



Retreat Leader is Julie Anderman, EPA UMC clergy spouse and Executive Director of Artos Retreats. Contact Julie to find out more: ArtosRetreats@gmail.com; 717.492.4238; ArtosRetreats.org

Partially funded by the Eastern PA Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and a matching grant from the Pastoral Excellence Network.

CHRIST SERVANT MINISTRY (CSM) CLASSES TO BE OFFERED AT IVYLAND: ST. JOHN'S

Two CSM classes (one Basic, one Advanced) are being offered from **Friday, December 1 through Saturday, December 2, 2017** at St. John's UMC in Ivyland (820 Almshouse Rd. 18974). The instructor for the Basic Course, "Introduction to Christ Servant Ministries" is Judy Ehninger. The Advanced Course, "Speaking Course 1" will be taught by the Rev. Harold Burkett. The registration fee is \$35. Attached to this E-Alert are the registration forms. Completed registrations and checks must be received by **November 17** to allow time for mailing of homework materials with adequate time to prepare.

CONNECT YOUR PASSION WITH GOD'S MISSION

SAVE THE DATE! UMC #GivingTuesday is November 28.

Thomas Kemper, General Secretary, General Board of Missions, invites you to join United Methodists around the world to support Global Ministries missionaries and Advance projects on UMC #GivingTuesday Nov. 28.

Frederick Buechner once described "calling" as the place "where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." One of the great things about The Advance is that it allows you to invest your resources where your passion answers specific needs in the world.

The UMC #GivingTuesday theme this year is "Connect Your Passion with God's Mission." **One hundred percent of the gifts made online through [The Advance](#) goes to the missionary or project of the donor's choice.**

In 2016, more than 2,550 people from 19 countries gave gifts of more than \$850,000 toward missionary support and Advance projects. The countries or territories represented included Argentina, Austria, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji, Guam, Ireland, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, the Philippines, Russia, South Korea, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. This was truly a global effort.

Thank you for your generous gifts through The Advance, the designated giving channel of The United Methodist Church.

This year's impact areas are:

- Food and Agriculture
- Church Development
- Disaster Response and Relief
- Education
- Health
- Economic Empowerment
- Social Justice
- WASH/Water and Sanitation

- Women and Children
- Mission Personnel

Now is a great time to start thinking about how you want to connect your passion to God's mission on Nov. 28. Visit umcmmission.org/give to learn more about missionaries and projects. Your gift on UMC #GivingTuesday will help bring hope and healing to a world in need.

Please share this information with your friends, family, and church members.

CLASSIFIEDS

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR: Morrisville UMC is hiring a part-time Office Administrator, effective November 1, or possibly sooner. This person needs to have a knowledge of office equipment, be competent on the computer and with social media, and have good people skills. If there is someone in your congregation who might be interested in this position, please have them inquire at wendykayh0715gmail.com.