

Great Lakes Conference 2018 Conference-In-Session

Every individual, every church and our regional conference needs to look forward and prepare for what we need to do NEXT. There are NEXT steps in our journey. There are groups of NEXT leaders, that need to be developed. There is a NEXT generation of persons who need to be pointed to Jesus Christ. This is the guiding theme for Great Lakes Regional Conference 2018. The writer of Psalm 78:4-6, our theme scripture for conference, challenges us to look ahead and to determine what we need to do NEXT. The Conference Sessions will take place on Saturday, June 9th, from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm at Winebrenner Seminary. NEXT will also be the theme of Pastor and Spouse Day, beginning at Winebrenner Seminary on Friday, June 8th at 9:00 am.

Conference Sessions will include Chris Vitarelli, the Director of *Small Church, Big Deal*, sharing two breakout sessions celebrating the small church and encouraging you to take NEXT steps you are uniquely positioned to do to help transform your community. We will also have breakouts that help us with website presence, social media and technology. Other breakouts will help us understand NEXT steps in connecting with people in a post Christian or non-Christian world. Our general sessions will help us see and understand the NEXT steps the conference is taking to look ahead.



Cost is \$35 per delegate, pastor or guest which will include your meals. Widows/widowers of GLC Credentialed pastors are invited to attend conference at no charge. You are encouraged to bring as many guests as you would like. Registration is due to the GLC office by Monday, May 28th. You may register by calling 419-423-7694, emailing glcsecretary@cggc.org or by mailing your registration form to Great Lakes Conference, Conference In Session, P.O. Box 1132, Findlay, OH 45839-1132. All are invited as we are challenged to determine what to do NEXT.

next

Where it is happening!

Joey Boehler, **New Creation**, has resigned to begin an intern ministry with Pastor Dave Odegard, **Wharton Church of God**.

Olive Branch and Sugar Ridge said good bye to Pastor Steve and Gloria Waterman on Sunday, January 7th. Pastor Steve had served the two congregations for 29 years. Pastor Don and Phyllis Dennison are serving as interim during this transition.

Seville Community recently honored student athletes from Gratiot/Montcalm County area high schools who were named All-State or All-Conference during their respective seasons and who were also outstanding students.



Mendon's Bible Study Fun program is growing! What started as a structured nursery service for children whose parents were attending Adult Bible Study has grown into a full-fledged ministry of its own. All children, ages 3-12, are welcome to attend, and parents can accompany them, if they wish. They are served dinner, play games, make crafts, and learn about Jesus and the importance of prayer. Each week, the children write or draw prayer cards, place them on the prayer wall, and pray over them with Pastor Jake. The congregation is also invited to pray for the children's concerns throughout the week.



Lifelong member of **Pathway Community Church**, Pearl Marie Conrad, passed into the arms of her Lord and Savior on February 8. Marie served as church treasurer for many years, was a delegate to the conference, and served as secretary for ten years on the ad council. Marie was also a delegate to the General Conference and president and treasurer of Women's Ministries at Pathway for many years. Marie was an integral part of the leadership of Pathway. She is greatly missed. To Marie we say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."



Great Lakes Conference

Scholarship Opportunity

The Great Lakes Conference established this scholarship to assist students wishing to obtain a college degree from the University of Findlay, Findlay, OH. This scholarship is awarded to a member who regularly attends a Great Lakes Conference Church of God and has been recommended by his/her pastor. Applications are available on line at: glc.cggc.org and must be submitted by May 31, 2018 to: Great Lakes Conference, P.O. Box 1132, Findlay, OH 45839-1132.

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in Findlay



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Chris Vitarelli
“Small Church: Big Deal”



Chris is the pastor of The Road Community Church, a small multi-site church in Fenton and Howell, Michigan. He is the creator of the Small Church BIG Deal Conference and author of "Failure in the Balance", a book exploring the success culture and how pastors can break out of it. He is committed to helping pastors see their ministries as God sees them. He has been married to his wife Jody for 19 years and they have 4 children.

Breakout Session 1

Small church thinking in a big church culture
Seeing the small church as a big deal starts with the pastor's mindset. In this session we'll talk about two of the biggest foes a pastor will face: discontent and ego. How do we combat these things and how can defeating them influence our ministry?

Breakout Session 2

What makes the small church a BIG deal?
In this session we'll explore 5 factors that make small churches significant. We'll challenge the notion that bigger is better and why leaning into these 5 factors will change your thinking and your perception about the small church. What makes pastoring 30, 50 or 75 people so significant?



Our Sympathy

...to **Pastor Terry and Deb Steinhauer**, Hopewell Church of God, in the home going of Deb's mom, Clarice L. Roberts, on Monday, January 15. The funeral was held on Friday, January 19th with Terry officiating.

...to **Pastor Lance and Brenda Finley**, CGGC Director. Lance's dad got to hear the words 'well, done good and faithful servant' on January 16th. Lance officiated at the services in Fowler, IN (where his parents had lived the past couple years) and at a service in Charleston, IL (where Lance grew up and the family spent most of their lives).

...to **Pastor Dave and Deb Carpenter**, Wonder Ministries, on the passing of Dave's father, David, Sr. on February 4th in Sylvania, OH.

... to **Pastor Dave and Anna Welker**, Minister of Worship at College First, on the February 8th passing of Dave's sister, Kay, in Missouri.

... to **Pastor Kevin and Terry Sutton**, Word of Faith Ministries, on the passing of Kevin's father, Louis Ligon, on March 1st.

...to the family of Rev. **Marilyn Ruth Rayle Kern**. Marilyn passed away on March 15th. Marilyn taught at Winebrenner Seminary before accepting the same position her father had held as Editor of Sunday School materials for the Churches of God General Conference in Findlay where she served from 1983-1993. For her commitment to religious education and promoting the work of the Churches of God, The University of Findlay honored her in 1993 with the Distinguished Alumnus Award. A Celebration of Life service was held in Bluffton, OH.

...to **Pastor Tim and Denise Eding**. Denise's mother, Margaret Binkley, passed away March 28. A memorial service was held at First Christian Church, Leipsic with Pastors Tim and Matt Eding co-officiating on April 3.

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### **Malphurs Group Learning Community**

The five churches participating in the first retreat with the Malphurs Group Learning Community were Gethsemane, Pine River, Connections, Mount Carmel and Wooster. The next retreat is in Findlay at Connections on May 4-5. Malphurs is leading the churches through evaluation of their current ministries and then they develop strategies to mobilize their congregation for ministry, to help transform their community and to develop leaders. There is one more retreat in the fall. Coaching sessions take place in between retreats with continued coaching after the retreats to help with application.



Early Bird  
Deadline  
May 1st, 2018

## 2018 Camp Otyokwah Info

### Pioneer Week: June 7-9

**Ages:** Entering 2nd and 3rd grade

**Early Fee:** \$85\*

**Regular Fee:** \$110, deadline May 23rd

**Email:** [director@otyokwah.org](mailto:director@otyokwah.org)

### Adventure Week: June 10-16

**Ages:** Entering 10th Grade—College Freshman

**Early Fee:** \$264\*

**Regular Fee:** \$299, deadline May 31st

**Email:** [bn2Jesus@gmail.com](mailto:bn2Jesus@gmail.com)

### Pathfinders Week: June 17-23

**Ages:** Entering 7th, 8th and 9th grade

**Early Fee:** \$264\*

**Regular Fee:** \$299, deadline June 6th

**Email:** [kathrynepatterson@gmail.com](mailto:kathrynepatterson@gmail.com)

### Discovery Week: June 24-30

**Ages:** Entering 4th, 5th and 6th grade

**Early Fee:** \$264\*

**Regular Fee:** \$299, deadline June 13

**Email:** [odegards@hotmail.com](mailto:odegards@hotmail.com)



**Camp Nurse Needed: June 10-18**

**Contact: Mark Dubler, 419.883.3854**



Mt. Tabor Church of God, Celina, will be hosting their annual Fall Women's Retreat on **November 9 & 10, 2018**. Join them as they connect with other women to learn how to align their mind to the ways of the Lord and not to conform to the ways of this world.

This year will include lots of great breakout sessions, music, shopping, refreshments and fellowship. The feature speaker will be Deborah Lovett. She is founder of Women of the Well Ministry, a non-profit organization. Deborah's vast experience ranges from speaking across the nation, to writing blogs, non-fiction books, memoirs, autobiographies and of course her daily inspirational Facebook quotes which you are invited to enjoy!

Watch for updates and early registration at [taborreach.org/womens-fall-retreat](http://taborreach.org/womens-fall-retreat) and on Facebook.

*"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good pleasing and perfect will."*

Romans 12:2

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### **Camp Otyokwah Work Day**

Camp Otyokwah, Butler, OH, has scheduled a work day for Saturday, May 5th, 9 am to 3:00 pm. Lunch will be provided. If you are planning to help out, please let them know at 419-688-1072 or [manager@otyokwah.org](mailto:manager@otyokwah.org).