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## Greetings from Bishop Julius Trimble, UMGAC Chair

The 2018 International AIDS Conference recently met in Amsterdam and those gathered heard about alarming spikes in new HIV cases among key groups including adolescent girls in sub-Saharan Africa and drug users in eastern Europe and parts of Asia, according to recent figures from UNAIDS. We need your energy, enthusiasm and your voice to end AIDS. Join us at our conference, *Breaking Barriers*.

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## Breaking Barriers AIDS Conference

Time to Register! October 25-27, 2018; St. Luke's UMC, Indianapolis. Scholarships available until September 10th. The deadline for registration for this exciting conference is October 1st.

[Register](#)

[More Information...](#)



## Featured Bible Study Leader Breaking Barriers AIDS Conference

Bishop Tracy Smith Malone, East Ohio Annual Conference Episcopal Leader, is a bible study leader at the October AIDS conference. Bishop Malone is a prophet in our midst with a rabid commitment to social justice. You won't want to miss her!

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## Watch and Listen

Watch and listen to an interview with Ambassador Deborah Bix during the recent AIDS 2018 Conference in Amsterdam. Ambassador Bix will be speaking at the October 25-27, 2018 Breaking Barriers AIDS Conference during the Friday evening banquet.

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## What is PEPFAR?

PEPFAR is the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, launched in 2003 by President George Bush. "Originally conceived as a compassionate effort to deliver lifesaving services in countries hardest hit by HIV/AIDS, PEPFAR is now also undertaking the challenge of controlling the pandemic.

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## What is 90-90-90?

An ambitious UNAIDS goal of "90-90-90" envisioned that by 2020 at least 90% of infected people would know their status, 90% of those tested would be receiving treatment, and 90% of those treated would have undetectable viral loads.

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## Combating poverty, disease, inequity in Rwanda

PEPFAR is the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, The Rev. Donald E. Messer (kneeling) meets some of the 60 Rwandan women who received sheep from the Colorado-based Center for Health and Hope. The sheep were purchased by individuals in the U.S. as Christmas gifts in honor of their family and friends.

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## On Becoming involved with the HIV/AIDS issue?

Support the UMC Global AIDS Fund – Advance #982345. Work to end stigma and gender-based violence and increase protective/prevention factors such as sexuality education and access to health care. If you reside in the United States, ask your Members of Congress to support the highest level of funding for AIDS prevention, care and treatment in the U.S. and globally

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UNAIDS

## Did you know that....

Heterosexual contact accounted for 24% of HIV diagnoses in the United States in 2016 (9,578 persons). People who inject drugs accounted for 9% of HIV diagnoses in 2016 (3,425 persons). In 2017, some 21.7 million persons globally are receiving antiretroviral treatment, and that means about 40% people living with HIV are not getting any treatment. Due to lack of testing, some 25% do not know they are infected and probably are spreading the virus.

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## West Ohio AIDS Task Force to hold Strategic Planning Meeting & Retreat

If you live in Ohio and are interested in how the UMC can best address HIV/AIDS, you are invited to attend the August 25th gathering at Clifton UMC, Cincinnati, OH

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## Prayer for persons living with and affected by HIV and AIDS

by Rev. Gregory Gross, 2012

God of grace and mercy, healing and hope, There are times when our stuff gets in the way of your calling. Many times we know how you'd like us to react but our own discomforts and uneasiness cloud your vision for us.

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