



Connected in Christ

THE CONNECTOR

...The Canal District United Methodist Church Newsletter...

Rev. Ed Peterson, District Superintendent, Canal District

The mission of the Canal District UMC is to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

JUNE/JULY 2021

www.eocumc.com/canal - Canal District - United Methodist Church - East Ohio Conference

Resident Bishop, East Ohio Conference: Bishop Tracy S. Malone

Thank you Canal District!



Greetings Friends,

I don't know about you, but seven years sure has flown by for me. In December of 2013, I received a phone call from Bishop Hopkins, telling me that he was intending to appoint me to the cabinet. I felt overwhelmed and inadequate. But I learned quickly to listen more than I spoke, and to lean on those around me. Serving as a district superintendent has been such an honor, for which I still don't feel worthy. Over the last seven years, it has been such a joy to get to know the churches and people of the Canal District. I believe that I have been blessed by you, far more than I could have been a blessing to you.

A big THANK YOU to Debbie Bryant and Sheryl Reynolds. They are both incredibly devoted to the mission and ministry of the Canal District and go far above and beyond as administrative assistant and treasurer. They have been wonderful colleagues and friends. We have been through many of the ups and downs of life in the seven years that we've worked together. I'll miss our monthly lunches.

When a pastor is leaving a church, there are things that the pastor and congregation need to say to each other. The Book of Worship includes a liturgy called "An Order of Farewell to a Pastor." The liturgy gives the pastor and congregation the words that each needs to say to the other. If we were in the same space together, we would be standing and facing each other. Since we aren't able to do that, the words are included here:

I thank you, the members and friends of the Canal District of The United Methodist Church, for the love and support you have shown me while I have ministered among you. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to minister elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask for your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us with your departure.

I accept your gratitude and forgiveness, and I forgive you, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God. I release you from turning to me and depending on me. I encourage your continuing ministry here and will pray for you and your new District Superintendent, Rev. Angela Lewis.

Prayer: Eternal God, whose steadfast love for us is from everlasting to everlasting, we give you thanks for cherished memories and commend one another into your care as we move in new directions. Keep us one in your love forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

— *God be with you, 'till we meet again. Love ya' Ed* (Effective July 1, 2021 Ed will serve as assistant to the Bishop)

For Such a Time



I've been hearing this phrase a lot lately. Maybe you have heard and said it a time or two as well. I can remember not long after Doylestown opened back up for in person worship, me uttering these words. I know I was probably talking about all the chaotic things that were going on in our country, state and world. That seems to be a regular occurrence these days, you know--chaos, unsettledness, and danger.

I said church, God has called us in these times, to these times and for these times. He has called us to be the light in darkness. He has called us to be love in a world that's loveless. He has called us to be the reflection of Jesus in a world that's in need of what He has to offer. Yes, for such a time as this, has God handpicked you; for such a time as this, has God called you and me to stand up to, and in, a world that needs a SAVIOR!

Canal District, for such a time as this, God, has indeed called us to stand for Him. You and I must carry on the work our outgoing DS has begun because it is the work of the Lord. In addition to that work, there are other things God wants to do in us during these times.

It is my hope and prayer to meet most of you this summer with some introductory gatherings throughout the district. At some point, perhaps next year, I want to invite you to join me in prayer for our conference, district and UMC as a whole. I am truly humbled and honored to serve you, for such a time as this.

— *Angela Lewis* (Effective July 1, 2021 Angela will serve as the Canal district superintendent)

News from the Conference - Missions and Community Engagement

Mission Journeys - For registration information and more information for both journeys go to <https://www.eocumc.com/missions/mission-trips.html>

- ▶ VIRTUAL Guatemala | June 13, July 11, & Aug 8, 2021, Team Leader: Rev. Kimberly Arbaugh (pastorkimberly@yellowbrickchurch.org) | Free, registration required. Travel virtually to Guatemala the second Sunday of each month this summer! Connect with UMC Global Missionary Lourdes Ramirez - currently serving in Guatemala.
- ▶ VIRTUAL Liberia | June 23 & 30, July 7 & 14, 2021, Team Leader: Kathy Dickriede (kdickriede@gmail.com) & Dehkontee P. Tarr (tarrdehkonteep@gmail.com) | Free, registration required. Take a virtual trip to Liberia this summer to see what The UMC is doing in Liberia. Led by Liberia UMVIM coordinator Dehkontee P. Tarr. Meets online each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. starting June 23.

Training - UMVIM Team Leader Training, Sunday August 15 | 2:00-7:00 p.m., Faith UMC, Cambridge, OH, Trainer: Rev. Kathy Dickriede. For more information, details, and registration information and a flyer go to: <https://www.eocumc.com/missions/training.html>. You can also contact Kathy Dickriede with any questions: kdickriede@gmail.com or 330.499.3972 x 102
Registration is FREE but you do need to register in advance, registration limited to 10 people.

July 2021 Appointments - Canal District (alphabetical order)

Carolyn Berry from Smithville UMC (Canal District) to Doylestown UMC (Canal District)
Tom Fish from Winfield UMC (Tuscarawas District) to North Lawrence Chapel UMC (Canal District)
Mike Grant from Shreve UMC (Canal District) to Louisville Christ UMC (Tuscarawas District)
Russ Ham from Macedonia UMC (Canal District) to New Leaf UMC (Western Reserve District)
Donald Kuntz from Trinity Sandusky UMC (Firelands District) to Seville UMC (Canal District)
Tammy Kuntz from Trinity Sandusky UMC (Firelands District) to Seville UMC (Canal District) deacon
James Lance from Martel, Sixteen, Canaan UMCs (Mid-Ohio District) to Smithville UMC (Canal District)
Robert Mitchell from Chapel of the Cross UMC (Canal District) to Coshocton Roscoe UMC (Three Rivers District)
Lorin Radzik from Rockport UMC (North Coast District) to Macedonia UMC (Canal District)
Matthew Wald to Strasburg & Dundee UMCs (Tuscarawas District)
Janice Walsh from Conneaut New Leaf UMC (Western Reserve District) to Shreve UMC (Canal District) associate pastor
Scott Walsh from Conneaut New Leaf UMC (Western Reserve District) to Shreve UMC (Canal District)

2021 Retirement - Canal District - Don Trigg, Seville UMC

For a full list of appointment changes, go to this page on the Conference website: <http://www.eocumc.com/bishop/appointments.html>

Rev. Beth Ortiz to be Appointed EOC Director of Strategic Ministries

Bishop Tracy S. Malone intends to appoint the Rev. Beth Ortiz as director of Strategic Ministries effective July 1. The new position on the Conference Council on Ministries (CCOM) team will replace the director of Congregational Vitality when current director the Rev. Kelly Brown begins his new appointment as superintendent of the Three Rivers District.

"I am excited to have the opportunity to work with leaders, both clergy and lay, to help discover ways that our faith communities can embrace their calling and live it out more fully. Providing resources and assistance to help others see their visions become a reality is a passion of mine. I look forward to this amazing opportunity and can't wait to get started," Ortiz said.

Following news in January of Brown's pending new appointment, Director of Connectional Ministries the Rev. Steven Court hosted a series of conversations with clergy and lay leaders of the Conference that resulted in changing the title from director of Connectional Ministries to director of Strategic Ministries and rewriting the job description.

"The East Ohio Conference is deeply committed to the vitality and sustainability of our local churches and faith communities. We continue to strategically align our staff and resources with our EOC vision so that we increase our capacity to live into our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world," Malone said.

Read the release in its entirety: <https://eocumcnews.com/2021/05/09/rev-beth-ortiz-to-be-appointed-eoc-director-of-strategic-ministries/>



MFSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM - Monday June 14 – 7 p.m. - Zoom Gathering

East Ohio MFSA is proud to announce that this year's keynote speaker will be Rev. Derek Kubilus, Uniontown UMC vicar. Rev. Kubilus will speak on "Condemning QAnon" and challenging us by "Walking Alongside Its Victims." The program begins at 7 p.m. Reservations are not needed. Come and enjoy the fellowship and learning opportunity. Join us using this link to the Zoom meeting - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87426791749?pwd=enpTRWZVSEgvNG92Y1JUMno3a0FNUT09>

Meeting ID: 874 2679 1749 Passcode: MFSA One tap mobile
 +16465588656,,87426791749#,,,,*494383# US (New York)
 +13017158592,,87426791749#,,,,*494383# US (Washington DC)

The Rev. Derek Kubilus is the vicar of Uniontown United Methodist Church in Uniontown, Ohio. Previously he served First United Methodist Church in Oberlin, Ohio. Kubilus earned his Master of Divinity degree from Duke Divinity School in 2010. Recently, he took on QAnon through a podcast and was featured on a "60 Minutes" segment.

UMCOR Kit Collection for Annual Conference

June 7-13, 2021

EOC Missions is asking churches to collect items for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) this Spring, then bring them to the drop-off locations located around the conference the week prior to Annual Conference. MMDC will then drive through East Ohio to each location to pick up donations. Let's make sure they leave East Ohio with a full trailer!

Drop off point for Canal District: **FAMILY OF FAITH UMC** - 800 E Market St, Akron, OH 44305— 330.376.2141 - famfaithakron@aol.com - Drop off Monday, June 7 through Friday June 11 from 9am-12pm. Enter the west parking lot and drive straight back to our lower (Fellowship Hall) entrance to drop off.

Drop off points near some Canal District churches: **STRONGSVILLE UMC** - 13500 Royalton Rd, Strongsville, OH 44136 - 440.238.6135 - FeliciaW@StrongsvilleUMC.org - Drop off anytime from Monday, June 7 through Friday June 11 in the pavilion, items will be moved in at the end of the day.

UMCOR Cleaning Kits—Sizes are very specific so that all items will fit in kits.

- **One five-gallon round bucket with re-sealable lid (14.35" h x 12.19" w x 12.19" d)**
No screw lids
May be used but must be free from all residual products
Advertisements on the outside acceptable
- **One 32-64 oz. bottle liquid laundry detergent**
- **One 16-40 oz. bottle liquid concentrate household cleaner**
No spray cleaners
- **One 16-34 oz. bottle dish soap**
- **One 6-14 oz. pump spray insect repellent (pack of 10-20 wipes also acceptable)**
Pump spray bottles must have protective covers
- **One scrub brush**
With or without handle
- **18 re-useable cleaning wipes**
No terrycloth, microfiber, or paper towels
Remove from packaging
- **Five scouring pads**
No stainless-steel pads with soap in them
Remove from packaging
- **36-50 clothespins**
- **One 50-100 ft. clothesline (cotton or plastic line)**
- **24 roll of heavy-duty trash bags (33-45-gallon sizes)**
Remove from packaging
- **Five N95 particulate respirator dust masks (1-3 mm thickness)**
No surgical masks
- **Two pairs kitchen gloves**
Durable for multiple uses
Remove from packaging
- **One pair of work gloves**
Cotton with leather palm or all leather

Other kits that MMDC collects can be found at: <https://www.midwestmission.org/kits-projects-patterns/midwest-mission-kits>

We will not collect items at the Knight Center in Akron.

No money will be collected at drop off locations. If you wish to make a monetary donation there are two options:

Make a check payable to MMDC and mail it to: MMDC, 1001 Mission Drive, Pawnee, IL 62558 OR
 Donate online - to EOC Fund 9944 Mission Trucks: <https://www.eocumc.com/donate/index.html>



The Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries (LSM) has updated the East Ohio Conference lay servant categories to reflect changes made in The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016. The Discipline no longer uses "Local (Basic) Lay Servant" as an LSM category. This change will take effect July 1, 2021.

Persons are encouraged to take the Basic LSM course as a way to grow as a disciple, as a step toward discerning a call to lay ministry, or as a step in becoming a certified lay servant, certified lay speaker, or certified lay minister. A certificate of completion is issued for Basic training, but persons will not apply to become a lay servant at that point. Persons may apply to become a certified lay servant after completion of both the Basic and any Advanced course. Persons completing the Basic course will no longer need to fill out the Lay Servant Annual Report to charge conference. All Certified Lay Servant categories will continue to fill out the annual report. Read the revised report (<https://www.eocumc.com/laity/lay-servants.html>) and please do not use prior year reports.

Due to the COVID pandemic, the LSM Committee has also extended the deadline requiring that certified lay servants and certified lay speakers must complete an Advanced course every three years. Persons whose last Advanced course was completed in 2017, 2018, or 2019 must take an Advanced course in 2021 or 2022 to be renewed. The LSM Committee will review the format and availability of courses in order to provide multiple alternatives for training in our current environment. BeADisciple (<https://www.beadisciple.com/>) continues to be an excellent resource for online training as well.

► Questions—contact Canal District Lay Servant Director at stahldrla@aol.com.

Advanced Lay Servant Class: Spiritual Gifts

Friday, October 15 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, October 16 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday October 30 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
At Lockwood United Methodist Church, 3680 Manchester Road, Akron, Ohio 44319—Registration Deadline: September 3
Fee \$35.00 for the class and materials—Contact Debbie Sloan at 330-283-6893 or email at dlsloan1@aol.com

Lockwood UMC - New Bible Study

Fridays - 11:00 a.m. - 12 noon.

We are studying the Bible itself and you will have a chance to ask those questions to which you have always wanted an answer. Come be with us. We are planning to do both in-person and electronic remote attendance.

► Contact Pastor Jim Ellison at PastorJames512@gmail.com

Worship Leader needed - Heart 4 The City Mission

Please call the church at 330-784-1350 for a full job description.

The worship leader at Heart 4 the City will lead work closely with the Pastor to shape worship services by selecting

- Worship Style: Contemporary Praise and Worship
- Education Required: Preferred college grad, but if you are the right person for our church family, don't hesitate to apply
- Experience Required: Some experience with leading worship or being a part of a worship band.
- Salary: \$100 per week/8-10 hrs per week
- Job Status: Immediate
- 954 Eastland Avenue Akron, OH 44305 330.784.1350 www.heart4thecity.org

District Campership Financial Aid Applications

Financial aid is available to any camper from a Canal District United Methodist Church attending any East Ohio Conference coordinated program camping event. Maximum district financial aid per camper is \$75.00.

► An application can be found on our website: www.eocumc.com/canal/ under 'Grants and Scholarships.' Or you can call Debbie at the district office for a form 330-252-0299..

Flat Rock - Adopt a Home

Adopt-a-Home is Now Underway! Our first church to adopt a home has stepped forward! Won't you join them as a charter supporter of this new project that develops closer relationships between the residents of our group homes, care center, and churches? There is no fee to adopt a home! You will bless our residents by adopting a home!

► Visit <https://www.flatrockhomes.org/adopt-a-home/> or more information.

Trinity Action Project (TAP) Grants

Application Process for TAP - Any program/project from a Canal District local church that very clearly relates to the mission and vision of the Conference may submit an application. Funds for mission purposes are intended as "Seed Money" to be used as start-up funds to help initiate ministry and mission outreach. Programs/projects will be funded for a maximum of 3 years. Applications will have a specific plan and/or strategy for a program/project, a clearly defined method(s) in which the funds will be used, and a method for decreasing the "seed money" funding over the 3 year period. TAP Grant funding may not be used for capital expenditures or clergy salaries. Churches applying for a multi-year grant will submit a new application each year.

► For an application go to: <https://www.eocumc.com/canal/grants-scholarships.html>

2020 Church audits were due March 31. Send to the Canal District by email or fax or regular mail.

When I receive your copy I forward a copy to the Conference Treasurers office. You do not need to send to them. Just send me a copy.

► Thanks! Debbie Bryant - cdistumc@gmail.com

Annual Conference 2021 Wednesday, June 16 through Saturday, June 19



The worship services and business sessions of this year's conference will be livestreamed from the John S. Knight Center in Akron with clergy and lay members of Annual Conference participating remotely via Zoom video conferencing.

Bishop Tracy S. Malone explains that, in this extended year of the quadrennium in The United Methodist Church, the Annual Conference theme *Christ Alive in Us!* Expands upon our quadrennial AC theme of *Bearing Fruit that Lasts: Called, Committed, Connected.*

"The focus is on proclaiming and celebrating how Christ is alive and is at work in and through our lives and through the mission and witness of the Church. We are made alive in Christ ... we are God's handiwork ... created in Christ Jesus to do good things ... to bear fruit that lasts," she said.

Annual Conference members who did not register by the May 14 deadline will be able to view the public livestream of this year's session but will be unable to vote during it. Because the Clergy Executive Session is not livestreamed to the public, those who did not register by the May 14 deadline will not be able to view the session nor vote during it.

Canal District Clergy and Families Birthdays and Anniversaries



Birthdays – June

- 6 Becky Nicewarner
- 7 Jason Burkhardt, Joe Burkhardt
- 9 Debbie Rinehart
- 14 Nancy Wiebrecht
- 15 Sophia Radzik, Sue Ward
- 21 Shannon Cooper
- 22 Kattie Jo Priebe
- 24 Julia McGrath,
Patti Pfander
- 29 Cathy Poremba
- 30 Christine Tennant

Happy Anniversary

Anniversaries – June

- 3 David & Sue Atkinson
- 6 James & Karol Lewis
- 10 Bob & Carey Mitchell, Don & Ruthie Trigg
- 11 Dave & Mavis Palmer
- 20 Mike and Sue McHale
- 22 David & Christine Tennant
- 22 James & Nancy Wiebrecht
- 23 Lorrin and David Radzik
- 25 Randy & Pam Monteith; Bill & Becky Nicewarner
- 30 Jim & Mary Wolf

Birthdays - July

- 5 Tal Lewis (son)
- 9 Andrea Hoverstock
- 11 Andrew Burkhardt
- 14 Scott Walsh
- 16 Vicki Hillman-Breckner
- 29 Jim Cooper



Anniversaries – July

- 5 Tom & Cathy Poremba
- 7 Dale & Lois Turner
- 12 Eric & Katie Osier
- 13 Forrest & Marilyn Waller
- 18 Jim & Shannon Cooper
- 22 Don & Tammy Kuntz
- 24 Tom & Karen Drotar; David & Karen McGrath
- 28 Paul & Lynn Farren

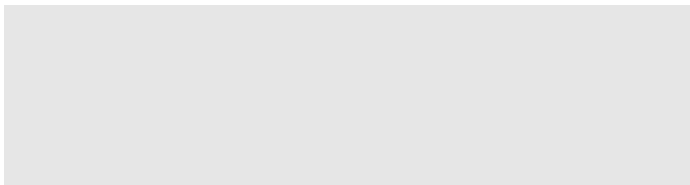


Reminder Clergy: Birthdays and anniversaries are only listed if you inform me you would like them listed. You can email me at cdistumc@gmail.com or phone 330-252-0299

Canal District of
The United Methodist Church
800 E Market St
Akron OH 44305

“The Connector”
June/July 2021

Return Service Requested



CANAL DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF

District Superintendent until June 30, 2021: Rev. Ed Peterson ; District Superintendent beginning July 1, 2021: Rev. Angela Lewis

Administrative Assistant: Debbie Bryant ; Treasurer, Funding Secretary: Sheryl Reynolds

If you would like to receive our newsletter by mail or email, please contact Debbie. 800 East Market St., Akron 44305 -
Phone: 330-252-0299 - Fax: 330-252-0297 - E-mail: cdistumc@gmail.com - Web Site: www.eocumc.com/canal/