



Connected in Christ

THE CONNECTOR

...The Canal District United Methodist Church Newsletter...
Rev. Angela Lewis, 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.

NOVEMBER 2021

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

A Month of Thanksgivings

Canal District, you ROCK!

All of the consultations are done. Some churches have completed their charge conference and the rest are scheduled later this month. Let me say, what a delight it was to meet with all the pastors and churches. You all blessed me so much! You sought God for opportunities to minister in the midst of this pandemic. To God be the glory for your resilience, determination, prayers, and faith.

This month we will celebrate Thanksgiving. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Having a heart of gratitude goes a long way. Have you ever noticed that where there is thankfulness; there is humbleness? Most people I know who are full of gratitude don't complain much. They are cheerful and understand that God has everything under control. They tend to have a different perspective on life. Even in the hardest seasons of their lives, they find a way to say thank you Lord.



I want to challenge you Canal. Everyday for the rest of the month of November, in your prayer time, in the morning and throughout the day, tell God thank you for something in your life, i.e. husband,

wife, children, church, employment, clothes, friends, relationships with various people etc. Most importantly tell God thank you for your relationship with Him. Some days in this month may get hard, find a way to tell God thank you. Being thankful will change your life. I pray you are up for the challenge.

— D.S. Angela Lewis



Resident Bishop, East Ohio Conference:

Bishop Tracy S. Malone

Conference website: www.eocumc.com

DS Calendar November

Nov. 2, Tuesday - Nov. 4, Thursday, Cabinet

Nov. 18, Thursday, Cabinet Zoom Meeting

New Address, Phone Number and Email Address for the combined Canal and Tuscarawas District Offices Effective January 1, 2022

As you know, with Debbie's retirement December 31, Megan Myers will begin her new position of District Administrator for the Canal and Tuscarawas Districts beginning January 1, 2022. Megan is currently the District Administrator for the Tuscarawas district.

Please start using the new information below beginning January 1, 2022 and sharing with those in your church who need this information. Mail and email will be forwarded for a month beginning 1-1-22, so be sure to note this new information.

Address: Canal & Tuscarawas District Office, - 8800 Cleveland Ave NW, Canton, OH 44720.

Phone Number: (330)499-3972, ext. 106.

Email: CanalTuscDistOffice@eocumc.com.

DS Angela Lewis' email will stay the same: Alewis@eocumc.com.

A Future with Hope Video Message from Bishop Tracy S. Malone

Clergy and laity of the East Ohio Conference, I greet you with the love and the peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I give thanks to God always for each of you, for how you are living into our shared vision of being disciples of Jesus Christ and making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ. I give thanks to God for how you are being agents of healing, and hope, and transformation in your communities; for how you are loving, and leading, and serving your neighbors.

We know that these are challenging times in which we are living and leading and being the Church. And I want you to know that I am feeling the exhaustion, and the grief, and the loss, and the loneliness and the pain that many of you are experiencing. It is in these times that we should depend on the sufficiency of God's grace, that we should depend on our faith in Jesus Christ and the gift of community.

We don't know what the future will hold but what we do know is who holds the future ... our Sovereign God ... who has plans for our welfare, for our good and not for our harm ... to give us a future and a hope. It is with this confidence and reassurance, that I encourage us to embrace our future together as a Church, with hope.



To read Bishop Malone's full text or to view the video message go to: <https://eocumcnews.com/2021/11/01/november-1-2021/>

Testimony - West Lebanon UMC Outreach

From time to time, I want to lift up testimonies from what your brothers and sisters of the faith are doing in our district. This month, I want to highlight West Lebanon where Ruthann Bosley serves as the pastor. The church has about 25 people attending and about 3 or so helping with the after-school outreach. Like many of you, some great things were happening before the shut down, and when the shut-down happened they found ways to keep offering Jesus. Please enjoy reading the lay leader's account of what they did and are doing. I pray this encourages you. — *D.S. Angela Lewis*



WEST LEBANON UMC OUTREACH

COVID impacted all of us in 2020! West Lebanon UMC under the leadership of Pastor Ruthann Bosley created new pathways to mission outreach.

Initially, Pastor Bosley set up conference calls with members on Sunday mornings for worship. It was so well received that she created a Facebook Live page on Wednesday mornings to "touch base" with our members. Her inspirational messages reached far beyond our church walls and soon she had nearly 100 followers. She continues this work today.



Prior to COVID, we had started a Good News Club through Child Evangelism Fellowship. We saw very few children attending church and Pastor Bosley reached out to CEF and our local school, Mt. Eaton Elementary. Through God, Pastor Bosley and the principle, the district allowed us to enter the school to present the Club. We provide snacks, learn Bible verses, sing songs, hear a Bible lesson (currently we are following Joseph on his journey), play games focused on the lesson. Ruthann shares a special relatable story with cliffhangers that brings the children back for more! This is a favorite!! We review our lesson and sing again. Before dismissal, they receive bags with their Bible verse, a seven-day Bible focused homework sheet and some treats.

When COVID kept us out of the school, we continued our mission by providing bags to all the children with Thanksgiving and Christmas lessons, crafts, candy and treats. Our congregation provided school supplies and cookies for parent-teacher conferences (teachers loved this!).

We adopted five needy families from the school and provided presents for all the children, food boxes, gift cards and one generous donor gave cash.

We have recently been granted permission to return for in person Good News Club and were rewarded with 18 children enrolled! More have expressed interest! God has certainly created a unique path for us to serve!

Our Men's Brotherhood has always served several dinners a year to our community. Again, God guided them to serve the meal by drive through pick-up. Wanting to serve our community, they made it donation only and the result yielded a higher return than when they charged a fixed price! We were able to meet and greet as they drove through and we all were blessed by the experience.

God is So Good!! His Spirit is Alive in Pastor Bosley and West Lebanon UMC.



Please keep in prayer those who are struggling with addiction. Alcoholism and drug abuse have been on the rise during the pandemic. Many of you have AA, NA, HA and other programs in your church. If your church does not have this kind of ministry, pray and see if God may be calling your church to have these groups meet in your church.

East Ohio Financial & Administrative Services News

Review Your Remittance Statement Monthly

The Conference Finance team reminds you to take the time to review your monthly church remittance statement each month. This is the fourth quarter of 2021. We want to ensure that all apportionment payments are included in the current year so that each church gets the benefit of having achieved 100% of its apportionment commitment.

In keeping with the notice in the East Ohio Annual Conference Journal, the final payment of the 2021 apportionment year must be received at our lockbox on or before January 5, 2022, to be credited as a 2021 payment. Checks received in our lockbox after January 5, 2022, regardless of the postmark date on the envelope, will be counted as having been received in 2022.

Ezra Statistical Module To Be Replaced (for more explanation from Debbie—see below *)

The General Council on Finance & Administration (GCFA) will no longer use the Ezra Statistical Module to collect and report data. Information about the new system being developed to replace it will be announced once the system has been completed. While the reporting system isn't ready for use, the type of data that will be reported in it remains unchanged from previous years. So that you will be ready to enter data in the new system, please print a blank copy of the current report in Ezra and manually fill in the 2021 data. This way when the new system is ready, you will have all the information needed to complete the report in a timely manner in the new system.

Please note that the Church Dashboard is still active – so please enter your new leadership before the end of December, as always.

*Year End Reports— Important Information

To all clergy & those that work on year-end reporting - the reports **WILL NOT be submitted in EZRA**. GCFA is working on releasing a **new system** that will be utilized conference wide. Once it is released, Brenda Vaccaro will be training district staff and all churches on the new system. We highly encourage you and your churches to print off a blank form or use the copy of last years forms to gather the information that is asked. So that come December and your books are closed, you will be prepared. With everyone being prepared, the new system up and running, & we have had the opportunity to come into each district to train everyone then hopefully the process will be quick and we can still meet deadlines. More information will be shared with all of you when it is available.

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>



Lay Servant News

Lay Servant Classes will be in person at the Lockwood United Methodist Church

- ▶ Basic Course: Friday, March 18, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, March 19, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- ▶ Advanced Course: Living our United Methodist Beliefs, Friday, April 22, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday, April 23, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Please Contact Debbie Sloan for more information about the classes and to register—330-283-6893 or at Dlsloan@aol.com

Jurisdictional Conference—Virtual NCJ Jurisdictional Conference – November 10-11

NCJ delegates will meet virtually Wednesday, November 10 and Thursday, November 11 for a special-called session of Jurisdictional Conference. During the special session delegates will: worship and pray together, receive a report on work being done in the North Central Jurisdiction and its annual conferences on dismantling racism and to consider how we might further this essential work, receive reports from the NCJ Committee on the Episcopacy, the NCJ Episcopal Leadership Task Force and other appropriate persons on the future shape of episcopal leadership including episcopal areas, and to engage in a conversation about the future deployment of bishops and the role of bishops in The United Methodist Church, and utilize the processes being developed by the Connectional Table and other denominational leaders, including jurisdictional leaders, to discuss the future of The United Methodist Church and the future work of the North Central Jurisdiction.

To view the livestream of the NCJ Jurisdictional Conference, go to this page on the conference website: <https://www.eocumc.com/jurisdictional/index.html>



Midwest Mission Christmas Collection November 29-December 5

East Ohio Missions is encouraging all Conference churches this Christmas to support the Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) collection drive. We started holding drive-through collections last year, and each one has been more successful than the last. Let's keep it up!

Many charitable organizations offer Christmas donation drives, but we encourage you to support ones within the United Methodist connection, like MMDC. The following sites will serve as drop-off locations during November 29 through December 5 Christmas collection:

Family of Faith UMC (Canal District)	Trinity Sandusky UMC (Firelands District)	Boardman UMC (Mahoning Valley District)
Trinity Mt. Gilead UMC (Mid-Ohio District)	Strongsville UMC (North Coast District)	Carrollton First UMC (Ohio Valley District)
Old Washington UMC (Southern Hills District)	Roscoe UMC (Three Rivers District)	Mentor UMC (Western Reserve District)

Check the conference E-News for a list of items or how to pay online: <https://www.ecumc.com/missions/training.html>

Check with your church office - churches were emailed a flyer explaining items needed

JOB OPENINGS in the CANAL DISTRICT

For more details on jobs listed below or job openings in the conference, check the classified page on the conference website: <http://www.ecumc.com/classified/index.html>

- ▶ Brimfield Faith UMC is seeking a **Church Musician/Organist/Pianist** who is a committed Christian who provides organ/piano/instrumental music and accompaniment for scheduled worship services and other activities in support of the music ministry of the church. Having a pivotal role in the musical life of the church, this individual is visionary, a strong team player, being a full partner with the ministerial staff and worship team. Regular worship service are Sundays at 9:30 am at 1235 Tallmadge Rd. Brimfield, 44240. Contact pastors Don & Karen Upson at 330-990-2250 or 330-990-2251 if you have any questions. Please submit a letter of interest with resume and references to brimfieldchurchpastor@outlook.com.
- ▶ The United Methodist Church in Stow is seeking a **director for its non-profit, faith based preschool/child care center**. Degree and experience are required. Inquiries may be sent to umcinstow@gmail.com.
- ▶ The UMC of Macedonia is looking a full-time **Custodian/Maintenance Person**. Hours are flexible. Tasks include overall cleaning of church building, and minor maintenance such as changing HVAC filters, removing trash from the building, etc. Position reports to Senior Pastor. Will consider a part-time position for the right person. For a full job description and/or to send a letter of interest or resume, contact Peggy Spraggins at peggysprag@aol.com.

Canal District Clergy and Families Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays – November

- 1 Patricia Gharky
- 4 Joyce Fast
- 7 David Breckner, James Lance
- 9 Jeanette Burkhardt
- 14 Daryl Sowers
- 18 Angela Lewis
- 19 Vicki Lewis
- 22 David McGrath
- 25 Sue McHale
- 26 David Radzik
- 27 Karen McGrath



Anniversaries – November

- 28 Jim & Patti Pfander
- 29 Don & Susan Ebert

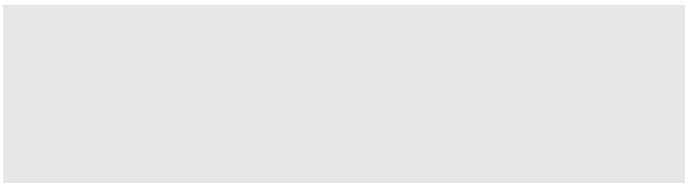


happy marriage anniversary

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

“The Connector”
November 2021

Return Service Requested



CANAL DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF -

District Superintendent : Rev. Angela Lewis — Administrative Assistant: Debbie Bryant ; Treasurer, Funding Secretary: Sheryl Reynolds
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/

Beginning January 1, 2022

District Superintendent : Rev. Angela Lewis — District Administrator: Megan Myers ; Treasurer, Funding Secretary: Sheryl Reynolds
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