



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.*

OCTOBER 2021

[www.eocumc.com/canal](http://www.eocumc.com/canal) - Canal District - United Methodist Church - East Ohio Conference

## Words of Encouragement from your DS

Canal District,

The Lord is good and His mercy endures forever. In our times of joy and sorrow, the Lord is good and His mercy endures forever. In our times of victory and loss, the Lord is good and His mercy endures forever. In our times of health and sickness, the Lord is good and His mercy endures forever. In our times of breakthrough and failed breakthroughs, the Lord is good and His mercy endures forever. In our times of hearing clearly and times of silence/uncertainty, the Lord is good and His mercy endures forever. In our times of laughter/dance and mourning/crying, the Lord is good and His mercy endures forever. In our times of acceptance/rejections, the Lord is good and His mercy endures forever.

## Pastor Appreciation Month

*Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. (Acts 20:28)*

Shepherds of the Lord be encouraged. We appreciate all that you do. Thank you for praying, preaching, teaching, walking, guiding, correcting and most importantly loving God's people. Thank you for your YES. God did not choose you lightly. Our great Shepherd has gifted you for this call. You are changing people's lives whether you know it or not. Be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. Again, thank you — DS Angela Lewis

## A couple of reminders

Time is flying. Can you believe it is already October? I don't know about you, but the last three months have been a blur. Annual conference seemed like yesterday. Whew! I just want to remind pastors and SPRC chairs that if you need to contact me quickly, please email at: [alewis@eocumc.com](mailto:alewis@eocumc.com) or by phone 330-834-8082. If you call and leave a message at the district office, my response will more than likely be delayed.

Finally, as you know, the assistant to the bishop was our former DS. I understand that many of you developed a great working relationship with him. Because of those relationships, some are still reaching out to him as a DS. I promise I understand, but please keep in mind contacting him conveys your need for the bishop. (Some things you will need to directly contact him i.e., BSA.)

I look forward to us serving the Canal District together.

— D.S. Angela Lewis



Resident Bishop, East Ohio Conference:  
Bishop Tracy S. Malone  
Conference website: [www.eocumc.com](http://www.eocumc.com)

## DS Calendar October 2021

- Oct. 2, Saturday:** PPR/SPR committee consultations at Granger UMC— 9 a.m. Copley; 10 a.m. Granger; 11 a.m. Medina
- Oct. 3, Sunday:** PPR/SPR committee consultations with Tom Fish at Chapel of the Cross UMC, 11 a.m.
- Oct. 4, Monday:** Zoom consultations - 9 a.m. Ruthie Trigg; 10 a.m. Cindy Patterson; 11 a.m. Jeff Gindlesberger; 4:30 Jane Piehl
- Oct. 5, Tuesday:** Zoom consultations - 10 a.m. James Lewis; 11 a.m. Karol Lewis; PPR/SPR committee consultations at Mogadore UMC - 6 p.m. Lakemore; 7 p.m. Mogadore; 8 p.m. Montrose Zion
- Oct. 6, Wednesday:** Zoom consultations - 9 a.m. Tal Lewis; 10 a.m. Bill Liming; 11 a.m. Scott Low; PPR/SPR committee consultations at Family of Faith UMC - 6 p.m. Akron First/Centenary; 7 p.m. Family of Faith; 8 p.m. Cuyahoga Falls First
- Oct. 7, Thursday:** Zoom consultations - 1 p.m. David Martin; 2 p.m. Sam Martin; 3 p.m. David McGrath; PPR/SPR committee consultations at Tallmadge UMC - 6 p.m. Tallmadge; 7 p.m. Twin Falls; 8 p.m. Stow
- Oct. 9, Saturday,** PPR/SPR committee consultations at Grandview UMC— 9 a.m. Christ:Woodland; 10 a.m. Northampton; 11 a.m. Grandview; 12 p.m. Redeemer North Hill/Peninsula
- Oct. 11, Monday,** Zoom consultations - 9 a.m. Matthew Merriman; 10 a.m. Tim Monteith; 11 a.m. Tina Nees
- Oct. 12, Tuesday:** 9 a.m.—3 p.m. dCOM; PPR/SPR committee consultations at Atwater UMC - 6 p.m. Charlestown; 7 p.m. Atwater
- Oct. 13, Wednesday:** Zoom consultations—9 a.m. Katie Osier; 10 a.m. David Palmer; 11 a.m. Kris Patt
- Oct. 14, Thursday:** Zoom consultations - 9a.m. Howard Pippin; 10 a.m. Eric Kluth; 11 a.m. David Rittgers; PPR/SPR committee consultations at Uniontown UMC - 6 p.m. Uniontown; 7 p.m. North Canton Faith; 8 p.m. Wedgewood
- Oct. 16, Saturday,** PPR/SPR committee consultations at Church of the Cross UMC - 9 a.m. Church of the Cross; 10 a.m. Orrville Trinity; 11 a.m. Wooster; 12 p.m. New Pittsburg/West Lebanon/Clinnton; 1 p.m. Shreve with Scott and Jan Walsh
- Oct. 19, Monday - Thursday, Oct. 21:** Cabinet
- Oct. 23, Saturday,** 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. - Black Theologians Day at Crossroads UMC in Canton (see page 3)
- Oct. 25, Monday:** Zoom consultations - 10 a.m. Ron Shultz; 11 a.m. Clark Stein; 6 p.m. Ken Kesler; 7 p.m. Gerald Killian; 8 p.m. John Tsironis
- Oct. 28, Thursday,** dCOM at Medina UMC
- Oct. 31, Sunday:** Church Charge Conferences, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. (see list on district website: <https://www.eocumc.com/canal/pdf/21CCConferencesSched-2.pdf> - or see attachment to email

## Retirement of Debbie Bryant - Megan Myers, administrative assistant to the Tuscarawas District, will assume position for both districts

The Canal District Superintendency Committee has been anticipating celebrating the retirement of Debbie Bryant, who has served 10 years as the administrative assistant of the Canal District after previously serving 12 years as communication coordinator of the North Coast District. Please join us in congratulating Debbie for her many years of service to the Canal District and the East Ohio Conference. Anticipating this transition for the end of the year, the Canal District and Tuscarawas District Superintendency Committees have discerned a plan which will employ our respective resources in the most healthy and life-giving way.

We are pleased to announce that effective January 1, 2022, Megan Myers, current administrative assistant for the Tuscarawas District, will assume the position of district administrator for both the Canal District and the Tuscarawas District. Megan will report directly to the Rev. Cara Stultz Costello, Tuscarawas District superintendent, and the Rev. Angela Lewis, Canal District superintendent. Please join us in congratulating Megan as she looks forward to assuming her new position and responsibilities.

Carolyn Berry, chair, Canal District Superintendency Committee

Kathy Hopkins, chair, Tuscarawas District Superintendency Committee

## Mission at Manos Juntas

December 26, 2021 - January 1, 2022

**Join us for a great week of mission at Manos Juntas!**

Requirements: passport Fees \$400-\$500 + airfare;  
\$100 Deposit July 1 — Final Payment Due November 15

For more information, contact  
Rev. Tammy Kuntz -tammylk58@gmail.com

## Hearth and Home Bazaar

Saturday, October 23, 10 AM – 3 PM, Hearth and Home Bazaar sponsored by Clearview UMW, 1733 Massillon Road, Akron, OH 44312. Free coffee, free admission. Quilts, throws, wall hangings, practical items, hats, scarves, Christmas items. Bake table: candies, cookies, homemade soup, relish. Eat in or carry out lunch: soups, sandwiches, pies. Cash, checks, and major credit cards accepted. Building is accessible. All proceeds go to leadership development and worldwide mission. COVID precautions.

## Young People's Ministries Help Us Connect with Your Youth Leaders

Pastors and leaders, please take two minutes to go to the link that was sent to you from the conference in the E-News on August 9, and fill out the questionnaire so that we can connect and support those that lead youth.

**Sign-up for a Youth Leader Coaching Call:** Attention youth leaders: As you start to plan for fall and into 2022, we are all struggling to understand ministry throughout the pandemic. If you need someone to coach you through these uncertain times, be sure to sign up for a coaching call with Kaye Wolfinger, director of Young People's Ministries. She can talk you through what is best for your context, listen to your ideas, and share trends that we are seeing in young people's ministries. She has availability during business hours as well as evenings and Saturdays. Go to this link and schedule your one-hour coaching call: <https://calendly.com/kayew/individual-coaching?month=2021-08>.

If you have questions or need help with the links, please contact Kaye Wolfinger at [kayew@eocumc.com](mailto:kayew@eocumc.com), or call her at 800-831-3972, ext. 116.

## 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>

## Flat Rock - The Wall of Hope Project

The Wall of Hope project continues the 155-year promise to provide shelter, security, and safety to those we serve.

1. Choose an envelope marked with a donation amount.
2. Enclose your donation.
3. Bring to your church by Thanksgiving.
4. The church will send it to Flat Rock!

**HOPE**

Follow this link to learn more about the Wall of Hope:

<https://www.flatrockhomes.org/wall-of-hope/>

## 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**

## Perspectives: Black Theologian Day – October 23

The theme of this year's Perspectives: Black Theologian Day is *Food Insecurity: Addressing the Needs of the Most Vulnerable*. Guest theologian is Professor Kyle Brooks, assistant professor of Homiletics, Worship, and Black Church and African Diasporic Studies at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio.

Jesus calls each of us as individuals and churches to participate in repairing communities that are broken. Hunger tears at the heart of healthy communities and Black communities experience higher rates of food insecurity due to social, economic, and environmental challenges. In 2020, 24% of Black individuals experienced food insecurity – more than three times the rate of white households.

Perspectives: Black Theologian Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 23 from 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon at the James S. Thomas Building, 3412 Harmont Ave. NE, Canton, OH 44705.

**To learn more and to register:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/perspectives-black-theologian-day-tickets-173749959807>

## Updated Boy Scouts of America Information

The Boy Scouts of America has declared bankruptcy resulting from abuse allegations going back many decades. Because United Methodist churches are often the chartering organization for those Scout troops, our churches are at risk of being included in legal proceedings as abuse victims seek redress.

The EOC BSA leadership team, working in consultation with leadership of The United Methodist Church, strongly urges:

- that churches do not initiate or renew any chartering agreements with the Boy Scouts of America.
- that churches enter into a Facilities Use Agreement that will act like a lease allowing the Scout unit to use church facilities, but the Scout unit will be responsible for everything else, including selection of leaders. A Facilities Use Agreement template can be downloaded on the EOC website.

Some East Ohio Conference churches have been named in the legal proceedings involving the Boy Scouts of America. The EOC BSA leadership team has notified the current pastors of those churches and more information is being provided directly to them.

The United Methodist Church continues to be supportive of scouting, and counsel for our denomination is resourcing the Conference leadership team so that we can provide information and guidance to our pastors, congregations, and faith communities. If you have a question for the EOC BSA leadership team, please e-mail the team at [BSA\\_UMC\\_Questions@ecumc.com](mailto:BSA_UMC_Questions@ecumc.com).

**For the complete letter from Bishop Malone go to:** <https://ecumcnews.com/2021/09/20/september-20-2021/>

## United Methodist Men Give Day – October 18

The General Commission on United Methodist Men receives less than 25% of its yearly budget funding from World Service Funds. Give Day is an essential funding source that enables the commission to provide resources and support to United Methodist Men across our denomination. Go to this website for more information: <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/general-commission-on-united-methodist-men/ummen-give-day-2021>

## Trainings Available for Your Local Congregation - Conference Spiritual Formation and Christian Education Committee

The purpose of the East Ohio Conference Spiritual Formation and Christian Education Committee is to support the discipleship ministries of East Ohio congregations in the areas of Christian Education and Spiritual formation for all age groups. We currently have the following topics available for training in your local congregation:

1. Safe Sanctuaries for the Local Church
2. Getting Messy Church Started in Your Setting
3. Offering Worship Engagement Manipulatives in Your Congregation
4. How Can Your Congregation Offer Sensory Sensitive Inclusiveness?
5. Creating a Race and Religion Forum in Your Congregation
6. Offering Outdoor Discipleship as a Way to Reach More People in Your Community
7. Hitting the Milestones with Children and Youth in Your Congregation
8. What Every Child and What Every Youth Should Experience
9. Training Effective Teachers
10. Developing a Discipleship Pathway for Your Congregation

A few other topics are in the works and will be available in the future:

1. Spiritual Formation and Christian Education in the Small Membership Church
2. Digital Discipleship

If you are interested in any of the above topics/training opportunities, please reach out to Rev. Gary Jones, Director of Spiritual Formation in the Connectional Ministries Office - [gary@eocumc.com](mailto:gary@eocumc.com) or 330-499-3972 ext. 120.

Rev. Gary W. Jones - Director of Spiritual Formation/Camps & Retreat Ministries East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church 330-499-3972 ext. 120 [gary@eocumc.com](mailto:gary@eocumc.com)

### 182nd UMHSO Convocation and Annual Meeting

Cincinnati , 7515 Forest Rd, - October 22-23, 2021

Option Tours on Friday - 1. National Underground Railroad Freedom Center; 2. The Eastside Cincinnati UMC Heritage Church Tour

The Saturday Convocation will take place between 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

and will include presentations, Show & Tell, Executive Board Officer elections, and The Annual Business Meeting.

Questions and a registration form contact: Bill Smith—513-316-1772, email: [bsmith1244@cinci.rr.com](mailto:bsmith1244@cinci.rr.com)

### POSITIONS AVAILABLE: For more positions check out the conference classifieds <https://www.eocumc.com/classified/index.html>

**First United Methodist Church of Akron, Ohio** <https://www.fumcakronoh.org> is looking for a **part-time Administrative Assistant**. Duties include regular bookkeeping; maintaining records and communicating with members; keeping church calendar; and performing clerical duties. Proficiency with computers and office software programs, including bookkeeping is essential; five-years work experience is preferred. If interested, email a resume to [fumcapplications@gmail.com](mailto:fumcapplications@gmail.com). Applications will be accepted until position is filled. Questions, call: 330-256-6659 or [rvaloric@gmail.com](mailto:rvaloric@gmail.com) or John Green, our SPPRC Chair and he can be reached at 330-329-7057 or [green@uakron.edu](mailto:green@uakron.edu).

**The East Ohio Conference Office of Financial & Administrative Services is seeking an Administrative Assistant.** The administrative assistant will work as a team member to provide office administrative and project support for the director of Financial & Administrative Services and/or designees. Essential job functions include: answering phones and greeting visitors; preparing communications such as memos, e-mails, invoices, reports, and other correspondence; processing daily deposits; and updating annually the Business of Annual Conference data. For a full job description go to: <https://www.eocumc.com/classified/pdf/AdminAssistFinanceAdminServ.pdf>. Qualified candidates, please e-mail a brief resume and letter of interest to Michelle Anderson by Wednesday, October 6, [manderson@eocumc.com](mailto:manderson@eocumc.com).

**Director of Christian Education and Program Coordinator Brunswick United Methodist Church** is in need of a **Director of Christian Education and Program Coordinator** to work 40 hours per week with hours being flexible to work weekends and Sunday mornings as needed. Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree preferably in Christian Education, and proven creativity skills and ability to coordinate new programs and activities a must. 3 years experience preferred. Job Responsibilities: Oversee and direct all aspects of Christian Education for adults, youth and children ministries, and manages the development and growth of the Christian Education Program. This person oversees and directs all aspects of the Youth and Young Adult Ministries including coordinating, creating and overseeing programs, outings and activities of interest to youth, young adults and young families. They are the liaison between high school and young adults. If you are energetic, enthusiastic, creative and enjoy coordinating programs and interacting with all ages, this might be the church home for you. Please apply by emailing or sending your resumé to the church address listed below. Applications and job description are also available on the website at [www.brunswickumc.net](http://www.brunswickumc.net). Brunswick UMC c/o Staff Parish Relations P.O. Box 85 Brunswick, Ohio 44212 330-225-3179, [church@brunswickumc.org](mailto:church@brunswickumc.org).

## Canal District Clergy and Families Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Birthdays -October

- 1 Lorrin Radzik
- 6 Tammy Kuntz
- 7 Rick Bohan
- 8 Camryn Hoverstock
- 10 Noah Liming
- 15 Becki Verbridge
- 18 David Cheng, Katie Osier
- 19 Emma Kesler
- 20 Lee McGrath, Carol Wallace
- 26 Tom Poremba
- 28 Matt Burkhardt



### Anniversaries -October

- 6 Philip and Allyson Raynes
- 9 Jim & Becki Verbridge
- 13 Kenny & Kimmie Kesler
- 25 Dawan and Hawa Buie



happy marriage anniversary

**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](mailto:cdistumc@gmail.com) or phone 330-252-0299**

### United Methodist Men Give Day – October 18

The General Commission on United Methodist Men receives less than 25% of its yearly budget funding from World Service Funds. Give Day is an essential funding source that enables the commission to provide resources and support to United Methodist Men across our denomination.

To learn more about and to support UMM Give Day go to: <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/general-commission-on-united-methodist-men/ummen-give-day-2021>

### Disaster Response - UMCOR Assisting Haiti Following an Earthquake and Tropical Storm Grace

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) asks clergy and laity across the Church to join in prayer for Haiti and its people following a deadly 7.2 magnitude earthquake off the country's western coast on August 14. UMCOR stands in solidarity with the people of Haiti and is working with partners in the country on how to best meet the immediate needs of survivors and assist communities experiencing upheaval and uncertainty. As this critical work was being done, Haiti was ravaged on August 17 by Tropical Storm Grace.

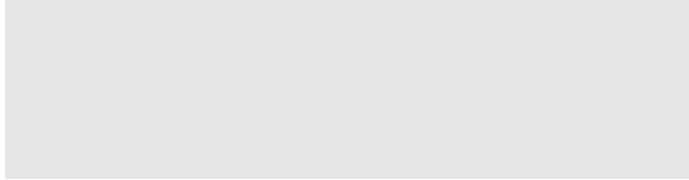
You can make a difference by making a financial donation to International Disaster Response and Recovery Advance 982450. By supporting this fund, you are helping the victims in Haiti and victims of natural disasters around the globe because UMCOR does not designate funds for any specific disaster. This process keeps The United Methodist Church nimble in our response for immediate needs.

Remember that by giving through the Advance, 100% of your donation assists those in need because administrative costs are paid for through the UMCOR Sunday special offering collected on March 22.

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

“The Connector”  
October 2021

Return Service Requested



### CLERGY DAY APART

**CLERGY DAY APART** - Serving side by side - All Local Licensed, Associate Members, Ordained and Commissioned Elders and Deacons and all Retired Clergy are encouraged to attend a day of **Service and Worship - Saturday, October 16, 2021 9:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.**

Clergy can choose to participate at any one of our 5 East Ohio UMVIM Stations: Blue Rose Mission (Mid-Ohio), Covered Bridge Ministries (Western Reserve ), Epworth Center (Southern Hills), Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland (North Coast), Urban Mission (Ohio Valley ).

Sponsored by: East Ohio Board of Ministry, Order of Elders, Order of Deacons, FAMLP and East Ohio UMVIM.

Christ Alive in Us! “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” - Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV)

REGISTER ONLINE AT [https://clergy\\_mission\\_day\\_2021.eventbrite.com](https://clergy_mission_day_2021.eventbrite.com). Sponsored by: East Ohio Board of Ministry, Order of Elders, Order of Deacons, FAMLP and East Ohio UMVIM Contact Rev. Kimberly Arbaugh with any questions [pastorkimberly@yellowbrickchurch.org](mailto:pastorkimberly@yellowbrickchurch.org)

### CANAL DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF

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

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