



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.

SEPTEMBER 2021

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

"It's a Culture Thing"

Blessings to you Canal District. You know we are in the season of doing consultations. In many of these conversations many of you pastors are asking me what do I want to be called. I thank you for asking because you understand that my culture may be different than yours. I truly thank you. Here is something I wrote on Facebook. I call it, "It's a Culture Thing."

It's a culture thing. I am sure many people have seen, read or heard about Deion Sanders wanting to be called coach versus by his first name. By in large in the African-American culture/tradition, we honor those in position by calling them by their titles i.e. coach, pastor, Rev. Professor, Dr. etc. (Truthfully, it wasn't long ago where our whole American culture did it. In my community, we continue to practice this.) It's not about thinking you're all that or you having that position. For us, it is respect. It is merely honoring the call God has placed on that person for that season.

When I went home in June, my father in the ministry kept calling me district superintendent (DS). Yes, other times he called me pastor or Rev. I told him, you don't have to do that. Every single time he said it, I was humbled and didn't feel worthy of him saying that to me. He is my "father" after all. Yet, this man honored where God has placed me for this season in my life by calling me DS.

By the way, in the Catholic church, I have yet to hear anyone--inside or outside the Catholic church--call their priest by their first name only. People say, Father _____ or if it is a nun Sister _____. If a pastor asks you to address him/her a particular way outside your norm, remember it may be a culture thing.

The media had a field day with Coach Deion because of his culture. Growing up and perhaps even today, I am sure he has addressed all of his coaches as "coach" because it's his culture thing.

What do I want to be called? I am going to leave it up to you pastors. My culture and background are explained above. (A side note, most of the time, I will call you, Pastor _____.) Yet, there are some things I will not fight about because we are fighting way bigger issues i.e. Covid, division in and out of church, getting people back to church, communities and world in need of healing and most importantly souls being saved.

Something to think about.

- D.S. Angela Lewis



Resident Bishop,
East Ohio Conference:
Bishop Tracy S. Malone
Conference website:
www.eocumc.com

DS Calendar for the remainder of September 2021

- Sept. 7, Tuesday:** PPR/SPR committee consultations at Oak Chapel UMC - 6 p.m. Burton City/East Greenville/Dalton; 7 p.m. Oak Chapel
- Sept. 8, Wednesday:** Zoom consultations - 9a.m. Joshua Elliott; 10 a.m. Jim Ellison; 11 a.m. Joyce Fast; PPR/SPR committee consultations at Smithville UMC - 6 p.m. Apple Creek; 7 p.m. Smithville with James Lance; 8 p.m. Chapel of the Cross with Tom Fish
- Sept. 9, Thursday:** 10: a.m. - 12 p.m. dCOM Meeting at Medina UMC
- Sept. 11, Saturday :** PPR/SPR committee consultations at Sterling UMC - 9 a.m. Lockwood; 10 a.m. Lakeview/Marshallville; 11 a.m. Sterling with Don Trigg; 12 p.m. Doylestown with Carolyn Berry
- Sept. 13, Monday - Sept. 16, Thursday:** Cabinet Retreat
- Sept. 18, Saturday:** PPR/SPR committee at Poe UMC - 9 a.m. Seville with Don Kuntz; 10 a.m. York; 11 a.m. Waltz/Poe/Easton; 12 p.m. Sharon Center
- Sept. 20, Monday:** Zoom consultations - 10 a.m. Mike Ward; 11 a.m. Julia Wertz; 6 p.m. PPR/SPR committee consultation at Crystal Park with Steve Costello Stultz and Jake Heskett
- Sept. 21, Tuesday,** Zoom consultation - 10 a.m. Doug George; PPR/SPR committee consultations at Rittman UMC - 6 p.m. Rittman; 7 p.m. Johnson; 8 p.m. Wadsworth
- Sept. 22, Wednesday,** Zoom consultations - 9 a.m. Bruce Hartley; 10 a.m. Jon Heavilin; 11 a.m. Phil Hoverstock; PPR/SPR committee consultations at Macedonia UMC - 6 p.m. Hudson; 7 p.m. Macedonia with Lorrin Radzik, 8 p.m. Streetsboro
- Sept. 23, Thursday,** Zoom consultations - 9 a.m. David Hull Frye; 10 a.m. Don Richards; 11 a.m. Derek Kubilus; PPR/SPR committee consultations at Firestone Park UMC - 6 p.m. Sawyerwood/Clearview/Firestone Park; 7 p.m. Heart 4 the City; 8 p.m. Park
- Sept. 25, Saturday,** PPR/SPR committee consultations at Green Valley UMC - 9 a.m. Greensburg; 10 a.m. Green Valley; 11 a.m. Manchester; 12 p.m. Hope
- Sept. 27, Monday,** Zoom consultations - 10 a.m. Frank Woodrum; 11 a.m. Steve Costello Stultz; 12 p.m. Jake Heskett
- Sept. 28, Tuesday - Sept. 30, Thursday:** Cabinet

Mosaix Regional Learning Lab

Work Smart - Avoid Mistakes - Gain Confidence



Mosaix Regional Learning Lab will take place September 24-26. The theme is - Work Smart-Avoid Mistakes- Gain Confidence. This Regional Learning Lab will take place at Garfield Memorial UMC in Pepper Pike. Designed for all church leadership teams, it's your chance to "get under the hood" of a healthy multiethnic congregation and learn some best practices to help your church reach more diverse groups of people. The Learning Lab will begin at 5:45 p.m. on Friday, September 24 and conclude at 2:45 p.m. on Sunday, September 26. Four meals are included in the registration price of \$189/person or \$149/person for groups of three or more. If cost is a barrier for you or for your leadership team, please e-mail Melanie Thomas (mthomas@eocumc.com) in the Conference Connectional Ministries office or call her at (330) 499-3972 ext. 102. Spots are limited so register today.

To learn more and register go to:
<https://garfieldchurch.org/mosaixlab>



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->



Young People's Ministries

Help Us Connect with Your Youth Leaders

Pastors and leaders, please take two minutes to go to this 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, or call her at 800-831-3972, ext. 116.



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
tammyk58@gmail.com

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!

Follow this link to learn more about the Wall of Hope:
<https://www.flatrockhomes.org/wall-of-hope/>

HOPE

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.

Advance # 982450

**Check out the Conference E-News from 8-23-21 for more information for the Articles below:
<https://eocumcnews.com/2021/08/23/august-23-2021/>**

Teach • Reach • Bless - Building a New Residence Hall for Female AU Students - The East Ohio Conference Teach • Reach • Bless campaign needs to collect only \$425,932 to reach our goal of collecting the needed \$1.5 million to build and furnish a new residence hall for female students at Africa University. The new hall is needed because increasing enrollment at Africa University and a lack of on-campus housing means that some students commute from remote areas and find affordable off-campus housing, putting female students at risk of living in and being subjected to untenable situations.

A challenge gift from Rev. Bill & Marty McFadden will add \$1 to every \$3 collected in 2021. This means that if the campaign collects \$319,449, the resulting challenge gift from that amount of \$106,483 will put us at our goal of collecting \$1.5 million.

Saturation Sunday – September 19 - Representatives of Africa University will preach in East Ohio Conference churches on Sunday, September 19 as part of Saturation Sunday to promote the University and our Teach • Reach • Bless campaign to build a new dorm for female students on the AU campus.

On Saturation Sunday, September 19 – or a future Sunday of your church leadership’s choosing – pastors, congregations and faith communities of the East Ohio Conference are asked to share the story of Africa University and the Teach • Reach • Bless campaign. In supporting Saturation Sunday and the campaign, we are showing our commitment to improving the education and wellness of women today for a better Africa tomorrow.

Missions & Community Engagement - UMVIM Journeys - Mission Mondays - September and October - Make plans to spend a Monday this fall at the sites of some of our East Ohio Conference mission partners – and bring a guest. Invite youth leaders, mission chairs, lay leaders, and anyone else who is curious about how to engage in missions in East Ohio. Registration is free and you’ll get to experience a behind-the-scenes look at some of our EOC United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) sites. The times for each Monday visit are 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

September 13 – Blue Rose Mission, Mansfield

September 27 – Urban Mission, Steubenville

October 11 – Covered Bridge Mission, Jefferson

September 20 – Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland

October 4 – Epworth Center, Bethesda

We want you to experience the East Ohio overnight mission sites so that: • You will discover the amazing ministries that you make happen through apportionments and that you could partner with in hands on ways, building relationships. • You might plan an UMVIM Journey with your youth or local church. • You will get excited about these ministries and help advocate for them in your church and district. • You will be living out your call of discipleship to be God’s agent of transformation in the world!

What will we be doing at the mission sites? Each site will be planning our time together. Some things we might be doing include: touring the mission, hands on mission, panel discussions with clients or people from the community discussing why the mission/ministry is needed in the community, transitions in the community, goals for the agencies, what someone would do if they brought an UMVIM team in the summer or throughout the year, and sharing promotional videos.

To register call Melanie Thomas at 330.492.3972 x102. You can register for all the dates or just the sites you’re interested in! Questions? contact Rev. Dickriede kdickriede@gmail.com Registration for each site closes at noon the Friday before each trip.

UMCOR Early Response Team (ERT) Training – October 2- The Conference Disaster Response Committee will hold a United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Early Response Team (ERT) training on Saturday, October 2 from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at Chardon UMC. Michael Woodward will teach you best practices when assisting after a disaster. Upon successful completion of both the training and a background check, you will receive credentials as an UMCOR ERT volunteer.

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 Mt. Gilead UMC (Mid-Ohio District)

Old Washington UMC (Southern Hills District)

Trinity Sandusky UMC (Firelands District)

Strongsville UMC (North Coast District)

Roscoe UMC (Three Rivers District)

Boardman UMC (Mahoning Valley District)

Carrollton First UMC (Ohio Valley District)

Mentor UMC (Western Reserve District)



Lay Servant Ministry Changes

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



job postings

JOB OPENING: Service Organist/Choir Accompanist needed! Family of Faith UMC, 800 East Market St., Akron.

3 manual pipe organ, Thursday evening choir rehearsal. Friendly, open, and inviting congregation. Email your resume to famfaithakronchurch@gmail.com

Canal District Clergy and Families Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays - September

- 2 David Rittgers
- 3 Lois Turner
- 6 Bill Sowers
- 9 Hadassah Priebe
- 10 Stephanie Lee
- 11 Tal Lewis
- 16 Kimberly Cheng
- 17 Ron Shultz
- 18 Michael McHale
- 24 Paul Beal
- 30 Lea Mahan,
Eric Osier



happy marriage anniversary

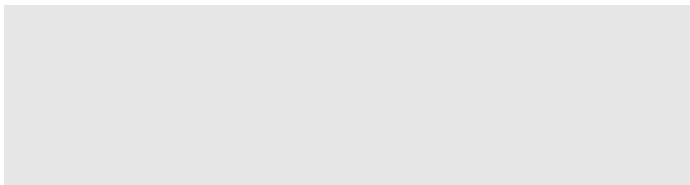
September 19 Dave & Paulette Martin

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”
September 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 9:00 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).

More information and registration details will be coming later this summer.

Sponsored by: East Ohio Board of Ministry, Order of Elders, Order of Deacons, FAMLPA 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)

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 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/