

Mahoning Valley Messenger

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A Pastoral Note from Bishop Tracy S. Malone



The Way of Integrity

Do No Harm, Do Good, and Stay in Love with God

I am calling on the East Ohio Conference, laity and clergy, to practice Wesley's Three Simple Rules: "Do No Harm, Do Good, and Stay in Love with God."

How then shall we live together as the Body of Christ with integrity?

We live with integrity by doing no harm.

No United Methodist church or United Methodist pastor need to take any vote or make any decision about being a United Methodist. No pastor or lay member of any local church should be solicited or pressured to leave The United Methodist Church. Pastors and laity who have or will decide to withdraw from The UMC have or will make a personal life and faith decision. It is inappropriate for anyone to impose their decision on their colleague or congregation by actively recruiting or encouraging pastors and laity/congregations to disaffiliate. The pulpit should not be used as a platform to bear false witness against The United Methodist Church, nor should it be used to inflict harm. These actions breed fear and mistrust, corrode community, and undermine the leadership of the pastor and the ministry of the local church. I urge you to stop the harm!

We live with integrity by doing good.

The East Ohio Conference website has everything that pastors and congregations need to know about the disaffiliation process. There are discernment resources available should a local church decide it wants to engage in a conversation about disaffiliation. All conversations and meetings should be open and transparent, they should engage the entire congregation, and the district superintendent should be invited to attend. I urge you to not allow any denomination or faith tradition to come into any of our United Methodist churches to recruit and/or to share information without the sharing of someone (the superintendent or their designate) who is officially representing the best interest and mission of The United Methodist Church. Pastors and church leaders have a responsibility to make sure members have accurate information before taking any vote. I urge you to be good stewards of trust and community!

We live with integrity by staying in love with God.

I have called for a respite from November 20, 2022 - January 1, 2023, from all meetings and conversations related to matters of disaffiliation so that we can focus on the main thing: giving thanks to God and proclaiming the Good News of Jesus coming into the world and into our lives to love, to save, to heal, to reconcile and to make all things new. I urge you to stay in love with God and with your neighbor ... keeping your eye on the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

Let us commit to the way of integrity as we forge our way forward together in Jesus Christ, trusting that God will make a way in the wilderness. "I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." - Ephesians 4:1 (NRSV)

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Tracy S. Malone

Resident Bishop, East Ohio Conference

WITH THE DS IN DECEMBER

5-6 COWSER PLENARY

7-9 CABINET

9 CABINET CHRISTMAS PARTY

24 CHRISTMAS EVE

25 CHRISTMAS

31 NEW YEARS EVE

WITH THE DS IN JANUARY

1 NEW YEARS

2-5 CABINET RETREAT

8- CHURCH CONSULT

16 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)

18- ZOOM W/CHURCH

22- MULTIPLE CHURCH CONSULTS

24- LEADERSHIP

27- COWSER SUMMIT

30- CABINET

East Ohio E-News

E-News is the bi-weekly electronic newsletter of the East Ohio Conference. Its purpose is to communicate the many ways that conference clergy and laity are making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The electronic newsletter includes messages from Bishop Malone and other announcements regarding the mission and ministry within The East Ohio Conference. [Click Here:](#) to visit the East Ohio E-News webpage. (Scroll down on the right side, click on archived editions.)

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

All those still suffering from COVID-19 in different ways; all pastors and churches during this busy and challenging period of transition.

Please also pray for Elaine Weaver (Retired Local Pastor), Joan Ready (Widow of Rev. Chuck Ready)

What is the Give Love Campaign?

As the year draws to a close, we look for ways to provide the basic human needs to the most vulnerable populations. Local churches and laity are invited to join in fulfilling these needs by giving love, joy, hope, and peace with #GiveLove, Global Ministries' end-of-year campaign. Between November 1 and December 31, churches will have the opportunity to participate in the transformational missional work the Advance network provides and discover how financial gifts made through The Advance network impact lives with their congregations. Learn more: [Click Here:](#)


Life Size Candy Land Game at Vienna UMC, 4265 Warren-Sharon Rd, Vienna, Ohio 44473

* **Friday**, Dec. 9th, 2:30pm - 8:00pm

* **Saturday**, Dec. 10th, 11:00am - 8:00pm

* **Sunday**, Dec. 11th, Noon - 6:00pm

We invite you to come experience the magic and joy of Christmas while spending quality time with your loved ones at our life-size version of the classic game, Candy Land! Stroll through the Peppermint Forest, wander into a giant Gingerbread House, slosh through the Chocolate Swamp, and so much more on your way to the Candy Castle. Great fun for kids 0-102! **This event is 100% FREE** to the public! Besides the game, there will be hot chocolate, cookies, a photo booth, and other activities for the whole family. There are no set start times for games, simply come whenever you wish during the open hours. Play once, play ten times, or simply walk through to see the decorations! You are sure to create memories to last a lifetime! [Please Note this event is open one weekend only!](#)

Soup Lunch Fundraiser

- Help the Vienna UMC raise money to attend the District Youth Retreat
- **Sunday**, January, 29th, Noon to 2:00pm
- Cost: Eat-in is a donation, Take out quarts will be available

Please make sure that ALL of your Charge Conference forms are signed by all requested parties and that the signed forms are emailed back to the District Office. **Also, your 2023 budgets were due to the office by Dec. 1. Please make sure you sent it in.

Just an FYI: The District Office will be closed between Dec.24-Jan 1. Regular business hours start back up on Jan. 2.

Clergy Birthdays for December & January

12/6 Matt Darrin
12/26 David Andrews

1/11 Shane Russo
1/31 Cynthia Figley

RETIREE BREAKFAST

Wed. Dec. 28, & Jan. 31, 9:00 a.m. at Eat 'N Park, 5451 Mahoning Ave. Austintown.



Western Reserve United Methodist Church
Presents

FESTIVAL
of
Christmas
by Mary McDonald

Sunday
December 18, 2022
4:00PM
4580 Canfield Rd.
Canfield, OH 44406

Featuring the Choirs from
Western Reserve United Methodist Church
Christ Our Savior Parish
Voices of Joy
and
Full Orchestra

Matthew White, Conductor
Matthew White and Mark Halls, Directors

Hors d'oeuvre Reception to Follow

Confirmation Retreats at
East Ohio Camps 2023
Confirmation Weekend
at Camp Asbury Febru-
ary 3 - 5, 2023 COST:
\$140/youth; \$133/adults.

Registration Deadline:
January 25, 2023

Confirmation Weekend
at Camp Wanake Febru-
ary 24 - 26, 2023
COST*: \$140/youth;
\$133/adults.

Registration Deadline:
February 15, 2023

We'll explore our United Methodist understanding of the sacraments, ways we talk about and experience God, ways we can connect with God in prayer, our United Methodist heritage and organization. One adult chaperone is required for every 6 youth.

Online Registration - <https://eastohiocamps.campbrainregistration.com/>

For more info contact the East Ohio Conference Camping Office at 1-330-499-3972 extension 108, Camp Asbury at 330-569-3171, or Camp Wanake at 330-756-2333.



2023 Women's Retreat Cost: \$146
February 17-19

Join us for a weekend where you will discover through worship, study, art and fellowship that...

You are not defined by who the world says that you are.

You are defined by the I AM in YOU!

For more information visit www.campwanake.org or call 330-756-2333

Just as Moses witnessed I AM in the burning bush that was not consumed, we witness I AM in each person by all that they are today. Because of I AM...I am loved, I am strong, I am capable, I am forgiven, I am free. Join us at Wanake February 17-19 for a women's retreat that ignites in us all that we are because of I AM.

Study, discussion, fun, worship, meeting new friends, and fellowship are all a part of the weekend as we explore Moses at the burning bush. We'll begin Friday evening and conclude Sunday after lunch. Wanake will supply all the meals and leadership. You bring your Bible, and, if you wish, a friend! Come ready to be challenged and return home renewed.

For More Information:

Visit www.campwanake.org under upcoming events

— OR —

Contact Us At:

9463 Manchester Ave SW
Beach City, OH 44608
Phone: 330-756-2333
E-mail: info@campwanake.org

Cost: \$146

Register Online Today!

www.campwanake.org

2023
PASTOR'S WIVES & PASTOR'S HUSBANDS
RETREAT

MARCH 3RD - 5TH

"COME TO ME, ALL WHO ARE WEARY AND BURDENED AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST."

Wanake Camp and Retreat Center
BEACH CITY, OHIO

More information to come!

Brookfield United Methodist Church



Craft and Vendor Show

December 10th from 10am-3pm

30 tables (second floor)!
Vendor raffles!
Gift card bundle raffle!
Food and beverage concessions!

Donations of non-perishable items appreciated for our food pantry!!

Christmas Giving Opportunity
Midwest Mission Collection Nov. 28-Dec. 2

There are many charitable organizations that vie for our attention this time of year. While their intentions may be good, East Ohio Missions seeks to develop relationships and partnerships that are healthy and seek justice for the recipients. Giving through the Midwest Mission (MM) www.midwestmission.org is an opportunity within our UMC connection. The Board of Missions is encouraging all East Ohio congregations to collect items for MM, then bring to the drop-off site closest to you the week of Nov. 28-Dec. 2. MM is also one of our long-time Conference Advances which means they are reviewed each year by the Mission Awareness Committee.

ITEMS TO COLLECT FOR MMDC

- * All types of new sports balls (soccer, basketball, softball, baseball); inflated or deflated
- * Simple musical instruments like recorders, harmonicas, or percussion; gently used ok
- * Baby diapers
- * UMCOR Cleaning Kits <https://umcmmission.org/umcor-cleaning-kit/>
- * UMCOR Hygiene Kits <https://umcmmission.org/umcor-hygiene-kit/>
- * **Please visit the UMCOR links for current kit contents and instructions, this can change from year to year!**
- * Kits do NOT have to be complete, they will take items that go into the kits

*Together, let's reconsider what God's generosity
 can look like during this
 Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas season!*



Missions &
Community Engagement
EAST OHIO CONFERENCE



UMCOR

United Methodist Committee on Relief

IT'S DINNER TIME, ETC.

Thursday, Dec. 8, 4pm until sold out Stuffed Chicken Breast Drive thru Dinner at **Western Reserve UMC**, 4580 Canfield Rd, Canfield 44406

Advent Dinner Sat. Dec. 10, 5:30 at Berlin Center UMC, 15611 Akron Canton Rd, Berlin Center, 44401. Dinner is \$12.50 and 10-under is free. This will be followed by a Night of Caroling in the Sanctuary at 7. for more info contact Judy Briceland -330-727-5837

Brookfield UMC, 6951 Grove St. Brookfield Ohio 44403
December 17 Food Distribution (pantry) 10:00 am - Noon. Everyone welcome.

Swiss Steak Drive Thru Dinner, Thursday Jan.5, 4pm until sold out @ **Western Reserve UMC**, 4580 Canfield Rd, Canfield 44406

Swiss Steak Dinner - Saturday, Jan.7 4-6 (Drive thru only) @ **Vienna UMC**, 4265 Warren-Sharon Rd. Vienna, 44473

Chili Sale- Saturday, Dec. 10, Jan. 14, 10-noon (or until sold out) @ **Ohltown UMC**, 2001 Ohltown Rd., Mineral Ridge 44440

Breakfast - Sat. Dec. 10, Jan. 14, 8:30-11 at **Smith Corners UMC**, 3000 S. Canfield-Niles Rd., Youngstown. Free/by donation.

Chicken Pie Drive-thru dinner Dec. 10, Jan. 14, 3:30- 5:30 @ Fowler UMC. 3426 Youngstown-Kingsville Rd. Fowler, 44418.

Breakfast - Sat., Dec. 17, Jan. 21, 7-10:30 a.m. at **Damascus UMC**, 300 Valley Rd., Salem.

"Supper at the Corner" Thurs., Dec. 15, Jan. 19, 4:30-6pm at **Smith Corners UMC**, 3000 S. Canfield-Niles Rd., Youngstown.




24-HOUR YOUTH LEADER NETWORK RETREAT

JANUARY 20-21

7:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

RECHARGE
OHIO YAC 2023

2022 2023

MAHONING VALLEY UNITED METHODIST YOUTH SCHEDULE

DEC 18

**CHRISTMAS MISSION
AND CELEBRATION**
4-6:30 P.M. CANFIELD UMC

JAN 13-14

**TRINITY UMC WORSHIP
AND Y NIGHT**
8:30 P.M. - 6:30 a.m. - WORSHIP - LEADERSHIP - FUN

JAN 20

**24 HOUR YOUTH LEADER
RETREAT**
INFO will be SHARED SOON

MARCH 3-5

CAMP ASUBRY RETREAT
JOIN US FOR A WEEKEND OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND FUN!

**DETAILS OF EACH EVENT WILL BE POSTED ON
FACEBOOK AND MESSENGER IN UP-COMING WEEKS.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL or TO BE ADDED TO
FACEBOOK/MESSENGER GROUP email STEF WILLIAMS AT EMAIL BELOW.
YOU CAN ALSO LET STEF KNOW IF YOU AND ANY YOUTH YOU KNOW
WOULD LIKE TO PLAN ANY OF THE ABOVE EVENTS.

STEF.YOUTHMINISTRY@GMAIL.COM

Website: www.youthministry.com