

Mahoning Valley Messenger

Tracy S. Malone, Resident Bishop, East Ohio Conference United Methodist Church
Abby Auman District Superintendent, Mahoning Valley District
Rick Oaks, District Associate; Stefanie Krugel, Administrative Assistant;
Jeff Williamson, Treasurer

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2023

Phone: 330-270-3400
E-mail: office@mvdistumc.org
Web: www.mvdistumc.org



On the days when I felt overwhelmed and terrified at the prospect of becoming a district superintendent, I would ask myself, *What's the worst that can happen?* I decided that if it turned out I was a terrible DS, then the worst that would happen is that the Bishop would say, "Sorry, you're just not cut out for this—back to a local church for you!" That would be a terrific worst case scenario, because pastoring a church is the hard but joyful work to which I feel God has called me.

I came to the Mahoning Valley at God's call through Bishop Malone. While some wish she'd exercised that throwback option, I have personally experienced the confirmation of the Holy Spirit many times that this is where and when God wanted me to be. I've made plenty of mistakes and also witnessed God working in amazing ways. Many of you have heard me say that sometimes when I get whiny—"God, I can't believe THIS is my job!"—I can more or less hear God say, "Didn't you promise to do whatever I needed you to do?...Well, ok, then: THIS is what I need you to do for my church right now!" Then there are those moments when I've been so overwhelmed with gratitude that all I can say is, "God, I can't believe you allowed me to be part of THIS!"

The standard term for a district superintendent is six years. I will finish year six in June. When I had my annual consultation with Bishop Malone, I shared with her that I would like to be considered for local church appointment again, with her blessing. I love the Mahoning Valley. I've poured my heart into so much here. I am going to miss so many people and things here. But my heart feels tugged back to the local church. Being a district superintendent is a call for a season. I've done my best during this season, and it is drawing to a close.

We announced last month Bishop Malone's intention to appoint me to Strongsville UMC as of July 1, 2023. The district leadership board is representing you very well in working with her on the next chapter for the Mahoning Valley. Following another meeting later this month, there will be a public announcement regarding the Mahoning Valley district superintendency in late February. I invite all of us to pray as we wait for news.

Meanwhile, I will continue to serve as your district superintendent to the best of my ability, by God's grace. I look forward to many bittersweet goodbyes over the next few months as we continue to invest in God's work all over the Valley!

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Abby

WITH THE DS IN FEBRUARY

- 2- DCOM
- 5- CHURCH CONSULTS
- 7- SPR MEETINGS
- 8- CHURCH CONSULTS
- 9- PLANNING MEETINGS
- 12- CHURCH CONFERENCE
- 13- MEETING
- 14-16 CABINET
- 20- OFFICE CLOSED FOR PRESIDENT'S DAY
- 24- BLACK FACES, WHITE SPACES
- 25- CHURCH CONSULT

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. When you click on the link it will take you to the conference website page, on the right will be a space for you to enter your email address so that you can receive them straight from the Conference Office.

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)

Clergy Birthdays for February

22- Donald Smith

RETIREE BREAKFAST

Wed. Feb. 22, 9:00 a.m. at Eat 'N Park, 5451 Mahoning Ave. Austintown.

**Covid Update**

We give thanks that so far we are having a much better Covid winter than the past two years! Anecdotal, people seem to be developing symptoms a few days before home rapid tests show a positive result. Encourage people to stay home or wear a mask if they have symptoms. Continue to ensure that there's lots of fresh air flowing when people gather.



Mahoning Valley Lay Servant Ministry

ZOOM TRAINING

MARCH 3 & 4, 2023

UNITED METHODIST POLITY

This class is

***REQUIRED FOR**

CERTIFIED LAY SPEAKER TRACK

AND

***Suggested for anyone interested in an overview of the structure and organization of the United Methodist Church**

REGISTER at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/499047984957>

After you register, your EVENTBRITE email response will contain the ZOOM LINK for the March training.

Please make sure that your EMAIL ADDRESS is CORRECT

Cost for Class: \$15.00

Taught by: Joshua D. Reichard, PhD, EdS, CCS

TRAINING DATES & TIMES:

Friday, March 3, 2023: **6 PM-7:45 PM, 8:15 PM-9:00 PM**

Saturday, March 4, 2023: **8 AM-9:45 AM, 10:15 AM-12 PM, 1:00 PM-2:45 PM**

Purchase the following book to be used during ZOOM Class:

The Method of Our Mission: United Methodist Polity & Organization:

Warner, Lacey C.: 9781426767173: Amazon.com: Books

Questions contact:

Cyd Scarnecchia, MV LSM District Director

330-883-3534 cell/text OR SCARNIC@sbcglobal.net

Small Changes Matter

Oops, did your year end giving statement look like a bill again? Make plans now to make sure you say "thank you" to those who give to your church next year. Celebrating what God does through our giving makes us likely to want to give more so God can do more!

Spring District Conference

Spring district conference will begin at 2:30pm on Sunday, April 30, 2023 at Howland UMC. Breakout sessions planned so far include Upwards Sports and connecting with your pre-school families—stay tuned for more!

Unwanted Emails

Recently several organizations have added United Methodists to their email lists without asking permission. If you do not wish to receive those emails, please use the unsubscribe button or reply and ask to be removed. If your request is not honored, then you can mark those emails as spam.

Mahoning Valley Sojourn to the Past members invite you to join them at a 60th anniversary reading of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Letter From the Birmingham Jail" on Monday, April 17th at noon in the rotunda of the Mahoning County Courthouse. This April will be the 60th Anniversary of Dr. King writing the letter.

A few weeks after Dr. King wrote the letter, children in Birmingham were arrested, blasted with fire hoses and attacked by vicious dogs as they left the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church to march to downtown Birmingham asking for an end to segregated facilities in the downtown area. Present with us on April 17th will be **Janice Wesley Kelsey**, who was one of those "children", who was arrested and spent several days in jail.



**CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR
MAHONING VALLEY
SOJOURN TO THE PAST**

33% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE

SATURDAY, MARCH 11TH | 4-8PM
525 BOARDMAN POLAND RD, BOARDMAN, OH, 44512

ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE **CAJ2XH3**
OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT



For online orders to count towards the fundraiser, they must be placed for pickup only from the restaurant location of, and during the hours of, the fundraiser. Delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify. \$150 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.

IT'S DINNER TIME, ETC.

Thursday, Feb. 2, 4pm until sold out Stuffed Pork Chops Drive thru Dinner at **Western Reserve UMC**, 4580 Canfield Rd, Canfield 44406

Swiss Steak Dinner - Sat., Feb. 4, 4-6 (Drive thru only) @Vienna UMC, 4265 Warren-Sharon Rd. Vienna, 44473

Breakfast - Sat. Feb. 11, 8:30-11 at Smith Corners UMC., 3000 S. Canfield-Niles Rd., Youngstown. Free/by donation.

Chicken Pie Drive-thru dinner Feb. 11, @ Fowler UMC. 3426 Youngstown-Kingsville Rd. Fowler, 44418.

"Supper at the Corner" Thurs., Feb. 16, 4:30-6pm at Smith Corners UMC., 3000 S. Canfield-Niles Rd., Youngstown.

Brookfield UMC, 6951 Grove St. Brookfield Ohio 44403 **Feb. 18, @4pm-6pm** (or Sold Out) Drive thru Spaghetti dinner



**SOJOURN TO THE PAST
PASTA DINNER
(CARRY OUT ONLY)
DATE SUNDAY, FEBUARY 19th
TIME 11:30-3:30**

Flambeau's Live
2308 Market ST. Youngstown, Ohio
ADULTS:\$10/ Children:\$5

**Help Sojourn Students Raise
Money To Go On The Journey**

HELLO GOD it's me, can you hear me?

CAMP ASBURY
Friday, March 3 - Sunday, March 5, 2023

Mahoning Valley District Retreat
Youth grades 6-12 and adult leaders and chaperones
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Come for a weekend to learn about prayer and ways to grow closer to God! Expect to make new friends, have small groups, worship, dance, play games, eat good food and more!

Cost is \$100 per person. Discounts for additional family members attending are given in \$10 increments with up to \$30 total. The first member will cost \$100, with the second costing \$90 and each family member there after will cost \$80.

REGISTRATION IS DUE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20th
Register at <https://forms.gle/wyHD4ESHsHjtJGZa6>

Make checks out to the Mahoning Valley District and put
YOUTH Camp Asbury in the memo.
Cash will not be accepted.
Contact Stefanie Williams for any questions at
stef.youthministry@gmail.com



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

Registration Deadline:
January 25, 2023

Confirmation Weekend at Camp Wanake February 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
February 17-19
Cost: \$146

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

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!

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