

Mahoning Valley Messenger

Tracy S. Malone, Resident Bishop, East Ohio Conference United Methodist Church
Cara Stultz-Costello/Angela Lewis Co-District Superintendents, Mahoning Valley District
Rick Oaks, District Associate; Stefanie Krugel, Administrative Assistant;
Jeff Williamson, Treasurer

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The 54th session of the East Ohio Annual Conference met at the John S. Knight Center in Akron. During the conference, [Annual Conference 2023](#) members:

- approved the re-districting of the East Ohio Conference from 10 districts to four effective January 1, 2024,
- approved a 5% increase across all pastoral minimum salary categories,
- approved the 2024 Conference budget of \$9,428,531, which is a reduction of 3.5% over the 2023 budget,
- approved a sexual ethics policy, a parental leave policy, and a professional standards policy,
- approved the disaffiliation agreements of 237 churches effective the end of June 2023, and
- approved three resolutions.

The AC 2023 services and celebrations commemorated 48 saints who joined the Church Triumphant since last year's conference, celebrated the ministries of 40 clergy who are retiring this year, and the commissioning of five clergy and the ordination of nine.

"Our mission is yet alive," declared Bishop Malone during her Episcopal Address. "Now is the time for us to focus forward. This is a time of remarkable opportunity in the life of The United Methodist Church."

Annual Conference 2024 will meet at the John S. Knight Center in Akron on Thurs., June 13 through Sat., June 15.

[View and download the AC 2023 recap video.](#)
[Read the AC 2023 recap article.](#)



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.

RETIREE BREAKFAST

Wed. July 26, 9:00 a.m. at

Eat 'N Park,

5451 Mahoning Ave. Austintown.



Clergy Birthdays for July

2– Edie Boles

7– John Fitch

14– Stefanie (district 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), Rev. Doug Lewis



District Office Summer Hours

Starting Friday, June 9th, thru Labor Day the district office will be open the following days and hours:

Monday thru Thursday: 8:30am –4pm

Friday: closed (work from home)

Saturday & Sunday: Closed

IMPRTANT NOTE:

Also: if you have changed your address, phone number or email address in the last few years, please email all the updated information to the district office so I can update the data base. We had several people that could not register for annual conference because we had outdated information. Very much appreciated.



Church Hill UMC is looking for a sound room tech to work the audio visual components of our worship services. We worship on Sunday morning at 10am and need AV support about two hours for each Sunday beginning about 9:15am. There will be several special worship times as well for Holidays. We offer in person and livestream for our services. The church is located at 189 Churchill Hubbard Rd. in Liberty Township. Plan to provide a resume via email at admin@churchhillumc.com attention: Sharon Wathen



Lighthouse Churches

A pilgrimage is a holy journey that leads one to a deeper understanding of self and a closer relationship with God. The concept of pilgrimage deeply aligns with us as United Methodists as we move towards God in our process of transformation.

We know that some local church members here in the East Ohio Conference are on a pilgrimage searching for new church homes, a place to heal and reconnect with God, or both. In this time of pilgrimage, we do not want any member to feel abandoned, lost, or disconnected. For those on a pilgrimage, the Lighthouse church and Oasis group resources found here are designed to help you connect to a United Methodist church in or around your area and across our Conference. Lighthouse churches are dedicated to The United Methodist Church and are welcoming for those seeking a new church home. Oasis groups are intentional spaces for connecting, healing, and growing spiritually.

Bookmark this page because you will want to visit it often to receive the latest information about district gatherings, events, connecting points, and other ministries in your area.

<https://www.eocumc.com/lighthousechurches/index.html>

WESLEY HERITAGE TRAVELOGUE

Sunday, July 30
5:30 PM

Church Hill UMC - 189 Churchill-Hubbard Rd
Youngstown



A meal will be served followed by a slide presentation of Mark and Marjie Hrabe's recent trip to England to follow in the footsteps of John and Charles Wesley



Meet DS Cara Stultz-Costello

Email: cstultzcostello@eocumc.com

Rev. Cara Stultz Costello was appointed by Bishop Tracy S. Malone to serve as Tuscarawas District superintendent effective July 1, 2020.

Cara has served in the Tuscarawas District since 2009 as co-pastor of North Canton Faith UMC with her husband the Rev. Steve Stultz Costello. Her first appointment in the East Ohio Conference was as pastor of Spencer UMC (Firelands District), a church she served from 2001 until her appointment to Faith UMC.

She has previously served East Ohio and the Church in several leadership positions during her ministry including chairperson of the Board of Ministry, chairperson of the Annual Conference Worship Committee, as a compass group leader, and as a member of both the Firelands District Committee on Ministry and the Pastoral Care and Counseling Committee. She also served as a General Board of Global Ministry US2 missionary in McKenzie, AL and as a chaplain with Hospice of Northern Virginia.

Stultz Costello earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a double major in sociology and music with a concentration in vocal performance from Albion College in Michigan, and a Master of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.

She and her husband Rev. Steve are the proud parents of two young adult sons.

Cara says, "The gifts of God are being revealed in and through me. I delight to use what God has given me for the sake of love, transforming the world in light of God's kin-dom of God. My strength is in the service of others.

I HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE GIFT OF PRESENCE

Because I have a willing and open spirit and relate with vulnerability and courageous compassion, I am told that I invite trust and confidence. I facilitate deep listening to God and to one another, making space for all to speak and for all to hear. In this environment, a course toward equity is progressed with empathy, inspiration, and moxie.

I HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE GIFT OF DISCERNMENT

Revelation of wisdom for the common good is informed by conversation with the God whom I love and who loves me. I carry the intimacy and clarity of conversation with God into how I converse with others—I ask probing questions and nurture dialogue. Into the hearts of those who are listening God grants vision and a pathway. I have been privileged to serve in places of authority because I cultivate a process of perceiving and navigating a way forward together.

I HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE GIFT OF CREATIVITY

This gift is intimately encountered at the intersection of chaos and order. Chaos provides the raw materials for when God is about to do something brand-new." (Isaiah 43). We could rightly be afraid in the face of all the commotion and disarray of chaos. But taking the risk to tend our theological imagination and wonder can summon the tumult to become ordered toward life-giving purpose. I trust the Creator to suspend my preconceptions in this space between what is and what will be. Inviting others into this process of renewal and new birth in the name of Jesus is a joy.

My highest value is to live a life with integrity. The gifts I have been given I hold gently to share them in service to God. I engage worship leadership, preaching, the celebration of the sacraments, mission strategizing, evangelism, and administration as a catalyst for solution-minded and resource-driven redemption in the name of Jesus Christ."

***DS Cara is out this week with COVID so please direct your calls and emails to Stefanie at the District Office.**

***DS Cara and her family will be on vacation from July 5 until July 16. If you need assistance please contact Stefanie at the District office: office@mvdistumc.org**



Meet DS Angela Lewis

Email: ALewis@eocumc.com

Little about DS Angela Lewis

I was born and raised in Guthrie, Oklahoma. In my late teenage years, I accepted my call to preach in a very traditional Baptist church that did not acknowledge or encourage women to preach. Well, I said yes to God anyway. It was in Oklahoma that I received my undergraduate degree at the only historical Black University in Oklahoma, Langston University.

After graduating from Langston University, I received a scholarship offer to the University of Akron in Ohio. It was here in Ohio that I became a part of the United Methodist Church. While I had accepted my call to preach in Ok, it was here in Ohio that I received a call to pastor. After a short run and telling God no, I would eventually yield to the will of God for my life and accept His call.

I applied and was accepted to Princeton Theological Seminary. While in seminary, I was afforded the opportunity to do one of my field education ministries in Klerksdorp, South Africa. Going here was an answer to a prayer I prayed as a passionate child. I recall a time as a child, how I saw the news of how the native South Africans were treated in the apartheid. I passionately said God do something. Get those mean people and free your people. A couple of decades later, God allowed me to see the freedom of the nation.

I began pastoring in the East Ohio Conference which is my home conference. For seven years, I was on loan to the Iowa Conference. In 2021, I accepted the invitation, from Bishop Tracy Smith Malone, to serve as a district superintendent.

Prayer and God's word has always been life to me. Often when I talk about God's word, I'll say, "Extra! Extra! Read all about it! It's hot off the press written hundreds or thousands of years ago." God's word is just as relevant now as it was when it was written. Prayer has always given me direction, affirmation, confirmation, and guidance. Prayer is one of the ways God has allowed me to experience His realness.

*DS Lewis is currently on vacation thru July 14. If you need assistance, please contact Stefanie at the District office: office@mvdiumc.org

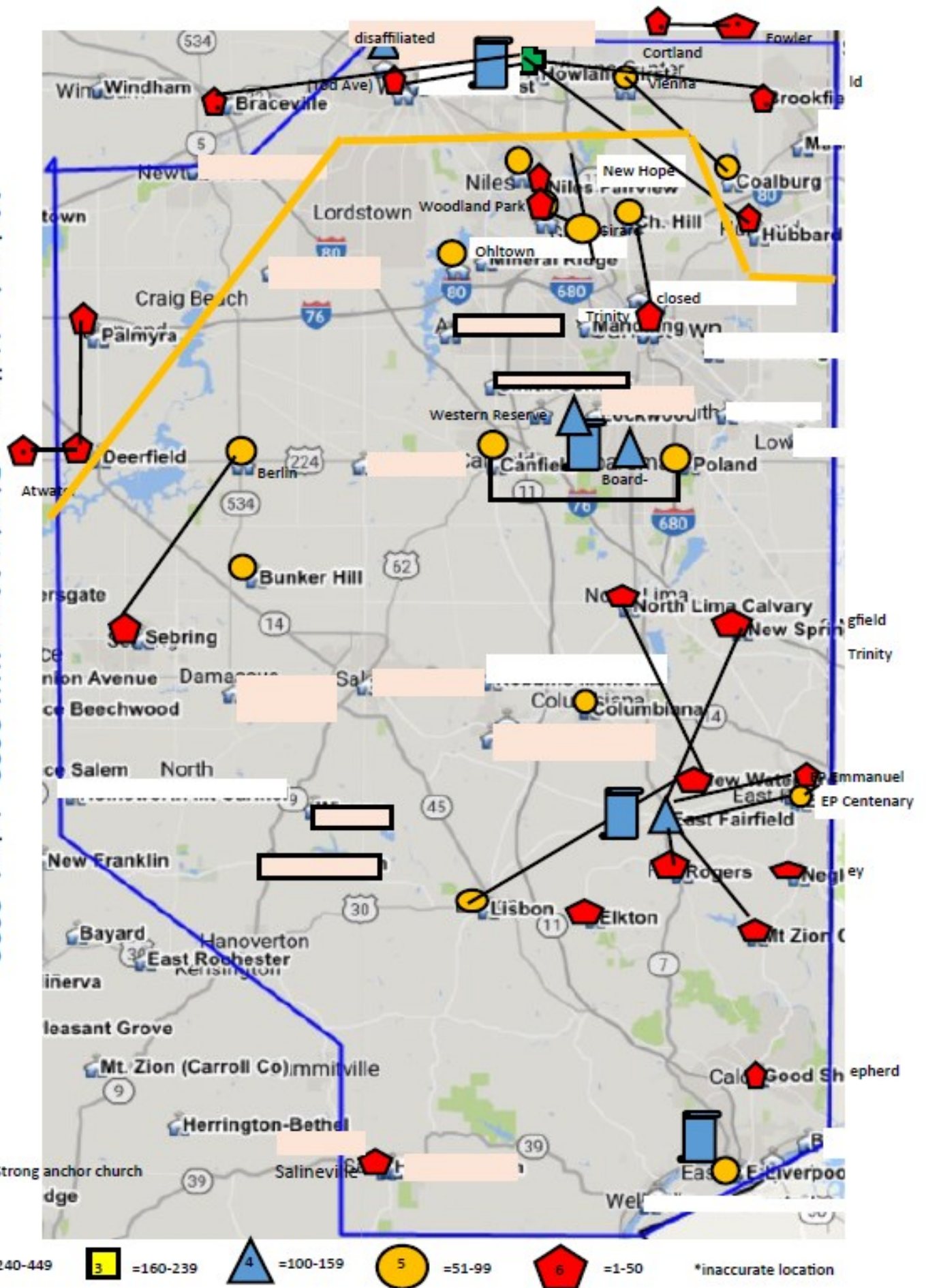
* She will be touring Open M in Akron on July 19.

* Out of office for Candidacy Summit on July 27– 28

She will be out of the office July 30- August 3 for Black Clergywomen Gathering.

Mahoning Valley

District Map: AWA 2023, July 1, 2023



	A	B	C
1	Charge	Church	
2	Hope4Chr	Deerfield	
3	Hope4Chr	Atwater	
4	Hope4Chr	Palmyra	
5	Northern	Braceville	
6	Northern	Howland	
7	Northern	Hubbard	
8	Northern	Brookfield	
9	V-C	Vienna	
10	V-C	Coalburg	
11	C-F	Cortland	
12	C-F	Fowler	
13			
14			
15			
16			



DS Angela Lewis

	A	B	C	D
1	Charge	Church		
2		East Liverpool	First	
3		Salineville		
4	ECCP	Good Shepherd		
5	ECCP	Mt Zion (Columbiana)		
6		Elkton		
7		Negley		
8	ECCP	Rogers		
9	ECCP	East Fairfield		
10	ECCP	Emmanuel (East Palestine)		
11	ECCP	Centenary (East Palestine)		
12	L-NW-NLC	Lisbon		
13	L-NW-NLC	New Waterford		
14	L-NW-NLC	Calvary (North Lima)		
15		Columbiana		
16		Bunker Hill		
17	BC-S	Sebring		
18	BC-S	Berlin Center		
19	C-P	Canfield		
20	C-P	Poland		
21		Boardman		
22		Western Reserve		
23	CH-T	Trinity (Youngstown)		
24	CH-T	Church Hill		
25		Ohlton		
26	Bridge Tee	Girard		
27	Bridge Tee	Woodland Park (McDonald)		
28		New Hope (Niles)		
29		Niles First/digital		



DS Cara Costello-Stultz

New District Superintendents breakdown



Fowler UMC @ 3426 Youngstown– Kingsville Rd., Fowler, 44418 is hosting a monthly game night on the third Friday of each month at 6. the next one is July 21. Bring your favorite game, or a snack, or a friend, or just come for the fellowship.

*Brookfield UMC @6951 Grove Street, Brookfield 44403 will be hosting their **“REALLY BIG RUMMAGE SALE”** Friday, August 4, 8am-3pm & Saturday, August 5, 8am-1pm.

*Western Reserve UMC: 4580 Canfield Rd, Canfield, 44406 will be hosting VBS on Friday, August 11– 5:30pm-8pm and Saturday, August 12– 9am-1:30pm

This years theme: Pets Unleashed

Email: wrchurch99@aol.com

Call: 330-792-5805

WHY Mental Health First Aid?



Because sometimes, First Aid is more than a Band-Aid.



You are more likely to encounter someone in an emotional or mental crisis than someone having a heart attack.

A person you know could be experiencing a mental health or substance use problem. Get trained in Mental Health First Aid and learn an action plan so you can help.

Friday, July 21st from 9:00am-3:30pm IN PERSON at:

Thrive 10:10

22 N. Market ST. Girard, Ohio 44420

To register and for questions, contact Meghan DeGregory

at: thrive1010mv@gmail.com

FREE | LUNCH INCLUDED

Register by 7/2/2023

Mental Health First Aid Ohio



Alzheimer Network Garage Sale 2023

July - Thurs 20 & Fri 21 9am – 3pm
Fri July 22 9 am – 11 am

At Western Reserve United Methodist Church
4580 Canfield Rd. (Route 62)

What are popular donations?

Baby items	Knick-Knacks
Baskets	Lamps
Books	Linens
Clothing*	Planters
Collectibles	Purses
Dishes	Small appliances
Frames	Sporting goods
Hardware	Tools
Holiday items	Toys
Jewelry	Vases
Kitchenware	Wall decor

And much more!!!

***Clothing - clean, only gently used. Some new.**

Call if you have a question about Alzheimer's disease or local support and services for patients and families. 330-788-9755

The Alzheimer Network is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization as designated by the IRS. Letters of donation can be provided for tax purposes.

Proceeds benefit local families dealing with the challenges of Alzheimer's.

HUM upcoming events

730 Howland-Wilson RD. NE, Warren, Ohio 44484

330-856-3463



Heavenly Trash

GARAGE SALE

Friday, July 21 9am - 6pm

Saturday, July 22 9am - 1pm

SATURDAY IS \$2 BAG OR 1/2 OFF
(BAGS PROVIDED)

730 Howland Wilson Rd NE, Warren, OH 44484
All proceeds benefit our various church missions.

*We are having a Basketball Camp at HUM on August 4-6 for Kindergarten through 7th grade. Sign up information:

<https://go.teamsnap.com/forms/370770>

*September 8-10 HUM is hosting Bunks Across America. Our church is the host church for Trumbull County Sleep In Heavenly Peace. We build bunk beds for children that don't have beds. We also provide sheets, blankets, comforters, pillows and stuffed animals.

WRUMC Helping Hands Closet is open every Tuesday (except Holidays) from 9am-1pm. They are always in need of new or gently used clothes. Donations for the clothing store, spring GAB Sale or the back-to-school giveaway can be dropped off any day with prior notice. For any questions or inquiries, call Ms. JoAnn Truax at 330-318-7952



**Helping Hands
Closet's**

**Back to School
Clothing & Supplies Giveaway**

Western Reserve
United Methodist Church
4580 Canfield Rd
Canfield, Ohio 44406
(330) 792-5805

Saturday, August 19th
9am-1pm



BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST

HAND SANITIZER	DISINFECTING WIPES
RUBBER BANDS	FLASH DRIVES
STICKY NOTES	LUNCH BAGS
PENS	ICE PACKS
MARKERS	BATTERIES
#2 PENCILS	LEGAL PADS
ERASERS	NOTEBOOKS
CRAYONS	INDEX CARDS
HIGHLIGHTERS	PUSH PINS
SHARPENERS	PAPER CLIPS
GLUE	FOLDERS
SCOTCH TAPE	BINDERS
RULERS	BINDER CLIPS
SCISSORS	BACKPACKS
STAPLERS	SMALL TISSUES
COMBINATION LOCKS	LIP BALM

Save the Date



**SUNDAY, AUGUST 27TH
2-4P.M AT WESTERN RESERVE UMC
PAVILLION**

*Come welcome DS Lewis and DS Cara to our
District.*



Light refreshments served

