

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

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



“¹⁸ I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” (Ephesians 3:18-19)

Beloved Mahoning Valley United Methodists,

Thank you for the privilege and honor of being your district superintendent for this six year season. Thank you for the lessons you have taught me and the grace you have offered me. Thank you for inspiring me with your scrappiness, your courage, and the amazement of witnessing what God can do through you! Thank you for taking risks and for not giving up. Thank you for your deep love of Jesus and your desire to know and love him more. Thank you for sharing Jesus with your neighbors and for inviting me in.

I have prayed many prayers for us since 2017, and I will continue to pray for you after I transition back to the local church. I am going to lift up one more in farewell: *I pray that you will not make such an idol of the past that you are unable to see, let alone follow, where Christ calls into the future.*

It is necessary to know and try to understand history. Much of the Bible is the past record of God’s mighty acts! It is good to remember with fondness times and people of joy, love, and peace. We join in the communion of saints through rituals that reach back through all of Christianity. Building on the knowledge of the past is how humanity progresses technologically and morally. We are Christians because the faith has been handed down through the ages.

But: if we are so enamored of the past that our goal becomes trying to recreate it, we limit what God can do with us. Time marches on and the past is not coming back. If you wonder where the young people are today, they are not in the decades before they were born. So if we are doing exactly the same things in the church that we did a few decades ago, or doing nothing because things are not how they were a few decades ago, we may well be refusing to let God work through us now. God may indeed have planned a “future with hope” as in the oft-quoted Jeremiah 29:11, but we will never see it if we are fixated on the past. Trying to recreate or remain in the past makes the past an idol. It sets nostalgia in the place of God. It reveals a view of God as an aging athlete, whose performance has peaked but who’s still in the game. To act as though our mission is to recreate the past rather than follow Christ into the future is to undercut our beliefs that God works all things together for good, that God is making all things new, that God has the power to keep working out the divine will.

If you’re feeling angry or afraid right now, go back and re-read paragraph 3. I am not praying for you to forget or ignore the past. I am praying for all those experiences and lessons of God caring for you, loving us, and guiding humanity; to “turn your eyes upon Jesus”, to help you to open up to what God might want to do among you now, to trust that God is at work bringing about deep shalom and calling all people to live according to the teachings and example of Christ. I am praying for you to catch a glimpse of God’s big dreams for the future, to see how God is at work in the here and now, and to trust that the God of the past also goes with us into the future. I am not saying that one generation is better or more important than another. I am praying that all generations would find welcome in our churches, and that all generations would be able to love, care for, honor, inspire, teach, and learn from each other as we journey towards Jesus together.

In gratitude, in prayer, in Christ,

Rev. Abby

WITH THE DS IN JUNE

4- FAREWELL

7-10 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE: June 8-10

Don't forget to bring your booklets

RETIREE BREAKFAST

Wed. June 28, 9:00 a.m. at Eat 'N Park,
5451 Mahoning Ave. Austintown.



Clergy Birthdays for June

3- Byron Bufkin
12- Vicky Kelley
16- Kyle Tennant
18- Byron Bufkin
23- Bob Miller
30- Seth Auman

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.

IT'S BREAKFAST/ DINNER TIME, ETC.

Thursday June 1 Drive thru Sirloin Tips & Noodles Dinner. 4pm until sold out at **Western Reserve UMC** 4580 Canfield Rd, 44406

Saturday, June 10, 8:30am-11pm Free Breakfast (donations accepted) at **Smith Corners UMC** 3000 S. Canfield-Niles Rd., Austintown, 44515

Thursday, June 15, "Supper at the Corner" 4:30pm-6pm (meal is free but donations are accepted and appreciated). **Smith Corners UMC** 3000 S. Canfield-Niles Rd., Austintown, 44515

Saturday, June 17, 7am-10:30am Church Breakfast at **Damascus UMC** 300Valley Rd, Salem 44460

Saturday, June 24, 10am-noon Drive thru Food Pantry at **Brookfield UMC** 6951 Grove St. Brookfield, 44403. Open to the Community

It's VBS Time

Damascus UMC 300 Valley Rd., Salem 44460, VBS

"Treasured, Discovering You're Priceless to God" is
Sunday June 11 - Thursday June 15 6:00pm- 8:30pm Ages 3- 6th grade

Email: office@dumcoho.org
Call; 330-537-3031

Cortland UMC: 155 N. High St., Cortland, 44410: will be the host site for the Cortland Community VBS from June 19-23.

The theme is Rocky Railway.

Email: cortlandumc1880@gmail.com
Call: 330-637-2571

Church Hill United Methodist
189 Churchill Hubbard Rd

Vacation Bible School

Stellar VBS, Shine, Jesus, Shine!
June 26 to 30th

9:00 to Noon each day, Free to all

PreK to 6th grades children
Contact 330-759-0118 if any questions.

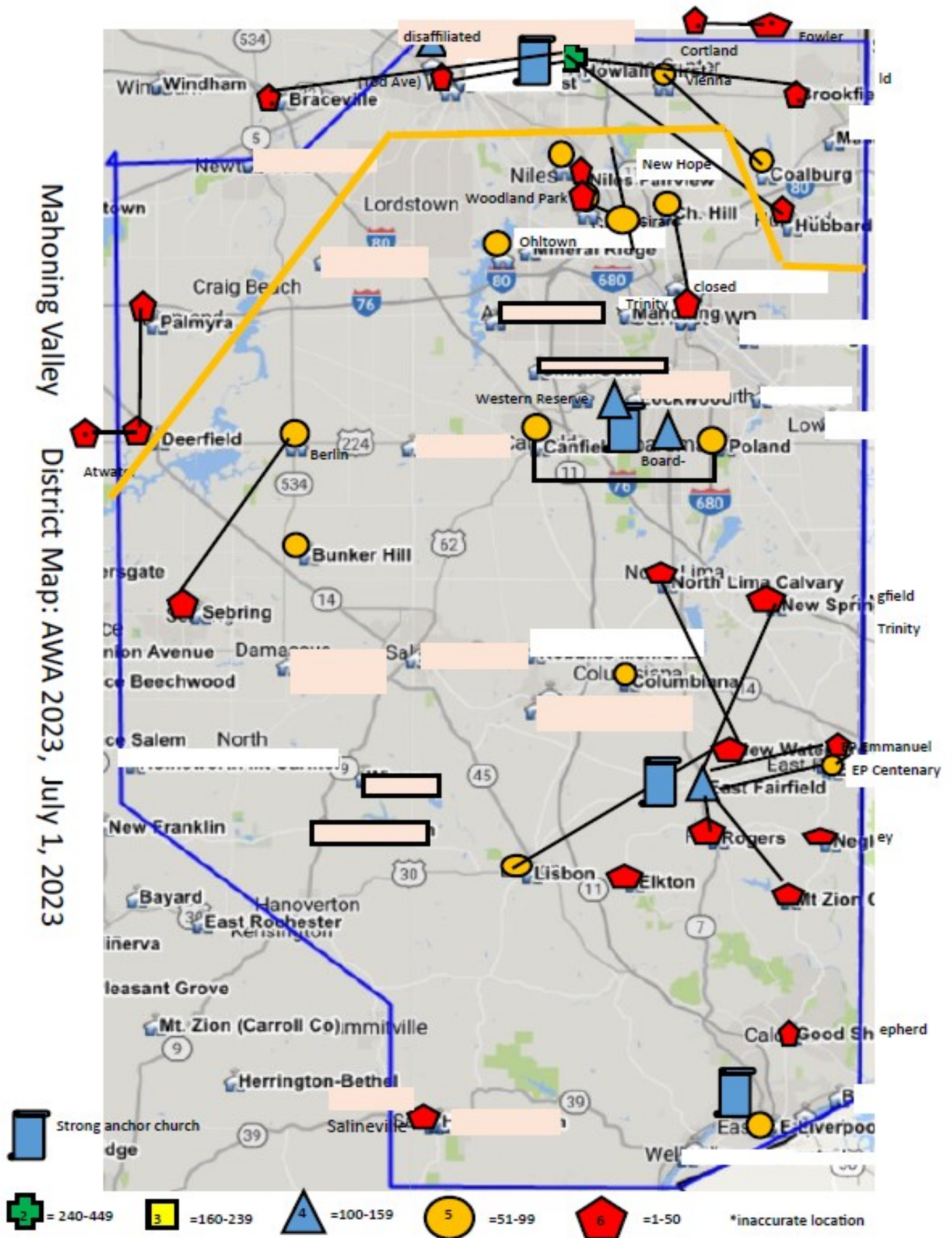
Western Reserve UMC: 4580 Canfield Rd, Canfield, 44406 will be hosting VBS on Friday, August 11– 5:30pm-8pm and Saturday, August 12– 9am-1:30pm

This years theme:

Pets Unleashed

Email: wrchurch99@aol.com
Call: 330-792-5805

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



Here is a list of a few upcoming events at our local churches:

*Deerfield UMC @ 1483 State Rt. 225, Deerfield, 44411: will be hosting a service in their outside pavilion on Sunday June 4, 2023 at 11 a.m. for "first for this church and area"

Blessing of the Bikes--for all area motorcycles, children bikes, etc.

*Movie Under the Stars - "Jesus Revolution" 9 pm Friday June 23rd - Berlin Center @15611 Akron-Canfield Rd, Berlin Center, 44401. Bring a lawn chair. Free beverages and popcorn.

*The Chosen Bible Study - 10:30 am every Tuesday through July 11th (except for July 4th). Sebring UMC @126 W. Indiana Ave., Sebring 44672. Bring a Bible.

*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 June 17. Bring your favorite game, or a snack, or a friend, or just come for the fellowship.

*Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, June 20, 1pm-6pm Western Reserve UMC @4580 Canfield Rd., Canfield, 44406. Walk-ins welcome but appointments preferred.

Join Reverend Abby and
Reverend Seth Auman with
their kids.....

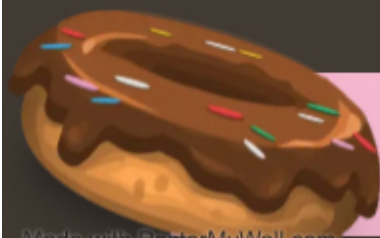
for Whitehouse Fruitfarm donuts and well wishes!

Let's send the Auman family off with memories
and thankfulness for the season of life that they
spent in the Mahoning Valley.

SUNDAY
JUNE **4**

**OPEN
HOUSE
2PM - 4PM**

**WESTERN RESERVE
UMC
Pavillion
4580 Canfield Road
Canfield, OH 44406**



If you have questions please contact Stefanie K. at
office@mvdistumc.org or
Stefanie W. at stef.youthministry@gmail.com

Mission u 2023



LIVING THE GOOD NEWS

Reflecting God's Love

Join us at Mission u as we explore the good news and what it means for our lives!
Friday, July 21 at 5:00 pm through Saturday, July 22 at 5:00 pm at University of Mount Union.

Living the Kin-dom: Exploring the Lord's Prayer as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation by Riva Tabelisma. Rev. Robin Dillon will return as a study leader and is joined by Rev Dr. Lisa Withrow who most recently was the *Finding Peace* study leader in 2021.

Jesus' teachings in the Gospels proclaim the good news of the kin-dom or reign (basileia) of God. In fact, Jesus mentions the kin-dom 90 times in the Synoptic Gospels! What does the Bible tell us about God's basileia and why do we call it the kin-dom? For Jesus, the kin-dom was not simply something to talk about but something we could live and experience. From the Lord's Prayer to the beatitudes to the parables, this good news is at the heart of Jesus' preaching, teaching and ministry.

Come! Let's explore together the heart of Jesus' good news and what fresh vision it offers us as we seek to be in mission today. Attendees do not need to be from your church or even United Methodist.

Remember that the Youth and Children's studies are independent, meaty and fun events—not just tag-alongs for your children and grandchildren. Our study leaders are highly qualified and ready to give students a rich experience. They will join the adults for meals and worship and we are ready for a multi-generational weekend. Students do need to come with a responsible adult registered for the adult study.

The Youth curriculum is *Seek and You Shall Find: Living in the Kin-dom* by Rachel Mosher. Mikaela Ashburn and Olivia Dixon will return as study leaders.

The Children's curriculum is *We Are the Kin-dom* by Kathleen Stone. Mary Beth Manns and Beth Canfield return as study leaders.

All the study books are now available on the website: <https://www.umwmissionresources.org/>. Cost for the weekend is on Registration Form.

Does lugging all your bedding and sleeping on a dorm mattress seem daunting? Perhaps you would rather stay in a nearby hotel. Ten double-queen rooms are on hold at the Holiday Inn Express in Alliance, 330.821.6700. You could share with a friend and keep the cost down. And there are other nearby hotels as well. You would register as a Commuter that would include your study registration and meals at the Student Center.

Please share this information and the registration form with as many as possible. Invite your Pastor, your neighbor and a friend at work. AND don't forget to invite those who have just completed Kindergarten through 12th grade. Our teaching teams are strong and are planning to share a wonderful and meaningful experience learning about the Lord's Prayer.

Do our young people know why they should connect with the church? Mission u is a wonderful way to build this connection.

Please contact Elizabeth Feldman if you have questions.
eflogil@gmail.com or 330.465.5782

Mission u 2023



LIVING THE GOOD NEWS

Reflecting God's Love

EAST OHIO MISSION u 2023 REGISTRATION FORM

Friday, July 21 at 5:00 pm until Saturday, July 22 at 5:00 pm

Everything this year will be at University of Mount Union in Alliance, Ohio.

You may register online at <https://missionu2023.eventbrite.com/>

or mail this registration form and check to Judy McFarlin, Mission u Registrar, 118 County Road 2575, Lakeville, OH 44638-9608

Checks should be made to United Women in Faith.

Please use a SEPARATE REGISTRATION FORM for EACH individual attending.

- A. Double Occupancy Dorm room: \$120 – includes study, housing, and meals.
- B. Single Occupancy Dorm room: \$140 – includes study, housing, and meals.
- C. Commuter: \$75 – includes study and meals. You may commute from home or from a nearby hotel.
 - a. Ten double-queen rooms have been held at the Holiday Inn Express. Cost per room is \$99 +tax. You must make your own reservation before July 7 to get this rate. Ask a friend to join you.
 - b. There are other hotels in the area as well. Book early if this is your choice.
- D. Children: \$100 inclusive based on double occupancy. Completed Kindergarten – 6th grade.
 - a. Children must be accompanied by an adult registered for the adult study.
- E. Youth: \$100 inclusive based on double occupancy. Completed 7th – 12th grade.
 - a. Children must be accompanied by an adult registered for the adult study.

We will be taking an offering for the following at Mission u. If you would like to do that now, you may.

East Ohio UWF Pledge: _____

UWF Legacy Fund: _____

World Thank Offering: _____

Support Mission u costs: _____

Mark one ☐ A - \$120 ☐ B - \$140 ☐ C - \$75 ☐ D - \$100 ☐ E - \$100

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Registration deadline is June 30.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip code: _____

Preferred Telephone: _____ Cell ☐ or Land Line ☐

Email: _____

Church: _____ District _____

Name of Roommate _____

Your Church Role (please check all that apply): ☐ United Women in Faith member ☐ Clergy

☐ Laity ☐ Lay Servant ☐ Lay Speaker ☐ Lay Minister ☐ Local Pastor

☐ Member of Annual Conference ☐ General Conference delegate

☐ Jurisdictional Conference delegate ☐ Lay Leader

☐ other role(s): _____



**COLLECTION AT EOCUMC ANNUAL CONFERENCE
JUNE 8-10 at the John S. Knight Center in Akron**

ITEMS MOST NEEDED ARE:

- Personal Dignity Kits (see back of flyer for contents)
- Shampoo, 12-19 oz.
- Laundry Detergent, 100-150 oz.

Other new or gently used items needed are listed below.

Please do not bring non-working, damaged, or dirty items:

- Sewing machines (electric and treadles)
- Medical equipment (folding walkers, wheelchairs, crutches, canes, walking boots, slings)
- Blankets
- Non-electric tools (shovels, brooms, rakes)

The truck will be in the parking lot on South Broadway Ave. and staffed to receive items on the days and times listed below:

Thursday, June 8 | 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Friday, June 9 | 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 10 | 7:30 – 9:00 a.m.

For the \$2 that goes in each Personal Dignity Kit, you can either put cash in each kit or write one check payable to Midwest Mission. To make a general donation to Midwest Mission through the conference, use Fund 9944.

Questions? Contact Melanie Thomas at mthomas@eocumc.com or (330) 499-3972 ext. 102

Visit the website for latest info <https://www.eocumc.com/eaac23/midwestmission.html>



midwestmission.org | 217-483-7911 | 1001 Mission Dr. Pawnee, IL 62558

Items for the Kit

- 1 Hand towel - no kitchen towels
- 1 Washcloth - no dishcloths
- 1 Toothbrush - no multipacks
- 1 Bar soap - 3 to 4 oz
- 1 Shampoo - 12 to 19 oz
- 1 Deodorant - 2 to 3 oz (stick, roll-on, or pump)
- 1 1-gallon resealable plastic bag
- \$2 donation for razor and toothpaste
- Please add your heartfelt prayers to each kit



PERSONAL DIGNITY KIT

**SCAN TO WATCH
INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEO**



or go to youtube.com/@midwestmission

For more information on making kits, collecting items for kits, and where to take the donations, visit midwestmission.org/collect-donate