

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 2

MARCH 2023

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

2023-2024 CABINET



It gives me joy to share that the creative regional superintendency models piloted in the Ohio Valley District and the Firelands District in July 2022 are structural, strategic, and missional successes in equipping and supporting pastors, congregations, and faith communities in our mission of “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

In consideration of the new ministry appointment of Rev. Abby Auman, I will implement another regional superintendency plan in the Mahoning Valley District. Effective July 1 the 10 districts of our Conference will be served by seven district superintendents.

Rev. Angela Lewis, superintendent of the Canal District, and Rev. Cara Stultz Costello, superintendent of the Tuscarawas District, will expand their leadership to serve as co-superintendents of the Mahoning Valley District while continuing to serve in their current respective districts. I consulted with the district superintendents and superintendency committees affected in the new configuration, and I am thankful for their support of this strategic leadership plan.

Last fall I also formed a District Realignment/Restructure Task Force to assist me and my Cabinet in assessing and exploring current and ongoing needs, realities, and missional opportunities across East Ohio.

A report on proposed structural changes will be printed in the *Pre-Conference Workbook* and will be presented to the Annual Conference

https://www.eocumc.com/bishop/superintendencyplan_022023.html

WITH THE DS IN MARCH

1-3 CABINET
 4-COMMUNION AT CAMP ASBURY
 5-PREACHING AT MT. ZION
 7- MEETINGS
 12- CHURCH MEETINGS
 9-16 CABINET
 21- CHURCH CONSULTS
 26- CHURCH CONSULTS
 28-30 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.

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.

A Mission and Ministry Message from Bishop Tracy S. Malone

"Beloved, God's Spirit is moving in and through our United Methodist churches in some amazing and transformative ways. I see a measure of the fullness of God as I attend your worship services and share in conversations with clergy and laity. I see a measure of the fullness of God as I witness how local churches are sharing the love, the grace, and the hospitality of Jesus Christ with their neighbors, how you're feeding the hungry and caring for those who have suffered trauma and pain, and how you are connecting with those who are looking for hope and community," shares Bishop Tracy S. Malone in [this video message](#).



Later in her message, while directing congregations and clergy to the disaffiliation resources available on the [East Ohio Conference website](#), Bishop Malone reiterates her hope and prayer that no one feels that they have to choose to leave or separate from The United Methodist Church. She also assures clergy and laity of congregations that "no one will be abandoned."

The bishop's video message also includes a timeline denoting these three important dates related to matters of disaffiliation:

- April 3 – deadline to notify your superintendent and the bishop's office in writing,
- May 3 – deadline for district superintendents to schedule church conferences, and
- May 20 – deadline for full disaffiliation cost payments to be received.

Bishop Tracy S. Malone's Lenten Message: Being Good Stewards of God's Creation.

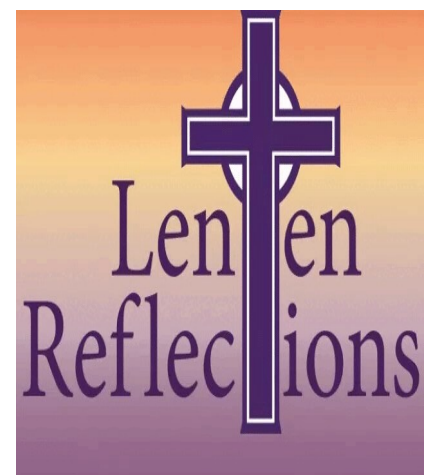
Beloved, as we begin this season of Lent, I invite you to join me on a journey of being stewards of God's creation. The season of Lent is a time for reflection and introspection, a time to go deeper in our discipleship, in our walk with Christ, in our journey of faith.

The 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter can be a season of transformation should we choose to embrace the invitation, to slow down, to reflect, to ponder and pray, to take a step back from the busyness and the regularity of our daily routines and intentionally create space for the inward work of examination. This Holy season can be a season of transformation if we allow God's Spirit to heal the broken places in our lives, to expand our imaginations, and to give us renewed courage for our lives, for ministry, and for the future.

During this season of Lent, I am inviting us, together, to expand our imagination and to focus our attention, together, on the stewardship of God's creation. I encourage us, yes, to do the spiritual work of healing and self-examination and I'm also encouraging us to look outside of ourselves, to look outside of our circumstances and get a better grasp on our relationship with God's creation.

We are trustees of God's creation. As Christians, we have a collective responsibility to be caretakers. What if all of us see the call to environmental stewardship as part of God's calling in our lives individually and collectively? What if we all were to begin by having conversations about the climate crisis?

Friends, we are on this journey together to be good stewards of God's creation



Western Reserve United Women in Faith would like to invite all ladies to our luncheon and program on Thursday, March 9 at noon in the Western Reserve UMC Fellowship Hall, 4580 Canfield Rd., Canfield. Lunch will be provided, after which Mary Lou Henneman from Boardman UMC will speak about recommended books from the United Women in Faith reading program. To RSVP or for more information, contact Diane Price at ddprice@zoominternet.net.

The **Struthers United Methodist Church** has an opening for the position of Treasurer. Interested parties can send a letter of interest and/or resume to Struthers United Methodist Church, 33 Sexton St., Struthers, Oh 44471, or by email at struthersumc@gmail.com, or can call the church office on Tues, Weds, or Fri (10a-1p) at (330) 755-0179.

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 preschool families—stay tuned for more!

ANNUAL CONFERENCE: June 8-10

Registration starts: April 3

Registration closes May 12

If you will need daycare assistance, please let the District Office know in advance.

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.

Clergy Birthdays for March

12— Jim Spatholt

29— Linda Baker

RETIREE BREAKFAST

Wed. March 29, 9:00 a.m. at Eat 'N Park, 5451 Mahoning Ave. Austintown.



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), Rick Oaks

“The prayers and sympathies of the district are extended to Rev. Gary Olin, Rev. Sally Nelson-Olin, Rev. Jennifer Olin-Hitt, and the rest of the Olin family upon the death of Joshua Olin. The (now adult) Olin children spent part of their growing up years in the Mahoning Valley when Gary was the superintendent.”

IT'S DINNER TIME, ETC.

Thursday, Mar.. 2, 4pm until sold out Corned Beef and Cabbage Drive thru Dinner at **Western Reserve UMC**, 4580 Canfield Rd, Canfield 44406

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

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

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

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

Damascus UMC, 300 Valley Rd, Salem 44460, **Saturday March 18, 7-10:30am** Community Breakfast

Brookfield UMC 6951 Grove St. Brookfield, 44403, **Drive thru Spaghetti Dinner Sat. Mar. 18, 4-6pm** or SOLD-OUT

Brookfield UMC Food Pantry Sat. Mar. 25, 10-noon 6951 Grove St. Brookfield, 44403

Columbiana First UMC will be having a Soup Sale in March.

Pre-orders only, Call 330 482-2382

Soups Available to order:

Chili, Stuffed Pepper, Chicken Noodle, Vegetable, Broccoli & Cheddar, Ham & Bean, and Potato.

The cost is \$8.00 a quart.

Deadline for pre-orders will be March 5th.

Pick up @ 210 Main St., will be March 9th between 3:30 pm & 5 pm.



Church, Leadership Assisting Community Impacted by Train Derailment

Two weeks ago, the eyes of the world focused on East Palestine as flames and smoke filled the sky of the 4,800-person town near the Ohio-Pennsylvania border following the derailment of nearly three dozen cars of a Norfolk Southern Railway train. The fire burned for days, and many businesses were forced to close because of chemicals that filled the air from the 11 derailed cars that were carrying hazardous materials. Local, state, and national safety agencies converged on the town and set up a command center inside East Palestine Centenary UMC (Mahoning Valley District).

"Thankfully no lives were lost, and no buildings were damaged. At this point, air, water, and soil quality are the major concerns," said Auman of the work being done by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). "The coordination and degree of response is not like anything I've ever seen."

There is much work still to be done, and many people who want to help.

Remember the simple rules of disaster response found on the Conference website:

Do No Harm right now:

- ☐ Do Not "self-deploy" into a region until invited.
- ☐ Do Not send supplies and clothes because unwanted items sent into disaster zones become burdens on an already-overwhelmed area.

Do Good right now:

- ☐ Pray for the communities impacted by the disaster, the lives forever changed, changed, and those responding.



Alliance for Congregational Transformation
Influencing our Neighborhoods
 P.O. Box 456, Youngstown, Ohio 44501
 435 Gypsy Lane Youngstown, Ohio 44504
 Phone (330) 941-0475 (cell) 234 232 -7292 (office)
ACTIONoh@aol.com Website Actionoh.com

Board of Directors 2023

Rev. Richard Kidd
President
 Erica Avery
Vice President
 Mark Hrabec
Secretary
 Kimyette Myers
Treas. of Record
 Ian Beniston
 Mn. Ted Brown
 Atty Victor Buente
 Jim Converse
 Tina Cvetkovich
 Art Daly
 Dan Eicher
 Deacon Sylvester Frazzini
 Rev. Jeremy Hollingshead
 Pastor Todd Johnson
 Sharon Letson
 Deacon Mack McGee
 Mike McNair
 Rev. J.P. Robles
 Min. Glenn Robinson
 Dr. Anne York Romanoff
 Atty Pat Rosenthal
 Fr. Joseph Rudjak
 Rev. Authenia Simmons
 Rev. Kenneth Simon
 Shelia Triplett
 Rev. Joseph Walker

Faith Leaders Caucus Team

Pastor Joseph Boyd
 Min. John Oliver
 Rev. Jim Baber
 Rev. Walter Gillespie
 Sister Mary Stanco
 Rev. Dr. Rosie Taylor
 Rev. Jeffrey Stanford
 Lead & Expansion Organizer
 Samantha Fox, Exec. Assist.
 Elder Rosetta Carter
 Executive Director

2023

Dear Supporters.

ACTION will hold its 20th Fundraiser & Recognition Banquet on Friday, April 28, at the Byzantine at the Grove, 3801 Shady Run Rd, Youngstown, OH.

A social hour is planned at 5pm with dinner at 6pm. The guest speaker is Mrs. Shelia Triplett, Director and CEO of Mycap. The theme of the banquet is "Serving the Community thru our Faith and Values"

We will be honoring four extraordinary Community leaders and organizations, **Mr. Guy Burney**, CIRV Director at City of Youngstown, **Sarah Lowry**, Director Healthy Community Partnership at Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley, **Patrick Kerrigan**, Director The Oak Hill Collaborative, and **Norman Carter**, Director, the Carter Sober House.

The tickets are \$40 per person, or table of 8 for \$300.00. Congregations, organizations, and other supporters are asked to become a sponsor, purchase advertisements, purchase tickets and contribute funds. The level of support is described in the attached Banquet Sponsor Sheet. The funds raised will be used to address key initiatives that will improve the quality of life in our Mahoning Valley. ACTION's major focus areas include:

Food Insecurity- Mahoning and Trumbull Mobile Grocery store on wheels
Economic Development, Climate Control, Crime & Safety (Hot Spot Cards)
Racial Injustices

If you have any questions about the ads or tickets, please call ACTION Office @ 234 232-232-7972 or 330 941-0475

Your assistance in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Pastor Richard Kidd, ACTION President, and Banquet Coordinator
 Ericka Avery, Vice President, Co-Coordinator Banquet



2022 Audits Let's all practice good stewardship and fiscal responsibility by making sure your annual audit for 2022 is completed and submitted to the district office by the dead-line of March 31. Thank You!

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.

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!

WE CAN DO THIS!! FOOD WITH INTEGRITY!
COMMUNITY STARTS HERE!!
FOIL-WRAP
GOODN!
GENEROUS
HELPING
TERRITORY
TASTE
MAD
EVERY
THING DAY
ULTIMATE

**DO GOOD
WITH CHIPOTLE**



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.

Western Reserve UMC's (4580 Canfield Rd, Canfield, 44406) Annual GAB (Garage, Attic, Basement) Sale is coming up on May 4-6. We will be setting up April 24-May 3 and donations are welcome. We especially need furniture (this brings in the most money) and a lot of volunteers to make this a **Super GAB Sale** financially. This year all funds will go towards much needed Church Repairs. Contact JoAnn (330-318-7952) for more information or to volunteer.

PRAY
for
TURKEY & SYRIA



 **UMCOR**
United Methodist Committee on Relief

umcmision.org

BUMC members & friends

The township is sponsoring 2 events:

Saturday April 1 at 10:00 am for children up to 12 and at 11:30 am for those 13-18.

This is an activity we should participate in as a church or individuals so I spoke with Tabitha at the Township Offices this morning.

At this point her clear needs are;

Plastic eggs - I am taking our 32 gallon can full of them up to the township office.

Gift cards for the older kids: Belly Buster, Dairy Queen, Subway, McDonalds, Wal Mart and other places that sell stuff kids like.

Little "basket stuffers" for the younger kids - books, small toys, juice boxes, and "fun" type small items.

The community has responded very well to the letter we received and this is an opportunity for us to participate as well.

