

# Mahoning Valley Messenger

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## ***Is the United Methodist Church Really...?***

A great deal of misinformation circulates right now about the present and continuing United Methodist Church. Some of it is due to honest confusion. Some of it is due to making the views of a few individuals with extreme positions as representative of the whole. Regardless of the source, Ask the UMC has a really helpful, several part feature called *Is the UMC Really...?* They attempt to provide concise facts in response to questions submitted through the denominational website. It is very helpful for folks seeking to gather information for discernment.

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-is-the-umc-really-part-1>

### **The United Methodist Church still affirms...**

- The divinity of Jesus Christ as the Son of God
- The Apostles Creed
- The Nicene Creed
- The canonicity of the Bible as it has been since the Protestant Reformation
- The primacy of Scripture as containing all that is necessary for salvation

The most important level of the church is the local church

### **Why Is It Great to #BeUMC? Resources**

Denominational/global resource: <https://www.umc.org/en/who-we-are/our-people/beumc>

East Ohio resource: <https://www.eocumc.com/beumc/index.html>

**WITH THE DS IN MAY**

2- MULTIPLE ZOOMS  
 2- CHURCH CONSULTS  
 3- STRONGSVILLE  
 9-11 CABINET  
 15- TOUR WOTH DS LEWIS  
 17- TOUR WITH DS STULTZ-COSTELLO  
 22- MEETING  
 23-25 CABINET  
 29- OFFICED CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY

**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****Registration starts: April 3****Registration closes May 12**

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

**The District Office will be closed on Tuesday May 24, thru Thursday May 25, for the District Administrators Retreat.**

**The office will also be closed on Monday, May 29, in honor of Memorial Day.**

**RETIREE BREAKFAST**

**Wed. May 31,** 9:00 a.m. at Eat 'N Park,  
 5451 Mahoning Ave. Austintown.

**Clergy Birthdays for May**

2- Jonathan Williams  
 21- Kathy Barton

**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

**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.

**IT'S DINNER TIME, ETC.**

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

**Breakfast - Sat. May 13,** 8:30-11 at Smith Corners UMC., 3000 S. Canfield-Niles Rd., Youngstown. Free/by donation.

**Chicken Pie Drive-thru dinner Sat. May 13,** @ Fowler UMC. 3426 Youngstown-Kingsville Rd. Fowler, 44418.

**"Supper at the Corner" Thurs., May 18,** 4:30-6pm at Smith Corners UMC., 3000 S. Canfield-Niles Rd., Youngstown.

**Damascus UMC, 300 Valley Rd, Salem 44460, Saturday, May 20** 7-10:30am Community Breakfast

**Brookfield UMC 6951 Grove St. Brookfield, 44403, Drive thru Spaghetti Dinner Sat. May 20,** 4-6pm or SOLD-OUT

**Brookfield UMC Food Pantry Sat. May 27,** 10-noon  
 6951 Grove St. Brookfield, 44403



Faith Connections  
May 2023

**It's here! Get those walking and running shoes ready for the Dick Parks Memorial Race at the Rock fun and fundraiser for Flat Rock!**

Register here: <https://www.flatrockhomes.org/events/race-at-the-rock/>

We're so excited to have this event for the 18<sup>th</sup> year in a row! The event is virtual again for 2023, but you may hold your own race any time during June. You pick the time and place!

- Register for the "Race in a Box" option to get your registration, a shirt, a Flat Rock water bottle, a medal, and a whistle to kickstart your fun (while supplies last)!
- Run your race any time in June. This gives you more time to get friends and family to sponsor your race.
- Prices have changed due to new items.
- All shirts are pre-orders only. The last day to order your shirt or Race in a Box is May 5. Shirts and Race in a Box items will ship in early June.
- Race with us anywhere! On June 25, we'll share pictures from races everywhere! Who will be the racer the furthest away?
- Friends and family can sponsor you, helping you win The Dick Parks Fundraising Award. Donations in your name are counted. The top fundraising individual, church team, and non-church team will be victorious\*.



*\*At least one person from a team must be registered for the event to be eligible for fundraising awards. Shirt-only purchases are not event registration.*

#### Geranium Gifts to Honor or Remember



Flat Rock plants seeds that restore hope, transform lives, and bloom faith, so our individuals blossom into the person God intended them to be. We are planting geraniums to add beauty to the landscape where our residents live.

Join us in spreading seeds of hope by making a gift to our Annual Geranium Fund in honor/memory of a loved one. Each gift includes your name and the name of your loved one recognized on a marker next to your planted flower. Your generosity and support are essential to achieving our **\$11,000**

**goal!** All donations made beyond the cost of geraniums go directly to providing life-enhancing care, services, and programs that sprout hope, transformation, and faith in our individuals. Make a gift today <https://flatrockhomes.org/geranium-appeal-donation-page>. May God's love be planted in your heart, giving you hope this Spring!

Flat Rock Homes, Care Center, and Community Services 7353 County Road 29, P.O. Box 1, Flat Rock, Ohio 44828

Phone: 419.483.7330 [www.flatrockhomes.org](http://www.flatrockhomes.org)



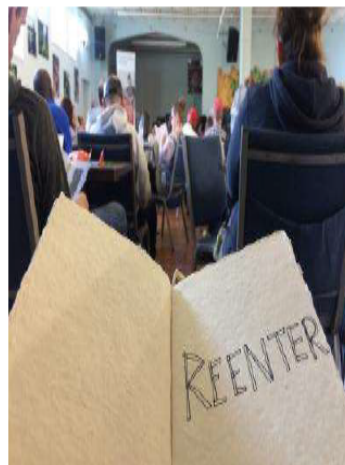
You are invited to come and learn about a movement in Summit County that South Street Ministries is leading.



South Street Ministries equips and inspires the restoration of community, economy, and faith

## REENTRY

Hosted by Nordon Hills Community Connection



Thursday, May 11, 2023 | 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.  
at the UMC of Macedonia  
1280 East Aurora Road  
Macedonia, OH 44056

South Street Reentry Services supports returning citizens (people coming out of incarceration), and those navigating the legal system by connecting them to resources throughout Summit County.

## THE 3 R'S OF REENTRY

**Reentry** begins the first day of sentencing. The journey of coming home begins as individuals begin to think and pray through housing, work, and family, on the other side.

**Redirection** is the process of changing thinking, lifestyles, and habits. It is a personal and community process to change ourselves.

**Restoration** is the end-goal of reentry. That we are restored citizens who move towards the goals of life: family, home, business, and faith.

CONTACT KATHY DICKRIEDE WITH QUESTIONS. [KDICKRIEDE@EOCUMC.COM](mailto:KDICKRIEDE@EOCUMC.COM)

[SOUTHSTREETMINISTRIES.ORG](http://SOUTHSTREETMINISTRIES.ORG)





Music by David Labra



**Taste  
of the  
Faiths**

**MVAC PRESENTS**

**Carry Outs  
Available!**

# **FOOD** *Festival*

— \$20 per person

May 18th at 5:30pm



Food & beverages provided by congregations of the Mahoning Valley

Entertainment by David Labra

St. Charles Borromeo Church, Parish Hall 7345 Westview Dr. Boardman, OH  
advance reservations or payment at the door: call 330-788-5914 or email [execdirectormvac@gmail.com](mailto:execdirectormvac@gmail.com)

[www.mvaonline.org](http://www.mvaonline.org)



## TASTE OF THE FAITHS 2023 Food Participation Invitation

May 18, 2023  
St. Charles Parish Hall  
Boardman OH  
5:30 p.m.

The Mahoning Valley Association of Churches invites your congregation to participate in the Taste of the Faiths 2023. The Taste of Faiths is an interfaith smorgasbord of delicious foods prepared by congregations in the Valley. Food donations are welcome in all categories: appetizers, meat dishes, vegetables, breads, desserts, cookies, pizza.

- 50 small servings each of 2 different items (1 savory, 1 sweet)
- Ready to eat, hot or cold, appetizer portions

You must bring for set up beginning at 4:00 p.m.:

- Warmers, coolers, serving utensils, electrical cords, etc.
- Preferred serving dish(es) labeled for identification.

MVAC provides disposable plates and utensils, napkin, and beverages. Two complimentary tickets will be available at the door for each congregation who prepares tastes. Additional tickets will be available for purchase @ \$20.00.

For more information: [www.mvaonline.org](http://www.mvaonline.org), [execdirectormvac@gmail.com](mailto:execdirectormvac@gmail.com), or 330-788-5914. MVAC needs your help. Thanks for your support.

### FOOD PARTICIPATION RESPONSE FORM Respond by May 5, 2023

Our congregation \_\_\_\_\_ will prepare.

50 small servings of (savory food)

\_\_\_\_\_

50 small servings of (sweet food)

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: MVAC Taste of the Faiths, P.O. Box 1526, Youngstown, OH 44501.



## 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 – 6<sup>th</sup> grade.
  - a. Children must be accompanied by an adult registered for the adult study.
- E. Youth: \$100 inclusive based on double occupancy. Completed 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](https://youtube.com/@midwestmission)

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