

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

## Dear children of God and bold United Methodists in the Mahoning Valley,

COME to the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Ohio Non-Violence Week Parade and Rally! **Sunday October 1.**

Jesus's teaching and posture in the face of violence is striking.

- "Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse" (Rom 12:12-14)
  - "Do not repay anyone evil for evil..." (Romans 12: 17)
  - "Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor..." (Romans 12:9 and 10)
  - If your enemies are hungry, feed them, if they are thirsty, give them something to drink" (Matthew 25)
  - "Overcome evil with good" (Rom 12:17-21)
  - When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we speak kindly" (1 Cor 4:12-13)
  - "Let your gentleness be known to everyone" (Phil 4:5)
  - "See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all" (1 Thess 5:15).
  - "When Christ was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten" (1 Peter 2::23).
  - "Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless" (1 Pet 3:9)
- "strive for peace with *everyone*" (Heb 12:14).

These life-giving words *flow out of the life and teaching of Christ*; what he said and what he did; what he taught and how he lived, died and was raised to everlasting life.

Let us, as people of the resurrected Christ, come together to witness to the power of his love over violence and death.

The details are as follows:

The Mahoning Valley United Methodist Churches will be lining up on East Wood St. facing Wick Ave., which will be in front of the First Presbyterian Church. The best way to enter is from East Rayen Ave. and turn at Choffin Career Center. The parade will end at the Amphitheatre for the rally.

Lineup will begin between 2:00 and 2:30. There will be people there to direct you. The parade begins promptly at 3:00 PM.

Please email me ( Penny Wells) or call (330-207-4467) me if you have any questions.

Your partner in ministry,

Rev. Cara Stultz-Costello

Co-Superintendent of the Mahoning Valley District

## New Districts Announced

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” - Isaiah 43:18-19 (NIV)

Read the entire re-districting message from Bishop Tracy S. Malone at <https://www.eocumc.com/redistrict/index.html>.

See the list of churches in each district at <https://www.eocumc.com/redistrict/churches.html>.

You are invited to submit names for the new districts for Conference leadership to consider. As you pray and consider the new movement in Christ in the East Ohio Conference, you are encouraged to dream and imagine new district names:

- that celebrate that we are one body in Christ and that our oneness transcends boundaries, and
- that recognize that we are one in relationship to Christ, one in relationship with each other, and one in relationship with our shared vision and mission.

Proposed district names that emphasize the mission and ministries of the East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church should be submitted to Executive Director of Communications Rick Wolcott via e-mail at [wolcott@eocumc.com](mailto:wolcott@eocumc.com) by Friday, October 6. The submitted names will be shared with the bishop and Cabinet.

Also keep an eye out on the EOC website for more information which will be rolling out at the end of October or early November.

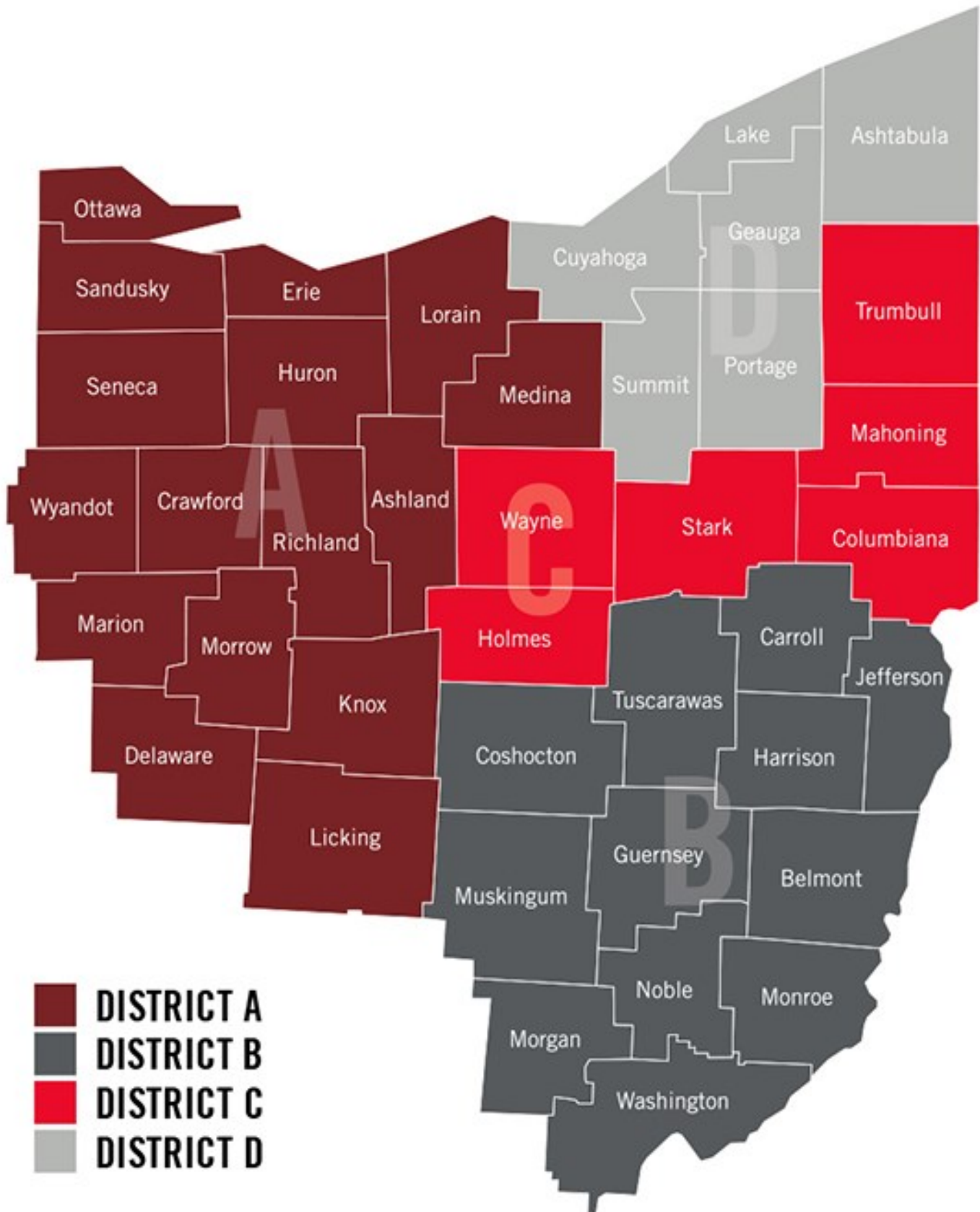
## Churches in Each District

New district boundaries were created with a focus on mission. In most cases, all East Ohio Conference churches in a county are in the same district. But in a few cases, because of mission, a church in one county has been placed into the district of a neighboring county.

[View the churches in each new district, listed alphabetically by county.](#)

# New EOC Districts

## Starting January 1, 2024





### District Office Hours

Monday thru Friday: 8:30 A.M.– 4 P.M. unless otherwise notified or due to illness.

### 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.**

Volunteer-in-mission journey to Christian Camp Gideon in Estonia, July 24-August 5, 2024. Help with English camp and share the faith with youth. Informational meeting on Sunday, Oct. 22, 4:00 pm at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Canfield. For more information contact Rev. Russ Adams at [330-719-7814](tel:330-719-7814) or at [rqa57@aol.com](mailto:rqa57@aol.com)

### **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.

### **RETIREEE BREAKFAST**

**Wed., October 25, 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) Rev. Douglas Lewis

## **Fall Charge Conference**

It is that time of year already. Clergy and SPRC consults are already underway.

ALL fall charge conference forms need to be filled out in their entirety and signed before submitting them. I need all forms back to the District Office on or before, Friday, October 6.

**This year we will only hold 1 Fall Conference on Saturday, October 28, at 2pm. We will need representation from all churches in attendance.**

Light refreshments will be served. It is being held in the Fellowship Hall at Western Reserve UMC, located at 4580 Canfield Road, Canfield, Ohio 44406

**Palmyra UMC Drive Thru Turkey Dinner****October 13, 2023** from 4PM-6PM

3968 SR 225, Diamond, Ohio 44412

Cost \$15 /dinner- Preorder is encouraged. To preorder call 330-654-2396 by Oct 10-leave your name, phone & number of dinners or on Facebook at Palmyra United Methodist Church in Portage Co Ohio

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**October 21** from noon - 2PM **"Blessing of the Pets"**

Sponsored by Ohltown UMC & First Presbyterian Church

Location - 3654 Main St., Mineral Ridge, OH

Please bring pets leashed, harnessed or in a carrier.

**Chili Drive thru Sale:** October 14, 10am-noon or sold out . \$6.00/qt

**Ohltown UMC** 2001 Ohltown Road, Mineral Ridge, 44440

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**Columbiana UMC** 210 S. Main St., Columbiana 44408

**October 5**, at 7 pm we will be having a concert. The New Legacy Project from Nashville. Admission is free, all are welcome.

Drive-Thru Ham Dinner **October 10**, 4 to 6, or until Sold-Out. Cost \$10

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**Deerfield UMC** 1483 State Rt. 225, Deerfield, 44411

**Blessing of the Pets** : October 8, at 11am

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**Western Reserve UMC** 4580 Canfield Rd., Canfield 44406

**Drive thru Swiss Steak Dinner.** On **October 5**, 4pm until sold out. Call 330-792-5805 for more info.

**Red Cross Blood Drive** October 24, 1pm-6pm

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**Vienna UMC** 4265 Warren Sharon Rd., Vienna 44473

**Swiss Steak dinner** **October 7**, 4pm-6pm  
take out available by calling 330-394-2827

**You're Invited: Mahoning Valley Clergy Book Club**

**What:** The Firelands District has a clergy book club that reads a wide variety of books (everything from non-fiction on religion, race, or any topic under the sun and even novels). Allison LeBrun was curator of that book club for the last several years and now wants to bring the reading, fun, and fellowship to Mahoning Valley. In August, we pick our 8 books for the year. We then meet monthly, reading a book a month, September - May (with a break in December). Come to our August meeting with 1 - 3 book suggestions you'd like to pitch to the group to read!

**Who:** Clergy of any status serving or residing in Mahoning Valley

**When:** The third Thursday of the month from 1:30-3:00pm, starting Thursday, August 17th.  
**Where:** Boardman United Methodist Church.

Questions or Interested: Please email Allison LeBrun at [therevallison@gmail.com](mailto:therevallison@gmail.com)

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**Church Hill UMC's Endowment Team** is hosting a program on **Sunday, October 1 from 5:30pm to 7:30 pm** with guest speakers, Attorney David Keast and Casandra DeVanetti of Direction Home. We will discuss steps to take so that we are prepared with proper authorization when a loved one is in need of hospital care, assisted living or a nursing home and cannot make decisions for themselves. We will also talk about plans related to transfers of property and financial assets following the death of a family member or loved one when you are the responsible beneficiary. We encourage questions and sharing from your own experiences.

A light meal will begin at 5:30pm in the Youth Hall at the church.

**189 Churchill Hubbard Rd Youngstown, OH 44505**



# Getting Your Church Unstuck

Discerning next steps by listening to God, your church, and your neighbors.

Luke S. Edwards

Sept. 14

Thank you Kathy Dickriede for sharing this article with us.

In my work I often encounter churches that feel stuck. They have a sense that they need to be doing something new or different but they aren't sure what it should be. These churches are in need of a time of intentional *congregational discernment—seeking the direction of the Holy Spirit together as a church.*

The central premise of The Listening Church is this: **Congregational discernment occurs at the intersection of divine attentiveness, self attentiveness, and community attentiveness.** When we listen to God, our congregation, and our neighbors we will begin to see what God is calling us to next.

## Listening to God

If we're hoping to find God's dream for our church, then it makes sense that we start with listening to God. The problem is that most of us aren't sure how to do it. I've found four spiritual practices to be super helpful for this:

*Centering Prayer* - Centering prayer is a method of contemplative prayer which gained recognition through the work of Fr. Thomas Keating. It seeks to open one's awareness to God's presence by silently repeating a sacred word or phrase. I've adapted it for listening [here](#).

*Lectio Divina* - Lectio Divina is a way of prayerfully reading scripture with origins in early ~~monasticism~~. It includes reading slowly, meditating on the text, conversing with God about the text, and sitting quietly with God seeking God's voice. I've adapted it for listening [here](#).

*The Examen* - The Daily Examen is an ancient spiritual practice introduced by St. Ignatius of ~~Loyolla~~ (1491-1556) that leads you through a prayerful reflection of the day. It includes becoming aware of God's presence, thanking God for blessings big and small, reviewing significant moments from the day, facing your shortcomings, and looking towards tomorrow. I write more about it [here](#).

*Holy Conferencing* - Conferencing is a process of discernment dating back to John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. It focuses on how we work together to discern the Holy Spirit's lead. I write more about it and other forms of group spiritual discernment [here](#).

## Listening to Your Congregation

An essential stage of discerning your church's direction is identifying the values, longings, and desired future of the people who make up your congregation. Hierarchal vision casting—or direction mandated by a small group of powerful individuals—can have a detrimental impact on the health and vibrancy of a congregation. When you as a ministry leader give your congregation a voice in its direction, you are opening yourself to the Holy Spirit's nudges and the possibilities will grow far beyond your own limited imagination.

Read more [here](#).

## Listening to Your Neighbor

After fifteen years of church-based community engagement, I have discovered that an essential step to vibrant, localized ministry is asking Jesus to give us attentiveness toward the people in our neighborhoods, towns, and cities—to learn the passions, dreams, gifts, and longings of our neighbors.

Too often, we ask the wrong questions of our neighbors. What we ask influences what we hear, and what we hear influences how we respond. Churches are uniquely called to develop a spiritual community. Why are our community assessment strategies so often void of spirituality? In the [Spiritual Listening Plan](#) I offer some activities that seek to address this. Activities like the Lectio Walk, Neighbor Interviews, and Systems Mapping all include elements of spiritual reflection.

## Attentiveness Clarifies Our Purpose

As church leaders there are plenty of things demanding our attention. Many leaders are barely hanging on maintaining the expectations of those we've been called to care for. Many churches are struggling to survive. It seems like there's no time or energy left to give. And yet, if we don't take the time to pay attention to God, ourselves, and our neighbors it's easy to drift from our purpose and mission. If we take the time to be more attentive to these three areas we can focus our time and energy on God's dream for our particular church and we might find that some of the things that are exhausting most are not what God is calling us into.

## Hello East Ohio Clergy and Pastors,

Let's face it, reaching young people is a challenge, especially now. New challenges are bubbling up all around us and many tried and true methods aren't as effective as they once were. It can feel overwhelming, but the good news is you are not alone in the struggle. This event is an invitation to connect with other United Methodist leaders as we share ideas and brainstorm for the future of youth ministry in your local church and beyond.

Come join new Co-Directors of Young People's Ministries, Tim Beck and Pastor Christy Suffecool, as we dream up new methods together. Our goal is to help you reimagine youth ministry in your setting, offering practical next steps to connect meaningfully with teens.

Below is the Eventbrite link to register:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/reimagining-youth-ministry-in-the-post-covid-age-tickets-691960671997?aff=oddtcreator>

If you have active Youth Ministry leaders, please share with them. I hope to meet you soon! If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Blessings,

Tim Beck

Co-Director of Young People's Ministries

East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church

*If you received this email in error, please do not mark as spam. Reply with remove in the subject and I will update my contacts.*

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## Hello Mission Advance Partners!

Rev. Dickriede has a few events and updates she wants to share with you. Click the links for full details on these events:

Bridges Out Of Poverty Cohort starts Sept. 6 (online) <https://bridgescohort2023.eventbrite.com>

Grant Writing Seminar on Oct. 23 at First UMC Ashland <https://grantwritingseminar.eventbrite.com>

Poverty Simulation on Nov. 9 at First UMC Macedonia <https://povertysimulationmacedonia.eventbrite.com>

The conference has updated the online donation portal, you can explore it here

<https://www.eocumc.com/donate/index.html>. Our webmaster used a stock photo if we couldn't find a logo for your mission or ministry. If you have a photo or logo you would like to use, please send it to [mthomas@eocumc.com](mailto:mthomas@eocumc.com)

Advance renewal applications will be sent out sometime in October.

The Board of Missions grant will tentatively reopen in January 2024.

Lastly, please make sure you are subscribed to our conference ENEWS. That's where we share missions' news like this and we would be happy to share YOUR stories, too! It's published every two weeks and you can subscribe by entering your email near the bottom of this webpage <https://eocumcnews.com/e-news/> If you use Facebook, Connectional Ministries has launched a new one: <https://www.facebook.com/eocumccm>

Contact Rev. Kathy Dickriede with any questions [kdickriede@eocumc.com](mailto:kdickriede@eocumc.com)



August 29, 2023

Greetings Pastor,

Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. I pray you have had a safe summer. **Mahoning Valley Lay Servant Ministry Classes will be held in November 2023!**



**LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES** (LSM) is one of the most significant **LAY LEADERSHIP** development programs available within the United Methodist connection. Through this equipping and empowering system, laity have the opportunity to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ who then go and make other disciples.

**ANYONE can register to take Lay Servant Ministry Classes. You do not have to be United Methodist.**

1. **BASIC COURSE**: foundational for all courses in Lay Servant Ministries
2. Additional Advanced Classes can be taken to achieve **CERTIFIED LAY SERVANT** status
3. **Specific** Advanced Classes must be taken to achieve **CERTIFIED LAY SPEAKER** status

## **MAHONING VALLEY**

### **LAY SERVANT MINISTRY FALL CLASSES - IN PERSON**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2023      8 AM -5 PM      \$35 Registration Fee**

**BOARDMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 6809 Market Street, Youngstown (Boardman)**

**Breakfast & Lunch will be provided**

**REGISTER AT EVENTBRITE.COM**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mahoning-valley-lay-servant-training-fall-2023-tickets-598427210897?aff=oddtcreator>  
if having problems with link - call Cyd and she will email it to you

**Classes that are being offered:**

**BASIC** -Foundations of Lay Servant Ministries taught by Rev. Rick Oakes

**Lay SERVANT Track: TRANSFORMING EVANGELISM** taught by Pastor Dick Smith

**Lay SPEAKER Track: FROM YOUR HEART TO THEIRS: Delivering an effective sermon**  
taught by Mark McTrusty

**To comply with learning time standards, participants will be expected to complete reading/written assignments prior to class. Assignments will be provided via email after you register on Eventbrite.com**

Please contact Cyd Scarnecchia if you have any questions about classes being offered, someone's class status, or about the Lay Servant Ministry program in general.

Blessings for a wonderful day!

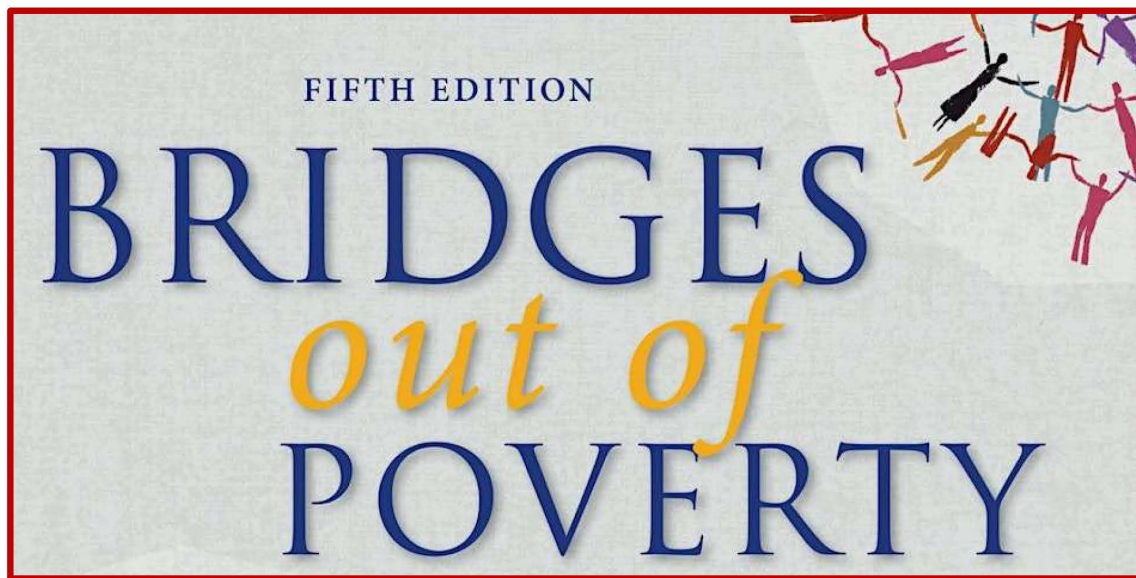
Cyd Scarnecchia

Mahoning Valley District Director Lay Servant Ministries

21 Summerberry Lane, Niles, OH 44446

Mobile: 330-883-5343 (preferred over email)

Email: SCARNIC@sbcglobal.net (not case sensitive but easier to read)



## BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY COHORT STARTS SEPTEMBER 6

This online cohort is for community leaders to learn to empower, lead, and facilitate the Bridges movement in their community.

**When:** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month, Sept.-Nov. 2023 and Jan.-Mar. 2024 from 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

**Where:** Online via Zoom

Registration is **FREE**, but you will need to purchase a few books.

Full details and registration at  
<https://bridgescohort2023.eventbrite.com>  
or scan the QR code with  
your cell phone camera.







**ARE YOU DREAMING A  
GOD-SIZED DREAM FOR  
THE WORK OF  
BUILDING THE  
KINGDOM OF GOD AND  
NEED HELP FUNDING  
THAT DREAM?**

**THEN REGISTER FOR THE GRANT WRITING SEMINAR  
ON OCTOBER 23 FROM 9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.  
AT ASHLAND FIRST UMC IN ASHLAND, OH**

**Keynote Speaker will be Rev. Don Ackerman of Canton For All People.  
Small group workshops will be lead by:**

- Constance M. Clark, Founder & President of MISSION POSSIBLE: Nonprofit Solutions, LTD.
- Rev. Joy Fenton-Jones, UCC Pastor & Rev. Gregory Kendrick, Elder at Jubilee Co-op Parish
- Susan O'Donnell Black, Exec. Dir. of the UM Foundation of West Ohio
- Rev. Brian Sheetz, Exec. Dir of the UM Foundation of Ohio

**The cost is only \$10 to cover lunch and refreshments!**

**Full details and registration at**

**<https://grantwritingseminar.eventbrite.com>**

**or scan the QR code with your smartphone camera.**



**Contact Rev. Kathy Dickriede, EOCUMC Connectional Ministries Director of Missions  
and Community Engagement, with any questions: [kdickriede@eocumc.com](mailto:kdickriede@eocumc.com)**



Greetings, members and friends of Western Reserve Church, I have lots of information for you today! First, we invite you to join us at our United Women in Faith luncheon and Missions program on **Thursday, October 12 at noon** in the fellowship hall. After lunch, Mark Wehr (Micky Snare's son) will give a presentation on his trip to Romania. His mission team ministered to widows of the Roma villages there and also to Ukrainian refugees. Lunch will be provided; a free will offering will be taken. All women are welcome, so please bring a friend! We would love to see you.

Secondly, UWF is sponsoring a seminar on Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention on **Thursday, October 19 at 7:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Brenda Heidinger from the Mahoning County Mental Health Board will talk about how to recognize signs of a mental health crisis, how to ask the right questions, and where to go for help. This event is free and open to the public, so please let your friends and family know about it. All adults and youth are encouraged to attend.

Third, we are sponsoring a Pumpkin Roll fundraiser in November. The proceeds will be split between the church repair fund and local missions. We are looking for help making pumpkin rolls to sell at church (we are not taking orders this time). The more helpers we have, the more pumpkin rolls we can make, and the more we can help our church. We may be asking for other baked goods to sell as well. We are asking for help on three days next month: (all Tuesdays) **October 10, 17, and 24<sup>th</sup>** from 10:00 am until midafternoon. If you can help on any of these days, even just for a couple of hours, please let me know. Thank You!

Fourth, there will be a conference-wide gathering of United Women in Faith on **Saturday, October 21** at Boardman United Methodist Church, beginning at 9:00 am. There will be worship and a presentation on the Red Bird Mission in Kentucky. Lunch will be provided. The cost is \$15.00 and registration is required (by mail) by October 10. The registration form and more information is included with the conference newsletter I have attached. There is other interesting information in the newsletter as well.

October will be a very busy month, and I hope you will be able to join us for these events. Again, all women are welcome at our meetings, regardless of church membership or affiliation, and there is no cost to join.

For more information or to RSVP, call or text Diane Price at (330) 786-7517  
Or email [ddprice@zoominternet.net](mailto:ddprice@zoominternet.net)

Blessings,  
Diane

