

Mahoning Valley Messenger

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Doing Something New

Back in May, I remember reading Pastor Abby Auman's post on Facebook that said something like, you know you are a United Methodist pastor when.... People filled in with comments you are moving in June, packing up ten boxes of books or something else that reflects pastors moving into a new church/community. I say, you know you are a UMC pastor when your first couple of sermons in your new appointment are about God doing something new or bringing about change. I may be speaking for myself, but Isaiah 43:18, 19 has been preached a lot, a whole LOT.

One morning, I remember as soon as I opened my eyes that the Holy Spirit started messing with me. He said, "I want to do something new. I am going to do something new. I want to do something new in you. I want to do something new in the communities, churches, people's families, in hearts, and minds. Throughout that whole day, He was ministering to me and showing me things that He wants to make new. He was on me so tough, that I did a Facebook live, and shared what He was saying.

As the Lord continued to minister to me, He said you have to do something new. If I bring newness into a place or person, that person has to do something different than the last place they were in. I can't do what I did 20 years ago because I am in a new place today. The same goes for you. You are in a new place perhaps literally or figuratively. Scripture tells us you can't put new wine into old wine skins.

Mahoning Valley pastors, leaders, and members, pick a scripture(s) on God doing something new in your life or church's life. It may be Is. 43, 2 Cor. 7:14, 2 Sam. 5, Rom. 12:1 or other passages that deal with newness, change, or transformation. Just know that God wants to do **SOMETHING NEW!** Truly, truly, truly, the Spirit of God wants to transform lives. He wants to transform churches and communities. God wants to breathe a breath of freshness and newness into all of us. It doesn't mean it will be easy or happen quickly, it just means he wants to do something new. God will start moving things, people, and places. Your thinking and process of thought shifts. You become uncomfortable when God is moving you into something new. The list could go on and on.

One day I will talk about yawning. For today's purpose, however, I will say, a yawn brings in new/fresh air (oxygen) into our body. It brings about a refreshing feel throughout your whole body. The Spirit of God wants to bring in freshness and newness into our whole bodies. Oh, how God wants to do something new. Oh, how God wants us to do something new.

Pastor Auman says you know you are UMC pastor when.... I say, you know God wants to do something new when....



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.

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.

RETIREE BREAKFAST

Wed., September 27 9:00 a.m. at

Eat 'N Park,

5451 Mahoning Ave. Austintown.



Fall Charge Conference

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

Clergy Birthdays for September

6– Lisa Courtwright

15– Karen Goss

23– Cyndi Midlick/Sam Mohn/ Christiane Depestre

27– Jeff Pellin

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.

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)

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



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>

Howland UMC upcoming event

730 Howland-Wilson RD. NE, Warren, Ohio 44484
330-856-3463

*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.

**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 September 15. Bring your favorite game, or a snack, or a friend, or just come for the fellowship.

Fowler UMC is also holding a Stuffed pepper drive thru dinner on Saturday, Sept. 30, 3:30-5:30/sold out

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

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.

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>

UMVIM Team Leader Training on Oct. 1 at First UMC New Philadelphia https://UMVIM_TL_newphilly.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

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



UMVIM TEAM LEADER TRAINING

SUN, OCT. 1, 2023 | 1:00-7:00 p.m.

First UMC, 201 West High Ave., New Philadelphia, OH, 44663

Enjoy a day of fellowship & conversation to learn best practices for leading a mission team locally, nationally, or internationally.

This training is FREE (includes a meal & the required conference background check). The manual will be emailed as a pdf, print copies available by request. An optional book, *The Mission Journey*, will be available for purchase for \$17.00. If you order this optional book, you will receive it at the training.

LAST DAY TO REGISTER IS SEPT. 27

Online registration at

https://UMVIM_TL_newphilly.eventbrite.com



=====
Registration form for UMVIM Team Leader Training on 10/1/23.

Paper registrations must be received by 9/27/23.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

FULL ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____

CHURCH _____ DISTRICT _____

FOOD ALLERGIES OR ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS _____

☐ Team Leader Training FREE

☐ Mission Journey Handbook (optional) \$17

Make checks payable to:

East Ohio Conference UMC

Memo: Fund 9046 UMVIM Leadership

Mail to:

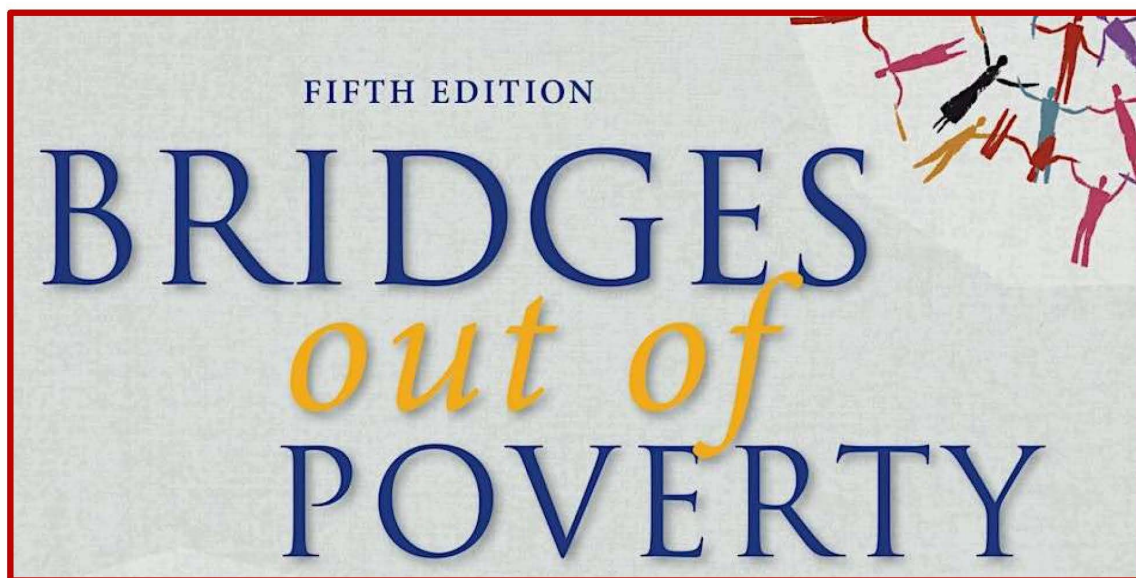
EOCUMC Attn Melanie Thomas

PO Box 2800

North Canton, OH 44720



**Missions &
Community Engagement**
EAST OHIO CONFERENCE



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: 1st & 3rd 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.



Missions &
Community Engagement
EAST OHIO CONFERENCE



aha!
PROCESS, INC.
a RUBY PAYNE COMPANY



**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**





YOUTH LEADER/PASTOR EDITION

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH

6:30 P.M.

Tequila Jalisco



583 East Main Street

Canfield, OH 44406

Easily off Route 11

**LET'S CONNECT TOGETHER AS YOUTH LEADERS
AND PASTORS TO SEE HOW WE CAN COLLABORATE
OUR TIMES AND RESOURCES TO REACH YOUTH IN
OUR AREA AND SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS!**

Please RSVP to Stefanie Williams at
stef.youthministry@gmail.com so we are able to
secure enough space!