



A Message from the District Superintendent

Happy Easter! Wasn't it beautiful, even though it was early? My daffodils and hyacinths bloomed right on time and stayed beautiful. Every worship service I attended was filled with the Spirit. I've viewed photos and recordings from others around the District, and they were just as glorious. Thank you for the creativity and joy you shared in your celebrations.



We will continue to celebrate Easter over the next 50 days until Pentecost. Our conference laity created a daily devotional to guide us through this season. If you're not receiving these devotions, please sign up to have them delivered to your email inbox daily. You can do so at <https://www.wvumc.org/2024-laity-easter-devotions/>.

We will have a district-wide music celebration on Pentecost Day and we hope you'll join us. Two musicians from our District, Dr. Lya Stroupe, Director of Music at Wesley UMC in Morgantown, and Rev. John Brosky, pastor of the Blacksville Charge, have accepted the invitation to coordinate and lead us. We'll have congregational singing, and choirs can choose their favorite anthem to share! The big finale will be a choral anthem for combined choirs.

Don't wait any longer—register your choir today so we can provide all the details! Please call or email our office to let us know if your choir wants to sing. We'll make a joyful noise on May 19, 3:00 pm, at Gateway UMC, 301 Diamond St, Fairmont. This event will also include an offering for the Celebration of Mission Event. We're also bringing back a crowd favorite from our Celebration of Mission Events of old—the silent basket auction. Look for details on participating in that later in our newsletter.

We are blessed to be resurrection people with such Good News to share with the world. Please continue sharing your good news with us so we can feature it on our Facebook page and newsletter. It is a joy to share this work with you!

Rev. Amy Shankoltzer
ashankoltzer@wvumc.org

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REMINDER:

Please notify the district office if you have changes to your church or charge officers during the year. Some changes require a charge conference.

MAILING ADDRESS FOR DISTRICT OFFICE:

3000 Technology Drive
Fairmont, WV 26554

Email:

monvalleydistrict@wvumc.org

Fax Number: 304-333-0224

MonValley District Office Hours

Monday - Friday

8:30 AM - NOON;
1 PM - 4:30 PM

Special Days

- 7 Golden Cross Sunday (Offering)
- 13 Native American Awareness Sunday (Offering)

Birthdays

- 10 Lynn Cartwright
- 12 Duane Bartug
Luanne Aitken
Sarita Robinson
- 17 Corey Gero
Alayna Gero
- 20 Teresa Prince
- 21 Jackie Chambers
- 27 Stephanie Bennett
Danny Blake
- 28 Gary Helms
- 30 Bryan Baker

Anniversaries

- 1 Rodney and Paulette Heckert
- 18 John and Judy Flynn
- 25 James and Wanda Steele
- 26 Amber and Rick Baker
- 30 Michael and Christina Richards

Looking Forward, Planning Ahead

APRIL

- 8-10 DS @ Cabinet
- 13 Spring Lay Academy | LIFE UMC
- 23-5/3 General Conference
- 27 Beginning Well Seminar | LIFE UMC | 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

MAY

- 7 Clergy Meeting | Philippi (location TBD) | 12:00 PM Lunch, Meeting to follow
- 8-9 DS @ Cabinet
- 11 District Lead Team
- 12 Mother's Day
- 15 Pre-Annual Conference Briefing | Avery UMC | 6:30-8:00 PM
- 19 C.O.M.E. Music Festival and Basket Silent Auction | Gateway UMC | 3:00 PM
Laity webinar for 1st Time Annual Conference attendees | 4:00 PM
- 20-22 DS @ Cabinet
- 27 **Memorial Day | Conference and District Offices Closed**
- 31 **Pastor Evaluations and Continuing Formation Reports due to District Office**

JUNE

- 2 Laity Zoom session for Annual Conference | 4:00 PM
- 6-9 Annual Conference | West Virginia Wesleyan College
- 14 Conference/District Office Summer Hours Begin | Closing at 12:00 PM on Fridays
- 15 District Lead Team
- 16 Father's Day
- 19 Juneteenth Holiday | Conference & District Offices Closed
- 26 Move out day for pastors
- 27 Move in day for pastors

Let Us Pray...

- | | | |
|--|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Elsie Smith | Brad Bennett | The family of Carolyn Kerr |
| Lee Haught | Stephanie Bennett | Rosemary Saunders |
| D.D. Meighen | Betty Bennett | Duane Stiles |
| Claire Shanholtzer | Pam Todd | Cindy Boggs |
| Mary Bane | Tami Shoup | Tom Malcolm |
| Brian and Susan Seders in the death of Brian's mother, Pat Seders. | | |
| The family of Barry Moll | | |

Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball, DS Amy Shanholtzer, and all Conference Staff.
All Churches, Missions, and Ministries in the District and Conference
The General Conference Delegation

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Conference

June 6th-9th | West Virginia Wesleyan College

Online registration is open through April 15th

visit <https://www.wvumc.org/2024-annual-conference-resources/> to register!

2024 Pre-Conference Briefings Schedule

There will be seven pre-Annual Conference briefings held this year throughout the West Virginia conference. These gatherings will be open to pastors and laity from everywhere throughout the conference. (You do not need to attend the one closest to your church.) Each session will be identical. 75 minutes of information and then 15 minutes of Q&A.

Monday, 5/13 | Memorial UMC (1317 Webster Road, Summersville, WV 26651) | 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Monday, 5/13 | Temple UMC (201 Templeview Drive, Beckley, WV 25801) | 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Tuesday, 5/14 | Stout Memorial UMC (3329 Broad Street, Parkersburg, WV 26104) | 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Wednesday, 5/15 | Christ UMC (1232 National Road, Wheeling, WV 26003) | 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Wednesday, 5/15 | Avery UMC (1152 Cheat Road, Morgantown, WV 26508) | 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Thursday, 5/16 | First UMC (49 N. High Street, Romney WV 26757) | 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Friday, 5/17 | Steele Memorial UMC (733 Shaw Street, Barboursville, WV 25504) | 6:30 – 8:00 PM

DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST MEN MEETINGS

General Meeting - April 9, 2024 Philippi UMC, 115 Mason Street, Philippi, WV 26416

General Meetings - Gathering will start at 5:30 pm with opening ceremonies and dinner starting at 5:55 pm.

Executive Committee Meetings - Meeting will start at 9:00 am - Cracker Barrel, 345 Lewis Drive, Morgantown, WV

Meeting Locations: Meeting locations will be rotated between Life UMC, Spruce Street UMC & Philippi UMC.

Ukrainian Family Sponsors Update

To see an update that includes families still needing sponsorships visit

http://www.monvalleyumc.org/uploads/6/5/1/1/6511960/ukrainian_family_update.pdf

UPCOMING CELEBRATION OF MISSIONS EVENTS

Poetry Contest for C.O.M.E

Spruce Street UMC, Morgantown

Are you a poet and don't know it? Or do you think you're a poet and want to share your verse, even if it's the worst? Either way, Spruce Street UMC will welcome poems of all kinds: Limericks, Haiku, sonnets, verses in iambic pentameter, or free verse. For further information and contest rules visit http://www.monvalleyumc.org/uploads/6/5/1/1/6511960/poetry_contest.pdf.

Bucket Race for C.O.M.E

Sunday, April 28 | 2:00 PM | Spruce Street UMC, Morgantown

The Morgantown East and Morgantown Urban Cooperative Parishes invite spectators and participants alike to race to the finish line at Spruce Street UMC. We will assemble Flood Buckets to beat the clock all for the Celebration of Mission Event. Teams and church members will bring their collections to the event as a culmination of their month-long efforts to support their assigned missions: New Vision Depot and Scotts Run Settlement House. The "Bucket Race" is open to any church with as many three-person teams as they want to send. To register submit an entry form with the \$9.00 fee on or before the day of the race. The entry form is available here: http://www.monvalleyumc.org/uploads/6/5/1/1/6511960/bucket_race.pdf.

The entry fee for the 3-person teams will be \$9.00, which will go to C.O.M.E. as undesignated funds. Please contact sprucedupwomen@comcast.net or pastor@sprucestreetumc.org if you have questions.

“Traditional Music Celebration” for C.O.M.E

Sunday, May 19 | 3:00 PM | Gateway UMC, Fairmont

During this celebration, we will raise our voices in praise and thanksgiving. Choirs throughout the district are asked to offer a short piece of music and then join in one piece at the end of the service for all choirs. If you are interested in participating, please call/email the District Office at 304.366.6811 or email monvalleydistrict@wvumc.org by April 19, 2024. Everyone in the district is invited to come hear some awesome music and support our West Virginia missions by bringing your monetary donations for Celebration of Mission. There will also be gift baskets to auction.

Silent Auction for C.O.M.E

Sunday, May 19 | 2:00-4:00 PM | Gateway UMC, Fairmont

A Silent Auction will also be included in this celebration. We are asking each church to donate a theme basket for the Silent Auction. Ideas for the theme baskets are kitchen, baby, tools, school supplies, craft supplies, garden, kid's art supplies, cosmetics, family night (board games & snacks), sports, movie night, etc. Baskets may be wicker, laundry, Rubbermaid bins, wheelbarrows, wagons, or just a plain cardboard box, - use your imagination! Please shrink-wrap and decorate your basket. You should include your church's name as "Donated by" and a list of items in the basket. Your church could collect money from members and have one person arrange the basket or have members bring individual items in and assemble the basket as a group project - this is a great Sunday School project.

If your church would like to make more than one basket, remember the money raised will go directly to United Methodist Missions. Baskets need to be at Gateway by **1:45 on Sunday, May 19, 2024**.

The Silent Auction begins at 2:00 and ends at 4:00.

Winners of the baskets **must be present** and pick up their basket at 4:00.

Any questions, please call Barbara Metcalfe (304-366-2107) or Ginny Davidson (304-363, 9241). We look forward to seeing several baskets for the silent auction to support our West Virginia Missions!

Plan to Support the C.O.M.E in Your Congregation?

1. Review the booklet for the celebration – which you can find here: <http://www.monvalleyumc.org/come.html>
2. Review the needs list for **Scott's Run** and **New Vision Depot**, the ministries the MonValley District is supporting this year.
3. Begin collecting items and funds to support these needs.
4. Plan a fundraising project that will allow church and community folks to contribute. There are some ideas on page 3 of the Celebration booklet on the District website.
5. Watch the District newsletter and pastor's emails for information about a local dropoff day. You can also schedule a day at either mission site to volunteer or take a tour and deliver your goods.
6. For additional information or with questions, please contact the District Office – 304.366.6811.

Please bring your collected **tangible goods** to Gateway UMC on May 19th and enjoy an hour of great music! If you can't make it on the 19th, please bring donations to the District Office the week before Monday, May 13 - Friday, May 17, between 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM.

TAYLOR COUNTY COOPERATIVE COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

The TCCCM met on Tuesday, March 26 at 6:00 PM at Thornton UMC. Pastor Judy Flynn opened the meeting with devotions on Mark 14:3-9 Jesus' anointing with the costly nard. By the time this newsletter is published the Holy Week services will be completed. Thank you to Pruntytown, Church of the Good Shepherd, and Blueville UMC for hosting our Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday services. Thank you to Pastor Michael Richards, Pastor Matt Dotson, and Pastor Corey Gero for putting those services together.

C.O.M.E. walk for the Cooperative Ministries will be held Sunday, April 21 at 2:00 PM at the 3rd picnic area of Tygart Lake State Park. Remember to bring your money to the walk.

Food backpacks were distributed with extra food for Spring break. Fetterman/AJES still need help delivering the packs. Cornerstone/West Taylor packs were given gift cards for the last-minute requests. Flemington is doing the same as last month.

Teacher totes can be picked up at Church of the Good Shepherd Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM-12:00 PM.

Mother's Day Service will be held Sunday, May 12 at the Mother's Day Shrine in Grafton at 11:00 AM. Anyone who would like to participate or attend the services please let Pastor Matt Dotson know.

The Memorial Day Parade application is due April 18. If there is interest in being in the parade for 2024 the theme is To Honor Those Who Serve. Dora Devers is checking to see if her husband's trailer can be used. The American Legion is having a service on May 26 at the Mother's Day Shrine.

The Constitution revisions were read a second time. Becki Manley moved to accept the revisions, 2nd by Brooke Russell. Motion carried. Attempted to gain nominations of Chair, Vice Chair, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer. No one was willing to have their name put on the ballot. It was decided to have a temporary Chair from each charge beginning in April. The Financial Secretary will be on hold until next month.

The Chair Rotation will be as follows:

Apr, May, June - Diane Warder, Blueville Haymond Trinity

Sept, Oct, Nov - Sharon Fawcett, Cornerstone

Jan, Feb, Mar 2025 - Linda McBee & Linda Adlington, Church of the Good Shepherd

Apr, May, June 2025 - Pastor Alan, to obtain Flemington Charge

Sept, Oct, Nov 2025 - Becki Manley, Knottsville Charge

Next meeting:	April 23 @ Blueville	May 21 @ Trinity
Bread of Life:	April 12 @ Trinity	May 10 @ Flemington
Foster Closet responsibilities:	April - Flemington Charge	May - Blueville/Haymond/Trinity Charge

Berlyn Bryan moved to adjourn; seconded by Becki Manley. Motion carried.
Refreshments were served by Thornton and Knottsville charge.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Judy Flynn
Parish Coordinator

MonValley District Churches Conference Fair Share Update

Through March 2024

CHURCHES THAT PAID 100%:

Knottsville, Macedonia, Peora Wadestown

CHURCHES THAT ARE AHEAD:

Barrackville, Colfax, Eldora, Good Shepherd, Harner Chapel, Mariahs Chapel, Olive, Phillips Chapel, Riverside. Rivesville, Trinity

CHURCHES THAT ARE ON TRACK (25%):

Bee Gum, Carolina, East High, Fetterman, First Elkins, Kanes Creek, Levels, Lumberport, Meadowdale H & H Chapel, Monumental, Mt. Pleasant, Mt. Vernon (Barbour Co.), Otterbein (Shinnston), St. Johns, Stringtown, Wana, Wayside, Wesley Chapel (Taylor Co.), Westover

MonValley District Fair Share (Promotional Fund) Update

We are so grateful for your gifts that assist us as we serve the churches of the MonValley District

CHURCHES WHO HAVE PAID 100% OF THEIR 2024 DISTRICT FAIR SHARE:

Asbury, Astor, Bailey Memorial, Barrackville, Bee Gum, Benton's Ferry, Bethel (Junior), Blacksville, Boothsville, Calvary, Carolina, Colfax, Corley, Downs, East High, Eldora, Fetterman, Fort Martin, Gypsy, Harner Chapel, Heaston, Highland Park (Morgantown), Janes Memorial, Johnson Chapel, Kanes Creek, Knottsville, Lamberts Run, Laurel Point, Levels, Lumberport, Macedonia, Mansfield, Mariahs Chapel, McCurdysville, Meadowdale H & H Chapel, Monumental, Mt. Pleasant (Taylor Co.), Mt. Tabor, Mt. Vernon (Barbour Co.), Oak Forest, Olive, Otterbein (Shinnston), Peora, Phillips Chapel, Pruntytown, Reger, Rivesville, Rymer, Sabra, St. Johns, Stringtown, Teverbaugh, Trinity (Grafton), Valley Chapel, Wadestown, Wesley Chapel (Taylor Co.), Wesley (Morgantown), Westover, Westside, West Farmington, Ziesing.