Community
MonValley District

A Message from the District Superintendent

As human beings, we are naturally hopeful and drawn into celebrations and stories as if they are magnetic. I'm a pushover for a story with a happy ending – even more so if it borders on miraculous like the underdog team that wins or the forgotten student who is elected class president. It catches me every time.

I think that as humans, God has designed hopefulness as part of our being. Perhaps it is something that reflects God's heart as well, the one who hopes that we will desire a relationship with God most of all. The biblical story is one of hope as well, a people who wait in hope for the promised Messiah – and who wait for the Messiah to return. I can hear the hope in the voice of the disciples of John the Baptist who are sent from his prison cell to ask Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we wait for another?" (Matthew 11: 2-3)

I continue to hope in Christ – for the transformation of the world near and far. I can continue this hope knowing that the clergy and laity of the MonValley District are faithfully seeking to follow God's call into the future.

One of the most joy-filled, hopeful celebrations I've attended in a very long time was the recent welcome dinner for a Ukrainian refugee family in our district. The churches of the Cornerstone Ministries Charge and the Quiet Dell Charge (7 churches total) have committed to welcoming this family to our area, providing for their immediate needs, and helping them get established. These seven churches across two districts have responded to the hopeful leadership of their pastors, Dr. Michael Richards and Sarita Robinson to open the door to this possibility. There are several other families seeking a home as well. If you feel God calling you to respond to the hopes of these families, please contact the District Office or one of the pastors.

With God all things are possible, Jesus says to his disciples after his encounter with the rich man in Matthew 19. All things are possible. As forgiven and reconciled and hopeful people, we will continue to believe.

Rev. Amy Shanholtzer

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REMINDER:

It's time to file those Certificates of Election of Trustees at your county courthouse.

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

NEW MAILING ADDRESS FOR DISTRICT OFFICE:

We are now only receiving mail at our physical address:

3000 Technology Drive
Fairmont, WV 26554
monvalleydistrict@wvumc.org

New Mileage Reimbursement Rates

Effective January 1, 2023, the IRS mileage reimbursement rate increased to $ 0.655 (or 65.5 cents) per mile. Mileage incurred up through December 31, 2022 should be paid at the prior rate of $ 0.625 (or 62.5 cents) per mile.

MonValley District Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

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

Special Days

5 **BMCR Sunday** (Black Methodists for Church Renewal)
19 **UMVIM Awareness Day** (Volunteers in Mission)
22 **Ash Wednesday**

February Birthdays

2 Janice Smith
3 Cindy Morgan-Roberts
Tee Roberts
8 Penny Turley
10 Christi Buckland
12 Kyleigh Johnson
14 Owen Lamp
Reba Thurmond
15 Gannon Lamp
Mary Frances Zinn
16 Dick Bowyer
17 William Riffee
19 Reagan Hulley
20 Khristi McCutcheon
21 Alma Jean Beard
22 Bill Calhoun
23 Jack Flint
24 David Jones
Samuel Chambers
25 Linda Friend
26 Clyde Beard
Nancy Kinty
27 Becky Bartrug
28 Anna Massey
Basil Hensley
29 Jenny Williams

February Anniversaries

1 Alice and Nelson Hocking
6 Tami and Larry Shoup
11 Tammy and Bob Phillips
16 Sam and Grace Haught
17 Gary and Connie Helms
22 Steve and Linda Rhodes

Looking Forward, Planning Ahead

February

6-8 DS @ Cabinet
11 DCOM - Local Pastor Interviews
15 **Training Event with Conference Treasurer Jamion Wolford** - LIFE UMC 12 pm and 6 pm (see page 4)
16 New Vision Depot Work Day
18 DLT @ 9 AM
20-22 DS @ Cabinet
22 ASH WEDNESDAY
27 Leadership 101 Basic Lay Servant class begins

March

1 Deadline for UM Higher Education Foundation Scholarship Applications
1-3 DS @ Cabinet
4 New Places - New People, 10 AM - 2:30 PM | Christ UMC, Wheeling
6 Responding to the Opioid Epidemic Lay Servant course begins
7 Strategic Ministry Planning Lay Servant course begins
11 DCOM - Local Pastor Interviews
12 Daylight Savings Time Begins
13-15 DS @ Cabinet
16 UM Men Executive Committee Meeting @ 9 AM | Cracker Barrel, Morgantown
18 DLT @ 9 AM
25 Worship Lay Servant Class | First UMC, Shinnston
26 District Safe Sanctuaries Training @ 1:30 PM | Suncrest UMC, Morgantown
31 Deadline for GBHEM Scholarship Applications

April

7 GOOD FRIDAY - Conference and District Offices closed
9 EASTER SUNDAY
11 District UM Men's meeting @ 5:30 PM | Philippi UMC
11 UM Polity Lay Servant course begins
13-14 DS @ Cabinet
13-16 PMLS retreat @ John XXIII Retreat Center, Charleston
15 DLT @ 9 AM
22 Beginning Well Seminar
24-26 DS @ Cabinet
29 C.O.M.E. Drop off from 10 AM - Noon | LIFE UMC

Let Us Pray...

The Family of Kelly Simmons

Jackie and Sam Chambers - death of Jackie's brother, Donald Mossburg

Tammy Blake

Grace Haught

Josh Davis

Mary Ellen Finegan

Brad Bennett

Pam Todd

Cindy Boggs

Janice Erenrich

Rick Bloom

Lee Williams

Phoebe Durst

Gina Stewart

Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball and our District Superintendents

DISTRICT TRAINING WITH CONFERENCE TREASURER, JAMION WOLFORD

February 15th – Noon and 6 PM, at LIFE UMC, 3000 Technology Dr., Fairmont

We're excited to welcome Jamion to our district to give us a deeper understanding of the ministry work that we do together through apportionments – and of resources that are available for local churches.

Noon – Lunch and Learn Clergy Meeting - You are invited to join us for lunch and conversation about church finances, apportionments and other questions that you'd like to raise. This is the place to learn alongside one another. You are welcome to bring church financial officers along with you so that you can learn together. Make your lunch reservation by Feb. 6th so that we'll have enough boxed lunches: **https://forms.gle/9Z3wPBLda7prq4bs9**

6 PM – This training will be especially designed for church financial officers, clergy are welcome to attend as well. Plan to come to learn more about conference finances, your role in supporting conference ministries and how to find resources to help you with your work. Call the district office or register at: **https://forms.gle/cFW2rnBKvBcw8r5B8**

MONVALLEY UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

What a year 2023 is going to be for our District! This year, we are hosting the Annual Meeting for the Women in Faith Conference - which means members from the entire state will be in attendance. We are waiting for the WVU football schedule to be published, but please keep this on your radar for this Autumn. If you, or anyone in your Unit has interest in using your gifts in our hosting efforts, please let me know.

Additionally, we are looking to fill some roles within the District Leadership Team. Please reach out to Meghann Gregory or Judi McCracken if you find it in your heart to join! Even if you've held a role in the past, please consider joining us once again. Available roles are:

- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Education and Interpretation
- Program Resources
- Membership & Nurture Outreach
- Nominations (one person from each area in our District)

Meghann Gregory: **mvdumwomen@gmail.com**

Judi McCracken: **crack1111@comcast.net**

ASH WEDNESDAY/LENTEN SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT

Fairmont East Parish Ash Wednesday Service - Feb. 22nd at Valley Chapel UMC, Fairmont, Randy Vincent preaching

BARBOUR COUNTY UMC

COOPERATIVE COMMUNITY MINISTRY

PANCAKE SUPPER

CORLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

10842 Barbour County Hwy, Belington, WV 26250

PROCEEDS BENEFIT
FREE COUNTY YOUTH SUMMER CAMP

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

4:30pm – 7:00pm

Adults: $7.00

Children: $3.50
(age10 & under)

Families of 4
or more: $20.00

Eat In or Carry Out

PANCAKES, PRESTON COUNTY SAUSAGE, APPLESAUCE, BEVERAGE

UPCOMING LAY SERVANT CLASSES AND LAY ACADEMY

LEADERSHIP 101 (Basic course): 5 week class, taught by Rev. Amy Shanholtzer via Zoom
Mondays, Feb. 27 - March 27, from 6:30 - 8:30 PM.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE DISORDER: 5 week class, taught by Rev. Dr. Barry Ball via Zoom
Mondays, March 6 - April 3, from 6:30 - 8:30 PM.

STRATEGIC MINISTRY PLANNING: 6 week class, taught by Ken Willard, WVUMC Director of Congregational Vitality via Zoom - Tuesdays, March 7 - April 11, from 6:30 - 8:30 PM.

PLANNING WORSHIP: One day class, taught by Judy Farley at First UMC Shinnston
Saturday, March 25th, 8 AM - 4:30 PM.

UM POLITY: 4 week class, taught by Rev. Dr. Ken Krimmel via Zoom
Tuesdays, April 11 - May 2, from 6 - 8:30 PM

The Church's Ministry with Dementia with Kenneth Carder (on-line class) launches soon - pre-register at **https://newsletters.umcdiscipleship.org/churchs-ministry-dementia-2023**

Please visit the district website: **http://www.monvalleyumc.org/lay-servant-ministries.html** for registration information for these classes. The Potomac Highlands District Lay Servant class is also available from our district website.

Mark your calendars for our **Spring Lay Academy on Saturday, May 6th at First UMC Elkins**.
More details coming soon!

Conference Certified Lay Ministry Course to be Offered

Kim Matthews, the Annual Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries, is offering a Conference Certified Lay Ministry Course in 2023. The purpose of this course is to provide a guided and shared experience of the Certified Lay Ministry curriculum that is enhanced with training from Conference "experts" in the fields of study in the course. You can learn more about Certified Lay ministry at this link:

https://www.wvumc.org/news/2023/02/conference-certified-lay-ministry-course-to-be-offered-2/

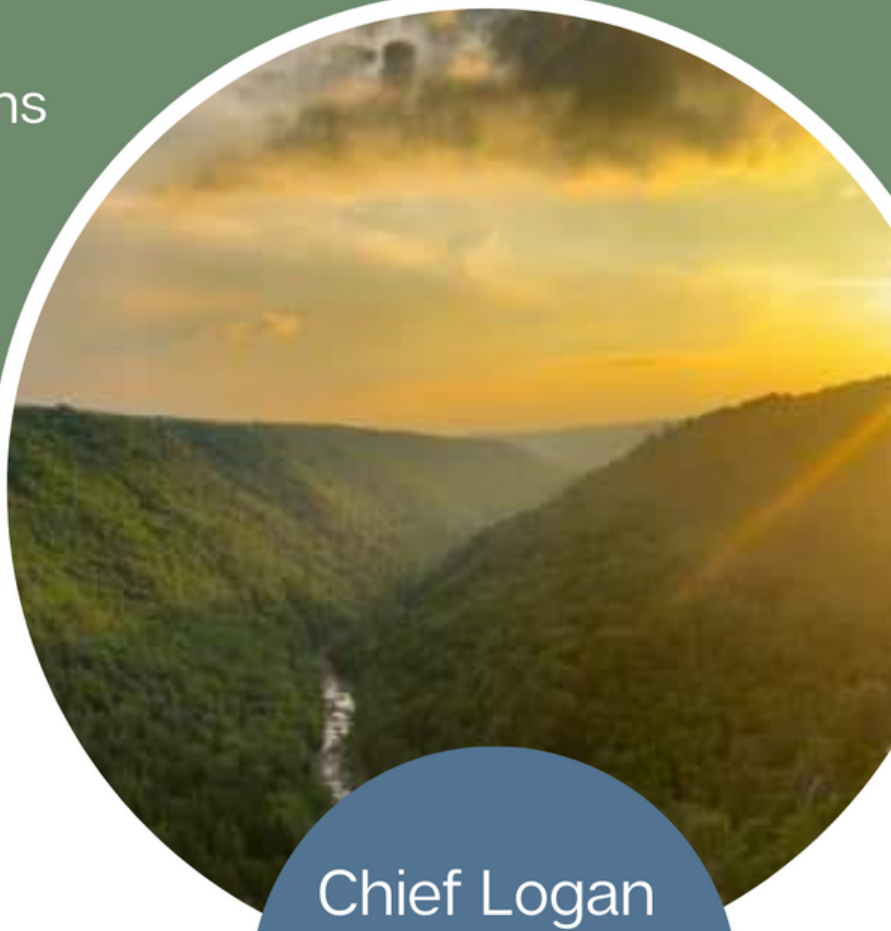
Consider becoming a CLM if you are called to serve in a particular ministry long term.

The course will be offered as an online opportunity. The first, introductory session will be held via Zoom on Monday, March 6 at 7:00 p.m. Please register at this link to receive the zoom invitation. Those who are interested in the course are invited to attend the introductory session without commitment to learn more about the course and its requirements.

Please note: You can learn more about Certified Lay Ministry and Certified Lay Servant ministry as a whole through the Portico course called Lay Servant Ministry: The Why, the What, and The How. To view the video course, you'll need to be registered for Portico classes.

Faith & Community in Appalachia

A gathering of Appalachians envisioning our future in ecumenical community.



Workshops
Group Discussions
Appalachian Speakers
State Gatherings

Chief Logan State Park

March 24-25

Programming: Mary Sanders
clpwvwmd@gmail.com
304-506-3158

Registration: Melissa Holland
mholland@kycouncilofchurches.org
859-333-9926

More information:

Faith and Community in Appalachia Conference

https://wvcc.org/7819-2/

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR UNITED METHODIST STUDENTS!

Applications are now open for scholarships from the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation. Every year, **UMHEF** awards $2+ million to students planning to attend one of the 100+ UM-related colleges, universities, and seminaries across the country. Don't let finances get in the way of achieving your dreams of a quality education! Apply by March 1 at **https://umhef.org/apply**.

GBHEM's Office of Loans and Scholarships provides millions of dollars in scholarships to students every year. Finances should never be a barrier to answering your calling in life. GBHEM is here to help as you follow the educational path that's right for you. Application deadline is March 30th.
Learn more here: **https://www.gbhem.org/scholarships/scholarships/**

The United Methodist District Scholarship at **West Virginia Wesleyan College** is available for the 2023-2024 school year. If awarded, the student will receive $2000 total for the 2023-2024 academic year ($1,000 for Fall semester and $1,000 for Spring semester). Seven United Methodist District Scholarships are funded by the United Methodist Foundation and will be awarded to represent the seven new districts of the WV United Methodist Conference. Application deadline is May 1st. For an application, go here: **http://www.monvalleyumc.org/um-scholarships.html**

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR HUNGER GRANTS AND VIRGINIA HIGGINS GRANTS

Hunger grants are awarded each year and support food pantries and other agencies that help the hungry in our society. Funds may be used to buy food and food-related items (i.e. nutrition education, storage, hunger program development). Funds do not cover administrative costs, salaries, clothing closets, or utility payments for clients.

Virginia Higgins grant funds are designed to encourage United Methodist involvement in Health and Welfare Ministries, especially in the areas of child care, aging, health care, and people with handicapping conditions. Grants are also awarded to organizations, institutions, and programs related to the West Virginia Conference and other units of the general United Methodist Church through residential or non-residential ministries, including, but not limited to, domestic violence, health care and homelessness.

Learn More and Find the Applications at: **https://www.wvumc.org/change-the-world/health-and-welfare/grants/**

WV UM FOUNDATION GRANT DEADLINE

The United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia is currently accepting applications for their grant program. Each year The Foundation tithes anticipated revenue to help provide funding for ministry that is reaching out into the world. Grants support outward focused ministries – addressing the needs of the poor, lost, and marginalized – helping Annual Conference ministries to increase their relevancy to the world. If you have an innovative idea for ministry, consider submitting an application.

Applications for the first round of consideration are due by February 28th. To learn more about The Foundation's grant program and to download an application, you can visit their grant webpage at this link:

https://www.umfwv.org/foundation-grants

NEW PLACES • NEW PEOPLE FOR 2023 AND BEYOND

The West Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church is excited to launch this new conference-wide initiative. ***New Places • New People*** is not an event or a program, but rather a way of engaging with our world, our communities, and our neighbors in the places they already are. More than traditional outreach, New Places • New People focuses on creating new discipling communities beyond the walls of our buildings.

Workshops are being scheduled in each of our districts to introduce the New Places • New People initiative. Each workshop will offer opportunities for fellowship and learning about how your congregation can become a mission outpost for whole new ways of creating connections and building community.

The workshops will help you develop ministries that meet people where they are and help them create contextual expressions of church built around authentic friendships, discipleship, and God-size dreams for the world. Here's the schedule for upcoming workshops in other districts. (A date and location for MonValley is in the works)

Little Kanawha: Feb. 25, at Mt. Pleasant UMC, Mineral Wells
Northern: March 4, at Christ UMC, Wheeling
Southern: March 11, at Bland Street UMC, Bluefield
Greenbrier/Wesleyan: May 6, at St. Luke's, Craigsville
Potomac Highlands: May 13th, location TBD

INNOVATION MINI-GRANTS FOR FRESH EXPRESSIONS

The District Lead Team invites you to dream of a project that will exhibit the love of Christ in your community and begin to build relationships with new people. We know doing new things can be intimidating, so we want to walk along with you and offer some seed funds.

We received a grant from the Conference following attendance at a recent Generative Discernment Academy. Those grant funds were matched by a personal donation and the district matched that total. We will offer these grants of up to $200 per church until those funds are exhausted.

Here are the things you need to know:

- The project must be lay-led.
- The project must be seeking to love people with the love of Christ, serve people, and build relationships with new people.
- The event/project must happen in the community – outside the church.
- Funds can be used for supplies, food, admission to an event, or some other creative idea we haven't even imagined. The project must have, as its primary focus, an opportunity for engagement and relationship building.

We hope that this will be a repeating opportunity to engage people and build relationships.

Members of our District Lead Team would be eager to hear your ideas and help you work on a plan: Mary Bane, Bob Cover, Jane Ensminger, Linda Friend, Sam Haught, Todd Hurley, Dusty Merrill, Heather Moore, Stephen Prince, Lawrence Rebelo, David Stilgenbauer, Pam Todd.

The Mini-Grant Application form is included at the end of this newsletter. As always, you can also call the District Office for more information.

The MonValley District's 2023 Mission Assignments are **Tyrand Cooperative Ministries**, **Heart and Hand House – Philippi**, and **Volunteers in Mission.** We have scheduled the following **2 dates as Collection Days** for tangible items for our assigned missions. *Watch for needs lists for these missions coming soon!*

Saturday, April 29th, 10 AM - NOON @ LIFE UMC, Fairmont
Saturday, May 6th, 10 AM - NOON @ First UMC, Elkins

While we won't be having a district-wide C.O.M.E. fundraising event, churches, charges, or parishes are encouraged to host their own fundraisers for our assigned missions. Here are some ideas this month to raise money between now and April:

Walk-a-Thons	Special Offerings	Loose Change Collections	Bake Sales
Bakeless Bake Sales	Silent Auction	Regular Auction	Dinners
Talent Shows	Yard Sales	Golf tournament	

Our committee will be reaching out to pastors for contact persons in each church to share C.O.M.E. information and updates with their congregations. If you have questions or suggestions for our committee, please contact:

Ginny Davidson: pealed@AOL.com Barbara Metcalfe: (304) 366-2107 Patti Connor: (304) 366-0338

VOLUNTEER TO HELP IN SCOTTS RUN'S FOOD PANTRY

You can sign up for an hour or a few to help at Scotts Run! Follow this link to see available days and times to help in the food pantry! Your help is needed so sign up here today:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0948abae28a7fdc70-pantry#/

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE WITH VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

Putting faith into action is an important part of being United Methodist. Your West Virginia Conference Volunteers in Mission are offering the following opportunities for service.

Long term recovery in Florida, February 26-March 11, 2023 will provide long term recovery to those affected by Hurricane Ian. There is room for 5 additional volunteers to participate. Volunteers will assist home owners rebuild after the Fall 2022 storms. The cost for this trip is $500 and includes food, lodging, transportation and work supplies.

The VIM service trip to Alaska is scheduled for July 21-August 5 and includes travel by air, food, work site supplies and a fun activity on the Saturday while in Alaska. The cost for the trip is $2300. There is room for 8 additional volunteers.

https://www.wvumc.org/volunteers-in-mission-service-opportunities-2023/

Barbour County Cooperative Community Ministries

Greetings From Barbour County;

The Barbour County Cooperative Community Ministries met in December to plan our Pancake Fundraiser in February. The fundraiser will be held February 21st at Corley UMC. The menu will be Pancakes and Sausage. The Price will be $7. All proceeds will go to support the youth ministry of the Parish. Meals will be served from 3:30pm until 7pm, so come support us.

We also discussed the fact that each church needs to have a Parish Representative. The importance of our ministry was discussed. We shared information on our Christmas services, enjoyed some cheesecake, and dismissed. Our next meeting will be January 17th at 7pm. We will meet at Jerusalem UMC.

Sam Haught | Coordinator

Taylor County Cooperative Community Ministries

The Taylor County Cooperative Ministries met on Tuesday January 24th at 6:00p in the Fellowship Hall of the Church of the Good Shepherd. Mike Richards opened with devotions on 2 Corinthians 1. - How can we make changes the world needs? God can do that through us. We have Hope and Faith.
The meeting began with refreshments which was well received by all in attendance. Minutes were read and approved. Judy Messenger attached a note to the minutes that were emailed to members that she would no longer be serving as the Secretary of the Cooperative Ministries. Treasurer's report was read and approved. The Treasurer reminds all churches that dues ($25) for the year 2023 are due now.

Marj Bryan gave the list of Lenten services and speakers as follows:
The first three services will be on Sundays at 6p at Church of the Good Shepherd
February 26 - Mike Nestor
March 5 - David Arnold
March 12 - Carolyn Bolyard
The last three services will be on Sundays at 6p at Flemington UMC
March 19 - Pam Gallaher
March 26 - David Arnold
April 2 - Gene King

The Lenten series will begin with a Community-wide Ash Wednesday service at 6p on Wednesday February 22 at Church of the Good Shepherd.
Other business discussed - Blessing Box door in Fetterman was fixed and the school bus has been stopping and letting the students off at the box so they can get a snack and then walk home.
Volunteers are needed to deliver the food backpacks to the schools (Anna Jarvis, Taylor County Middle School, Little Feet (Blueville) and Grafton High School). 181 bags are packed for all schools on Thursdays at 9a. If interested please call Jerry Miller at 304-974-1671.
Nominations for new officers was addressed. Sherri Friend volunteered for the Vice Chairperson position. Berlyn Bryan moved the nomination and it was voted and carried.
The position of Secretary was not filled. Please be in prayer for someone to step forward at the February meeting.
After much discussion Judy Stewart made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Next meeting will be February 28 at Fetterman UMC at 6p.
February 10 - Fetterman UMC feed at the Mission.

Judy Flynn | Coordinator

MonValley District Churches Conference Fair Share Update

Through January 2023

Churches that paid 100%:

Hopewell, Knottsville, Macedonia, Miracle Run, Westside, Winfield

Churches that are ahead:

Barrackville, Carolina, Colfax, Corley, Cross Roads, Eldora, Good Shepherd, Harner Chapel, Highland Park (Morgantown), Kasson, Monumental, Mt. Pleasant (Morgantown), Pine Bluff, Trinity (Grafton), Wadestown, Woodland

Churches that on track (8.33%):

Asbury, Bee Gum, Berea, Bethel (Fairview), Burns Chapel, East High, Fetterman, First UMC Elkins, Janes Memorial, Jerusalem, Meadowdale H & H Chapel, Mt. Vernon, New Hope Valley, Otterbein (Lumberport), Queens Chapel, Rymer, Spruce Street, St. Johns, Suncrest, Trinity (Fairmont), Wana, Wayside

Mission Minute – An Apportionment Celebration

This is a special celebration that has a MonValley connection. Rev. Claudine Leary who lived in Fairmont and attended Faith UMC and began her candidacy for ministry studies with our DCOM is an Africa University graduate. Claudine is a United Methodist elder in the West Ohio Conference and is currently the Director of Development for the Methodist Theological School in Ohio.

The West Virginia Conference received appreciation from Andra Stevens, Director of Communications at Africa University, on behalf of the students, faculty, administrators, support staff, trustees, and alumni.

"It is truly a blessing that West Virginia United Methodists continue to journey alongside this ministry. Thank you for your prayers and gifts that show great love and faithfulness."

Students know that their "school of dreams in the valley of hope" is a reality because of the legacy-making boldness of individuals and congregations in the West Virginia Conference and across The United Methodist Church. Local churches have graciously shared their experience of God's goodness through strong annual support for the Africa University Fund (AUF) for 30 years and given Africa University students access to a life-changing higher education experience.

The West Virginia Conference joins in ministry with Africa University through our faithful apportionment giving.
To read more about the ministries of Africa University, please go to https://aunews.africau.edu/.

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 2023 District Fair Share:

Asbury, Bailey Memorial, Barrackville, Bee Gum, Berea, Bethel (Junior), Bethel (South Fairview), Corley, Downs, East High Street, Elk City, Fetterman, Flemington, Gypsy, Harner Chapel, Heaston, Highland Park (Elkins), Highland Park (Morgantown), Hopewell (Catawba), Janes Memorial, Johnson Chapel, Kasson, Kingmont, Knottsville, Lamberts Run, Macedonia, Mansfield, Miracle Run, Monumental, Mt. Pleasant (Harner Chapel), Mt. Pleasant (Knottsville), Mt. Vernon, New Hope Valley, Otterbein (Lumberport), Phillips Chapel, Pine Bluff, Pleasant Valley (Morgantown), Pruntytown, Queen's Chapel, Reger, Sniders Temple, St. Johns, Stringtown, Thornton, Trinity (Grafton), Valley Chapel (Fairmont), Wadestown, Wesley UMC (Morgantown), Westside, Ziesing

MonValley Innovation Grant

These new grants are designed for local churches and cooperative community ministries to pioneer a new fresh expression of ministry that will love, serve and build relationships with new people in their area. Projects that offer repeating opportunities to engage with people are encouraged.

Applications should be sent to the District Office – **3000 Technology Drive, Fairmont, WV 26554** or **monvalleydistrict@wvumc.org**. Please contact the District Office or any member of the District Lead Team with questions.

MonValley Innovation Grant Application

1.Describe the new project.

2.Name the laity leading this project.

3.Describe how this project will share the love of Christ, serve people and/or help build relationships with new people who are not part of your congregation.

4.Where will this happen? These innovative projects should be designed to happen in the community.

5.How will these funds help you engage with new people and begin to build relationships?

6.How might this be a repeating relationship-building opportunity?

Name of person writing request_____

Contact information_____

Church name_____