



A Message from the District Superintendent

A new year always feels hopeful to me – blank calendars and planners speak to me of promise and hope. As we begin this new year, our third year of living with the reality of COVID, I'm mindful that some of our friends and neighbors did not receive the gift of life in 2022, and that many more will struggle with illness as well.



I started the year with a more formal discipline of morning and evening prayer. I'm using a prayer book that I shared with our clergy at Christmastime called 30 Days with Wesley. As I live into this regular guided prayer practice, I'm finding myself in prayer for our pastors, churches and communities in a more intentional way. This is a habit that I want to build upon in the coming year, seeking God's guidance and direction for ministries in the district through this guide. I'd invite you to join me on that journey of listening to God in this way.

As we move through 2022, I hope that you will look for ways to grow in your spiritual and faith life. Our Lay Servant Ministries committee is offering a wide variety of options to expand understanding about many things this year. We are still working on our goal to invite one lay person from every church to experience these courses, in person or online. By the end of the year, that will be 156 new people who have met other United Methodists and learned a little more about a spiritual topic. What course will you consider?

In addition, Portico is our conference learning tool that is free for anyone to use individually, or with a class (if you have an available internet connection). There are enough courses available in the Leadership Development section that you could begin most of your Administrative Council meetings with one of the courses and still have time for your meeting. Courses are being added all the time, so keep checking to see what you might find useful for your work and ministry. You'll find a recommendation for a new course about Conference Fair Share elsewhere in this newsletter.

I pray that this brand-new year out in front of you is filled with purpose and blessing. As the Psalmist says, *Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.* Psalm 34:8. May this be the year that we find our refuge in the Lord.

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.**

The District Office addresses:

**Mailing: PO Box 307
Kingmont, WV 26578**

**Physical: 3000 Technology
Drive, Fairmont, WV
(inside LIFE UMC)**

email:

monvalleydistrict@wvumc.org

MonValley District Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

8:30 AM - Noon;

1 PM - 4:30 PM

Closed Monday, January 17th for the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

During the winter months, please call ahead before you visit the district office.

Special Sundays

- 16 Human Relations Day
- 23 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

January Birthdays

- 3 Cathy Whitlatch
- 4 Kamden Hulley
- 9 Canaan Edin
Rick Baker
- 11 Kay Weber
- 12 Pam Yanero
- 13 Grace Langenstein
Sue Lewis
- 15 Ethan Lamp
Ann Price
- 16 Morgan Fox
- 21 Marguerite Groscup
- 22 Priscilla Daniels
- 24 Jackie Stiles
Donna Allen
- 28 David Stilgenbauer

January Anniversaries

- 6 Jim and Kay Weber
- 7 Peggy and John Petrich
- 23 Grace and John Langenstein

Looking Forward, Planning Ahead

As COVID cases rise in our area, please use care and caution in considering your gatherings for worship and other activities. Our medical system is being stretched beyond capacity to care for the sick and we need to do our part to ensure that we can be part of assisting to care for our friends and neighbors.

JANUARY

- 3-7 DS @ Cabinet
- 9 DCOM Meeting @ 8:30 AM | ZOOM
- 10-13 DS @ Cabinet
- 15 **Bishop's Day in the MonValley District @ 4 PM | LIFE UMC**
- 16 **Bishop's Day in the Wesleyan District @ 3 PM | First UMC Buckhannon**
- 17 **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Conference and District Offices closed**
- 18 **Preaching** Lay Servant 6 wk class begins
- 20 District Clergy Meeting @ 10 AM and 6 PM | ZOOM
- 20 **Spiritual Gifts** Lay Servant 6 wk class begins
- 22 District Lead Team
- 22 Northern District Leadership Training @ 10 AM | ZOOM
- 26 Bishop's Day in the Potomac Highlands District @ 6 PM | St. Paul's (Oakland)
- 27-28 DS @ Cabinet
- 29 CLM Cohort 2
- 31 **STATISTICAL REPORTS DUE IN THE CONFERENCE CENTER**
- 31-Feb. 2 DS @ Cabinet

FEBRUARY

- 1 **Leading Public Prayer** Lay Servant 5 wk course begins
- 1-2 DS @ Cabinet
- 4 PMLS Registration Deadline
- 5 Wesleyan District Leadership Training @ 12:30 PM | Chapel Hill UMC/ZOOM
- 7 **Christianity's Family Tree** Lay Servant 6 wk class begins
- 9-10 DS @ Cabinet
- 12 DCOM Interviews
- 14 **Valentine's Day**
- 16-17 Missions Workshop Follow-up with Reggie McNeal
- 19 District Lead Team
- 23-24 DS @ Cabinet
- 25 PMLS begins
- 26 CLM Cohort 2
- 28-Mar. 1 DS @ Cabinet

Let Us Pray...

- Jackie Pauley
- Harry "Buzzy" and Martha Holbert - death of his brother, Arthur Holbert
- June Price (Alan's mother)
- Matt Hatfield,
Sam Haught's son-in-law

- Lee Haught
- Joyce Hawkins Phillips
- Karen Brown
- Cindy Boggs
- Nancy Merrifield

- Janice Smith
- Pam Todd
- Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball,
DS Amy Shanholtzer,
and all Conference Staff
all Churches, Missions,
and Ministries in the
District and Conference



BISHOP'S DAY IN THE MONVALLEY DISTRICT

We're excited to welcome Bishop Steiner Ball to our District on Saturday, January 15, 2022 at 4:00 pm. Laity and clergy are invited to attend. Please mark your calendar and plan to come to LIFE UMC, 3000 Technology Drive, Fairmont, WV at 4:00pm.

You are welcome to attend one of the Bishop's visits in the other districts:

Sunday, January 16th	3 PM	FUMC, Buckhannon (Wesleyan District)
Wednesday, January 26	6 PM	St. Paul's UMC, Oakland (Potomac Highlands District)
Saturday, January 29	12 PM	Forrest Burdette UMC, Hurricane (Midland South/Western District)
	4 PM	Kenova UMC (Midland South/Western District)
Sunday, January 30	3 PM	Mt. Pleasant UMC, Mineral Wells (Little Kanawha District)
Sunday February 6	4 PM	New Martinsville UMC (Northern District)
Saturday, February 26	3 PM	UM Temple, Beckley (Southern District)

DISTRICT CLERGY MEETING VIA ZOOM THURSDAY, JANUARY 20TH AT 10 AM AND 6 PM

Pastors, start the new year off right – by sharing time management tips and tricks with one another. Rev. Michael Estep will lead us in this conversation. Please bring your best practices so that we can share them together! Let's get 2022 started off on the right foot.

END OF YEAR REPORTS REMINDER

Statistical Reports

Due date: must be **received** by **Monday, January 31st**

How and where to submit: on-line, or by mail, or fax to the **Conference Center** (visit <https://www.wvumc.org/stats/> for more information). If mailing, please allow PLENTY of time for delivery.

Fund Balance Reports and Membership Audit Reports

Due Date: **Monday, January 31st**

How and where to submit: Mail, email, fax, or drop off to the District Office. If dropping off, please call ahead before you make the trip to make sure we are there.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

You are invited to participate in these church leadership trainings via zoom in our neighboring districts:

Saturday, January 22 - Northern District via Zoom

Staff Parish Relations Committee by Rev. Neil Leftwich, D. S. - **10AM**

Trustees by Rev. Dr. Randy Flanagan - **10AM**

Treasurer / Finance by Jamion Wolford, Conference Treasurer - **10AM**

How to Lead Effective Church Meetings by Rev. Deborah Coble - **11AM**

Please contact Peggy Klages in the Northern District office (pkklages@wvumc.org) to register and receive the zoom link.

Saturday, February 5 - Wesleyan District

12:30 PM - 4 PM via ZOOM and in person at Chapel Hill UMC (masks will be required)

12:30 PM Apportionments - Jamion Wolford, Conference Treasurer

1:00 PM Breakout sessions:

Administrative/Church Council

Financial Team/Treasurers

SPRC/PPR

Trustees

A registration form can be found on our website. For additional information, please contact the Wesleyan District Office: 304-472-1095 or Jim Minutelli: 304-629-9398 or minutellij@gmail.com



Want to learn more about our Fair Share Ministry Support –
and all the great ministry that our
apportionments help happen?

Check out the new course on Portico, our online learning platform. The course is called “Fair Share Ministry Support”. You’ll hear from our Conference Treasurer, Jamion Wolford, as he gives insight on how all of our efforts create ministry opportunities that impact lives in our Conference and around the world. Sign up for a Portico account today by going to <https://www.wvumc.org/portico/>

CHRISTMAS GIFT THANK YOU

As we begin this new year, I want to thank the pastors of the District for their generous Christmas gift. I was humbled and overwhelmed by the love offering that I received. I appreciate you and your kindness more than you will know. May you be overwhelmed with God’s presence and blessing in your life in this new year.

With gratitude – *Amy*

UPCOMING LAY SERVANT COURSES

Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts (6 week advanced class)

taught by Pam Todd and Mary Bane on Thursdays, January 20 - February 24, 6:30 - 8:30 PM; via ZOOM

Do you know what your spiritual gifts are and how to use them for the upbuilding of the church? This class will help you explore the ways to lead and help others discover their gifts. Class size is limited to 12 students. Registration deadline extended.

Leading Public Prayer (5 week advanced class)

taught by Rev. Sam Haught on Tuesdays, February 1 - March 8, 6:30 - 8:30 PM; via ZOOM and in person at Crim Memorial UMC, Philippi (No class on March 1st)

Praying in public can be daunting, but prayer is something one learns. This course on praying in public will help the participant grow in confidence and skill in public prayer and enrich their personal prayer life. Class size is limited to 12 students. Registration deadline extended.

Christianity's Family Tree (6 week advanced class)

taught by Rev. Cindy Boggs on Mondays, February 7 - March 14, 6:30 - 8:30 PM; via ZOOM and in person at First UMC Shinnston

This is a 6 week course that will enhance your knowledge of other denominations through out America and we will have a week to talk about World Religions also. Students ask...what do other denominations believe? Here is our opportunity to learn just what we always wanted to know. The traditions we will examine are Orthodoxy, Catholicism, Lutheranism, Presbyterianism, Anglicanism, Baptists, Pentecostalism, and Methodism.

To register for any of these classes, please visit our website:

<http://www.monvalleyumc.org/lay-servant-ministries>

You can register on-line or download a registration form.

If you need assistance, please call the district office: 304-366-6811

Watch your newsletter for more information on these upcoming Lay Servant courses:

5 Marks of a Methodist - Mar 28 - Apr 18 - 6:30-8:30 pm - Cindy Boggs

Any needed Lay Servant Class - May 2 - 30 - 6:30-8:30 pm - Cindy Boggs

Polity - Jun 6 - Jul 11 - 6:30-8:30 p.m. - Cindy Boggs

SPRING and FALL LAY ACADEMY - in person - April 2 and October 1

Worshiping w/UM (#1) - Judy Farley - TBA

The Worship Workbook (#2) - Cindy Boggs - TBA

Living our Beliefs as UM - Tim Edin - TBA

Lay Servants as Christian Transformational Leaders - Larry Buckland - TBA

Questions? Please contact our MonValley District Lay Servant Coordinator,
Mary Bane, at 304-692-0003 or crazymcb1@gmail.com

CELEBRATION OF MISSION EVENT UPDATE

from the West Virginia Conference COME Coordinator, Rev. Clifford Shell

I am writing to give you an update regarding your support for the 2021 Celebration of Mission Event (COME), which provides funding and tangible goods for the 7 WV Conference Mission Projects, the New Vision Depot, Volunteers in Mission, and the Church and Community Ministry at Clarksburg. Thanks to the generosity of our churches, groups and individuals, cash contributions sent to the Conference Treasurer for the support of COME through November 11 total \$99,796.50. This is a splendid response, considering that the COVID Pandemic prevented us from having any specific Celebration of Mission Events in any district and most churches did not have in-person services during the winter and spring months, when most funds for COME are received. Thank you for your response.

On behalf of our Conference Mission Ministries, thank you for your support of this worthy and vital ministry.

Grace and peace to you,

Cliff Schell

HEART AND HAND HOUSE, INC.

Happy New Year from all of us at Heart and Hand House! With 2021 now behind us, we look forward to a new year and the path that God will lead us on as we continue serving those in our community who are in need. To kick off the year, we invite you to be part of the Souper Bowl of Caring's "Tackle Hunger Challenge." This year's Souper Bowl of Caring takes place on Sunday, February 13, and is one way to help replenish our food pantry supplies after the holidays. Churches, businesses, and individuals are encouraged to collect money or canned goods on or before Super Bowl Sunday and then donate them to Heart and Hand's food pantry. If your group would like to be "official" participants in this national program, you can register at www.tacklehunger.org, where there are also links to print and social media resources for the event. Please also remember that we have Neighborhood Investment Program (NIP) tax credits available for those who donate \$500 or more to our Home Repair and Construction Program. The credits are used to offset WV state tax liability for individuals or businesses, and we must distribute them by March 15. Please contact us if you are interested or need more information.

Brenda Hunt | Executive Director

MonValley District Churches Conference Fair Share Update

2021 FINAL REPORT

Thank you for your faithfulness!

CHURCHES THAT PAID 100%:

Asbury, Astor, Bailey Memorial, Ballah Chapel, Barrackville, Bee Gum, Bethel (Fairview), Bethel (Junior), Birds Creek, Blackshere, Blacksville, Boothsville, Bruceton Mills, Burns Chapel, Calvary, Carolina, Cassville, Catawba, Central Chapel, Central, Chestnut Ridge, Corley, Cross Roads, Denver, Downs, East High Street, Eden, Eldora, Esler Chapel, Evansville, Fairview (Catawba), Fairview (Morgantown), Fellowship, Fetterman, First UMC Shinnston, Flemington, Good Shepherd, Granville, Harner Chapel, Haymond, Highland Park, Hopewell (Bruceton), Hopewell (Catawba), Howesville, Janes Memorial, Jerusalem, Joetown, Jones, Jones Run, Kanes Creek, Kasson, Kingmont, Knottsville, Lamberts Run, Lumberport, Mansfield, Mariah's Chapel, McCurdysville, Meadowdale H & H Chapel, Miracle Run, Monumental, Mt. Israel, Mt. Moriah, Mt. Pleasant (Harner Chapel), Mt. Pleasant (Knottsville), Mt. Tabor, Mt. Union, Mt. Vernon (Kanes Creek), Mt. Vernon (Mansfield), Mt. View, Mt. Zion (Catawba), Mt. Zion (Evansville), New Hope Valley, Newburg, Oak Forest, Olive, Otterbein, Peora, Philippi, Pine Bluff, Pisgah (Bruceton), Pisgah (Meadowdale), Pleasant Valley, Reedsville, Riverside, Rivesville, Rymer, Sabra, Shays Chapel, Simpson Evans, Sinclair, Sniders Temple, Spruce Street, St. Johns, Stringtown, Sugar Creek, Sugar Valley, Teverbaugh, Trinity (Fairmont), Trinity (Grafton), Valley Chapel (Wadestown), Wadestown, Wallace, Wana, Wesley Chapel (Knottsville), Wesley (Fairview), Wesley (Morgantown), West Farmington, Westover, Westside, Winfield, Ziesing

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 PAID 100% OF THEIR 2021 DISTRICT FAIR SHARE:

Arnettsville, Asbury, Astor, Bailey Memorial, Ballah Chapel, Barrackville, Bee Gum, Benton's Ferry, Berea, Bethel (Belington), Bethel (South Fairview), Bethlehem, Birds Creek, Blackshere, Blacksville, Blueville, Boothsville, Brookhaven, Bruceton Mills, Buckeye, Burns Chapel, Calvary, Camp Chapel, Carolina, Cassville, Catawba, Centenary, Central, Central Chapel, Cheat Lake, Chestnut Ridge, Colfax, Community, Corley, Crim Memorial, Cross Roads, Denver, Downs, East High Street, Eden, Eldora, Elk City, Esler Chapel, Evansville, Fairview (Catawba), Fairview (Morgantown), Fellowship, Fetterman, First Shinnston, First Mannington, Flemington, Fort Martin, Gateway, Good Shepherd, Granville, Gypsy, Harner Chapel, Haymond, Highland Avenue, Highland Park, Highlawns, Hopewell (Bruceton), Hopewell (Catawba), Howesville, Janes Memorial, Jerusalem, Joetown, Johnson Chapel, Jones, Jones Run, Kanes Creek, Kasson, Kingmont, Knottsville, Lamberts Run, Laurel Point, Levels, LIFE, Lumberport, Lynch Chapel, Mansfield, Mariah's Chapel, Masontown, McCurdysville, Meadowdale H & H Chapel, Miracle Run, Monumental, Mt. Israel, Mt. Moriah, Mt. Morris, Mt. Pleasant (Harner Chapel), Mt. Pleasant (Knottsville), Mt. Tabor, Mt. Union, Mt. Vernon (Kanes Creek), Mt. Vernon (Mansfield), Mt. View, Mt. Zion (Evansville), Mt. Zion (Preston Co.), Nestorville, Newburg, New Hope Valley, Oak Forest, Olive, Otterbein, Peora, Philippi, Pine Bluff, Pisgah (Bruceton), Pisgah (Meadowdale), Pleasant Valley, Pruntytown, Reedsville, Riverside, Rivesville, Rymer, Sabra, Shays Chapel, Sinclair, Spruce Street, St. Johns, Stringtown, Sturgiss Chapel, Sugar Creek, Sugar Valley, Talbott, Teverbaugh, Thornton, Trinity (Fairmont), Trinity (Grafton), Tunnelton, Tyrone, Valley Chapel (Fairmont), Valley Chapel (Wadestown), Wadestown, Wallace, Wana, Wesley Chapel (Knottsville), Wesley Chapel (Rivesville), Wesley (Fairview), Wesley UMC (Morgantown), West Farmington, Westover, Westside, Winfield, Woodland, Ziesing