



A Message from the District Superintendent

What does it mean to love as Christ loves genuinely? Lent gives us some time to consider just that. In reading the gospels, we find the Son of God who regularly eats with sinners and invites tax collectors (notorious cheats and extortionists) into his inner circle. He ignores his parents when they are ready to leave the Temple during a busy holiday, and the next time we see his behavior at the Temple, he's turning over the tables of the money changers.



Before eating his last meal with his disciples, his final act is to take the role of a servant and wash their feet. Jesus showed his disciples how to live and how to serve others. He showed his disciples how to see others as gifted by God and beloved.

In these final weeks of Lent, we often have time set apart to reflect and pray. This year, I am praying about the one who takes on the role of a servant to serve the people that Jesus loves. I am praying about what that means for me as a disciple of Jesus Christ and wondering how I can see others more clearly.

Learning to see with the eyes of Christ is learning to see the lovely, gifted humans that God places on our pathway each day. What gifts has God given them for the world? And how can I see that and celebrate that with them? Who might I discover in trying to see the world with new eyes?

What are you learning about Christ during this Holy Season? How are you growing in Christ and learning to serve the disciples of Jesus Christ? I would love to hear how God is expanding your vision and helping you see new children of God.

May this Lenten season expand your vision to see and dream of the possibilities that God has all around you, to see the children of God.

Rev. Amy Shankoltzer
ashankoltzer@wvumc.org

In This Issue:

- 2 District Calendar
Special Days
Birthdays/Anniversaries
Prayer Concerns
- 3 **Save the Date:**
Spring Lay Academy
United Women in Faith Spiritual
Growth Retreat
Annual Conference
District UM Men Meetings
- 4 WV General Conference Delegation
Prayer Gathering Dates & Locations
- 5 Cooperative Community Ministry
News: Taylor County
- 6 Cooperative Community Ministry
News: Morgantown East/Urban
Scott's Run News
C.O.M.E. Update
- 7 Conference and District Fair Share
- 8-9 Spring Lay Servant Academy
Registration Form
- 10-12 United Women in Faith Spiritual
Growth Retreat Registration Form

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

- 3 Disability Awareness Sunday (Offering)
- 10 UMCOR Sunday (Offering)

Birthdays

- 9 Rodney Heckert
- 10 Christina Rebelo
- 11 Bradley Bennett
Alexia Burge
- 18 Michael Waide
Brenna Dotson
- 21 Reva Halloran
- 22 Steve Rhodes
- 23 Jack Flint, Sr.
- 28 Martin Berisford
- 30 Lisa Godwin
- 31 Jerry Lockett
Linda Brosky

Anniversaries

- 18 Corey and Alayna Gero
- 21 Mike and Sarah Estep

Looking Forward, Planning Ahead

MARCH

- 9-10 DS @ Cabinet
- 10 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 16 District Lead Team
Delegation Prayer Gathering | New Martinsville UMC | 10:00 AM
- 17 Delegation Prayer Gathering | Bridgeport UMC | 3:00 PM
- 18-20 DS @ Cabinet
- 23 Delegation Prayer Gathering | UM Temple, Beckley | 10:00 AM
Delegation Prayer Gathering | Christ UMC, Charleston | 2:00 PM
- 29 **Good Friday | Conference and District Offices Closed**
- 31 **Easter**

APRIL

- 2 Leaving Well | Zoom Seminar | 7:00 PM
- 6 Leaving Well | Zoom Seminar | 10:00 AM
District Lead Team
- 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

- 8-9 DS @ Cabinet
- 11 District Lead Team
- 12 Mother's Day
- 13-19 Pre-Conference Workshops | More information to come!
- 20-22 DS @ Cabinet
- 27 **Memorial Day | Conference and District Offices Closed**

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	
Brian and Susan Seders in the death of Brian's mother, Pat Seders.		

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

Spring Lay Academy

Saturday, April 13th | 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM | LIFE UMC, Fairmont

Course Offerings - Spring 2024:

Leadership 101 (Basic)
 For the Common Good (Spiritual Gifts)
 Leading Public Prayer
 Living Out United Methodist Beliefs (Heritage)

The deadline to register is Friday, March 22, 2024. You can find the registration form here: <http://www.monvalleyumc.org/lay-servant-ministries.html> or at the end of this newsletter.

United Women in Faith Spiritual Growth Retreat

April 12th-13th | Cedar Lakes Conference Center, Ripley

You may email your workshop form to Melissa Corbett, umflissann@yahoo.com, or mail the form to 18 Kelley Avenue, Logan, WV 25601. **The deadline to register is April 1, 2024.**

You can find the registration form here: <http://www.monvalleyumc.org/united-women-in-faith.html> or at the end of this newsletter. For more information on other upcoming events check out their facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/umwwwv/>

Annual Conference

June 6th-9th | West Virginia Wesleyan College

Online registration is now open - visit <https://www.wvumc.org/2024-annual-conference-resources/> to register!

DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST MEN MEETINGS

Executive Committee - March 14, 2024 Cracker Barrel, Morgantown, WV

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.

West Virginia Conference Delegation The United Methodist Church General Conference



As The United Methodist Church approaches our General Conference meeting, scheduled for April 23 - May 3, the West Virginia delegates extend a warm invitation for you to join us in prayer and worship. We have organized five regional gatherings across the conference, offering a space for learning, worship, prayer, and communion, followed by informal conversations and refreshments.

Our delegation, both in-person and through Zoom meetings, regularly comes together to support one another in preparation for this important work. We have engaged in times of prayer and scripture study as a team. In one gathering, we were guided in conversation by Sue Nilson Kibbey as we sought a breakthrough prayer focus for our delegation. We plan to share this guiding prayer during the regional gatherings and invite you to join us, praying to support our endeavors in the days and weeks ahead. Your presence, whether in person or in spirit, is greatly valued as we seek God's guidance and strength for the responsibilities before us.

WV Conference 2020 General Conference delegates in order of election: Clergy - Amy Shanholtzer, Jeffrey Taylor and Lauren Godwin. Laity - Judi Kenaston, Richard Shaffer, Rachel Fulton. Alternates and Jurisdictional Conference delegates: Clergy - Michael Estep, Joe Hill, Joe Kenaston. Laity - Kristi Wilkerson, Judy Raines and Kim Matthews.

Prayer Gathering Locations and Dates:

March 16 – New Martinsville UMC, 10 Howard Jeffers Drive, New Martinsville – 10:00 am

Sunday, March 17 – Bridgeport UMC, 215 Worthington Dr, Bridgeport, WV – 3:00 pm

Saturday, March 23 – UM Temple, 201 Templeview Dr, Beckley - 10:00 am

Saturday March 23 - Christ Church United Methodist, 1221 Quarrier St, Charleston - 2:00 pm

TAYLOR COUNTY COOPERATIVE COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

Taylor County Cooperative Community Ministries met on Tuesday, February 27, 2024. Rev. Dr. Michael Richards gave the devotions using Genesis 28:10-11. He opened the meeting in prayer. Minutes and Treasurer's reports were read and approved.

The C.O.M.E. Walk was set for Sunday, April 21 at 2:00 PM at Tygart Lake site #3. \$1,000 was moved, seconded, and carried to donate from the Ministries treasury.

Backpack feeding programs are doing well with grants received this year. Still in need of volunteers to deliver on Thursdays. 178 are being fed from AJES, TCMS, and GHS served by Grafton proper churches. Flemington is averaging 40-50 being fed by Flemington Charge and Cornerstone Ministries have been feeding 58 at West Taylor Elementary.

School supplies for the totes were discussed. Blueville, Haymond, Trinity Charge are responsible for Taylor County Middle School; Flemington Charge is the responsibility of Flemington Elementary; Cornerstone is responsible for West Taylor Elementary School and Knottsville Charge is responsible for Anna Jarvis Elementary; Church of the Good Shepherd is responsible for the High School. Linda Adlington and Linda McBee got specifics for the totes needs from teachers.

Memorial Service will be held by the Memorial Day Committee on Sunday, May 26 at 10:00 AM at the Mother's Day Shrine.

New Business -

Application for Memorial Day Parade needed to be completed.

Bring ideas for VBS to the next meeting.

Nominations for Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer were opened due to the fact that Helen Snyder and Sharon Fawcett declined their nominations from the January meeting. No other names were put on the ballot. The body was asked to prayerfully see whether God is leading them to becoming part of the officers. At the next meeting, an interim Chair will be designated to lead the meeting.

Feeding at the Bread of Life Mission: March 8 | Pruntytown

April 12 | Trinity

Foster Closet:

March | Pruntytown

April | Flemington

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 26 @ Thornton UMC; the April 23 meeting will be at Blueville

The meeting adjourned and closed in prayer for the refreshments by Rev. Dr. Michael Richards.

Pastor Judy Flynn
Parish Coordinator

MORGANTOWN EAST/URBAN COOPERATIVE COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

The Morgantown East and Urban Cooperative Community Ministries plan to wrap up the C.O.M.E. collections by holding a **bucket race**. We hope that everyone will begin collecting all the necessary elements for flood buckets - including the 5-gallon buckets - so teams can race to assemble them at **Spruce Street UMC on April 28 at 2:00 PM**. The completed buckets and everything leftover will go to New Vision Depot.

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.

SCOTT'S RUN NEWS

Scott's Run Settlement House is collecting Easter baskets **until March 15th**. They will be giving them out to children up to age 17 so they can take a variety of baskets! Some ideas of things to include are candy, books, small toys, activities, games, and outdoor items.

They are also currently in need of diapers sizes 6-7 and pull-ups and wipes.

Questions? Contact Devon McDaniel, Assistant Director 304-599-5020 or dmcdaniel@srsh.org

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.

MonValley District Churches Conference Fair Share Update

Through February 2024

CHURCHES THAT PAID 100%:

Knottsville, Macedonia, Peora Wadestown

CHURCHES THAT ARE AHEAD:

Barrackville, Carolina, Colfax, Corley, Downs, Eldora, Good Shepherd, Kanes Creek, Levels, Lumberport, Mariahs Chapel, Monumental, Mt. Pleasant, Olive, Rivesville, Stringtown, Wana, Westover

CHURCHES THAT ARE ON TRACK (16.67%):

Asbury, Bee Gum, Central, East High, Fetterman, First Elkins, Heaston, Jerusalem, Meadowdale H & H Chapel, Mt. Vernon (Barbour Co.), Otterbein (Shinnston), Spruce Street, St. Johns, Wayside, Wesley Chapel (Taylor Co.)

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, 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, 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, Trinity (Grafton), Valley Chapel, Wadestown, Wesley Chapel (Taylor Co.), Wesley (Morgantown), Westside, West Farmington, Ziesing.

REGISTRATION:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ H or C

Email: _____

LOCAL CHURCH: _____

Pastor: _____

Dietary Restrictions: _____

COURSE OFFERINGS:

_____ Leadership 101 (Basic)

Advanced Courses:

_____ For the Common Good (Spiritual Gifts)

_____ Leading Public Prayer

_____ Living Our United Methodist Beliefs (Heritage)

Coursework due to the instructor by April 5th
unless otherwise noted on the syllabus.

Fee per course: None - order your own book
(see course offerings for titles and ISBN's).

Return by March 22nd to:

MonValley District Office
3000 Technology Drive
Fairmont, WV 26554

Fax: 304-333-0224

Email: sestep@wvumc.org



**MONVALLEY DISTRICT
LAY SERVANT ACADEMY**

April 13, 2024

8:00 to 4:30 p.m.

LIFE UMC

3000 Technology Drive, Fairmont

(Lunch will be provided)

DEADLINE TO REGISTER March 22, 2024

**Classes will follow the host church's guidelines for
COVID-19 safety protocols.**

**Rev. Amy Shanholzer
District Superintendent**

MonValley District Office
Phone: 304-366-6811
monvalleydistrict@wvumc.org

Mary Bane

Lay Servant Ministries Director

Phone: 304-692-0003;
crazyinwb1@gmail.com

Course Offerings — Spring 2024

1. **LEADERSHIP 101 (BASIC)** - Focuses on the primary aspects of lay servant ministry: leading, caring, communicating, and resources available. Taught by Pastor Pam Todd
Text: *Lay Servant Ministries, Participant's Book* by Sandy Ziegler
Jackson and Brian Jackson. ISBN #: 9780881776263

2. **FOR THE COMMON GOOD (Spiritual Gifts)** – This course offers a scriptural understanding of spiritual gifts as always given “for the common good.” By helping participants identify and link their gifts, abilities, and sense of calling, laity will learn the powerful connection between spiritual gifts and vocational discernment in the context of the mission of their local church. They will also learn how to make spiritual gifts discernment a part of their congregation’s culture and commitment to equip mission-focused leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Taught by Rosemary Snodgrass, Certified Lay Minister
Text: *For the Common Good: Discovering and Using Your Spiritual Gifts* by Christine Harman. ISBN #: 9780881779585

3. **LEADING PUBLIC PRAYER** - Prayer is something we learn; it is something that can be taught. For many, however, the only teaching about prayer they ever receive is modeled in Sunday worship. This course may challenge some of your assumptions, test some of your preconceived ideas, stretch your thinking, and enrich your prayer life. It will, at the very least, present you with an opportunity to grow in the discipline of leading public prayer. Taught by Pastor Sam Haught
Text: *Let the Whole Church Say Amen* by Laurence Hull Stookey.
ISBN #: 9780687090778

4. **LIVING OUR UNITED METHODIST BELIEFS (Heritage)** – This course will explore the special gifts of theology, witness, and organization that The United Methodist Church brings to the church universal, how we got where we are today, and how our distinctive emphases are still needed in the 21st-century church. Taught by Rev. John Brosky
Text: *Living Our Beliefs: The United Methodist Way* by Kenneth L. Carder. ISBN #: 9780881775716

Registration Deadline - Friday, March 22, 2024

A course syllabus will be emailed or mailed upon registration.

Coursework is due to your instructor by April 6th unless otherwise noted on the syllabus.

Questions should be directed to:

Mary Bane 304-692-0003; crazymcb1@gmail.com

Classes will follow the host church's guidelines for COVID-19 safety protocols.

There is no charge for the class but you will need to order your book from Amazon, Cokesbury, or the Upper Room – many are available in kindle or e-book format. PLEASE ALLOW PLENTY OF TIME FOR DELIVERY. See class description for book title and ISBN.

Requirements

1. *Anyone can take any course for self-improvement/enrichment without any prerequisites or expectations of certification.*
2. *Class attendance is required.*
3. *Any person, a junior in high school or older, is eligible to attend. With a specific recommendation by their pastor, a younger person may be permitted to attend.*

ALL LAITY ARE WELCOME

Anyone can attend Lay Academy. The courses presented will enrich your spiritual life and help you better serve your church. The MonValley District Lay Servant Academy provides opportunities for all lay persons to nurture and enlarge their religious knowledge within a fellowship of Christian friends.

Courses are also provided for those seeking to be Certified Lay Servants. The courses help the laity to complement the clergy, not replace them. The school provides only the foundation for Lay Servants and it is recognized that additional training is needed.

TYPES OF LAY SERVANTS

The United Methodist Church recognizes two types of Lay Servants—*Certified Lay Servants* and *Certified Lay Speakers*. Laity must make application and have approval of their Pastor and/or the Administrative Council of their church. Certified Lay Servants must complete the Basic Course and one advanced course. To become a Certified Lay Speaker, participants must complete the course of study outlined in the Book of Discipline, complete the interview process, be recommended by the LSM interview team and approved at District Annual Conference. Both types of lay servants must submit annual reports to their charge conference and take a refresher course every three years to maintain their status.

For further information see Discipleship Ministries website www.umdiscipleship.org. For additional course offerings, see the website www.BeADisciple.com.

MonValley District Lay Servant Ministries is developing a plan to meet the needs of our laity. We plan several enrichment/educational opportunities throughout the year. Watch for opportunities through mailings (snail and email) as well as through your local church and the district website <http://www.monvalleyumc.org> and newsletter. Check the conference calendar at <https://www.wvumc.org/calendar/> for courses being offered by other districts, often available online.



WEST VIRGINIA CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
64th Spiritual Growth Retreat Registration
April 12 and 13 , 2024
God Loves You
Cedar Lakes Conference Center
Ripley, West Virginia

Contact Information (Please print)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

*Email _____

** Please provide an email address which will be used only to confirm registration.*

District (Check one)

_____ Greenbrier-Wesleyan

_____ Little Kanawha

_____ Midland South-Western

_____ Mon Valley

_____ Northern

_____ Potomac Highlands

_____ Southern

_____ Other

Registration Fee: \$50 (to be paid by all attendees)

Masks Are Optional

Emergency Contact:

Name _____ Relationship _____

Phone(s) _____

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION April 1, 2024

Complete Page and 2 of this form and return along with your check payable to UWF to:

Sue Dostal
814 N Norwood Road
Huntington, WV 25705
304-360-7670

Confirmation letters will be sent via email for those with an email address.

1. Complete this section ONLY if you will be staying on campus

LODGING

All housing will be issued on a first come/first serve basis. Registrations will not be taken by phone or email. All housing listed is located on Cedar lakes Property. **The cost quoted below for each lodging facility includes the registration fee of \$50 (which is non-refundable, lodging, and two meals. DO NOT include an additional \$50 in the total below!**

_____ Dorm Lodging-\$84.00
Bring your own pillow and blanket
Sheets and towels
No TV or Phone

_____ Main Lodge
2 Beds Per Room
\$151.00-one per room
\$108.50-each with two per room

_____ Mountaineer Lodge (circle which one)
2 double beds per room
\$151.00-one per room
\$108.50--each with two per room
\$ 94.33---each with three per room
\$ 87.25---each with four per room
Has Cable and TV and Phone

_____ Holt Lodge (circle which one)
2 double beds per room
\$160.00-one per room
\$113.00-each with two per room
\$ 97.33-each with three per room
\$ 89.50-each with four per room
Has Cable, TV, and Phone

Dinner on Friday is **NOT** included in the above registration costs. Only breakfast and lunch on Saturday is included. If you desire dinner on Friday, you must include an extra \$10.00 Dinner _____ Yes _____ No

_____ **Total Enclosed**

Please list roommate(s), if applicable:

2. Complete this section ONLY if you will be commuting.

COMMUTER

_____ Registration fee \$50
Required; nonrefundable

Meals are optional:

_____ Breakfast \$7.50
_____ Lunch \$8.50
_____ Dinner \$10.00

_____ **Total Enclosed**

Tentative Schedule:

Day 1 1:00-7 p.m. Registration
 5:00-6:00-Dinner
 7:00-Session One

Day 2 7:30 AM-Breakfast
 8:15 AM-Session Two
 Noon-Lunch
 1:00 PM-Session Three

Ingathering Items, Information, Workshop Registration

Ingathering Items for Calvary United Methodist Church Food Pantry in Ripley:

- Canned Corn
- Canned Green Beans
- Canned Fruit
- Mac and Cheese
- Spaghetti Noodles
- 24oz Hunts Spaghetti Sauce
- Dry Pinto Beans
- Jiffy Corn Mix
- Shelf Safe Milk

Fair Trade Items

Fair Trade Items will be sold. The funds are used to pay for the item's purchased. The seller sets the price.

Bring a Book. Buy a Book

As the team members do not have a place to store books, we ask this that you bring no more than 10 books.

Friday Afternoon Schedule:

- 1 PM-Leadership Team and Presidents Meeting-Holt Lodge
- 2 PM-Nominating Committee Meeting-Holt Lodge
- 3 PM-Your Conference Team is excited to offer two workshops

Choose one workshop:

Session 1: 3-4 PM

_____ Soul Care

Diann Nickerson

Holt Lodge-Limit 25

Session 2: 3-4 PM

_____ Aroma Therapy

Patti Link

Main Lodge-Limit 25

Meditation and Relaxation

Please Print:

Name of Participant: _____

DEADLINE FOR WORKSHOP FORM: April 1, 2024

Mail or email workshop form to:

Melissa Corbett

18 Helen Kelly Avenue

Logan, WV 25601

Email: umflissann@yahoo.com