



Connected in Christ

# THE CONNECTOR

...The Canal District United Methodist Church Newsletter...  
Rev. Ed Peterson, District Superintendent, Canal District

*The mission of the Canal District UMC is to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

FEBRUARY/  
MARCH 2021

[www.eocumc.com/canal](http://www.eocumc.com/canal) - Canal District - United Methodist Church - East Ohio Conference

## Rev. Angela Lewis Appointed Canal District Superintendent

We welcome Rev. Angela Lewis who will begin her appointment as superintendent of the Canal District on July 1. She will succeed Rev. Ed Peterson, who is being appointed assistant to the Bishop. Rev. Lewis is in her third year as pastor of Doylestown UMC. She previously served Steubenville Simpson, Maple Heights, and Cleveland St. Paul UMCs and All God's Children and Mansfield Urban Mission in the East Ohio Conference before serving seven years at Burns UMC in the Iowa Conference of The United Methodist Church.



"I am humbled and honored to serve as the next superintendent of the Canal District. One of my favorite persons in scripture is King David. He was overlooked. He defeated giants and bullies. He united God's people. He honored leadership. He was a warrior. Most importantly, he was after God's heart. He was a praiser, worshiper and lover of God. I want to inspire people to stand against the giants and bullies of injustice, fear, and hatred and to unite God's people, honor leadership and most importantly always run after the heart of God," Lewis said.

She has served on the East Ohio Conference Board of Ministry, as a trustee at Otterbein University, and as vice president of the Black Pastors' Fellowship. While serving in the Iowa Conference she served as vice president of the Commission on Religion & Race, vice president of the Pastor's and Minister's Alliance, and was a member of the district operational team, and a mentor.

Born and raised in Oklahoma, where most of her biological family still lives, Lewis earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Education from HBCU Langston (OK) University, a Master of Arts in Secondary Administration from The University of Akron, and a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary.

Lewis is an encourager who tries to see the good in every situation. One of her favorite passages is Joshua 1:9.

Angela enjoys walking her dogs in the community she lives in as well as walking nice trails. Every now and again, she likes to get lost in playing along with music on her my drum set—primarily gospel or jazz. She loves to travel and watch a great movie.

"When it comes to the things of God, I can be quite passionate. I simply love to see the Holy Spirit work with us, in us, through us and even in spite of us. With all my heart, I completely believe that God has allowed us to be alive and in ministry for such a time as this. A time where our communities, states, nation and world need a Hero. If you will, we have a Hero that comes to save the day, every day even Jesus the Christ. Our Hero, the Spirit of Christ, uses us to save the day. Now is a great time for us, Children of God, to go and make disciples for the transformation of the world. Let's go save some days in Jesus name!" Lewis said.

Resident Bishop,  
East Ohio Conference:  
Bishop Tracy S. Malone  
Conference website:  
[www.eocumc.com](http://www.eocumc.com)

## Rev. Ed Peterson Appointed As Assistant To The Bishop

Rev. Ed Peterson is in his seventh year serving as the superintendent of the Canal District. Prior to that appointment he served Lake Brady and Middlefield First UMCs. As assistant to the Bishop, he will succeed the Rev. Dr. Gary George, who is retiring. His appointment begins on July 1.



"It's been an honor to serve in each place I've been appointed. Each appointment has formed, taught and shaped me. I look forward to how I will be formed, taught and shaped in this new appointment. I pray that God will equip me to be a blessing to the greater Church through this new role in ministry," Peterson said.

Raised in Mahoning UMC in Youngstown, Peterson was called into pastoral ministry while attending Living Hope UMC in Norton and working as an engineer and project manager for mechanical contractors in the Cleveland/Akron area. He has volunteered his time with a number of community agencies and organizations in the communities in which he has lived and has served in Church leadership with local congregations and as a member of district and East Ohio Conference boards and committees. He is currently the Cabinet liaison to the Council on Ministries, the Board of Congregational Development, and the Agenda, Rules, and Administrative Process Committee. Peterson previously served on the Conference Board of Ministry and on the Annual Conference Program Committee and the Annual Conference Worship Committee. In 2005 and 2011 he was a delegate to the World Conference of Methodism.

Peterson earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from The University of Akron and a Master of Divinity from the Methodist Theological School in Ohio. He and his wife, Cindy, are the parents of three adult children and are the grandparents of one.



## Christian Family Credit Union – New phone number and website

(Formerly called the East Ohio Credit Union) has a new phone number 330-619-4201. You can no longer reach the credit union by dialing the East Ohio Conference office. The new website is [www.christianfamilycu.com](http://www.christianfamilycu.com)



## Nominees for Canal District At-large members to Annual Conference for 2022

Listed to the right are the names nominated at their churches 2020 Charge Conferences to be nominees for district Delegates-At-Large to Annual Conference for **2022 (names came from the Omnibus Report #17 of each church)**. We can also take additional names by March 15. If you see a name that was voted on at your charge conference that I missed, please let me know. **Contact Debbie Bryant with any corrections: [cdistumc@gmail.com](mailto:cdistumc@gmail.com).**

### Canal Spring District Conference

**In an effort to do our necessary business safely again this year, members of the District Conference will receive their Spring District Conference booklet by email or mail. You will then be asked to act on the items that need to be voted on.**

It will be the responsibility of each pastor/church to pass the District Conference materials on to the voting members of the Canal District. If those voting members have email, it will be as easy as simply forwarding the packet via email. For members who don't have email, the church may need to print the materials and get them to those individuals. Ballots can be returned via snail mail, fax, or email. Individuals can return their ballots on their own, or churches can collect them and return them all together. Churches will receive this packet sometime the end of March with a due date of April 18.

**Voting Members of the District Conference:** The following persons from the local churches of the district: lay leaders, chairpersons of Councils on Ministries, Administrative Boards, Administrative Councils, presidents of UMM, UMW, UMYA, and UMYF, lay members of the annual conference, ministerial members of the annual conference, part-time local pastors, student local pastors, deaconesses, home missionaries, diaconal ministers, church and community workers assigned by the National Division of the Board of Global Ministries to work in the district, and members of conference boards & agencies affiliated with churches within the district and the following persons from the district leadership: district designated officers including the secretary and treasurer, lay leader and associate lay leaders, chairpersons of all district councils and standing committees, presidents of district UMW, UMM, UM Young Adult, UM Youth or youth representatives and district members-at-large of annual conference



### TOWARD HEALING THE HARM MARCH 8, 2021 9:00 AM-3:30PM

One-day Zoom webinar focused on healing harm that has been done to clergy women through gender discrimination and harassment in the Church. Those who have been harmed, as well as their allies, are invited to attend. Although the day will use clergywomen's experience as the particular lens, the training will apply to a variety of situations and contexts. The day will include: worship; a presentation on our body's Fight, Flight, or Freeze response; and practical takeaways to help us feel prepared in the future. Our speaker for the day will be Ms. Rhonda Johnston, a licensed professional clinical counselor in the state of Ohio. She has worked extensively with survivors of trauma and is well educated in the many ways our bodies respond to situations of harassment and discrimination. After you register, you will be sent a Zoom link for the webinar as well as resources for home worship and journaling prompts. Questions? Contact: Lenore Robinson [lenore22@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lenore22@sbcglobal.net); Heidi Welch pastor@brecksvilleumc.com; Abby Auman [ds@mvdistumc.org](mailto:ds@mvdistumc.org)  
REGISTER ONLINE [HTTPS://THH\\_EOCUMC.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://thh_eocumc.eventbrite.com) REGISTRATION CLOSING FEBRUARY 22

Last Name	First	Church
Apple	Carol	Johnson UMC
Aten	April	Oak Chapel UMC
Augustine	Marleen	Family of Faith UMC
Bank	Claire	Kent UMC
Barth	Kimberly	Family of Faith UMC
Bloom	Linda	Macedonia UMC
Buehrle	Bill	Family of Faith UMC
Butcher	Linda	Family of Faith UMC
Campbell	Roger	Hope UMC
Caniglia	Patrick	York
Cart	Brenda	South Arlington UMC
Cook	Lisa	Manchester UMC
Dyer	Jennifer	Tallmadge UMC
Emerick	Tom	Kent UMC
Feldman	Elizabeth	Oak Chapel UMC
Fisher	Anne	Clearview UMC
Frambaugh	Mildred	Sharon Center UMC
Friebel	Felicia	Shreve UMC
Green	Sheila	Wedgewood UMC
Gregory	Brian	Cuyahoga Falls First UMC
Hardman	Charlie	Apple Creek UMC
Harris	Nancy	Kent UMC
Heffernan	Tammy	Heart 4 the City
Herr	Doug	Medina UMC
Herr	Lisa	Medina UMC
Hodgen	Linda	South Arlington UMC
Jermy	Charlotte	Atwater UMC
Kerr	Earl	Doylestown UMC
Knepp	Sally	Uniontown UMC
Koch	Tom	Christ Woodland UMC
Kuhajda	Ronda	Johnson UMC
Lane	Lala	Grandview UMC
Laux	Don	Rootstown UMC
Lewis	Randy	Kent UMC
Lin-Fisher	Betty	Family of Faith UMC
McClain	Karen	Akron First UMC
McDonald	Jessica	Family of Faith UMC
Milam	Amber	Atwater UMC
Mitchell	Jonah	Chapel of the Cross UMC
Moody	Richard	Manchester UMC
Mote	Denise	Kent UMC
Nedel	Judith	Kent UMC
Owens	Lucinda	Family of Faith UMC
Piatt	Liz	Family of Faith UMC
Prior	Donna	South Arlington UMC
Prior	Dan	South Arlington UMC
Stiller	Michael	Kent UMC
Wattles	Jeff	Kent UMC
Watts	Joy	Uniontown UMC
Wheeler	Ruthie	Akron First UMC
Winchell	Betty	Rittman UMC
Yoak	Kim	Cuyahoga Falls First UMC

## Bishop Tracy S. Malone Appoints Five Clergy to New EOC Leadership Roles

Bishop Tracy S. Malone announces the following appointments, made to ensure that the East Ohio Conference continues to be strategically staffed for both the sustainability of the Church and for the future of the Church. The appointments, made after prayerful discernment, are effective July 1:

- Rev. Ed Peterson, appointed as assistant to the Bishop;
- Rev. Edward Fashbaugh, II, appointed as director of Connectional Ministries;
- Rev. Angela Lewis, appointed as superintendent of the Canal District;
- Rev. Kelly Brown, appointed as superintendent of the Three Rivers District; and
- Rev. Laura White, appointed as superintendent of the Southern Hills District.

"Each of these leaders is fully committed to The United Methodist Church and bring visionary leadership, creative skills and expertise and ministry experiences that will strategically benefit their specific roles and will serve as a strong asset in our shared vision of sustaining our mission of making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ and for helping to steward our emerging witness and mission in the world. These transitions provide an opportunity to adapt some portfolios based on what we have learned during this past year," Bishop Malone said.



To read the entire article go to:

<https://eocumcnews.com/2021/01/17/bishop-tracy-s-malone-appoints-five-clergy-to-new-eoc-leadership-roles/>



**East Ohio Conference**  
The United Methodist Church



### Financial & Administrative Services

#### 2021 IRS Mileage Rate

The Internal Revenue Service recently announced the 2021 optional standard mileage rates effective January 1, 2021.

- \$0.56 per mile for business miles driven
- \$0.16 per mile for medical, or moving purposes
- \$0.14 per mile driven in service of charitable organizations

#### 2021 Minimum Wage

Effective January 1, 2021 the minimum wage in the State of Ohio is:

- ▶ \$8.80/hour for non-tipped employees (an increase of \$0.10/hr.)
- ▶ \$4.40/hour for tipped employees (an increase of \$0.05/hr.)

The Federal Minimum wage is \$7.25/hour.

Employers whose gross earnings are more than \$323,000 are required to pay employees whichever minimum wage is higher. Employers whose gross earnings are less than \$323,000 shall pay their employees no less than the Federal minimum wage. Employers are required to post the minimum wage and overtime information in a conspicuous place, such as an employee break room or office that can be accessed by employees.

**Dear Canal District Clergy: Thank you for the gift cards we received for Christmas.**

**We appreciate your thoughtfulness!**

*Ed Peterson,  
Debbie Bryant and Sheryl Reynolds*



### EOC Welcomes Director of Benefits & Human Resources

Michelle Anderson is the new director of Benefits & Human Resources for the East Ohio Conference. She succeeds the recently retired Betsy Stewart but in a role that adds Human Resources to the Benefits portfolio. Anderson has 26 years of HR experience.

"Michelle brings a breadth and depth of experience to the Conference that will benefit our clergy, churches, faith communities and employees as the areas of benefits and services evolve," said Director of Financial & Administrative Services Vera Rebrovich.

"Intentional effort has been given to expand the Benefits position to include a Human Resources component. We look forward to the skills, experience and the expertise that Michelle will bring to her new role and we welcome her to the East Ohio Conference," said Bishop Tracy S. Malone.



# Canal District Clergy and Families Birthdays and Anniversaries

## Birthdays – February

- 1 Kimmie Kesler
- 2 Ryan Osier
- 2 Don Ebert
- 4 Russ Ham
- 5 Frank Woodrum
- 6 Martha Baillis, David Tennant,  
Stan Wallace
- 7 Bethany Lewis
- 10 Brett Bartels, Kirsten Hoverstock
- 11 Lydia Cooper
- 14 Sue Atkinson
- 22 Allyson Raynes
- 26 Kris Patt

## Birthdays – March

- 4 Ruth Priebe
- 9 Christian Kesler,  
Kenny Kesler
- 10 Susan Ebert
- 16 Joy Priebe
- 20 Patricia King
- 21 C. Dwight Hayes
- 22 Mike Grant
- 28 Jonah Mitchell



*Happy Anniversary*

## Anniversaries – February

- 15 Charles & Joyce Fast
- 21 Paul & Linda Beal



**James (Jim) Edward Patterson, age 92, on December 29, 2020, went to his everlasting home with Jesus and his wife of 63 years that preceded him in death on May 26, 2015.** He is survived by his two sisters: Jeannie (96) and JoAnne (94); three daughters: Jamie Wood, Denise Henderson (Les), Cathleen Dehn (James); grandchildren Christopher (Tiffany), Cassandra (Terrance), Jesse, Danielle, Matthew (Angie), Benjamin, Alexander; great grandchildren Samantha, Savanah, Braydon, Mason, Serenity, and Makai; along with many nieces and nephews. His long life was exemplary! He showed his great love for Christ, his family, and others in all that he did. He was a walking miracle, and when he was 62 years of age, he inspired and helped many people as a Methodist Minister for Medina United Methodist, Mt. Pleasant, Waltz, and Poe churches. He retired from full time ministry when he was 88 years of age, yet he still was invited to speak at many area churches, nursing homes, and various events. He will surely be missed as he left a legacy and his mark on many people's hearts. We are so thankful that he gave us the gift of knowing Jesus, real love, what marriage and a family can look like, and choosing right even if you are the only one choosing it. His experiences will live on and on in our hearts and our minds and we will share about Jim Patterson whenever we can.

## Thank You For Your Faithfulness - Canal District Year-End Apportionment Reports

As we're all in our local churches trying to live into our new reality, we don't often get a glimpse into what's happening beyond our local context.

There are 68 apportionment-paying churches in the Canal District. Of those, 28 paid 100%, 18 had an increase in apportionment-giving over the previous year, and one church did not pay any apportionments. So, out of the 68 churches, 46 churches paid 100% or increased their payments over the year before (from 2019 to 2020). Overall, in the Canal District, we were only 1.24% behind where we were last year. All things considered, I think this is a miracle, and a testimony to God's provision and the faithfulness of God's people.

While we may not be doing church the way we did a year ago, the mission and ministry of the church continues. Just a note of thanks for everyone's faithfulness.

*Peace and love,  
Ed Peterson*



## Trinity Action Project (TAP) Grants

Application Process for TAP - Any program/project from a Canal District local church that very clearly relates to the mission and vision of the Conference may submit an application. Funds for mission purposes are intended as "Seed Money" to be used as start-up funds to help initiate ministry and mission outreach. Programs/projects will be funded for a maximum of 3 years. Applications will have a specific plan and/or strategy for a program/project, a clearly defined method(s) in which the funds will be used, and a method for decreasing the "seed money" funding over the 3 year period. TAP Grant funding may not be used for capital expenditures or clergy salaries. Churches applying for a multi-year grant will submit a new application each year.

For an application go to:

<https://www.eocumc.com/canal/grants-scholarships.html>



## CANAL DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF

District Superintendent: Rev. Ed Peterson ; Administrative Assistant: Debbie Bryant ; Treasurer, Funding Secretary: Sheryl Reynolds  
**If you would like to receive our newsletter by mail or email, please contact Debbie.** 800 East Market St., Akron 44305 -  
Phone: 330-252-0299 - Fax: 330-252-0297 - E-mail: [cdistumc@gmail.com](mailto:cdistumc@gmail.com) - Web Site: [www.eocumc.com/canal/](http://www.eocumc.com/canal/)