



# THE CONNECTOR

... *The Canal District United Methodist Church Newsletter* ...

Rev. Angela Lewis, 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.*

Connected in Christ

DECEMBER 2021

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

## The Invitation

Most often when people are getting ready for a celebration, they send out invitations. It seems those invitations, be they emails, cards, in person or over the phone are filled with excitement and joy. You just feel it; hear it. You start thinking about a gift or what you're going to wear. You start looking forward to the celebration experience itself.



Advent tells us there is a time coming of the greatest celebration of all. The hope, peace, joy, love all lead up to the greatest celebration for humanity...Jesus.

Advent invites us. It prepares us. It stirs us for Who is coming. It tells us to get excited and ready for the King is coming!

Look at a few invites:

The prophets of old were told to send out invitations to get ready for He is coming.

An angel of the Lord invited Zacharias. He in turn told Elizabeth and the baby she would carry wouldn't be able to contain his excitement. He would leap up on hearing the voice of Mary.

Mary got a special invitation to the celebration because she would carry the Guest of Honor. She had an invitation from Gabriel. This invitation came straight from God Himself. I think I would have fainted from such an overwhelming, humbling invite. She was invited to carry Jesus, the One who would take away the sins of the world.

Joseph got his invite through a dream.

The shepherds in the field were invited by a singing angel choir.

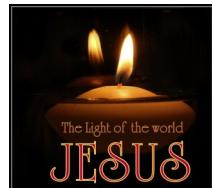
The wisemen were invited through nature.



Today, the invitation to celebrate Jesus continues. At some point in our lives, we received the invitation to come to Him. We received His offer of salvation

from our sins. We received the invitation to come out of darkness and enter into His marvelous light. Today we celebrate our God being with us. Now we in-turn invite a world in need of something and Someone to celebrate even Jesus the Christ.

— D.S. Angela Lewis



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

## DS Calendar—December 2021

Dec. 8, Tuesday - Dec. 10, Thursday, Cabinet

Dec. 23. Thursday -- Friday, Dec. 31, Office Closed for Christmas and New Years Break - Debbie will be checking emails one last time on December 31 and then emails will be forwarded to the new email address (see page 2).

## Until We Meet Again!

How can I even begin to express my appreciation to the churches and pastors in the Canal District Office who I have worked with over my past 10 years as the Administrative Assistant to the Canal District. It has been a pleasure to get to know all of you. Of course I won't miss the paperwork! But I will miss not talking to all of you and seeing you at Spring Conference, Charges Conferences and of course Annual Conference, especially when it was at Lakeside. Covid has not allowed us to meet in person the last few years, and I am sad that I did not have a chance to see you in person these last few years.



Keep on making disciples and helping to change the world! I know at times it seems like a big task, but know that each disciple you do make and each person's life in this world that you do touch, is a powerful testimony and that person then goes on to make disciples and change the world! You see, our work is not in vain. If we Walk with Jesus, we will always have someone beside us, guiding us, loving us, no matter what.

I won't say good-bye, because I have faith that we will all meet again someday.

Until we meet again!

Debbie Bryant





### New Address, Phone Number and Email Address for the combined Canal and Tuscarawas District Offices - Effective January 1, 2022

As you know, with Debbie's retirement December 31, Megan Myers will begin her new position of District Administrator for the Canal and Tuscarawas Districts beginning January 1, 2022. Megan is currently the District Administrator for the Tuscarawas district.

**Please start using the new information below beginning January 1, 2022 and sharing with those in your church who need this information. Mail and email will be forwarded for a month beginning January 1, 2022, so be sure to note this new information.**

**Address: Canal & Tuscarawas District Office - 8800 Cleveland Ave NW, North Canton, OH 44720. (start using this address Dec. 18, 2021)**

**Phone Number: (330)499-3972, ext. 106 - Email: [CanalTuscDistOffice@eocumc.com](mailto:CanalTuscDistOffice@eocumc.com).**

**DS Angela Lewis' email will stay the same: [alewis@eocumc.com](mailto:alewis@eocumc.com).**



#### Lay Servant News

Lay Servant Classes will be in person at the Lockwood United Methodist Church

- Basic Course: Friday, March 18, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, March 19, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Advanced Course: Living our United Methodist Beliefs, Friday, April 22, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday, April 23, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Please Contact Debbie Sloan for more information about the classes and to register—330-283-6893 or at [Dlsloan@aol.com](mailto:Dlsloan@aol.com)

#### 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 Clergy and Families Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Birthdays – December

- 1 James Wiebrecht
- 7 Waneta Shilling
- 16 Zach Burkhardt
- 17 Ruthie Trigg
- 19 Philip Raynes
- 22 Tom Drotar
- 27 Titus Burkhardt, Brad Price



### Anniversaries – December

- 16 Phil & Andrea Hoverstock
- 16 David & Beth Rittgers
- 18 Jonathan & Kattie Jo Priebe



### **Rev. Stephanie Lee, of Akron, OH, formerly of Oberlin, OH, departed from this life into life eternal on Tuesday, November 9, 2021**

Stephanie's musical legacy and love for life's simple pleasures will be cherished by her children, Shani L. Bell of Columbus, OH, Melanie J. Smith of Orlando, FL and Robert S. Wallace of Kent, OH; a stepdaughter, Sherri L. Wallace of Newburgh, NY; a sister, Bishop Linda Lee of Madison, WI; a brother, Chris Lee of Chicago, IL; eight grandchildren; as well as host of nieces, nephews, and extended family; and of course, her two adorable feline fur babies, Patrick and Missy.

Rev. Lee was serving Christ:Woodland UMC at the time of her death. She previously served Manchester, Akron Centenary, Holy Trinity, and Christ Alliance in the East Ohio Conference.

### **Ezra Statistical Model UPDATE**

The EZRA Stats system will continue to be used for Statistical Collection for the 2021 collection year. General Council on Finance & Administration (GCFA) is postponing the transition to the new ACStats system for data collection until later in 2022. Further information will be published in future issues of E-News as details are made available.

### **Review Monthly Remittance Statements**

The Conference finance team wants to ensure that all apportionment payments are included in the current year so each church gets the benefit of having achieved 100% of its apportionment commitment. **The final payment of the 2021 apportionment year must be received on or before January 5, 2022, to be credited as a 2021 payment. Checks received in the EOC lockbox after January 5, 2022, regardless of the postmark date on the envelope, will be counted as having been received in 2022.**

### **Scholarship Opportunities for East Ohio Students**

The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) awards over \$5 million in scholarships to United Methodist students throughout the connection each year. East Ohio students, especially those planning on attending a United Methodist-related college or university, are eligible for many of these scholarships, including those specifically for members of East Ohio churches. Parents, pastors, and youth leaders of high school seniors are encouraged to let their students know about the existing local and denominational scholarship opportunities that can be found on the Conference website.

Learn more and apply beginning in December: <https://www.eocumc.com/scholarships/index.html>

### **Advance Special 2022-23 Application Now Available**

If you are a part of a Mission or Ministry with ties to The United Methodist Church, you may be eligible to become a Conference Advance Special. Becoming an Advance raises awareness of your mission/ministry throughout East Ohio and creates an easy way to receive donations from churches and individuals. If you have questions, please e-mail Melanie Thomas at [mthomas@eocumc.com](mailto:mthomas@eocumc.com). Applications are due by January 15, 2022.

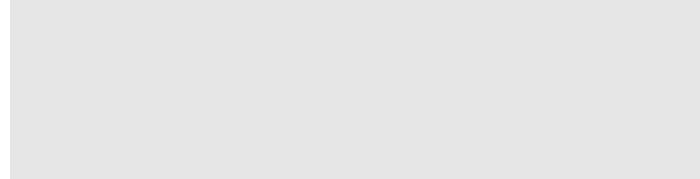
Download the Advance Special Application Form: [https://www.eocumc.com/missions/\\_pdf/AdvanceSpecialApp2022-23.pdf](https://www.eocumc.com/missions/_pdf/AdvanceSpecialApp2022-23.pdf)

The Advance for Christ is an official program within The United Methodist Church through which donors may designate giving to specific projects/purposes. Advance giving goes the "second mile" in generosity. The Advance forwards 100% of your donation to the specific project indicated in your gift.

Canal District of  
The United Methodist Church  
800 E Market St  
Akron OH 44305

**“The Connector”**  
December 2021

**Return Service Requested**



#### **CANAL DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF -**

District Superintendent : Rev. Angela Lewis  
Administrative Assistant: Debbie Bryant ; Treasurer, Funding Secretary: Sheryl Reynolds  
800 East Market St., Akron 44305 -Phone: 330-252-0299 - E-mail: cdistumc@gmail.com -  
Web Site: [www.eocumc.com/canal/](http://www.eocumc.com/canal/)

**Beginning January 1, 2022**

District Superintendent : Rev. Angela Lewis  
District Administrator: Megan Myers ; Treasurer, Funding Secretary: Sheryl Reynolds  
8800 Cleveland Ave. NW, North Canton, OH 44720 -Phone: 330-499-3972 ext. 106  
E-mail: CanalTuscDistOffice@eocumc.com  
Web Site: [www.eocumc.com/canal/](http://www.eocumc.com/canal/)