



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.

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER
2020

www.eocumc.com/canal - Canal District - United Methodist Church - East Ohio Conference

Care for Yourselves in Body, Mind, Spirit and Relationships

Greetings Friends!

We cannot turn anywhere today without being confronted with COVID-19. It is often the topic of conversation with friends and family. When we watch the news, we are updated with the latest casualty count. When we go anywhere, we see each other only above the top of our masks. Plexiglass dividers, hand sanitizer and social distancing have become a way of life. Our lives have become consumed by it.

In the life of the church, we continue to venture into uncharted territory. Pastors often feel under-equipped and over-whelmed. In the midst of this, it is easy to become discouraged and disheartened. It is these times, when we are "out of sorts," out of our usual routines, that unhealthy habits and behaviors creep in, and it just makes things worse.

Recently, Bishop Malone sent out a video to all clergy, encouraging them to be sure to care for themselves, so that they can care for those they serve and love. It is the same principle as when we are flying, and pre-flight instructions tell us to place an oxygen mask on ourselves first, before we help our children. While that may seem selfish, it is actually very wise. We cannot help anybody else, unless we first ensure that we are healthy.

So, a note to clergy to care for yourselves in body, mind, spirit and relationships. Let's be careful and mindful about what we eat. Take a walk. There are lots of body weight exercises that can be found online that we can do in the privacy and safety of our own home. Let's also be mindful of what occupies our mind. A good mental diversion can give our mind a break from always being consumed with COVID-19. Read a good novel. Binge watch something. Listen to a new podcast. This is also a good time to get out of our usual routine and start a new spiritual practice. During "ordinary" times, when we are all in church on Sunday mornings, it is difficult to hear our colleagues preach. Now, many of our colleagues are posting their sermons online. Make listening to various sermons be part of a new spiritual practice. We can do all of those things to care for our body, mind and spirit; and still be alone. It is not healthy for us to be alone. We are social creatures. Let's be sure to remain connected with friends and family. This "extraordinary" time we are in also provides the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and relatives. Let's make the effort to intentionally remain connected.

For the lay folks in the churches, please hold your pastor accountable to make sure they are caring for themselves. Please check in on them. Ask how they are doing. Express a little care and concern. It will mean the world to them.

As always. Love ya'

Ed



**Resident Bishop,
East Ohio Conference:
Bishop Tracy S. Malone
Conference website:
www.eocumc.com**

News for Lay Servants

Lay Servant Annual Report: To be given to all lay servants for them to fill out and then signed by lay servant and pastor and turned in with the Omnibus report and ballot. You can also direct your lay servants to the website so they can save the Lay Servant Annual Report and fill it out on their computer and then return to you. https://www.eocumc.com/laity/pdf/LaySERVANT_AnnualReport.pdf

All in-person training events have been rescheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time of adaptation, **the East Ohio Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries is temporarily extending from three years to four years the requirement that Lay Servants must complete a refresher or advanced course. This applies only to persons whose last course was completed in 2017.** This extension does not change the requirement that every lay servant complete an annual report to their local church conference.

The Committee on Lay Servant Ministries will review the format and availability of courses in order to provide multiple alternatives for training in our current environment, and BeADisciple.com continues to be an excellent resource for online training, as well.

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission

The five jurisdictional United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) offices have entered a new phase of collaboration by creating a website that includes resources from all five jurisdictions in one place. The new site eases the process for volunteers to gather resources and connect with the jurisdictional coordinators and each other while offering a way for missionaries and project site directors to work together to better serve volunteers, whether planning to serve on a mission journey, wanting to learn more about missions, or exploring helpful resources for studying or sharing with others. Website: <https://www.umvim.org/>



An Important Message from Bishop Tracy S. Malone



Churches and the New Statewide Mask Mandate (July 24, 2020)

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ,

I continue to be grateful for the creative ways that you are sharing the love and grace of Christ, and I rejoice at the testimonies that tell how your ministries are touching lives in many ways. In the midst of these challenging and exhausting times, clergy and laity have been working together finding new, innovative, and transforming ways of engaging in ministries in your communities and beyond to reach new people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Recent data shows that the COVID-19 pandemic is still widespread. Here in the East Ohio Conference alone several counties have shown an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths. We, the Body of Christ, can play a vital role in helping to slow the spread of this disease and save lives. We are each called to do our part.

Within the past 24 hours a new statewide mask mandate went into effect in Ohio. The mandate from Governor Mike DeWine is for all people ages 10 and over to “wear facial coverings in public at all times when at an indoor location that is not a residence.” Since the church building is an indoor, non-residence venue, the governor’s mask order is in effect for indoor worship services, bible studies, small group gatherings, etc. Therefore, the Church is not exempt from this mandate.

The Guidelines for the Phased-in Reopening of EOC Church Buildings have consistently encouraged churches to “... follow the guidance of your local health department, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), government officials, hospitals, care facilities, and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and pray for them.”

Friends, the governor’s order does not infringe on our right to worship as we are still allowed to meet in our buildings (but while wearing masks). The governor’s order allows those officiating worship to remove their mask (with social distancing still in effect) to lead worship. Remember, by wearing a mask we are practicing Jesus’ commandment to love others as we love ourselves. We are doing our part to care for our neighbors. (Mark 12:31)

I hold each of you in my prayers. I encourage you to remain strong and steadfast in the Lord. By the grace of God, we will stay the course together focused on our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Grace and peace,

Bishop Tracy S. Malone

- [Read Governor DeWine’s Statewide Mask Order.](https://ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/site/media-center/news-and-events/covid19-update-07222020) <https://ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/site/media-center/news-and-events/covid19-update-07222020>
- [View the EOC Coronavirus Resource Page.](https://www.eocumc.com/coronavirus/index.html) <https://www.eocumc.com/coronavirus/index.html>

Camps & Retreat Ministries

Quarantine in Nature at Family Camp

East Ohio Camps is now offering family camp options at Camp Aldersgate, Camp Asbury and Camp Wanake! If your household is getting cabin fever after months of sheltering in place, take a family camping vacation at one of our EOC Camps & Retreat Ministries camp sites.



“The camp put out so many things for us, and the staff took such great care of us. It was as if we were actually at church camp, and we did everything you normally would there except we did it as a family. Way better vacation than going somewhere like Myrtle Beach and far safer,” said the Rev. Brandon Keck of the experience he and his family shared at Camp Aldersgate Family Camp.

“Being able to worship through scripture and song in the midst of God’s creation was extra special after worshipping online for so many months. The talks we had around the campfire brought us together while keeping us a safe distance from people outside our household,” said Katie Colbow, who stayed at Camp Wanake Family Camp with her husband and their daughter.

Learn more about this exciting new Family Camp opportunity.

To ask questions and make reservations: call the Aldersgate office at (330) 627-4369 or send an e-mail; call the Wanake office at (330) 756-2333 or send an e-mail; or call the Asbury office at (330) 569-3171 or send an e-mail at nicholsm@eocumc.com.

Canal District Clergy and Families Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays – August

- 1 Callie Hoverstock
- 8 Daniel Rittgers
- 9 Jim Pfander
Beth Rittgers
- 13 Pam Monteith
- 14 Colin Ward
- 16 Micah Burkhardt
- 21 Floreda Wagner
- 22 Kylie Ward
Mike Ward



Birthdays - September

- 2 David Rittgers
- 3 Lois Turner
- 6 Bill Sowers
- 9 Hadassah Priebe
- 11 Tal Lewis
- 16 Kimberly Cheng
- 17 Ron Shultz
- 18 Michael McHale
- 24 Paul Beal
- 30 Lea Mahan, Eric Osier

Anniversaries – August

- 10 Gary & Elizabeth Hadler
- 15 Joe & Jeanette Burkhardt
- 25 Bill & Daryl Sowers
- 28 Ed and Cindy Peterson

Happy Anniversary

Anniversaries - September

- 19 Dave & Paulette Martin



Canal District recent deaths. Please keep the families in your prayers.

Walter S. Chisholm, retired Elder, died June 25. Private family services will be held. Rev. Dr. Chisholm is survived by daughter Shirli, son Rusty (Vicki), daughter Liane (Harry), six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. He served the following churches in Ohio: Montrose Zion, Epworth Euclid and Norwalk First. He also served as Superintendent of the Painesville District before retiring from the East Ohio Conference in 1992. Memorial contributions may be made to Montrose Zion Church.

For a list of all obituaries for the East Ohio Conference, go to: <https://www.eocumc.com/obituaries/index.html>

Dick Schwarz, Canal District Lay Servant Director, passed away on July 5. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Lee Ann Chappellear Schwarz; his sons, Matthew, Jeffrey, and Steven; his daughter, Maryann Kline; and 10 grandchildren, who will all miss him dearly. Richard was very involved with the Lakemore United Methodist Church and the regional church conference, and the Springfield High School Band Boosters, where he and Lee have volunteered for over 25 years. The family asks that instead of sending flowers you make a donation on his behalf to your local church, the Springfield High School Band Boosters, or a local STEM educational program.

EOC Annual Conference Members to Meet Virtually September 26-27 for Annual Conference 2020

Out of an abundance of care for all members of Annual Conference, Bishop Tracy S. Malone, after prayerful discernment and in consultation with the Extended Cabinet, leadership of the Board of Ministry, and the Annual Conference secretary, has made the decision that Annual Conference 2020, and the Clergy Executive Session that precedes it, will be conducted virtually on the previously announced dates of September 25-27.

For more information go to: <https://eocumcnews.com/2020/06/04/eoc-annual-conference-members-to-meet-virtually-september-26-27-for-ac-2020/>

CANAL DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF

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