

A Call to Fellow Disciples

I understand the difficulty of transition in the church having grown up in the Methodist church watching pastors come and go, as well as experience the transition myself along with my family as we have stepped into this calling. The time of transition is never easy. If you are like me, you don't want to leave what is common to you in order to step out towards a hope that lies ahead in the unknown. However, I do believe that God calls us out onto the water. Just as Jesus was there to help and support Peter, He is also there to help and support us through this hard time in transition as well as what lies ahead.

He does this foremost through the work of the Holy Spirit. In fact, in John chapter 14 as Jesus shares His eventual leaving with His disciples, He assures them that He will be sending an advocate/helper to them in the person of the Holy Spirit who was to bring peace to them in the very difficult time of transition while the question of "Now What?!?" is flashing rapidly through their minds.

Jesus in that same conversation assures that the Holy Spirit will remind them of what He had taught them - so that at the appropriate times His wisdom can be spoken back into their life in order to guide and counsel them in the continuation of the good work which Jesus had already begun until He returns to finish it. We today are all disciples called and set to continue that work. Although this time of transition may be hard, God will see us through it so that people will continue to learn of and experience the wondrous love of God. However, that is if, and only if we as a church will seek Him and the specific mission that he has for this church.

So beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, I have many hopes and prayers for this church but the first one is that the Lord will help us through this time of transition, that he will mend hearts each individually and all of us as one that we the church can become of one heart and one mind following the heart and mind of Christ.

Peace and Grace,
Pastor J.P.

P.S. - We are so grateful for the warm welcome and the hard work to prepare a place for us. We spent a little time last week just enjoying the beautiful backyard together as family. :)



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As your Lay Leader, I wish to express my gratitude for your support during our recent period of Interim Ministry. Thanks to each of you for your faithful prayers, gifts, and attendance. Because of your grace and love along with cooperation from the Mahoning Valley District and the East Ohio Conference, we have been able to adjust and stabilize our finances (at least for now) and are looking forward to ministry with our new pastor, JP Snyder and our sister church, Emmanuel UMC in East Palestine. This is a perfect demonstration of how the connection of the United Methodist Church can work together to support each other in ministry for “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

God has blessed us through interim pastors: Rev. Russ Libb, Rev. Charles Ready, and Pastor Rick Oaks who have brought wonderful and meaningful messages on Sunday mornings and provided pastoral care and guidance where needed and I thank them for sharing their gifts. They will be greatly missed, but it is with much joy that I look forward to the ministry of Pastor JP Snyder as we welcome his family and anticipate fresh ideas for new ministry.

I would also like to express my appreciation for the hard work that went in to “sprucing up” the parsonage. Some major improvements were made by replacing the flooring, and acquiring a new gas stove. It was truly a team effort to remove the old and replace with new along with the general cleaning and painting that took place...inside and out!! Good Work!! Thanks to the trustees and others who gave of their time and resources. You all have such wonderful, giving hearts to provide a nice home for our pastor’s family.

Thanks also to our secretarial staff and custodian who have been volunteering their time to provide us with their services. Their sacrifice and servant hearts are acknowledged and much appreciated.

Together, we have made it through trying times but our work is not yet complete as I realize the healing process continues. It is my hope and prayer that we will continue to build unity of the body of Christ through love and grace toward one another as we move forward in ministry to “Know Jesus, Serve Jesus, and TOGETHER make disciples of Jesus Christ.”

Thanks again for your continued love and support.

Christ’s Love to Each of You,

Marla Hum

June 2017

Message from the Mahoning District Superintendent, [Rev. Dan Bryant](#)

And the stories go on and on and on...

On Sunday, May 21st, many of the clergy and laity stopped by Canfield UMC for the Open House Farewell Celebration hosted by the District Superintendency Committee. I have been blessed to serve as the superintendent of the Mahoning Valley District and over the past eight years our lives have been stretched, challenged, uplifted and joined together. As people stopped by Canfield UMC to visit, I found myself recollecting story upon story of how our lives intersected together:

- Rev. Dawan Buie, Hawa and their daughter, Aliyah, moving into the district and the blessing I had of baptizing Aliyah at Centenary/Mahoning UMC.
- Pastor Elaine Weaver sitting beside her husband, Walt, as he faced his cancer battle in 2009 and how her family, George and Ginny Schrenkengost, surrounded her with love as she walked through the valley. And now, she serves as the Sebring UMC pastor.
- George and Trudie Lee's video blessing of remembrance and the welcome they gave to Debbie and I as we came into the district.
- Russ Libb's warmth and hospitality as pastoral leader and friend whose love for the Lord emanates from all that he says and does.
- Rick and Brigitta Oaks as they reflect the love of Jesus in all that they say and do. Rick's leadership among the district and conference has enriched so many lives.
- Bonnie Mallory, SPRC chairperson of Grace UMC, and the amazing witness of leadership she provided for the church as they transitioned to a new pastoral ministry team.
- David and Sherry Cann and their moving from the Bahamas to the "warmth" of Ohio and the witness their love gives to all.
- Kathy Kramer, administrative assistant, and her tireless work as she worked beside me in overseeing the district.
- Barbara Beach as she tirelessly worked throughout the district and conference as District co-lay leader. The video remembrances collected for the farewell will be cherished forever.
- Bonnie, Hannah and Emma Virden who became family as we grew together over these past eight years and took selfies at every opportunity.
- Pastor Cindy Figley who resisted the call to ministry for many years and who, finally, said yes to the call and now is serving Negley UMC with such grace and love.

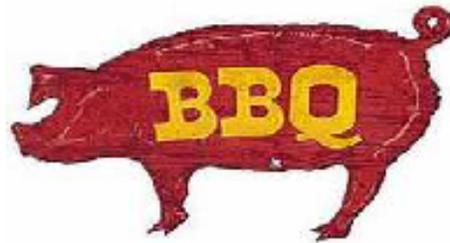
And the stories go on and on and on.....

I consider it a privilege to have served as your district superintendent and cherish the many memories we have experienced together as clergy and laity serving the Lord. Looking back, I can see some truly mountaintop moments AND some deep valley journeys, too.

Yet, in all things we have been rooted in the amazing grace and love of a God who isn't finished with us. I am reminded of the words from Acts 4:13 when Peter is challenged by the authorities for the work he has done. The leaders recognized Peter simply as a "follower of Jesus." I pray that as you draw memories of our eight years together you will be able to say, "he was a follower of Jesus."

My friends, I pray that as you welcome Rev. Abby Auman as your new District Superintendent, and her family, that you will extend the same love and warmth and understanding you did for me. She will love you and guide you into greater vitality and ministry in the coming years.

Be encouraged always,
Dan and Debbie Bryant



FUNDRAISING DINNER
To Benefit Mandy Webber's
Double Lung/Bone Marrow
Transplants

Saturday, July 22, 2017

4:00 – 8:00 pm

New Waterford Methodist Church

\$10.00 -Adults | \$8.00 -12 under

Menu: BBQ Pulled Pork *or* BBQ Chicken

Baked Beans, Corn on the Cobb, Coleslaw

Rolls, Drink and Dessert

Chinese Auction | Beef Raffle Drawing | 50/50 Drawing

Musical Entertainment - *Bring Your Own Chair*



For more info Contact Jeel Webber - 330-717-6430



" I have a second chance at Life"

Come help me celebrate a New Beginning

- Mandy

It has been 83 days since I was listed for transplant and there will most likely be a lot more. It's going to be a long waiting game due to having to find a donor that matches both lungs and bone marrow.

The doctors have told us it could be 6 months to 1 year, so we will just keep marking the days off the calendar. I just need to remain as healthy as possible until that day arrives.

*We hope everyone will join us on **July 22nd**, **4-8pm** here at **Our Church**, for the **BBQ DINNER**. We will be serving **BBQ Pork or Chicken, Corn on the Cob, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Rolls, Dessert and Drink.***

*We are also planning a fun filled evening with yard games and a **DJ** to play us some tunes. So, bring your chairs and get comfy!!*

Thank you to all who have donated to us, your generosity and support along with the prayers means so much.

*We love **All** of you,*

Mandy, Joel and Colton

Answering Questions About The United Methodist Church

Q: Who speaks for the Church?

A: The General Conference is the official voice of The United Methodist Church.

Every four years lay and clergy delegates from around the world gather for committee meetings, plenary sessions, worship services, and mission celebrations. Prior to arriving at General Conference delegates receive petitions that seek to amend *The Book of Discipline*, which is the denomination's book of rules, and resolutions for considered addition to *The Book of Resolutions*, which contains non-binding guidelines on nearly 200 subjects that aid the ministry and work of The United Methodist Church. Legislative committees meet during General Conference to study and vote on each request. The committees' decisions are then forwarded to a General Conference plenary session, at which they are debated and voted upon by the general body.

Q: Who can submit a petition to General Conference?

A: Per ¶ 507 of *The Book of Discipline*, "Any organization, clergy member or lay member of The United Methodist Church may petition the General Conference."

Q: What is the 2019 Special Session of General Conference?

A: The Council of Bishops called for a February 23-26, 2019 Special Session of General Conference for the purpose of receiving and acting on the recommendations of the Commission on a Way Forward.

Q: What is the Commission on a Way Forward?

A: The Commission on a Way Forward was proposed by the Council of Bishops and approved by the 2016 General Conference to do a complete examination, and possible revision, of every paragraph of *The Book of Discipline* concerning human sexuality; and to explore options that help to maintain and strengthen the unity of the church. The work of the 32-member Commission is meant to inform deliberation across the whole church and to help the Council of Bishops in its leadership toward helping to maintain and strengthen the unity of the Church and help the Church find a way forward through its differences.

Q: How does the Bible factor in The UMC's understanding of human sexuality?

A: Faithful United Methodists do not agree on what they believe, interpret and understand about the Bible and how God speaks through it. Our beliefs, or more often our historical assumptions, about the Bible and our cultural and historical experiences shape how we view the question of the Bible on many topics, including human sexuality.

Q: How can we make our views known to the Commission on a Way Forward?

A: Any organization, lay member or clergy member of The United Methodist Church may communicate directly with the Commission on the Way Forward by sending their feedback/thoughts in writing to any of the 32 members or to one of the three conveners: Bishop Ken Carter, Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball, or Bishop David Yemba. Learn more at www.umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward.

Q: What is the East Ohio Conference A Way Forward Design Team?

A: The East Ohio Conference A Way Forward Design Team is a diverse group of laity and clergy, from all 10 districts, that is developing a conference-wide plan and process for reflecting on and engaging in meaningful dialogue about:

- Our diverse and global existence and our shared mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
- Proactive ways to live together in our differences without presuming that we will resolve our differences.
- Discerning a form of unity that would empower us living together and claiming what is our witness and what can be our witness to the world in relation to our differences.

Q: How can I participate in the A Way Forward conversation?

A: Opportunities for conversation will be held across the East Ohio Conference beginning in the Fall of 2017 through the Spring of 2018. Details will be announced in E-News and will be posted on the East Ohio Conference website, www.eocumc.com.

Business conducted at Annual Conference 2017

Amendment 7.A.14 a rule change to ballot process for the naming of delegates was referred back to ARAP for further clarification by a vote of 403 in favor and 510 opposed to the change proposed.

Election of our new Director of Financial and Administrative Services successor to Jessica Vargo. After an extensive search, Vera Rebrovich was named to the position. Motion carried.

Resolution 2017-01: Carried with amendment for the change of wording from “shall” to “is encouraged to” regarding “Effectively Recruiting and Retaining Young Clergy of Color”

Resolution 2017-02: Welcoming the Immigrant in Our Midst” carried after motion to change wording from “Migrant” to “Immigrant” which better stated the intent of the resolution. Carried

Resolution 2017-03 Promoting Human Rights of Palestinians was carried

Resolution 2017-04: Criminalization of Communities of Color proposed by East Ohio Federation for Social Action and East Ohio Black Methodist Church Renewal was ammended for wording changes, then a motion to refer back to the committee was passed.

Resolution 2017-05 Christian Behavior Toward GLBTQ People carried

Resolution 2017-06: Day of Repentance carried

Resolution 2017-07: Maintaining Health Care for the Most Vulnerable carried

Resolution 2017-08: Maintaining the Disciple of the United Methodist Church, 2016 was ruled out of order because a bishop cannot undermine General Conference rules.

Resolution 2017-09 proposed by the YAC meeting to Encourage Churches to Host Workshops of Addiction was carried after a motion for wording change to read “Be an Advocate for Those Touched by Addiction”, a second amendment to to add “ be it further resolved that the church share the love of Christ to those addicted” carried, amendment to propose that churches be involved with Project Dawn was voted down for lack of information.

There were 5 proposed Constitutional Amendments which were voted on by paper ballot, the results will be announced by the General Conference.

The proposed budget, the change of medical coverage to WesPath, as well as several reports of offices of the Conference were passed as well.

Further information can be found at www.eocumc.com and clicking on Annual Conference 2017

information or by contacting Margaret Javens or Marla Hum

BIRTHDAYS FOR JULY

Roberta Unger 8th
Nathan Dickinson 11th
Haley Derringer 13th
Jonathan Wollet 14th
Marie Hawkins 15th
Aubrey Maiorana 15th
Claudia Soldo 17th

Joel Thompson 19th
Amanda Robb 19th
Jake Rozeski 21st
Scott Lindsay 24th
Marissa Patrone 29th
Cameron Schantz 31st

ANNIVERSARIES

Dallas & Diane Carlisle 20th
Sarah & Herb Herbkersman 22nd

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New Waterford, OH 44445
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Phone: 330-457-7436

