

WESLEYAN DISTRICT WITNESS

Rev. Mary Ellen Finegan, District Superintendent

Jo Criss, Administrative Assistant; Sherrie Walsh, Hospitality & Care

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Greetings in the name of Jesus!

As all of you should know by now, our nation has gone through so much pain over the tragedy that has happened in Charlottesville, VA. Please do not keep silent about what has happened. Don't let your silence "imply consent." Read the Old Testament Lesson in Genesis 45 about Joseph revealing himself to his brothers who sold him into slavery in Egypt. Yet, see how forgiving Joseph was toward his brothers, even saying that God brought good out of it, by putting him in a place that would bring life and hope to them during the years of famine.

God can bring good out of the Charlottesville tragedy, too. It won't be easy. There is much pain that needs to find healing. And healing can come if we are willing to do God's will, pray, seek his face, and reach out to one another in love. Healing can come if we learn to love one another without prejudice, hatred, without racism in our hearts. But, racism is in our hearts, even if we don't recognize it. We have to listen to one another and learn to love one another. Pastors, if we love God and love our neighbor as ourselves, we cannot be ruled in our hearts by white supremacy, Nazism, KKK, and any other hate groups. We can have no room in our hearts for this kind of ideology. It will destroy anyone who embraces it in any form. We need to enter into a time of prayer for our nation and all the people in it. As we cannot let this kind of hatred in our hearts, we also cannot let hatred for those who have done this evil deed take root in our hearts and grow. Instead, we seek forums to teach, to listen, and to help people entrenched in this see the Light of Christ. We spend time in prayer for them. Jesus said to "pray for them who persecute you and say all manner of evil against you."

Please churches and pastors in our District and Conference, take time to pray for our nation, for one another, for those filled with hate that they may repent and be renewed in the name of Jesus. I really like Psalm 117, which says, "Praise the Lord, all you nations! Extol him, all you peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!

"
ALL NATIONS AND ALL PEOPLES are called to praise the Lord who loves us forever!
All people are God's people, made in God's image. All nations are God's. We do not have
the right to look at some people as inferior, or not good enough. Let us love one another, for
love is of God
"

Grace and Peace

Rev. Mary Ellen Finegan, D.S.



Below is a letter from Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball.

My heart grieves! Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball on Charlottesville

Posted

August

13,

2017

By Sandra Steiner Ball

My heart grieves! Yesterday, as I was traveling, I was getting bits and pieces of the news from Charlottesville. In the airports, there were some people who were sharing about family and friends who were close to what was happening on the ground in Charlottesville. There were some who didn't know anything about what had happened. But what truly grieved my heart were the people who casually passed off what was happening as just a part of life.

My heart grieves! Just a part of life? Well, it shouldn't be that way! We shouldn't accept this as acceptable, or just the way it is. Violence is not acceptable. Racism is not acceptable.

My heart grieves those who think this is just part of life. My heart grieves those in Charlottesville who got caught in the midst of violence. My heart grieves that racism continues to permeate every part of our nation and our world. My heart grieves situations, family systems, institutional systems where white supremacy promotes and teaches persons that people who are not like them can be treated as less than human, as objects, as life that is dispensable and of lesser value.

This is not life as God intended! God created every person in God's own image. Every person is created with and holds within them a spark of the Divine. God looks at what God creates and proclaims, "This is good!" And, when it comes to the creation of human beings, God doesn't just say this is good – God says, "This is very good!"

Every man, woman, and child is created out of and holds within them the spark of the Divine. God sent God's son, Christ, into the world to remind the world of God's blessing and God's love for each person, so that the world might have life and have life abundantly. Today, the Christian Church exists for the purpose of extending this message in all places to all people without restriction.

At the 2017 West Virginia annual Conference session, in a service that celebrated our African American congregations, we acknowledged our brokenness, we asked for forgiveness and participated in an act of repentance and commitment to action. We took one another's hands and borrowing from the words of Hezekiah Walker's song, "I Need You to Survive," we looked into each other's eyes – the eyes of persons who were of a different race or culture, persons with different theological understandings, of different ages and experiences, and we said to one another, "I need you. I will pray for you. I will not harm you with words from my mouth. I need you to survive!" With those commitments ringing in our ears we received communion and pledged, with

resources in hand, to go back to our communities and begin some action, some conversation, some raising awareness that would help us to help each other hear once again that we, and each and every person, are valuable and of sacred worth. One race or person is not supreme over another. We, in fact, need all the variety of persons' gifts in this world not only to survive but experience the abundance of life and blessing that God means for each of God's children.

I pray we will not allow the violence of Charlottesville to be accepted as just the way of life today! This does not fulfill the purpose of creation or the purpose for which God sent God's Son. I pray we will begin needed conversations and relationship building that help us to see people as people, treat people as people – holy, beloved and valuable, and be Christ's people that will stand up and speak out in the midst of the violence of this world. I also pray that we will be the peacemakers that God calls us to be. Jesus said: Blessed are the peacemakers. But maybe all this struggle is because we do not understand what a peacemaker is. What is a peacemaker? It is a person who puts other's needs before their own. Indeed, blessed are the peacemakers.

Peace,

Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball



Religion and Race Denounces the Recent Violence and Racism in Charlottesville and Calls for All United Methodists to Love in Action

August 13, 2017

CONTACT: Selby Ewing, Communications Director
(615) 887-8027
sewing@gcorr.org

"Power without love is reckless and abusive, and love without power is sentimental and anemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love." Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

We are deeply troubled by the hatred and violence thinly cloaked by American rights of free speech and freedom of assembly. We call for an end to this perversion of justice and power that perpetuates terror, racism, and intimidation which is antithetical to the gospel and to the American vision of freedom and justice for all.

Free speech and the ability to protest, while the right of every American, should not be used to terrorize, intimidate, or incite violence. As Christians and United Methodists we believe in the right of all people to thrive as individuals undergirded by a society of laws rooted in our common humanity, our common good, in short - in the love and justice of God.

Dr. King stated, "justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love." As monuments to America's sinfully corrupt history of slavery come down across the south, let us not revel in this superficial progress without acknowledging the deep hatred and bigotry rising to resist and defeat the demands of love and justice. Surely the hatred of neo-Nazis, fascists, and white supremacists that we are seeing in Virginia, New Orleans, and cities across this country have no place in this or any other society.

We call on all United Methodists, indeed all people of faith and good conscience, to join in the spirit of our common humanity to be people of power rooted in love and to put that love into action in every community, to stand as allies for justice, neither sentimental nor anemic but resolute in the knowledge that all people are created equal.

_ General Commission on Religion and Race

100 Maryland Ave. NE | Suite 400 | Washington | DC | 20002



Birthdays and Anniversaries for SEPTEMBER

1	Chris & Kendra Scott	A	17	William Moyer	B
2	Melba Johnson	B	18	Glenda Fitzwater	B
4	Verl & Carolyn Simmons	A	19	Nancy Cale	B
7	Jim & Jani Burrough	A		Sierra Himelrick (Ch) Jim Short	B
10	Bonnie Starkey	B	21	Donald Coleman	B
11	Thomas & Carolyn Merrill	A		Deandra Short (Ch) Jim Short	B
	Marvin Carr	B	22	Stella Faye Moyer	B
12	Steve & Carla Engle	A		Ed & Garnett Balis	A
	Ruth Ann Kniceley	B		Randy & Karen Mitchell	A
	Charlea Ramsey	B	23	Stella Faye & William Moyer	A
	Andrew Rapping	B		Andrew Boley	B
14	Richard & Nancy Justice	A		Herb Coston	B
	Lynelle Zickefoose	B		Sandra Firth	B
	Cindy King	B	24	Adele Cole	B
15	Brian Zondra Plum	A		Kelvin Hudkins	B
16	Bob Cole	B		Kim Smailes	B
	Janis Hensley	B	26	Jeff & Kelly Kanode	A
	Tina Horstman	B		Unamae Griffin	B
	Kara Phillippi	B		James Lang	B

Birthdays and Anniversaries for OCTOBER

1	Vicky Shreve	B	16	Billee Scott Mick	B
2	Kevin Bender	B	17	Ron Brown	B
	Robert & Betty Heavner	A		Alycia Short	B
5	Judy Murphy	B	18	Brenda Forren	B
	Sharon West	B	21	Patricia Neely	B
9	Tim & Dorcas Conrad	A	24	Jim Finegan	B
	Roger & Patricia Neely	A		Brian Boley	B
12	Sandra Bender	B			
13	Sallie Angle	B	25	Joe Shreve	B
14	Esther Dyer	B	26	Jim & Alycia Short	A
15	Mitch & Mary Ann Griffin	A	29	Kathy Boyce	B
				Bobbie Rogers	B
				Jani Burrough	B
			31	Karen Lang	B

Enjoy Your Special Day



ANNOUNCEMENTS OF UPCOMING DATES!!!

Sept 4	Office closed for Labor Day
Sept 5-6-7	Cabinet
Sept 8-9-10	Um Men Retreat at Jackson's Mill – Register on-line
Sept 8	Office open all day on Fridays again. Winter hours.
Sept 11	Pastors' Interviews/First (Buckhannon)
Sept 12	Pastors' Interviews/First (Buckhannon)
Sept 15-16-17	Cabinet Retreat
Sept 24	Salem Parish Chg Conf., Salem UMC 3 p.m.
Sept 26	Pastors' Interviews/Broad Street UMC
Sept 27	Pastors' Interviews/Christ (Sutton) UMC
Sept 28	Pastors' Interviews/First (Buckhannon)
Oct 1	Braxton Parish Chg Conf., Christ (Sutton) 3 p.m.
Oct 2-3-4	Cabinet – Charleston
Oct 5	Pastors' Interviews/First (Elkins)
Oct 6-7	Bishop's Summit/Diversity & Inclusion/Cedar Lakes
Oct 8	Bishop to preach at First (Clarksburg)
Oct 10	Pastors' Makeup Interviews/First (Buckhannon)
Oct 14	Gilmer Parish Chg Conf., Trinity UMC (Glennville) 3 p.m
Oct 15	Clarksburg Parish Chg Conf, First (Clarksburg) 3 p.m.
Oct 17	Tennerton UMC Chg Conf 7 p..
Oct 18	Mill Creek Chg Conf 7 p.m.
Oct 19-20-21	Clergy Gathering by Bishop/Mandatory/Info later
Oct 22	Lewis Parish Chg Conf, St. Matthew UMC, 3 p.m.
Oct 24	Parish House Chg Conf, at Parish House 5 p.m. dinner/CC at 6 p.m
Oct 27-28	Spiritual Formation Retreat, Info to Follow
Nov 4	United Methodist Women A-Day-Apart at Lost Creek UMC 9:30 a.m.
Nov 4	South Harrison Parish, Chg Conf, Lost Creek UMC 3 p.m.
Nov 5	Highland Parish Chg Conf, First (Elkins) 3 p.m.
Nov 12	Upshur Parish Chg Conf, Chapel Hill 3 p.m.
Nov 13-14-15	Cabinet – Charleston
Nov 18	Child Protection Training at Quiet Dell from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. April Forkey
Nov 22-23-24	Office Closed, Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec 2	District Luncheon at Broad Street UMC, Gathering 11:30, Lunch noon
Dec 6-7-8	Cabinet meeting and Christmas Dinner
Dec 25 – Jan 2	Christmas Holiday for Office. Return Jan 2, 2018

Prayer Chain



Remember these from our district in prayer: Thelma Carr, surgery on leg March 29 and it is not healing, so pray for complete healing of her leg. Thelma is still going to get treatments for healing and it is a little better. Also this week she is having surgery on her nose for a cancer. It is being done in Morgantown. Billy Carr is getting shots for pain in his hip. Beverley Brown, eye problems and other health issues. Eye surgery is delayed. Cliff and Mary Ann Schell; Sam and Nancy Cale III; Mitch and Mary Ann Griffin; David Thompson and Jane Thompson. Jerry Boyce who has continuing problems and kidneys were not operating as they should. Remember Kathy as his caregiver. Chris Stadelman, Paul's son; Bonnie Starkey; Josie Tenney; George Hamrick; Janis Hensley and husband Basil.

Remember the family of Sylvester Green in his passing; family of Garnetta Gooden in her passing, and her son Darrel Gooden. Regina Rodrigues and her family in the loss of Joe Rodrigues on April 21; the Phillips family and their loss of Louise Phillips. Ralph Miller who had stints put in in April. Jeff Zickefoose, recovering from stomach surgery but still has other problems. Jane Ellen Nickell who is recovering from surgery; Dotty Phillips who had surgery on her arm; Don Coleman; Alvie Loyd at Big Otter Nursing Home; Dorcas Conrad, Cliff West who passed on Aug 25, funeral services Aug 30 at Hardman-Palotti, Weston. Please keep Lenora and family in prayer. Remember Belinda Toms' brother, Ronald Dean who passed unexpectedly. Remember Brenda and Ronald's family and his wife Sue. Brenda's sister-in-law, Sharon Swecker, who has struggled with breast cancer 2 ½ years, which has now spread and she was told she had no more than 3 weeks to live. Also, remember Brenda's daughter, Stephanie. Remember Doris Baker (widow) who has some spots on lung which have not been diagnosed yet. Patricia Neely has been found Cancer free—Praise God!

Please keep all these people in prayer and help for their relatives during difficult times.

Pray for Ruth Lohr, Sherrie Walsh's mother at Serenity who has been having spells of TIA's. They are more frequent, but tests show no cause.

Remember Kelley Simmons that she grows stronger in the use of her artificial limb. Bonnie Starkey in recovery from her cancer surgery and has had an additional problem with blood pressure medicine. Bonnie is to start radiation this week. Bonnie is also going through Residency at this time.

John McQuain's son who is recovering from knee surgery. John's mother passed on June 19 and her sister passed on June 21. Sandra McQuain had also had surgery a couple of months ago and is now recovered. Please pray for all this family who have had so much happen in such a short time.

Don Killingsworth who had back surgery on August 23. Nancy still recovering from her surgery and was not able to drive yet. Thanks for remembering all of our pastors and families. Pray for our churches and also for our country and all our officials. We also remember our foreign countries as they deal with terrorism in so many places. Pray for peace in our world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

WESLEYAN DISTRICT'S NEW WEBSITE!!

Please visit us at: www.wesleyandistrictumc.org

Registration forms for the Lay Academy on September 23, 2017 at Bridgeport UMC with Wesleyan and MonValley Districts are attached. Basic, Go Preach, and Polity will be given. Polity is being taught by Ken Krimmel from the Conference and ALL officers and Pastors are invited to attend as this class is updated to comply with the 2016 Discipline. Forms are included in this Newsletter and will also be on our Website. Wesleyandistrictumc.org

Total Updated Cash Receipts \$122,418.64. Wesleyan District was \$12,649.45 with \$8,000 in goods given. Congratulations!!, for helping set a new record in cash donations for COME. Distribution to each mission was \$12,375. Clarksburg Parish received \$6,187.50.

UM Men are meeting for their annual gathering at Jackson's Mill again this year on Sept 8-9-10. Registration forms can be found on the calendar of the Conference at www.wvumc.org. This is always an enriching event for our men.

Our District Christmas Luncheon will be held on December 2, Saturday, at Broad Street UMC starting with the gathering at 11:30 a.m. and lunch at noon. This is one of our largest events of the year, so plan on you and your families attending. Registration will be sent later on.

Ministers' Wives/Mates Association will be having a Fellowship on September 22,23 & 24 at John XXIII Center in Charleston.

Registration forms were sent to the Pastors to give to their spouses. If you have not seen this information please check with your Pastor.

Payment must be remitted in full by September 12, 2017. Registration and payment to be sent to Kathy Helmick, 907 Glendale Ave., South Charleston, WV 25303.

MEF for 2017

Our District goal for the 2017 Ministerial Educational Fund is \$9,810 .We have submitted \$4,032 of this amount or 42%. The guidelines set forth at the 2016 district conference are as follows:

- Any church with 400 members or more are to pay \$600 per church.**
- Churches with 200-400 members are to pay \$500 per church.**
- Churches/Charges with less than 200 members are to pay \$250 per church/charge.**

We have received payments from 18 Charges . Check with your treasurer to see if your charge has paid this year. If not,please encourage them to do so as soon as possible so this will not come due at the end of the year with Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons.

Appreciate your help with keeping your church/charge up to date on their funds. Also, ask them to bring their **promo fund** up to date for this year, if they have not already done so.

Child Protection Training

On November 18 from 1-4 p.m. at Quiet Dell UMC, Alice Forkey will be holding training for Child Protection.

Anyone in your churches who have not had the training before and work with children, should come to this training. This is a MUST HAVE for your people.

Thanks,
Jo Criss

Wesleyan District & MonValley District

Lay Servant Ministries



ATTENTION: ALL LAY SERVANTS, PASTORS, LAY LEADERS, COUNCIL CHAIRS, SPRC CHAIRS, TRUSTEES, CHURCH DELEGATES!

In a joint collaboration between the MonValley and Wesleyan Districts, we are bringing the most updated United Methodist Polity course to our Fall 2017 Lay Servant Ministries Academy, and we are extending the invitation of attendance to pastors, administrative council chairs, church delegates, lay leaders or anybody delegated at the local church level.

In fact, each district is asking that the SPRC chair and one member from each church or charge attend. Textbook, lunch and snacks are included in the course registration fees. If possible, please bring a copy of the new 2016 Book of Discipline with you.

We have seen a good deal of changes at the Annual Conference level which have culminated in the release of the 2016 UM Book of Discipline. The polity course will discuss many of these changes.

On that note, the Fall 2017 Academy will be graciously hosted on September 23rd this year by the Bridgeport United Methodist Church in Bridgeport, WV. More information about the Academy can be found on the enclosed, or attached, brochure.

As in the past, we will also offer the *Introduction to Lay Servant Ministries (Basic)* and *Advanced Lay Speaking (Go Preach!)* courses.

Remember that the Intro course (which is a very good course, by-the-way!) is open to anyone who has a desire or calling to serve in their church or charge, in any capacity. They do not have to be interested in speaking or preaching from the pulpit. This course is for persons discerning a call to proclaim the presence and power of God through lay servant ministries. If you ever have any questions along your journey or about the upcoming Polity course, don't hesitate to contact your District office.

Thanks, and God bless!

Jim Minutelli, Chairperson, Wesleyan District Lay Servant Ministry Committee

Certified Lay Minister

West Milford United Methodist Charge

minutellij@gmail.com Facebook @ Jim Minutelli

Facebook group: Wesleyan District Lay Servants WV

LAY SERVANT ACADEMY REGISTRATION
September 23, 2017

(Early registration is required for effective planning!)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____ PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

LOCAL CHURCH _____

PASTOR _____

Are you taking this class for Lay Speaker Certification? _____

CHOICE OF COURSE: (Choose One)

_____ **Intro to Lay Servant Ministries (Basic)**

_____ **Advanced Lay Servant Training (Go Preach!)**

_____ **United Methodist Polity**

The cost for the Lay Servant Ministry Training is \$30.00, which includes the materials, book, and lunch, plus snacks.

Please complete this registration form and return it with your payment no later than **September 8, 2017.**

If you are part of the Wesleyan District:

Wesleyan District Office

P. O. Box 230

Buckhannon, WV 26201

Make check payable to: **Wesleyan District**

If you are part of the MonValley District:

MonValley District Office

309 Cleveland Avenue; Suite 100

Fairmont, WV 26554

Make check payable to: MonValley District

It is important that you register by the deadline of September 8th as course books need to be mailed to enrollees in advance. There are assignments which need to be completed before attending class.

One class is equal to 10 contact hours (includes pre-session homework).

Questions?

Contact:

Jim Minutelli at 304-745-3676

minutellij@gmail.com

or

Karla Bragg, MonValley District

304-366-6811

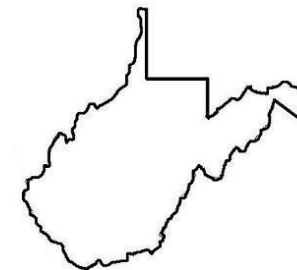
or

Wesleyan District, 304-472-1095,

joc@wvumc.org

There will be NO walk-in Registrations because of pre-course homework that is required.

Wesleyan & MonValley
Districts
Lay Servant Ministry Training
Schedule



September 23, 2017

Bridgeport United Methodist
251 Worthington Drive
Bridgeport, WV 26330

- 7:30 a.m. Registration
- 8:00 a.m. Opening Worship & Communion
- 8:45 a.m. Morning Class Session
- 10:15 a.m. Break for 15 minutes
- 10:30 a.m. Continue Class
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch and Q&A Session
- 12:45 p.m. Afternoon Class Session
- 2:00 p.m. Afternoon Break
- 4:30 p.m. Dismissal

Courses being offered:

Intro to Lay Ministry Basic Course

Cindy Boggs, Instructor

This course is for persons discerning a call to proclaim the presence and power of God through Lay Servant Ministries. Basic principles of proclaiming the Word of God through worship leadership, preaching, witnessing, teaching, leadership, and service form the framework for the class. This class will include leading a 5-10 minute devotion during the afternoon. There will be a pre-course preparation sheet sent along with the course book when you register.

This course is foundational for all courses in Lay Servant Ministries. Participants are encouraged to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended and to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in their discipleship.

If you have already completed the basic course, and intend to become a Certified Lay Speaker or Certified Lay Servant, you are invited to sign up for the advanced course listed below:

Lay Servant Advanced Course: "Go Preach!"

Alicia Rapking, Instructor

This course is designed with a focus on the principles of preaching, including sermon preparation and scripture study in preparation for preaching. The afternoon session will include preaching by the students and discussion of that experience. You will need to have read the book "Go Preach" prior to the session and complete any provided assignment.

To keep your certificate current an advanced course is needed every three years.

United Methodist Polity

(updated using the new 2016 Book of Discipline!)

Ken Krimmel, Instructor

An advanced course in Lay Servant Ministries that gives participants an overview of the structure and organization of The United Methodist Church. The constitution and structural relationships of The United Methodist Church are examined with a particular focus on the workings of the local church. Students are encouraged to bring a 2016 Book of Discipline as reference.

This course is being extended to accommodate pastors, lay leaders, council chairs, church delegates, SPRC chairs, etc. who would like to understand the changes in the structure and organization of the Church, as grounded in the new 2016 BOD.

Each District is asking that the SPRC chair and one delegate from each church or charge attend.

WESLEYAN &
MONVALLEY DISTRICTS

LAY SERVANT MINISTRY

TRAINING ACADEMY
Fall 2017



September 23, 2017

*Bridgeport United
Methodist Church
Bridgeport, WV*

**ATTENTION: ALL LAY SERVANTS,
PASTORS, LAY LEADERS, COUNCIL
CHAIRS, SPRC CHAIRS, CHURCH
DELEGATES!**

Bishop's Summit on Diversity and Inclusion
"Building Holy Relationships"

October 6-7, 2017
Cedar Lakes Conference Center, Ripley, WV

Preregistration Required, Deadline Sept. 30, 2017

Pastors and Lay People, please seriously consider attending the Bishop's Summit on Diversity and Inclusion. This year's Summit will include a 2nd Phase of Training in the area of Intercultural Competency, including training in the area of ministry with persons with disabilities.

Led by Giovanni Arroya, Program Ministries for the General Commission on Religion and Race and Bishop Peggy Johnson, Episcopal Leader of the Philadelphia Area which includes Penn-Del and Eastern PA Conferences.

With all the struggles this nation is facing, we need to join together and learn how to build relationships with one another along all the lines that are dividing us today. We have to learn how to speak to one another in Christian love and understanding. We need to learn how to forgive one another in the name of Jesus, who forgives us!

If you are on our Wesleyan District Lead Team, are a Parish Coordinator, Pastor, and Laity, please consider this as a wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth.

I will be attending and I hope to see many of you there, too! God bless you in your ministry in your local churches!

Continuing education/contact hours are available for those attending the entire event.

Go to our Conference webpage: www.wvumc.org to register.

A Christian-Based Ministry

August 22, 2017

PO. Box 365 • Mill Creek, WV 26280-0365



Office: (304) 335 -2788 • email: tcm@frontiernet.net

TO: Tyrand's Partners in Mission

SUBJECT: Thanksgiving/Christmas Food Baskets

"For I was Hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:35).

It is again time to begin preparations for our Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Basket Program. We are asking for your help with donations of food to help us serve the less fortunate.

A schedule for food collection was implemented a few years ago and seems to work well in gathering food items for the Baskets. Our suggested schedule is:

SUNDAY: October 01 - Green Beans
 October 08 Corn
 October 15 - Peas
 October 22 - Applesauce
 October 29 - Pork - n- Beans
 November 05 - Canned potatoes
 November 12 - Canned fruit
 November 19 - Cookies
 November 26 - Hand Soap

(Donations designated for the Thanksgiving Baskets need in to us before November 21st)

If your church can collect these items but cannot deliver them to Tyrand, please call and we will make arrangements to pick up the collected items. Contributions of money is also needed to purchase the perishable items that are included in the baskets. All donations for the Christmas Baskets of food and money need in to us before December 8th. If you know of someone that should receive a Christmas Basket please be sure to make us aware of that need. Thank you for your support and prayers throughout the year. May God bless you in your effort to help the less fortunate.

Grace
and
peace,

"Belinda

Belinda Toms, Director

A Time of Prayer for our United Methodist
Church
and the Work of the Commission on the
Way Forward

Our Bishop is calling us to join in a time of prayer the first week of October , 2017. As your District Superintendent, I am asking all of our Wesleyan District Parish Coordinators to work within each of our parishes to organize our prayer times. As you know, they (the Commission) will be meeting to determine how to go forward with the human sexuality issue we are facing.

And they and our Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball need your prayer support so that they may discern rightly God's word and will for the future of the United Methodist Church.

Therefore, I will call the Parish Coordinators together for a time of prayer and discernment and then they will speak with all of you within their parishes to order the prayer times.

Please make sure all of you, pastors and laity, are a part of this Time of Prayer the first week of October.

Ephesians 3:16-29 says concerning prayer:

"THAT GOD WOULD GRANT YOU, ACCORDING TO THE RICHES OF HIS GLORY, TO BE STRENGTHENED WITH MIGHT THROUGH HIS SPIRIT IN THE INNER MAN, THAT CHRIST MAY DWELL IN YOUR HEARTS THROUGH FAITH; THAT YOU, BEING ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE MAY BE ABLE TO COMPREHEND WITH ALL THE SAINTS WHAT IS THE WIDTH AND LENGTH AND DEPTH AND HEIGHT- TO KNOW THE LOVE OF CHRIST WHICH PASSES KNOWLEDGE; THAT YOU MAY BE FILLED WITH ALL THE FULLNESS OF GOD."

Romans 15:5-6, 13 says:

"MAY THE GOD OF PATIENCE AND COMFORT GRANT YOU TO BE LIKE-MINDED TOWARD ONE ANOTHER ... THAT YOU MAY WITH ONE MIND AND ONE MOUTH GLORIFY GOD....MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE IN BELIEVING, THAT YOU MAY ABOUND IN HOPE BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT."

The Peace of Christ be with you

all!

Rev. Mary Ellen Finegan, DS

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the West Virginia Conference,

Greetings in the name of Christ! At our Annual Conference session in June, we introduced a theme that will help focus our mission in the West Virginia Conference over the next four years. Our theme is "Cultivating a Culture of Leadership that is Hopeful, Innovative, Invitational, and Generative." In each of the four years we will highlight one aspect of the leadership culture we seek to develop. For the 2017 session of our Conference and for this coming year, our focus targets what it means to be "Hopeful."

During our annual conference session, we celebrated and gave thanks for 2400+ new professions of faith across the conference! The challenge for intentionally reaching more new persons for

Christ was cast last year and this year we celebrate that in the West Virginia Conference we have doubled the number of persons we reach on average within a 12 to 18 month period. This is hopeful and works to motivate clergy and lay leadership to not just introduce people to Christ, but to now lead people into a lifetime of following Christ, helping them to become disciples.

Worship was hope filled. We began the Conference season with a service of water and healing. We remembered the flood waters of 2016, the flood of emotion and loss, and gave thanks for the work of recovery accomplished and the on-going recovery that continues to bring hope to those seeking a better tomorrow and new life. A representative from UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) - one of our recovery partners - was able to join us for this service and we continue to give thanks for the generous connectional giving and help that enables us to bring hope to our hardest hit and most vulnerable communities.

We celebrated our African American congregations and lifted up the hope we have for developing clergy and lay leadership that seeks to build better relationships among persons of different races and cultures within our churches and communities so that we come to truly understand we need each other not only to survive but to thrive. Additionally, we focused on cultivating hopeful leadership as prayed, entered into holy conversation, sang, baptized, ordained, and celebrated the faithful witness and leadership of those who have now entered a new journey called retirement.

Cultivating a culture of hopeful leaders is something upon which The United Methodist Church as a whole is focused as we work to develop principled Christian leaders around the globe.

Enclosed is the 2017-2020 United Methodist Handbook; "Therefore, Go!" This handbook is a resource that is helpful in educating new hope filled disciples and new hopeful leaders to The United Methodist Church. I would urge you to consider using this handbook as a teaching tool in new member and confirmation classes, leadership training sessions, welcome packets, church libraries and other congregational gathering spaces.

I invite you to intentionally become a part of cultivating a culture of leadership that is

informed and hopeful so that we can become an even greater spiritual breath of fresh air that changes the world! I hope you find the handbook helpful. You can order more copies, they are free of charge! Visit shop.umc.org or our own conference website, wvumc.org for more details on how to order copies for your congregation.

Grace and peace,

Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball

**We have quite a number of letters and information in the newsletter this time,
So please read everything and pass on to your congregations.**

Spiritual Formation Retreat:

"The Role of Small Groups in the Journey of Salvation"

Sponsored by the Spiritual Formation Task Force of the WV Annual Conference

One of the great gifts that John Wesley gave to the Christian Church is the role of small groups in the salvation journey. When we read scriptures such as *Philippians 2:12* where it says, "...Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling...", many times we think of the work of salvation as being strictly an individual work -- such that, by asking Jesus Christ to be the Lord and Guide of one's life, we misguidedly think that it is solely one's own personal responsibility to live that out (i.e., that it is up to me alone to figure out to live into this). Nothing, however, could be further from the truth.

In the early days of Methodism, Mr. Wesley formed Bands, Societies, and Classes to provide mutual support and accountability to people as they grew in their relationship with God. When a person came to be in a relationship with God, they were encouraged to join a small group so that, together with one another, all could grow in their relationships with God and each other. These various kinds of small groups were and are a great gift to Christianity.

The Spiritual Formation Task Force of the WV Annual Conference would like to extend an invitation to come to a retreat at the Pope John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston to learn more about the place and work of small groups in one's salvation journey. The retreat will be held Friday-Saturday, October 27-28, 2017, beginning at 7:00 P.M. on Friday evening and concluding Saturday afternoon at 4:00 P.M. The Rev. Dr. Tim Allen, D.Min. will be the retreat leader.

The cost of the retreat is \$75.00, which includes breakfast and lunch on Saturday and all retreat materials. (This includes a \$15.00 non-refundable registration fee.) The deadline to register is October 20. PLACE: Pope John 23rd Pastoral Center Charleston (Hodges Road off Route 119/Corridor G). Checks should be made payable to: "Spiritual Formation Task Force" and sent to Dave Biondi (453 Forest Circle, South Charleston, WV 25303).

IF AN EMERGENCY ARISES AND YOU CANNOT ATTEND PLEASE CONTACT REV. LEE WILLIAMS AT leewilliams@ntelos.net AND YOUR SITUATION WILL BE CONSIDERED. DINNER ON FRIDAY EVENING WILL BE ON YOUR OWN.

LODGING IS

AVAILABLE AT JOHN
XXIII SINGLE ROOM

\$52.00

DOUBLE \$42.00 PER PERSON (\$84.00 total)

ROOM RESERVATIONS CAN BE REFUNDED TILL THE DAY OF THE RETREAT

NAME: _ _ _ _ DO YOU NEED LODGING? Yes__ No__ _

SINGLE__ DOUBLE (NAME OF ROOMMATE)_____

01 Contact Hours for Continuing Education will be given.

PLEASE SEND YOUR
CHECKS TO: REV.
DAVE BIONDI
453 FOREST CIRCLE
S. CHARLESTON, WV. 25303

MAKE THE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: "SPIRITUAL FORMATION TASK FORCE" and in the
memo line write
"Retreat".

FURTHER QUESTIONS? Contact REV. LEE WILLIAMS at leewilliams@ntelos.net

APPORTIONMENTS!!

As of July 31 these are the Churches that have paid 100% on their Apportionments:

Alton UMC, Bristol UMC, Coplin UMC, Crawford UMC, Elijahs Chapel UMC, Fairview UMC (Braxton), Hacker Valley UMC, Ireland UMC, Israel UMC, Johnstown UMC, Liberty UMC, Macedonia UMC, Meadow Valley UMC, Mt. Olive UMC (Tallmansville), Mt. Olive UMC (South Buckhannon), Mt. Union UMC, Mt. Zion UMC (Newlon), Otterbein UMC, (Glenville), Pine Grove UMC, Tanner UMC, Valley Bend UMC, Waldeck UMC, West Buckhannon UMC.

Churches on track at 7/12s or over are:

Bealls Mill UMC, Bendale UMC, Berry Chapel UMC, Big Isaac UMC, Bridgeport UMC, Broad Street UMC, Calvary UMC, Center Chapel UMC, Churchville UMC, Coffman Chapel UMC, Copen UMC, Corley UMC, Doyle Chapel UMC, Duff Street UMC, Fall Run UMC, First UMC (Clarksburg), Freemansburg UMC, French Creek UMC, Frenchtown UMC, Hampton UMC, Heaston UMC (Hodgesville), Heaston UMC, (Wilsontown), Heaters UMC, Horner UMC, Hurst Chapel UMC, Jerry's Run UMC, Jerusalem UMC, Kanawha Run UMC, Kynette UMC, Laurel Fork UMC, Lost Creek UMC, Lyda Chapel UMC, Mace UMC, McWhorter UMC, Mercy chapel UMC, Monroe Chapel UMC, Morrison UMC, Mt. Olive UMC (Jarvisville), Mt. Clare UMC, Mt. Harmony UMC, Mt. Hermon UMC, Mt. Morris UMC, Mt. Nebo UMC (North Sutton), Mt. Rupert UMC, New Bethel UMC, Orlena UMC, Pleasant Hill UMC (Good Hope), Quiet Dell UMC, Reger Chapel UMC, Right Hand Fork UMC, Rock Cave UMC, Rockford UMC, Rcky Ford UMC, Salem UMC (Wilsontown), St. Matthew UMC, Stone Coal UMC, Stone Run UMC, Straight Fork UMC, Tennerton UMC, Tichenal UMC, Trinity UMC (Glenville), Troy UMC, Valley Chapel UMC (Waldeck), Valley Head UMC, Vandalia UMC, Vincent Memorial UMC, Waterloo UMC, Wayside UMC, West Milford UMC, Wilson Chapel UMC.

To those of you who are paying but are behind some at this point, thanks for helping the ongoing mission of the church and we appreciate your effort to catch up, especially by the end of this year and meeting the goal of 100%.

Those of you who have paid **nothing** at all on the apportionment this year, please get with your treasurer, finance committee, and administrative board and set forth plans for raising money to pay your apportionments for the year.

Insurance premiums are also paid by the conference in addition to what the churches and pastors are paying and this is from Category I. Worldwide missions and many projects here at home are also paid from your apportionments. These funds go to provide monies for conferences, training programs, education for pastors and many other benefits given from our conference.

Below is the Schedule for charge Conferences for 2017:

Sept 24	3:00 p.m.	Salem Parish	Salem UMC
Oct 1	3:00 p.m.	Braxton Parish	Christ (Sutton)
Oct 14	3:00 p.m.	Gilmer Parish	Trinity UMC (UM Glenville)
Oct 15	3:00 p.m.	Clarksburg Parish	First UMC (Clarksburg)
Oct 17	7:00 p.m.	Tennerton-Mt Hope Chg	Tennerton UMC
Oct 18	7:00 p.m.	Mill Creek Charge	Mill Creek UMC
Oct 22	3:00 p.m.	Lewis Parish	St. Matthew UMC
Oct 24	5 p.m.- 6 p.m.	Upshur Parish House	Upshur Parish House
Nov 4	3:00 p.m.	South Harrison Parish	Lost Creek UMC
Nov 5	3:00 p.m.	Highland Parish	First UMC (Elkins)
Nov 22	3:00 p.m.	Upshur Coop. Parish	Chapel Hill

If your charge has special items to be considered, call for a separate charge conference at a different time.

Host Church should provide tables up front for the DS, Preachers, and Secretary of the charge conferences.

Host Church should have communion items set up and also have light refreshments after the meeting.