

WESLEYAN DISTRICT WITNESS

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

A message will be coming out shortly, at a later date, from the District Superintendent.

Birthdays and Anniversaries for JANUARY

1	Elsie Smith	B	24	Danny Fleming	B
11	Bob Kin		B	Sharon Carr	B
12	Mary Ellen Finegan	B		Sharon Dietze	B
13	Grace Rapping	B	25	Roger Neely	B
	Marilee Backus		B	26 Sam Biller	B
14	Kaylea McCutcheon (Ch)	B	27	Regina Rodrigues	B
	Rebecca Calhoun	B	29	Marlen Waters	B
15	Janet Butcher	B		Jolando Holmes	B
17	Kendra Sullivan Scott	B		George Hamrick	B
18	Mark & Winnie Smith	A	30	Suzette Evans	B
19	Kathleen Daniels	B		David Fisher	B
20	Don Killingsworth	B	31	Edsil Bragg	B
	Beverley Hines Brown	B			
21	Jimmie & Melba Johnson	A		Happy New Year!	
	Dan & Nel Kimble	A			
22	Carolyn Simmons	B			

Birthdays and Anniversaries for FEBRUARY

4	Alicia Rapping	B	20	Ron & Beverley Brown	A
5	Michael Toms	B		Khristi McCutcheon	B
	Connie Dugas	B	21	Frank Yanero	B
6	Richard Fretwell	B	22	Bill Calhoun	B
7	Phyllis Coston	B		Jo Miller	B
	Mitchell Griffin	B	23	Curtis Saville	B

11	Sherry Rawlings		B	George Bramble		B
12	Jeanie Malick	B	24	Sam Chambers		B
13	Alvin & Sallie Angle	A	27	Jim Burrough	B	
	Ann & Richard Fretwell		A	Steven Meadows		B
	Sue Guido	B	28	Basil Hensley	B	
	Jim & Jeanie Malick	A				
	Garnett Balis	B				
14	Rodger McCormick	B				
	Steve Engle	B				
16	Dallas Bailey	B				

Enjoy your Special Day!
Happy Valentine's Day!



ANNOUNCEMENTS OF UPCOMING DATES!!!

- Jan 15** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Holiday, Office Closed
- Jan 18** 9:30 Reg. 10-2 p.m. Quiet Dell Mandatory Clergy, for Clergy & Lay from Churches
Rev. Barry Ball speaking on “The Drug Opioid Epidemic. Wesleyan & MonValley Dist.
- Jan 19** Deadline for papers from Candidates meeting with dCOM, 1-25, with Sermon.
- Jan 22-24** Cabinet meeting for D.S.
- Jan 25** DCOM meeting at First Buckhannon Noon with interviews starting 12:30-4:30
- Jan 30-Feb 1** D.S. meeting in Baltimore-Washington
- Feb 2** Admin. Asst. starts with ½ day vacation through Feb 16. Return Office Feb 19
- Feb 10** From Membership to Discipleship, Duff Street UMC (information attached)
- Feb 20** DCOM First (Buckhannon) Pastor’s Interviews, all day, 8:30 gathering
- March 8** DCOM First (Buckhannon) Pastor’s Interviews, all day, 8:30 gathering
- March 10** Covenant Council, D.S.
- March 10** Officers’ Training, Chapel Hill/Treasurers & Financial Persons, PPRC, Admin. Brd
Chairs. No Charge
- March 11** Daylight Savings Time Begins. Spring Forward!
- March 11-13** Cabinet for D.S.
- March 23-24** Spiritual Formation Retreat, John XXIII, Rev. Lee Williams, \$75 per person
(Information attached)
- March 25** Palm Sunday
- March 26-27** Cabinet
- March 30** Holiday, Office Closed – Good Friday
- April 1** Easter Sunday
- April 9-10** Cabinet D.S.
- April 10** CLM Training Module I, 6:30 – 9 p.m. Chapel Hill UMC
- April 14** CLM Training 2nd session of Module I 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Lunch served Chapel Hill
- April 14** Regular Spring Lay Academy 8-4 p.m. Chapel Hill Brochure to follow
- April 14-21** PMLS at Huttonsville, Bishop Hodges Center
- April 13-14** Reaching New People – Held by Conference, Check Calendar
- April 21** CLM Training 3rd session of Module I, 9-3 p.m. Bring sack lunch or go out to eat
- April 22-25** Spirit Streams, Spiritual Formation John XXIII, Check Conf Calendar
- April 22-26** Cabinet D.S.
- April 28** Beginning Well – For persons moving to new appointments, WVWC, PPRC &
Members
- May 6** District Conference, Chapel Hill – 3-5 p.m.
- May 10-13** Cabinet D.S.
- May 10** CLM Module II 6:30 -9:30 p.m., Chapel Hill, Session 1
- May 15** CLM – Module II 6:30 – 9 p.m. Chapel Hill, Session 2
- May 19** CLM – Module II, 9-3, bring sack lunch or eat out. Chapel Hill Session 3
- May 21-23** Cabinet D.S.
- May 28** Holiday, office closed, Memorial Day
- June 4-10** Cabinet and Annual Conference - WVWC
- June 7-10** Annual Conference - WVWC

Prayer Chain



Remember these from our district in prayer: Thelma Carr. .Billy Carr is getting shots for pain in his hip. Beverley Brown,

Cliff and Mary Ann Schell; Sam and Nancy Cale III; Mitch and Mary Ann Griffin; Mary Ann undergoing chemo treatments every other week in Morgantown. Roy Mick has serious problems with the brain tumor found and is now in Clarksburg at the VA and is going to be having a consultation on treatment. Please keep him and family in prayer.

David Thompson and Jane Thompson. Jerry Boyce who has continuing problems and kidneys were not operating as they should. Chris Stadelman, Paul's son; Remember Helen Oates and all of Paul's family since his recent passing. Bonnie Starkey taking radiation; Josie Tenney ; George Hamrick; Janis Hensley and husband Basil. Jimmie Joe Johnson with Cancer; Curtis and Virginia Saville, Audria Thomason who lost her father recently; the Kniceley family (Ruth Ann and family) who lost Bill Kniceley, who passed on January 8, 2018.

Don Coleman; Alvie Loyd at Big Otter Nursing Home; Dorcas Conrad,. Remember Belinda Toms' family who have suffered passing of family member and other members who are extremely ill. Also, remember Brenda's daughter, Stephanie. Remember Doris Baker (widow) who has some spots on lung which are being diagnosed. Patricia Neely has been found Cancer free—Praise God! Prayer to Karen Mitchell, wife of Randy Mitchell. Susan Seders prayer for another health problem. Please keep all these people in prayer and help for their relatives during difficult times. Don and Glenna Fitzwater. Pray for our pastors and families as they battle flu, Pneumonia, and colds during this winter.

Remember Kelley Simmons that she grows stronger in the use of her artificial limb. 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.

Pray for our Cabinet and Bishop as they meet making appointments for our pastors. May God guide them to make good matches between charges and pastors.

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

WESLEYAN DISTRICT'S NEW WEBSITE!!

Please visit us at: www.wesleyandistrictumc.org

MEF for 2017 and 2018

Our District goal for the 2017 Ministerial Educational Fund was \$9,810 .We have submitted \$9,810 with the District funds paying \$1,308.65 of that amount, which was not paid by the churches. Please try to meet our goal for 2018, which has been assessed at \$11,751 by the Conference. **There has been a change.** The Memo on the check should say “**Educational Funds**” and be made to Wesleyan District. Please mail to us at P.O. Box 230, Buckhannon, WV 26201. We appreciate your stewardship in meeting these goals for the District and the Conference. Since our goal is higher than last year, we ask that smaller churches pay no less than \$50 even though they have received a smaller amount on the Fair Share sheet. Thanks so much for your help.

PROMO FUND 2017

Appreciate your help with keeping your church/charge up to date on their funds. Our payout was **89.5%**. Checks are to be sent to the **Wesleyan District Office, P.O. Box 230, Buckhannon, WV 26201, made out to Wesleyan District.** Thanks for your good work in supporting our District.

FAIR SHARE 2017

Our year of 2017 is finished and our District paid out at over 91.10% which was a little less than the 92.74% in 2016.

Each year our churches should strive to pay as much as possible towards 100%. We thank those of you who met the 100% goal this year. We give thanks for those of you who raised your efforts from the previous year towards that goal.

Below are the churches that paid 100%:

Alton, Bealls Mills Bendale, Berlin, Berry Chapel, Bethel, Beverly, Big Isaac, Boulder, Bridgeport, Bristol, Broad Street, Calvary, Cassity, Center Chapel, Centralia, Chapel Hill, Churchville, Coffman Chapel, Copen, Coplin, Corley, Crawford, Doyle Chapel, Duff Street, Elijahs Chapel, Fairview (Braxton Chg), Fall Run, First (Buckhannon), First (Clarksburg), First (Elkins), First (Jane Lew), Freemansburg, Frenchtown, Gassaway, Hacker Valley, Hammond, Hampton, Heaston (Hodgesville), Heaston (Wilsontown), Heaters, Highland Park, Horner, Hurst Chapel, Ireland, Israael, Jerrys Run, Jerusalem, Johnstown, Kanawha Run, Kynette, Laurel Fork, Liberty, Lorentz, Lost Creek, Lyda Chapel, Mace, Macedonia, McWhorter, Meadow Valley, Mercy Chapel, Mill Creek, Monroe Chapel, Morrison, Mount Olive (Jarvisville), Mt. Carmel, Mt. Clare, Mt. Harmony, Mt. Hebron (Jane Lew), Mt. Hebron (North Sutton), Mt. Hermon, Mt. Lebanon, Mt. Morris, Mt. Nebo (North Sutton), Mt. Olive (Tallmansville), Mt. Olive (South Buckhannon), Mt. Rupert, Mt. Union, Mt. Zion (Newlon), Nay Chapel, New Bethel, Newlon, North View, Oil Creek, Orlena, Otterbein (Glenville), Pine Grove, Pleasant Hill (Good Hope), Queens (Tallmansville), Quiet Dell, Reed Chapel, Reger Chapel, Right Hand Fork, Rock Cave, Rockford, Rocky Ford, Rowan Memorial, Salem (Wilsontown), South Chestnut, Spruce Lick, St. Matthew, Stealey, Stone Coal, Stone Run, Straight Fork, Sycamore, Tanner, Temple (Clarksburg), Ten Mile, Tennerton, Tichenal, Trinity (Glenville), Trinity (Stonewall), Troy, Valley Bend, Valley Chapael (Mill Creek), Valley Chapel (Waldeck), Valley Head, Vandalia, Vincent Memorial, Waldeck, Waterloo, Wayside, West Buckhannon, West Milford, Wilson Chapel.

Below are churches who paid between 50% - 99.99%:

Burnsville, Christ (Sutton), Cutlipsville, French Creek, Gee Lick, Harmony, Kesling, Mt. Hope, Oak Grove (Mingo), Otterbein (Elkins), Pleasant Valley (Hodgesville), Queens Chapel, Reger (Hodgesville)

Below are churches who paid from 1% - 49.99%:

Broad Oaks, Christ (Clarksburg), Clover Fork, Cox's Mill, East View, Fairview (Ellamore), Fairview (Waldeck), Flatwoods, Lloydsville, McCann's Run, Miles Chapel, Mt. Earnest, Phillips Chapel, Pleasant Hill (Braxton), Salem (Salem), Smith Chapel, Stonewall, Stouts Chapel, Upper Ellis, Woodford Memorial.

Those of you who have paid **nothing** at all on the apportionment this year, please have a meeting with your treasurer, finance committee, and administrative board to set forth plans for raising money to pay your apportionments for the year of 2018.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS!!

Statistical reports came from the Conference Center on December 12. Please start getting figures together with your treasurers for this report which is due on January 31, 2018. Figures may be entered online also at the Conference website, www.wvumc.org. If you are close to the deadline, please mail overnight so they will be sure to arrive on time, or input the figures online. Reports not received on time will be assessed a 10% penalty and this will follow the church for the next 3 years as it is a 3-year average.

Parish Coordinators: Please send your Lay Equalization Members for your Parish and any Youth Representatives, Pages, etc. to Jo Criss by the 25th of January. The Conference will be asking for these names very quickly to get lined up for Annual Conference. **Pastors** – if you have someone from your churches you wish to nominate, please get these names to the Parish Coordinator. We need **Name, Address, Phone Number, and Church person is from.**

By February there should be a place to start signing up for Annual Conference, online. All registrations have been online the past few years, so please do not miss this on the Conference Website. www.wvumc.org.

The Opioid Epidemic in West Virginia

Rev. Barry Ball, spouse of Bishop Steiner Ball, will be holding an event for MonValley District and Wesleyan District at Quiet Dell UMC, on January 18, 2018, starting with registration at 9:30 and meeting from 10 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided by Quiet Dell ladies. The subject of this Clergy meeting is: **The Opioid Epidemic**. This has become a real problem in our communities in West Virginia. This meeting is mandatory for Pastors and any persons from their churches they wish to include. If the pastor is unable to attend, please send someone from your churches to represent your church/charge.

MESSAGE FROM CONFERENCE TREASURER

The new rate for travel allowance is: 54.5 cents per mile. Please give this message to your treasurers.

TRAINING EVENT FOR CHURCH OFFICERS

March 10 we will be holding a District-wide training event for church officers. Some of these will be PPRC chairs and members, Treasurers, Financial and Finance officers, Administrative Board Chairs to include NOW and Reaching New People, Trustees. We have a lot of new people taking on the responsibility of these offices and also persons who have been in these positions for a number of years who have not had recent training. Please contact these people and ask them to reserve this date. More information as to actual place will follow. This should be ½ day session.

Schedule for dCOM 2018

First (Buckhannon) 2nd
floor, Educational Bldg.

Noon **Committee Gathers** **January 25, 2018**
(Approval for PMLS in Spring 2018)
12:30 p.m. **Patricia Neely**
1:30 p.m. **Roger Neely**
2:30 p.m. **Andrew Boley**
3:30 p.m. **Michaela Weaver**

9:00 Committee gathers February 20, 2018 (Tues)
(Pastor Interviews)
9:30 a.m. Michael Burge
10:00 Mina Luzader-AS Martin Wine
10:30 Rita Cochran-AS Mitch Griffin - PTLP-R
11:00 Sandra Boley David Bowen - AS
11:30 Brian Boley Kara Phillippi
11:30 Brian Plum Roger McKee
Noon Lunch
1:00 Marybeth Chien Tyler Sprouse (Conf call)
1:30 Bryon Bukovesky - 346.2 Ethan Rapping
2:00 Robert King Jill Steele
2:30 Jackie Chambers Clara Peggs - AM-R
3:00 Destry Daniels Jim Murphy
3:30 Paul Thompson Ralph Miller-AS/346.2
4:00 Mark McCutcheon Karen Frazier-AS
4:30 John McQuain-AS Mike Hinkle - AS

9:00 Committee Gathers March 8, 2018 (Thurs)
9:30 Stella Faye Moyer-PL
10:00 Bobbie Rogers Pam Ritchie
10:30 Dwayne Brown Josie Tenney - AS
11:00 Peter Dietze Sharon Dietze
11:30 J.P. Morgan (Jim)-AS Rodney Heckert
Noon Lunch
1:00 Kelvin Hudkins Jack Bohman
1:30 Ed Balis - PTLP-R Ronald Brown
2:00 Elsie Smith - AS Ethan Rapping
2:30 Nancy Killingsworth Kelly Simmons
3:00 Joni Cutlip - 1 hour
3:30 (Candidate interview)
4:00 Michael Ludle
4:30 Doy James Short -AS Grace Rapping

#SEE ALL THE PEOPLE

“Let’s stop fixing churches and start seeing the people Christ called us to reach.”

Our General Secretary has set forth a thoroughly Wesleyan, Methodist, and historically Christian vision for the work of discipling in The United Methodist Church.

It reflects the wisdom and work of the Wesleys and the early Methodists themselves. Trying to make Anglican congregations better at being Anglican congregations in his day wasn’t likely to do much to make many more people more holy in heart and life, much less lead very many to perfection in love in this life. It just wasn’t going to work.

This wasn’t because Anglican congregations were bad congregations or had somehow “fallen” from “effectiveness.” Quite the contrary, Anglican congregations were about as functional as any other Christian congregations in the 18th century in England.

The reason fixing these congregations wasn’t going to generate many new or better formed disciples was that Anglican congregations, like nearly all Christian congregations since the sixth century, were not structured for discipling as a core function of their life together. Instead, like nearly all other congregations everywhere since that time, they were designed to support the public worship of God, the teaching of basic Christian doctrine, the provision of care for members, and to be a reliable institutional player in the life of the local community.

Discipling, or as the Wesleys would put it, helping people grow in holiness of heart and life, was simply not on the radar screen of what congregations did or had done – for over twelve centuries!

This didn’t mean discipling wasn’t being done at all. It just meant the congregation wasn’t the primary delivery system for this work. The primary delivery

system for discipling since that time had been (and still is) the religious society.

Religious societies were not congregations. They were often connected to congregations or, in the case of many monastic orders in the Western Church, to a bishop or the central authority of the church. But they were not congregations, nor did they seek to do what congregations did. Religious societies focused keenly on making disciples, teaching the way of salvation, caring for people far beyond the bounds of the parish, including advocating for justice, and connecting their members to active ministry in the world.

That’s exactly how early Methodism was structured – as a religious society. It was a gathering of persons strongly committed to watching over one another in love with the purpose of helping all society participants to grow in holiness of heart and life toward perfection in love in this life.

That's what Methodists did and promoted through their society meetings, band meetings, class meetings, field preaching, and "trial bands."

While the Methodist Societies were not congregations, they also actively sought to connect their members with congregations. Ordered under three General Rules, the United Societies (as the Wesleys called them) challenged and supported their members to live out the baptismal covenant of the Church of England. The third General Rule in particular required ongoing participation in the means of grace ("all the ordinances of God) observed in congregations (the public worship of God, and the Supper of the Lord) as well as those more particularly observed among members of the societies ("family and private prayer, searching the scriptures.") To be a Methodist meant being active in the life and work of both a congregation and the Methodist society. You couldn't become a Methodist or long remain a Methodist with clear and evident commitments to both.

The mission of Methodism was "to reform the nation, particularly the Church, and to spread scriptural holiness throughout the land." The method of Methodism to reform the church wasn't to fix Anglican congregations or even expect them develop discipleship systems within them. Instead it was to #SeeAllThePeople, especially the vast majority of people at the time who had little or no active connection to any congregation, and work intently in small groups with any who would respond to the call to "scriptural holiness." These people were then vitally re-connected to the whole of the experience of church through the society, including congregational life. And through this vital connection in their own lives with both Methodist societies and Church of England and other congregations, both the nation and these congregations began to experience dramatic reform and new vitality.

The results of Methodism in Britain within one century of its beginnings in the 1730s are astounding.

Methodists led the way to found hospitals, end debtor's prisons, abolish slavery, start the labor movement, create better systems for the care of children and orphans, and revitalize religious life not only in England, but through England across the whole of the British empire.

In other words, they made disciples of Jesus Christ who literally transformed the world.

We can be part of the same world-transforming outcomes beginning in our generation.

But only if we remember that focusing on #fixingchurches doesn't generate the outcome of disciples of Jesus who transform the world.

#SeeAllThePeople does.

If we #SeeAllThePeople, not just or first our congregations, and focus intently on discipling them in the way of Jesus, and, as did the early Methodists, also connect them to congregations, we will equip and unleash and multiply disciples of Jesus who will be empowered to transform the world in our own day.

So #SeeAllThePeople.





From Membership To DISCIPLESHIP

Part 1 Foundations

This session will introduce your discipleship team to a core definition for discipleship, differentiate between discipleship and Christian Education, describe six dimensions of life lived as a disciple, present a flow of moving disciples toward maturity, and introduce the Discipleship Growth Survey as a tool to support personal discovery and opportunities for congregational growth.

Part 2 Movements

Differentiate between membership and discipleship, make observations about the movement toward maturity, identify catalysts for spiritual growth, explore the practices necessary to move a disciple toward maturity between each of the phases of development.

Part 3 Discipleship as a Contact Sport

Discipleship is not a one-size fits-all but it does require a relational component. Explore a variety of discipling relationships, the value of each, and where each best fits in the discipleship process.

Part 4 Equipping for Transformation (How we support the Discipling Process)

Discover what types of relationships and educational support work best for supporting disciples in the various phases of development. Understand the five components every disciple needs to grow and how the church can help.

Part 5 Building an Intentional Discipleship Process

Learning from the best in history, participants identify the key elements of a transformational discipleship process, identify strengths and gaps in their current context, and build a plan for moving forward.

Forrest Burdette UMC, Hurricane ✦ LIVE in person location

Simulcast Locations:

St. Luke's UMC, Craigsville
Lewisburg UMC, Lewisburg
Stout Memorial UMC, Parkersburg
Gateway UMC, Fairmont
Christ UMC, Wheeling

Canaan Valley Conference Center
Main Street UMC, Petersburg
United Methodist Temple, Beckley
Duff Street UMC, Clarksburg

Dr. Phil Maynard

Director

Excellence in Ministry Coaching

phil@emc3coaching.com

321-217-6007

Saturday - February 10, 2018

Register Now at: <http://conta.cc/2hMfDuK>

Appointments and Assignments, December 18, 2017

Posted December 19, 2017

By WVUMC News

Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball announces the following appointments and assignments, effective July 1, 2018, unless otherwise noted.

Appointment	Status	Charge	District	From	District	Succeeding	Comment	Effective
Christopher Scott	FE	Winfield	MS	WVWC, Chaplain	WS	Tom Hill	retiring	Feb 1, 2018
Vickie Minnich	PTLP-R	Swanton-Kitzmiller Charge	PH			Carl Lee		Dec 1, 2017
Anna Efaw	PTLP	Aurora Charge	PH	South Fork Charge	PH	open		Jan 1, 2018
Aaron Himes	AS	South Fork Charge	PH			Anna Efaw	Aurora	Jan 1, 2018
Kevin Keplinger	AS	Rowlesburg Charge	PH			Kathryn White		Jan 1, 2018
Scott Ferguson	FE	Clendenin – Burke	MS	Clendenin	MS		realignment	Jan 1, 2018

Registration open for March Spiritual Formation Retreat

Posted December 17, 2017

By WV UMC Admin

An easily overlooked and forgotten aspect of Methodist Revival Worship is that the United Methodist Church is a Prayer Book Church. John and Charles Wesley were Anglican Priests who used as their foundation for worship the 1662 Church of England Book of Common Prayer.

The order and liturgy found in the Prayer Book helped to form John and Charles spiritually. Later, when Methodism became a separate church in Christianity John revised the Book of Common Prayer to be used in the American colonies. Of course, an offshoot of the prayer book tradition is found in our Book of Worship. Liturgy helps to form people spiritually. Liturgy, also, helps inform the work of God in preaching and in us being in a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

The Spiritual Formation Taskforce would like you to join us March 23 and 24, 2018 as we look at "John Wesley's Understanding of the Role of Preaching and Liturgy in the Journey of Salvation."

The retreat will begin Friday evening March 23 at 7:00 P.M. at John 23rd Pastoral Center, Charleston. The retreat will conclude Saturday, March 24 at 4:00 P.M. Our Retreat Leader will be The Rev. Dr. Heather Elkins, Ph.D. who is Professor of Worship and Preaching at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey.

Cost of the Retreat: \$75.00 per person. This includes registration for the event; breakfast and lunch on Saturday; and all materials. Friday evening meal will be on your own.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email Address _____

Lodging at John 23rd:

Single Room is \$ 52.00

Double Room is \$84.00 (\$42.00 per person).

Lodging Single _____ Double _____

Name of Roommate _____

Refunds for Registration (minus \$ 15.00) will be issued up to one week prior to the Retreat. Full Refunds for Lodging up to the day of the Retreat.

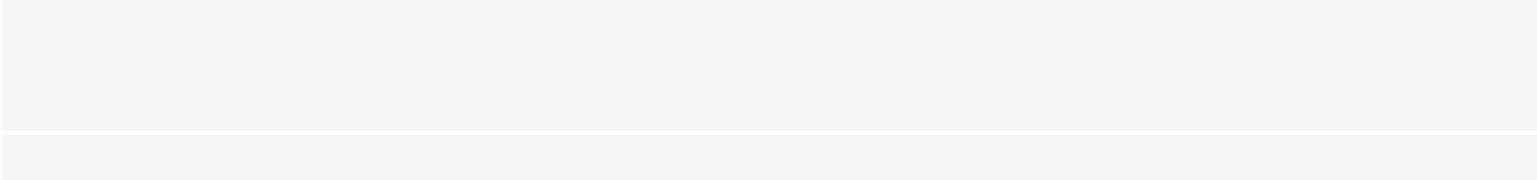
Any questions concerning the Retreat, please contact Rev. Lee Williams at leewilliams@ntelos.net.

Registration deadline is March 16, 2018.

To Register mail payment and the above information to:

Rev. David Biondi
453 Forest Circle S.
Charleston, WV. 25303

We hope you will be able to join us March 23 and 24.



WHAT IF?

In response to the opioid crisis that affects communities across the conference, WVUMC is offering free resources for the season of Lent. Rev. Barry Steiner Ball is leading the team in preparing weekly bulletin inserts and video interviews, which can be used by individuals and/or small groups for the 6 weeks of Lent. These resources will be available to download starting late January 2018.

A companion piece, a 6-week spiritual formation booklet, will also be provided to help your faith community explore the practices of prayer, fasting, listening and responding to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

What If? asks the following questions of us all:

What if each clergy and layperson in the West Virginia Conference made time to intentionally fast, pray, listen and respond to God's call on our lives, individually and as the church?

What if we intentionally entered into these spiritual practices to offer God's love, grace and healing power to those being affected by the opioid epidemic?

What if we did this over the Lenten season in order to seek God's direction for how we as individuals and congregations can respond to this crisis in a way that offers life? There is no reason not to do this! Financially, It costs nothing. To enter into this process does not require another night out for meetings.

What does this require of us? It requires that each Christian to set aside time to listen for God's call on each of our lives. What if - in this Lenten season - we really listened and responded? We might just be a part of God's life-giving resurrection to a person, a family, a community, a world!

[What if? resources](#), including a video introduction, are available for churches to use as part of their Lenten discipline [Click Here for the What If? page.](#) [Click here for a bulletin insert](#) to use to start promoting the study with your church.

What If?

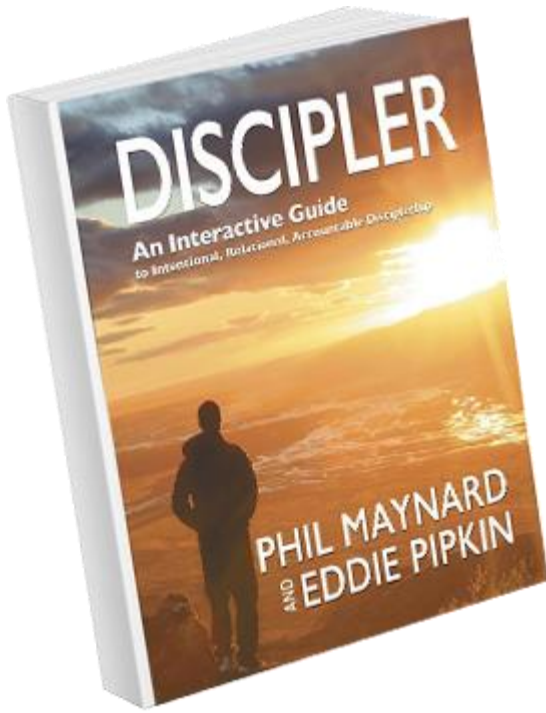
#WhatIfWV
Fast. Pray. Listen. Respond.
wvumc.org

Rev. Barry Steiner Ball extends this invitation to all United Methodists in the West Virginia Conference. What if?

Discipler: An Interactive Guide

Home/Discipler: An Interactive Guide

Next



18.95 [Buy Now](#) < [back to store](#)

Finally... a resource that invites individuals and small groups into a process of discovering a maturing relationship as disciples of Jesus Christ. This interactive guide provides six months of engaging activities (devotional, relational, educational, developmental, and practical) around six key dimensions of discipleship:

- A Life of Worship
- A Life of Hospitality
- A Life Opening to Jesus
- A Life Obeying Jesus
- A Life of Service
- A Life of Generosity

Each dimension of discipleship is experienced through daily, Scripture-based meditations and exercises in which participants explore the nuances of a lifestyle that encompasses each of these dimensions. And as each section of the book is completed, the activities grow in their level of engagement as participants move through the phases of development toward a deeper understanding of true discipleship.

A great how-to resource for discovering the basics and beyond of living more fully as disciples. **Discipler** is designed to be used in partnership with a spiritual friend, a discipleship coach, an apprenticing relationship, or a mentoring relationship, and it also works great as a small group study. It uses provocative, experiential exercises to challenge

what we think we know about discipleship and invite deeper reflection for those just starting their journey as followers of Jesus, as well as those who think they've got it all figured out.

An added bonus... built into the daily activities is an introduction to a wide variety of spiritual practices designed to enhance personal worship/devotional engagement.

FREE Samples of Discipler:

- [View Introduction](#)
- [View Section 2](#)

John Wesley created an amazing discipleship process that is still being used by congregations today that are making growing disciples.

The three keys to this process are:

1. Relational - discipleship is done in relationship with others (it is a contact sport)
2. Intentional - growing disciples are engaged in a process designed to provide training and experiences that move them toward maturity
3. Accountable - disciples that are moving toward maturity are in an accountable relationship (e.g. small group, discipleship coach, spiritual director)

If you are looking for a resource that brings together these three key principles for growing disciples you might want to check out my new book: *Discipler: An Interactive Guide to Intentional, Relational, Accountable Discipleship*.

Based around the key dimensions in the life of a disciple (worship, hospitality, opening to Jesus, obeying Jesus, service, and generosity) this resource leads participants through a discovery process for growing in maturity as disciples.

A great resource for individual use, coaching relationships, and small group study.



Dear Friends & Fellow Lay Servants,

Happy New Year! In addition to the anticipation of the holidays, hopefully you used Advent and Christmas time to reflect on your service this past year and prayerfully contemplate any Epiphany-inspired “new beginnings” we resolved.

Looking ahead, let us strive to become better servant leaders by making an extra effort to do more reading, studying and serving. This is a good time to start a Bible plan, prayerfully explore a new ministry opportunity for your church, preach more, or find a volunteer opportunity in your community.

Two upcoming events within the next few months that you should note:

As we approach the deadline of June 30, 2018 for Assigned Supply to start the process of taking the **Certified Lay Minister** (CLM) courses, we are offering, for those who are **not** able to take the classes online at BeADisciple.com, **CLM Modules 1 & 2 in a classroom setting**.

The face-to-face classes are limited in size, so if you are interested, let the District Office know right away to get your approval. For **Module 1**, the dates for this class will be April 10th from 6:30-9:00pm and then on April 14th from 8:00am until 4:00pm. April 21 from 9 am – 3 pm will be the last session of Module I. Out of class work will also be required to fulfill the requirements of the course. As the Intro and Spiritual Gifts classes are prerequisites for Module 1, we will be reviewing these courses as part of the overall course.” **Module 2** is tentatively scheduled for May 10, 15, and 19, 2018. We will let you know the locations of both Modules soon.

You can also find the 2018 schedule for online CLM classes at BeADisciple.com or on our website @ www.wesleyandistrictumc.org/ - click on District Committees, then Lay Servant Ministries and scroll to the bottom of the page.

The **second event** is our Spring Lay Servant Ministry Academy. It will be held on April 14th this year. We are still working on the location, but we plan on offering the Intro to Lay Servant Ministries (Basic) class, as well as Leading Public Prayer, Living as United Methodists, and possibly Grief & Death. Encourage those wanting to serve in your churches to sign up for the Intro course. It is a good overview of what we believe, and how we can effectively serve, as United Methodists.

Blessings for a New Year for you and yours, and please contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Walking alongside you in God’s grace, I am

Jim Minutelli, CLM

Chairperson, Wesleyan District Lay Servant Ministry Committee

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OFFICERS TRAINING MARCH 10, 2018

As we have in past years, the Wesleyan District is again offering a Church Officer/Leader training in 2018, and we are encouraging all church officers in our district to be in attendance.

This training will be held at the Chapel Hill United Methodist Church in Buckhannon on March 10, 2018 from 10:00am until noon. Registration will begin at 9:30am.

Classes will be held for the following committees and leadership:

Administrative/Church Council: *Rev. Steve Meadows, Instructor; Pastor, First UMC in Buckhannon, WV.*

Financial team/Treasurers: *Jim Berner, Instructor; Conference Treasurer from the WV Annual Conference.*

SPRC/PPR: *Cliff Schell, Instructor*

Trustees: *TBA*

As we are a connectional church, this is a great way to get church officers and leaders together to hear the same message, share stories, and prayerfully learn from each other's successes and issues.

Please contact the District office at 304-472-1095 for more information.

Jim Minutelli

District Director of Lay Academy and Communications