



A Message from the District Superintendent



Greetings from the final day as a member of the West Virginia delegation to the General Conference. This experience has been transformative and exhausting. As I attempt to articulate our journey, I find it challenging to find the words, which is perhaps an occupational hazard for a preacher.

This week, I've witnessed the depth, breadth, and variety of our church. I've met individuals from three continents and attempted greetings in several languages (for example, "Bom dia" is Portuguese for "Good Morning"). We've experienced leadership and preaching from many of our bishops, witnessing the variety of their gifts.

Our days have been filled with the important task of processing nearly four volumes (2,000 pages) of legislation. As I write this on a Friday morning, I can assure you that we will not rest until we've completed this crucial task. Much of the legislation comes to us bundled on a consent calendar, which is one submitted list of multiple items that received less than 10 dissenting votes in committee. This is why you may have noticed wide vote margins of approval as we voted on these petitions as a group.

For those who have watched any of the livestreaming, you have seen the challenges of navigating a global world. Simply finding the correct words that translate to another language has been a challenge as we have amended legislation. We have worked together, striving to hold one another in love and Christian fellowship.

The church has made some changes to language concerning ordination, same-gender marriage, and human sexuality. It has also made adaptations that allow churches and pastors to continue making decisions about marriages and the use of their buildings. Our Bishop released guidance on this earlier in the week. Deacons were given the authority to administer the sacraments. Our Church has moved forward on a path toward full communion with The Episcopal Church. And a reduction has been approved to the base apportionment rate. These are only a few of the pieces of work we have accomplished in this General Conference. Yes, we have been busy advancing the mission and ministry of our denomination, and we thank you for your prayers during this time.

As always, we will face the task of understanding and implementing any necessary changes together. I am confident that we will navigate these changes with grace and hold one another in Christian love as we seek understanding. Each one of you is a precious gift in my life and a testament to God's best plan for the salvation of the world. I am deeply grateful for your support and our shared work.

Rev. Amy Shanholtzer
ashanholtzer@wvumc.org

In This Issue:

- 2 District Calendar
 Special Days
 Birthdays/Anniversaries
 Prayer Concerns
- 3 Annual Conference
- 3-5 Upcoming C.O.M. Events
- 5-6 Cooperative Community
 Ministry News
- 7 Farmers Market
- 8 Tyrand Cooperative
 Ministries News
- 9 Conference and District
 Fair Share

REMINDER:

Please notify the district office if you have changes to your church or charge officers during the year. Some changes require a charge conference.

MAILING ADDRESS FOR DISTRICT OFFICE:

3000 Technology Drive
 Fairmont, WV 26554

Email:
monvalleydistrict@wvumc.org
 Fax Number: 304-333-0224

MonValley District Office Hours

Monday - Friday

8:30 AM - NOON;
1 PM - 4:30 PM

Closed Memorial Day, May 27th

Special Days

- 12 UM Foundation Sunday
- 19 Heritage Sunday
- 26 Peace with Justice Sunday
(Offering)

Birthdays

- 3 Hunter Johnson
- 5 Bart Thompson
- 6 Mike Richards
Jim Zinn
- 8 Sue Berman
- 14 Robert Wilkins
- 15 Butch Baker
- 16 Hazel Sherwood
- 17 Matt Dotson
- 19 Thomas Williams
- 20 Bert Coffman
- 21 Rex Tenney
- 26 Emery June Schafer
- 27 Susan Seders
- 28 Esther Barkat
- 31 Josie Tenney

Anniversaries

- 7 Duane and Becky Bartrug
Mary and Paul Ragland
- 13 Alan and Bonnie Hulley
- 15 Lawrence and Christina Rebelo
- 18 James and Jackie Pauley
- 19 Jason and Olivia Schafer
- 23 Jackie and Sam Chambers
- 24 Martha Ognibene & Bart
Thompson
- 25 James and Wanda Steele
- 29 David and Pam Yanero
Jeremiah and Michaela Brown
Jasper

Looking Forward, Planning Ahead

MAY

- 7 Clergy Meeting | Garden Market, Philippi | 12:00 PM Lunch, Meeting to follow
- 8-9 DS @ Cabinet
- 11 District Lead Team
- 12 MOTHER'S DAY
- 15 Pre-Annual Conference Briefing | Avery UMC, Morgantown | 6:30-8:00 PM
- 19 C.O.M.E. Music Festival and Basket Silent Auction | Gateway UMC | 3:00 PM
- 19 Laity webinar for 1st Time Annual Conference attendees | 4:00 PM
- 20-22 DS @ Cabinet
- 27 **MEMORIAL DAY | Conference and District Offices Closed**
- 31 **Pastor Evaluations and Continuing Formation Reports due to District Office**

JUNE

- 2 Laity Zoom session for Annual Conference | 4:00 PM
- 6-9 Annual Conference | West Virginia Wesleyan College
- 14 Conference/District Office Summer Hours Begin | Closing at 12:00 PM on Fridays
- 15 District Lead Team
- 16 Father's Day
- 17-18 DS @ Cabinet
- 19 **JUNETEEN HOLIDAY | Conference & District Offices Closed**
- 26 Move out day for pastors
- 27 Move in day for pastors

JULY

- 1-4 DaySpring Day Camp @ LIFE UMC, Fairmont
- 4 **INDEPENDENCE DAY - Conference and District Offices closed**
- 10-12 Jurisdictional Conference - Pittsburgh
- 15 Bishop's Chalice Challenge

Let Us Pray...

Laura Malone and family -
death of her daughter-in-law,
Tracie (Fann) Hussion
Betty Bennett
Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball,
DS Amy Shanholtzer,
and all Conference Staff

Claire Shanholtzer
Pam Todd
Cindy Boggs
Mary Bane
All Churches, Missions, and
Ministries in the District
and Conference

May 12th is United Methodist Foundation Sunday

Congratulations on 50 years of ministry!

Learn more about the ministry of The Foundation, their history,
and available resources at: <https://www.umfww.org/>

Annual Conference

June 6th - 9th | West Virginia Wesleyan College

For information, visit: <https://www.wvumc.org/2024-annual-conference-resources/>

2024 Pre-Conference Briefings Schedule

There will be 7 pre-Annual Conference briefings held throughout the West Virginia conference. These will be open to pastors and laity from everywhere throughout the conference. You do not need to attend the one closest to your church. Each session will be identical. 75 minutes of information and then 15 minutes of Q&A.

Monday, 5/13 | Memorial UMC (1317 Webster Road, Summersville, WV 26651) | 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Monday, 5/13 | Temple UMC (201 Templeview Drive, Beckley, WV 25801) | 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Tuesday, 5/14 | Stout Memorial UMC (3329 Broad Street, Parkersburg, WV 26104) | 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Wednesday, 5/15 | Christ UMC (1232 National Road, Wheeling, WV 26003) | 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Wednesday, 5/15 | Avery UMC (1152 Cheat Road, Morgantown, WV 26508) | 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Thursday, 5/16 | First UMC (49 N. High Street, Romney WV 26757) | 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Friday, 5/17 | Steele Memorial UMC (733 Shaw Street, Barboursville, WV 25504) | 6:30 – 8:00 PM

UPCOMING CELEBRATION OF MISSIONS EVENTS

C.O.M.E. Tangible Goods Donations Drop Off

Please bring your collected tangible goods to Gateway on May 19th and enjoy the great music!

If you can't make it on the 19th, please bring donations to the District Office the week before -
Monday, May 13 – Friday, May 17th, between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm.

The needs lists for our 2 assigned missions can be found on our website: monvalleyumc.org.

Poetry Raises Funds for Missions

People can be so creative with words, and given a topic, away they will write! The proof occurred with a recent poetry contest open to churches in the Mon Valley District during the Celebration of Mission Event: Wordsmiths were asked to pen poems about flood buckets, those pails chock-full of cleaning supplies so needed during times of disaster.

Poem submission required a \$5 entry fee; throughout April, readers would vote on the poems at the rate of 1-cent per vote, with no limit to the number of votes. The poem which gained the most "votes" won the poetry contest. The rally cry for the contest was "Vote early and often." This was a low-cost, low-energy fund-raiser, which was fun and gave people a chance to use their creativity.

The winning poem came from the Reverend Martha Ognibene, who serves Wesley UMC of Morgantown:

What's Inside?

*First you get a bucket, of a 5-gallon size;
Make sure it has a lid that seals on tight.
Put in five scouring pads and reusable wipes-
Eighteen of those will be just right.
You'll need liquid laundry soap and liquid cleaner, too,
And don't forget the clothesline and some pins.
Two pair of kitchen gloves and some work gloves go in there,
Put five face masks in to cover nose to chins.
Some liquid air freshener will be handy for the kit,
And some repellent spray to keep the bugs away.
Add some dish soap and a scrub brush and some trash bags to the mix;
Your flood bucket will be set to save the day!*

The real winner, of course, was the Celebration of Mission Event, which received \$106.47 in "votes," plus \$30 in entry fees.

(Submitted by Judi McCracken, Spruce Street UMC)

“Traditional Music Celebration” for C.O.M.E and Gift Basket Silent Auction

Sunday, May 19 | Gateway UMC, Fairmont

During this celebration, we will raise our voices in praise and thanksgiving. Choirs throughout the district will offer music and then come together on one choral piece at the end of the service. **Everyone in the district is invited to come hear some awesome music and support our West Virginia missions by bringing your monetary donations for Celebration of Mission and bidding on some great gift baskets!**

For more information, please call/email the District Office at 304.366.6811 or monvalleydistrict@wvumc.org.

See the next page for information on the Silent Auction.

Silent Auction

We are asking each church to donate a theme basket for the Silent Auction. Ideas for the theme baskets are kitchen, baby, tools, school supplies, craft supplies, garden, kid's art supplies, cosmetics, family night (board games & snacks), sports, movie night, etc. Baskets may be wicker, laundry, Rubbermaid bins, wheelbarrows, wagons, or just a plain cardboard box, - use your imagination! Please shrink-wrap and decorate your basket. You should include your church's name as "Donated by" and a list of items in the basket. Your church could collect money from members and have one person arrange the basket or have members bring individual items in and assemble the basket as a group project - this is a great Sunday School project.

If your church would like to make more than one basket, remember the money raised will go directly to United Methodist Missions. Baskets need to be at Gateway UMC by 1:45 on Sunday, May 19, 2024.

The Silent Auction begins at 2:00 and ends at 4:00.

Winners of the baskets must be present and pick up their basket at 4:00.

Any questions, please call Barbara Metcalfe (304-366-2107) or Ginny Davidson (304-363, 9241). We look forward to seeing several baskets for the silent auction to support our West Virginia Missions!

BARBOUR COUNTY COOPERATIVE COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

The Barbour County Cooperative Community Ministry has been active - trying to get ready for a vacation Bible School June 20-22 at the Barbour County Fairground. We are looking forward to this event; we are also currently looking for volunteers. Pastor Tami Shoup oversees the programming, and it will be based upon John 3:16. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Pastor Tami at 304-838-8821 or Pastor Sam 304-614-1819.

Please be in prayer for all the folks in our parish. Lee Williams had surgery. Tami Shoup's mother has been in the hospital. Our parish treasurer's sister had a knee replacement, and our parish secretary broke her ankle. So, we need your prayers. Moreover, our friend and brother in ministry, Lee Williams, is retiring. We know and believe that ministry can and will happen, for we indeed serve an awesome God.

Some of our work of the Parish in Barbour County is with the Heart and Hand House. On April 27th Heart and Hand sponsored their first ever golf tournament at the Barbour County Country Club. Ten teams played 18 holes of golf to support the awesome ministry that happens at Heart and Hand. It was a blessing! They are currently planning on making it an annual event. Many of the folks who volunteered were from the Barbour County Parish.

Our next Scheduled meeting will be May 21st, 7 pm at Jerusalem UMC.

Pastor Sam Haught
Coordinator

TAYLOR COUNTY COOPERATIVE COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

Meeting was held April 23, 2024 at Blueville UMC. Diane Warder called the meeting to order and gave devotions on Genesis 1:30 Earth Day - Creation and taking care of it.

The COME Walk earned \$2310 from all the churches in the ministries. There were a bunch of walkers and as each year's picture progresses, so do our "looks!"

The May 12 Mother's Day Service will be at the Mother's Day Shrine @ 11:00a.m. Church of the Good Shepherd is doing the service and opening it up to the community. Rev. Matt Dotson reported that the chair lift is working into the sanctuary.

Since there was no one willing to take Chairperson for an entire year it was decided to have each church/charge take a quarter. Presently we are on the Blueville/Haymond/Trinity Charge and Diane Warder is acting Chairperson. A nomination for Financial Secretary was made by Marj Bryan and seconded by Brooke Russell for Linda McBee to fill that position. After discussion and Linda's acceptance of the nomination, the motion carried unanimously.

Memorial Day Parade was discussed. Rev. Matt says there will be either a van or truck in our space. You can either walk or ride. Donna has the bunting and banners. Brooke reminded all that the Memorial Day Service is May 26 @ 10:00a.m. at Mother's Day Shrine with David Arnold giving the message.

Community VBS by Cornerstone is August 6-8 at Sunset Terrace with a Pool Party on August 9.

Back-to-School Bash is August 16 @ 5:00p.m. @ the High School. Since we're not doing backpacks this year we will distribute a little bottle of water, a list of churches in Taylor County, and a "slap bracelet" with a religious theme. Each charge is to donate 100 8 oz. water bottles. Pam Gallaher made the motion to do the above, seconded by Berlyn Bryan. Discussion of the prices for the slap bracelets was held. Motion carried.

Pastor Corey requested to Diane Warder for the meeting time to be moved to 6:30pm. After a discussion Linda Adlinger made a motion, seconded by Helen Snyder to change the May 21 meeting and all others to 6:30p.m. Motion carried.

Trinity would like to offer a VBS called Anchored Deepening Faith in God for any church that wants it.

The next meeting will be May 21 @ 6:30p.m. @ Trinity UMC.

June 25 @ 6:30p.m. @ Simpson UMC in Flemington

Bread of Life Mission cooks will be May 10 - Flemington Charge

June 14 - Haymond

Foster Closet responsibilities are May - Blueville/Haymond/Trinity

June - Knottsville Charge

Berlyn made a motion to adjourn at 7:15 seconded by Sue Choff. Meeting adjourned.

Refreshments were served by Blueville UMC.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Judy Flynn

Coordinator

FARMER'S MARKET

COMMUNITY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

THURSDAY
3 TILL 6PM



1966 GRAFTON ROAD, MORGANTOWN, WV
EVERY THURSDAY FROM 3 TILL 6PM
STARTING MAY 16TH

TYRAND COOPERATIVE MINISTRIES, INC.

Tyrand will be hosting their first Co-Ed Softball Tournament on August 10th. We will be having our first Hunger Walk on September 14th. We would love to see you all there!

All proceeds will go to funding Tyrand's programs (food pantry, home repair, emergency assistance, holiday baskets, and Christmas Store.)

Must be at least 16 years of age.

\$125 per team!

Double elimination!

First place will receive a trophy!

Tyrand Co-ed Softball Tournament Fundraiser



When: August 10th, 2024

10:00 AM

**Where: TVLL Fields
Huttonsville, WV**

Text or Call:

Makayla Mayle (304-591-5309)

or

Heidi Wegman (304-940-9850)

If you are a vendor and interested in setting up, please contact us!

Teams should have 10-12 players, with at least 4 females.

Teams should register by July 27th!

No Alcohol!

All Day concessions!

MonValley District Churches Conference Fair Share Update

Through April 2024

CHURCHES THAT PAID 100%:

Astor, Knottsville, Macedonia, Peora, Wadestown

CHURCHES THAT ARE AHEAD:

Barrackville, Carolina, Colfax, Corley, Eldora, Harner Chapel, Lamberts Run, Monumental, Olive, Phillips Chapel, Riverside. Rivesville, Stringtown

CHURCHES THAT ARE ON TRACK (33.34%):

Asbury, Bee Gum, Benton's Ferry, Central, East High, Fetterman, First Elkins, Heaston, Jerusalem, Kanesh Creek, Levels, Mariahs Chapel, Meadowdale H & H Chapel, Mt. Vernon (Barbour Co.), Otterbein (Shinnston), Spruce Street, St. Johns, Wana, Wayside, Wesley Chapel (Taylor Co.)

MonValley District Fair Share (Promotional Fund) Update

We are so grateful for your gifts that assist us as we serve the churches of the MonValley District

CHURCHES WHO HAVE PAID 100% OF THEIR 2024 DISTRICT FAIR SHARE:

Asbury, Astor, Bailey Memorial, Barrackville, Bee Gum, Benton's Ferry, Bethel (Junior), Blacksville, Boothsville, Calvary, Carolina, Colfax, Community, Corley, Crim, Downs, East High, Eldora, Fetterman, Flemington, Fort Martin, Gypsy, Harner Chapel, Heaston, Highland Park (Morgantown), Janes Memorial, Joetown, Johnson Chapel, Kanesh Creek, Knottsville, Lamberts Run, Laurel Point, Levels, LIFE, Lumberport, Macedonia, Mansfield, Mariahs Chapel, McCurdysville, Meadowdale H & H Chapel, Monumental, Mt. Pleasant (Taylor Co.), Mt. Tabor, Mt. Vernon (Barbour Co.), Oak Forest, Olive, Otterbein (Elkins), Otterbein (Shinnston), Peora, Phillips Chapel, Pruntytown, Reger, Rivesville, Rymer, Sabra, St. Johns, Stringtown, Teverbaugh, Trinity (Grafton), Valley Chapel, Wadestown, Wesley Chapel (Taylor Co.), Wesley (Morgantown), Westover, Westside, West Farmington, Ziesing.