

# Mahoning Valley Messenger

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## The Bottom Line

On Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, I worshipped at the Otterbein UMC in Champion, and heard Pastor Dan Wilson share a message along the theme, **“We are on a Mission from God.”** He challenged the congregation to see the mission of the church, their lives and each waking moment to be about “sharing the good news of Jesus to others.” The mission is sharing Jesus!

I then went to the Tod Avenue UMC worship service in Warren and heard Rev. Mark Vincent share a message titled, **“The Bottom Line.”** As he asked people to respond to what “the bottom line” means to them, he spoke about the bottom line of hospitals, businesses, school and then asked what is the bottom line for being a follower of Christ, a Christian? We are

called to love God with all our heart, soul, mind AND to love our neighbor. Rev. Mark challenged the church to truly live into the LOVE that Jesus embodied for all of us and to examine our lives to see if we are falling short of “the bottom line” of Christian living.

As I was driving to the afternoon church conferences in East Liverpool and East Palestine, I then reflected upon Rev. Steve Sparling’s message to the Youngstown Trinity UMC when it was announced he would be moving to the Ravenna UMC in January, 2012. Rev. Steve asked the congregation, “do you remember what I preached about on my first sermon in July, 2007?” No one shouted out the answer. He continued by stating, **“It’s not about us. It’s about Jesus and “us” in Jesus!”** In essence, personal agendas, disagreements, and the way we have always done things need to be looked at in light of what is it that Jesus calls us to do. Sometimes we have to do and go places we never imagined, but we go because it is all about JESUS!

As I listened to the movement of God’s Spirit in the church conferences that Sunday afternoon, I was again reminded that we are on a mission from God and that the bottom line is to love God and our neighbor with all that we have. I heard stories of people feeding the hungry, clothing the naked and reaching out to those who do not know the Lord. I witnessed in the churches giving testimony on that Sunday, people living for Jesus. For when we can truly do this, we realize it’s not about us, it’s about Jesus, and the *us* in *Jesus!*”

*Continued on page 2*

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As we walk through the days of November and give thanks for the gifts God has given, and prepare for the coming advent of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, may we be encouraged to live into the mission God has given us, truly LOVE in the way Jesus has taught us, and to be the "US" in JESUS. They will know we are Christians by our LOVE!

Be Encouraged Always!

**Dan**

### To my Friends

*My sincere and humble thanks go to everyone who reached out to me and my family with prayers, cards, flowers, food, and precious time when my mother passed away.*

*It's at times like these when we are reminded what wonderful people we are given to meet along the way.*

*Kathy Kramer*

### We Ask Your Prayers for the Following in the Days Ahead:

**Pastor Renae Meggitt** (North Lima Calvary) recovering from surgery.

**Retirees** Bill Wright, Mike McHale, Lester Hickman, John Klimenko, and Pete Kerlin, all of whom are battling various ailments and illnesses.

**Rev. Mick & Becky Foster** (Damascus). Becky's father, David Falls, passed away October 17.

**Kathy Kramer** (District Office) and family. Kathy's mother, Wilma Kramer, passed away Oct. 10.

Please also pray for these new appointments in the District: **Carla Davies** (PL) McDonald Woodland Park; **Kathy Barton** (Supply) at Elkton and Negeley; and **David Hill** (FE), interim at Lockwood.

### Thanksgiving Office Hours

The District Office will close at **noon** on Wednesday, November 23 and reopen at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, November 28 in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday.

### With Dan in November

- 1 Cabinet via Video Conference / SPRC Consult / Church Conf.
- 3 Conference Call
- 5 SPRC Consults
- 6 SPRC Consult / Church Conf.
- 7-9 Abbey of Genesee Retreat
- 10 Leadership Team / Compass Group / SPRC Consult / Church Conf.
- 11 Youth Event - Columbus
- 12 SPRC Consults
- 13 Church Conferences
- 14 Church Conf.
- 15 SPRC Consult / Church Conf.
- 16 Parsonage Fellowship meeting
- 17-18 Cabinet
- 19 CCOM
- 20 Church Conf. / Youth Event
- 21 Imagine No Malaria event
- 22 SPRC Consult / Church Conf.
- 23 Lunch with Exploring Candidate
- 24-26 Thanksgiving Break
- 27 Youngstown Church Thanksgiving Service
- 29-30 Seminary Visits



### November Clergy Birthdays

4	Dan Wilson	Fowler
14	Mick Foster	Damascus
17	Rick Oaks	Warren First

If we have your birthday listed incorrectly (or not at all) please let us know so we can correct our records

### Parsonage Families

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the second Annual Epiphany Party, to be held January 7, 2012. More information will follow by mail.

*The deadline for submissions to the combined DECEMBER/JANUARY Newsletter is Friday, November 18th.*

*Submissions should be made in writing/via e-mail when possible*

**Reminder:** If you would like to receive your newsletter via e-mail, please contact Kathy at [mvdistumc@aol.com](mailto:mvdistumc@aol.com).

Please include your address so we can be sure to remove you from the "snail mail" list.

### Clergywomen's Lunch

The District Clergywomen's lunch meeting has not been set. Please watch your e-mail for information on date and location of your monthly gathering.

### Retirees Breakfast

The district retirees will meet for breakfast at 9 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 18th at Lucianno's Café & Banquet Center, Wedgewood Plaza in Austintown. Please note the earlier than usual date due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

## Kay's Corner

Each year at this time I begin to look for materials that I can use for the coming year, on a daily basis, for my prayer time. I do have special writers that I favor, however, some don't publish yearly. I would say that my favorite writer is Rueben Job. I was a member of our conference delegation when he was elected to the Episcopacy. *When You Pray - Daily Practices for Prayerful Living* has been my constant companion for the past two years. Several years ago he wrote *Three Simple Rules*, which we urged our pastors and churches to use; more than 250,000 copies were sold.

Bishop Job explores three basic questions at the center of faith in his recent book *Three Simple Questions. Knowing the God of Love, Hope, and Purpose*. These are three questions we deal with at the center of our faith on a daily basis. Perhaps churches would like to use it for a church-wide study or a small group study. Bishop Job writes "Our identity is found and formed by the God We Worship and Serve." How will you answer his three simple questions?

As I attend some of the Charge Conferences in the district it is a pleasure to have some of our members say they read the district newsletter as soon as it arrives. We appreciate your comments because a great deal of time and efforts goes into its production. Keep reading it! Thank you for your expressions of gratitude.

Kay Dunlap

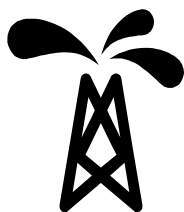


Don't forget to  
move your clocks  
**BACK one hour**  
on Sunday,  
November 6th.

## Consultation & Church Conference Reminder:

All required paperwork for SPRC Consultations (CFC, LCPA/LCPL, *Clergy Compensation*) and Church Conferences (Omnibus, ballots etc.) should be submitted to the District Office no less than **ONE WEEK** before your scheduled meeting date. The only exceptions are 2012 budgets and Leadership Directories, which are due by December 1st.

Any and all other forms that were not submitted, completed, or signed at the time of your consult or conference are due in the District Office immediately.



## Gas & Oil Leases

Many churches have been approached about gas and oil leases. Make sure

your church contacts your District Superintendent before entering into any of these type of agreements.

For those of you who missed the **Faster Pastor** event held on Saturday, August 20 at Sharon Speedway, our fearless leader, **Rev. Dan Bryant**, raced to uphold the honor of the Mahoning Valley District. Pastor Bill Johnson (Brookfield UMC) also took part.

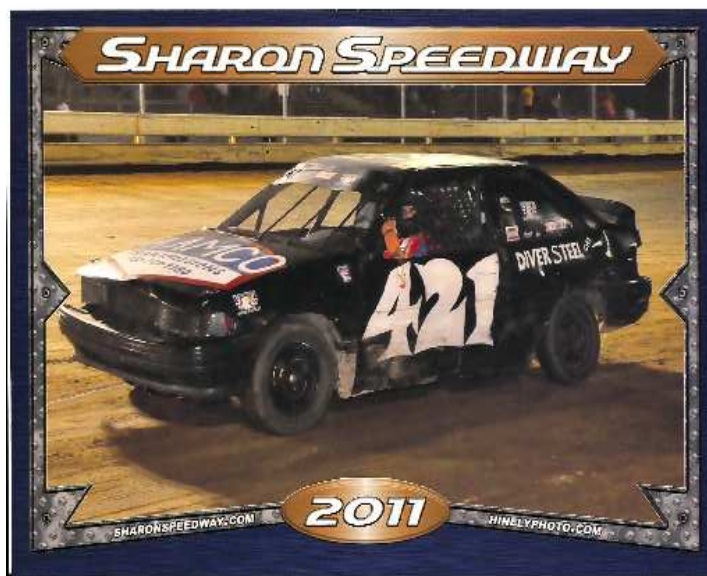
## Circuit Rider Seeks Input on General Conference 2012

Circuit Rider magazine wants to know your thoughts on general conference. What is your biggest hope or concern for General Conference 2012? What could come out of general conference that would help you in your ministry? What could happen (or not happen) that would disappoint you? Respond to any of these questions by e-mailing [jkelly@umpublishing.org](mailto:jkelly@umpublishing.org) by December 1. Your responses may be included in print and online editions of Circuit Rider and may be edited for length and clarity.

## Volunteer in Mission Fund Raiser

"An Evening in Russia" will be held Friday, Nov. 18 at 6:30 p.m. at Western Reserve UMC. There will be food, a silent auction of unique items from Russia, and entertainment by the St. Nicholas Balalaika Orchestra. Tickets are \$15 each and can be purchased by contacting Rev. Kathryn Adams at 330-719-2902 or by e-mail at [Kathrynpcm@aol.com](mailto:Kathrynpcm@aol.com).

Funds raised will benefit the December VIM trip to the Renewal Orphanage in Dmitrov, Russia.



## Young Adult Retreat Opportunity

**Identity: Maintaining Yours in Christ.** A retreat for College Sophomores through 24 years olds, December 27-29 at Camp Aldersgate. Guest speaker, Matt Elrod from CBS's Survivor Redemption Island will deliver a message of an identity based in Christ.

Cost is \$79 and includes 3 days/2 nights, meals and accommodations. For information and registration, go to [www.CAMPALDERSGATE.ORG](http://www.CAMPALDERSGATE.ORG), Click on Year Round Events and choose "Identity." Registration deadline is Dec. 16th.

## Pathways to Ministry Internship

College students, ages 19-24 are eligible. Applications and information available from Tim Morrison at: [tmorrison@spencerchurch.com](mailto:tmorrison@spencerchurch.com)

## Centenary UMC (Youngstown)

**Exterior Improvements Project fundraiser** — "Wii for God" Electronic Bowling Tournament, Sat., Nov. 19. For information call the church (330-744-5509) or e-mail: [office@centenaryumcyoungstown.org](mailto:office@centenaryumcyoungstown.org).

## It's Dinner Time, etc.

**Drive Thru Stuffed Chicken Dinners** - Thurs. Nov. 3, 4-6 (or until sold-out) at Western Reserve UMC, 4580 Canfield Rd. (Rt. 62).

**Chicken on the Run** - Thurs. Nov. 3, 4 - 6 (or until sold out) at Salem First UMC, 244 S. Broadway, Salem. Drive-thru service only.

**Best Fish Fry Ever** - Friday, Nov. 4, 3:30-6:30 at Tod Avenue UMC, 155 Tod Ave. NW, Warren.

**Famous Swiss Streak Dinner** - Sat., November 5, 4-6:00 at Vienna UMC, 4265 Warren-Sharon Rd. Takeouts are available.

**Turkey Dinner** - Sat., Nov. 5, 4-6:30 at New Hope UMC, 21 Fairview Ave., Niles.

**Election Day (Nov. 8) Baked Chicken Dinner** - 4-6:00 at Hubbard UMC, 48 Church St. Carry out only Call 330-534-3383 to order.

**Drive Thru Chicken Dinner** - Thursday, Nov. 10, 4 p.m. until sold out at Calvary UMC, 12062 South Ave., North Lima.

**Turkey Dinner** - Fri., Nov. 11, 4-7 p.m. at Poland UMC, 1940 Boardman-Poland Rd.

**Pancakes & More** - Sat., Nov. 12, 8-11 a.m. at New Waterford UMC, 46925 S State St., New Waterford.

**Turkey Dinner & Bake Sale** - Sat., Nov. 12 at Ohltown UMC, 2001 Ohltown Rd., Austintown. *By reservation only.* Call Jane at 330-652-4298, Nov. 1-7, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. for reservations and seating times.

**Pancake Breakfast** - Sat., Nov. 12, 8:30-noon at Smith Corners UMC, 3000 S Canfield Niles Rd., Austintown.

**Spaghetti Dinner** - Sat., Nov. 19, 4-7 at Brookfield UMC, 6951 Grove St.

**Stuffed Pork Chop Dinner** - Sat., Nov. 19, 4-6 :30 at Braceville UMC, 577 Park Rd. SW, Newton Falls.



**Holiday Bazaar** - Sat., Nov. 12, 11 - 5:30 at Tod Avenue UMC, 155 Tod Ave. NW, Warren.



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The United Methodist Church  
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