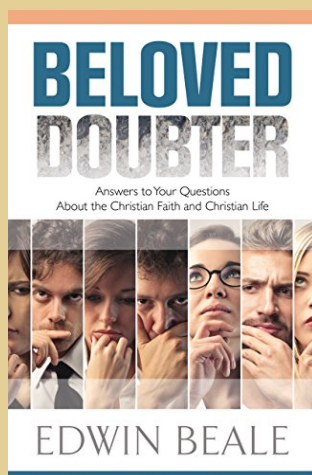


West Ohio Conference
Shawnee Valley



Retired Elder to Hold Book Signing

Retired elder Ed Beale, former pastor at Sugar Grove and Staunton UMC's, will be holding a book signing at Carnegie Public Library in Washington Court House on Saturday morning, July 1, from 10 -12. His book, *Beloved Doubter*, addresses questions about the Christian faith and Christian living. It will be available for \$10, and is also available on [Amazon](#).

Rev. Beale served as pastor of Sugar Grove and Staunton United Methodist churches for eight years, from 2000 - 2008. He retired in 2015 after 35 years in pastoral ministry. In addition to writing, he remains involved in the prison ministries of Epiphany and Kairos and in various gardening activities with his wife, Elizabeth, in Bellefontaine, Ohio.



July 1 Begins New Appointments

The Shawnee Valley District would like to welcome the following pastors who have accepted new appointments in our nine county area:

- **Christine Case** - Associate, Chesapeake UMC
- **Dan Pelzel** - Georgetown UMC

- **Chris Wiseman** - adding Jackson Grace UMC to current appointment at Richmond Dale UMC
- **Alan Bolte** - Mt Orab and West Union UMCs
- **Don Mundy** - New Faith and Taylor's Chapel UMCs
- **David Hilgeman** - Peebles UMC
- **Anthony Thomas** - New Hope, Proctorville
- **Joe & Tina Fox** - Washington Court House Grace UMC
- **Jamie Darling** - Associate, Washington Court House Grace UMC
- **Don Woolum** - Ironton First UMC

Also, we pray for quick, easy transitions for the following who have accepted appointments in other districts:

- **Charles Eagle** - moving from Jackson Grace UMC to Brookville Community UMC
- **Bruce Dickerson** - moving from Mt Orab UMC to Associate at Newark First UMC
- **Mick Whistler** - moving from Washington Court House Grace UMC to Grand Lake UMC
- **Gerald Mershimer** - moving from Londonderry UMC to Hopewell UMC, Fairfield County
- **Elizabeth Reed** - moving from Mt Orab UMC Associate to Malta UMC
- **Dwayne Shugert** - moving from New Hope UMC in Proctorville to Rossford UMC

And congratulations and best wishes to these pastors who have retired and will be enjoying some rest and relaxation (maybe!):

- **Martin Denes** - last served Crouse Chapel UMC
- **Zedda Myers** - last served Georgetown UMC
- **Carol Davis** - last served Mt Carmel (Ross) UMC
- **Steve Zinser** - last served Peebles UMC

Pastors Ordained at Annual Conference



Congratulations to the following who received new orders within The United Methodist Church:

Christine Case - Provisional Deacon
Elizabeth Reed - Provisional Elder
Chris Wiseman - Provisional Elder
Jane Karl - Deacon
Joe Fox - Elder

Click [HERE](#) to see pictures and details of their appointments.

SHAWNEE VALLEY DISTRICT CHURCHES RECOGNIZED AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Each year, the United Methodist Rural Advocates present the William B. Murray Vital Church Award to a rural church worshipping less than 100 that displays passionate worship, radical hospitality, risk-taking service and mission, extravagant generosity, and faith-forming relationships. The Shawnee Valley District award winner is **Georgetown United Methodist Church**.

West Ohio Light of the World churches are outstanding in their commitment to shine the light of God's love into their communities and reach new people for Christ. This year's District Light of the World church is **Bainbridge UMC**.

Extending the Gospel in 2016.

- Shawnee Valley District Churches listed in the top 25 with increase in number of baptisms:

- **Cornerstone** (#3 with 52% increase)
- Shawnee Valley District Churches listed in the top 25 with increase in worship attendance:
 - **Greenfield First** (#3 with 72% increase)
 - **Mt Nebo** (#14 with 25% increase)
 - **Jeffersonville** (#18 with 18% increase)
- Shawnee Valley District Churches listed in the top 25 with increase in professions of faith:
 - **Cornerstone UMC** (#15 with 29% increase)
 - **Jackson Christ UMC** (#24 with 23% increase)



2017 West Ohio Annual Conference Links

- For Annual Conference photos, [click here](#).
- For Annual Conference worship services and teaching sessions, [click here](#).
- For Bishop Palmer's Episcopal Address, [click here](#).
- For the Celebration of Ministry service, [click here](#).
- For Annual Conference publications, [click here](#).
- For Annual Conference summary, [click here](#).

Strategic Ministries Grant Application Deadline October 1, 2017



We are so excited in the Shawnee Valley District to invest money in our congregations to partner with you in order to help create meaningful life-changing ministry!!

The Strategic Ministries Grant is offered annually, and any church may apply. Up to \$20,000 is available per church, with a limit of \$70,000 offered by the District each year.

Applications for 2018 are being accepted now and the deadline is October 1, 2017.

[Details and Application](#)

UMComm Offers Online Trainings to Support Local Churches



UMComm Offers Online Trainings to Support Local Churches

United Methodist Communications offers ongoing, online training opportunities to support you and your congregations. [Your Church Website](#) (\$39.99) introduces tools to plan, build and launch a successful online presence that helps people connect with your church in a new way. [Connectional Giving](#) (free) provides you with a holistic and biblical view of generosity, empowering you to become a missional storyteller who can inspire others to give abundantly. [What It Means to be United Methodist](#) (free) is designed for new members and anyone interested in learning more about the denomination. It covers what we believe, history of the church and church structure.

**Faith: The Protective Factor
Educate, Advocate & Refer**



Faith leaders are in a unique position to raise awareness and help combat stigma around mental health issues. As trusted community leaders, faith leaders are also positioned to refer their congregants to treatment providers and advocate on behalf of their congregants. This conference will look at ways service providers can incorporate faith and the accompanying system of support into treatment plans. [More Information](#)



Local Church Events

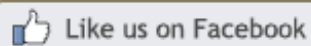
- July 7 & 8
 - [Rummage & Bake Sale](#) - First UMC, Chillicothe
- July 21
 - [Neighborhood Street Party](#) - Chesapeake UMC

Churches to Pray for This Month

- Week of July 2
 - Prospect UMC, Pastor John Waugh
- Week of July 9
 - Rainsboro UMC, Pastor to be announced
- Week of July 16
 - Rarden UMC, Pastor Scott Williams
- Week of July 23
 - Resurrection Hope UMC, Ironton, Pastor Terry Jones



Visit Our Website!



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