



# THE CONNECTOR

.....The Canal District Newsletter.....

Rev. Dr. Valerie W. Stultz, District Superintendent

*The Canal District exists to support and encourage seventy-seven churches in the making of Disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

Rev. Dr. Valerie W. Stultz

“Praise God In His Sanctuary”

OCTOBER 2011

## The Times...They are A-Changing...

We are all aware of the concern regarding the state of the United Methodist Church. We live and work in our individual congregations in the context of our specific mission fields with faithfulness, employing our God-given gifts to the best of our abilities. Yet, in general, our congregations are continually threatened with decline in an increasingly secular-minded society. We know that the message of Jesus Christ has the potential to right that which troubles the societies of our world, yet we seem stymied in communicating his gospel in relevant and engaging ways.

As you know, many, including our own bishop, have been diligently praying and working to find a solution to this dilemma that the teachings of Jesus’ forgiveness, grace and love might bring salvation to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. A massive study has been completed and analyzed, and a plan of action has been developed. Through it, we are all called to act to make disciples and transform the world. Our churches are being called to work toward sustaining health and vitality, but how can this be measured? How can a changed life or a healed soul be measured? Perhaps numerically it can’t, but much of the fruit of our work can be measured; and these measurements do offer us indicators of the health of our congregations. Therefore, each congregation is being asked to set goals for each of the five areas noted on the 2011CFC form for the years 2012, 2013, and 2014. The website ([www.umvitalcongregations.org](http://www.umvitalcongregations.org)) will explain further and assist us in our work. Most of the statistics have already been gathered in the 2010 year end reports. We will simply be organizing our work a bit differently in order to insure accuracy and accountability.

Please remember that I pray daily for joy and fruit in our work together. I truly believe the Holy Spirit is working in this time of our church’s transition into a new and exciting season of its life. As we move forward together I am reminded of the believers’ prayer found in Acts 4:29-31 which invites us not to give in to the threats of the world, but rather grants us the courage to speak and lead with boldness.

Sincerely in Christ,  
*Valerie*



"I truly believe the Holy Spirit is working..."

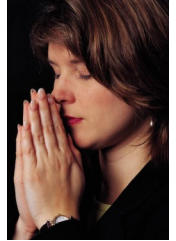
## “Managing Transitions, Making the Most of Change”

William Bridges (3rd Edition) 2009 (De Capo Press, Philadelphia) \$16.95

This study will be led by Valerie in a retreat form on **Thursday, October 27, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. , at the Seville UMC.** (Note change of date since last newsletter). Cost \$10 for lunch and materials. Contact the District Office to register, 330-252-0299

## ARE YOU PRAYING?

During the coming weeks, please lift these churches and their pastors in prayer:



- October 2 - Brimfield: Faith
- October 9 - Burton City
- October 16 - Centenary
- October 23 - Holy Trinity
- October 30 - Chapel of the Cross

## Payroll services to churches now offered

The East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church Treasurer’s Office offers full payroll service to churches. The details and cost are on the conference website. Go to Area Center on the home page and then Treasurer’s page. You may also call Jessica Vargo at 800-831-3972 ext. 123, or e-mail [vargoj@eocumc.com](mailto:vargoj@eocumc.com).

## Apportionment - Shared Ministry Figures

The 2012 **District** Apportionments (Shared Ministry) figures have been put on the district website: [www.canaldistrictumc.org](http://www.canaldistrictumc.org). Go to the home page, forms/links and then 2012 Apportionments.

The Treasurer’s Office of the East Ohio Conference has sent each church and pastor the **Conference** figures. If you have not received your copy, you can contact Jessica in the Treasurer’s Office.

**The District Office still has a few books “Managing Transitions,” at a cost of \$10.00 each.**

# D.S. Calendar, Consultations and Church Conferences for October

## Sun., October 2

8:00 a.m. Worship @ Mogadore UMC

## Mon., October 3

9:30 - 10:30 CPAC

1:00 - 2:00 Phone meeting

7:00 - 9:00 **SPRC Consultations -  
Compass Group 3 North @ Ravenna**

## Tuesday, October 4

7:30 - 8:30 Phone Meeting

10:00 Karen Drotar @ DO

11:00 Debbie Gibbons @ DO

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. **SPRC Cuyahoga Falls  
@ Cuyahoga Falls UMC**

## Wednesday, October 5

4:30 - Appointment

## Thursday, October 6

9:00 W.A.R.M. Team meeting

1:00 Appointment @ DO

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. **SPRC Kent @ Kent**

## Saturday, October 8

9:00 - 11:00 **SPRC W.A.R.M. @ Akron  
First UMC**

1:00 - 3:00 **SPRC Northampton/Heart  
4 the City @ Heart**

## Sunday, October 9

8:00 Worship at Peninsula

12:50 Leave for GBGM Manhattan

## Monday, October 10 - Wednesday, October 12 - GBGM Manhattan

## Thursday, October 13

1:00 Wadsworth Applebee's with  
women clergy

7:00 - 8:00 **CC Lakemore UMC,  
Compass Group 4**

## Saturday, October 15

9:00 - 10:00 BCHFS Downtown

5:00 - 6:00 Stow UMC Celebration

## Sunday October 16

10:00 Wooster UMC 200th

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 **CC Apple Creek  
UMC, Compass Group 5/4**

## Monday, October 17 - Wednesday, October 19 - Cabinet

## Saturday, October 22

9:00 MFSA @ Uniontown

## Sunday, October 23

10:45 South Arlington UMC 95th  
Anniversary Celebration, preach

4:00 - 5:00 **CC Chapel of the Cross  
UMC, Compass Group 4/3**

## Monday October 24

9:00 David Palmer @ DO

11:00 Clergy Staff, Cuyahoga Falls  
First @ DO

2:00 Northampton / Heart Clergy Staff  
@ DO

7:00 - 8:00 **CC Goodyear Hts. UMC,  
Compass Group 5 Akron Area 1,**

## Tuesday, October 25 @ District Office

10:00 W.A.R.M. Clergy Staff

7:00 - 8:00 **CC Woodland UMC,  
Compass Group 5 Akron Area 2**

## Thursday, October 27

10:00 - 3:00 Managing Transitions  
Retreat @ Seville UMC (See Page 1)

## Friday, October 28

9:00 - 10:00 Retirees at Waterloo  
Restaurant

5:00 UMW Churchhill UMC (Mahoning  
Valley)

## Saturday, October 29

UMW continued

## Sunday, October 30

11:00 Union Ave., preach

## Monday, October 31

10:45 - 11:45 Appointment, offsite

**REMINDER: PAPERWORK DUE IN  
OUR OFFICE A WEEK BEFORE  
PASTOR CONSULTATIONS, SPRC  
CONSULTATIONS AND CHURCH  
CONFERENCE**

Thank you!

## Clergy Advent Gathering

**December 7, 2011 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Akron: First UMC (lunch included)**

All clergy, active and retired, are encouraged to  
gather as we prepare to embrace the season of  
welcoming God into our lives.  
Invitations will go out shortly.

## Building a Terrific Team (Follow-Up)

**at Montrose Zion UMC on November 14 and 15**  
(250+ average worship attendance or those with or those with staff)

**Led by Doug Anderson,**

**Bishop Rueben Job Leadership Center**

Debbie has been in contact with those churches who participated in May.  
Only cost to churches and individuals will be for the meals.

## District Concerns and Prayer Requests

### Prayers for:

Mary McKenzie, wife of Jim McKenzie 2010 retired pastor from  
Grandview UMC (pancreatic cancer)

Rev. Lou Diehl, retired from Hudson UMC 2009 (pancreatic  
cancer)



Congratulations to Rev. Karen Drotar  
upon receiving her PHD from Kent  
State University

# Happy Birthday/Happy Anniversary Canal Clergy Families

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Lynn Farren
- 4 Sharon Kowaleski
- 6 Cindy Penrod
- 12 Sandy Brown
- 15 Becki Verbridge
- 20 Byron George, Lee McGrath,  
Carol Wallace
- 26 Tom Poremba
- 28 Matt Burkhardt
- 30 Kristy Farren
- 31 Ken Moody-Arndt



## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 Calvin & Patricia King
- 9 Jim & Becki Verbridge
- 20 Jerry & Cindy Penrod
- 24 Dan & Alexandria Baer



## Holy Land Trip - January 31 - February 9, 2012 Join Bishop John, Elaine Hopkins and Valerie Stultz

The 10 day pilgrimage will depart January 31 and tour the Holy Land for 10 days with visits to Jerusalem, Galilee, Bethlehem, Jericho and many other biblical sites.

The first time I traveled to Israel in 1994, I was fearful of the reported conflict in the region. What I experienced, however, was safety and security beyond what I had yet to discover in the States. I am eager to visit Israel a third time in early 2012, and would welcome your participation in this trip with me. Total cost for travel, room and board, transportation and fees for the 10 day trip is approximately \$2,750 flying out of Cleveland. Consider joining Bishop John Hopkins and myself for the trip of a lifetime. Contact the District Office for a brochure. — *Valerie*



## Bishop Rueben Job Center for Leadership Development

Working and Worshiping Together:  
Next Steps in Engaging in Multi-Cultural  
Ministry With the Poor Seminar

Sat., Oct. 29 (4 p.m.) - Tues., Nov. 1  
(noon) at Church for All Peoples United  
Methodist Church, Columbus, Ohio.

Call or email the district office for  
more information.



JC's Place is a ten-year-old free clothing and household items outreach for residents of the Barberton and Norton areas sponsored by Johnson United Methodist Church, Norton, OH.

Begun as a place for Christian music and worship in a Barberton storefront, God quickly let us know that our guests desperately needed not only a safe place to gather with friends, but that they also were hungry and needed clothing. With God's grace, we soon began a hot dog lunch on Saturdays and a full clothing/household items store.

JC's Place is currently operating in its new location at 211 Third St., Barberton, OH. We are honored to be collaborating with Lakeview UMC, which has generously offered to house our store and services in their very large lower level.

Please feel free to visit our webpage at [www.johnsonumc.org](http://www.johnsonumc.org) for information and hours. We are currently seeking volunteers from 14 years and older to serve in this mission. Please contact Kris Turner at [katirbe604@yahoo.com](mailto:katirbe604@yahoo.com) or (330) 620-8250 to commit to service in this vibrant, God-lead outreach!

## 🎵 Fall Retreat for Clergy Spouses - November 18 and 19, 2011 🎵

**Four Points by Sheraton Hotel North of Pittsburg - Speaker: Marilyn Brown Oden, highly acclaimed writer and retreat leader**  
Author of over a dozen devotional books and novels, Marilyn's theme will be "Listening for the Grace Notes 🎵" and will focus on the little extras that enhance our life song. These are the actions, words, cards, texts and emails that can express appreciation, sympathy, encouragement or forgiveness in our lives.

Networking with others who share your same connection with ministry and having down time for rest & relaxation were cherished last year so we are building in more time for both in 2011. There will also be workshops and topical discussion groups for you to participate in as you choose. The hotel has excellent food, a wonderful pool/spa and is just 30 minutes from the Grove City, PA outlets to the North and the IKEA shopping area to the South. You should have received a brochure in the mail. For more information, contact Debbie Bryant in the Canal District Office.



## SHALOM 2012 HOLY LAND WMEI 30th Anniversary International Evangelism Seminar - January 10 - 17, 2012 "Good News of Peace to All Creation"

What an exciting opportunity. For members and friends of the worldwide Methodist and Wesleyan family.  
Register now at: [www.wmei.ws](http://www.wmei.ws) or call 800-247-0017. For more information e-mail: [wmei@emory.edu](mailto:wmei@emory.edu)

## New facility on Foote Road in Medina Township

*The decree of King Cyrus of Persia: The LORD the God of heaven has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he himself has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem in Judah. Whoever among you belongs to his people, may the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up. (2 Chronicles 36:23, REB)*

A present day version of this scriptural narrative is taking place among the leadership and congregants of **Medina United Methodist Church**. They have undertaken the construction of a new facility on Foote Road in Medina Township.

The process began over ten years ago. The church determined that the present facility on South Court Street in Medina was in need of major upgrades, notably in parking and accessibility. Most congregants were in favor of developing this site for future needs, though it sits on a bit more than one acre. However, in 2002, the leaders were presented with an option to purchase an existing church with 20 acres of land. They initiated a campaign to raise funding; however, the owner decided not to sell the property to the Medina United Methodist Church. During the campaign and negotiations to purchase the property, congregants became more comfortable with the idea of developing a facility at another site. In 2005, church leaders decided to purchase 24 acres of vacant land in Medina Township. After several rounds of design development and two additional capital campaigns to fund the project, the church leadership adopted a final plan for the facility.

A ground breaking ceremony was held in September 2010; and further excavation began in November 2010. By spring 2011 the first concrete was poured. The completed building will encompass a space a bit over 40,000 square feet. The sanctuary will seat 425 with balcony. In addition to offices, classrooms and other space expected in a church, there are other amenities such as a dedicated entrance, muscle room and office for the church's pre-school, which has enrollment of more than 200 children. The fellowship area is a Galleria with views of and access to woods on the site. A bookstore and library are on the first floor as well as a Café. The second floor contains a large youth ministry room and an open lounge area that looks down onto the floor below. A full layout of the facility is accessible at [www.medinaumc.com](http://www.medinaumc.com).



- David Houser, Roving Reporter

## The Joy of Mission

November 5th or 13th, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. - Doylestown UMC, 153 Church St., Doylestown

Open to Laity  
and Clergy

Led by Rev. Carl Dulin, Doylestown UMC

Sponsored by the Canal District, UMC



Book: *Joy To The World; Mission in the Age of Global Christianity.....* by Dana L. Robert

The District Office has books available for \$10.00, call the office to buy your book

The study is a look at how we, United Methodism, grew in mission and where we need to go. We will look at our Methodist history and the significant roll women have played in mission, along with a look at hospitality as mission, healing as mission, and reconciliation as mission. There will be time for sharing, as well as a practical look at the mission field in our part of the world. A copy of the book, *Joy To The World*, by Dana Robert is not necessary but helpful. We will have a few copies at the seminar for you to purchase and UMW women who attended this years school of mission might have a copy you could borrow.

Call the district office as to whether you will attend the study on November 5 or 13. If you don't get a chance to register, you can still show up either day.

### A Great Tradition – And You're Invited!!

The East Ohio Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSa) continues its tradition of providing an informational, educational event for all United Methodists in the fall preceding General Conference.

More Important Than Ever!! "BECAUSE IT MATTERS"

How General Conference Impacts United Methodists

Uniontown UMC, 13370 Cleveland Ave NW, Uniontown, 44685

Saturday, October 22, 2011

Registration, Hospitality: 9:30 am; Agenda: 10:00 am to 2:00 p.m.

To register email Tom Douce at [doucethomas@yahoo.com](mailto:doucethomas@yahoo.com) or call him at 330-494-3337 or register online at [www.eomfsa.webs.com](http://www.eomfsa.webs.com)

### FORMATIONAL PRAYER SEMINAR

The Institute of Formational Counseling at Ashland Theological Seminary and Healing Care Ministries presents the SEMI-ANNUAL FORMATIONAL PRAYER SEMINAR

January 11 - 14, 2012.

Contact the Canal District Office for a brochure or [www.ashland.edu/seminary/ifc/index.html](http://www.ashland.edu/seminary/ifc/index.html)

## Telling Our Story, Creating Our Future

African American Methodist Heritage Center presents

North Central Local Church Workshop at Embassy Suites Hotels—5800 Rockside Woods Blvd., Independence, OH

Thursday, Oct. 6 — Saturday, Oct. 8, 2011

For a brochure go to [www.aamhc-umc.org](http://www.aamhc-umc.org) or contact the Canal District Office

# Canal District Lay Speaker Course Offerings

**November 4 (evening), 5 and 19, 2011** - **STORY TELLING** - Learn storytelling styles, techniques, and practice creating stories from your own experience. Registration closes October 12.

**March 2 (evening), 3 and 17, 2012** - **BASIC** - Registration deadline February 11.

**April 20 (evening), 21 and May 5, 2012** - **ACCOUNTABLE DISCIPLESHIP** - Course focuses on the concept of the household of God, the importance of Scripture as divine revelation, Wesleyan understandings of grace and the importance of the office of class leader in the Methodist movement. Registration deadline March 27.

**May 18 (evening), 19 and June 2, 2012** - **TRANSFORMING EVANGELISM** - Participants learn how to share their faith by telling and doing. Registration deadline April 24.

- **Please note:** Canal District Training takes place at Living Hope UMC, 3406 S. Hametown Rd., Norton 44203. Friday classes begin at 6:30 p.m. and end about 8:30 to 9:00. Saturdays begin at 9:00 a.m. and end 4:30 to 5:00 p.m. Registration is an absolute deadline in order to provide about three weeks for preparation. Materials are mailed a few days following registration. Forms are on the District website under "Lay Speakers" section.
- **Sign up early:** Questions about training in general contact Ron Rinehart, Associate Director for training, at 330-592-2161 or e-mail, rinehart@walsh.edu. For enrollment (registration etc.) contact Debbie Sloan, Registrar, at 330-283-6893 or dlsloan@aol.com.

Go to the Canal District Website: [www.canaldistrictumc.org](http://www.canaldistrictumc.org)  
and under Lay Speakers you will find forms and information and Lay Speakers Newsletters

## CANAL DISTRICT LAY SPEAKERS ASSOCIATION *Leading . Caring . Communicating*

MONDAY, October 24, 2011

Canal District Lay Speaker Association  
Program / Meeting Dinner at 6:30 p.m.  
Program at 7:00 p.m.

Program: "Where Do We Go From Here"

Meeting Location: Living Hope UMC  
3406 S. Hametown Rd., Norton, OH 44203

## 2011 Fall Gathering - East Ohio Conference United Methodist Men

*Revitalizing The Men of Our Church.*

Saturday, November 12, 2011, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Grace UMC - 1720 Schneider St., North Canton

Breakfast and Registration: 8:00 a.m.

Keynote Speaker: Mike Hargrove -

Former MLB manager Cleveland Indians

Contact the district or conference for a registration form.

## Thank you to the ushers and greeters who volunteered their time at Annual Conference

I am so grateful for your willingness to serve and thank you for all the extra help. Looking forward to seeing you at Annual Conference in 2012.

Blessings,  
**Barbara Beach**, Conference Head Usher,  
Mahoning Valley District



Fall Party

## COSM – Canal District Student Ministry

October 23, 5 - 7:30 p.m.

Smithville UMC - 243 North

Milton St., Smithville, OH 44677

Food: pizza, cereal, chips, and drinks!

Music: Watermark; Funny Man: Eric Dingler

Bungee Run, Bounce House

Churches are asked to bring a couple bags  
of chips and cereal to share!



## CROP HUNGER WALKS We walk together

To get your church involved visit  
[www.crowwalk.org](http://www.crowwalk.org) and find the walk  
nearest to you by clicking on Ohio on  
the map or by entering your zip code.

For more information contact Matthew Stevens at  
[mstevens@churchworldservice.org](mailto:mstevens@churchworldservice.org)

## Emergency Response Training and Recertification

"Providing a Caring Christian Presence in  
the Aftermath of Disaster."

Saturday, October 29 at the Epworth Center in Bethesda.

Pastor Floyd Costello, Trainer

Registration and Fellowship: 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Cost is \$20 for the course plus a \$5 offering for the meal that  
will be provided. Call to register 330-704-7363.



If you would like to be taken off the "snail-mail list" and added  
to the e-mail list, please e-mail **Debbie Bryant** your name and  
e-mail address: [canaldistrictumc@neo.rr.com](mailto:canaldistrictumc@neo.rr.com)

# “The Connector”

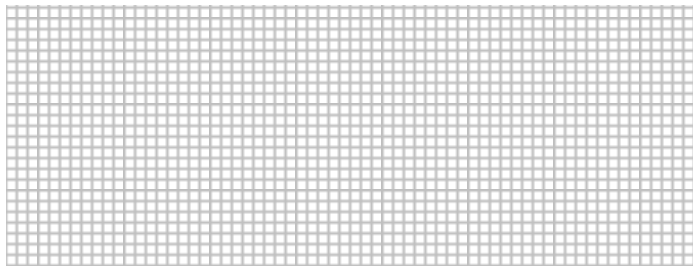
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Akron OH 44305

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## OCTOBER



### HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS.....

*Note: If your church has a news item or an event to publish, send the information to the District Office by the 20th of the month.*

- Lakemore UMC, Saturday evening services at 5:30 p.m. For information call 330-733-6531.
- Ravenna First UMC - The New You: Widows Support Group, Second Tuesday of each month, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. , 330-297-7196.
- Clinton UMC - Soup and Salad Dinners will be held on the last Saturday of each month from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. , Carry-outs, 330-882-6586.
- Johnson UMC - Fall Fest - Saturday, October 1, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Fun day for all ages. Hay Rides, Craft Show, Bake Sale and much more.330-825-7886.
- Grandview UMC - UMW Fall Salad Luncheon, Friday, October 7, 11:30 - 2:00, Delicious meal at a low price, 330-923-2442.
- Centenary UMC - Rainbow Tea, Sunday, October 9, 4 p.m., Viola Jones Memorial, Musical presentations, reading, style show, 330-376-9648.
- Hope UMC - Beginning October 9 at 6:00 p.m. view the first in a series of DVD lessons from Focus on the Family's The Truth Project, 1 330-753-2303.
- Lakemore UMC - Swiss Steak Dinner, Saturday, October 15, 4 - 6:30 p.m., Carryout is available, 330-733-6531.
- Akron First UMC - Fall Festival Pig Roast & Auction on Saturday, October 15 beginning at 5:00 p.m., 330-773-4661. Celebrate their 175th Anniversary.
- Manchester UMC - An Evening of “Foot Stompin” Blue Grass, October 21, 6:00. Covered dish dinner at 7:30 p.m., Questions call: 330-882-4818.
- Twin Falls UMC - Annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, October 22, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. If interested in renting a table call 330-688-1817.
- Oak Chapel UMC, Wooster - Bazaar, Saturday, October 22, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Crafts and food items, lunch served all day, 330-465-5782.
- Manchester UMC - Family Movie Night on Saturday, October 22 at 7:00 p.m. Feature film “Secret of the Mountain.” Popcorn supplied.
- UMC of Macedonia - An Evening with Circle of Friends., gospel quartet, Friday, October 28, 7:30 p.m. For further information call 330-467-3169.
- Family of Faith UMC - Fall Craft Show and Bazaar, Saturday, October 29, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Crafters contact Donna at 330-724-9838 to reserve a table.
- Tallmadge UMC - Falling Leaves Craft Fair, Saturday, October 29, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Crafts, baked goods, candy, lunch with homemade soup, handicapped accessible, free parking, 330-633-3734
- Green Valley UMC - Annual Bazaar/Turkey Dinner, Saturday, November 5, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Take out is available. Visit [www.greenvalleyumc.org](http://www.greenvalleyumc.org) or call 330-896-4357.

- Lake Brady UMC - pianist or organist/choir director, 330-673-0145 or lbumc@juno.com.
- UMC Stow Church Organist and Praise Team Keyboardist, 330-673-7752 and ask for Julie.
- Church of the Cross UMC - Christian Worship Leader, Part-Time. Submit resume to: Worship Leader Search, 5100 Cleve. Rd., Wooster, 44691.
- Hudson UMC childcare giver roster, Flexible hours, Contact church for application: 330/650-2650.

- Hudson UMC - VBS program items for free, some new never used, 330-650-2650.
- Free Organ to Good Home: - Lowrey Organ, Super Genie. Double keyboard, 52 white keys, 13 feet pedals. Looks like new. Call Diana at 330-725-0895.

**PLEASE NOTICE! THE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS ALWAYS THE 20th OF THE MONTH. THERE'S A COMBINED NEWSLETTER JUNE/JULY and DEC./JAN.**

“The Connector” is published by the Canal District Union of the United Methodist Church 10 times annually. Comments or suggestions are welcome. District Superintendent, Rev. Valerie W. Stultz;  
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