

EAST DISTRICT E-ALERT FOR March 23, 2016

Editorial Policy of the East District E-Alert:

Check this out – have you really read this paragraph lately? Do you realize that the East District now has a website? Because of the recent launch of a redesigned Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Website (<http://www.epaumc.org/>) which has a link, at the bottom of the Home Page, to a new East District website (<http://www.epaumc.org/districts/east/>), articles will appear for only one week, and, if pertinent, will be posted on the District web site. Previously published E-Alerts will be posted to the East District website.

The E-Alert is sent to Pastors and Church Offices on the East District and to lay people who have requested being added to the distribution list. Feel free to clip or copy any article for your church's bulletin or newsletter unless permission has specifically been granted to the East District for publication, in which case, request permission from the source. The District Office requests that pastors forward the E-Alert to church leaders and congregants who might find the E-Alert helpful and informative.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Our hearts cry out for peace in the world after yesterday morning's terrorist attacks in Belgium. Pray for peace and comfort for the people of Brussels. Click [here](#) to read about United Methodists from the East Ohio Conference being safe in Brussels after the attacks. Click [here](#) for United Methodist resources for responding to violence.

Remember in prayer the family and church family of **Mrs. Anne Ewing**, member of First UMC of Germantown in Philadelphia (FUMCOG), who died on March 17 after a battle with pancreatic cancer. Mrs. Ewing, 78, was a recipient of FUMCOG's Racial and Social Justice Award, a teacher, and an activist who labored to improve public education, health care, immigration justice, and race relations. Through MFSA (Methodist Federation for Social Action), Mrs. Ewing pushed for the denomination to support progressive causes, such as LGBTQ equality and full inclusion. A [full feature article](#) about Mrs. Ewing appears online in the March 21 edition of philly.com. A memorial service is planned for tomorrow, Thursday, March 24 at 2 pm at FUMCOG, 6001 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia 19144.

EAST DISTRICT NEWS

MIKE & KATE'S VIGIL ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23 AND GOO FRIDAY

Here are two opportunities in the next few days to take a stand (or walk) for gun violence prevention. The first is on **Wednesday, March 23** from **4-5 pm** at **Mike & Kate's Gun Shoppe**, 7492 Oxford Ave. ((corner of Oxford & Rockwell), Philadelphia PA 19111.

Second, **Heeding God's Call** is co-sponsoring a **Good Friday neighborhood walk against gun violence** with a network of congregations in Germantown. The observance begins at **First UMC of Germantown** (FUMCOG), 6000 Germantown Avenue (at High Street) at **4 pm** this **Friday, March 25**, and will end at **Janes Memorial UMC** (just a block from FUMCOG). Back-up transportation will be provided for those unable to walk the whole way. See the flyer attached to this E-Alert for more details.

For Christians, this is Holy Week -- a time to especially focus on the way the world's violence brings death to love, and how determined and powerful God is to overcome violence and death with love. It is a blessing at many levels that our Jewish and Muslim sisters and brothers will add their presence to this observance.

See you Wednesday. See you Friday.

Dave Brown

APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS EFFECTING EAST DISTRICT CHURCHES

The following appointment announcements effecting East District churches, effective July 1, 2016, unless otherwise specified. All appointments within the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference can be found on the Conference website by clicking [here](#).

John Cordes (Elder) from Phila.: Fox Chase at ¾-time and Croydon: Wilkinson Memorial at ¼-time to New Berlinville: St. Andrew (Central District).

James Duckett (Certified Lay Minister) from Phila.: Johnson Memorial at ¼-time to Croydon: Wilkinson Memorial at ¼-time.

Narie L. Grayson (part-time Local Pastor) from Phila.: Simpson-Fletcher (Central District) at ½-time to Phila.: Bethesda at ¼-time and Phila.: Johnson Memorial at ¼-time.

Thomas Hallam (retired Elder supply) from Pipersville: Rolling Hills, part-time.

Andrew Krpata (Elder) from: Levittown: Emilie to: Bethlehem: Wesley (Northeast District).

J. William Lentz (Elder) from Lafayette Hill: Messiah (Central District) to Hatboro: Lehman Memorial, as Senior Pastor.

Steven T. McComas (retired Elder supply) to Pipersville: Rolling Hills, part-time.

Mary Catherine Miller (Elder) from Extension Ministry to Phila.: Fox Chase at ½-time and to Extension Ministry at ½-time.

Walter J. Unterberger, provisional Elder, from ¾-time Associate Pastor at Jarretstown to Colemanville (Southwest District) as Senior Pastor (full-time).

Retirements:

Steven T. McComas (Elder) from Hatboro: Lehman Memorial UMC.

Margret Marie Powell (Elder) from Phila.: Solid Rock.

CONFERENCE NEWS

YES YOUTH RETREAT FOR YOUTH IN GRADES 9-12

This year' **YES Retreat**, sponsored by the Eastern PA Conference and the Board of Ordained Ministry, is scheduled for **April 16th** from **10 am-4:30 pm** at **Cedarville UMC**, 1092 Laurelwood Road, Pottstown PA 19465. God is calling youth into ministries—lay, licensed, and ordained. Are your young people tuned into God's voice? At the YES Retreat, youth will be exposed to a wide range of ministry options from pastoral to chaplaincy, youth work to prison ministry, a foreign mission field to teaching in a college or seminary, yes, and even business, factory, office and farm. The retreat includes worshipping together and acting out some call stories in the Bible. Youth will have the opportunity to interact with other young people and enjoy indoor and outdoor games. Students will get to meet the Bishop, District Superintendents, members of the District Committee of Ordained Ministry, and the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. It will be a great day with food and lots of fun. Individual youth or an entire senior high group or class is welcome. Register on line at <https://epaumc.churchcenteronline.com/registrations/events/18152>. For answers to questions call Rev. Gary Nicholson (215-738-7752) or Rev. Matt Heckman (717-679-8346).

2ND ANNUAL YOUTH RALLY

The 2nd Annual Eastern Pennsylvania Conference **Youth Rally** is scheduled for **Sunday, April 24th** at **Hopewell UMC** in Downingtown PA. Rally theme is **Who Cares? HE Cares!** Come and bring a donation to support future Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM) Rallies and Events! Activities begin with **Nerf Wars** sponsored by Thorndale UMC at 3 pm. (Bring equipment if you can, but not necessary to participate.) Dinner provided at 5:30 pm following Part I: *Who Cares?* The Rally concludes at 7 pm following Part II: *HE Cares!* RSVP is encouraged by emailing dpiltz@epaumc.org. David Piltz can answer questions via email or by phone (814-883-0118). A flyer with more details is attached to this E-Alert.

NORTHEAST JURISDICTIONAL NEWS

SOUVENIR PROGRAM BOOKLET BEING CREATED FOR NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

On **July 11-15** more than 300 leaders of the Northeastern Jurisdiction will gather within the confines of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The Northeastern Jurisdiction includes nearly two million members, thousands of local churches, and three of the denomination's major theological seminaries and comprises ten annual conferences stretching from Maine to West Virginia, organized into nine episcopal areas, each led by an assigned resident bishop. This Jurisdiction, which is one of five United Methodist areas across the United States gave birth to our global denomination more than two centuries ago.

A souvenir program booklet is being created for this significant event. This professionally printed booklet will include greetings from public officials, the Conference agenda and organizational information, and appropriate ads in various sizes to promote vendors' ministries, service, and products. You are invited to consider purchasing space for a greeting or an advertisement. For more information about placing an ad, refer to the Souvenir Booklet attachment to the email from which this E-Alert was sent.

GENERAL CHURCH NEWS

PREMIERE OF GCORR'S VITAL CONVERSATION WITH REV. DR. NANCY CARDOSO PERIERA IS TOMORROW

Register now for **Wednesday's (March 23)** premiere video of the General Commission on Religion and Race sponsored Vital Conversation featuring the Rev. Dr. Nancy Cardoso Pereira, exploring the topic of "Environmental racism and the struggle for economic justice in Brazil. The event begins at **9 pm Eastern Time**.

Rev. Dr. Pereira is a pastor in the Methodist church of Brazil who works with the Pastoral Land Commission. She conducts grassroots education especially with groups of peasant women, quilombolas (African Brazilians), and native women in the struggle for land rights. She lives in Mato Grosso with the peasant communities in the Amazon region. The peasant movement in Latin America seeks to transform agrarian and agricultural structures with processes of land reform that are more inclusive as a way to reconcile people and land in rural and urban areas.

Please [register now](#) to participate. The video will begin at 9 pm ET and will be followed by a live conversation with Rev. Dr. Nancy Cardoso Pereira, where you can ask questions and engage in the discussion.

Save the date of **March 31** for the upcoming Vital Conversation with Samantha Mukanganise on why the church should be concerned with sexual and reproductive health in Africa.

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