



# Valley Voice

July 2017 edition

**Southern Baptists taking the Gospel to the Upper Ohio Valley and beyond**

## Upper Ohio Valley Baptist Association

2305 2nd St  
P.O. Box 695  
Moundsville, WV 26041

304.845.3680

### Director of Missions

Ed Goodman

865.548.4448

upperohiodom@gmail.com

### Secretary

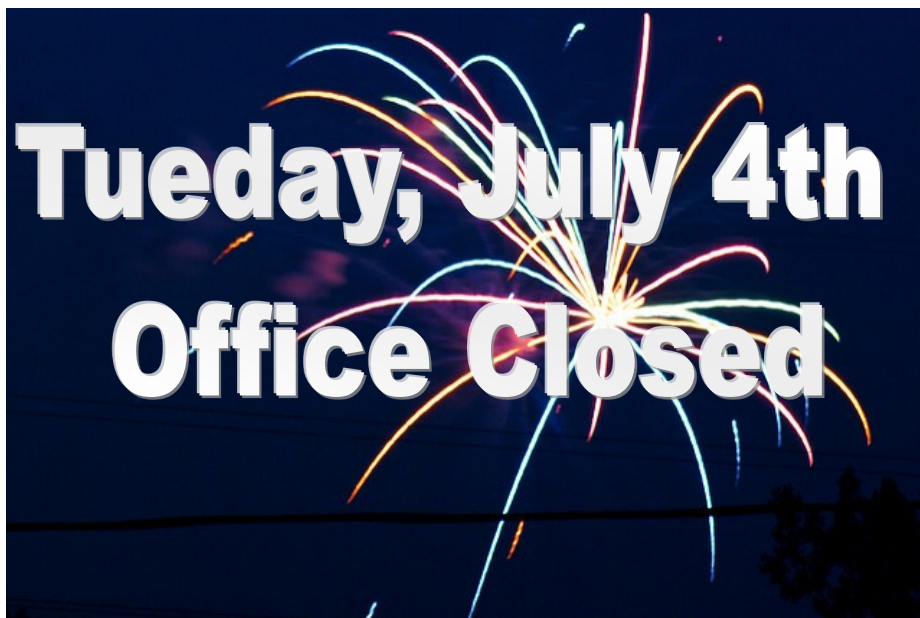
Megan Koontz

upperohio@gmail.com

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*Let freedom ring!*



**ACP Reports Due Sept 15th!**

# DOM CORNER



## Your Mission, Should You Choose to Accept It...

*“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”* – Jesus Christ, as quoted in Matthew 28:18-20

Less than two months into my service as your director of missions, I already have much to celebrate and share with you. Having met and spent time with most of the pastors in this association, it encourages me that these men of God have been very welcoming, affirming, and cooperative. Every church family that I have visited has also been hospitable and friendly. Indeed, as I have learned about the history of our association and the unique place of each church in our collective ministry, I commend the faithfulness of all 22 Southern Baptist churches that comprise this association. Thanks to all of you brothers and sisters who have shared your hearts with me and made my transition a joy.

Even as I rejoice in the blessing of our shared camaraderie, I also reflect on the burden of our shared call. As many of you have learned by now, nothing stirs within my heart a more passionate conviction or a more problematic challenge than the call to make disciples. The vision of reaching and teaching the mostly unregenerate population of Upper Ohio Valley has dominated my thoughts. It is not an overstatement to describe this as a monumental task, because only God can reverse the spiritual decline, apostasy, and Gospel resistance in our region (and anywhere, for that matter). Consider the miniscule percentages of evangelical Christians in the ten counties that comprise our association.

|                 |     |                |     |
|-----------------|-----|----------------|-----|
| Belmont (OH)    | 11% | Brooke (WV)    | 12% |
| Columbiana (OH) | 15% | Green (PA)     | 11% |
| Hancock (WV)    | 14% | Jefferson (OH) | 8%  |
| Marshall (WV)   | 8%  | Ohio (WV)      | 9%  |
| Tyler (WV)      | 12% | Wetzel (WV)    | 22% |

Regional Total: 11.7% (51,906/444,722)

(Source: Association of Religion Data Archives, 2017)

Even in our most evangelical county (Wetzel, WV), roughly 4 out of 5 people are lost and in danger of eternal hell. In our least evangelical counties (Jefferson, OH and Marshall, WV), that ratio jumps to roughly 11 out of 12 people needing a relationship with Jesus Christ. How, then, can we turn the tide of ever-increasing darkness that permeates our communities? We need the *power* of The One who has received “all authority...in heaven and on earth” and the *presence* of The One who is with us “always, even to the end of the age.” From my vantage point, I see two ways that our churches can help people encounter God’s presence and experience God’s power.

Our primary focus should be on *relationships*. Christianity, at its essence, is about an intimate relationship with the Triune God made possible by the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. This *vertical* relationship leads to transformed *horizontal* relationships in our homes, families, workplaces, churches, and communities. Pastors *must* the lead the way in building and sustaining relationships! As we pursue a more relational approach to associational ministry and disciple-making, you will see relationship-based discipleship training, fellowship events, and prayer concerts added to the calendar. We are called to “make disciples,” and disciples are made in the context of relationships.

We should also seek *revitalization*. This requires the often-painful efforts of taking personal spiritual inventory and evaluating one’s church. How intimate and passionate is my relationship with Jesus? Am I actively witnessing to lost neighbors and co-workers? Is my prayer life vibrant and victorious? How much time and priority do I give to the Word of God? When was the last time I wept over a lost soul? When was the last time God’s presence manifested in a supernatural and glorious way during a worship service? Can our church services be explained only in supernatural terms, or do we go through the same routines each week with little spiritual movement? The answers to these questions may provide insight into why over 88% of the people in our region are on their way to hell and we are struggling to reach them. Many of our churches need to be revitalized, so I’m prayerfully and patiently waiting on some courageous pastors to acknowledge the obvious and reach out for help.

Although we have a God-sized mission in front of us, we have a faithful God whose glory, holiness, grace, and love changes everyone who encounters Him. The eternal destiny of almost 450,000 souls across our region demands our attention and brokenness. We must be unified in prayer, fasting, and sacrifice to see souls saved and lives transformed. It may seem impossible, but God’s presence and power have been promised to us. This is your mission – will you choose to accept it?

-Ed Goodman

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# TRAILER SCHEDULE

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>July 8</b>           | Temple Baptist Block Party               |
| <b>July 9-15</b>        | Cameron Baptist Block Party              |
| <b>July 24-29</b>       | Ryerson Block Party                      |
| <b>July 27-August 5</b> | Emmanuel Shower Trailer                  |
| <b>August 6-11</b>      | Riverview Block Party and Shower Trailer |

*Is a trailer already reserved for a date when you need it? The state convention may have one available for your church. For questions about scheduling, you may contact Kim Koletka at 1 (800) 411-5758.*

*[http://wvcsb.org/ministries/about/block\\_party\\_trailer](http://wvcsb.org/ministries/about/block_party_trailer)*

## VBS DATES

### **JULY**

|                |       |
|----------------|-------|
| Temple Baptist | 9-15  |
| Cameron        | 10-14 |
| Abundant Life  | 16-20 |

### **AUGUST**

|           |      |
|-----------|------|
| Riverview | 7-11 |
|-----------|------|

*Don't forget: you can reserve the UOVBA tent trailer for outdoor VBS activities by contacting associational secretary Megan Koontz.*

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# MINISTRY POSITIONS

**Friendly Baptist Church** is prayerfully considering prospects for their next pastor. Candidates may submit resumes to Pastor Larry Bayle or contact him directly with any questions.

114 Glenview Dr  
New Martinsville WV 26155  
(304) 455-2756  
(304) 771-9923  
[jsmrbab@gmail.com](mailto:jsmrbab@gmail.com)

*Please provide all ministry and church staff openings to associational secretary Megan Koontz no later than the 20th day of each month.*

## YOUR MISSION FIELD

**-Faith Community Church** in North Wheeling is now seeking mission teams to help gut a building on Sept. 8-9. This building will serve as the church's future sanctuary, and every church is encouraged to help with this project! Can you help provide food? Can you swing a hammer? Can you carry debris or contribute some elbow grease? Mission teams would help tremendously by furnishing their own crowbars, claw hammers, screwdrivers, and other necessary tools for the project. Churches and mission teams interested in participating in this wonderful project can contact Pastor Pete Carney at [\(304\) 280-6917](tel:(304)280-6917) or Pastor Ray Carney at [\(304\) 281-8353](tel:(304)281-8353).

**-Lighthouse Baptist Church** is in need of any help with electrical and plumbing work. Please contact Pastor Dick Ryan at (304) 527-3088 if you can help them complete the addition to their church building.

**-The UOVBA annual mission trip to Kentucky Motor Speedway** is from July 6-8, 2017. There is no charge other than a fee for shirts, so all you need is something to sleep on and clothes - the rest is taken care of! You can reserve your spot by calling Dave Barrick at (304) 758-4682.

**-Indian Creek Southern Baptist Church** will be sharing the Gospel at the Tyler County Speedway on Labor Day weekend (Sept. 2-3). This is an opportunity unlike any other in our region, with **over 10,000 people coming to us!** You can donate water, help set up bounce houses, haul a shower trailer, or sign up for a time slot to serve by contacting Dave Barrick at (304) 758-4682.

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# CHURCH GIVING

| Church                   | Jan    | Feb    | March  | April  | May    | June      | July   | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| Abundant                 | 48.85  | 57.55  | 62.41  | 68.74  | 63.97  | 104.55    |        |     |      |     |     |     |
| Avondale                 | 20.50  |        | 92.45  | 45.78  | 39.38  | 69.68     |        |     |      |     |     |     |
| Calvary                  |        |        |        |        |        |           |        |     |      |     |     |     |
| Cameron                  | 304.00 | 688.00 | 300.00 |        | 428.00 | 390.00    |        |     |      |     |     |     |
| Emmanuel                 | 199.05 | 126.51 | 199.25 | 153.72 | 132.18 |           |        |     |      |     |     |     |
| Evangel                  | 26.50  | 150.00 | 44.12  | 45.36  | 47.68  | 47.60     |        |     |      |     |     |     |
| Faith                    |        | 34.80  | 156.60 | 48.50  | 98.70  | 111.10    |        |     |      |     |     |     |
| FBC Ches-<br>ter         |        | 290.27 | 198.00 | 263.47 |        | 121.56    |        |     |      |     |     |     |
| FBC<br>Steuben.          |        | 231.38 | 181.79 |        | 414.05 |           |        |     |      |     |     |     |
| Friendly                 | 320.00 | 205.00 | 210.00 | 410.00 | 275.00 | 200.00    | 270.00 |     |      |     |     |     |
| Grace                    | 73.00  |        | 95.00  | 146.71 | 195.00 |           |        |     |      |     |     |     |
| Immanuel                 | 620.00 | 1485.0 | 665.00 | 560.00 | 765.00 | 32,495.00 | 615.00 |     |      |     |     |     |
| Indian<br>Creek          |        | 1289.0 | 943.35 | 2374.2 |        | 2094.32   |        |     |      |     |     |     |
| Lighthouse               |        |        |        |        |        |           |        |     |      |     |     |     |
| Marland<br>Heights       | 150.00 | 100.00 |        |        | 900.00 | 1430.00   |        |     |      |     |     |     |
| Ministry of<br>Salvation |        |        |        |        |        |           |        |     |      |     |     |     |
| Open Door                | 1503.0 | 1774.0 | 1641.0 | 974.41 | 2093.0 | 1514.00   |        |     |      |     |     |     |
| Riverview                |        |        |        |        |        |           |        |     |      |     |     |     |
| NB @<br>Ryerson          | 309.35 | 428.30 | 403.91 | 963.93 | 694.02 | 541.68    |        |     |      |     |     |     |
| Solid Rock               | 32.91  | 57.82  | 38.19  | 47.49  |        | 42.69     |        |     |      |     |     |     |
| S Wheeling               | 4.20   | 5.32   | 1.86   | 16.16  | 21.68  |           |        |     |      |     |     |     |
| Temple                   | 103.67 | 364.01 | 431.61 | 130.33 | 198.19 | 129.48    |        |     |      |     |     |     |

*My heart is full of gratitude for your generous and faithful giving. Thanks to each church for the privilege of cooperating in associational ministry together with you!*

*- Ed Goodman*



## A PLEA FROM ONE OF OUR HEROES

To the churches:

First, I want to thank you for the opportunity you have given me to write this letter to you. Your willingness to do whatever you can to aide is uplifting and encouraging to me in preparation for the next few months of this journey!

I am writing to explain a little bit of the nature of my trip and how the Spirit of the Lord has led me to where I am today. I will be going to a country in December whose borders are not open to missions teams and whose government does not want outside influence, especially Christian influence, to come inside. Therefore, this trip will revolve around volunteering and observing physical therapy work.

This process began almost a year ago in July 2016. I attended a medical missions conference through the IMB and I left there stirred. The Spirit was moving and working in my heart. I saw the need for medical professionals to be leveraged in hard places for the kingdom work of King Jesus and had a desire begin to form inside my heart. I became involved in local mission work, where I currently attend physical therapy school, and God continued to break my heart for the lost. Moving forward to December 2016, I attended Cross Conference in Indianapolis and through the preaching of the Word, the Spirit exploded that initial desire tenfold. Thabiti Anyabwile spoke from Matthew 24:36-51 and summed it up in these words: Hell is real, Time is short, Jesus says go. He gave a statistic that has stuck with me ever since; in the course of 1 minute, only 60 seconds, 105 people die. That stat alone broke my heart for those who, are dying as I am sitting here and don't know Jesus Christ as their all.

So after I came home, I was filled with that desire and zeal like never before, however, I did not want it to be caused from any sense of hyper-emotional response so I have continued to pray; seeking the face of God in this situation. The story about this particular trip is rather funny though, at least to me. At the first of the year I was searching all over the place for a trip. Nothing would work logistically with my time frame availabilities and the ones that did, just didn't seem right. So I quit trying to make things happen as I told God my desire to go but also my frustration with not finding anything. I asked that a trip could just fall in to my lap so to speak, and sure enough, 4 or 5 weeks later I get an email! Praise God for the way he works; completely in his sovereign timing.

Along with the mission aspects of this trip, it will also be a vision trip. I have been praying that through this trip, God will show me part of his heart for the future of my life. I feel the draw to full-time, foreign missions work, using my future degree and medical skills to be able to get behind closed doors and be a light in those dark places. I am excited to see if that is the direction God is indeed moving me!

The financial need is there with this trip. The flight will be the lion's share and the total need is around \$3,000. However, before anything else, I mostly desire your prayers. Not just now, but leading up to the trip and while I am there. I can provide specifics if asked and more details as well. I thank you for reading this and presenting it amongst the church bodies. I draw so much strength from the Word but a few verses that are really on my heart right now are these:

"I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness." Isaiah 42:6-7

"Do not fear for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, surely I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10

Soli Deo Gloria!

-Anonymous

***The name of this missionary is being withheld for security reasons. Contributions can be sent directly to the Upper Ohio Valley Baptist Association, which will forward 100% of the proceeds to the missionary.***

# CHURCH SPOTLIGHT

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## GARY & SANDRA ELLER

Gary Eller was called to ministry on June 15, 1985 is when he accepted the call. When he was a child he wanted to be a doctor, boy did God have other plans! God called him during a revival service in the fall of 1984, but like a goof ball he ran. His favorite memories of ministry were the days his children were saved. His favorite preachers are Billy Graham, Greg Laurie, and David Jeremiah. His favorite bible verse is Luke 23:33 and if you want to feed him, his favorite food is Spaghetti!



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## EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday School 9:45 AM  
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM  
Sunday Evening 6:30 PM  
Wednesday Evening 6:30 PM

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50470 NATIONAL RD  
P.O. Box 191  
ST. CLAIRSVILLE, OHIO  
43950



# CALENDAR

## JULY

- 4** Independence Day (Office Closed)
- 10** Missions Camp Volunteer Orientation
- 11-15** Missions Camp
- 23** LoveLoud Sunday
- 25-26** Send North America Conference, Orlando, FL



CHIBIRD

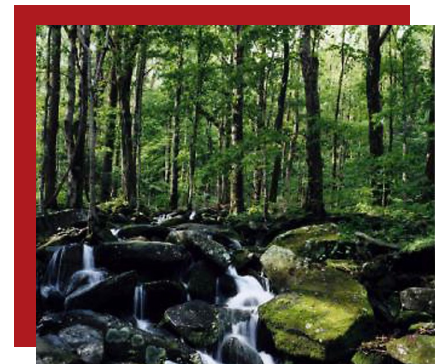
- 13 Disaster Relief Training
- 15 UOVBA Committee Meetings
- 15 Executive Board Meeting
- 22-23 Evangelism Conference



On August 15, the UOVBA annual committee meetings start at 2:00 p.m. and the executive board will meet at 7:00 p.m.

|                      |      |
|----------------------|------|
| Budget Committee     | 2:00 |
| Calendar Committee   | 4:00 |
| Program Committee    | 5:00 |
| Nominating Committee | 6:00 |
| Executive Board      | 7:00 |

\*Refreshments will be served.



# LOOKING UP

CONCERT OF PRAYER

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 7TH AT 6:00PM  
TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH MOUNDSVILLE, WV  
WORSHIP - PRAYER - INTERCESSIONS FOR REVIVAL  
GET MORE INFORMATION @ [WWW.UOVBA.COM](http://WWW.UOVBA.COM)

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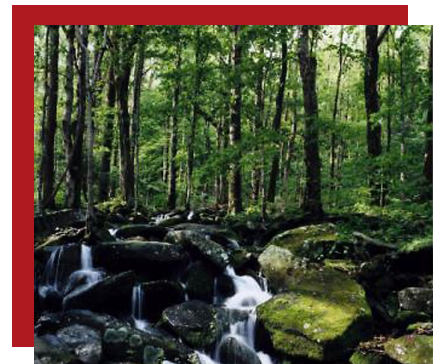
Happy  
Birthday!

10 Linda Ott



Happy  
Anniversary

*Birthdays, anniversary info, and photos  
from celebrations may be submitted to  
associational secretary Megan Koontz.*



## **Publishing Information Disclosure**

The *Valley Voice* will typically be published on the last Thursday of each month, although unforeseen circumstances may result in a delay or temporary suspension of the publication. For information to be published, the UOVBA must receive it in writing by the 20th day of each month.

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Upper Ohio Valley Baptist Association is to motivate, stimulate, equip, and assist Southern Baptist churches to recognize and fulfill their Christ-given mission.

### **Vision Statement**

The vision of the UOVBA is to equip churches through cooperation, training, planning, and fellowship to become instruments of Christ for the purpose of evangelism and missions.

### **Visit Us on the Web**

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**UOVBA**

**PO Box 695**

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