



## From Your District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Víctor Gómez



*So we can say with confidence, the Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.  
What can anyone do to me? – Hebrews 13:6 (NRSV)*

Recently, I received a very nice email from a lay person. This lay person has been very active in the ministry of the District, and we have embraced ministry together in amazing ways. This email made me smile, and gave me assurance of the work and ministry we are all part of in the Virginia Conference.

The first words in this email were: "First, I have been praying for you, your work, your precious family and the UMC." What a witness! As a pastor and now as a District Superintendent, it is great to know that many people are praying for me and with me. I believe in the power of prayer as it is a way to be in a closer relationship with God. It is in prayer that we can obtain confidence that the Lord is our helper. It is in prayer that we will not be afraid as God sustains us.

The email also included a short but very meaningful prayer the lay person shared with me, which was used when going to work: "God, grant me new knowledge and wisdom to help me with the tasks that await me today." I have a kneeler in my office right next to my desk which I use throughout the day. On that kneeler, I spend personal time with my God and place all the tasks before me and I ask for God's guidance as I seek to follow God's will. Prayers empower us to do God's will and to remember that God is leading us through the Holy Spirit.

The third and final point in the email was about spending time with family. Many times, we are caught up with the business of work and ministry that we neglect our own families. We also neglect spending time with God. I don't think God wants us to be so busy to the point that we neglect spending our personal time with God and our own families. In the recent Bible study of the Virginia Annual Conference led by Dr. John Kinney, he reminded us that God is at the center, so it creates a direct and reachable relationship with God.

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At the end of this email, Hebrews 13:6 was mentioned. Indeed, the Lord is our helper and we will not be afraid. As we move forward in ministry, as we retake our mission in making disciples of Jesus Christ, let us continue to pray for one another. Let us find our kneeler to be in a closer relationship with God and know that God is at the center. Let us spend time with our families with the purpose to be in the kingdom of God as we make disciples of Jesus Christ.

As I thank this lay person for sharing this message I needed to hear, which I am sharing with you all, may you always seek to cultivate God's abiding presence in your life through the power of prayer and the reading of God's word.



In God's Service,  
Rev. Dr. Víctor Gómez

## From Your District Director of Congregational Vitality - Rev. Gordon Meriwether



### Best Guess to Figuring It Out

*"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.....for the old order of things has passed away."*

Revelation 21:1a, 4b

Okay...now what? Seminary didn't train us for this...matter of fact, life itself didn't train us for this! But like it or not here we go into a post pandemic rediscovery of church. Of course, there is no assurance that this will be the last we see of the COVID pandemic and its variant spoilers, but we have to be optimistic. So, given that the vaccination holds true to the promises, and the time has come for us to get back out there...as a church we ask, "where are we going, how are we getting there, and who is driving?"

The newness of the days ahead that can't be predicted, analyzed or measured for success. To figure out *where we are going*, we just have to have the faith of the Apostles, pick up the cross, and know **I Am** is in charge, and that He will set the course for the days ahead. Figuring out what the church looks like in those days so we can set a proper course is subject to the best guesses of smart people who today find themselves in leadership roles.

So *how are we going to get there....wherever there is?* There is no assured plan. Smart people aren't that smart after all, but there's some pretty good Wesleyan guessing going on. But this is a rocky road without absolute trust in the will of God and our rigorous and persistent prayers; prayers for our Methodist denomination(s), our leadership, our churches, our ministries, our communities, and our people. Prayer will guide our way when smart people lose theirs. So, let's trust those gifted smart people in charge, but verify everything with strong-willed prayer ministries across the Harrisonburg District.



There are plenty of leaders out there to *drive us home*, who seem positioned to point us in a direction of recovery, but is this to reclaim the legacy and ways of the church past? This would seem a futile turn into a never-ending circle of status quo, not in the best interest of the rebirth, the next great awakening of the faith. The world and our ministries require the flexibility to address the evolving culture and society we live in with relevant Christ-inspired solutions. Leadership could come from the right or left, from the conservative or the progressive, from clergy or lay, but the leadership must be inspired by the word of God and the teachings of Jesus the Christ....to me this says love, compassion, respect, forgiveness, and fellowship all under the grace of God. I pray, Lord, show me the leader to guide our travels across the desert of change and I will follow.

As people of Christ, we have been here before, haven't we? In the first century the early Christians were no better equipped than we are, in fact because they walked with the Christ, they saw him crucified, and they ate with the Risen Christ...they had to be so confused when left alone and forced to deal with new starts in their ministry. There was no Fresh Expression handbook or even the documented Gospels. They were on their own to figure it out with the help of the newly introduced Spirit.

My brothers and sisters, we know Jesus, and have been walking in the Spirit for 2000 years, embracing the Gospels as the Word of God, and leveraging the lessons of our forbearers in ministry. So I figure we have a better chance at a best guess on figuring out the way a new beginning, a new path, a new everything. With the teachings of our Lord and Master, and guided enlightenment of the Spirit, we can do this!

In conclusion, "*The Needed Time*" (Lightin' Hopkins, 1951) is a simple gospel blues song that has so inspired me ever since I first heard Taj Mahal's rendition in the 1972 movie, *The Sounder*.

Jesus, won't you come by here,  
Jesus, won't you come by here,  
Now is the needed time,  
Now is the needed time,  
Jesus, won't you come by here.

I believe the future is that simple, "Jesus won't you come by here, now is the needed time." Then we can give our best guess to figure it out.

So Be It.  
Your Loving Brother in Christ, g

## ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS ON THE HARRISONBURG DISTRICT CONFIRMED AS OF JUNE 18, 2021

(NOT PRINTED IN THE JUNE ISSUE OF THE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER)

Patricia (Trish) Hernandez—Mount Hermon UMC (Lay Supply)

Debra Powell—Evangelical UMC

Rev. Gayle L. Thornberry, pastor of the Annex-Crimora Charge, passed away on Monday, June 14, 2021. Her husband, Wesley Thornberry, is a retired local pastor on the Harrisonburg District.

**Sympathy**



Rev. Joe Amend (right), pictured here with Rev. Dr. Victor Gómez

## CONGRATULATIONS

Rev. Joe Amend, Pastor on the Shenandoah Charge (Christ and Fields), became a Retired Local Pastor at the Commissioning Service on Monday, June 15th.



## OVERLOOK RETREAT AND CAMP MINISTRIES

Come Experience Paul's Missionary Journey! This summer we will explore Paul's Missionary Journeys and learn what it means to be the hands and feet of Christ! **The Summer Camp Schedule is attached to this newsletter.** [Click Here](#) to go to the camp website for price information and to register.



### New Event at Camp - Mudding on the Mountain! August 21st!

<https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Keezletown/muddingonthemountain>

Registration now open  
Early registration until June 30th was \$25  
Registration fee includes race,  
T-shirt, finisher medal, and lots of mud.

Join us on the mountain for a mudrun like no other. Mudding on the Mountain is a 1 mile trail run with 10 messy-muddy obstacles just for kids ages 4-14. Runners will get to run through the mudpit, climb on hay bails, climb on logs, and have a muddy good time for a good cause.

## DISTRICT CALENDAR

July 1 (Thursday) Annual Audits are due in the District Office

July 1 (Thursday) Parsonage Reviews are due in the District Office

July 1 (Thursday) Mission Encounter online 7:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.

(Also on 07-08, 07-15, 07-22, 07-29, 08-05) \*

July 2 (Friday) District Office closes at 1:00 p.m. for Independence Day Observance

July 4 (Sunday) First Sunday for new pastors

July 5 (Monday) District Office is closed for Independence Day Observance

July 7 (Wednesday) Downriver Devotion at the Strasburg Town Park Boat Ramp - 8:00 a.m. (Also 07-14, 07-21, 07-28, 08-04, 08-11, 08-18, 08-25) \*

July 20 (Tuesday) District Stewards Meeting via Zoom 7:00 p.m.\*

July 29 (Thursday) District PiM Welcome Picnic 5:00 p.m.\*

August 7 (Saturday) District UMW Executive meeting \*

August 21 (Saturday) Conference Lay Servant Academy online—(9:00 a.m.— 4:00 p.m.) \*

August 21 (Saturday) Mudding on the Mountain at Camp Overlook\*

August 28 (Saturday) Foundations of Faith Community Nursing Course begins online\*

September 2 (Thursday) District Charge Conference Orientation via Zoom\*

All events are subject to change.

\* Denotes related article



**DOWNRIVER DEVOTION BEGINS JULY 7<sup>TH</sup> 8:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.**  
**MEET AT STRASBURG TOWN PARK BOAT RAMP**

Bring your own kayak, canoe or inflatable or borrow one of ours.

Hosts: Rev. John Haynes, Jr., Strasburg UMC and Rev. Gary Heaton, Kernstown UMC

Email: [johnhaynesjr@vaumc.org](mailto:johnhaynesjr@vaumc.org), [garyheaton@vaumc.org](mailto:garyheaton@vaumc.org)

*Oh, Shenandoah! I hear you calling!*

*Away, you rolling river!*

*Yes, far away I hear you calling. . .*

The stresses of ministry are many and the Coronavirus pandemic has kept ministers from those vital relationships that renew, recharge and spark our call to ministry. Zoom meetings are just not enough!!

We invite you to join Rev. John and Rev. Gary on a weekly float on the North Fork of the Shenandoah River during the month of July and August 2021 as a time to connect with colleagues in ministry, to talk, to pray, sing (or keep silence) and paddle.




No RSVP required, just show up! We depart at 8:00 a.m. every Wednesday from the Boat Ramp at Strasburg Town Park: 295 Park Road Strasburg, VA 22657

Rev. Gary and Rev. John have extra kayaks, canoes, paddles and inflatables if you do not have your own. Transportation will be provided back to the boat ramp at the conclusion of our float.



# HARRISONBURG DISTRICT STEWARDS MEETING

## TUESDAY, JULY 20—VIA ZOOM—7:00 P.M.

 Attention District Steward Representatives and Pastors! Please be present at the Zoom meeting to discuss and approve the 2022 Harrisonburg District Budget. Pastors and District Stewards were emailed the information on June 30th, along with the Zoom link. Please contact Pastor Sue MacTavish, Committee Chairperson of the District Finance Committee or Rev. Dr. Gómez for questions.

## SAVE THE DATE! PIM WELCOME PICNIC!

**The Partners in Ministry (PiM) will hold their Welcome Picnic on Thursday, July 29th.** The place has not yet been finalized at the time of this newsletter release. All returning pastors are encouraged to be present to welcome new pastors to the Harrisonburg District. Look for further details to be sent out the first week in July!



**As a reminder, Pastors please note:** PiM monthly meetings are scheduled for the first **Tuesday** of each month. Programs for 2021-22 are now being finalized. PiM Executive Officers

## HARRISONBURG AND WINCHESTER CHARGE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE—2021

The **PiM (Partners in Ministry) Fall Clergy Retreat** will include the Winchester District this year. Mark your calendar for **Thursday, September 2nd**. This event will discuss 2021 Charge Conferences. More details; i.e. time, place, etc. will follow in the coming weeks. *Pastors, you are asked to reserve this date on your calendars and be in attendance.*

# Charge Conference 2021

## 2021 CONFERENCE LAY SERVANT ACADEMY

AUGUST 21, 2021

9 A.M. - 4 P.M.



**Come join us for Lay Servant Academy Online Training Day:** We are excited to be hosting Summer Lay Servant courses which will take place on Saturday, August 21.

**NEW THIS YEAR:** Both full-day and half-day course offerings! All courses are designed for equipping laity for the work and mission of each person's calling. Instructors for each course include both clergy and laity who are ready to give practical and relevant resources that will be useful in various ministry areas. Lay Servant Academy is for all of the Virginia Conference Laity who feel called to ministry or who currently serve the church and would like to grow in their servant leadership.

[Click here](#) to view the course descriptions and other information (pdf)

Register at this link: <https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/index.php?eventid=623870&>

For more information or for questions, you may contact Tianna Durbin, *Director of Lay Servant Academy*  
[TiannaD@arcolachurch.org](mailto:TiannaD@arcolachurch.org).



If you are a Registered Nurse and interested in providing intentional spiritual care and whole person's health and wellness to your congregation and community you may find this Faith Community Nursing course valuable.

Financial assistance may be available through the Harrisonburg District UMC. Contact Delores Reid at [dreid515@aol.com](mailto:dreid515@aol.com) for information.

### Fall 2021 - Foundations of Faith Community Nursing Course: Blended Format (Online)

**Date of course:** August 28, 2021 - November 6, 2021

**Course name:** Foundations of Faith Community Nursing: Blended Format (Online) NNC - 533  
# of CE credits 36.5 CEU's for VNA)

**Cost:** Cost \$ 400 per individual (plus manuals ordered by student)

**Format to be used:** Blended/Hybrid

# of sections : 1

**Deadline date:** August 16, 2021

#### Contact Information:

Lorie Henley, Faith Community Nurse Education Coordinator  
School of Nursing at Shenandoah University School of Nursing [fcn@su.edu](mailto:fcn@su.edu)



## UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Clergy, you now have the ability to update your information online using your EVC login and password. [Click here to visit Unity Web](#)

Or you may still email any updates/corrections to [BrendaCapen@vaumc.org](mailto:BrendaCapen@vaumc.org)



The Harrisonburg District Office has announced that the office will close at 1:00 p.m. each Friday through Labor Day.

## HARRISONBURG DISTRICT MISSION CENTRAL

Physical location: 1704 Smithland Road, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Mailing address: Post Office Box 2026, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Website: <http://missioncentralharrisonburgva.com/mission-central/>

### Mission Central Children's Clothes Closet

Well, it is officially summer! We have had a quite manageable stream of clients so far coming in for summer clothes. Thanks to all who so generously donate our beautiful quality clothing. We are doubly blessed at the end of the school year, when various schools bring us their unclaimed lost-and-found items!



We had a God moment recently when a woman called us to donate boxes full of amazing clothes, blankets, shoes, handbags and hair accessories that her great niece had outgrown. These items looked new! She told us that she was unsuccessfully trying to find a mission to donate them to—even by mail if necessary—when she drove by Mission Central and happened to see our sign. She said that was an answered prayer. So true, especially on our end—our little girl clients and their moms were thrilled! As for us volunteers, we were like kids in a candy shop.

Our wonderful new volunteers from Bridgewater UMW opened our first Tuesday evening shift on June 15. We only had four clients, not unexpectedly, but the word will get out; we also have it posted by the door. They really did a marvelous job! Thank you so much, ladies, for your commitment to the Children's Clothes Closet.

Blessings to all, and have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Donna Tinsley 703-472-8101

**The facility is open to the public from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month; the 3rd Tuesday and the 2nd and 4th Thursday evenings from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

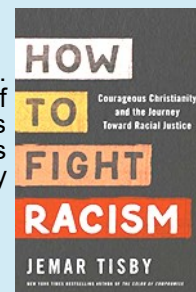
### FROM SUE MACTAVISH, DISTRICT LIBRARIAN JULY 2021 FEATURED ITEM:

#### **How to Fight Racism: Courageous Christianity and the Journey toward Racial Justice by Jemar Tisby, 2021**



As we know, racism is pervasive in today's world. Author Jemar Tisby believes we need to move beyond more discussions about racism and begin equipping people with the practical tools to fight against it. So he developed *How to Fight Racism* as a handbook for pursuing racial justice with hands-on suggestions and actionable items to confront racism in our relationships and in everyday life. Tisby roots the ultimate solutions to racism in our Christian faith as we embrace the implications of what Jesus taught his followers and this social issue for us today. The book and study encourages us to become active participants in the struggle for human dignity across racial and ethnic lines, provides a model for how to think about race in productive ways, and calls us to dismantle a social hierarchy stratified by skin color.

***How to Fight Racism* can be found in the Missions / Social issues section of the District Library. We have the Book, Study Guide and DVD.**



**Stop by the District Office and "check out" the Library. Please remember to check out library items by signing the book card in pocket with your name and church and date – you may keep as long as you need – but remember to return when finished so that others may borrow. Thanks, Sue**

### A METHODIST MOMENT

"The trouble with some of us is that we have been inoculated with small doses of Christianity which keep us from catching the real thing."

*Leslie Weatherhead, British Methodist Theologian, 1893-1976.*



## Equipment for Caring at Mission Central



Equipment for Caring continues to be a resource for medical equipment to our local community. In May, we loaned out 4 walkers, 3 wheelchairs, 4 hospital beds with mattresses and side rails, 3 rol-lators (seated walkers), along with canes, bedside commodes and shower chairs and benches. More than 25 persons have received disposable diapers, pull-ups, bed pads and wound care and colostomy supplies. Thank you to all who have made donations, thus making this possible.

We are excited that we now have a storage shed to keep our hospital beds until they are loaned out. At this time, we have a total of 45 beds with the majority of them loaned out and in use. Our space in Mission Central can now be more organized with accessibility and we can display some of our smaller items. You are welcome to come by and check us out during the hours when we are open: **Mondays from 9:00 a.m. — 11:00 a.m. and Thursdays from 5:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.** We have also purchased a computer which we hope will help us keep better track of our donations and inventory, as well as items loaned out. Thank you, again, to all who financially help make these changes possible and who give of their time so faithfully.

If you are interested in helping in any way or have questions, please contact **Delores Reid, 540-383-6112**, or come by during the hours we are open to see what we are all about.

Check us out on Facebook or our website.

[www.missioncentralharrisonburgva.com](http://www.missioncentralharrisonburgva.com)

<https://www.harrisonburgdistrictumc.org/mission-central>



New Shed for Equipment for Caring



A place for Inventory!



New space for Equipment for Caring



### LISTEN TO "THE AUDIO ADVOCATE" PODCAST

Listen to "The Audio Advocate," a new podcast from the Connectional Ministries Office, which will share conference news on a monthly basis. The featured interview of the May 3 episode was district alignment, which you can still listen to at any time. Listen on [Spotify](#), [Apple](#), or through the audio player on the [conference website](#).

Find other podcasts from the Connectional Ministries Office including 1,000 Question Christian. This can be found at: <https://vaumc.org/digitalhub/>





## KINGSWAY PRISON AND FAMILY OUTREACH

Kingsway would like to thank those that sent us stamps. Stamps are one of our biggest expenses since we have 1600 inmates on our mailing list. We are not allowed back in the prisons for church services, so we are sending devotions to the inmates by mail. We now have our Volunteer, Encourager/Pen Pal and Re-entry forms listed on our website, along with a Donation button. Please take a look at our website; [www.kingswayoutreach.org](http://www.kingswayoutreach.org). Also check our newsletter attached to this newsletter.

Email us at: [info@kingswayoutreach.org](mailto:info@kingswayoutreach.org)

Louise Jennings, Director

## UMW NEWS

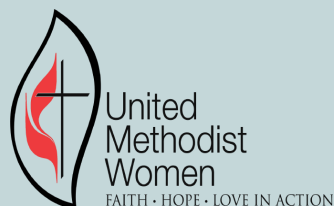
The last verse of the scripture for the 2021 Annual Conference's focus passage, John 17: 20-23, spoke to me as a United Methodist Woman. Verse 23 says, "May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." As we represent the UMW, we are indeed knitted together for God's good work! The key word here is "together." What we weave is a combination of learning, serving, sharing and unity.

We have come through a storm, never expected to be so harsh and life changing. But, as we begin to see the other side, there lies ahead of us: hope. Hope to continue the good work of the women of our various units. By the time of this publication, we will be participating in the Mission Encounter via Zoom. This mission study event always provides us with opportunities for learning and equipping us to share within our churches and communities in new and exciting ways. The Harrisonburg District UMW presented one of the studies being offered, "Finding Peace in an Anxious World," last year. It is a very informative study. **The introduction to these study sessions will be held on July 1, from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Sessions will be held on the following four Thursdays, with the closing worship service held on August 5th.** Please contact Barbara Phillips for registration, since the time has expired for early registration.

Looking ahead, we will be making plans for next year on **August 7th**, where we will approve nominations, our budget and plan programs for 2023.

We continue to "knit" to bring hope, healing and courage to all the people we meet.

Barbara Phillips, District UMW President  
([grammybp@gmail.com](mailto:grammybp@gmail.com))  
Cell 383-9972 / Home 896-7664



## MISSION ENCOUNTER

Mission Encounter is an annual event sponsored by VA Conference United Methodist Women and The Serving Ministries Office of VAUMC.—this year virtually. Studies to choose from are:

- 1-Finding Peace in an Anxious World  
by Erin James-Brown
- 2-Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools  
by Monique Morris
- 3-Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living Into the Church's  
Moral Witness Through Radical Discipleship by Darryl Stephens
- 4-Youth: Becoming Peacemakers in a Culture of Violence by Jay Godfrey\*
- 5-Children: Responding to Violence by Sue Raymond\*
- 6-Serving 101, The Mission of God's People by Christopher Wright



\*Note that one study is designated for those working with youth and another for those working with children. To learn more, please visit (<https://vaumc.org/me/>) Detailed course description: [click here](#) (pdf)



## ANNUAL CONFERENCE WRAP UP 2021

The Virginia Annual Conference was held on Friday and Saturday, June 18th and 19th via Lumi. To view recorded Conference Sessions on Vimeo, click on the following:

Friday, June 18 <https://vimeo.com/567149116>

Saturday, June 19 <https://vimeo.com/567151322>

### Special Services

The following services are now available on the conference YouTube channel.

Licensing & Deacon Commission – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U576U1wFJwo>

Commissioning – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WPk8mDiGw6A>

Ordination – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4ZfGgCEZTw>

Laity Celebration Worship – [https://youtu.be/\\_akvE2Tn5eE](https://youtu.be/_akvE2Tn5eE)

Retirement Service – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRB7kLv8ISw>

Updated on the Conference site as well are the Bible Study sessions with Dr. Kinney, pictures from the Ordination and Commissioning services and two “Glory Sighting” videos that were not aired during Annual Conference. These links can be found at [www.vaumc.org/ac2021](http://www.vaumc.org/ac2021).

For members reporting back to their local churches, a summary report is available at this link: [United as One](#)

The "Fixing of Appointments" took place on Saturday, June 19, overseen by Bishop Sharma Lewis and Dean of the Cabinet the Rev. Jeff Mickle. [View 2021-2022 appointments...](#)

Eight churches were voted on and discontinued at AC, of which three were from the Harrisonburg District: Jollett UMC on the Blue Ridge Charge, Mount Clifton UMC from the Mount Pleasant Charge, and Mount Hebron UMC from the Christian Newcomer Charge.



Annual Conference members can still contribute to the Virginia Annual Conference Offering. This year's goal is to collect \$200,000, which will be shared with the Federation of Virginia Food Banks to address food insecurity in the Commonwealth and the conference's overseas missional effort through Partnerships of Hope. Every church in the conference contributing \$200 will allow us to reach this goal in sharing the hope of our Lord in this world! [Access online giving link...](#)  
[Click here for this year's offering recipients and detailed information](#)

## CONGRATULATIONS!



Rev. Jonathan Lamb, Associate Pastor at Bridgewater UMC, became an Elder in the Virginia Conference at the Ordination Service held at Reveille UMC on June 18th.



Rev. Jonathan Lamb (center), pictured here with Rev. Dr. Victor Gómez (left) and Rev. Steve McMillion (right)

## COMMUNITY CANS AND KITS— PROJECT OF 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE WRAP UP

These figures represent those at the conclusion on June 19th. There may be a few more trickling in throughout the rest of the month as well.

Harrisonburg District has collected:

**School Kits - 369**

**Hygiene Kits - 440**

**Over 1,200 pounds of food.**

Our ministry partners receiving the cans and Kits are as follows:

Food Collected by Manor Memorial

- will go to Hope Distributed Food Pantry

Food Collected at Grottoes UMC

- will go to the Elkton Food Pantry

Keezletown collected food for the

Massanutten Presbyterian Food Pantry

Strasburg UMC collected 313 pounds of food

given to the Compassion Cupboard in Strasburg.

School kits are being distributed to:

Charterhouse School (UMFS)

Various Rockingham County School Partnerships

Health Kits will be distributed to:

Valley Open Doors Thermal Shelter

(and possibly Mercy House Women's shelter)

We may also look at other shelters as well depending on how many we have left to distribute.

Thank you to everyone who contributed with school kits, hygiene kits, sewing kits, and canned food items.

Just as a reminder that next year we plan to return to creating and collecting UMCOR Kits for Conference. However, at this time the plan will be to collect the kits in our districts, and the tractor trailer will come to our district sites to collect the kits to take to Mission Central in PA. Rev. Posey will be working on this effort in the near future.



Rev. Brian Posey—"Community Cans & Kits" - Team Leader/ Harrisonburg District Mission Coordinator

The Conference Communications Office created a video about Community Cans and Kits. Harrisonburg, Roanoke, and Richmond Districts are featured in the video. <https://fb.watch/6f9cT7fSLh/>

## APPLY NOW FOR FINANCIAL AID THROUGH THE VA CONFERENCE

The Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church Grants & Loans application for certified candidates and licensed local pastors is now open. This financial aid is for students enrolled in seminary working toward the first professional degree. Application deadlines are **July 1** for fall and spring semester grants and **October 1** for spring or summer semester grants. Click here to [Learn more...](#)



## PRG (POST-COVID RE-ENTRY GROUP)

The PRG Team is continuously encouraged by the efforts of the church to safely and effectively lead ministry during this transition. They received questions for clarification and responded to those questions by providing Best Practices.

*Where can I find information about in-person worship requirements and recommended practices?*

This information can be found on the VAUMC website at this link:

[BEST PRACTICES](#)

The current Technical Assistance Manual (TAM) Phase 3 and Mitigation Assistance Plan (MAP) governing in-person worship requirements can be found in Word and PDF format here:

<https://www.vaumc.org/prg/>

TAM – Phase 3 is much shorter and easier to follow than earlier versions. This version also includes the M. A. P. (Mitigation Assistance Plan), which should be completed by each church and a plan submitted to DS Gómez for review two weeks prior to its implementation. Once the plan is submitted, churches can start the advertisement and execution of the plan without waiting to hear back from the DS. Remember, however, that the DS has the ability to provide guidelines, suggestions, or requirements in order for events to proceed. If the DS sees a huge deviance from mitigation and safety measures, he has have the prerogative to send the plan back to make appropriate changes.

VAUMC PRG

## Best Practices



## ACE IS A NEW MINISTRY PARTNER WITH GENERAL COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

SHOP ONLINE AND IN YOUR LOCAL ACE  
HARDWARE AND RECEIVE 10% OFF\*  
YOUR PURCHASE.



Products to meet every need for Church Maintenance

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## GBHEM OFFERS STUDENT LOANS

GBHEM offers student loans. Need a student loan? The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) offers loans for United Methodist students. GBHEM will walk beside you through every step of the application, payment, and loan management process. **The UM Student Fall 2021 Loan application closes on October 14, 2021.**

[For more information...](#)







## A CHALLENGE TO READ THE BIBLE IN 2021

### Bible Readings for July 2021

Bishop Lewis has been encouraging the clergy and laity of the Virginia Conference to read the Bible in a year since 2017. Each year has featured a different way of reading.

#### Tips on reading the Bible daily:

- Start reading the Bible today.
- Set aside a specific time and place each day. Set your schedule and then stick to it.
- Mornings are great, but feel free to use any time that works consistently in your schedule.
- Get a good study Bible to help illuminate the meaning of the original Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek text.
- Choose a translation to use during your reading.
- Say a short prayer to God before you begin, asking the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and understanding.
- Dive in and enjoy the richness of God's Word! Apply God's Word to your life.

Bible study should be practiced and applicable. These seven steps will help you begin a journey to becoming a "lifelong learner" of God's Word.

**Join in 2021 and commit to reading the Bible all the way through Genesis-Revelation in one year. You can access the daily readings by**

**clicking here → [conference website](http://www.vaumc.org/pages/bishop-Lewis/biblechallenge)**  
or [BibleGateway.com](http://www.vaumc.org/pages/bishop-Lewis/biblechallenge).

[resource: <http://www.vaumc.org/pages/bishop-Lewis/biblechallenge>]



- 2017 - read the Bible straight through
- 2018 - read the Bible chronologically
- 2019 - read the Bible in a blended style; a mixture of Old Testament readings and New Testament each day.
- 2020 - read the Bible with a thematic reading plan
- 2021 - read the Bible straight through from Genesis - Revelation

[Click here to view/save 2021 challenge in pdf](#)

July 1 Psalm 90-95  
July 2 Psalm 96-102  
July 3 Psalm 103-105  
July 4 Psalm 106-107  
July 5 Psalm 108-114  
July 6 Psalm 115-118  
July 7 Psalm 119:1-88  
July 8 Psalm 119:89-176  
July 9 Psalm 120-132  
July 10 Psalm 133-139  
July 11 Psalm 140-145  
July 12 Psalm 146-150  
July 13 Proverbs 1-3  
July 14 Proverbs 4-6  
July 15 Proverbs 7-9

July 16 Proverbs 10-12  
July 17 Proverbs 13-15  
July 18 Proverbs 16-18  
July 19 Proverbs 19-21  
July 20 Proverbs 22-23  
July 21 Proverbs 24-26  
July 22 Proverbs 27-29  
July 23 Proverbs 30-31  
July 24 Ecclesiastes 1-4  
July 25 Ecclesiastes 5-8  
July 26 Ecclesiastes 9-12  
July 27 Song of Solomon 1-8  
July 28 Isaiah 1-4  
July 29 Isaiah 5-8  
July 30 Isaiah 9-12  
July 31 Isaiah 13-17

## Virginia Conference Vision

*To be disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve.*

— Bishop Sharma D. Lewis



The Harrisonburg District  
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