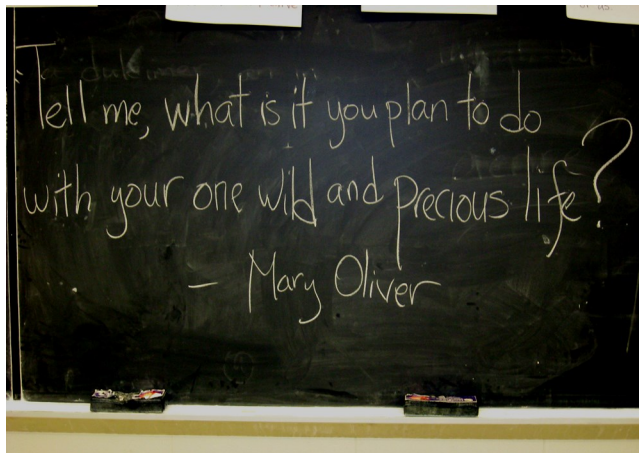


**From Your District Lay Leader Andy Harbick**

There's a good chance that you have heard a line from a wonderful poem by Mary Oliver called "The Summer Day". It goes like this:

Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?

You probably heard it in a sermon or an inspirational speech or saw it painted in script on the wall at a coffee shop. Maybe this is the first time you've ever heard it. How does it make you feel? Do you hear it as a call to action with the emphasis on the word "do?" And does the hanging question about "your one wild and precious life" nudge you towards action, to take risks, and to make the most of the time you've been given? Me, too. I'm an easy mark for an inspirational message. But about a year ago I found myself reading the whole poem for the first time and I realized that that lesson is completely missing the point.



*Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean—
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down—
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?*

—Mary Oliver

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I think Mary's poem is a gentle rebuttal to a world that values productivity above almost all else. Imagine her poem as a conversation with a friend who asks, "What did you do today?" After sharing how she pondered the deep questions of creation and delighted in the tiny mysteries of a grasshopper her friend says, "Yeah, but what did you DO?" She takes a breath and recounts that she doesn't know what prayer is but that she has paid attention, fallen into the grass, knelt, been blessed, and strolled all day. She then turns the questions back on her friend, "Tell me, what should I have done? Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?"

And so, we return to our inspirational quote, "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" It lands a lot differently now doesn't it? She has tutored us to see the world with new eyes and have an entirely different posture towards it. I believe the poem is calling us towards patience, attentiveness, peace, delight, and gratitude... prayer. So my encouragement for you today is that you pause, put away your to do list or the things that are worrying you, find your "grasshopper" (or listen to Mary read her poem <https://bit.ly/thesummerday>), and delight in the blessings that surround you.



We thank Andy for sharing with us in the newsletter while District Superintendent Victor Gómez is on renewal leave in August. We hope this has been a time of rest and relaxation for Victor and look forward to him returning to the Harrisonburg and Winchester Districts on September 1.

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



What is Truth?

³⁷ "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, **"You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."** ³⁸ "What is truth?" retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him."
John 18: 37-38

This scene of Jesus standing along side Pilate, battered and bleeding from a Roman beating...with the Hebrew hierarchy lurking nearby in the shadows, is one I carry in my mind and spirit to inspire me of not only the courage of Jesus to face down those who would crush the will of God, but also the awkward position and even the honor of this Roman Governor of Jerusalem attempting to do the right thing in spite of the unruly crowd before him. This one testimony, "What is truth?" is a question that rings for all of us to answer, faithfully and in good conscience.

As I am sure you, my brothers and sisters in the faith, are called daily to answer that very same question from inquisitors of every stripe, on a variety of challenging issues, both theological and societal. Some would throw a scripture quote to prove their point, while others would create a maze of the connected and supposed, woven together to prove their point. Here truth can be illusive, and like Pilate, I ask "What is truth?" I try hard to not try to prove my own views but listen for the answers blowing freely in the wind, yet at some point I need to seek comfort in my own thoughts and convictions.

In this regard, the Wesley Quadrilateral has proven useful (*with apologies to John Wesley and Thomas Hooker and those devotees of the Book of Discipline ¶105 Section 4 for my interpretation*); What do the Scriptures say? What do the Traditions of the church teach us? What does our personal experience reveal? and finally, What do you think?

The traditionalists among us would eagerly call for decisions based on the black and white of the wording of the Scriptures and the past traditions of old; while the free thinkers would argue the variations of translation and culture of the author and breaking of these ancient traditions by no less that the Christ himself in the same Scripture.

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that every man or woman of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;*
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and
the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic** church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

* Traditional use of this creed includes these words: "He descended into hell."
** universal

We can either assume everything in the scripture is absolute truth as written to be followed without hesitation or question, or we can choose to believe that none of it stands in truth without verification of our times and culture. The Scriptures do not have to be the absolute truth to be useful in teaching the Way of the Cross. Surely the word of God can withstand the eager inquiry of this sinner. My quest for Christian Perfection would require and demand no less a chase for enlightenment.

So I turn to John Wesley once again for answers. In ***The Character of a Methodist***, Brother Jack calls on the primacy of Scripture to guide us all, but writes, *"We believe Christ to be the eternal, supreme God.....But as to all opinions which do not strike at the root of Christianity, we think and let think."* Now the question for this Truth seeker, what is the root of Christianity? Is it only the teachings of Christ, all of the teachings, tenets, healings and stories of the New Testament, or the entire content of the Bible?

So we, once again, come face to face with stumbling blocks to reconciliation...too much information and judgmental opinion, and not enough Jesus Christ. If you were looking for an answer to the riddle of what is Truth when you started this read, I failed you and Pilate. But I think I better understand the question that Pilate asked to Jesus...I don't have an answer, but I understand the frustration of Pilate as he stood before the unruly mob in Jerusalem.

As for my answer to the question of *"the root of Christianity"*, the ancient affirmation of **The Apostle's Creed** (UMH#881) will do just nicely....and on second thought, we have the answer to what is Truth.....So Be It.
Your Brother in Christ, g

DISCOUNT FROM EXTINGUISHER SALES, INC.

Chad Summers, owner and president of Extinguisher Sales, Inc. in Harrisonburg, is offering special discounts for services related to the fire extinguishers to churches on the Harrisonburg District and/or parsonages. This is part of a regular maintenance schedule that is sometimes overlooked. It is important to the health of your churches to have this equipment up to date. Two churches on our district have already participated in this discount and found their equipment was not up to date. Please note this message is for informational purposes only and you may purchase new fire extinguishers from other sources, of course.

Chad Summers Owner/President Extinguisher Sales Inc.
990 N. Liberty St. Harrisonburg, VA 22802
Phone: (540) 434-9415 Fax: (540) 564-1217
[Email: extsales@aol.com](mailto:extsales@aol.com)

Call for an appointment or set up a time for him to come out for an inspection and show you what you may need:

Monday – Thursday 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Friday – 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

SPECIAL PRICING FOR THE HARRISONBURG DISTRICT UMC

Inspection 1 extinguisher to 6. \$47.00 total
Inspection of 7 or more extinguishers \$7.75 per extinguisher
Price on Recharges: \$30.75 per extinguisher
Price on 6 year maintenance \$8.00 per extinguisher
Price on Hydro Testing \$27.75 per extinguisher

Price on New Extinguishers

2.5lb ABC extinguisher with wall mount \$48.75
5lb ABC extinguisher with wall mount \$65.75
10lb ABC extinguisher with wall mount \$89.00



HARRISONBURG DISTRICT LAY MEMBERS AT LARGE FOR 2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

We are still accepting nominations for Harrisonburg District Lay Members at Large to attend Annual Conference on June 16-18, 2022 in Hampton. You may receive forms from your Pastor or Lay Leader of your church. Nominations should be returned to the District Office by **Monday, October 18th** for inclusion on the ballot for elections at the Harrisonburg District Conference which will be held on Sunday, November 14th. 16 persons will be elected to represent our district. **ONLY 1 NOMINATION RECEIVED AS OF 08-31-21**

HARRISONBURG DISTRICT YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MEMBERS FOR 2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Nominations are also be accepted for youth (ages 12 to 17) and young adults (ages 18-35) to attend Annual Conference. The deadline for nominations to be submitted was August 31st, but the nominations will still be open for a few more weeks. Two persons from each category will be chosen to represent our district. Nominations forms can be obtained from your Pastor or Lay Leader of your church. These persons will be elected by the District Common Table. **ONLY 1 NOMINATION RECEIVED AS OF 08-31-21**

HARRISONBURG AND WINCHESTER DISTRICTS

Charge Conference 2021

Charge Conferences for both districts will be held from **September 20th through October 28th via Zoom this year**. Each church has been assigned their dates, so now is the time to prepare your churches for the 2022 business of the church. **Orientation for Charge Conference for pastors and administrative assistants is Thursday, September 2nd at 10:00 a.m.** *Pastors, you are asked to be in attendance.*

DISTRICT CALENDAR

September 1 (Wednesday) Down-river Devotional at the Strasburg Town Park Boat Ramp - 8:00 a.m.

(Also 09-08, 09-15, 09-22, 09-29) *

September 1 (Wednesday) PRG Relaunch Webinar #1 1:00 p.m.*

September 2 (Thursday) District Charge Conference Orientation via Zoom for Pastors and Admin. Assistants 10:00 a.m.*

September 3 (Friday) District Office closes at 1:00 p.m. for Labor Day Observance

September 6 (Monday) District Office is closed for Labor Day Observance

September 7 (Tuesday) District Nominations Meeting via Zoom 7:00 p.m.

September 8 (Wednesday) PRG Relaunch Webinar #2 1:00 p.m.*

September 9 (Thursday) District Board of Ordained Ministry meeting 9:00 a.m.

September 11 (Saturday) Conference UMW Young Women's meeting via Zoom 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon*

September 13 (Monday) Board of Missions Meeting in District Office 2:00 p.m.

September 16 (Thursday) District Common Table meeting 7:00 p.m.

September 18 (Saturday) District UMW Prayer Breakfast at Donovan Memorial 9:00 a.m. *

September 29 (Wednesday) PRG Relaunch Webinar 1:00 p.m.*

September 20 through October 28 Charge Conferences (all held via Zoom)*

October 2 (Saturday) Lay Servant Training at Otterbein UMC 9:00 a.m. *

October 7 (Thursday) District UMW Meeting at Otterbein 7:00 p.m.*

October 18 (Monday) Deadline to submit nominations for Lay Members At Large to 2022 Annual Conference*

All events are subject to change.
* Denotes related article

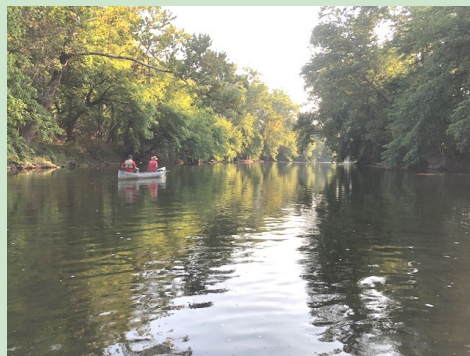
Downriver Devotional



DOWNRIVER DEVOTIONAL CONTINUES DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER! (1, 8, 15, 22 & 29TH) 8:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M. MEET AT STRASBURG TOWN PARK BOAT RAMP

We are continuing our Downriver Devotion for another month! Due to popular demand (by Gary and John) we invite you to come and join us on Wednesday mornings in September to take a short trip down the Shen-

andoah River, reflect on God's majesty, and make new friends. We will meet at the Strasburg Town Park Boat Ramp at 7:45 a.m. and leave at 8:00 a.m. to float the river. We return to the boat ramp by 9:45a.m. If you would like to join us, please contact Rev. John Haynes, Strasburg UMC (757) 620-1575 or Rev. Gary Heaton, Kernstown UMC (540) 550-5983 to give us a heads up so we can have a canoe or kayak ready for you.



A Message From the District Director of Lay Servant Ministries - Pastor Joe Amend

The Fall 2021 District Lay Servant Training has been rescheduled to **October 2, 2021, 9:00 a.m., at Otterbein UMC** in Harrisonburg. The following classes are scheduled to be taught:

Basic Course – taught by Linda Conrad (Otterbein UMC)

Leading Worship – taught by Rev. Adam Blagg (Otterbein UMC)

UMC Heritage – taught by Rev. Stephen Creech (Manor Memorial UMC)

Congregational Care - taught by Melissa Fretwell. This class will be taught separately via Zoom. The dates and times will be announced shortly. All are welcome to sign up. No charge is anticipated.

As of the time of this writing, the Training Classes are scheduled to be in person, with masks. The fee is \$20 (which covers the cost of order-in lunch and the books). You can pay at the registration or mail the money to Debbie Creech at the District Office (40 South Gate Court, Suite 101, Harrisonburg, VA 22801). Please note 'Lay Servant Training' on the check. Scholarships are available, please contact me.

I need to know as soon as possible who is registering for which class so we can order the books and get them out to the students. These classes are open to anyone who might be interested. For all three classes, the expectation is that you will have read the book before the class date.



**All laity are
Lay Servants**

Joe Amend <><
Harrisonburg District Lay Servant Committee
Cell: (301) 741-7633
joeamend@vaumc.org

Rev. Cynthia Lee Frye, Retired Associate Pastor on the Harrisonburg District, passed away on August 13th. She began her ministerial career in 1998, serving the Crimora and Mount Bethel churches, where she served until her retirement in 2004. She is survived by her husband Lawrence Frye; sons Brian, Timothy and Larry; daughters Pam Jenkins and Brenda Harris; nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. A Celebration of Life was held on August 28, at her home.

Sympathy

BRIGHT SPOTS

VIDEO SERIES

'Bright Spots' is a video series that highlights where God is working in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. You can view the videos on the [conference Facebook page](#) or on the conference [YouTube page](#). So far, the video has covered a church helping their members make their home sacred places, a 'Hope tree' that is an uplifting spot for the entire community, and a long-term care facility that just received its first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Email com-munciations@vaumc.org if you have a 'Bright Spot' we should feature. [View the video series...](#)

The Harrisonburg District Ministers "Welcome Picnic" is featured under July 30th. Check it out!

Spread the word....

**Industrial & Commercial
Ministries
Labor Day Offering**

**beginning Sunday,
September 5, 2021**

ICM brochures and envelopes are available for you to share with your church family. Let the ICM National Office know what supplies you will need.

Your support, donations, and prayers will help ICM to remain "a caring presence" to the working men and women.

Please pray for our ICM Chaplains, local ICM Chapters, National ICM Board, as well as the employees and facilities served by ICM Chaplains.



Humbly in His service,
Wayne Wright, Executive Director
ICM-Industrial & Commercial Ministries
57 South Main St., Suite 512, Harrisonburg, VA 22801
540.432.1919
www.ICMAmerica.org



John Wesley Church Homecoming

John Wesley United Methodist Church celebrated Homecoming with a picnic on Saturday, August 21, and during worship on Sunday, August 22nd. Former Pastor Wilma White was the guest speaker.



A METHODIST MOMENT

"I think death is a tremendous adventure—a gateway into a new life, in which you have further powers, deeper joys and wonderful horizons."

Leslie Weatherhead, British Methodist Theologian, 1893-1976.



FROM SUE MACTAVISH, DISTRICT LIBRARIAN

September 2021 featured item:

Saving Grace: A Guide to Financial Well-Being
Wespath Investments & Abingdon Press, 2020.



Weaving Wesleyan theology together with sound financial advice, *Saving Grace* offers guidance on saving, earning, giving, spending, debt, and how to build a sustainable financial plan.

Saving Grace is set up with 6 small group sessions and an additional 3 sessions for clergy. The Videos are hosted by Tom Berlin and Anna Guillozet and feature teaching from experienced financial advisors. The clergy sections were written by Alex Joyner

***Saving Grace* can be found in the Finances / Stewardship section of the District Library. We have the Book, Devotional, Leader Guide, Clergy Workbook, 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

DINNER/DRAMA POSSIBILITY



The Harrisonburg District is exploring the possibility of presenting a dinner (or lunch)/drama during the Easter Season of 2022. The drama will be held at Mount Tabor UMC in their Family Life Center, which is a central location in the Harrisonburg District. Tickets will be sold for the performance with a 150 person seating limit. The play will be based on the life of Jesus from Palm Sunday through the Crucifixion.

But we need your help to pull off this endeavor. Needed for this district wide event will be actors (60+ cast), crew – behind the scenes (20+), costumes, food preparers, food servers, set builders, choir members, etc.

We are hoping COVID will be behind us and we can meet together and return to worshipping in close proximity and praising the Lord through this means of worship!

If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Director, Debbie Creech, at 617-285-1312 (call or text) or email at dfcreech@comcast.net. Debbie has produced and directed Christmas and Easter dinner dramas for 20 years. As an actor, you will be asked to commit to rehearsals once a week starting the first of February, 2022. Time is of the essence, so please call, text or email today.



Edom United Methodist Church celebrated their 150th anniversary on Sunday, July 11, 2021. Rev. Sandy Benton Plasters was the guest speaker.

Edom UMC is part of the Fellowship-Linville-Edom Charge on the Harrisonburg District and Rev. Dr. Patricia Meadows serves as pastor.

Congratulations
Edom UMC

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

Clothes Closet



The year is flying by and many of our clients are already back in school. We have been busy! In July alone, we signed up nine new families, had 96 client visits and gave out 3,500 diapers and more than 500 pull-ups. We have registered a total of 56 new families in 2021 to date.

In late September and early October, we will spend our workdays transitioning the clothes closet from spring/summer clothes to fall/winter clothes. We have been stocking for winter throughout the year and are in pretty good shape! We will let you know when we have shortages in certain items, for those who are interested in donating.

We have many expectant mothers coming in, so we appreciate all the beautiful quilts and blankets that have been donated. We put them in a special baby goody bag for each new baby, and the parents are thrilled! Thanks to all for your time and generosity – it means more than you could ever know.

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.

Equipment for Caring at Mission Central



Hello and I hope you have enjoyed your summer. We have felt a little freer, but please know we still need to be cautious to protect our health and the health of those around us. School will have started by the time you read this letter, and thankfully our children will now be able to attend school in-person in the buildings. Masks are an important part of being safe.

We have continued to loan out medical equipment and have received generous donations of this kind, as well as money to buy needed supplies. This mission depends on the generosity and gifts you offer. During July, we loaned out 11 shower chairs, 5 shower benches, 5 bedside commodes, as well as 5 walkers, 6 rollators and canes, to name a few. Can you believe we received our 49th hospital bed in August? Most of these are out in individual homes and I know some we will not be seeing again, but they are being used. All the beds that have been loaned are donations from persons in the community. Thank you for your generosity! Persons still are needing and using wound care supplies, colostomy bags and adult diapers and pull-ups.

You and your church may soon be hearing more about what is going on at Mission Central as Dawn Kern from Bridgewater UMC is going out to share information about our mission, what we do and how you can help and possibly glean ideas you may have to make this more serviceable to our community. Thanks to Dawn for her willingness to do this!

You can get more information from our Facebook Equipment for Caring or website pages:

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



We depend on volunteers to be available to help when our doors are open to the community. Please call if you have items to donate or need equipment. You can come by 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.

Contact Delores Reid 540-383-6112



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN HOLDING SEPTEMBER YOUNG WOMEN'S EVENT

The Virginia Conference United Methodist Women (UMW) Young Women's Event "Faith with Intention" will be held **Saturday, September 11, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. via Zoom**. This is a time just for young women ages 18 to 40 for spiritual refreshment and growth; participants do not need to be a member of UMW, The UMC, or of any church.

Sponsored annually by the UMW, and normally held in-person over a 24-hour period with a registration fee, this year there is no charge for the three-hour Young Women's Event via Zoom.

The retreat leader, Pastor Ashley Isernhagen, pastor of St. James UMC, will use John 15 to help attendees develop and grow in discipleship through intentional practices, such as developing a faith timeline, spiritual exercises for discernment, meditation, and discipleship mantras. **Please register by September 8.** For questions, please contact Marlene Dakita, Virginia Conference UMW Mission Coordinator for Membership, Nurture & Outreach (MNO), at mdakita@comcast.net or 703-244-4524. [Click here to learn more..](#)



UMW NEWS

It seems August just breezed by! It has been a busy time for the women of this district. It was a time of reports, meetings, and plans. We are looking forward to the upcoming **Prayer Breakfast at Donovan Memorial UMC in Singers Glen on September 18th. The event begins at 9:00 a.m.,** with a continental breakfast provided. Registration is appreciated to our secretary, Sharon Harold (sharold714@aol.com) by September 8th. Our speaker is Rev. Debra Cline, pastor of the Singers

Glen Charge. We look forward to her sharing with us! Also planned is our **Annual Meeting on Thursday, October 7th at 7:00 p.m. The present plan is to meet at the Otterbein UMC social hall** and the pastor asks that we wear masks in the church. Any changes in COVID recommendations will be honored. Our speaker for this event is Emily Bender. She is a representative of CWS-Harrisonburg (Church World Service of Harrisonburg). Emily will share information about the immigrant program in our community. We will close our event year with follow ups and future plans from Mission Central and Gemenshaft at our **November 13th "Looking Ahead Together"** meeting.

Our Executive Committee met August 7th at Mission Central. It was enthusiastic and informative. Of course, there were reports from the past year, reports for the coming year, and discussion about our effectiveness for the coming year. There are plans next year to hear from Delores Reid, our Social Action Coordinator. She will offer a program on social injustice during our April "Evening Together" at Mountain Valley UMC. The new pastor at St. James UMC, Rev. Ashley Isernhagen, will be the facilitator for our Prayer Breakfast. In September, Mary Jane Rawley, our district treasurer, and past district and conference president, will share her insights on UMW; our "normal" and the possible "new normal" to come. Other plans for events in 2022 are forthcoming.

We have faced challenges this past year and they will continue to be with us. We are adapting to our "new normal". While this may remain with us, we are women of promise. Now is our time to be encouragers, supporter, friends. We have many young women in our district who have a lot to offer; enthusiasm, ideas, willingness to serve. Now is the time to reach out to them. New relationships kindle God's love for each other. That, in itself, may be our biggest plan for the coming year!

I recently shared this sand script Blessing:

"Look to this day, for yesterday is only a dream and tomorrow is only a vision.

But today---well lived!

Making every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope!

Look well, therefore to this day!

There are so many possibilities for all of us!

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



KINGSWAY PRISON AND FAMILY OUTREACH

Kingsway is grateful to be returning to the Augusta Correctional Center to offer church services. We are looking for volunteers, who will be trained, as other opportunities are opening also.

It is time to prepare for Christmas for our inmates and the Apple Tree Project.

Needed are:

- 6,000 tubes of toothpaste (can't be over 6 ounces and must be individually boxed.)
- #2 yellow pencils (NOT SHARPENED).
- We will be ordering the notepads and chapsticks, so the children or youth might like to sponsor an empty pocket Sunday and donate those.

These gifts will be given to the inmates in the 2 local jails, Fluvanna Women's Prison, Augusta, Coffeewood, Cold Springs, Green Rock Correctional Centers, and possibly Harrisonburg Diversion Center. If enough items are donated, we will try to give to the RSW (Rappahannock Shenandoah Warren Regional Jail) also.

For more info check out the website: www.kingswayoutreach.org, or call or text Louise 540-830-7000 or Pat 5440-433-5658. email: info@kingswayoutreach.org



Kingsway held its Fundraiser on Thursday night, August 26, at the Mt. Tabor Family Life Center. Approximately 50 people were in attendance and over \$1,000 was raised.



SPECIAL AND SUSTAINING GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR 2022

Applications are now available for the 2022 Common Table Special Grants and Sustaining Grants for local churches and ministries. [Click on this link at https://vaumc.org/special-and-sustaining/grants/](https://vaumc.org/special-and-sustaining/grants/). The deadline to receive complete applications (must include all supporting documentation and be signed by the District Superintendent) is October 15, 2021. Questions may be directed to Bev Myers at BevMyers@vaumc.org



LOCAL CHURCHES URGED TO HELP CONFERENCE REACH OFFERING GOAL

As of August 16, the Virginia Conference has reached the \$79,000 mark with \$121,000 left to go to reach the overall goal of \$200,000 for the 2021 conference offering. With every local church joining this effort toward the conference offering goal, the conference will have a bigger impact in addressing food insecurity in the Commonwealth and continuing global outreach through the Partnerships of Hope. For more information about the offering please [click here](#).

[Click here to donate to the Annual Conference Offering](#)

[Click here to see the Promotion Video](#)

RESPONSE FROM BISHOP LEWIS ON THE EARTHQUAKE IN HAITI

The devastation caused by the 7.2 magnitude earthquake in Haiti is compounded with extreme poverty and social and political unrest to a nation barely recovering from the previous earthquake in 2010. The Eglise Methodiste d'Haiti (EMH), led by Bishop Jean-Lesley Dorcelly, sent out a request to aid the people impacted by this earthquake with food, water filters, humanitarian kits, and tarps. In response to this request, we ask churches in the Virginia Annual Conference to respond in the following ways.

- UMCOR Disaster Relief Fund (**#982450**) - 100 percent of what is sent to the UMCOR Disaster Relief Fund will aid the recovery effort in Haiti. Please send the fund directly to UMCOR or use the online giving option below.
- VAUMC Disaster Relief to Eglise Methodiste d'Haiti - This fund will help the churches of EMH directly impacted by the earthquake to help their recovery. This fund will also be used to provide food, water filters, kits, and tarps directly to people in the circuits (districts) impacted.

Resources

Donate through the Virginia Conference donation portal - [Click here](#)
A Prayer for Haiti, Discipleship Ministries, January 15, 2010 - [Click here](#)
Online giving to UMCOR Disaster Relief Fund - [Click here](#)



UMPH EXTENDING PERMISSION TO USE RESOURCES FOR ONLINE WORSHIP THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021

The United Methodist Publishing House (UMPH) is extending full permission to all churches for use of its copyrighted worship materials through **December 31**. In this challenging time for churches, the publishing house aims to ensure access to essential worship aids and the use of the Common English Bible for online worship and studies. [Click here to read more](#)



VIDEO SERIES CURRICULUM FOCUSES ON RACE RELATIONS

This is a video series designed to engage clergy and laity in authentic conversations about race and reconciliation.

[Click here to learn more and access curriculum and videos at www.vaumc.org/racerelations](http://www.vaumc.org/racerelations)

Videos available for viewing to date are:

Video 1: Old and New World Roots - Larry Jent

Video 3: Early Black Methodism - Kim Young

Video 5: Civil War/Lost Cause - Ben Campbell

Video 2: New World Slavery - Judy Ledbetter

Video 4: The Bible of Nat Turner - Mark Person

Video 6: Jim Crow/ Women's Suffrage - Barbara Batson

Rev. Dr. Victor Gómez has the foreword on each video! Check it out!

The Virginia Roots, Race, and Discipleship curriculum is a first step to address racism in the Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. This series includes participant's guide, facilitator's notes, a one-minute introductory video for each episode. The small group study encourages participants to listen, learn, and engage in healthy dialogue about history, race, and discipleship. The goal is for all clergy and laity to acknowledge racism as a sin and take action to dismantle racism in our families, houses of worship, our community, and the workplace.

GET TO KNOW THE GENERAL COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (GCFA)

Did you know that GCFA offers more than 45 services to help provide support for United Methodist affiliated organizations? Under the Ministry Resource Guide section, check out the Local Church Resource Guide that features partners who can provide for basic church needs with discounted office supplies or building products, help with tithing and possible additional income sources, upgrade your data management, attendance and membership and many more!

GCFC has partnered with businesses such as The Home Depot, Ace Hardware, Vanco, EO(Educational Opportunities), Staples, EcoLab, Subsplash and others to help United Methodist ministries find vetted partners who can offer solutions to your church.

[Click here to see the Ministry Resource Guide](#)



PRG RELAUNCH WEBINAR

Season 2



SPECIAL WEBINAR #1
Wednesday, September 1st
at 1 pm

Rev. Allen Stanton



WHAT DOES RELAUNCH MEAN TO A SMALL CHURCH?
Register at www.VAUMC.ORG/PRG

PRG RELAUNCH WEBINAR

Season 2



SPECIAL WEBINAR #2
Wednesday, September 8th
at 1 pm

Rev. Steve Hay



HOW SIMPLE CHURCH CAN HELP IN RELAUNCHING?
Register at www.VAUMC.ORG/PRG

SPECIAL SESSION

SMALL CHURCH FORUM:
WHAT DOES RELAUNCH LOOK LIKE IN A SMALL CHURCH?

SIMPLE CHURCH IN PREPARATION FOR A POST COVID WORLD

SEPTEMBER WEBINAR
Wednesday, September 29th
At 1 pm

A TIME TO HEAL
PREPARING FOR ALL SAINTS

PRG (POST-COVID RE-ENTRY GROUP)

The PRG Team continues to hear the ways Delta Variant is impacting our communities and people who are unvaccinated, especially children under 12, so we ask each church's PRG teams to continue to monitor the situation and review their Mitigation Assistance Plan (MAP) governing in-person worship requirements. This form can be found in Word and PDF format here:

<https://www.vaumc.org/prg/> (the MAP is found on pages 3 and 4 of the new TAM—Stage 3) PRG Church Teams, remember to submit your plan to DS Gómez for review two weeks prior to its implementation.

As of August 11, most of the counties in Virginia were designated as 'High Level of Community Transmission' areas. According to the CDC guidelines, churches are encouraged to find ways to protect their members and the community. [Click here to read the response to the CDC guidelines provided by the Bishop, Cabinet, and PRG team on July 30, 2021.](#)

Remember that our call is to love our neighbors and to do no harm. We have tools, such as vaccination, wearing masks indoors and maintaining proper distancing, to make this happen! Please use the tools, so we can be a solution to this problem we all are facing.

Relaunch webinars will be held every last Wednesday of the month to provide resources to prepare for a relaunch! The webinars are added resources for the churches, as we pray and plan for relaunching. Registration is required, which can be found at <https://vaumc.org/relaunch-webinar-season-2/>!

* 1 CEU will be offered to members who join in 4 or more sessions

Special Webinar Sessions in September are at 1 pm on the 1st, 8th and 29th. See the graphics to the left for information.

VAUMC PRG

Best Practices

POST-COVID
RE-ENTRY
GROUP





A CHALLENGE TO READ THE BIBLE IN 2021

Bible Readings for September 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:

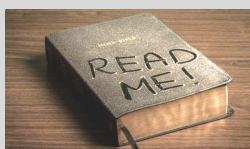
- Start reading the Bible today.
- Set aside a specific time and place each day. Set your schedule and then stick to it.
- Mornings are great, but feel free to use any time that works consistently in your schedule.
- Get a good study Bible to help illuminate the meaning of the original Hebrew, Aramaic, 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](#)

September 1	Ezekiel 9-12	September 16	Daniel 4-6
September 2	Ezekiel 13-15	September 17	Daniel 7-9
September 3	Ezekiel 16-17	September 18	Daniel 10-12
September 4	Ezekiel 18-20	September 19	Hosea 1-7
September 5	Ezekiel 21-22	September 20	Hosea 8-14
September 6	Ezekiel 23-24	September 21	Joel 1-3
September 7	Ezekiel 25-27	September 22	Amos 1-5
September 8	Ezekiel 28-30	September 23	Amos 6-9
September 9	Ezekiel 31-33	September 24	Obadiah 1, Jonah 1-4
September 10	Ezekiel 34-36	September 25	Micah 1-7
September 11	Ezekiel 37-39	September 26	Nahum 1-3
September 12	Ezekiel 40-42	September 27	Habakkuk 1-3, Zephaniah 1-3
September 13	Ezekiel 43-45	September 28	Haggai 1-2
September 14	Ezekiel 46-48	September 29	Zechariah 1-7
September 15	Daniel 1-3	September 30	Zechariah 8-14

Virginia Conference Vision

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

— Bishop Sharma D. Lewis

RESOURCES TO HELP AFGHAN REFUGEES



As the world witnesses the crisis occurring in Afghanistan, the Virginia Conference is providing the following resources to help aid your understanding and ability to care for refugees. [Click here to access information regarding these resources.](#)

The Harrisonburg District
Virginia Annual Conference
of the United Methodist Church



40 South Gate Court Suite 101
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540.433.2382 office phone
202.285.5767 DS: call/text

Office Hours: Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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Harrisonburg District on the web at
www.harrisonburgdistrictumc.org

Harrisonburg District on Facebook at
[Harrisonburg District of VaUMC](https://www.facebook.com/HarrisonburgDistrictofVaUMC)

Virginia Conference on the web at
www.vaumc.org