

DISTRICT NEWS

A Newsletter of The Harrisonburg District • Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church

December 2019

Issue 46-12



From Your District Superintendent:

"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

- Isaiah 9:6 (NRSV)

Last year I reflected upon the word Advent, which means *coming*. But what is coming? The Advent wreath contains five candles. There are three purple candles, one pink and a white candle in the center of the wreath.

Each candle is lit each Sunday of the Advent season in preparation of the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas Eve. The first purple candle represents *Hope*.

The second purple candle is the candle of *Peace*. It is sometimes called the Bethlehem Candle, which reminds us of the place in which preparations were made to receive and cradle the Christ child.

The third candle is pink and it is the candle of *Joy*. It reminds of the joy that Mary felt when the angel Gabriel told her that a special child would be born to her; a child who would save and deliver God's people.

The fourth candle is purple, which is the candle of *Love*. This light is meant to remind us of the love that God has for us. Jesus shows us God's perfect love. He is God's love in human form. The Bible says in John 3:16 that "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

Then, on Christmas Eve, we light the white candle in the center, which is known as the Christ candle, and reminds us that Christ is born, but not only that Christ was born in Bethlehem some 2,000 years ago, but that Christ is born in each of our hearts.

So what is *coming* during Advent? Many times it goes over our heads and we miss it all together. What is *coming* is not the gifts we will give or receive. What is *coming* is not Santa Claus. What is *coming* is not the singing of Christmas carols. What is *coming* is the birth of Jesus. We celebrate Jesus and His birthday.

So with that in mind, let us keep Christ in Christmas as we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, forgive the guilty, welcome the stranger or the unwanted, care for the ill, love our enemies, and do unto others as you would have done unto you.

In the last few months, I invited you all to join me in spiritual disciplines such as fasting, prayer, Scripture reading, etc. For this month, I invite you to join me and do at least one of the following: visit someone in the hospital; visit someone in prison; offer breaking bread with someone in need; offer water to someone who is thirsty; pray for those who try to harm you; offer a jacket to someone on the street who does not have one. Let us together, as the Harrisonburg District, be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Jesus is all around us. So let us take the time to enjoy Jesus' company and together celebrate Christmas with Christ.

Have a wonderful and blessed Christmas!

Victor



The Harrisonburg District Office staff. . .

District Superintendent Victor Gómez

District Director of Congregational Vitality Gordon Meriwether

District Treasurer JoAnn Liskey

District Administrative Assistant Brenda Woods

District Administrative Support Assistant Debbie Creech

District Office Custodian Edward Stoops

. . . wish you a Blessed and Merry Christmas!



From the Bishop

A challenge to read the Bible in 2019

Bible Readings for December

In 2017 participants were asked to read the Bible straight through and in 2018 you were asked to read the Bible chronologically. For 2019 the Bible challenge will be a blended style of reading, a mixture of Old Testament readings and New Testament each day.

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| December 1 | 2 Chronicles 25-27; Luke 9:37-62 | December 16 | Joshua 16-18; Luke 17:20-37 |
| December 2 | 2 Chronicles 28-29; Luke 10:1-24 | December 17 | Joshua 19-21; Luke 18:1-23 |
| December 3 | 2 Chronicles 30-31; Luke 10:25-42 | December 18 | Joshua 22-24; Luke 18:24-43 |
| December 4 | 2 Chronicles 32-33; Luke 11:1-28 | December 19 | Nehemiah 1-3; Luke 19:1-27 |
| December 5 | 2 Chronicles 34-36; Luke 11:29-54 | December 20 | Nehemiah 4-6; Luke 19:28-48 |
| December 6 | Esther 1-2; Luke 12:1-31 | December 21 | Nehemiah 7-9; Luke 20:1-26 |
| December 7 | Esther 3-5; Luke 12:32-59 | December 22 | Nehemiah 10-11; Luke 20:27-47 |
| December 8 | Esther 6-8; Luke 13:1-22 | December 23 | Nehemiah 12-13; Luke 21:1-19 |
| December 9 | Esther 9-10; Luke 13:23-35 | December 24 | Micah 1-3; Luke 21:20-39 |
| December 10 | Haggai 1-2; Luke 14:1-24 | December 25 | Micah 4-5; Luke 22:1-20 |
| December 11 | Joshua 1-3; Luke 14:25-35 | December 26 | Micah 6-7; Luke 22:21-46 |
| December 12 | Joshua 4-6; Luke 15:1-10 | December 27 | Zechariah 1-4; Luke 22:47-71 |
| December 13 | Joshua 7-9; Luke 15: 11-32 | December 28 | Zechariah 5-8; Luke 23:1-25 |
| December 14 | Joshua 10-12; Luke 16 | December 29 | Zechariah 9-12; Luke 23:26-56 |
| December 15 | Joshua 13-15; Luke 17-19 | December 30 | Zechariah 13-14; Luke 24:1-35 |
| | | December 31 | Malachi 1-4; Luke 24:36-53 |

Resource: www.vaumc.org > office & staff > Bishop > 2019 Bible Challenge]



From Sue MacTavish, District Librarian

December 2019 Featured Item:
Dialogues on The Refugee Crisis, 2018

Refugees in America: It is a tough topic, both at a local community level and from a national policy perspective. But a topic the Church cannot be silent on.



To bring perspective and meaningful conversations around this topic, *Dialogues OnThe Refugees Crisis* offers eight unique perspectives from experienced authors from renowned organizations such as World Relief and Church World Service that provide insight into refugee stories and experiences.

Chapters in *Dialogues On The Refugee Crisis* Learner Book include:

- * The Story We Live In by Brianne Casey
- * A People Without A Place by Dr. Beth Oppenheim-Chan
- * A Global Perspective by Jenny Yang
- * A Network Of Care by Sarah Krause, MS
- * Facing Our History by Halima Z. Adams
- * Looking For Home by Aubrey Leigh Grant
- * Where Do We Go From Here? By Matthew Soerens

The Dialogues on The Refugee Crisis, can be found in the Missions/Social Issues section of the District Library. The library has the participant book, leader's 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 the pocket with your name and church and date—you may keep items as long as you need—but remember to return when finished so that others may borrow.

Thanks, Sue



Partners in Ministry will meet on **Thursday, December 5, at Mt. Tabor UMC**, (gather at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m.) for a **covered-dish Christmas Party**. Entertainment will be provided by The Valley Harmony Chorus. All clergy and family members and key district leaders and their family members are invited and encouraged to attend and asked to bring one of the following: vegetable, salad, fruit, bread, or dessert.

Partners in Ministry will begin the new year - 2020 - meeting on **Tuesday, January 7, at Asbury UMC in Harrisonburg, 9:00 a.m.**, with a **program presented on Security and Safety Training for Churches" by the Harrisonburg City Police Officers and Squad**. All clergy are asked to put this meeting on their calendars and plan to be present.

PiM Executive Officers



From the District Director of Congregational Vitality Gordon Meriwether:

Congrega-

"Come follow me." Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men (and women)."
Mark 1:17



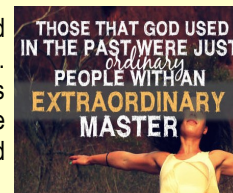
The Jesus Gang



Jesus answered his calling at the ripe old age of 30, an age that according to Roman records surpassed the average life expectancy of a Palestinian male by one year. This Jesus was living on the backside of life when he walked away from his family responsibilities and into the desert to begin his call to ministry. Led by the Spirit into the desert to encounter the dark side with all its temptations of worldliness, greed, and ego, Jesus emerged some 40 days later, initiated into purpose and drive.

His life was now that of a prophet, the anointed one, called to free humanity from the sin and destitution. But unlike the ancient Holy men that had gone before, this Jesus first set about assembling the 12, a neighborhood gang, if you will. Why did he not face the ministry alone, but rather formed this small group of disciples to be trained as "Apostles" . . . the Jesus Gang?

I would like to think that in the Grace of God, he knew that to fulfill the tasks ahead he would need others in counsel and support, after all, Messiah or not, his human legacy was that of a poor carpenter from a nowhere town called Nazareth. Facing the human complexities of life in faraway Jerusalem would take a group effort, even for the Messiah. So this Gang was chosen, not of the elite and worldly, but mostly of the hardworking dismissed poor . . . the dregs of life. These 12 would wander the fields, towns, villages and even the streets of Jerusalem, to learn from their Master the ways and wisdom of salvation, to hear his teachings of the freedom of God's Grace.



My Brothers and Sisters, the journey of this Gang was not about the walk with Jesus, but rather about the preparation for the future. As Jesus taught and they listened, the Apostles learned the foundation of Truth that would conquer the world. Jesus prepared them for the day of his departure, for the presence of the Spirit, to go out into the world and form other gangs who would spread his message throughout the humankind.

Today, as we form our Spirit-led Gangs to build our ministry in small groups, may we be inspired by the lessons and example of the Christ, may we remember our call to bring believers to this Jesus Gang through the Water and the Spirit, may we teach these disciples the Wisdom and the Way of the Jesus Gang, so they may bring others to the call and the purpose of the Christ. Amen

So may I ask you, as a disciple of this Christ, have you formed a Jesus Gang lately? No time like the present. So Be It.

In Christ, Gordon
(inspired by the Jesus Gang at Bridgewater UMC)

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.
And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age."
(Matthew 28:19-20)*



The following **Harrisonburg District Lay Members-at-Large** were elected on Sunday, November 17, 2019, at **Otterbein United Methodist Church to the 2020 Annual Conference, June 18-20, in Roanoke, VA.** We appreciate all persons who placed their names in nomination and are willing to serve. After several notifications regarding District Lay Members-to-Annual Conference nominations to pastors, lay leaders, and previous district lay members-at-large to last year's Annual Conference, only 19 nominations were received. By voice vote, the following were elected to serve as District Lay Members-at-Large to the 2020 Annual Conference.

19 District Lay Members-at-Large:

Sharon Benson-Mt. Jackson; Kitty Bolinger-Mt. Hermon; Lisa Coffelt-St. John's; Christine Cole-Keezletown; Charles Curry-Parnassus; Heather Gómez-Otterbein; Marsha Gordon-Mt. Horeb; Tamara Gordon-St. James; Dolly Huffman-First (Timberville); Gene Knically-Asbury; Katharine Layton-White Chapel; Esther Malloy-Sunset Drive; Michael Malloy-Sunset Drive; Diana Miller-Fields; Annie Leigh Pierce-Christ; Richard Pierce-Christ; Sherri Poeckert-Mt. Clinton; Dennis Rawley-Bridgewater; Matthew Von Schuch-Asbury

The following Harrisonburg District Lay Members-at-Large were elected by previous District Conference actions:

2 District Lay Members-at-Large: 1) JoAnn Liskey, District Treasurer-Otterbein; 2) Joe Amend III, District Lay Servant Director-McGaheysville

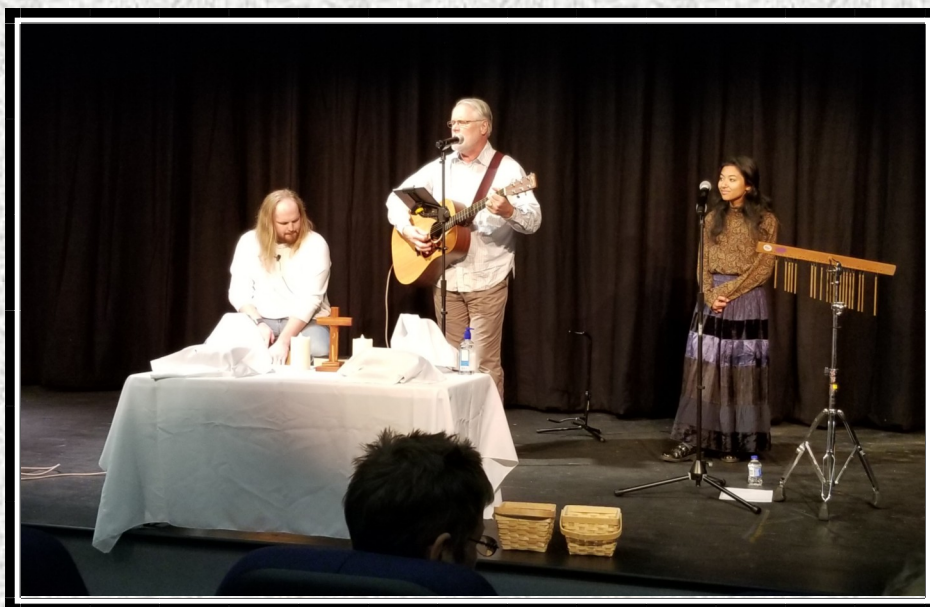
The following Harrisonburg District Lay Members-at-Large were elected by the District Council on Ministries.

2 District Young Adult/College Lay Members: Brooke DiCicco-Annex; Nicholas Zimmerman-Christ; **2 District Youth Members:** Jessenia Gómez-Mt. Olive; Dagon Wheeler-Parnassus

The following are members of Annual Conference by Rules of Annual Conference: District Lay Leader Andy Harbick-RISE; District United Methodist Men President Sharon Harold-St. James; District United Methodist Men President TBA

Harrisonburg District Newest Ministry!

In keeping with the Virginia Conference mission statement to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God”, **Acts 11:15 was launched Sunday, November 3rd, at 11:15 a.m. at the Sipe Center Theater in Bridgewater!** Act 11:15 is a mission outreach of Bridgewater UMC and its purpose is to reach those who need to hear the word of God in a casual, non-traditional church setting, to provide fellowship opportunities throughout the week and build lasting relationships with God and each other. The initial worship service had 78 people in attendance, indicating there is a need for this important undertaking. To find out more and to volunteer, check out our website at www.acts11fifteen.com. You can also find us on Facebook and Instagram.



Welcoming ALL to walk more closely with God.

From Harrisonburg District Co-Lay Leader Joe Amend III:

District Co-

LAY LEADERS



The Best Christmas Present Ever

Depending on when you read this part of the Harrisonburg District Newsletter, we are either getting ready to start or have just started the season of Advent (December 1st is the First Sunday in Advent). As usual, I am still trying to get meaningful presents for my family. I am on a never-ending, constant quest to be able to give the best Christmas presents ever to each of my loved ones. Kathy and I are in a 'blended marriage': between us we have four children and five grandchildren and one small dog – our children collectively have four dogs and two cats.

This quest has me thinking what can I do to give the baby Jesus for a present this year? Looking at the original Christmas story, we have a mixed bag of responses. The Wise Men came from a far away place and presented their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The shepherds just showed up as they were, but joyously, announced Jesus' birth to the little town of Bethlehem. The Angelic hosts gave the first ever flash-mob concert that quite literally, rose to the highest heavens. Even in fiction, we have gifts given: The Little Drummer Boy gave the only thing he had - he played his drum. King Herod's present was one of the most evil presents ever given.

What about us? We are about 2,000 years removed from the main event, but you know what? It is never too late for us to get into the Christmas present giving mood. We all can show our gratitude to the Risen Jesus, by "Loving God and Loving our neighbors as ourself" (Mark 12:30-31). Jesus has already given us His gift: He died for each and every human that has ever existed, exists now or will exist in the future. He stood in our place as atonement for our sins so we could be justified before our Heavenly Father.

I am not sure that Jesus wants big presents: what He wants is for us to follow Him to the Father. I think I have found the answer to my present-giving quandary in a not-so-well known Christmas Carol in the UMH Hymnal, "In the Bleak Midwinter", words by Christina G. Rossi, music by Gustav Holst, UMH Hymnal, #221, verse 4

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a Lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him: [I] give [Him] my heart.*

Note: I added the bracketed words.

I am pretty sure God expects nothing more from us than for us to follow His Son, but most-certainly He expects nothing less! This is without a doubt the best Christmas present ever to Jesus.

My four years as your Co-District Lay Leader are coming to a close. Without a doubt, I have experienced more Spiritual growth in these past four years than any other time in my 39 years as a Believer. I am not the same man who assumed the position four years ago.

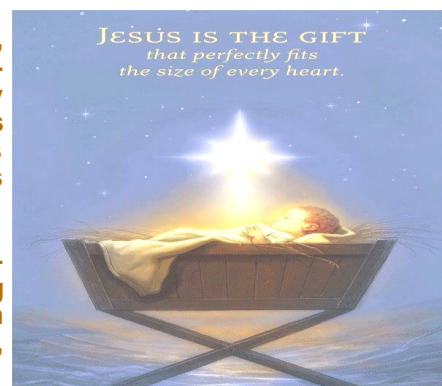
I cannot thank my two 'bosses' (Tommy Herndon and Victor Gómez) enough for giving me this opportunity to serve while still being myself. I also want to thank my two Co-Lay Leaders (Rodney Bussard and Marquetta Mitchell) for their friendship and support and I know the District will support my successor (Andy Harbick) as much as I have been supported. Welcome aboard, Andy!

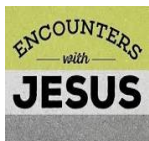


I am not going far away: and I am not going away mad or leaving in a huff, and the decision to step down was at times agonizing, but now I have a clear view of where I am being called to serve. I eagerly look forward to the challenges of replacing Dale Dodrill as the District Director of Lay Servant Ministries.

Kathy's and my prayer for the entire Harrisonburg District is for a Blessed and Peaceful Christmastide and always, always remember "Jesus is the reason for the Season!"

Merry Christmas y'all. . .
Joe Amend
Harrisonburg District Co-Lay Leader





Harrisonburg District Fall Encounters

The Fall Encounters concluded with Ananias' Encounter on November 2nd at Verona UMC. Several charges requested to have make up Charge Conferences and those took place on November 6, 7:00 p.m., at Woodstock UMC. The November Encounter offering for School Kit Expenses was \$636.00.

Ananias' Encounter

Saturday, November 2, Verona UMC/Aisle 7 Fellowship

Charges: Annex-Crimora; Harrison-Mt. Bethel; John Wesley; New Hope; Parnassus; Verona/Aisle 7; Weyers Cave



December 5 (Thursday)-Partners in Ministry [PiM] Christmas Dinner, Mt. Tabor UMC, 6:00 p.m. gather; 6:30 p.m. dinner*

December 6-8 (Fri-Sun)-Wounded Hearts-Healing Love Spiritual Retreat, Overlook Retreat & Camp Ministries

December 11 (Wednesday)-District Committee on the Ordained Ministry, District Office, 9:00 a.m.

December 23 (Monday)-VUMCenter-Glen Allen & Harrisonburg District Office closes at 1:00 p.m. for Christmas Observance

December 24-26 (Tues, Wed, & Thurs)-VUMCenter-Glen Allen & Harrisonburg District Office closed for Christmas Observance

December 27, 30, 31 (Fri, Mon & Tues)-District Office closed - staff vacations

January 1 (Wednesday)-VUMCenter-Glen Allen & Harrisonburg District Office closed for New Year's Day

January 3-4 (Fri-Sat)- Tri-District UMM Retreat, Blessings Lodge-Overlook*

January 7 (Tuesday)-Partners in Ministry [PiM], Asbury UMC, 9:00 a.m.*

January 9 (Thursday)-DUMW Executive Meeting, Asbury UMC, 7:00 p.m.*

January 15 (Wednesday)-District Committee on the Ordained Ministry, District Office, 9:00 a.m.

January 20 (Monday)-VUMCenter-Glen Allen & Harrisonburg District Office closed for Martin Luther King Day Observance

January 30 (Thursday)-United Methodist Day at the General Assembly, Pace Center-downtown Richmond*

* Denotes related article elsewhere in this newsletter



District UMW News:

The District UMW had their final event of the year in November at Luray UMC. A special thank you to the Luray UMW for providing our delicious breakfast and to Rev. Costella Forney for sharing her story and our program.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to Tommy Crosby and the staff at Camp Overlook for providing the UMW with Christmas dinners on both December 2 & 4. It is always a good time of food and fellowship with our UMW sisters throughout the district.

Our first Executive Committee Meeting for 2020 will be Thursday, January 9, at Asbury UMC, 7:00 p.m. All members please review your by-laws and be prepared to report on any changes in your work area for updates in 2021-2024.

Our first event in 2020 will be our Spiritual Life Retreat on Saturday, March 21, at Mt. Tabor UMC. Our presenter will be our Conference UMW Spiritual Growth Coordinator, Melissa White. The Mt. Tabor UMW will provide lunch. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Registration forms will be included with the January district newsletter.

We invite all women in our district to attend any of our upcoming events. You don't have to be a member of a unit or even a member of the UMC to be part of United Methodist Women. Please contact me for ways to become involved or for active units in your area that you can be a part of. All are Welcome!

Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year, Sharon Harold, DUMW President, 540-879-2270 or sharold714@aol.com



United Methodist Men from across three districts and from around the conference will gather at Blessings Lodge at Overlook for the Tri-District UMMen's Spiritual Retreat on January 3-4, 2020. This will

be a great time of fellowship and food as we are led by Rev. Joshua Orndorff, Chaplain at Randolph Macon Academy. He will help us find meaningful ways to connect with Millennials and Gen Z'ers to further the Kingdom of God. It is a wonderful way to begin

the new year! Direct questions to Overlook Retreat & Camp Ministries, (540) 269-2267, or CampOver-



You are invited to continue to support The Mission House in Elkton, VA. Many useful items for The Mission House were brought to District Conference on November 17th. During this season of giving, if your church groups or church would like to continue to support this mission in Elkton, contact Annie Pierce from the Shenandoah Charge, Rgwynnpierce@aol.com, or 540-652-6277. You will help local senior citizens who are less fortunate. Please purchase any of the items listed below.

Hygiene:

Toothbrushes
Toothpaste
Body Wash
Soap
Body Lotion
Shampoo
Conditioner

Home:

Light Bulbs
Batteries
Toilet Paper
Paper Towels
Laundry Detergent
Fabric Softener
Air Freshener

Personal:

Trash Bags
Zip-lock Bags
Foil
Plastic Wrap
Paper plates
Napkins
Band Aids
Plastic Utensils

Non-perishable Snacks
Coffee (Regular & Instant)
Tea Bags
Drinking Water
Hand Sanitizer

MISSION CENTRAL NEWS

Check out our new website prepared by Bev Earman:
<http://missioncentralharrisonburgva.com/mission-central/>



Clothes Closet A big thank you to **all** who made the storage building a reality. We plan to store large baby items there. A big thank you to the leaders and Jr. UMW members of Bridgewater UMC who helped construct the building. The UMM of McGaheysville poured the concrete floor for us.

This has been a very exciting month for us. We received our first order of diapers from the National Diaper Network. We were one of the featured non-profits to appear in the Community Foundation Booklet for Harrisonburg. We went to the Greenbrier Resort to help wrap Christmas gifts. We will receive 400 wrapped gifts to give to the children at Mission Central. Also the Pajama Program has blessed us with new PJ's and books to give away. This week we saw 101 families, gave clothing to 269 children and gave away 2240 diapers. It is so amazing to see how God has and is going before us as we share His love with the community. Thank you to all the churches in our district for their support this past year.

Artie Frederick, Volunteer Coordinator
 Children's Clothes Closet, 540-208-7669



We are grateful for all who have donated to our medical equipment closet (Equipment for Car-ing). Your gifts and donations of equipment as well as monetary gifts help make it possible to provide for our surrounding community.

Insurances have changed and often do not cover medical equipment as they did in the past and persons find themselves needing to find ways to care for their own and families medical supplies and equipment.

Monetary donations may be sent to Mission Central, Inc., PO Box 2026, Harrisonburg, VA 22801. We continue to seek volunteers to help with hours we are open to the public as well as help in cleaning used equipment and delivery and set up of beds. **We are open Mondays 9-11 AM and Thursdays 5-7 PM.** Check us out on our website, <http://missioncentralharrisonburgva.com/mission-central/> or come by and see us at **1704 Smithland Road, Harrisonburg, VA 22802.**

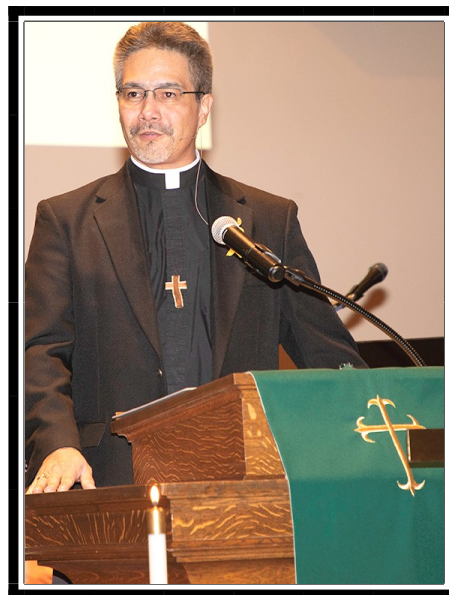
Delores Reid, Chairperson
 540-383-6112



Visit Harrisonburg District on Facebook: [Harrisonburg District of VaUMC](https://www.facebook.com/Harrisonburg-District-of-Va-UMC)
 Harrisonburg District webpage: www.harrisonburgdistrictumc.org

District Conference
Sunday, November 17, 2019
Otterbein UMC - 3:00 p.m.

Celebration of Lay Servant Ministry



This year's emphasis at District Conference was on Lay Servant Ministries. Becky Downey represented

the Lay Servants presenting the message. All Lay Servants in attendance were presented a Lay Servant pin. Dale Dodrill, District Lay Servant Director, was recognized for his years of service in Lay Servant Ministry and received a standing ovation.

Annie Pierce from Christ UMC spoke about The Mission House in Elkton and needed items were collected. The Aisle & Praise Band provided spirited music for the conference. The offering amount was \$1,380.00



*Photos courtesy of
Wendell Cochran*



Kingsway will need volunteer gift wrappers for our Apple Tree Project, gifts for children of inmates. We are in need of toothpaste, not over 6 oz individually boxed and Jr. 5 X 8 legal pads as well as volunteers to put labels on and package them for the individual prisons for the inmates' Christmas. Please contact Pat about scheduling wrappers: kingswaypafor@gmail.com or 540-433-5658, or Pam and Louise about inmate gifts, kingsway-outreach@hotmail.com. Also, needed are cash donations to purchase the approved Lip Balm. If you like to address Thanksgiving cards or Christmas cards, volunteers can do those also. Our Apple Tree location will be in the space between Ollies and House of Oak this year. We will start working in that location around the 2nd week of November. Thank to those that helped last year and we hope you will be back for this season.

Louise Jennings, Director



DISTRICT NEWS
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Virginia Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church

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Harrisonburg District on the web at
www.harrisonburgdistrictumc.org
Harrisonburg District on Facebook at
Harrisonburg District of VaUMC
Virginia Conference on the web at
www.vaumc.org



Please Note: The Harrisonburg District Office will follow the Harrisonburg City School closings for inclement weather this winter. If the Harrisonburg City Schools are closed, the Harrisonburg District Office will also be closed. The District Superintendent may be contacted at 202-285-5767 in the event of an emergency.



CONFERENCE NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

United Methodist Family Services (UMFS) is the Virginia Conference designated offering for December.

UMFS deeply appreciates the support of local churches in this ministry, helping high-risk children create a brighter future. Each church in the conference will receive a packet to support this offering. Please contact Jill Gaynor (jgaynor@umfs.org or 804-254-9463) with any questions or to place an order for additional materials.



Source: e-Advocate; November 20, 2019



UM Day at General Assembly: Registration is now open for United Methodist Day at the General Assembly presented by the Virginia Board of Church & Society, United Methodist Women and the Virginia Legislative Network Committee. The event will be **Thursday, January 30, 2020**, at The Pace Center,

700 W. Franklin Street in Richmond. Visit www.vaumc.org and click on "Conference Calendar" at the top right hand side and then click the corresponding date.

Source: e-Advocate; November 20, 2019



Help Heart Havens share their message of inclusion and empowerment across the Virginia Conference. This organization empowers adults with developmental disabilities to live and thrive in their community. **Heart Havens depends on the support of church friends during February to sustain their mission as they do not receive funding from conference apportionments.** Please contact Sara Becker at 804-237-6097 or sara.becker@hearthavens.org for additional information.

Source: e-Advocate; November 20, 2019



Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation in 2020: "Songs for the Journey" will be the theme for the Virginia Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation event from **March 15-20, 2020**. The event will be held at the **Roslyn Retreat Center in Richmond** and will be a week of renewal, worship, prayer and learning with faculty, Dr. Don E. Saliers and Rabbi Rachel Barenblat. There is a limit of 46 participants. For additional information, please contact Jerry Taylor, 703-798-6613 or e-mail: VAFive-Day@gmail.com

Source: e-Advocate; November 20, 2019

2020 All God's Children Camp dates set! At this camp, children, ages 7-12, with an incarcerated mother or father, spend a week participating in camp activities. Partnering with Virginia United Methodist camps, All God's Children Camp provides a week of sanctuary for children who face many challenges in their lives. Check out the dates below and then pray about becoming one of the 90 mentors needed to make this summer camp possible. Contact Lori Smith at littlelori@gmail.com or 571-245-9591. Visit <http://www.vaumc.org/agcc> for details and to download applications.



June 14-19 @ Camp Chanco on the James (Richmond area)
July 26-31 @ Occohannock on the Bay (Eastern Shore)
August 9-14 @ Camp Chanco on the James (Richmond area)