

# DISTRICT NEWS

October 2020 Issue 47-10

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

## From Your District Superintendent



*"His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'" – Matthew 25:21*

As I am writing these words, I think of the many people all over the world that have passed away, especially the unexpected deaths due to illness, an accident, a tragedy, and COVID-19. I also pray and think of the grief and acknowledge our human loss. I pray that God grant us grace, that in pain we may find comfort, in sorrow hope, and in death resurrection. The promise of the resurrection is tangible as we live it in Jesus Christ.

Clergy and laity alike often asked the question: Why God would take the life of a young person? It is a difficult question to answer. So instead of providing an answer, I want to share with you a story written by Rabi Aaron Moss as he was asked this same question, and he pondered it. This story helped me to have a different perspective.

"A great debate once raged in heaven. It was over a most beautiful and precious new soul that God had created. The angels debated what should be done with this soul. One group of angels demanded that this soul remain in heaven. "She is too pure, too holy to face the ugliness of the lowly world," they said. "Who knows what will happen to her in a world of temptation and evil. This soul must stay with us here."

But the other group of angels said the exact opposite: "Indeed this soul glows with a unique divine glow. But for that very reason she must go down to earth. For imagine the beauty and goodness this soul can bring to a dark world. What good is there in keeping such a soul in heaven? Let her descend to earth and shine her light there."

And so they argued back and forth, each side unshakable in their view. Until it became clear that they could not resolve the issue themselves, they needed a Higher Authority. The case was brought before God Almighty. The angels stated their arguments before the heavenly court. God listened to the two opinions; the first group of angels arguing that this unspoiled soul is too holy to be plunged into the lowly world, while the second countering that the world needs such souls more than anything.

And this was God's response: "Indeed, it is sad to send such an immaculate soul into such a dark world. I created souls like this one so that darkness can be transformed into light. The whole purpose of creation was that the lowly world be refined by the good deeds of mortal human beings. This cannot be achieved by souls in heaven. It can only be achieved through souls in bodies. And so even this pure soul must descend to earth."

The first group of angels, who requested for the soul to remain in heaven, were disappointed. They couldn't fathom how such a spiritual being could be expected to survive such a physical world. God turned to them and said, "As for your request to keep this soul up here, I will grant it partially. Though she must leave us and go down to earth, it will not be long before she will return to us. Her sojourn on earth will be brief. Such a brilliant soul will not need long to fulfil her mission. Soon she will be free to come back to heaven."

Every day that she is on earth is a blessing. God then turned to the second group and asked, "Are you satisfied with that? Do you accept that this soul can only be on earth for a limited time?"

The angels replied, "Yes we do. Every day that she is on earth is a blessing."

During times of uncertainty such as now, I wake up each morning and pray for safety and protection, but especially I pray for guidance in seeking God's will. When a loved one passes away, we feel we have lost someone precious. We are left with a gaping hole in our heart, and we often wonder why they were taken away from us. But at the same time we can be grateful for the fact that they were able to be together. We are blessed to have such beautiful souls in our lives. The world is privileged to have such heavenly guests come down on earth. And even if it can only be for a short while, we will take whatever we can get.

I am thankful to God for the gift of every day.

*In God's Service, Rev. Dr. Victor Gómez District Superintendent*



Visit Harrisonburg District on Facebook: [Harrisonburg District of VaUMC](#)  
Harrisonburg District webpage: [www.harrisonburgdistrictumc.org](http://www.harrisonburgdistrictumc.org)

## From the District Director of Congregational Vitality - Gordon Meriwether



### Of Fear and Anxiety

My sisters and brothers in Christ, I share my troubled heart, my hopeful prayer with you this day.

*"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."* (Deut. 31: 6)

Lord, a nervous breakdown is not an option; not now in the middle of political crisis, an international health emergency, a call for overdue social justice, unprecedented climate catastrophes, an economic meltdown, and the pending turmoil in the church I love so much. You called me to lead, to be your force for good among your children, to be your servant. But it is so much to bare...I can no longer lean on my own understanding...it's just too much...I so desperately need your hand to steady me....

*"I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, 'You are my servant'; I have chosen you and have not rejected you. So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."* (Isaiah 41: 9-10)

"Anxious and fearful" describes my journey these days. I want to scream out, "Cut it out, Lord! Punish the evil before my eyes....lift up the righteous here and now...let not another day pass without your mighty hand thrusting forward in justice and retribution!" Yet you whisper barely to be heard. I pray with all my heart and soul, I profess my love for you and your children...is there something more to end this chaos and bewilderment, this fear and anxiety...?

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 4: 6-7)

You call us to love you with all we have, to love our neighbor, to love ourselves, and even our enemies. But how, Lord? We are inundated with troubled times, nary a minute goes by when we are not challenged by yet another injustice, another assault on your truth. And you still call us to perfect love? What does that mean, this perfect love? I love you with all I have and all I will ever have....and yet each day I am bewildered in fear and worry...Teach me this perfect love....

*"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love."* (1 John 4:18)

Bring me peace, my Lord, peace in you. For I am no good to anyone without your peace. Calm me in your testament of love and faith. Hold me, steady me, lead me in the Wisdom, the Way, and the Word, for I am nothing if not a child of God, your servant, your disciple....may I be comforted in your peace, to only give of your love in the joy of the Good News that Jesus Christ is Lord.

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."* (John 14: 27)

Lord, leave me the peace that only you can give...  
So Be It.

Your Brother in Christ, g



**DISTRICT MEMBERS-AT-LARGE NOMINATIONS TO 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE:** The Harrisonburg District needs to elect **19 District Lay Members-at-Large** and **7 District Alternate Lay Members-at-Large** at District Conference on Sunday, November 15th. Nomination forms have been sent to pastors and local church lay leaders by e-mail. Nomination forms need to be completed, signed, and returned to the District Office by **Monday, October 19** for nominee inclusion on the ballot. A letter and nomination form are attached to this newsletter.





From the Bishop

## A challenge to Read the Bible in 2020

### Bible Readings for September



Bishop Lewis has been encouraging 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: 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. For 2020, Bishop Lewis is challenging the entire conference to read the Bible all the way through with a thematic reading plan. The thematic plan is found on [www.intentionalbygrace.com](http://www.intentionalbygrace.com) and Bishop Lewis has selected the following themes for 2020:

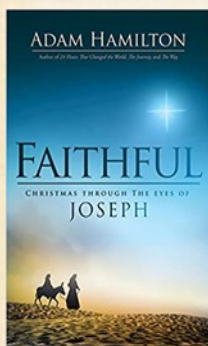
September 30 - October 20	(21 - day plan)	Trust
October 21 - November 10	(21 - day plan)	Mercy
November 11 - December 1	(21 - day plan)	Bearing Fruit
December 2 - December 23	(21 - day plan)	Cares of the World
December 24 - January 13	(21 - day plan)	Rest

There are 18 plans to cover this year. Each is 21 days long. Start at the beginning and work through the year (and a few days into January 2021). In this new year, challenge yourself to study the Bible and strengthen your faith in the process.

### 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.

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



## From Sue MacTavish, District Librarian

October 2020 featured items:

### The Gift of the Nutcracker by Matt Rawle, and Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph by Adam Hamilton.



Recently many of you probably received a flyer from Cokesbury "Advent Planning Guide." It is a gentle reminder that Advent is coming SOON!!! If you are planning to hold an Advent study, either in person or virtually, the District Library has these two recent Advent Studies available to you.

The *Nutcracker* in 4 sessions explores the Nutcracker ballet story as a means to help us understand God's greatest gift of the Christ Child and the kingdom Christ came to establish. We have the Participant Book; Leader's guide; Youth study book; Children's leader guide; DVD; and worship resources flash drive. The *Nutcracker* can be found in the **Nurture / Spiritual Development Section** (bottom shelf) of the Library. *Faithful* also in 4 sessions, uses Joseph's story to teach us to accept and glorify God's will even when circumstances make it difficult to do so. We have the Book; Leaders Guide; and DVD, *Faithful* can be found in the **Bible/ Bible Studies section** (top two shelves) of the Library.

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



**October 3rd** - (Saturday) Charge

Conferences via ZOOM

**October 4th** - (Sunday) Charge

Conferences via ZOOM

**October 5th** - (Monday) UMW Book Study via ZOOM\*

**October 6** (Tuesday) - PiM Meeting - "Pastors Dealing with Grief during COVID 19" ZOOM 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.\*

**October 8** (Thursday) - District UMW Annual Meeting - ZOOM 7:00 p.m.

**October 10th** - (Saturday) Charge Conferences via ZOOM

**October 11th** - (Sunday) Charge Conferences via ZOOM

**October 18th** - (Sunday) Charge Conferences via ZOOM

**October 19th** - (Monday) Deadline for Nominations for Delegates At-Large for the 2021 Annual Conference\*

**October 24th** - (Saturday) Charge Conferences via ZOOM

**October 24th** (Saturday) - Conference UMW Annual Meeting VIRTUAL FORMAT\*

**November 3rd** (Tuesday) - District UMW Executive Meeting at Bridgewater UMC and ZOOM\*

**November 14th** (Saturday) - 2020 Lay Servant Academy - Zoom \*

**November 15th** - (Sunday) Harrisonburg District Conference via ZOOM

*All events are subject to change.*

*\* Denotes related article elsewhere in this newsletter*

### Harrisonburg District Partners In Ministry (PiM) October 6, 2020 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. ZOOM



Our kickoff 2020-2021 Partnership in Ministry (PiM) meeting is currently scheduled for **Tuesday, October 6, 2020, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Zoom. Fellowship begins at 9:00 a.m.—good chance to catch up?**

**The keynote speaker** is Chaplain Robin Martin, Head of the Chaplain Department at SRMH. She will discuss the impact of the Corona Virus on her department, service availability, SRMH in general, and the lessons learned in handling grief during the pandemic.

Topic: PiM

Time: Oct 6, 2020 09:00 am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88556961852>

Meeting ID: 885 5696 1852

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,88556961852# US (Tacoma)  
+13017158592,,88556961852# US (Germantown)

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)  
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)  
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 885 5696 1852

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kmLYbcC2K>

### UMW NEWS:

The District UMW held their first ever Virtual Prayer Breakfast on August 29th. A big "thank you" to Laura Douglass and Barbara Phillips for providing the message and Laura for the music as we all enjoyed breakfast from the safety of our own homes.

By the time this newsletter is published, the district UMW will be completing a 4 week book study on "Finding Peace in an Anxious World." This is a UMW mission study book and a copy of this book is in the district library. The study guide and videos are available at [unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org) if you or your unit would like to use this study. Plans are being made to have videos from the district study posted online. I will keep you posted as to how to find this site.

The **UMW District Annual Meeting** will be held virtually on **Thursday, October 8th, at 7:00 p.m.** An e-mail invitation to join the meeting will go out to unit presidents by Monday, October 5th, along with the agenda, slate of officers and budget. If you would like to join this meeting, please send me an e-mail address where I can send the invitation.

Our final **Executive Committee meeting** of the year will be held **Tuesday, November 3rd at 7:00 p.m.** We are planning to meet at Bridgewater UMC for those who are able to meet in person. It's also possible we can have a zoom link from the church. We will re-evaluate to see what works best for everyone as we get closer to the meeting date.

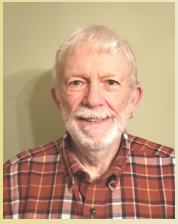
It is still uncertain how we will handle our final event "Looking Ahead Together" as we come to the end of the year. This is scheduled for Saturday, November 14th. I will keep you posted as the time gets closer.

Sharon Harold  
Harrisonburg DUMW President  
540-879-2270  
or [sharold714@aol.com](mailto:sharold714@aol.com)



Congratulations to Rev. Eduardo Carrillo, Pastor of the Mountain Valley-Cedar Grove Charge, who became a Provisional Elder at the Service of Commissioning via ZOOM on September 11th at Woodlake UMC.





### Date announced for the VaUMC 2020 Lay Servant Academy

The 2020 Lay Servant Academy will be held via Zoom on **Saturday, November 14**. Four courses are being offered: I Love to Tell the Story, Older Adult Ministries, Online Worship, and the Spanish language class, Formacion Spiritual/Spiritual Formation. Each course costs \$30. Registration may be found at <https://na.eventscloud.com/lisa>.

The schedule is as follows:  
 8:45-9:00 Sign into Zoom  
 9:00-9:20 Opening worship  
 9:30-12:30 Part One of Course  
 12:30-1:00 Lunch Break  
 1:00-4:00 Part Two of Course



**All laity are Lay Servants**  
 (see Matthew 25:31-46)

Each course will have a reading and written assignment due prior to the Academy. There will also be a post-assignment that will be due by November 28. Zoom links and assignments will be sent in October. Questions? Please contact Tiana Durbin, Lay Servant Academy Director, [tiannad@arcolachurch.org](mailto:tiannad@arcolachurch.org).

**Spiritual Food For Thought** – If there is a silver lining in this 6 month pandemic it is this: It isn't a question of whether the 'old things' were working, but the stark reality that a lot of the old things are not possible under this Covid-19 pandemic. What old things? Singing in church, Communion from a common cup, close quarter fellowship (hugging, hand shaking, etc.) We all have been forced to go to alternate plan B to conduct worship – and congregations have made decisions based on what is best for them. In some instances, individual churches on a Charge are worshipping differently. Remember, the operative word is 'Worship'.

Some churches have used on-line resources – Zoom, Facebook, etc. to worship. Others have broadcast the live services over low-wattage FM channels on the radio. Others have Drive-Up services, socially distanced In-Person services (with masks). Still others have recorded worship and made them available through a variety of delivery methods. A lot of these choices are driven by the physical resources that are available. Looking back on this incredible amount of diversity in delivery methods, my 'ah-ha' moment was when I wondered out loud, "Why has it taken a pandemic to force our delivery methods to diversify?"

One of the memorable lines out of the movie "Field of Dreams" was the comment, "If you build it, they will come." In organized religion, we are continuing to disprove that conventional wisdom. We are reverting back to an updated model that Jesus and the early disciples used – meet people where they already are meeting (i. e. Jesus at the well with the Samaritan women, Paul in Athens, etc.) and meet them at their point of need (everywhere). Churches send missionaries to foreign lands, what's stopping us from sending missionaries into our cities and towns? Could it be merely semantics? Is there really a difference between missionary vs. local outreach?

➡ OLD WAY  
 ⬅ NEW WAY

I am continually awed by the variety of ways our local churches are seeing local needs and then doing something to meet that need. For example, one local church prepared personal 'gift bags' with protective equipment to the entire staff and five additional baskets of bulk PPE supplies for Shenandoah Elementary School in the town of Shenandoah. They saw a need and moved quickly and decisively to meet it. About the only thing that limits our serving others is our own imaginations.

This is the ideal time to try something 'new' in attitude, delivery and focus. We all are, and should be, ministers.

Walk humbly with God; walk gently with your neighbor; and be at peace with yourself.

Joe Amend, Director of Lay Servant Ministries

### The Harrisonburg District extends its sympathies to the following on their loss:

*Rev. Darlene Wilkins, Senior Pastor of the Mt. Pleasant Charge, on the loss of her brother, Wayne G. (Ted) Reed, of Winchester on August 31, 2020. He was a member of Macedonia UMC.*

*Gary Locklear, former North Carolina Conference Lay Leader and the key leader in working with the Harrisonburg District Mission Team to Lumberton, NC, passed away on September 10, 2020 from COVID.*

*Rev. John Senters, pastor on the Fort Valley Charge, on the loss of his nephew, Robert Daniel Senters, 40, who died on September 20, 2020 after a brief illness. He was from Oklahoma City, OK.*

*Rev. Jonathan Lamb, Associate Pastor at Bridgewater UMC, on the loss of his grandfather, George Edward "Freddie" Sedwick, 89, of Luray who died on Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2020.*





**MISSION CENTRAL NEWS**

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

**Mission Central Children's Clothes Closet:** The Clothes Closet will be open again at its normal hours in October; the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and on the 2nd and 4th Thursday evenings from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

We regret we had to close our doors during the month of September. Due to the recent high COVID cases in the area, it was felt that Mission Central needed to remain closed.

But don't forget, we will continue to hand out diapers as needed and if anyone in your congregation needs assistance, please call!



Artie Frederick, Coordinator  
 540-208-7669

**Equipment for Caring at Mission Central** will remain open during our regular hours **Mondays 9-11 AM and Thursdays 5-7 PM** to allow those needing medical equipment and supplies to get them. We require



that all wear masks and honor physical distancing when in the building. During this time with the recent increase of COVID positive tests in our community we will not be delivering and setting up hospital beds or picking up large equipment. You may get beds if needed during our regular hours and also bring equipment you wish to donate during those times. Thank you to all who have helped and continue to help make this mission safely available in our local community.

Available are: hospital beds, wheel chairs, shower chairs, bedside commodes, hoist lifts and walkers. Also, durable equipment items as well as disposables such as adult diapers, pull-ups, ostomy and oxygen supplies, wound care supplies with gauze, wraps, some specialty items as well as personal care items. We are actively seeking a place to store the hospital beds

Check us out on Facebook or our website at:

[www.missioncentralharrisonburgva.com](http://www.missioncentralharrisonburgva.com)  
 or [www.Harrisonburgdistrict.org/ministries](http://www.Harrisonburgdistrict.org/ministries)



Please call Delores Reid 540-383-6112  
 if you have any questions or concerns.

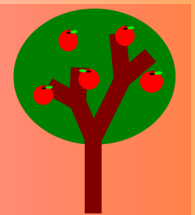
**Harrisonburg District Mission Central**  
 Physical location: 1704 Smithland Road,  
 Harrisonburg, VA 22801  
 Mailing address: Post Office Box 2026,  
 Harrisonburg, VA 22801



Christmas is coming and Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach needs your help more than ever. Hopefully this year the inmate gifts will contain notepad, pencil, lip balm, toothpaste and Christmas card. We are going to have to purchase our notepads and lip balm this year, so we will need financial donations to cover the cost of 6,000 of those and we will welcome collections of toothpaste. We only need 4,000 tubes of 6 ounce or less toothpaste. Dollar Tree has the toothpaste for \$1. General Dollar also has some at \$1. The inmates really like Colgate and Crest because they aren't on their commissary lists. We have already started collecting toothpaste and pencils.

The Covid pandemic has made ministry at Kingsway a challenge. We have not been allowed to go into any of the facilities to do Bible Studies or Church, but we have been sending devotions to all the inmates that were attending any of our programs each month since the lockdown; over 500 mailed.

The **Apple Tree** project, gifts for children of the inmates, also needs help as many of the churches that have been doing the project are not having church or don't feel like they can participate.



Please let us know how you can help by contacting Pat Crouse 540-433-5658 or Louise Jennings 540-830-7000 or email [kingswayoutreach@hotmail.com](mailto:kingswayoutreach@hotmail.com). Check out our updated webpage: [kingswayoutreach@hotmail.com](mailto:kingswayoutreach@hotmail.com) and our Facebook page. If you know of anyone in jail or prison please let us know and we will include them in our mailings and send them a Birthday Card. We now have an inmate mailing list of 1600 inmates receiving Birthday cards and other holiday cards.

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
**MAKE CHANGES TO YOUR 2020-2021**  
**DISTRICT DIRECTORY ON THE INSIDE BACK**  
**COVER TO READ THE FOLLOWING**  
**UNDER "OTHER AGENCIES"**

Kingsway Prison and Outreach Ministry  
 Louise Jennings, Director  
 PO Box 2335  
 Harrisonburg, VA 22803  
 Email: [info@kingswayoutreach.org](mailto:info@kingswayoutreach.org)  
 Website: [www.kingswayoutreach.org](http://www.kingswayoutreach.org)  
 540-433-5658  
 540-930-7000 cell

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**The Rev. Dr. Victor R. Gómez,**  
**District Superintendent,**  
**will preside over**  
**the District Conference.**

**Harrisonburg**  
**District**  
**Conference**  
**Sunday**  
**November 15, 2020**  
**Via Zoom**

# PRAYER CALENDAR

Please add these requests to your daily prayer time throughout the month. The prayer calendar will continue through 2020.

## October 2020

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				<b>1</b> For Students adapting to new ways	<b>2</b> For Teachers	<b>3</b> For Charge Conferences
<b>4</b> For Charge Conferences	<b>5</b> For First Responders	<b>6</b> For Medical Professionals	<b>7</b> For those facing anxiety	<b>8</b> For your family relationships	<b>9</b> For the community you live in	<b>10</b> For Charge Conferences
<b>11</b> For Charge Conferences	<b>12</b> For your Pastor	<b>13</b> For your Church	<b>14</b> For the Harrisonburg District	<b>15</b> For the Virginia Conference	<b>16</b> For Bishop Lewis	<b>17</b> For DS Gómez
<b>18</b> For DS Gómez	<b>19</b> For your work	<b>20</b> For those facing terminal illness	<b>21</b> For your trials	<b>22</b> For things that make you smile or laugh	<b>23</b> For forgiveness	<b>24</b> For Charge Conferences
<b>25</b> For Charge Conferences	<b>26</b> For Spiritual Strength	<b>27</b> For Wisdom	<b>28</b> To increase your faith	<b>29</b> For our basic needs	<b>30</b> For what is in your heart	<b>31</b> Simply Praise the Lord!

# WHAT WE HEARD:

## *The August, 2020 Virginia Conference TAM Survey*

**347 laity and 417 clergy completed the survey.**

About **50%** of churches are in rural areas, about **36%** are in the suburbs and about **14%** are in the cities.

**Most churches who responded that they are worshipping indicated that they are worshipping online, with in-person indoors being second and drive-in worship being third.**

Before COVID, about **36%** of churches represented in the survey worshipped with 50 or less people. Around **40%** worshipped with 51-150, about **14%** worshipped 150-300, and about **10%** worshipped with 300 or more people.

About **40%** of churches who responded indicated they are having in-person gatherings other than worship.

Most churches are currently **not celebrating** Holy Communion, although the majority who are are doing so are celebrating the sacrament during indoor worship.

About **40%** of respondents say the TAM is easy to understand, while about **48%** said this is sometimes true. About ten percent disagreed. Over **90%** of respondents indicated they have been able to have questions answered by their District Superintendent.

When it comes to the amount of communications you receive from the Conference regarding returning to worship, **82%** of laity and **92%** of clergy say you receive enough.

**"Amazing Grace" received the most votes for favorite hymn.**

About **70%** of respondents indicated their church(es) had an online presence before COVID.  
Over **72%** of churches have added a new online/virtual presence since COVID began.

You also told us that these are a lot of rules to follow, and that this has definitely not been easy for you. The documents are seen as strict, long, and complicated, especially when requirements are changed, which seems to happen often. You miss in-person fellowship, sacraments, service, and study, and you definitely do not like wearing masks. Implementing the TAM requires several volunteers each Sunday. Some churches have a difficult time with online gatherings because of limited availability of technology, and you very, very, much wish to SING.



## OUTSIDE WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ON THE HARRISONBURG DISTRICT

These churches are offering drive in worship, or will begin during the month of October:

Oak Level (Fort Valley)      Keezletown  
White Chapel (Fort Valley)      Mountain Valley  
Page (Begin in November)

## IN-PERSON WORSHIP

(Churches that will begin before or during the month of October)

Columbia Furnace (Columbia Furnace-Union Forge Charge)  
Union Forge (Columbia Furnace-Union Forge Charge)  
First Church—Timberville  
Massanutten Charge  
Mount Crawford  
Mount Pisgah

A REMINDER THAT PASTORS NEED TO GET PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE DS BEFORE CONVENING WITH EITHER DRIVE-IN OR IN PERSON WORSHIP.

## The United Methodist Credit Union still offering assistance:

If your church or UMC-affiliated organization wants to participate in the SBA's Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) but hasn't applied yet or hasn't found an institution willing or able to assist you, please contact The United Methodist Credit Union (TUMCU). If you have an urgent need, TUMCU can also help your church or organization with a low-interest bridge loan or line-of-credit while you await SBA funding. Please call Jomin Mular at (804) 672-0200 for more details or visit their website [www.tumcu.org](http://www.tumcu.org)



## CAMPUS MINISTRY ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOUR HELP

As the Chair of the Campus Ministry Association your campus ministers and chaplains of UMC related schools need your help urgently.

School is starting for the youth and young adults soon and the campus ministers have put out calls for names, email addresses and phone numbers of potential new students several times over clergynet and social media. Of the 18 schools and campus ministries in Virginia, thus far our CMA members have received a total of 25 names.

As a church, you are urged to send the names of students along with their contact information (email and phone number). Here is a link of all the campus ministers in the commonwealth for you to include in the email:

<https://vaumc.org/campus-ministers-and-chaplains/>

As a Conference we celebrate our youth and young adults and urge churches to do this easy step to help us ensure that our UMC students find community and a spiritual home on campus that aligns with our UMC values.

Drew Ens, Chair CMA, 703-259-0211



**Total collection for Kits for Conference for the Harrisonburg District as of September 24th:**

**Cleaning buckets -9**  
**School kits- 558**  
**Hygiene kits - 326**

Total monetary value - \$11,325.00

Thank you to all the Churches that contribute to this year's collection.

Brian Posey, Disaster Response Coordinator  
for the Harrisonburg District

LAITY  
SUNDAY  
2020

**October 18, 2020**

Contact your Director of Lay Servant Ministries, Joe Amend ([joeamend@vaumc.org](mailto:joeamend@vaumc.org)) for assistance.

For additional resources, please visit:  
<https://vaumc.org/laitysundaymaterials/>

THEREFORE, GO!  
WITH HOPE THROUGH

**Engagement**

Send persons into the world to live lovingly and justly as servants of Christ.

LAITY  
SUNDAY  
2020



DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES  
The United Methodist Church

## CHECK OUT THE ONEonONE INTERVIEW WITH ARTIE FREDERICK OF MISSION CENTRAL AND WHSV'S BOB CORSO.

Below is the link to Artie's full 1on1 interview.

<https://www.whsv.com/2020/09/22/1on1-national-diaper-need-awareness-week/>

Please share on social media and/or email.

Thanks,  
Bob Corso  
WHSV-TV News Anchor  
1 on 1 interviews on whsv.com  
follow me on Twitter: @WHSVbobcorso  
like me on Facebook: Bob Corso WHSV



## CONFERENCE NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES



From the  
Bishop

### A DAILY PRAYER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

*(The following prayer is offered by the Bishop's "Call to Action" Work Group on Racial Justice and Reconciliation.  
You are encouraged to pray the prayer daily.)*

O loving God,

We give you thanks for creating the world which is full of diversity  
and for making one human family of all the peoples of the earth.

You reign over all the nations and are seated on your holy throne.  
You rule over all the peoples without partiality in respect to nations or races  
because righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne.

Forgive us for the times when we put walls around us with  
false pride and racial prejudice.

Forgive us for the times when we were silent in the face of racism,  
private or institutional.

Open our eyes to see Christ who is in people of every nation and every culture.  
Break down the walls that separate us. Set us free from fear, hatred, and racism.

Bind us together with the unity of God's love.

Restore oneness to the family of God.

We pray in the name of Jesus who came, lived, and died for all humanity.  
Amen.

### Share Stories of Racial Justice on Conference Website

Bishop Sharma Lewis issued a call to action against systemic racism on May 29, 2020. Send your stories about racism to [BrendaCapen@vaumc.org](mailto:BrendaCapen@vaumc.org) for posting.



**DISTRICT NEWS**  
Harrisonburg District  
Virginia Annual Conference  
United Methodist Church

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Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Office Phone: (540) 433-2382  
Call/Text DS: (202) 285-5767

Rev. Dr. Victor Gómez  
District Superintendent  
[HarrisonburgDS@vaumc.org](mailto:HarrisonburgDS@vaumc.org)

Rev. Gordon K. Meriwether  
District Director of Congregational Vitality  
[GordonMeriwether@vaumc.org](mailto:GordonMeriwether@vaumc.org)

Deborah Foley Creech  
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Harrisonburg District on the web at  
[www.harrisonburgdistrictumc.org](http://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](http://www.vaumc.org)



Sharma D. Lewis  
RESIDENT BISHOP

### THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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TELEPHONE: 804/521-1102  
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E-MAIL: [terribiggins@vaumc.org](mailto:terribiggins@vaumc.org)

### Addressing the Technical Issues at the 238<sup>th</sup> Session of the Virginia Annual Conference on September 19, 2020

Dear Virginia Annual Conference:

I again apologize for the serious technical issues on Saturday, September 19, 2020, that forced postponement of the 238<sup>th</sup> Session of the Virginia Annual Conference. Also, I thank you again for your patience throughout this difficult situation, particularly your non-anxious presence on Saturday.

Option Technologies, the consultant retained for the Annual Conference to handle numerous information technology issues, including the voting function, has also apologized for the failures and for letting the Conference down. These developments are especially disappointing as weeks of planning and preparation were conducted by hundreds of people, including Friday's simulation.

I am in extensive discussions with the Cabinet and others to formulate the best approach to ensure that the Annual Conference's business is properly conducted, including ensuring an easy-to-use and fully accurate voting system. I will keep you apprised of significant developments.

Thank you again for your patience and God bless you.

Peace and Blessings,

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis