

SHENANDOAH RIVER DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



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A Message from Rev. Dr. Kyungsuk Cho

Watch this month's video from our District Superintendent.



AC 2026 NEWS & INFO

Volunteer at Annual Conference

There's still time to volunteer to help at Annual Conference. As the host district we are responsible to find and fill volunteer spots. If you can spare a few hours next week, please consider picking up a volunteer shift or two. Volunteers can sign up [HERE](#).

A full list of volunteer opportunities and position descriptions can be found [HERE](#).

[Volunteer at Annual Conference](#)

More AC News:

Welcome Message from Bishop Sue

Find a message from Bishop Sue welcoming folks to Annual Conference [here](#).

- Find all the AC2026 information online [HERE](#).
- Annual Conference Orientation [Registration](#)
- Clergy who need to report their Annual Conference absence can do so [HERE](#).
- The [Book of Reports](#) has been released.

- You can give to the Annual Conference Offering [HERE](#).
- Lunch & Learn [Registration](#) closes **TOMORROW**.

The **UWF & UMM** are sponsoring a breakfast about Caring for God's Creation. Our speaker will be Jeremy Harold, an arborist working for the city of Harrisonburg. [Registration is now open](#).

Keezletown UMM Night at the Harrisonburg Turks

Join the Keezletown United Methodist Men for a night at the ballpark! The Harrisonburg Turks take on Charlottesville on Wednesday, June 17. Virginia Annual Conference attendees, Virginia Conference United Methodist Men, and Shenandoah River District UMM are all welcome. [LEARN MORE](#)



CELEBRATIONS

Celebrating Kits for Conference

The Shenandoah River District is heading into Annual Conference with something to celebrate. Thanks to the dedication and faithfulness of our churches, the district contributed 157 buckets, 2,360 health kits, and 176 feminine hygiene kits, totaling more than 2,500 kits that will go to people who need them most.

A special **thank you** to the volunteers who helped with loading across the Conference. This is the connnectional church at its best.



DISTRICT NEWS

PAUMCS on the Road: Life After Publisher

If Microsoft Publisher is your go-to tool for bulletins and church publications, here's something you need to know: Microsoft is retiring Publisher in October. But don't worry, we've got you covered!

Join Kim Johnson, Director of Resourcing for the Virginia Conference, for a hands-on training session designed to help church administrators navigate the transition and

discover the best alternatives for creating bulletins and publications. The Winchester session will be **Thursday, August 13, from 10-12** at Kernstown UMC. [REGISTER](#)

The first part of the session will walk you through your options, what's out there, what works well for churches, and how to make the switch with confidence. Then we get practical! Bring your laptop and a current bulletin, and you'll get hands-on time in a new platform with Kim right there to coach you, answer questions, and cheer you on. Leave with new skills, new tools, and a bulletin already in progress.

Whether you're a seasoned Publisher user or just getting started with church communications, this session will leave you equipped and ready for what comes next.

REGISTER

News from Pinnacle Living

This month Pinnacle Living invites churches across the Shenandoah River District to participate in two important initiatives. The first is a special Father's Sunday offering for the Samaritan Fund, a Conference/CFA tradition dating back to 1947.

[READ MORE](#)

The second is an effort by the Conference Older Adult Council to build a network of leaders involved in Older Adult Ministries through a simple [Google Form](#).



CLERGY NEWS

Mountain View District Summer Book Club

The Mountain View District is hosting a summer book club series and has extended an open invitation to Shenandoah River District clergy to participate.

The Mountain View District Second Annual Summer Book Clubs brings together pastors for a series of Zoom conversations on books worth reading. Each session is led by a district colleague and, in several cases, features the author as a special guest. CEUs are available: 0.5 for every two books read, up to 1.5 if you read all seven. [LEARN MORE](#)

Poetry for Preachers

The Mission Rivers District is hosting its fall clergy gathering on October 26 and has extended an invitation to Shenandoah River District clergy to join them. The featured presenter is Rev. Laura Martin, poet, pastor, and author of *Breaking Into Light and Still*. Her session, "Poetry for Preachers," explores how poetry can enrich and deepen preaching.

October 26 | 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Peace UMC, Fredericksburg

New Clergy Orientation

New clergy, SPPR Chairs, and Lay Leaders are invited to mark their calendars for the Shenandoah River District New Clergy Orientation on July 11 at Braddock Street United Methodist Church. Get to know our district, missions, and opportunities available. More details to come.



IMPORTANT DATES

- June 17-20: Annual Conference ([VOLUNTEER](#))
- June 17: UMM Night at Harrisonburg Turks Baseball
- June 19: [UWF/UMM AC Breakfast](#)
- July 11: New Clergy Orientation
- August 1: Cross-Cultural Training
- August 13: PAUMCS on the Road- What Comes After Publisher?
- October 26: Poetry for Preachers

[Full Calendar](#)

[Submit Events](#)

[Local Church Events](#)



VAUMC NEWS

Find links and information from the Virginia Conference below.

Additional Links and Resources:

- [Why do United Methodist pastors change churches?](#)
- [Helping people 'hear the Gospel' in new ways](#)
- [Wesley Theological Seminary Receives Science Engagement for Congregational Flourishing Grant for "The Brain on Social Media" Project](#)
- [Support Partnerships of Hope](#)

MINISTRY TOOLBOX RESOURCES

- [Better Together: Sharing VBS Resources Across Your Community](#)
- [Microsoft Publisher Is Going Away](#)
- [Know When Your Church Makes the News: A Case for Google Alerts](#)
- [What to take away from Annual Conference 2026](#)
- [Preparing our hearts and homes for Hurricane Season](#)
- [How to Share Your Call Story](#)

Miracle Sunday Coming this Fall

This fall, Virginia United Methodists are invited into a six-week worship and small group series called "Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, Lead Courageously," beginning September 6 and culminating on Miracle Sunday, October 11. The emphasis supports theological education for 500 pastoral students annually across Africa, Europe, and the Philippines. Every congregation is encouraged to receive a special offering on October 11; worship and small group resources are available at vaumc.org/miraclesunday.

All God's Children Camps

Looking for a meaningful way to spend a week this summer? (And maybe need to log some last-minute service hours?)

All God's Children Camp needs 1 female and 7 male mentors to join our team! Mentors are the absolute soul of camp—without you, the fun, games, and memories just aren't possible. Life is better with friends, so grab a buddy (or two!) and come hang out with us for a week of pure fun and impact.

Please contact Lori Smith at allgodschildrencampva@gmail.com. Let's make camp happen!



MINISTRY PARTNERS

Find the latest news and information from our [Ministry Partners](#) using the links below!

- [Lay Servant News -- Save the Date: September 26](#)
- [Reconciling Ministries -- Find Us at AC2026](#)
- [Randolph-Macon Academy: Spiritual Life featured in SABRE Magazine](#)

Equipment for Caring Continues to Serve Our Community

Equipment for Caring remains located at Mt. Tabor UMC, 8335 North Valley Pike, Rockingham, Virginia, and continues to meet a growing need for medical equipment and disposable supplies throughout our community. [READ MORE](#)

Christmas in July at Kingsway

Kingsway Prison Ministry is kicking off its Christmas toothpaste campaign early, and SRD churches can help. This year they expect to serve around 8,000 inmates, and a single tube of toothpaste makes a real difference for people who often go without. Acceptable sizes are 3 to 6 oz. (no Crest with Scope, as alcohol-based products are not permitted in prisons). Contact Kingsway for more information. [READ MORE](#)

Mission Central Hits the Ground Running This Summer

Mission Central served 110 families and nearly 300 children in just its first two client days of the summer season, and currently has around 1,600 families registered. Boys' shorts in all sizes (toddler through teen) are especially needed. The ministry recently celebrated a

milestone moment when former client Alisia Garcia, now a social worker at Sentara, shared how the clothes closet helped her as a teen mom and continues to connect dozens of families to its services through her work today. [READ MORE](#)

[UWF News: Mission U is July 24-26](#)

United Women in Faith is excited to invite you to this inspiring weekend to explore the various ways we see Emmanuel within and around biblical stories.

[UMM News: May Updates](#)

- [Keezletown UMM Night @ Harrisonburg Turks Baseball](#)
- [UMM September Retreat](#)

Office On The Move

We continue to offer our services to the churches in our district. Please note the days of the week our staff are available to serve you in your area.

[Kyungsuk](#) - Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday

[Tommy](#) - Monday, Friday

[Debbie](#) - Monday through Thursday

[Kim](#) - Availability varies weekly

Staff members' calendars are linked to their names above. Click the name to schedule an appointment.

NOTE: Debbie is working on a special assignment from the conference office and will not be able to answer emails or phone calls on Wednesdays for the foreseeable future.

Please feel free to call or email on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Friday until 1 pm.

The Shenandoah River District

Office Phone: 540-433-2382

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Website: ShenandoahRiverDistrict.org

Facebook: facebook.com/ShenandoahRiverDistrict



District Staff

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kimjohnson@vaumc.org

Do you have any changes, errors, or additions to the District Website?
[Click here to complete the form.](#)

If you would like to include an article in this newsletter, please email Debbie Creech, District Administrator, at DebbieCreech@vaumc.org by the 25th of each month.

Shenandoah River District of the UMC | PO Box 1995 | Harrisonburg, VA 22801 US

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