

SHENANDOAH RIVER DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



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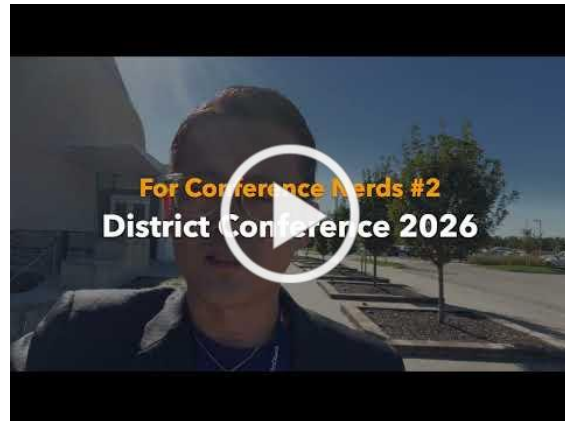
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Download the District Newsletter in
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A Message from Rev. Dr. Kyungsuk Cho

Watch this month's video from our District Superintendent.



DISTRICT NEWS

Charge Conference Dates

SAVE these dates!

Eastern Location – (Loudoun & Fauquier Counties)

Saturday, **October 24th** - 10:00 a.m.

Round Hill United Methodist Church, 11 West Loudoun Street, Round Hill, VA 20142

Central Location – (Page, Shenandoah & Warren Counties)

Sunday, **October 25th** - 3:00 p.m.

Manor Memorial United Methodist Church, 9320 North Congress Street, New Market, Va 22844

Southern Location – (Augusta, Rockingham & the City of Harrisonburg)

Saturday, **November 21st** - 10:00 a.m.

Vision of Hope United Methodist Church, 1723 Port Republic Road, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Northern Location – (Clarke & Frederick Counties and the City of Winchester)

Sunday, **November 22nd** - 3:00 p.m.

Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church, 210 E. Main Street, Berryville, VA 22611

For details about Charge Conference, including the orientation recording and paperwork instructions, please contact [Debbie](#).

Local Licensed Pastors - don't forget to bring your license to be signed by the District Superintendent to Charge Conference!

District Conference

District Conference will take place on **Saturday, December 5, 2026 at 10:00 AM at Manor Memorial UMC** (9320 North Congress Street New Market, VA 22844.)

If you are interested in serving as an At-Large Member to Annual Conference, please [FILL OUT THIS FORM](#). Elected Annual Conference District At-Large Members will represent the Shenandoah River District at all Annual Conferences, including in-person on June 16-19, 2027, in Harrisonburg, VA.



[At-Large Member Nomination Form](#)

Lay Leadership Orientation

Saturday, **December 12** at 10:00 a.m. | Online

Whether you're stepping into a new role or sharpening the one you have, join us for Lay Leadership Orientation. We will offer orientation for the following roles: SPPRC, Finance, Trustees, Lay Leader, Nominations (Lay Leadership)

Save the Date: Nickerson Coaching

January 23 and 24, 2027

Mark your calendar for Nickerson Coaching, with a focus on small membership churches, outreach, and cooperation. Two events will be offered, one in the North and one in the South. Venues will be announced soon.



LAY SERVANT NEWS

Lay Servant News

Happy October, everyone!

This month is a busy time in the church, especially with Charge Conference upon us. A huge thank-you to our committee members, Pastor Lori Valentine-Martinez and Pastor Deb Washer, for putting together and presenting a Lunch & Learn on How to Complete a Lay Servant Report during our most recent Fall Lay Servant Ministries Training Day.

On September 26, 2026, we gathered at Strasburg UMC for a wonderful day of learning and fellowship. Our morning began with a delicious breakfast prepared by the men's group. We certainly enjoyed it and want to thank all the men who worked so hard to prepare breakfast for us!

Our District Lay Leader, James Robinson, opened the day with prayer. We were then blessed to have Jason Stanley from the Virginia Conference as our keynote speaker. Jason shared a powerful message about ... [READ MORE](#)



TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Do No Harm Registration** - Register for this important training on healthy boundaries and safe ministry practices. [REGISTER](#)
- **Congregations of Call** - Interested in helping raise up the next generation of clergy? Learn how your church can become a Congregation of Call. [LEARN MORE](#)
- **FX Rural Church Gathering** - Join this Fresh Expressions gathering focused on rural church ministry. [LEARN MORE & REGISTER](#)
- **Financial Webinar** - The Foundation is focused on providing training to our VAUMC churches to help them develop greater financial stability. Here are two upcoming webinars to support that ministry effort:
 - **Nov. 3 --** [How to Choose an Online Giving Platform for Your Needs](#), 11 a.m. to noon



CELEBRATIONS

Celebrating Our Time at Leadership Institute

Our staff team recently traveled to Kansas City for Leadership Institute 2026, hosted by Church of the Resurrection in partnership with ShareChurch.

Kyungsuk, Debbie, Tommy, and Kim spent September 30 to October 2 learning, growing, and connecting with church leaders from across the country. They came home inspired, energized, and full of fresh ideas to share with our churches.

Stay tuned for what they learned and how we can put it into practice together.



IMPORTANT DATES

- **October 11:** [Miracle Sunday](#)
- **October 24-25:** [Charge Conferences](#) (East & Central)
- **October 26:** [Poetry for Preachers](#) (CLERGY)
- **November 3:** [How to Choose an Online Giving Platform for Your Needs Webinar](#)
- **November 6-8:** [Conference Youth Retreat](#)
- **November 21-22:** [Charge Conferences](#) (North & South)
- **December 5:** District Conference

[Full Calendar](#)

[Submit Events](#)

[Local Church Events](#)

*Charge Conferences begin **October 24**. See dates/times [HERE](#) and on the list above.*



VAUMC NEWS

Find links and information from the Virginia Conference below.

VAUMC News

Find links and information from the Virginia Conference and the UMC below:

- [2026 Conference Grants cycle now open](#)
- [Apply to Youth Service Fund missional grant](#)
- [Register now for Hatching Faith Oct. 13 Information Session](#)
- [AI & Ministry Survey: What We Heard From You](#)
- [Clergy Payroll Information](#)
- [Accountable Reimbursement Information](#)

[Ministry Toolbox](#) Articles

Practical articles to help you in ministry.

- [Simple Ways to Say Thank You for Pastor Appreciation Month](#)
- [Nominations 101](#)
- [How to evaluate worship and church events](#)
- [RetirePath Virginia: A Retirement Requirement](#)

Hatching Faith

The Hatching Faith Cohort program is designed to help churches more fully engage and include children in worship and prayer. **Registration is open now for Cohorts 4 & 5**, which will run simultaneously, joining together in a Kick-off Event in Spring 2027. The registration link as well as FAQs, cohort timeline, and contact information, can be found at vaumc.org/hatchingfaith.



[LEARN MORE & REGISTER](#)



MINISTRY PARTNERS

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

UWF News

You're invited to the 54th Annual Meeting of the Virginia Conference United Women in Faith, October 24, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at Shady Grove UMC in Mechanicsville. Jana Jones, United Women in Faith National President, will be our keynote speaker. Please pre-register at vauwf.org. ... [READ MORE](#)

Join United Women in Faith for Christmas lunch at Overlook's Blessings Lodge on **December 7 or 8** at noon. Enjoy honey roasted ham, sweet potato casserole, and fruit pies and cobblers for \$18 per person. Contact Sharon Harold at (540) 246-4940 or sharold714@aol.com to reserve. [LEARN MORE](#)

Celebrate the Season

UWF Christmas at Overlook in the Blessings Lodge
Lunch Dec. 7th & 8th, 2026 at Noon

The Blessings Lodge offers a warm and inviting atmosphere for your Christmas lunch. The menu is delicious and the service is excellent. The lodge is located in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley and is a beautiful setting for your Christmas celebration.



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.

The Shenandoah River District

Office Phone: 540-433-2382

**Our Mailing Address: PO Box 1995
Harrisonburg, VA 22801**

Website: ShenandoahRiverDistrict.org

Facebook: facebook.com/ShenandoahRiverDistrict



District Staff

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Rev. Tommy Stelzl - Developer of Congregational Innovation -
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Mrs. Debbie Creech - District Administrator - DebbieCreech@vaumc.org

Kim Johnson - VAUMC Director of Resourcing, SRD Communications -
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**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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