SHENANDOAH RIVER DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

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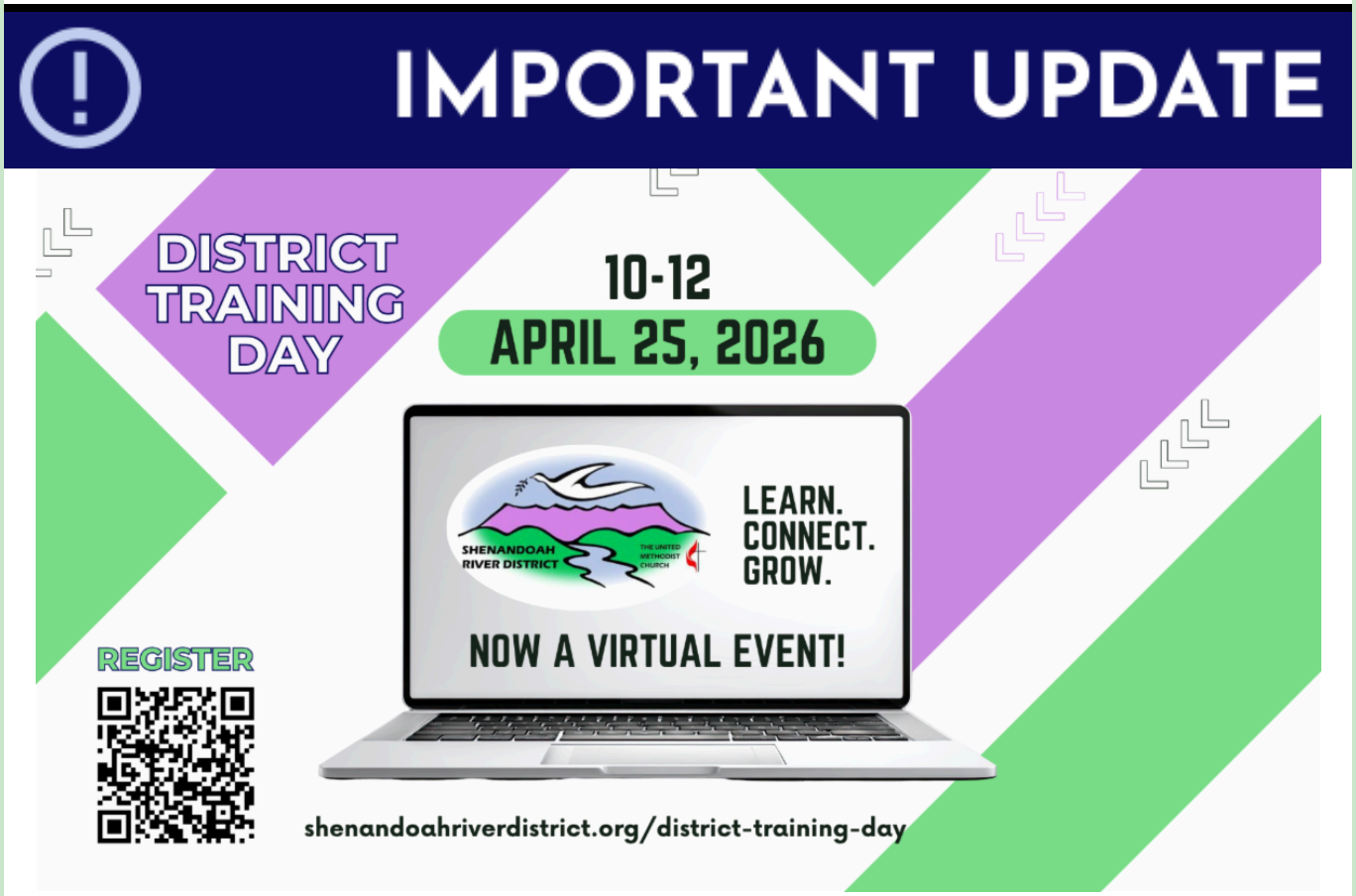
- From the DS
- **Important Update!** - Training Day
- AC 2026 Information
- District News
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- Important Dates
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  Lay Servant News, Camp Overlook, RMN, Kingsway Prison, UWF

Download the District Newsletter in PDF Format

A Message from Rev. Dr. Kyungsuk Cho

Watch this month's video from our District Superintendent.





District Training Day Is Going Virtual

We'll be honest: doing something for the first time doesn't always go exactly as planned.

But here's the good news: District Training Day is **still happening on Saturday, April 25**, and we think this change might actually open the door for more of you to participate.

The event is moving fully online via Zoom. The keynote is still at **10:00 AM**, all breakout workshops are still on at **11:00 AM**, and the whole day is now **completely free.**

If you already registered and paid, you will receive a full refund. If you'd like to participate in the virtual event, simply register using the link in this email and you'll receive your Zoom link ahead of the day.

We're excited. We hope you are too. **See you online on April 25!** REGISTER

Register

AC 2026 NEWS & INFO

Volunteer at Annual Conference

The Shenandoah River District is excited to welcome the Annual Conference in June. Many volunteers are needed in order to provide the best experience for Annual Conference members. 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**.

AC 2026 **Sign Up to Volunteer**

Kits for Conference

The Annual Conference is once again collecting Kits. We will collect them at TWO locations (Macedonia UMC & Vision of Hope) District between April 27 and June 5. Kits will be picked up from those locations on June 6.

Learn more about Kits **HERE**.

Additional AC2026 News:

- Clergy who need to report their Annual Conference absence can do so HERE.
- Help us honor those we've lost. We're collecting names of lay members *who passed away on or after May 1, 2025.* Please submit full name, date of death, and district to Martha Stokes as soon as possible. **Deadline: April 30th.**

DISTRICT NEWS

Easter Greetings!

Holy Week in the Shenandoah River District was a season of remarkable connection. Rather than retreating into separate, repetitive services, several congregations in north Augusta County chose something bolder: collaboration.

Dayton, Weyers Cave, Mount Sidney, and Bethany United Methodist Churches, alongside Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church, joined together to host a community-wide Good Friday service titled "Funeral for Jesus." Local clergy stepped into the roles of biblical figures, portraying friends, followers, and family of Christ, and offering dramatic witness reflections that brought the crucifixion story to life. This wasn't scripture at arm's length. It was personal, vivid, and deeply human. Designed as a space for collective grief and contemplation, the service drew a larger, more diverse community into a shared and memorable observance.

This is just one story among many. Across the district, congregations are choosing to grow together rather than survive separately, showing up for one another with faith, energy, and purpose.

Thank you for the ways you welcomed your congregations and communities this Easter season!

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.



IMPORTANT DATES

- **April 21: Best Practices for Pastoral Transitions Webinar**
- **April 22: Great Community Give - Mission Central**
- **April 25: District Training**
- **April 27-June 5 Kit Collection**
- **June 17-20: Annual Conference (VOLUNTEER)**

Full Calendar

Submit Events

Local Church Events

CELEBRATIONS

Celebrating Lay Servants

What a day! Lay Servant Training Day on March 14 at Otterbein UMC brought together around 35 participants for an inspiring day of classes, sermon presentations, and sweet community. Fall training is coming in September, and if you feel called to take the next step toward becoming a Certified Lay Speaker, reach out to Raini Newman at raini.newman0210@gmail.com!

Find more information about Lay Servants and more photos from March 14 **HERE**.





VAUMC NEWS

Find links and information from the Virginia Conference below.

Annual Conference 2026: June 17-20, 2026

Find AC '26 Details at vaumc.org/AC2026

- WE are hosting Annual Conference this year! Volunteer sign-ups will be released **around April 1**, so get ready to volunteer! The Shenandoah River District **needs your help** as we welcome the Annual Conference to Harrisonburg this June!
- See Kits for Conference collection information above.
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Additional Links and Resources:

- **Love Boldy, Serve Joyfully, Lead Courageously Miracle Sunday Initiative**
- **Bishop shares letter ahead of Earth Day 2026**
- **Stories from VAUMC Green Churches**
- **Projected Clergy Appointments now available**
- **Resource: Preparing our hearts and homes for Hurricane Season**
- **Resource: Marking the Milestone: Celebrating Our Graduates**

- **Resource: Why Safer Sanctuaries Matter and How to Implement**
- **Saving Grace — The Wesleyan Way to Financial Well-Being**

Do you have any students headed off to college? Please **fill out this form** so our Campus Ministers can get connected. Sharing your graduate information is a great way to get you students connected with a United Methodist campus ministry before they move onto campus.

Cemetery Associations

The Conference is considering hosting a Spring webinar for local churches wanting to learn more about establishing a Cemetery Association. We recognize the importance of our United Methodist cemeteries and the responsibility of providing perpetual care for the families we serve, now and in the future.
If your church would like to attend or has questions you'd like addressed, please email caroldraper@vaumc.org. We'd love to hear from you!



MINISTRY PARTNERS

Find the latest news and information from our **Ministry Partners** using the links below!

- **Lay Servant News -- Training Day Recap**
- **Camp Overlook News -- Camp is Coming!**
- **Reconciling Ministries -- NEW Resource**
- **Kingsway Prison -- The Banner April 2026**

UWF News: April Updates & More!

Inspired by Mary Magdalene's unwavering courage, we're called to proclaim the Good News in our own ways. Read on for upcoming events, opportunities to serve, and a reminder of just how much your faithfulness means. **MORE**

The Shenandoah River District

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District Staff

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Mrs. Debbie Creech - District Administrator - DebbieCreech@vaumc.org

Kim Johnson - VAUMC Director of Resourcing, SRD Communications - 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 20th of each month.

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

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