



# Welcome to the Shenandoah River District

(Formerly the Harrisonburg and Winchester  
Districts)

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FORMAT**

**Physical address: 78 Brook Creek Road, Toms Brook, VA 22660  
540-433-2382 District Office**

Our office hours are 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday  
The District Administrator, Debbie, works remotely on Fridays and can be reached  
at the office phone number

Our emails are:

**Rev. Victor Gómez**

ShenandoahRiverDS@vaumc.org

District Superintendent

**Rev. Chad Hrbek**

ChadHrbek@vaumc.org

Director of Connectional Ministries

**Rev. Gordon Meriwether**

GordonMeriwether@vaumc.org

Director of Connectional Ministries

**Rev. Jim Joyner**

JimJoyner@vaumc.org

Director of Information Technology

**Debbie Creech**

DebbieCreech@vaumc.org

District Administrator



## A Message from the Director of Information Technology - Rev. Jim Joyner

It has been a joy to begin work with you as the Director of Information Technology here in the new Shenandoah River District. This month we have merged the old Harrisonburg and Winchester Facebook pages into a new Shenandoah River District of Virginia UMC page. If you were following one of the old pages, you should automatically be following the new one. If you're already a follower, we invite you to join us on the new page for news and updates and ideas from your district! We will also be launching our new website [shenandoahriverdistrict.org](http://shenandoahriverdistrict.org) in the coming month. Look for an announcement to come when it is up and running!

In addition to supporting the district office, I am here to assist you in our local churches in finding the technological resources that you need and to help you learn how to use them confidently so that you can take the next step in growing your ministry in an increasingly digital world. Whether you worship in a place with limited internet connectivity and are not sure where to begin or just want to improve upon the online programs you already have in place, I hope to help you discover opportunities to expand your ministry that make sense for your community given your church's resources.

I am aware that the idea of digital ministry may elicit groans from many of us. The pandemic forced us to consider making rapid changes to become a more online form of community, at least for a time. At times, we grew weary of watching (and making) worship videos. We became fatigued by sitting at the computer for yet another Zoom meeting. We yearned to be back in person – and with good reason.

Despite the misgivings we may have about digital ministry replacing our in-person gatherings, we need to be careful not to throw the baby out with the bathwater. There are many ways in which our churches have flourished and in which we have had spiritual experiences we could not otherwise have through digital ministry. The reach of many churches has increased through livestreamed or recorded worship services. People who are homebound or miss worship because of illness or being out of town can tune in and not miss hearing what is going on with their church when they cannot be physically present. This spring, one of our churches hosted a prayer vigil for peace in Ukraine. They showed a video from a Ukrainian friend who had sought refuge in Poland. After the service, they received word that this friend along with other refugees had joined in on the livestream and had prayed alongside them. Imagine that – people joining their hearts and voices in prayer a world apart but as one! There are many opportunities for us not to replace our in-person ministry but to build upon and broaden its reach in the digital world. So here is an opportunity for all of our churches to use digital ministry to connect more with members who are homebound. You don't even need internet access to make this work – just one person with a tablet or smartphone. At the end of a worship service this month, have that person record a video of the congregation greeting one of your homebound members by name and then the pastor or lay leader leading a prayer of blessing for that member. That week, the person who recorded it can visit the member and show them the video from their tablet or smartphone. It's that simple to remind one of your people that they are remembered and loved by everyone. If they have a device of their own, you could send them the video for them to keep and watch when they want. For extra credit, the visitor could even record a message from the member to share with the congregation the next week in worship. I would love to hear how your church uses this idea for digital ministry to build connections with your members.

It is my prayer that God will grant us a spirit of boldness to explore opportunities for growing our ministry in an increasingly digital world. To adapt the words of Paul in his letter to the Philippians: "What does it matter? Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether in person or online, and in that I rejoice!" Together may we proclaim Christ in every way!

Blessings on the journey, Jim

The infographic is titled "Easy Digital Ministry Ideas" and is presented as a sequence of steps on a smartphone screen. The background of the screen shows a church service with people's hands raised. At the bottom of the screen is the Shenandoah River District logo.

- Step 1:** How can we connect more with a member who is homebound? (Icon: Church)
- Step 2:** Find a volunteer who has a smartphone or a tablet with a camera (Icon: Lightbulb)
- Step 3:** At the end of worship the volunteer records a video of the congregation greeting the member by name and then the pastor leading a prayer for them
- Step 4:** The volunteer visits the member and shows the video from their phone/tablet
- Step 5:** Wow! That's easy! (Icon: Church)
- Step 6:** We're going to try that this week

**Easy Digital Ministry Ideas**  
Things Every Church Can Do This Week to Enhance Its Ministry

**Idea #1 - Connecting with Homebound Members**

**SHENANDOAH RIVER DISTRICT**

**A Message from the Director of Connectional Ministries -  
Rev. Gordon Meriwether**

*"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has*

### The Lady of the Woods

She was beautiful, a small Methodist church tucked back in the woods in *Somewhere, Virginia*. Barely visible from the highway, she stood proud and graceful against mountains to the west. At one time she had been full of life and the plans of neighbors and friends; a place of vibrant worship and fried chicken potluck dinners, and children daring to be children.

Sometime in the recent past *Somewhere* changed. Jobs became harder to find, the call of the city lured the young to promises of a more fruitful world, those that remained lost interest in the message of salvation, and this Lady of the Woods became a resting place for the old and tired. The remaining congregation had more need of a chaplain than a pastor. As the congregation aged, she withered along with them until finally they closed her doors and forgot about her. For years she sat idle with only a few memories to comfort her. Just what did the Lord and Master have planned for her? She was lost in time and place, overgrown and forgotten.

Only the county tax assessor and neighbors who were somehow still comforted by her presence, knew she still shined. Today she is waiting for her time to come once again. And we are waiting with her.

We, Methodist, are in a poorly way right now. Our message forgotten and overgrown in time by the ever-increasing absurdities of the world. Although we know the answer, we are not sure how to frame it for our world and our times. In *Somewhere* we are rich in the traditions of wonderful churches but critically poor in disciples. There is a plethora of "learned" authors and their books on feigning recovery in urban ministry, but practical lessons for our rural communities are in short supply. Attempts to address the needs of our rural ministries with adaptation of proven urban success model seldom end in progress, but rather frustrate and discourage the membership.

So, this grace-filled old Lady of the Woods sits abandoned, patient, and waiting, waiting for the Lord of Second Chances and the Spirit of Renewal to call out to her wayward community to reclaim this wilderness as God's own Paradise. We, as children of God, with sweat equity and constant prayer can bring home her children and gather a fellowship of community once again. Resources of our existing rural church base, the passion of the missional outreach Christ, and commitment of clergy and laity can make it happen. It begins with a unified, focused prayer for these incredible sacred places of worship in the woods and the people that make them special.

My sisters and brothers in Christ, this is a God mission that stands before us calling all disciples of the Shenandoah River District to spread our wings and take flight to find those precious Gems of the Spirit among us in *Somewhere, Virginia*. Pray always and constantly that the Lady of the Woods will rise to answer her call for Jesus the Christ to show us all the way to reclaim our faith in the wilderness.

In Christ, Your Brother, Gordon







## DISTRICT CALENDAR

**Wednesdays, continuing September 7th through September** - Downriver Devotion at the Strasburg Town Park Board Ramp - 8:00 a.m.

**Monday, September 5th** - District Office and Conference Office closed in observance of Labor Day

**Tuesday, September 6th** - Shenandoah River District Fall Retreat at Toms Brook UMC. (Worship and Planning for Charge Conferences) 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 noon

**Saturday, September 10th** - ERT (Early Response Team) training at Aldersgate UMC, Norfolk at 9:00 a.m.

**Saturday, September 17th** - District United Women in Faith Prayer Breakfast - held at Asbury UMC (Harrisonburg) with guest speaker - Pastor Yosvany Pereria - 9:00 a.m.

**Saturday, September 17th** - Young Women's Event, "Who Can We Be Together?" - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. via Zoom (Sponsored by the Virginia Conference)

**Saturday, September 17th** - UMVIM (United Methodist Volunteers in Mission) Team Leader Training Class at the VAUMC Conference Center Gathering - 8:30 a.m. Class begins at 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Saturday, September 24th** - District Lay Servant Training at Grottoes UMC, Grottoes, VA - 9:00 a.m.

**Monday, October 10th** - Golf Classic - sponsored by the Virginia United Methodist Foundation - 12:00 p.m.

**Saturday, October 29th** - Special Session of the Annual Conference via Zoom - 9:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

**Saturday, November 5th - Vital, Small Congregations Workshop - 9:00 a.m.**

**Sunday, November 6th - 3:00 p.m - Shenandoah River District Charge Conference and District Conference Palooza! -In person - place to be determined SAVE THE DATE!**



## SHENANDOAH RIVER DISTRICT PASTORS:

Partners in Ministry (PiM)  
Worship and  
2022 Charge Conference Orientation

You are requested to attend the PiM (Partners in Mission) meeting on Tuesday, September 6th from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. In Person at Toms Brook UMC, 3263 South Main Street, Toms Brook.



## DOWNRIVER DEVOTION

**Downriver Devotion - every Wednesday  
morning in September**

Bring your own kayak, canoe or inflatable or  
borrow one of ours.

Hosts: Rev. John Haynes, Jr., Strasburg UMC  
and Rev. Gary Heaton, Kernstown UMC

Email: [johnhaynesjr@vaumc.org](mailto:johnhaynesjr@vaumc.org), [garyheaton@vaumc.org](mailto:garyheaton@vaumc.org)  
John 757-620-1575 Cell Gary Heaton 540-550-8983 Cell

The Wednesday morning Downriver Devotion continues now that the morning temperatures are perfect and the water is flowing. Ministry Leaders are welcome to participate in a one hour devotional on the water. **We gather at 8:00 AM and are generally finished by 9:15.** If you do not have your own boat, one can be provided for you, but you must call ahead to arrange for life jacket, paddle and boat. Hats, sunglasses and closed toe shoes are advisable.

In a desire to strengthen collegial connection, offer grace and encouragement, and anticipate the renewing of our ministry, the Downriver Devotion is offered every week, rain or shine.





**NORFOLK  
SEPTEMBER 10TH - BEGINNING  
AT 9:00 A.M.**

Many may not be aware, but if there were a natural disaster tomorrow, we are not prepared to respond! Due to the COVID19 pandemic, we have not been able to recertify or train members for Early Response when disasters happen. ERT certifications are only valid for two years, therefore if you have been trained before and would like to recertify, or if you would like to be certified as an ERT for the first time, this is a great opportunity below!

**ERT Training will be held Saturday, September 10, 2022 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at Aldersgate UMC, in Norfolk, VA.**

**Train to be ready to respond and know the first steps to help.**

ERT teams respond during the first phase of disaster relief, providing a caring Christian presence. Your church and community could truly benefit if faced with a disaster. You are also trained to respond, when requested, to other conferences during a disaster. Registration fee is \$35.00

This event is sponsored by UMCOR and the Elizabeth River District UMC. **For more information, contact District Disaster Response Coordinator, Rev. Bertrand Griffin:**  
[bertgriffin@vaumc.org](mailto:bertgriffin@vaumc.org) or (757) 466-8999.

I will be coordinating an opportunity in the Shenandoah River District in the future as well.

Rev. Brian Posey, pastor of Grottoes UMC  
[brianposey@vaumc.org](mailto:brianposey@vaumc.org)  
540-249-4239 office

**Harrisonburg Area United  
Women in Faith  
of Shenandoah River District  
Prayer Breakfast  
Saturday, September 17th at 9:00 a.m.  
Asbury UMC (Harrisonburg)**



United  
Women  
in Faith

**Click here for registration form for Prayer  
Breakfast**



**Who Can We Be Together?**

Building Communities  
of Hope and Joy

**YOUNG WOMEN'S EVENT**

**Sponsored by Virginia Conference United Women in Faith  
For young women, ages 18 to 40  
(No UWF or church affiliation required)**

**SEPTEMBER 17, 2022  
9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.**

## Via Zoom

Event Leader: Rev. Kendra Grimes,  
Chaplain and Director of Church Relations at Randolph-Macon College

Please register by September 14th by clicking on the link below.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

*Information: Marlene Dakita, Va. Conf. UWF Mission Coordinator for Membership, Nurture & Outreach (MNO), [mdakita@comcast.net](mailto:mdakita@comcast.net) / 703-244-4524 (cell)*

**Click here to register for Young Women's Event on September 17th**

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### United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) Team Leader Training

There will be a team leader training event on September 17 at the VAUMC Conference Center. All are welcome. The gathering time is 8:30 AM. THE CLASS WILL BEGIN AT 9 AM. Lunch and training materials will be provided!

**Event Date: September 17, 2022**

**Event Time: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**Event Address: Virginia Conference Center (10330 Staples Mill Rd. Glen Allen, VA 23060)**

**Trainer: Kip Robinson and Terri Morgan**

**Contact us at (757) 902-2967 or [tlynmorgan@icloud.com](mailto:tlynmorgan@icloud.com)**

As a reminder, team leaders must recertify every two years. At the two-year mark, there is an online recertification you may take. If it has been three or more years since you trained, you are due for a full training session. This will be the last 2022 training session outside of Northern Virginia. Contact Terri Morgan for further information at (757) 902-2967 or [tlynmorgan@icloud.com](mailto:tlynmorgan@icloud.com).

**Click here to register for Team Leader Training**

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### SHENANDOAH RIVER DISTRICT LAY SERVANT TRAINING GROTTOES UMC - IN PERSON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH 9:00 a.m.

Before the Harrisonburg and Winchester Districts became the Shenandoah River District, the (former) Harrisonburg District had already made plans for the **Fall 2022 Lay Servant Training. The scheduled date for this event is September 24, 2022. The classes will be held in person** at Grottoes UMC, located at 300 4th Street, Grottoes, VA 24441. The following courses are scheduled:

**Basic Course** (Linda Conrad, Lay Person, Otterbein UMC)





These classes are scheduled to be taught in-person at Grottoes UMC. The Leading Prayer Class will also be taught via Zoom.

These classes are open to the entire Shenandoah River District – and to anyone else who might be interested in taking them. You don't have to be a Lay Servant to take either class. **The cost for the Classes is \$25 per student.** This includes the cost of the textbook. If the class is taken in-person, this would also include a lunch meal.

As of August 29th, the "Leading Prayer Class will be taught – there is enough registered already, but the class can still take on additional students. **The "Basic Class" currently has four people registered. We need to have at least six people registered per class by September 12th for the Basic Course to be presented.**

If you attend in-person, you can pay the registration fee at the class. Or you can mail the fee to the District office:

Debbie Creech  
Shenandoah River District  
78 Brook Creek Road  
Toms Brook, VA 22660

If you want to register or have any questions, please contact Joe Amend  
([joe.amend3@gmail.com](mailto:joe.amend3@gmail.com). Cell – 301.741.7633)

*"You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*  
(Acts 1:8)

Joe Amend  
Lay Servant Committee

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



Virginia United Methodist Foundation's  
2nd Annual Golf Classic  
October 10, 2022 - starts at 12 noon  
Independence Golf Club in Midlothian, VA

**Click Here to print Flyer and  
Registration**

## **VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION GRANTS OPENING SEPTEMBER 1ST**

Grant applications for the 2022-2023 VAUMF grant cycle will open on September 1, 2022.  
Click on the link below to read more about the grants. Questions? Email  
[foundationgrants@vaumc.org](mailto:foundationgrants@vaumc.org).



**Vital, Small Congregations Workshop**  
**Sponsored by the Virginia UMC Conference**  
**November 5th 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**  
**Location: TBA**  
**Workshop Leader: Rev. Paul Nickerson**

Click here to read about the workshop and register



**SPECIAL CALLED ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2022**  
**9:00 A.M. AND 9:30 A.M.**

A Special Annual Conference will be held virtually on Saturday, Oct. 29, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. The sole purpose of this Special Annual Conference Session is to close the remaining four churches utilizing *Discipline* paragraph 2549.3 (Disposition of property of a closed local church) and approve the severing of their relationship with the United Methodist denomination.

At 9:30 a.m., another Special Annual Conference will be convened for the sole purpose of ratifying the disaffiliation of local churches seeking to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church over matters of human sexuality. Paragraph 2553 of the Book of Discipline governs this process. All approvals and agreements under this process must be completed by September 30, 2022.

Questions concerning the two Special Annual Conferences may be directed to [the Rev. Dr. Steve Summers](#). [SteveSummers@vaumc.org](mailto:SteveSummers@vaumc.org)

**PASTORS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS!!!**  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING ENTERING ANNUAL**  
**CONFERENCE MEMBERS IN EVC**

**In the coming months, all local churches will be electing lay members to represent churches at the 2023 Virginia Annual Conference.**

**As part of this process, the names of elected lay members are added to the EVC database.**

**In light of the upcoming Special Annual Conference on October 29, 2022, local churches should hold these elections but not update the EVC information for 2023 members until November 1, 2022.**

**This will ensure that EVC records are current and correct for the October 29 Annual Conference.**

## FIRST ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE AND DISTRICT CONFERENCE of SHENANDOAH RIVER DISTRICT

### SAVE THE DATE!

A one day event to conduct the business of the Shenandoah River District!

**ALL CHURCHES - AT ONE TIME - IN PERSON**  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH - 3:00 P.M.**  
**PLACE - TO BE DETERMINED**

Clergy and Lay Persons need to be present at this event to conduct the business of their church's Charge Conference.

Then, we will turn our attention to the business of the District Conference.

All Charge Conference materials will need to be completed and uploaded to your church's EVC website by the 10-Day deadline of October 27<sup>th</sup>.

More detailed information to follow soon!

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### Active Clergy with Moving Expense Reimbursement:

Due to a tax law change in 2017, moving expenses that are either paid or reimbursed by an employer are treated as taxable income to the employee. In our denominational pension plan, the Clergy Retirement Security Program, all taxable income is treated as "pensionable income." Virginia United Methodist Pensions, Inc. will report all clergy moving expenses that are paid or reimbursed by a Virginia Conference church in 2022. In order to capture this detail, the Virginia Conference's EVC system has been modified to include a moving expense reporting portal.

**If you were reimbursed for moving expenses in 2022, or if your church paid your moving expenses directly, please report those expenses in the EVC system no later than September 30, 2022.**

Also, please note that moving expenses paid or reimbursed by a church should be included on your W-2 tax statement for the appropriate tax year.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please do not hesitate to call me at 804-521-1130 if you have questions or if there is any additional information that I can provide.

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE  
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER



P.O. BOX 5606

GLEN ALLEN, VIRGINIA 23058

August 26, 2022

District Superintendents:

Each year I am asked to provide you information that may be beneficial to local churches as they set their pastor's salary for the following year. Some information to consider follows:

**Denominational Average Compensation** – The DAC, determined by the Wespath, is an average of the compensation (as defined by the retirement benefit plans) of full-time U.S. clergy who participate in the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) and/or the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP). Plan compensation includes housing allowances and exclusions; certain tax deferrals, such as UMPIP before-tax contributions and Code section 125 medical spending account deferrals; and for clergy living in a parsonage, an amount equal to 25% of compensation. In 2023, the DAC will increase 0.9% to \$76,221.

**Conference Average Salary** – The CAC is also determined by the Wespath using information only from our Virginia Conference. In 2023, the CAC will increase 0.5% to \$66,344.

**District Superintendents' Salaries** – By action of the Annual Conference Session in June 2022, District Superintendent's 2023 annual salaries will be \$95,000.

**Conference Minimum Compensation** – The Minimum Compensation Guidelines proposed by the Equitable Compensation Commission was approved by the Annual Conference Session in June 2022.

|                                    | 2023     |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Full Connection Pastors            | \$45,000 |
| Provisionals and Associate Members | \$40,500 |
| Local Pastors                      | \$38,000 |

Please realize that this letter is information only. I am in no way making recommendations as to what clergy salary increases should be for 2023.

David D. Domisse  
Chief Financial Officer/Conference Treasurer

**A message to the Clergy of the Virginia Conference UMC from Jessie Colwell, Director of the Center for Clergy Excellence**

This fall there are so many wonderful continuing education and retreat opportunities both in person and online. Whether you are serving a cross cultural/cross racial appointment or in a rural setting, at a small church, mid-sized church, or large church, or in extension ministry there is

something for you. From learning from Roberta Gilbert, to growing in leadership and stewardship, to soul care and beyond, do not miss out on these opportunities!

You can apply for continuing education funds below as long as there is at least 5 hours of instruction at the event

### Apply for Continuing Education Funds

Also we all need to get our C.E.U.'s. A reminder of what is required is below:

The following persons are required to receive a minimum of 1.0 CEU per year and at least 8.0 CEU's per quadrennium.

- Full-time local pastors who have completed the Course of Study or an M.Div. degree
- Associate Members under appointment
- Full Members (Deacons and Elders) under appointment
- Certified Lay Professionals

The following persons are required to receive a minimum of 0.5 CEU per year and at least 2.0 CEU's per quadrennium.

- Part-time local pastors who have completed the Course of Study or an M.Div. degree

Don't forget you can also receive credit for other events you have attended. Email me at [jessiecolwell@vaumc.org](mailto:jessiecolwell@vaumc.org) and I will give you further information.

### Click Here to Host a C. E. U. Event in Your Church

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## CAMP OVERLOOK NEWS

Camp Overlook summer camps may be winding down, but don't forget this district sponsored camp is a year round opportunity for you!

### Click Here to take you to the Camp Overlook Website

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## KITS FOR CONFERENCE UPDATE

*A message from Brian Posey, District Co-Representative for Kits for Conference  
Email: [brianposey@vaumc.org](mailto:brianposey@vaumc.org) Phone: 540-236-2472*

I wanted to give an update on the kits that were collected for the former Harrisonburg District. We collected school kits that stayed local to help support our community partners. School kits were recently distributed to:

**Charter House School (United Methodist Family Services) in Edinburg**

**Elkton Elementary School**

**River Bend Elementary School**

**Cub Run Elementary School**

**South River Elementary School**

**Lacey Spring Elementary School**

**Linville-Edom Elementary School**

**William S. Pence Middle School**

**And some other local ministry partners**



I want to thank everyone who created school kits, hygiene kits and cleaning buckets. I would like to encourage you all to begin thinking now about kits for next year. Two things I will be working on are:

1- Create a local reserve of hygiene kits and cleaning buckets in the event of a local disaster. We can respond more rapidly if we have some on hand. If your church, men's group or women's group would like to donate some kits to the local reserve, please let me know. Also, for the local reserve we will be collecting school kits although UMCOR is no longer receiving them. [A link listing the items needed to make school kits is below.](#) (UMCOR has removed this list from their website.)

2 - Looking ahead to next year's kits for conference. Again, it is never too early to begin putting kits together for the annual kit collection, I anticipate in 2023, we will be collecting cleaning buckets, hygiene kits, and the **new menstrual hygiene kit**. [The link for items needed to complete this kit is below.](#)

<https://umcmmission.org/umcor-relief-supplies/>

**LATE APPEAL! Be watching for information coming soon. There is a conference-wide call for cleaning buckets through the end of October. We will publish the drop off dates and places.**

**Click here to get the list to make School Kits**

**Click here to go to the UMCOR website and Menstrual Hygiene Kits Instructions**

The former Winchester District reports that its Kits for Conference were distributed to BRIGHTfutures (serves Winchester/Frederick County area students in need).



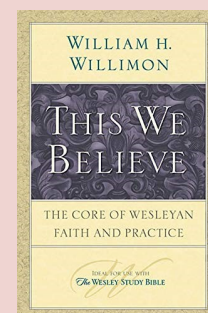
**From Sue MacTavish, District Librarian**  
September 2022 featured item:

**This We Believe: The Core of Wesleyan Faith and Practice**  
by William H Willimon, 2010.

Sometimes we just need to go back to the basics. That's what this month's good read is all about. Bishop Willimon has provided us with a study that does just that.

For our founder, John Wesley, the Bible is the joyfully consistent testimony of God's never-ending grace and ever-seeking love, and that, studying the Bible is more than merely knowing what Scripture says; it is also about living every day as a child of God.

Beginning with the Core Terms found in the NRSV version of The Wesley Study Bible, Bishop Willimon systematically lays out key Wesleyan tenets of faith so that you will have a fresh



way to hear God's voice, share in God's grace, and become more like Jesus Christ.

*This We Believe* is an 8-session study. The book and leader's guide can be found in the **U. M. Church** section of the District Library.

**Stop by the NEW Shenandoah River 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**

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## CUPCAKE THURSDAYS 2:00 p.m.



Hey Methodist! Are we connected or not?

To renew this connection in ministry, in 2022 we initiated "Cupcake Thursday." During one of my SAS coaching sessions with Manor Memorial UMC's new governing board I was cautioned that I was talking about "baking cakes" when we should be talking about baking "cupcakes"; same ingredients smaller version. They were right, and "Cupcake Thursday" was born. I started going to pastors and churches to visit and talk about ideas on church, of church, in church, for church on Facebook live. We talk about whatever the pastor or guest wants to talk about for no more than 15-20 minutes. I come to you, bring the camera, and ask the questions to get the discussion started, and we have a conversation. And then there are cupcakes....

We are now posting on the new Shenandoah River District Facebook page (@ShenandoahRiverDistrict). Join us to talk about now church, new church ideas, pastoring today, introduce pastors to each other...and eat a few cupcakes.

It's been a wonderful opportunity to talk about the ministry and church and to get to know each other.

Let me know if you would like to participate.

I would love to buy you a cupcake....

Your Brother in Christ, Gordon Meriwether

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Just Neighbors provides high-quality immigration legal services to low-income immigrants, asylees and refugees in Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, DC. We also provide community presentations about immigration law and current events. Just Neighbors serves clients in and around the valley from Winchester to Waynesboro through a partnership with the United Methodist Church and the Shenandoah River District.



Volunteers are vital to the work we do. We have need of the following types of volunteers:

### Clinico volunteers

Just Neighbors holds a legal clinic the second Wednesday evenings of every month at Asbury United Methodist Church in Harrisonburg. Volunteers provide hospitality and assist staff attorneys to screen clients and prepare their immigration applications. Training for new volunteers is held thirty minutes before the clinic starts, and no additional time is required after the clinic concludes. No specialized experience or languages skills are required (though Spanish-speaking volunteers are always needed).

### Translator volunteers

Because many of our cases require a written translation of client statements, official paperwork, and letters, we often

need volunteers to translate documents from their home. When there is a need, we send out an email to our list of volunteers translations to see who is available.

Please contact Tori Andrea Babington at [tori@justneighbors.org](mailto:tori@justneighbors.org) for more information about volunteering or requesting a presentation.

ANNANDALE OFFICE  
7630 Little River Turnpike  
Suite 900  
Annandale, VA 22003

FAUQUIER OFFICE  
34 Beckham Street  
Warrenton, VA 20186

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS – WINCHESTER AREA PARTNERSHIP OFFICE  
301 North Cameron Street  
Suite 102  
Winchester, VA 22601

SIN BARRERAS PARTNERSHIP OFFICE  
932 Fir Street  
Waynesboro, VA 22980

*Tori Andrea Babington*  
*Managing Attorney of Rural Programs*  
703-979-1240 x 131  
Now Serving DC, MD and VA  
[www.justneighbors.org](http://www.justneighbors.org)

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## MISSION TRAILER

Taking a team on mission this year and need the equipment to take with you? The District has a trailer packed and ready to go for you to take. You do need a vehicle and experience pulling a large trailer. We would love to see the trailer go out more this year! To reserve the trailer, please contact Joann Ballard, District Mission Chair at [jballard1902@gmail.com](mailto:jballard1902@gmail.com).



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### Shenandoah River District Mission Central

Physical location: 1704 Smithland Road, Harrisonburg, VA 22802  
Mailing address: Post Office Box 2026, Harrisonburg, VA 22801  
Website: <http://missioncentralharrisonburgva.com/mission-central/>

**Mission Central Mission Children's Closet is open to the public from  
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month; the 3rd Tuesday and the 2nd  
and 4th Thursday evenings from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

**Mission Central's Equipment for Caring is open Mondays from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
and Thursdays 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**



## MISSION CENTRAL

Our first two client sessions in August brought in 78 families and 178 children. We gave out nearly 4,500 diapers! We expect attendance to keep ramping up with school starting and the cost of living. We had 10 new families register in just those two sessions!

We will open for winter clothing starting in October, which will also likely cause a surge in attendance.

We welcome more volunteers, even if just to be available to substitute on the occasional times when some of us need to be away. It is exciting and rewarding volunteer work! We also truly appreciate our Spanish-speaking volunteers who translate for us. They are such a blessing in making the clients feel welcome and comfortable, and in keeping our operations efficient so that we can see as many people as possible. Thank you, Laura and Jessica!

And deepest thanks to all who contribute so generously to our mission — with your time, donations and prayers.

**Donna Tinsley, 703-472-8101**



## EQUIPMENT FOR CARING

Hello to all as we continue with summer months which have been hot and unusually rainy. Our Equipment for Caring loaner closet remains busy with ongoing requests by those in need of medical equipment or supplies. We also appreciate your continuing support with your generous donations both monetary and through supplies and equipment. During July we gave disposable supplies to 37 individuals and loaned out over 55 various types of medical equipment. We find the most needed equipment is wheel chairs, transport chairs, seated walkers, bedside commodes and shower chairs. Disposables most often needed are incontinence supplies such as adult diapers, pullups and bed pads. We now have 60 hospital beds with most of these in the community. There are presently 7 beds along with mattresses in our storage. Thank you to all our faithful volunteers and we welcome you to be a part of this if you have a few hours to give toward this mission. We continue to serve individuals in Harrisonburg and the counties of Rockingham, Page, Augusta and Shenandoah.

We have 2 large blue gray carpet pieces that we no longer need. Each is 8 ft 6 inches by 12 ft. We are looking for a home for these. They are both in very good condition and have unfinished edges. If you or someone you know is interested please contact me 540-383-6112. We will give away or accept a donation for these.

**Remember our new hours:  
Mondays 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. and  
Thursdays 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

We are on Facebook and our websites are  
[www.missioncentralharrisonburgva.com](http://www.missioncentralharrisonburgva.com) or  
<https://www.harrisonburgdistrictumc.org/mission-central>

**Contact Delores Reid, 540-383-6112**





United  
Women  
in Faith

As we become more comfortable with our new district name and plans, Women in Faith are also preparing for their new re-organization. Our plans will take effect on January 1, 2023. The present district Presidents are sharing ideas from the perspective districts to help adapt the new district organizational focus. As we plan for this transition, we are

working toward a future of promise and continued servanthood.

We continue to focus on the slate of officers, financial planning, an effective calendar of yearly events and standing rules. After meeting with our district treasurers, we have drafted a financial budget. Our calendar of events is coming together. We appreciate the help of our present district executive committee members as plans are being made. Updates will continue.

Both district groups will complete their plans for the remainder of the year. Our focus will always be the same: Women serving together to reach out to those in need. As we learn to be effective servants, we are given the tools to make a difference! Our units are and will continue doing amazing things; that will not change!

Our proposed new Women in Faith President will be Mary Preston. She is a wonderful spirit filled lady, desiring to serve God in positive and productive ways. Please continue to pray that God will guide organizers, planners and members as we trek together on a new path. We are pioneers in this new district endeavor and we face uncertainties. But, we can do all things through God's presence, our strength! We are faithful, strong and forward thinking. Our prior works have been our inspiration! Now we have new opportunities, new relationships, and maybe new ways to continue our outreach ministries.

I recently read a prayer in Response Magazine, ending with: "Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart. Lord, I want to be like Jesus, in my heart. Lord, I want to be your eyes, hands and feet. Transform the world through me."

You are a blessing to so many, continue your good works,

Barbara Phillips, Present UWF President - Harrisonburg 540-896-7664 [grannybp@gmail.com](mailto:grannybp@gmail.com)  
Mary Preston, Upcoming UWF Shenandoah River District President  
540-338-4152 [k4ljh@comcast.net](mailto:k4ljh@comcast.net)

## Married!

Congratulations to **Rev. Linda Hudgins**, pastor of the Fulks Run Charge and **Gregory A. Breeden, Jr.**, who were married on August 6th at the family farm.



Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that has been offering assistance to the incarcerated, ex-offenders, and their families since 1983. In addition to services provided within the prisons and jails, Kingsway provides a safe haven for released inmates to come for help at the office in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Our Mission:

"Ministering through the heart of Jesus to the broken hearts of those impacted by the criminal justice system, both those incarcerated and re-entering and their families."

House of Restoration Fellowship Worship Services **2:00** pm every Sunday

Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach is located at:

2217 S. Main St.  
Harrisonburg VA. 22801

Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
or by appointment

Phone: (540) 433-5658

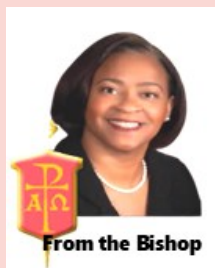
email: [info@kingswayoutreach.org](mailto:info@kingswayoutreach.org)  
(Not a district sponsored ministry)

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## Sympathies

**David Robert "Nank" Nankivell, Jr.** 61, of McGaheysville, passed away on August 1, 2022. He was the son of David R., Sr. and Mary Nankivell. David Sr. is a retired local pastor on the former Harrisonburg District.

**Rev. Elinor Dalton**, 84, from The Waterford at Virginia Beach, died August 17th. Elinor served The Shenandoah Charge and Mount Crawford Charge on the former Harrisonburg District before retiring in 2001. Her services will be held at a later date by the direction of her family.



### A challenge to Read the Bible in ONE YEAR Bible Readings for SEPTEMBER 2022

Bishop Lewis has been encouraging the clergy and laity of the Virginia Conference to read the Bible in a year since 2017. There are 4 readings from the Old Testament, New Testament, Psalm and Proverbs.

[resource: <http://www.vaumc.org/2022biblechallenge>]



Click Here to view the 2022 Bible  
Challenge

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If you would like to have an article included in this newsletter, please email Debbie Creech, District Administrator, at [debbiecreech@vaumc.org](mailto:debbiecreech@vaumc.org) by the 15th of each month.

Shenandoah River District of the United Methodist Church | 78 Brook Creek Road, Toms Brook,  
VA 22660

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