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September 2025 Shenandoah River District Newsletter

Download the District Newsletter in PDF Format

Rev. Dr. Kyungsuk Cho

Watch this month's video on Charge Conferences, District Conference and Clergy One-On-One Interviews



Grant and Loan Applications for Shenandoah River District

Please note applications are reviewed twice yearly by the Shenandoah River Administrative Board.

April

(deadline to submit is April 1st)

October *(deadline to submit is October 1st).*

Click here to download instructional information

Click here to download a PDF of the Grant and Loan Application form

Click here to download a Grant and Loan Application Form in WORD format



District Bi-Monthly E-Blasts

We're looking for stories from your churches about ways you are spreading God's love to those in your church and community. The E-Blast is emailed to the District on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month.
Email them to debbiecreech@vaumc.org



**District Superintendent Kyungsuk Cho's
Installation Service
Sunday, September 7th
2:30 p.m.
at Front Royal United Methodist Church
1 West Main Street
Front Royal, VA 22630**

**Come, join us for a time of worship,
communion and refreshments!**

**Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson
will install our DS!**

**The event will also be live-streamed
on You Tube at:**

<https://www.youtube.com/@FRUMC/streams>

Lay Servant Fall Training

**Fall Shenandoah River
District
Lay Servant Academy
Saturday, September
13th
Macedonia United
Methodist Church
1941 Macedonia Church
Road
White Post, VA 22663**

**Free Registration and
Books for those signing
up for the Basic Class!**

**Transportation from the
Southern End NO
LONGER BEING
OFFERED due to low
participation**

**Read about the event from
Wendell Cochran, Lay
Servant Coordinator**

Conversation: From Local Pastor to District Superintendent

Watch this new series called "Clergy to Clergy." Our two new District Superintendents (Rev. Lindsey Baynham Freeman, Mission Rivers, and Rev. Dr. Kyungsuk Cho, Shenandoah River) sit down for conversation and coffee.

Available on **YouTube** and in podcast form on **Apple** and **Spotify**.

Clergy One-On-One Sessions Begin September 16th through December 1st

Sessions will be IN PERSON this year as DS Cho will be traveling to your location for the interviews. Pastors were emailed the link and information to complete the questionnaires earlier this week. Please be sure to read all the information and if you have questions, please call the District Office.

Young Women's Retreat (Camp Overlook)

September 19 - September 20
Walking Together...Connecting in Faith

You are invited to spend from 6:00 pm Friday to 4:00 pm on Saturday finding fellowship & spiritual refreshment at Blessing Lodge, Camp Overlook

Meet our Speaker: Rev. Paige Swaim-Presley

Paige is currently the Pastor of Congregational Care at Blacksburg UMC, and the Director of Development for Camp Alta Mons. She lives in Christiansburg, VA with her husband, Lance who is also a United Methodist elder, their young daughter Julian, and their two big, goofy dogs. Paige and her family moved to Virginia from the Mississippi Conference in 2023.

Registration and information: **PDF to download and print**, or **Google form to fill out online**
Deadline to register is September 8th



Latin Festival Fundraiser
September 20th
4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

at
Braddock Street United Methodist Church
115 Wolfe Street
Winchester, VA
Music, Food, Games



2025 Leadership Institute Watch
Party

October 2, 2025
(10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
Evergreen United Methodist Church
19619 Evergreen Mills Road
Leesburg, VA 20175

Institute—an influential conference hosted by the Church of the Resurrection focused on leadership development for the United Methodist Church. Thanks to the leadership grant, offered by the district we have **20 spots available!**

Click here for more information and registration



ITS TIME FOR *Charge* **CONFERENCES** 2025

This year, Charge Conferences will be held **in person** across **4 locations** of our District. These Conferences will be led by our **District Superintendent**, Rev. Dr. Kyungsuk Cho. Debbie Creech will also be attending to serve as the **Charge Conference Secretary**, if elected.

To better serve our churches, Shenandoah River District has been divided as follows:

Eastern Location – (Loudoun & Fauquier Counties)

Sunday, October 19th—3:00 p.m. Bethany (Purcellville) UMC

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

Sunday, October 19th—3:00 p.m. Kerntown UMC

Central Location – (Page, Shenandoah & Warren Counties)

Sunday, November 16th—3:00 p.m. Woodstock UMC

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

Sunday, November 9th—3:00 p.m. Dayton UMC

**Download more information about Charge Conference
2025**

Need help with Charge Conference Paperwork and want to know the requirements for the 2025 Season? Zoom with Debbie Creech on **Tuesday, September 9th at 10:00 a.m.**

☐ Join Zoom Meeting: **Click Here**

Meeting ID: 987 5942 9463

Passcode: 206165

 **One tap mobile: +1 301 715 8592,,98759429463# (Washington, DC)**

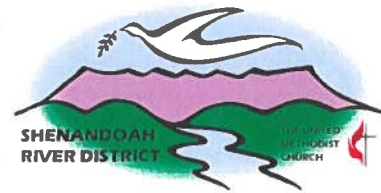
Toll-free: 855 880 1246,,98759429463#

Shenandoah River
District Conference
Saturday, November 8th
10:00 a.m.

Camp Overlook

(This is also a Work Day for the Camp. Stay after the meeting and help with the chores!)

You are invited to attend!



Camp Overlook

Chad tells about two upcoming projects at Overlook!

Chad Hrbek
Executive Director - Camp Overlook
chadhrbek@vaumc.org
540-269-2267

<https://www.campoverlook.org/>

Camp Overlook
Article

From Sue MacTavish,
District Librarian

September 2025 Featured
Item:

**"The Bible With and
Without Jesus: How
Jews and Christians
Read the Same Stories
Differently "**



Read the Library
Article

March 2025 Inventory of District
Library



United
Women
in Faith

Read District Co-vice President Barbara
Phillips' notes [Read More](#)

Prayer Breakfast - September 13th
[Read More about this event 09-13](#) (and RSVP)

Racial Justice Presentation - October 11th
[Read More about this event 10-11](#)

District Spiritual Life Retreat - October 18th
[Read More about this event 10-18](#)



Reconciling
Ministries
Network

Conversations are essential to building trust and relationships. This Reconciling Ministries Network resource facilitates building bridges to deeper relationships through small group studies. There are 43 groups in the Virginia Conference. [Read More](#)

Conference Events/Opportunities



2026 Cohort Application Now Open

Zoom Informational Sessions

Aug. 5 @ 7:30pm

Oct. 16 @ 7:30pm



Hatching Faith Cohort Year 2 Application now open

The application for Cohort 2 and Cohort 3 opened July 1, 2025 and closes November 1, 2025. Cohorts 2 and 3 will run simultaneously, joining together in a Kick-Off event in Spring 2026. The application link as well as FAQs, Cohort timeline, and contact information can be found

at vaumc.org/hatchingfaith.



Discernment Day September 6th 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Main Street UMC Bedford, VA

Is God nudging you to do more?

Discernment Day is an opportunity for you to explore your sense of call with others who are also discerning. You will be provided space to learn more, connect with others, and discover your next steps.

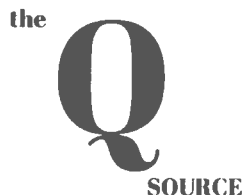
[Read More about
Discernment Day](#)



5th Annual Golf Classic at Brickshire Golf Club sponsored by the VA United Methodist Foundation Monday, October 13th

This year, the Foundation's Annual Golf Classic will be supporting the newly formed grants collective, the joint effort to combine grantmaking sources within the Conference which was announced at this year's Annual Conference.

[Read More and Register
for the Golf Classic](#)



WHAT IS THIS REPORT? The Q Source?

This report aims to give Virginia Conference members an easy digest of the work that is happening across the Virginia Conference on a regular basis. The hope would be that conference clergy and laity could more readily have examples of how ministry is happening across the conference, point to "bright spots" in the VAUMC, and expect more regular updates from operational offices such as Treasurer's Office and VUMPI. Members can anticipate an update in this format every quarter.



United Methodist Men

Check out the various information of the United Methodist Men:

Knees @ Noon - A Daily prayer initiative each Friday at noon [Read More](#)

\$10 Giving per Man Information [Read More](#)

"The Beacon" Newsletter from Conference UMM
[Read More](#)

Feedback or questions are welcome by emailing VAUMC Director of Communications at MadelineWhite@vaumc.org.

The Foundation Ledger 2025 Summer Edition

Download the Q
Source

Download the Summer Edition of "The
Foundation Ledger"

Download the District Calendar - Upcoming
Events

Shenandoah River District Office
78 Brook Creek Road
Toms Brook, VA 22660

**540-433-2382 District Office
Phone Number**

Website: ShenandoahRiverDistrict.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ShenandoahRiverDistrict>



Do you have any changes, error, additions to the District Website? Click here to complete the form:

Rev. Dr. Kyungsuk Cho - District Superintendent - ShenandoahRiverDS@vaumc.org

Rev. Dr. Andy Brock - Developer for Clergy Formation - AndyBrock@vaumc.org

Rev. Tommy Stelzl - Developer of Congregational Innovation - TommyStelzl@vaumc.org

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

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 United Methodist Church | 78 Brook Creek Road | Toms Brook, VA 22660 US

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LAY SERVANT REPORT

There's good news—and more good news—about the upcoming **Shenandoah River District Lay Servant Academy**, scheduled for **Saturday, September 13** at **Macedonia United Methodist Church**.

The first good news: More than thirty participants have already registered to grow in their discipleship and strengthen their spiritual gifts.

The second good news: There's still time for you to register! The deadline is **Friday, September 5**. View the class lineup and register here:

[!\[\]\(23d9fc146e83b5c3013cfa32c784f8d5_img.jpg\) Lay Servant Academy Registration](#)

If you sign up for the **Basic Course**, the District Lay Servant Ministries Committee has **waived your \$20 registration fee and reimburse you for the textbook**. (Please email your receipts to debbiecreech@vaumc.org)

Schedule for the Day

- **8:15 a.m.** – Check-in and breakfast in the sanctuary lobby
 - **9:00 a.m.** – Worship led by **District Superintendent Kyungsuk Cho**, including Holy Communion
 - **10:00 a.m.** – Class sessions begin
 - **12:00 p.m.** – Lunch (sandwich meal, free-will offering)
 - **12:45–4:00 p.m.** – Afternoon class sessions
-

A Few Important Notes

- Expect to hear from your instructor soon with details.
- Please **purchase and read your book before class** (some pre-class homework may be required).
- **Certified Lay Speakers:** Be sure to check when you last completed an advanced class so you can keep your certification current.

Wendell Cochran

[Register](#) and [Pay Online](#) (select Young Women's Retreat and click "Other" for amount remitted) OR print this registration and send with a check made payable to **VA Conference United Women in Faith** to by September 8, 2025 to:

Melissa White

109 Dawson Crescent

Seaford, VA 23696

Phone: 757-218-7092

Email: mel49white@yahoo.com

Scholarships - A limited number of scholarships are available through District Presidents of United Women in Faith. Please contact your District President OR Melissa White with questions.

Also, a form to apply for a First Time Attendee or

Ethnic Minority First Time Attendee to a Conference Event is available here:  VAOriginals or Ethnic Minority Event Grant.pdf

Meet our Speaker: Rev. Paige Swaim-Presley



Paige is currently the Pastor of Congregational Care at Blacksburg UMC, and the Director of Development for Camp Alta Mons. She lives in Christiansburg, VA with her husband, Lance who is also a United Methodist elder, their young daughter Julian, and their two big, goofy dogs. Paige and her family moved to Virginia from the Mississippi Conference in 2023 in Biloxi, MS. While in Mississippi, Paige served as Director of the Center for Ministry & Mississippi Course of Study

School, the Senior Associate Chaplain at Millsaps College, pastor of Saucier and Gateway UMCs, and Exec. Director of the Seashore Mission in Biloxi, MS. In addition to being an ordained elder, Paige is also a trained and spiritual director. In her free time, she loves to read and hike, and occasionally tries her hand at container gardening.



Walking Together...Connecting in Faith

Virginia Conference United Women in Faith
Young Women's Event

September 19 - 20, 2025

You are invited to spend from
6pm Friday to 4 pm on Saturday
finding fellowship & spiritual refreshment at

Blessing Lodge, Camp Overlook

3014 Camp Overlook Lane,
Keezletown, VA 22832



United
Women
in Faith

Things to Know: You do not have to be a member of a United Methodist Church OR United Women in Faith to attend! We will explore how we as women walk together, connecting in Faith as we navigate these times; as well as the importance of spiritual rest!
Bring: Comfy clothes and shoes - there are nature paths to enjoy as well as a spacious back deck with incredible views! You are welcome to bring a musical instrument or a hobby such as your knitting, etc.

Important Suggestion: Arrive before dark on Friday as the camp is harder to locate after dark! Will send directions prior to the retreat!

Tentative Schedule:

Friday - 5 - 6:30 pm Check in/Registration

6:45 pm - Dinner

7:30 – 9:00 pm - Group Gathering 1

9:00 pm - Fellowship

Saturday - 8:30 - Breakfast

9:30 - 12 noon - Group Gathering 2 (with walk and talk)

12:15 - Lunch (please pack up and load car before last session begins at 3 pm)

1:15 pm - 2:15 pm - Group Gathering 3

3:00 pm - Worship and Communion

Departure at 4 pm

Sept. 19 - 20, 2025

REGISTRATION Deadline: Sept. 8, 2025

Name: _____

Street: _____

City _____

State _____

zip _____

Phone # or Email address: _____

Check what applies to you: First timer: _____ Night Owl _____

Age: 18 - 22 _____ 23 - 29 _____ 30-35 _____ 36-40+ _____

Food allergies/Limitations: _____

Choice of Registration:

\$90.00 includes shared lodging + 3 meals

Blessing Lodge rooms have 4 twin beds and a bathroom per room; four occupants to a room in order to keep our costs lower - contact registrar with questions

Roommate(s):

\$30.00 Day Retreat includes Sat. Breakfast/Lunch

Total remitted: _____

 Just Neighbors
Helping the underserved and vulnerable in our community
through thoughtful, targeted, large-scale efforts

LATIN FESTIVAL FUNDRAISER

SEPTEMBER 20TH

BRADDOCK STREET UMC
115 WOLFE STREET
WINCHESTER, VA

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
5:30PM - 7:00PM



MUSIC • FOOD • GAMES



West Loudoun United Methodist of the Shenandoah River District
2025 Leadership Institute Watch Party



Purpose

2025 Leadership Institute (leadership.share.church.com) is hosted by the Church of the Resurrection and has become the leading voice in leadership development for the United Methodist Church. Although the opportunity to attend the conference in person enhances the experience, we can take advantage of the online version of the conference by inviting leaders of the churches to come, learn, and share our dreams to partner in God's mission together. Therefore, we invite you to join this conference online, with a taste of connecting through the 'watch party' hosted at Leesburg United Methodist on October 2, 2025 (Thursday, 10 am - 5 pm).

General Information

- Who: Clergy and Lay Leaders of Shenandoah River District
- Date: October 2, 2025
 - Watch Party at Evergreen UMC (19619 Evergreen Mills Rd, Leesburg, VA 20175) on October 2, 10 am - 5pm
 - Lunch for all participants will be provided by Leesburg UMC during the Watch Party.
- Cost: \$45 per person
 - Special Thanks to the Leadership Grant from Shenandoah River District, the cost is lowered from \$99 per person to \$45 per person.
- Registration Link: <https://leesburgumc.breezechms.com/form/67068420>

Schedule

October 1, 2025 (Wednesday) **Online at home**

- 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm Opening Session – Adam Hamilton:

October 2, 2025 (Thursday)

- Location: Evergreen United Methodist Church
- Time: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
 - 10:00 am – 11:15 am General Session – Dan Heath
 - 12:00 pm – 1:15 pm Featured Session – four breakout rooms around LUMC
 - Creating a Culture of Generosity - Matt Miofsky
 - Holding Space for Healing - Rebecca Chow
 - The Art of Hospitality - Debi Nixon & Yvonne Gentile
 - When the Faith Community Leads - Kaye Monk-Morgan
 - 12:45 pm – 2:15 pm Lunch provided by LUMC
 - 2:15 pm – 3:30 pm General Session – Andy Stanley
 - 4:15 pm – 5:30 pm General Session - Bishop Tracy Smith Malone

October 3, 2025 (Friday) - **Online at home**

- 9:30 am - 1:00 pm General Session & Closing Session

*Online at Home - Each participant will receive a customized link to access all the live stream and recordings.


* CEU is available for United Methodist Clergy and full-time local pastors.

Charge Conference 2025 – Brief Overview

You may now **enter the date of your Charge Conference in Unity** and begin creating your paperwork.

In-Person Charge Conferences – 2025 Schedule (all conferences begin at 3:00 p.m.)

- **October 19, 2025** – Bethany UMC (Purcellville) – *Loudoun & Fauquier Counties*
- **October 26, 2025** – Kernstown UMC – *Clarke, Frederick, City of Winchester*
- **November 9, 2025** – Dayton UMC – *Augusta, Rockingham, City of Harrisonburg*
- **November 16, 2025** – Woodstock UMC – *Page, Shenandoah, Warren*

 **Note:** If the assigned date and place for your area does not work for your church, you may attend another location. Please notify the District Office if you plan to do so.

Charge Conference Tutorial (Zoom)

For those needing help with processing Charge Conference paperwork in Unity, or simply a refresher, Debbie will zoom with you:

 **Tuesday, September 9, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.**

 Join Zoom Meeting: [Click Here](#)

Meeting ID: 987 5942 9463

Passcode: 206165

 One Tap Mobile: +1 301 715 8592,,98759429463# (Washington, DC)

Toll-Free: 855 880 1246,,98759429463#

What's New for 2025

- **Trustees Report – Question 6g**

A new question has been added regarding **termite insurance**. Since termite damage is often *not* covered by standard property insurance, churches may need to research whether they are protected.

- **Church Ministry Inventory**

A new module with **35 Yes/No questions** about your church's ministries (e.g., Food Pantry, Shelter, Preschool, etc.).

- For each Yes response, you may provide additional details (and brag a little!).
- In some cases, a follow-up question will appear.
- The goal: to help the district and conference offices understand available resources and encourage collaboration across churches.

- **Nominations Help Page**

New “Help” Forms Available

On the **Charge Conference page** (where forms are located), you will now find a **guideline form** to assist you as you prepare and confirm your committee members for 2026.

Pre-Filled Report Option

If you first enter your committee members in the **“Church Membership” section of Unity**, the **Pre-Filled Report** will automatically populate those names. This completed report can then be uploaded under **“Nominations and Leadership Development Committee”** (located just above this section).

Resources for creating and uploading this report:

[Nominations and Leadership Committee Guidelines](#)

[Nominations and Leadership Committee Pre-Filled Report](#)

[Nominations and Leadership Committee Blank Report](#)

[Nominations and Leadership Committee Blank Report \(SAS Version\)](#)

Other Attachments

[Upload New](#)

© 2025 - Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church. Icons by [Icons8](#)

 **Need help?** Contact the District Office — we're here to support you!

Don't forget! Your paperwork has to be completed in Unity 10 days before the date of your charge conference to give us time to review your information BEFORE your charge conference.

We will discuss obtaining signatures on the forms at the September 9th Zoom!



Updates from Overlook

Things are moving along here at Overlook, and we have a full schedule of groups ahead! Both new and returning groups continue to enjoy coming to the Mountain for a time of renewal and fellowship with God. This fall, we'll be hosting Scout groups, various faith groups, and in October, the Shenandoah Valley Emmaus Walks.

Projects at Overlook

We currently have two projects we'd love your help with:

1. Blessings Lodge Renewal

Blessings Lodge is nearly 30 years old, and it's time for a refresh! While the meeting spaces have already received new flooring, we would like to update seating, décor, and wall finishes. In the bedrooms, we plan to update the bedding and décor to create a more welcoming and restful space.

To complete these updates, we are inviting 52 people to give a donation of \$100 each. This will cover the \$5,200 needed for the project. Any amount raised over that goal will go toward other improvements in the Blessings Lodge.

Donations can be made online at campoverlook.org or by check.

2. Fall Work Day – November 8

Join us on **Saturday, November 8, starting at 9:00 AM** for our annual Fall Work Day! There will be projects for all ages and abilities—yes, including tree cutting. Lunch will be provided.

Please RSVP on our website so we can prepare for the right number of volunteers and meals.

Opportunities to Serve

Our **Board of Directors** is currently seeking a **Treasurer**, as well as District Representatives and At-Large members. If you know someone who would be a good fit, please contact **Chad at Camp** or **Rev. Bertina Westley, Board President**.

Invite Chad to Speak!

If you'd like Chad to visit your church—on a Sunday morning or another time—reach out at chadhrbek@vaumc.org.

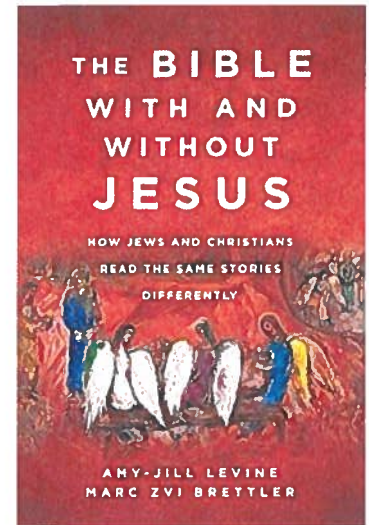
From Sue MacTavish, District Librarian Sept. 2025 featured item:



The Bible With and Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently by Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler, 2025.

New to the District Library this fall!

In *The Bible With and Without Jesus*, noted Biblical scholars Levine and Brettler focus on why Jews and Christians read many of the same Biblical texts – including passages from the Pentateuch, the Prophets, and the Psalms – differently. Exploring and explaining these diverse perspectives, they reveal more clearly Scripture’s beauty and power.



The Study looks at the most popular Hebrew Bible passages quoted in the New Testament to show what the texts meant in their original contexts and then how Jews and Christians, over time, understood those same texts. Passages include the creation of the world, the role of Adam and Eve, the Suffering Servant of Isaiah, the book of Jonah, and Psalm 22, whose words, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me,” Jesus quotes as he dies on the cross.

Comparing various interpretations – historical, literary, and theological - of each ancient text, Levine and Brettler offer deeper understandings of the original narratives and their many afterlives. They show how the text speaks to different generations under changed circumstances, and so illuminate the Bible’s ongoing significance.

The Bible With and Without Jesus , is a 6 session study, can be found in the **Bible / Bible Studies** section of the District Library. The library has the Book, Leader’s Guide, and DVD.

Stop by the 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, church, and date – you may keep as long as you need – but remember to return when finished so that others may borrow. Thanks, Sue



United
Women
in Faith

Upcoming Events to Celebrate and Inspire

Prayer Breakfast – September 13, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.

 *Location:* Bridgewater UMC, 219 North Main Street, Bridgewater, VA 22812

Join us for a joyful morning of music and fellowship, led by **Karen McElfish**, UWF Conference President, and **Laura Douglass**, District Social Action Coordinator.

Registration details are included in this newsletter. Don't miss it!

Racial Justice Presentation – October 11, 2025 - 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

 *Location:* Laurel Ridge College

We're honored to welcome **Betty Kilby Baldwin** and **Phoebe Kilby**, authors of *Cousins*—a powerful memoir of truth, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

(A full feature and details can be in the newsletter.)

District Spiritual Life Retreat – Saturday, October 18th – 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Location: Braddock Street UMC, 115 Wolfe Street, Winchester, VA 22601

Tikkun Olan: Repairing the World Through Story, Art and Humor

Registration details are included in this newsletter.

A Prayer from Response

Precious Jesus,

Continue to increase our faith as we go through the challenges of life. Increase our courage and boldness to fight for the injustices around us. Let your love and grace continue to dwell in us as we bear your light to the world

Alpha May Tomas – Order of Deaconess and Home Missioner

Barbara Phillips, District UWF, Co-Vice President



United
Women
in Faith

**Shenandoah River District
United Women in Faith
Prayer Breakfast (South)**

The Shenandoah River District - South UWF will hold their
Annual Prayer Breakfast on **Saturday, September 13, 9:00 am**
at Bridgewater UMC, 219 N. Main St., Bridgewater 22812

We are excited to have the program presented by our Conference UWF president,
Karen McElfish, along with our District Social Action Coordinator, Laura Douglass.
Please plan to attend as we join together for a time of prayer, fellowship,
good food and entertainment.

The cost of the breakfast will be \$18.00. Checks may be made payable to
Bridgewater UWF and will be collected the day of the event.

A freewill offering will be taken to benefit
Mission Central Children's Clothes Closet.

Everyone is welcome to attend!!

RETURN THE FOLLOWING TO SHARON HAROLD BY SEPT. 2

NAME _____ CHURCH _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE # _____

ANY SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS? _____

GLUTEN FREE? _____

PLEASE RETURN BY SAT., SEPT. 2 TO:
SHARON HAROLD, SRUWF Zone Leader - South
sharold714@aol.com or
mail to 4580 Ottobine Rd Dayton, VA 22821
540-879-2270 or 540-246-4940

Here's a summary of information relevant to the event, Reaching Across the Racial Divide with Betty Kilby Fisher and Phoebe Kilby. Information to be confirmed with additional information to follow shortly. For now, just note and share the time of the event that has changed from the original Save the Date notice.

- 1. Save the Date: Saturday, October 11, 2025 from 1 - 3 PM; Laurel Ridge Community College, 173 Skirmisher Lane, Middletown, VA 22645 (building tba)*
- 2. Reaching Across the Racial Divide - a presentation by Betty Kilby Fisher and Phoebe Kilby, the authors of Cousins: Connected through slavery, a Black woman and a White woman discover their past—and each other.*
- 3. Co-sponsored by Laurel Ridge Community College and United Women in Faith, Shenandoah River District, United Methodist Church*
- 4. Tentative Schedule: Welcome, Presentation, Questions, Closing, and Book signing for Cousins by Betty Kilby Baldwin and Phoebe Kilby*
- 5. Hybrid and In-person options will be available with Registration (free)*
- 6. Free admission with possible donation options (tba) for The Kilby Family Endowed Scholarship Fund*

Many thanks and blessings,

Laura Douglass, Social Action Chair, UWF SRD

LauraDouglass@vaumc.org

540-271-1558

DISTRICT SPIRITUAL LIFE RETREAT

Tikkun Olam:

Repairing the World through Story, Art and Humor

I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was homeless and you gave me a room, I was shivering and you gave me clothes, I was sick and you stopped to visit, I was in prison and you came to me.

Date: Saturday, October 18

Location: Braddock Street UMC (115 Wolfe St., Winchester, VA 22601)

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$20 (Scholarships are available!)

Light breakfast and boxed lunch included

All women are welcome ~ Methodist and non-Methodist alike

RSVP by Monday, October 6

Tikkun Olam: Hebrew phrase that means “healing or repairing the world” suggesting humanity’s shared responsibility to heal, repair, and transform the broken and suffering pieces of Creation.

Intention of the Retreat: To explore our call to recognize the brokenness in the world and in ourselves and become instruments in God’s desire to mend and smooth the jagged edges through understanding, compassion, empathy, and social action. We will use movement, reflection, Bible study, whimsical fellowship and two art activities in which the torn and broken are reimagined to create beauty out of flaws and imperfection

For more information, contact Susan Chesley at 563-271-7915 or lschesley@gmail.com

RESERVATION FORM FOR RETREAT (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Name _____ Church/Unit _____

Address _____

Home _____ Cell _____ Email _____

Any dietary concerns? _____ Check No. _____

Make check out to Shenandoah River District UWF and mail it with the RSVP form to Susan Chesley, 302 Greenfield Ave., Winchester, VA 22602. **Deadline to RSVP is Oct. 6.** Keep mind that “snail mail” isn’t what it used to be and can take up to two days to reach its destination!



Where are the Reconciling Ministries in the VA Conference?

You can narrow the search to Reconciling Campus Ministry, Reconciling Church, Reconciling Community and Regional Reconciling Community.

Altogether there are 43 groups.

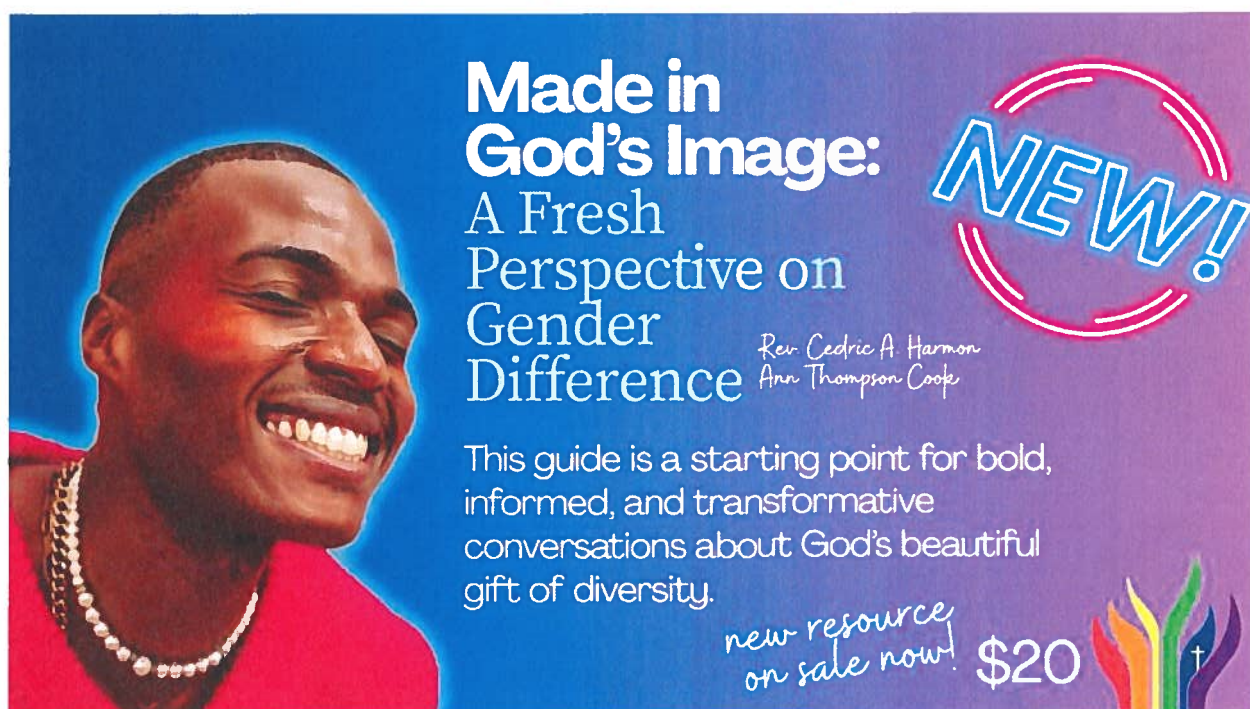
<https://rmnetwork.org/find-a-reconciling-ministry/>

New Resource: Made in God's Image: A Fresh Perspective on Gender Difference

Author: Rev. Cedric A. Harmon & Ann Thompson Cook

Resource: Link to purchase on the RMN website:

<https://rmnetwork.org/resources/made-in-gods-image/>



About this resource: Price: \$20 | Print-on-demand PDF download

Audience: Congregations, Ministries, LGBTQ+ advocates, pastors, and congregations seeking inclusive theological resources. **A note from the authors:** You, like many of us, may have questions about gender and wondered where to turn. We offer this guide as an introductory resource to help you begin finding answers.

We hope it will provide you and your church, family, neighbors, and communities an opportunity to engage in informed, bold, and transformative conversations about God's wonderful gift of diversity.

Laura Douglass, DFC-retired lauradouglass@vaumc.org

[\(https://vaumc.org/\)](https://vaumc.org/)

DISCERNMENT DAY

September 6, 2025 – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Main Street UMC

212 E. Main Street, Bedford, VA 24523

Phone: (540) 586-8878



Is God nudging you to do more?

Do you think God is calling you, but you're not sure how to answer?

By virtue of our baptisms, every Christian is called by God in a myriad of ways – as laity serving in local churches, missionaries serving abroad, meeting the needs of the local community, to the set-apart ministry of the licensed and ordained and so much more.

Discernment Day is an opportunity for you to explore your sense of call with others who are also discerning. Through prayer practices, age appropriate small groups, and topical discussion groups, you will be provided space to learn more, connect with others, and discover your next steps.

Translate »

Registration
(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScWjIk9XNFlyzNDjlr_CMIb647xIA6-1RxjqQuolcPOGPCFDQ/viewform)

Discussion Group Descriptions

- ☞ Called as a Lay Staff Member
- ☞ Called to Seminary
- ☞ Certified Lay Minister
- ☞ Missions and Justice Ministries
- ☞ Licensed for Ministry
- ☞ Ministry of Laity in the Local Church
- ☞ New Faith Communities
- ☞ The Ministry of the Deacon
- ☞ The Ministry of the Elder
- ☞ Youth Track

Registration
(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScWjIk9XNFlyzNDjlr_CMIb647xIA6-1RxjqQuolcPOGPCFDQ/viewform)

Discernment Day Resources

What's Next?

Lay Servant Ministries or Certified Lay Minister (<https://vaumc.org/lay-servant-ministries/>)

Candidacy for licensed or ordained ministry (<https://vaumc.org/candidates-for-ministry/>)

Translate »

Search

THE VIRGINIA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST MEN



PRESENTS

KNEES@NOON

A DAILY PRAYER INITIATIVE

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

Each day at noon,

the men of the VA Conference are invited to pray for:

- ◊ Bishop Sue
- ◊ Conference Leadership
- ◊ District Leadership
- ◊ Clergy, particularly Women Clergy
- ◊ Family and Individual Needs

Then, each Friday at noon,

Join a “15 minutes max” prayer Zoom call

It's a safe place to bring your prayer concerns and joys

ZOOM LINK

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82873870973?pwd=AcGMK2suuFPnmugJl7F7cba4LKeQTQ.1>

Meeting ID: 828 7387 0973

Passcode: 547619



\$10.00 PER MAN PER YEAR

The Virginia Conference United Methodist Men seek to support:

Heart Havens

Scouts

All God's Children Camp

Camp Rainbow

Society of St. Andrews

Grace Inside

Black Methodists for Church Renewal

Asian American Ministries Association

Native American Caucus

Latino/Hispanic Caucus

To accomplish this, we are asking **each man** in the Virginia Conference to donate **\$10.00 per year**. With your help, this would provide sufficient funds to send each of these ministries a generous donation!

What a great way for the men of our Conference to join in support!

4 DONATION OPTIONS:

Mail a check to our treasurer

Gary Lupton, 1661 Hawks Bill Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23464
Please make your check payable to Virginia Conference United Methodist Men.

Text Giving

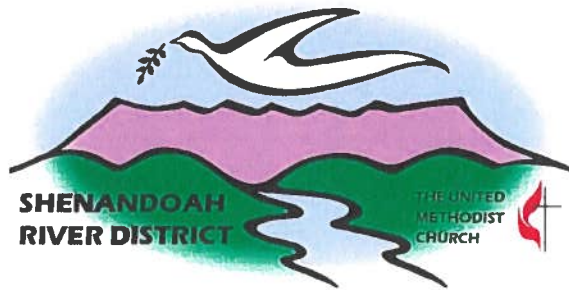
Text UMM2024 to 44-321 and you will be directed to our campaign.

Online Giving

www.vaumc.org/umm-support

QR Code Giving





SHENANDOAH RIVER DISTRICT CALENDAR

Saturday, September 6th – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – VAUMC Discernment Day at Main Street UMC, 212 E. Main Street, Bedford, VA 24523

Sunday, September 7th - 2:30 p.m. - Installation Service for new District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Kyung Suk Cho, at Front Royal UMC. The event will also be live-streamed

Tuesday, September 9th – 10:00 a.m. – Charge Conference Tutorial Zoom – preparing charge conference paperwork

Saturday, September 13th – begin at 9:00 a.m. - Fall District Lay Servant Academy at Macedonia UMC

Saturday, September 13th – 9:00 a.m. - Southern area UWF District Prayer Breakfast at Bridgewater UMC

Monday, September 15th – 11:00 a.m. - District Discipleship Team Meeting via Zoom

Tuesday, September 16th through Monday, December 1st – In Person Clergy One-On-One Sessions with DS Cho at designated places

Friday, September 19th 6:00 p.m. through Saturday, September 20th to 4:00 p.m. – Young Women's Retreat at Camp Overlook

Saturday, September 20th – 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. – Latin Fundraiser for Just Neighbors at Braddock Street UMC

Thursday, October 2nd – 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Leadership Watch Party at Evergreen United Methodist Church, 19619 Evergreen Mills Road, Leesburg, VA 20175 (Space is limited to 20 participants)

Saturday, October 11th – 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Shenandoah River District United Women in Faith Racial Justice Retreat at Laurel Ridge Community College, Middletown campus

Monday, October 13th – 5th Annual Golf Classis sponsored by the VA United Methodist Foundation

Saturday, October 18th – 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. - UWF District Spiritual Life Retreat at Braddock Street UMC. “Tikkun Olam: Repairing the World through Story, art and Humor

Sunday, October 19th – 3:00 p.m. – Charge Conferences for the Eastern Location (Counties of Loudoun and Fauquier) at Bethany UMC (Purcellville)

Sunday, October 26th – 3:00 p.m. – Charge Conferences for the Northern Location (Counties of Clarke, Frederick and the City of Winchester) at Kernstown UMC

Saturday, November 8th – beginning at 9:00 a.m. - Work Day at Camp Overlook

Saturday, November 8th – 10:00 a.m. – Shenandoah River District Conference at Camp Overlook

Sunday, November 9th – 3:00 p.m. – Charge Conferences for the Southern Location (Counties of Augusta, Rockingham and the City of Harrisonburg) at Dayton UMC

Sunday, November 16th – 3:00 p.m. – Charge Conferences for the Central Location (Counties of Page, Shenandoah and Warren Counties) at Woodstock UMC

Articles for Downriver Devotion, Mission Central, Equipment for Caring, Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach, Randolph Macon Academy are now printed in our Bi-Monthly Eblast! Don't forget – if you have a good news story to share, please email your article to DebbieCreech@vaumc.org.

For those who would like to read articles that were too long to include in this hard copy of the September newsletter:

- To view Kyungsuk's video, please go to:

[Shenandoahriverdistrict.org](https://shenandoahriverdistrict.org)

Click on "Newsletter"

"View Current Newsletter"

- **The Hatching Faith information can be found at**

<https://vaumc.org/hatchingfaith/>

- **5th Annual Golf Classic**

<https://vaumfoundation.org/2025/06/10/register-for-5th-annual-golf-classic/>

- **The "Q"Source**

<https://doc.vaumc.org/QuarterlyReports/2025Q2VAUMC.pdf>

- **The Foundation Ledger (Summer 2025)**

<https://vaumfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Summer-2025-The-Ledger.pdf>