

# SHENANDOAH RIVER DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



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## A Message from Rev. Dr. Kyungsuk Cho

Watch this month's video from our District Superintendent.



# DISTRICT NEWS

## 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

## Register for Training Day!

Shenandoah River District is offering a training day on **Saturday, April 25, 2026**.

Offered at Bridgewater UMC and Macedonia UMC, we will learn from Tim Ward and his keynote presentation and offer breakout groups for other ministries.

This event costs \$20/person and lunch is provided.



Register

## Do you or someone you know need medical equipment?

We have had a medical equipment closet in our community since 2015, which depends solely on donations. We now have a large number of wheelchairs, transport chairs, shower chairs, bedside commodes, and hospital beds, and are in fact feeling like we are bursting at the seams in the space that we now have. We would love to have these items go to be used by someone who needs them. There is no charge for them.



We are at 8335 North Valley Pike, Rockingham in the Mt Tabor UMC and can be reached at our phone #540-404-1159. You are welcome to come by during our open hours, Mondays 5-7 PM and Thursdays 9-11 AM

## You're Invited: Cultivating Generous Congregations Event

The Mountain View District is hosting a comprehensive stewardship training workshop for congregational teams (pastor + 1 - 4 laity). This workshop is Presented by the Lake Institute on Faith & Giving/Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy and will be facilitated by Meredith McNabb and Lana Miller.

**CULTIVATING  
GENEROUS  
CONGREGATIONS**

March 7, 2026 9am-4pm  
Main Street UMC, Bedford



**WHEN:** Saturday, March 7, 9 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Main Street UMC, 212 E Main St, Bedford VA  
**COST:** \$25.00/person

Register

Click [HERE](#) for more information. Click [HERE](#) for the event schedule. Click [HERE](#) to register. Deadline to register: Feb 27, 2026

## Lay Servant Training

Springtime also brings the month of our Lay Servant Training Day. I'm excited, along with the Lay Servant Committee, to see you on **March 14th, 2026**, at **Otterbein UMC in Harrisonburg, VA, at 9 AM.**



### Classes:

- Basic
- Leading Prayer
- Life Together in the United Methodist Connection (United Methodist Polity)
- Becoming a Church Where Young People Thrive

Register

[READ MORE](#) from Raini Newman about this event.

# Coffee Hour with Lan Wilson

Rev. Lan Wilson began his role in July 2025 as the Director of Belonging and Advocacy for the Virginia Annual Conference. He is touring all eight districts to share who he is, what his office is all about, and learn what's going on in your part of the state (with regards to life, socioeconomics, culture, justice, ministry). He will be asking how the annual conference can resource/support you.



Lan will be in the Shenandoah River District in **March**. More details to come!



## RESOURCES/LINKS

### Lent Resources

- [Multi-Conference Lenten Study: Creation's Call](#)
- [Introduction to the season of Lent](#)
- [Why does Lent begin with ashes?](#)
- [New studies, devotionals for Lent](#)
- [Ash Wednesday -- Chuck Knows Church](#)
- [Lent 101](#)



## IMPORTANT DATES

- *Moved to March:* Coffee Talk with Lan
- March 2: [UMM Dinner](#)
- March 7: [UWF Prayer Breakfast](#)
- March 7: [Cultivating Generous Congregations](#)
- March 14: [Lay Servant Training Day](#)
- March 21: [Discernment Day](#)
- April 25: [District Training](#)

[Full Calendar](#)

[Submit Events](#)



## CELEBRATIONS

Clergy Valentine Lunches

The Shenandoah River District Staff spent time with our clergy this month at a series of Valentine lunches. We met at four locations across the district to visit with and celebrate the incredible work our pastors do.



12 people braved the cold and joined together for the second Clergy Valentine Luncheon, which was held at Capital Ale in Harrisonburg. What a great time of sharing!



10 persons attended the Clergy Valentine Luncheon at El Centro in Winchester on February wrapping up our Luncheons for the month. Thanks to great response from our pastors!



11 people braved the cold and joined together for the first Clergy Valentine Luncheon, which was held at Woodstock Cafe in Woodstock. With no agenda, it was a great time of food and fellowship!



8 people attended the Clergy Valentine Luncheon at Magnolia Mill in Purcellville. It was a joy to be together!

## Coffee On Us

*As we sunset Partners in Ministry, the District has launched a new initiative to bring folks together across the Shenandoah River District. We have set aside the remaining balance of the PIM budget for supporting new (and existing) relationships between clergy and laity. So, in the coming weeks, please call up a new friend and go out for coffee together. Our hope is that you discuss new ways of doing ministry in your community together. Simply take a selfie (just like these pastors!) with you and the person you had coffee with and send us a picture of the receipt. We will gladly reimburse you for both coffees!*



Revs. Laurice Jones-Wilks and Costella Forney recently met together and enjoyed their coffee time at Starbucks in Harrisonburg.



Margie Hernandez, Director of Latino Ministry at Braddock Street UMC recently met with pastor Sean Devolites from First UMC and Pastor Jack Lee from Market Street UMC and Greenwood UMC.

They gathered to discuss collaboration in ministry with Building Bridges at Braddock and Just Neighbors Immigration Clinics



Rev. Tommy Stelzl enjoys Coffee on Us with Revs. Alexis Owens and Lori Valentine Martinquez



## VAUMC NEWS

Find links and information from the Virginia Conference below.

- **Annual Conference:** [Find AC '26 Details at vaumc.org/AC2026](https://vaumc.org/AC2026)
- [Register now for Bishop's Wesley Heritage Tour](#)
- [Learn more about scholarships for United Methodist students](#)
- [2026 Youth Service Fund Grants](#)
- [Safer Sanctuaries Resource](#)
- [Training Webinar: Being a Non-Anxious Presence: Responding Faithfully to ICE Activity in Our Communities](#)
- [Discernment Day is March 21 in Norfolk VA](#)

### 2026 Awards Nominations

We are currently receiving nominations for two conference awards that celebrate faithful, creative, and life-giving discipleship happening in our churches and communities: The Wesley Flame Award and The One Matters Award. These awards honor both clergy and lay people of all ages, as well as congregations that are helping new life take root. Many of the most powerful stories of ministry happen quietly. We do not want them to go unnoticed. [NOMINATION FORM](#)



# MINISTRY PARTNERS

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

- [Lay Servant News -- Training Day Registration](#)
- [Camp Overlook News -- Summer Camp Registration is Open!](#)
- [Reconciling Ministries](#)
- [UWF News: Prayer Breakfast March 7](#)

## UMM Dinner Meeting & Rally

The United Methodist Men of Manor Memorial UMC in New Market invite all men of the district to a Dinner Meeting and Rally on **March 2, 2026** at Manor Memorial. A meal, which will be served at 6:30 PM, will be provided to all who attend at no charge. A free will offering to benefit Camp Overlook will be available.

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER](#)

## The Shenandoah River District

Office Phone: 540-433-2382

Website: [ShenandoahRiverDistrict.org](http://ShenandoahRiverDistrict.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/ShenandoahRiverDistrict](https://facebook.com/ShenandoahRiverDistrict)



### District Staff

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**Do you have any changes, errors, or additions to the District Website?  
Click here to complete the form.**

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If you would like to include an article in this newsletter, please email Debbie Creech, District Administrator, at [DebbieCreech@vaumc.org](mailto:DebbieCreech@vaumc.org) by the 20th of each month.

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