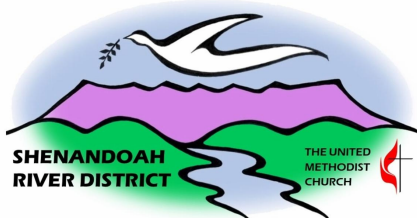




CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THIS NEWSLETTER IN PDF
FORMAT



Check out the Events Page on our website, which contain real time dates and events.

- - - -

Any changes, errors, additions to the district website? Please complete this form:

Click here to complete form

*Rev. Tommy Stelzl, District Webmaster
- tommystelzl@vaumc.org*

Have any local church events you would like included in our newsletter? Contact the District

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

Website:
ShenandoahRiverDistrict.org

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

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

**Rev. Dr. Andy Brock -
Director of Connectional Ministries
AndyBrock@vaumc.org**

Rev. Tommy Stelzl -

Office. Events will be emailed mid-month.

Director of Connectional Ministries and Webmaster
TommyStelzl@vaumc.org

Debbie Creech - District Administrator
DebbieCreech@vaumc.org

IN THIS ISSUE.....

Calendar of Events for Shenandoah River District
Pictures and Scenes from the 2025 Virginia Annual Conference
Pastoral Appointments for Virginia Annual Conference 2025-2026
Help with reporting AC 2025 to your church/Josh Foster - Youth At Large Report - Kits for Conference Totals
New District Superintendent, Kyungsuk Cho's Installation Service
Downriver Devotion - Wednesdays in July
District Library
District Lay Servant Ministries
Partners in Ministry
Camp Overlook
United Women in Faith (Mission U) - (Racial Justice Event - October 11th)
Reconciling Ministries
Know Your Rights (Immigration Law and Justice Network)
Kingsway
United Methodist Men
District Grant and Loan Applications (Due in office by April 1st and October 1st)



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT Rev. Dr. Kyungsuk Cho

DS Cho is busy moving and unpacking. We look forward to his article next month and beginning our journey together on the Shenandoah River District.

The path that led DS Cho to us has taken him through many different places. Born and raised in Seoul, Korea, he traveled to 8 countries and visited 23 U.S. states thus far. He moved to the United States in 2009 to pursue his M.Div. at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC, and has recently completed his D. Min. at Emory University in Atlanta, GA.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CO-DIRECTOR OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES Written by Rev. Dr. Andy Brock

During the first half of my working life, spent in the business world, life was a constant climb for more of this or that: customers, more sales, a higher salary, a house, cars, education, and so on. I could have easily brought that same kind of life into my new Christian life, which began some thirty years ago. Fortunately,



Regina and I had already made the intentional decision to scale back, allowing us to spend more time on our relationship and our relationship with the Lord.

We moved from the fast-paced life of the Virginia suburbs to a more relaxed life in the Shenandoah Valley. We moved from a large, three-story townhome to a single-level modular home that required less maintenance and offered a suitable floor plan for our later years. I took sales positions that required less time on the road and fewer meetings. All these decisions led to us having more time together and more time serving the Lord in ministry and service.

Then came the new calling. For three years, it became a little more hectic like old times. For the first year, I held a full-time sales job, attended seminary classes, and even had an interim lay supply position in the Washington Baltimore Conference. In the second and third years, I continued my seminary studies while serving my first part-time ministry on the West Loudoun Charge. Eventually, I completed seminary, was ordained as an elder, and went on to serve as a full-time pastor, primarily in smaller, rural churches of the Shenandoah Valley.

In many of the congregations I served, we were busy with more money, more programs, and more innovation. All of this when the practice of being church had seemed to stop working. Most of us, both clergy and laity, are aware that attendance is declining, as is participation in programming. We also know that innovations usually fail to achieve much better results.

What has worked? In my experience over the last thirty years, what has worked is remembering who we are – the body of Christ - and who is the head of the body: Jesus Christ. In *When the Church Stops Working*, Andrew Root and Blair Bertrand call us to put a stop to all the running after more money, more programs, and more innovation. Chapter 3 of the book is entitled “Stop All the Having and Just Be.” They argue, rightly, that from my experience, it is enough to be the presence of Christ in our communities. They offer several steps to do this. First, die to the old way of being church, and be born a new way; second, to confess that we need the action of Christ through the Spirit; third, to wait for the Spirit to move the Church forward.

Waiting does not mean to wait while sitting on your hands. Waiting consists of continuing to gather for worship, reading of Scripture, serving in the community, and putting aside anything that would keep you from seeing the work of the Spirit around you. Waiting, they say, brings not death, but life. My experience in small churches has found this to be true.

What this book offers is a way of being, rather than a way of doing. If you are interested in finding a way forward for the church, I highly recommend reading ***When Church Stops Working***. If you need additional help, I am here to help coach you forward if you would like.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

Tuesday, July 1st - First Day with new District Superintendent of the Shenandoah River District, Rev. Dr. Kyungsuk Cho

Tuesday, July 1st - DEADLINE for Annual Parsonage Reviews to be completed and prepared/uploaded in Unity.

Tuesday, July 1st - DEADLINE to complete 2024 Audits and return to District Office and/or completed and signed in Unity

Wednesday, July 2nd - 8:00 a.m. - Downriver Devotion at Strasburg Town Park Boat Ramp and every following Wednesday

Sunday, July 6th - First Sunday for New Clergy

Thursday, July 24th - Sunday, July 27th- Uncharted: Becoming the Church We Need Right Now Convocation 2025 - Virtual Tickets Available

Friday, July 25th through Sunday, July 27th - Mission U (formerly Mission Encounter) at Good Shepherd UMC and the Conference Office

Friday and Saturday, August 15th and 16th- Virtual Lay Servant Academy sponsored by the Virginia Conference

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

Saturday, September 13th - Fall District Lay Servant Academy at Macedonia UMC.

Saturday, September 13th - Southern area UWF District Prayer Breakfast. More info to follow.

Saturday, October 11th - Shenandoah River District United Women in Faith Racial Justice Retreat at Laurel Ridge Community College, Middletown campus.

DISTRICT E-BLAST SENT OUT ON THE 2ND AND 4TH FRIDAYS OF EACH MONTH

Special Worship services, VBS, for sale items, job opportunities, etc.

We will advertise any items, job openings, etc. you submit to us. If you would like to utilize this opportunity, please send your notices to debbiecreech@vaumc.org and we will advertise for you.

Don't forget! If you would like to advertise your local church event with the conference on the Event Calendar and through the conference-hosted list subscriptions, please fill out the form: <https://forms.gle/TftDc1ipxaFhmkaM9>

Robin M. Plemmons, 67, mother of Rev. Joe Plemmons (John Wesley - Front Royal UMC) and mother-in-law of Rev. Rachel Plemmons (Front

Royal UMC) died on May 29, 2025 at Duke Medical Center, Durham, NC. Sympathies may be sent to the Plemmons at 120 Sherwood Avenue, Front Royal, VA 22630.

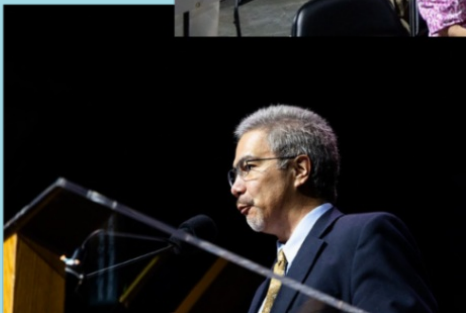
*In
Loving
Memory
of*

Ralph Powell, 97, member of Reliance United Methodist Church, died on June 1, 2025. He was the Chair Council, and member of Trustees, President of UMM and Secretary for the men for many years. He will surely be missed. Sympathy cards may be sent to his widow, Greta, at 1362 Reliance Road, Reliance, VA 22649.

Anna Lee Minnich Newman, 86, member of Saint James United Methodist Church, died June 4, 2025. Anna Lee was a founding member of St. James United Methodist Church (Pleasant Valley) and the St. James's United Women of Faith's first president. She was influential in the lives of many through faith, education, and music. She also served as Support Staff for the former Harrisonburg District in the early 2000's. Sympathies may be sent to husband, Larry, at 240 Sunset Drive, Dayton, VA 22821.



SCENES FROM 2025 VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE





**Retirees from Shenandoah
River District honored at
Annual Conference:**

Rev. Gary Heaton & wife Beth

Rev. Keith Ritchie & wife Paula

Rev. Anne Sisson

NOT PICTURED:

Rev. Lee Crosby & wife Cindy

**Rev. Gordon Meriwether
& wife Dana**



**Congratulations to our
new Lay Supply
Pastors on the
District!**

**Patti Brown
(Shenandoah Valley
Charge)**

**Micah Smartt (First
Church—Timberville)
NOT PICTURED**



**Congratulations to
our Local
Licensed pastors
on the District!**



**Alexis Owens (John
Wesley (HBurg)
and RISE)**

**Elizabeth Dalton
(Stanley)**

**Scott Fury (Paris
Mountain)**



**Congratulations to new Provisional Elders
on our District!**

Taeshin Kim (Warren Charge)

John Rowe, Jr. (Marshall)



**Congratulations to our new
Elders on the District!**

**Eduardo Carrillo (Middleburg
-Rectortown Coop. Parish)**

**Rachel Plemmons
(Front Royal)**

**Bertina Westley
(Stephens City)**



**[Click here to download the 2025-2026 VAUMC Pastoral
Appointments](#)**



**Joshua Foster and the Youth Co-Hort at
Annual Conference 2025**

REPORT FROM OUR YOUTH AT LARGE MEMBER TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025 - JOSHUA FOSTER

From Thursday, June 12th, to Saturday, June 14th, I had the pleasure of attending my third Virginia Annual Conference, which this year was located in Roanoke, Virginia.

While there, we the youth, as a collective group, voted on many different constitutional amendments, as well as participating in various services. I enjoyed my time with the youth cohort because it allowed me to view different perspectives during different events from people who were close to my age. Being able to be around other youth who are glad to be at Conference, not only during the sessions, but also during things like dinner and free time at the hotel, was just such a fun time for me and I know it was for many others as well.

I thank the Shenandoah River District for sending me as one of the youth delegates, and I would love to attend the Conference again next year.

Joshua Foster, Youth Delegate
Shenandoah River District
(Greenwood-Market Street Charge)

HELP WITH REPORTING TO YOUR LOCAL CHURCH ABOUT ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025

The 243rd Session of the Virginia Annual Conference has wrapped. Resources are available for clergy and lay members to aid them in their reports back to their local churches about the annual event.

- **Watch AC 2025 Summary video on YouTube...**
- **Download AC video...**
- **Read AC 2025 report...**
- You can **view photos from the event** at the conference Flickr page.
- You can view all the proceedings of VAUMC 2025 by visiting the **archived livestream of the 243rd session.**
 - Sunday, June 8 **Laity Session**
 - Thursday, June 12, includes
 - **Opening Worship/Session**
 - includes Call to Order, Welcome, Organizing Motions

- **Afternoon Session**
 - includes Scott Erickson Teaching Session, Laity Address, Cabinet Report, Delegation Report, Journey in Understanding Report
- Friday, June 13
 - **Morning Session**
 - includes VUMPI report, Equitable Compensation, Just Compensation, Treasurer's Report, CFA Report
 - **Afternoon Session**
 - includes Service of Remembrance, Voting on Constitutional Amendments
- **Saturday, June 14**
 - includes Awards, Rev. Dr. Edgardo Colon-Emeric Teaching Session, Fixing of Appointments, Service of Call & Ordination

Awards at Annual Conference 2025

There were several awards that were not able to be given during the Annual Conference session.

Lay Denman Award- Lauren Easter, Three Notch'd District

Francis Asbury Award- Mrs. Joan Brock and her late-husband Mr. Macon Brock

Give to AC 2025 Offering

Disaster Response Within and Beyond the VAUMC

Half of the Annual Conference Offering will go to support the work of disaster response in different geographical locations recently affected by disasters: the Western North Carolina Conference in the wake of Hurricane Helene, the Cal-Pac Conference after the LA wildfires, along with supporting the mobilization and response efforts from within the VAUMC. This portion of the Annual Conference Offering will remain available to help support and faithfully respond within the United Methodist connection when the next disaster strikes.

Partnerships of Hope

Partnerships of Hope is one of the ways we live into our worldwide connection as United Methodists. Partnering with people and organizations based in Brazil, Mozambique, Cambodia, Haiti, Vietnam, and Native American Ministries, we seek to respond to the needs of these communities along with engaging a space of mutual learning and resource sharing, recognizing that we are better and stronger when we work together rather than apart. The other half of our Annual Conference offering will go to support these efforts abroad. **Learn more...**

KITS FOR CONFERENCE TOTALS FOR SHENANDOAH RIVER DISTRICT

Thank you, churches, for your donations of Hygiene Kits, Feminine Kits and Cleaning Buckets that were taken to our two drop off locations (Macedonia UMC and Vision of Hope UMC).

Our totals were:

2,388 (Hygiene and Feminine Kits)

119 Cleaning Buckets



MARK YOUR CALENDAR
NEW DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT,
KYUNGSUK CHO'S,
INSTALLATION SERVICE



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH - 2:30 P.M.
AT FRONT ROYAL UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

The event will also be Live-Streamed. More info to come!



DOWNRIVER DEVOTION
Wednesday, July 2nd
and following Wednesdays in the month

Come join us Wednesday mornings
this Summer.
Strasburg Town Park Boat Ramp
8:00 a.m.

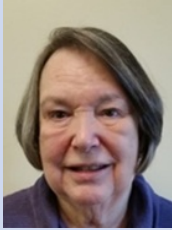
Bring your own kayak, canoe or
borrow one of ours

Hosts: Rev. John Haynes, Jr., Strasburg UMC
and Rev. Gary Heaton,
Kernstown UMC
Email: johnhaynesjr@vaumc.org,
garyheaton@vaumc.org

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 a 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.

From Sue MacTavish, District Librarian
July 2025 featured item:

Questions Jesus Asked: A Six-Week Study in the

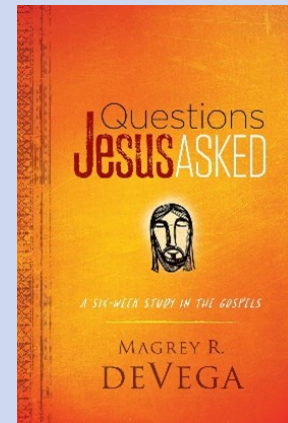


Gospels by Magrey deVega, 2023.

Our “Magrey deVega Summer” continues with the Questions Jesus Asked as the second deVega study for this summer.

Jesus was fond of asking questions, many of which cut right to the heart of what it means to be human. Why are you terrified? What do you live for? Who do you say that I am? In *Questions Jesus Asked*, Magrey deVega explores six of the most provocative questions Jesus posed to others and guides us in answering them for ourselves.

Asking these questions takes courage. Not only do they reveal what Jesus really cares about, they open a window into our hearts. We all have questions for God, but growth happens when we turn things around and ask what Jesus wants to know about us. When we dare to raise them, these questions bring us a fuller appreciation for the wisdom, power, and presence of God in our lives.



Questions Jesus Asked can be read alone or used by small groups, and can be used anytime throughout the year. This 6 session study, can be found in the **Nurture / Spiritual Development section** of the District Library. The library has the Book, Leader's Guide, and DVD.

Click here to see the updated March 2025 listing of books that are in our District Library

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

DISTRICT LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES

Here is a reminder that the fall District Lay Servant Academy will be held on **Saturday, September 13th at Macedonia UMC**, 1941 Macedonia Church Road, White Post, VA 22663.

Classed being offered are:

BASIC COURSE - taught by Rev. Stephen Creech, pastor at Manor Memorial UMC

UNITED METHODIST HERITAGE - taught by Rev. Larry Davies, a retired elder and former district superintendent in the Virginia Conference

LEADING BIBLE STUDIES - taught by Rev. Joel Robinette pastor at Keezletown UMC

LEADING WORSHIP, teacher TBA



The day will **begin at 9:00 a.m.**, with a worship service featuring newly appointed District Superintendent Rev. Kyungsuk Cho.

The Virginia Conference is conducting a virtual Lay Servant Academy on August 15-16. Classes include the Basic Course, a class in Spiritual Gifts, and a class in United Methodist Polity. **Click here for details and registration:**

If you have questions, you can contact Tianna Durbin at tiannad@arcolachurch.org.

We will have more details in the August district newsletter. Registration will begin in early August.

Wendell Cochran,
Co-Chair, District Lay Servant Ministries Committee



The Virginia Annual Conference has concluded and the appointments have been fixed. The Partners in Ministry of the Shenandoah River District would like to welcome our new DS, Rev. Dr. Cho, and all of our new pastors as well as reassigned clergy to their new appointments. A big shout out of preemptive thanks to all those congregations who go out of their way to welcome new pastors and their families. The meal invitations, gift cards and other intentional means of welcome go a long way to make clergy families feel like a part of the fellowship. Your use of name tags and understanding grace are greatly appreciated in those first few months of transition as newly joined pastors and congregations begin mission and ministry together.

Church life in the summertime can sometimes be lackluster. It's even known by the name of Ordinary Time. This definition doesn't exactly mean what we think it does but let's play it out anyhow. There are summer vacations, new pastors, choirs on summer break and a host of other reasons which can make summertime church and worship seem ordinary or lackluster. The Apostle Paul may have had similar issues with some of

July 15, 1968 was the release date (in the U.S.) of The Zombies hit song, *Time of the Season*. Now I wouldn't recommend this song be played during worship time but there is a repeating phrase within its lyrics that should be central to the mission of every single church. *It's the time of the season for loving*. It may interest you to know that by the time this song peaked at #3, on the Billboard Hot 100, the band had already broken up.

My point in saying all of this is that we should always be displaying the love of Jesus to a world in need. Christian love and caring is always in season, even during the lackluster, ordinary times of summer. How can we encourage one another to be "thoughtful and to do helpful things?" The way our churches love their local communities matters. That love, that sharing of the Good News, much like the band, has staying power and may very well outlive our places of worship. So let's encourage one another in the name of Jesus to host VBS, have those special summertime outdoor worship services, take a Sunday off to volunteer at the local youth or senior center. Let us be thoughtful and

the churches in his day because he offered this pep talk when he said in Hebrews 10:24-25 (CEV) **24** *We should keep on encouraging each other to be thoughtful and to do helpful things.* **25** *Some people have given up the habit of meeting for worship, but we must not do that. We should keep on encouraging each other, especially since you know that the day of the Lord's coming is getting closer.*

helpful in sharing God's love with others. Who knows? Maybe if we fill our communities with Christian love those communities just might help to fill our churches on Sunday morning and make it anything but ordinary!

Rev. John Stelzl

*President, Shenandoah River District
PiM*

NEXT SCHEDULED PIM EVENT WILL BE THE WELCOMING PICNIC - SOMETIME THIS SUMMER! WATCH FOR THE DATE!

PiM DUES for full-time clergy are \$40.00 for the year, \$20.00 for part-time clergy, students and retired clergy. We ask each church to consider supporting their pastor monetarily with this expense. Dues and sponsor fees are payable to Shenandoah River District Partners in Ministry to the PiM Treasurer, Scott Fury.

You may also pay directly by clicking here



We are now in the midst of Week 2 of Summer Camp at Overlook. We are learning about and experiencing the work of the Holy Spirit in the early church as well as in our lives today. We have had a great turnout for Day Camp this year with a very full and engaging schedule each day. This week we are offering our Sports and Arts Camp for the first time. There is still room for more to register, so it is not too late. Our last week begins on July 20 for our Chriskids (3rd grade – 6th grade) and Nightflights (8th grade – 12th grade).

There are 2 ways that you can still support our staff this summer. We could use a couple churches/groups/individuals to provide Sunday Lunch (1:00 pm) for the Staff as we gather for the week. You can also contribute to the Partners in Mission (PIM) Fund. This Fund goes to give a little extra to our Summer Staff as they finish up the season. Being a Camp Counselor is not the most lucrative of jobs, as far as pay is concerned, so donations to the PIM allow the staff to get a little bonus as they leave us and go back to school or whatever fall plans they have. If you would like more information about how to support our staff through either of these ways, please reach out to Chad at chadhrbek@vaumc.org.

Our fall is already filling up with retreat groups. So there is not much of a break between the end of Summer Camp and the fall retreat season. If you are interested in coming out to camp for a day or for a retreat, contact us in the Camp Office and see what we have available.

And lastly, we are looking for a Treasurer for our Board of Directors. If you are interested or might know someone, please contact Chad.

Chad Hrbek
Executive Director - Camp Overlook
chadhrbek@vaumc.org
540-269-2267
<https://www.campoverlook.org/>

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH NEWS

It's a very "hot" day! Hard to believe last month was rainy and cool. The flowers and vegetables are bursting with blooms and wonderful growth. Farmers are feeling blessed with good hay and planting season. We transition into another season of God's creation.



We have also transitioned as a church! Annual Conference, celebrating our accomplishments this past year and the promise of plans for a new year, gives us opportunities for united spiritual growth. Some churches are transitioning into new relationships with new pastors.

This is also a time of looking at new events for United Women of Faith. **July 25-27, 2025 is an exciting and inspiring weekend at Mission U 2025.** The theme is "Practicing Hope Together". It will provide a time to gather in fellowship, faith, and hope. **[Click here to register for this event.](#)**

Another event that is sure to inspire you is the southern area **Prayer Breakfast on September 13, 2025.** This is a time to enjoy the musical talents of Laura Douglass and Karen McElfish. More plans and location to follow.

Plans are also coming together for another **Racial Justice event on October 11, 2025.** This is to be held at Laurel Ridge Community College. The authors of the book "Cousins" will share their story. **[Click here to read more about this event.](#)**

As Women of Faith, we continue to learn, grow spiritually, and find hope together. We are the same sisters who are willing to reach beyond our comfort areas to make a difference for another. Our transition may be willingness to attend these well-planned events, that help us grow stronger as women of Faith!

From a poem by Abimbola Alabi "My Victory Song"

I forge on quite resolved. God's at work in me for the best.

I am flawed but fiercely loved, And He is not finished yet.

God's perfect plan for me, I may not fully understand.

But trusting, obeying, I'm grateful to be, handled in His loving hand.

Barbara Phillips, District UWF, Co Vice President



Reconciling
Ministries
Network

RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

Book Recommendation

The Savvy Ally: A Guide for Becoming a Skilled LGBTQ+ Advocate by Jeannie Gainsburg Available on Amazon at

<https://www.amazon.com/Savvy-Ally-Becoming-Skilled-Advocate/dp/B09WWZKBTT>

This book will be useful for teachers, counselors, social workers, nurses, medical technicians, and college professors, as well as parents who want to be supportive of their LGBTQ+ child, but don't know how. This is not a book about why to be an ally. This is a book about how to be an ally. The goal of The Savvy Ally is to create more confident, active allies who are effective advocates for change. This informative, entertaining, and supportive guidebook will surely jump-start even the most tentative ally.

Reconciling Ministries Network Convocation

UNCHARTED:

*Becoming the Church We Need
Right Now*

July 24-27, 2025

Virtual Tickets Available

\$55.20 incl. \$5.20 Fee

Sales end on Jul 13, 2025



<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rmn-convocation-uncharted-becoming-the-church-we-need-right-now-tickets-1290305260769?aff=oddtcreator>

Shenandoah River District Mission Central Clothes Closet

Physical location: 1704 Smithland Road, Harrisonburg, VA 22802

Mailing address: Post Office Box 2026, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Website: <http://missioncentralharrisonburgva.com/mission-central/>

PHONE NUMBER FOR MISSION CENTRAL: 540-929-1688

**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 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

MISSION CENTRAL - CHILDREN'S CLOTHES CLOSET

Hello everyone, and welcome to
summer! We continue to have a steady

Clothes Closet



stream of clients coming for clothes and diapers and are staying very busy. We are still working on the new deck, currently waiting on an inspection of the footers. When that is completed, we would be so grateful for any help offered to complete the ramp. If you are interested and

available, please contact Artie Frederick at (301) 712-8310. Thank you!

We hope to meet this month with our new district superintendent to introduce ourselves and to discuss future plans for Mission Central. Until then, from all of us at the Children's Clothes Closet, to all of you – we wish you a happy 4th of July and many blessings as we celebrate our nation's birthday!

Donna Tinsley, 703-472-8101

Shenandoah River District Equipment for Caring

Physical Location: 8335 North Valley Pike, Rockingham, VA 22802

PHONE NUMBER FOR EQUIPMENT FOR CARING: 540-404-1159

**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.**

EQUIPMENT FOR CARING

Welcome to the hot days of summer. We are experiencing 90+ degree temperatures as I write this and appreciate the fans since there is no air conditioning in our Equipment for Caring rooms.

We had 75 individuals come during the month of May to get medical equipment and supplies and our volunteers gave over 68 hours of their time to provide for our community. This involves cleaning, safety checks and being a resource and support and listening ear for those dealing with health change and caregiver needs.

During May we loaned out 2 hospital beds with mattresses and side rails, 12 bedside commodes and 29 walkers (some of which went to Village to Village for Ukraine). We loaned out 9 wheelchairs and 5 transport chairs, 8 rollators along with 1 motorized chair and 1 sit to stand and 2 Hoyer lifts. We gave out over 1000 incontinence supplies as well as wound care supplies and skin care products. The need is ongoing and we are grateful for a community that gives and supports this ministry.

If you would like to know more or volunteer, please get in touch with us or come by to see what we are about.

CHECK US OUT AT:

**www.missioncentralharrisonburgva.com or
<https://www.shenandoahriverdistrict.org/mission-central>
and Facebook**



Contact Delores Reid, 540-404-1159

Know Your Rights

Resources and Action Items

Immigration Law and Justice Network (ILJN)

There is some helpful information below to assist you in your work to seek justice as United Methodists.

First, ILJN has a Know Your Rights Toolkit [here on their website](#) that was updated in May 2025.

Next, there is the Immigration Justice Teach-In Series from the General Board of Church and Society and the General Board of Global Ministries.

Finally, this Friday is World Refugee Day. It is an opportunity to advocate for refugees to our elected representatives - Church World Service shows us how.

Let us continue to help sustain each other in this work to which we have been called - in prayer, information, and encouragement.

Sincerely,
Rev. Dr. Giovanni Arroyo
General Secretary
General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR)

Immigration Justice Teach-In Series

The General Board of Church and Society and the General Board of Global Ministries invite you to participate in a virtual Immigration Justice Teach-In Series every **Wednesday June 18-July 16, 2025, from 12 noon – 1pm, Eastern Time**. The webinars will feature speakers and tools to equip you and your congregation as our neighbors, friends, and family members continue to be impacted by ICE operations and executive orders. Each webinar requires registration.

Immigration as Racial Justice
July 9, 2025 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
[Register Here](#)

Immigration Justice as Collective Care
July 16, 2025 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
[Register Here](#)



Click on the button below to view the various Grants offered through the Virginia Annual Conference and others

[Grants](#)



RANDOLPH-MACON
ACADEMY

THE POWER OF RISE

Quick Facts About Randolph Macon Academy

Founded in 1892

Maintains its covenant with the United Methodist Church

Upper School (Grades 8-12) instruction available

Co-educational, private school with a focus on university-prep curriculum, military values, and leadership development

Day and Boarding School options available

Weekly Chapel Service and Bible Study with active, regular student participation

Frequent service and mission opportunities

Interfaith dialogue

Student-centered holistic education

100% university acceptance rate

19 Advanced Placement and 10 Dual-Enrolled Classes

Visit us at www.RMA.edu for more information or contact the Academy Chaplain, Rev. Monica Reynolds at

MONICA REYNOLDS

CHAPLAIN

MREYNOLDS@RMA.edu | www.RMA.edu | 540.636.5200

200 Academy Drive, Front Royal, VA 22630



KINGSWAY PRISON AND FAMILY OUTREACH

I had the opportunity to attend the Re-entry Fair held at Cold Springs Correctional Center in May. It was eye opening. As Vicki Barb, Louise Jennings and I sat in a room with about 20 other organizations, men entered the room in waves, similar to the waves breaking on the seashore. We made some good contacts with men looking for assistance as they prepared to take part in the outside world once again. We had warm conversations as we listened to their plans for life outside the walls that had been their home for months and years. I loved being part of the Re-entry Fair and look forward to going next time!

Then there were those other guys. As they looked around the room, their eyes skimmed over the Kingsway logo with the purple cross and refused to make eye contact, even as they stood right in front of our table. I thought about this during a lull between groups.

Kingsway **IS** a Christian organization. We don't apologize for that. Does being a Christian organization mean that we only assist people who claim to be Christians too? **NO!** Just as the great hospitals here in the United States were formed by Christians because they believed that everyone should have access to medical help, Kingsway, being a Christian organization, **informs** how we interact with people. The biblical principles of love, forgiveness and second chances define how Kingsway helps everyone we encounter. Is confessing Christ a requirement for help? **No!** Can someone who is searching for a different way come to know God better through their contact with Kingsway? **OH, I PRAY THAT THEY DO!**

1 Corinthians 1:18 recently reminded me that ***THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS IS FOOLISHNESS TO THOSE THAT ARE PERISHING, BUT TO US WHO ARE BEING SAVED, IT IS THE POWER OF GOD.***

Not everyone stopped by our Kingsway table, and not everyone who encounters the cross is going to be transformed and have their lives changed. **BUT** we keep offering the cross of Christ, knowing that for those tired of being tossed around by the angry waves of life, it is the lifeline that their souls have been crying out for!

Paula S. Ford

Executive Director

540-433-5658

Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach

email us at info@kingswayoutreach.org

Click here to download the July 2025 Kingsway Banner Newsletter



THE FOUNDATION

The Foundation Ledger is a quarterly newsletter produced by the Virginia United Methodist Foundation. It includes a variety of stories and up-to-date information intended for the clergy and laity of the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Click here to read the Spring 2025 Quarterly Newsletter



Email subscriptions

You can find jobs available around the connection at the **conference website** or by subscribing to the **jobs newsletter** (released twice a week).

See all VAUMC subscriptions **at the link.**

Public Notice Board

Clergy and laity can crowdsource for ideas and resources within the connection through the Public Notice Board. Find the newest notices and share

Featured

Find churches and individuals giving away free items by subscribing to the [Top 5 newsletter](#) or visiting the [conference website](#).

your question or find past queries at the [conference website](#).

Also find free items for giveaway at the conference website.

Please send in questions you have that you would like to find answers to: Communications@vaumc.org.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

Looking for an opportunity to serve and have a dynamic impact on men's ministry in the Virginia Conference?

The Virginia Conference United Methodist Men Cabinet has an open position for Vice President, Membership & Development for the 2025-2026 term that begins July 1, 2025. Please prayerfully consider this position as a way of serving the men of the Virginia Conference.

The Vice President, Membership & Development is a key Cabinet member who assists the President, District points of contact, and local men's fellowships with organizing, chartering, and promoting men's ministry in the Virginia Conference. Please click [here](#) for the full job description.

If you have questions or are interested in serving as the Vice President, Membership & Development, please contact Albert Weal, Jr. at mastercook3@cox.net or 757-677-6096.



One of our new programs "Knees@Noon" a daily prayer initiative each Friday at Noon. [Click here to read more information about this program.](#)

We are also continuing our \$10.00 per men campaign. We are asking each man in the Conference to contribute \$10.00 to help us support the various groups stated in the link below. This is our only means of income to support numerous VAC organizations.

The Virginia Annual Conference UMM newsletter, the Beacon, is being published now quarterly. We are encouraging all men to subscribe to the Beacon to keep updated on our events and news. Click on the links below to read "The Beacon" and subscribe.

[Click here to download form for Points of Contact](#)

[Click Here to download \\$10.00 Giving per Man Information](#)

[Click here to go to the Virginia Conference United Methodist Men's website](#)



[Click here to read the latest issue of "The Beacon,"](#) a newsletter from the Virginia Conference of United Methodist Men.

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](#)

If you have any questions, please contact the district office. Applications need to be in the District Office by the deadlines.

BISHOPS UNVEIL VISION FOR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Taking inspiration from Scripture, bishops and other denominational leaders, have developed a new vision statement for The United Methodist Church. The vision states: **“The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.”**

[Click here to learn more](#)

MINNEAPOLIS CHOSEN FOR 2028 GENERAL CONFERENCE

United Methodist organizers plan to make good on the original location of the COVID-delayed 2020 lawmaking assembly. They also hope to make up the budget deficit from earlier sessions.

[Click here to learn more about General Conference 2028](#)

If you would like to have an article included 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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