



Winchester District E - News March 2020

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Reflections on the Church and the Coronavirus



Dear Winchester District
Family,

Like most of us, I have been attentively watching the developing worldwide story of the Coronavirus. Each day is bringing new developments and a higher level of concern for both professionals in the

scientific/medical communities and all of us in the general populace. For me, the impact really hit “home” last Friday when I went to Walmart and noticed that they had been nearly wiped out of flu medications and hand sanitizers.

But what about the Coronavirus and the Church, especially the ministry of the local church and extension ministries?

First, I encourage you to think back on what happened after another unexpected challenging season in our nation and world, the tragedy of 9/11 when 2,977 people were killed in New York City, Washington, DC and outside of Shanksville, Pennsylvania in a terrorist attack on American soil. As many of you will recall, our church attendances significantly increased in the aftermath of the horrific occurrence. The simple lesson – ***people seek comfort and meaning through faith when their lives are shaken.***

Like 9/11, this is a season when our faith will be like a light in darkness, a beacon of hope when there is despair, and a place of solid solace in the turmoil of unknowingness. The proclamations we offer through Word, Sacrament, and Service are a balm of eternal Good News when the temporal seems so fleetingly transient. So, friends *Be the Church!* Show

radical hospitality wherever you are and however you are being the Church in the world. People need the Light you shine in Jesus, your word of eternal hope, and the experience of your peace that passes all understanding... especially now in the turmoil of this potential pandemic.

Second, remember that it is in our Wesleyan ethos to care for our bodies as well as our minds and souls. John Wesley fervently believed that we should do all that we can to maintain our physical well-being. The Scripture affirms that our bodies are “the temple of the Holy Spirit.” [see 1 Corinthians 6:19] In light of the health challenges the Coronavirus presents, I encourage you, as a brother or sister in Christ, to faithfully attend to your personal and community care until this health issue is resolved or stabilized with a vaccine and/or established protocols.

To that end, I encourage you to click [HERE](#) and read the attached four-page document. This document was composed by The Rev. Dr. Sarah Calvert, the Arlington District Superintendent. DS Calvert gave me permission to share it with you. I think it offers great information and solid “best practices” on ways in which we can address the Coronavirus as a people and as the Church.

Most importantly, let us all hold fast to the words of the Apostle Paul:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

[Philippians 4:4-9, NRSV]

Blessings and Thanks for Each of You,

DS Steve

A Time of Dialogue and Dessert for Laity

All Laity are invited to a time of conversation with District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Steve Summers and the District Lay Leaders. It is our hope in the Winchester District that everyone has an opportunity to discuss whatever is on their minds

concerning the life of the church. It is helpful for all to keep in fellowship during times of uncertainty. As we look to our Lord for answers, we must keep in the spirit of love for one another, and in faith that God will reveal to our hearts, God's peaceful plan through conversations. *Help us to be reconciled to one another, we pray... we desire unity in Jesus name.*
See you there!

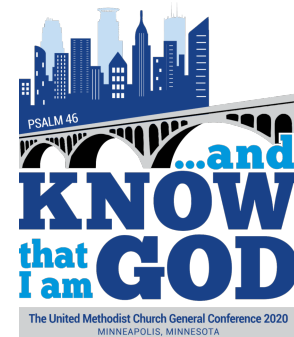
March 8 Brucetown UMC,
2161 Brucetown Rd. Clear Brook, VA 3:00-5:00

March 22 Bethany UMC
100 West Main St. Pucellville, VA 3:00-5:00

April 26 Kernstown UMC
3239 Valley Pike, Winchester, VA 3:00-5:00

The Winchester District Clergy Association has had on their calendar a Town Hall for the Clergy of the District on May 26 following General Conference. The Clergy will then be asked to share the information they learn with the laity of their churches.

Everyone is asked to review information about General Conference through the United Methodist News Service. <https://www.umnews.org/en/category/general-conference>



District Clergy Meeting Calendar

March 10 - Meet at Market St. UMC. We will be working at C-CAP in the morning and then serving lunch. Please plan to arrive no later than 9:45 am.
April 9 - Holy Monday Lunch, Bowling Green North, Country Club. 12:00 pm.
May 26 - General Conference Review, Braddock Street UMC

The **District Committee on Congregational Excellence** has created videos, with the help of the Conference Communications staff, with introductions from the different members. These videos can be found on the [Winchester District website](#) under Videos. We hope this will help congregations understand how we are able to assist in the different ministry areas throughout the Winchester District.

District Mission News

District Mission Update:

****April Rebuilding Trip - 4/17 to 20, 2020 Tarboro, NC**
We need adult team members and professional construction leaders. Please reach out to Joann Ballard or Charles Drake for more information
jballard1902@gmail.com or crebdrake@comcast.net

****District Wide Day of Service - Potato Drop Saturday, October 24, 2020**

Please mark your calendars now to help pack up 40K pounds of potato's for those in need. We are also looking for a **few people to help coordinate and lead** the event with the District Mission Team. If interested, please reach out to Joann Ballard at jballard1902@gmail.com



United Methodist Volunteers In Mission Team Leader Training

Have you ever wanted to lead a team on one of the rebuilding trips?
You must be certified by UMVIM training.
The next team leader training date is **March 28 at Ebenezer UMC in Stafford**.
For more information and to register: <https://www.vaumc.org/umvimtraining>



Mission Trailer

Taking a team on mission this year and needing 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 to take it, but we'd love to see the trailer go out more this year! To reserve the trailer, please contact [Joann Ballard](#), District Mission Chair.

[Click Here to Go to the District Mission Facebook Page](#)

Events across the District and Conference

Virginia Annual Conference 2020 June 18 - 20, 2020 Roanoke, VA

All Housing will be done online this year. The link was opened up on Feb. 26. If you are planning to attend Annual Conference and would like to make a reservation, follow this link: [Annual Conference Hotels](#).
More information about Annual Conference can be found at <https://www.vaumc.org/AC2020>



Orientation for the Winchester District will be on May 31st at Duncan Memorial UMC, Berryville at 3:00. Stipends for District Delegates will be distributed at this time.



Mark your calendar now for this Winchester District United Methodist Men Event

September 10 – Bill Owen Memorial Golf Tournament at Shenandoah Valley Golf Club – 9:00 AM

Mark your calendars



for the 2020 Conference Lay Servant Academy

Friday, July 17 – Sunday,
July 19

at Randolph-Macon College Ashland, Virginia

Course listings and registration will be available in March.

This Year's Theme is:
God's Work, Our Hands

Summer Opportunities



Overlook Outdoor Ministries - Camp Overlook

Start planning for the summer by registering your child/grandchild for a week at Camp Overlook. This year the theme is "Paul's Missionary Journeys". There are programs for children and youth Kindergarten (Day Camp) - 11th Grade (Adventure Quest & Night Flights).

This summer campers will journey with Paul as he shares the gospel message! They will learn what it means to be a missionary and get their hands dirty as each group will undertake a mission project around camp. They will learn about Roman times at a lake party complete with Roman games. They will also learn to keep their faith as they are imprisoned with Paul and miraculously set free! These stories will come to life through games, bible studies, and skits by the staff and campers. They will also enjoy normal camp activities like arts and crafts, swimming in the lake, campfires, s'mores, and singing. Through the Thursday night worship will continue to learn what it means to be a servant as we participate in a meaningful hand-washing service.

Click on the logo above to be directed to more information about the summer programs and to register. There are early bird, family, and group discounts available.

Applications and Nominations for Shenandoah University Youth Theology Institute Are OPEN!



Do you have a current high schooler in your life who is ready to learn about how their faith in Jesus Christ calls them to live and be in the world in a way that seeks justice? Nominate and encourage them to apply for the Shenandoah University Youth Theology Institute! SUYTI is a two-week, credit-bearing program for any young person who is currently in high school (that is, any student who will be a rising sophomore through recent high school graduate this summer). Students spend one week on SU's campus in Winchester and one week on the campus of Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC, and through a daily rhythm of worship, academic study, experiential and service learning, and (of course) sabbath

rest, learn to become stronger Christian leaders in their local communities. The 2020 Institute will run from July 19-August 1, 2020, and thanks to a grant from the Lilly Endowment, we are able to give your student all that SUYTI has to offer (room and board, program expenses, and three college credits) to our cohort members at a cost of only \$200 per student. To nominate a student or to apply, visit our website at www.su.edu/youththeology. For more information, contact Ian Urriola, Director of the SUYTI, by calling (540) 665-5453 or e-mailing yti@su.edu.



Excitement for Convergence:

A High School Youth Theology Institute on Faith and Science at Randolph-Macon College is heating up! Don't let your rising 10th, 11th, or 12th grade

students miss out on this phenomenal opportunity to explore the connection between Christian faith and mainstream science in classroom, laboratory, and outdoor experiences throughout the region.

Convergence 2020 will be held June 20-28, 2020. Thanks to a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment, the cost to participate is only \$400 for this nine-day program. Additionally, participants who complete the nine-day camp and are accepted into Randolph-Macon will receive a \$1,000 annual scholarship to the College for each year they participated in Convergence.

Last year's Convergence program brought 38 outstanding high school students from the U.S. and the Philippines to Randolph-Macon's campus, including 34 youth from Virginia Conference congregations.

To nominate a participant, please [click here](#) to fill out the nomination form. When the nomination is received, the Convergence staff will contact your nominee with further information. To apply for Convergence, please [click here](#).

For questions or additional information about the program, please contact Rev. Kendra Grimes or Jamie Grant at convergence@rmc.edu or (804) 412-2038.



All God's Children Camp looking for mentors this summer:

All God's Children Camp is looking for mentors to volunteer one week at summer camp for 2020. All God's Children Camp is a camp for children ages 7-12 with an incarcerated parent. The children get to spend a week at overnight camp where; through bible study, worship

and devotions, that they are somebody and that God truly loves them. They also participate in all the activities camp has to offer (archery, swimming, paddle boarding, canoeing, fishing and much more). Please consider giving a week of your time this summer and come be a mentor with us at camp! For more information, contact Lori Smith at lttlelori@gmail.com or 571-245-9591. You can also check out www.vaumc.org/agcc for forms and other information. The weeks are below:

June 14-19 (Camp Chanco on the James)
July 26-July 31 (Ocochannock on the Bay)
August 9-14 (Camp Chance on the James)

Experience the JOY of Service this summer with REACH

(Real Experiences Affecting Change)

REACH Summer Service Camp, Internships & Counselor Positions, Escape From Poverty Room, & Neighborhood Revitalization Project.

Don't let money concerns keep you from serving - REACH can make it work for you.

Call Tim anytime with your questions at 540-529-9200

Or go to the website REACHinRoanokeVA.org



Job Opportunities on and near the District



From the Bishop

2020 Bible Challenge

Bishop Lewis has been encouraging the clergy and laity of the Virginia Conference to read the Bible in a year since 2017. Each year has featured a different way of reading.

- 2017- read the Bible straight through
- 2018- read the Bible chronologically
- 2019- read the Bible in a blended style; a mixture of Old Testament readings and New Testament each day.

For 2020, Bishop Lewis is challenging the entire conference to read the Bible with a thematic reading plan.

The thematic plan is found on www.intentionalbygrace.com and Bishop Lewis has

selected the following themes below for 2020. Links are provided below as well to access the Bible readings for each theme .

- January 22- February 11 (21-day plan): [Knowing God](#)
- February 12- March 3 (21-day plan): [Intentional Living](#)
- March 4- March 24 (21-day plan): [Redemption](#)
- March 25- April 14 (21-day plan): [Fruit of the Spirit: Love](#)
- April 15- May 5 (21-day plan): [Fruits of the Spirit: Joy](#)
- May 6- May 26 (21-day plan): [Fruit of the Spirit: Peace](#)
- May 27- June 16 (21-day plan): [Fruit of the Spirit: Patience](#)
- June 17- July 7 (21-day plan): [Fruit of the Spirit: Kindness](#)
- July 8- July 28 (21-day plan): [Fruit of the Spirit: Goodness](#)
- July 29- August 18 (21-day plan): [Fruit of the Spirit: Faithfulness](#)
- August 19- September 8 (21-day plan): [Fruit of the Spirit: Gentleness](#)
- September 9- September 29: [Fruit of the Spirit: Self-Control](#)
- September 30- October 20: [Trust](#)
- October 21- November 10: [Mercy](#)
- November 11–December 1: [Bearing Fruit](#)
- December 2-December 23: [Cares of this world](#)
- December 24- January 13: [Rest](#)

There are 18 plans to cover this year. Each is 21 days long. Start at the beginning and work through the year (and a few days into January 2021)!

In this new year, challenge yourself to study the Bible and strengthen your faith in the process.

Tips on reading the Bible daily:

- Start reading the Bible today.
- Set aside a specific time and place each day. Set your schedule and then stick to it. Mornings are great; but feel free to use any time that works consistently with your schedule.
- Get a good study Bible to help to illuminate the meaning of the original Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek text.
- Choose a translation to use during your reading.
- Say a short prayer to God before you begin, asking the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and understanding.
- Dive in and enjoy the richness of God's Word! Apply God's Word to your life. Bible study should be practical and applicable. These seven steps will help you begin a journey in becoming a "lifelong learner" of God's Word.

[Click here to link to Virginia Conference web page about the Bible Challenge.](#)

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