



Winchester District E - News March 2019

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A Word from our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Steve Summers



Earlier this week I had the opportunity to preach. The text that I choose, or better said — the text that chose me, was Jeremiah 17:5-10 (the Old Testament lectionary scripture for the Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany). I invite you to read these powerful scriptures by clicking [here](#).

God spoke these words through the prophet Jeremiah during a very difficult time for the children of God. They found themselves in exile... in a foreign land named Babylon filled with social, political, and religious upheaval.

They felt unsettled and unrooted. It's not hard for us to make some modern day connections to their story as we hear our daily news reports. The world still seems so broken. The adjective I used in my message to describe the zeitgeist of our postmodern time was *disequilibrium*.

The prophet's words take a pivotal positive shift in verse seven — *"Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord."* I'm still pondering the difference between being one who trusts *in* the Lord and one *"whose trust is the Lord."* To me the first seems to be a desired and good thing, but the second is profoundly deeper. To say my "trust is the Lord" is to say "I'm ALL in - 100% sold-out for God... no matter what comes my way." It is to, in the words of the Apostle Paul, *"...present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."* [Romans 12:1b]

What are the results of this kind of trust? Jeremiah tells us with poetic powerful words; *"They shall be like a tree planted by the water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when the heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit."* [Jeremiah 17:8]

I can't imagine the comfort these words brought God's exiled people in Babylon. They bring us hope and promise as well during these anxious challenging unsettled times. May we be planted with deep roots of faith as our trust is the Lord. Such a planted-ness is not dependent on outward circumstances but affords us an Holy equilibrium... *shalom*... based upon God's steadfast love for humankind — thanks be to God!

In Christ's Service,



Special 2019 General Conference Information

The Council of Bishops has called a Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church to be held **February 23-26, 2019** in St. Louis, Missouri.

The purpose will be to act on a report from the Council of Bishops based on the recommendations of the [Commission on a Way Forward](#).

The 32-member Commission was appointed to examine paragraphs in The Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and exploring options to strengthen the unity of the church.

More information about the General Conference can be found on the Virginia Conference [webpage](#).

Bishop Lewis will present a post-General Conference Live Stream on **March 4** beginning at 10:00 a.m. Information about the live stream will be shared as details become clearer.

Bishop Sharma Lewis will be holding her Chat 'n Chew sessions around the conference with clergy and laity once again in 2019. The Winchester District's session will be on March 23, 2019 at St. Paul's UMC in Staunton.

Time to be announced.
Please reserve this date!





9:30AM - 3:30PM
BRADDOCK STREET UMC
115 WOLFE STREET
WINCHESTER, VA 22601

A Vision Day is a one-day training event that provides an opportunity to discover what it means to be the Church in new and creative ways, hear from Fresh Expressions practitioners, learn how to renew existing congregations through fresh expressions of church, and discern what this could mean for your region, community, or neighborhood. There is active discussion as well as opportunity to build networks and relationships among those in your area.

REGISTER TODAY

FreshExpressionsUS.org/event/VisionDayWinchester

\$25/person for affiliates of the Virginia Conference of the UMC
\$35/person General Admission

registration includes lunch
A .5 CEU will be available.



[Click here form more information and to Register for the Event](#)

District Mission News

Mission Team Leaders

If you have been certified to lead mission teams and you are interested in using those skills in 2019, we are looking for team leaders to take teams down to Danville and possibly North Carolina in the next twelve months. Interested leaders are encouraged to contact Joanna Dietz to set up a time to lead a team down.

Joanna@braddockstreetumc.org



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 Joanna Dietz at

Joanna@braddockstreetumc.org

Hallelujah Moments!!

Round Hill UMC (Loudoun) sponsored a Women's Spiritual Growth and Evangelism Seminar on Saturday, February 9th. The seminar featured Rev. Lindsey Baynham, Associate Director for Call, Candidacy and Discernment for the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church. Thirty-three women from as far as Philadelphia, Glen Allen, and Front



Royal gathered to enjoy a day of refreshment, learning, service, fellowship, networking, wonderful food, and fun. With context set during talks by Rev. Baynham, each completed a Spirit Gifts personal survey, using Patricia Brown's assessment format. There were small group discussions, large group sharing, and time for agape crafts to take home and share with others. The Holy Spirit was active and alive, inspiring and challenging each one to embrace, develop and use her individual spiritual gifts to bless others, and lead others to Christ.

"Let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven." - Matthew 5:16 (CEB)

Summer Opportunities for Children & Youth



JULY 14-27 2019

Shenandoah University's Youth Theology Institute is an intensive two-week program designed to help rising high school sophomores, juniors and seniors become better leaders through deep and thought-provoking experiences. During the course of the two weeks, daily rhythms of academic study and religious reflection will be balanced with immersive experiences. Students will be exposed to different faith



Convergence:

Where Faith and Science Meet is a 9-day program (June 22-30, 2019) that allows rising 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students to come to Randolph-Macon's campus in Ashland, Virginia and learn about the intersection of science and Christian faith. They will dive deeper into their religious beliefs, deeper into the study of science, and will meet other high school students and Randolph-Macon College student leaders with those same interests. There will be time in the classroom and outdoor experiences throughout the region. The

traditions, service opportunities and a mixture of rural, wilderness and urban contexts at Shenandoah's Winchester campus, its Shenandoah River Campus at Cool Spring and the Wesley Theological Seminary campus in Washington, D.C.

The Youth Theology Institute is also a 3-credit undergraduate course taught by engaging religion faculty and focused on exploring Christian vocation in the 21st century. Upon their successful completion of the program, students receive credit for the course at Shenandoah University.

Most importantly, the Youth Theology Institute will help students discern their vocations in the midst of our ever-changing world. Contact the Director of the Shenandoah University Youth Theology Institute Rev. Colleen Hallagan Preuninger at (540) 665-5453 or cpreunin@su.edu.

[More information available here.](#)

cost to participate is only \$250 for this 9-day program. Upon high school graduation, if a Convergence participant chooses to attend Randolph-Macon, they will receive a \$1,000 annual scholarship for each year they participated in Convergence.

Please visit the [website to learn more about the program](#). If you would like to nominate a participant, [click here](#) to fill out the nomination form, and the Convergence staff will contact your nominee with further information. The application form for participants is available [here](#).

Contact Laura Ruxton at convergence@rmc.edu with any questions.



Time to Register for Summer Camp at Camp Overlook. Click on the the logo to the left for information about the different programs and to register.

Events across the District and Conference



Marriage Enrichment Weekend

the art of **marriage**
Getting to the Heart of God's Design



March 22-23, 2019

Kernstown United Methodist Church

KUMC Members Early Registration Deadline:
February 10, 2019

Open Registration: February 10-March 10, 2019

Whether you have been married for a few months or have celebrated a 50th anniversary — or anywhere in between — this weekend is for you.

Marriage, the way God intended it to be, is a true art form. “The Art of Marriage”, led by Pastor Kevin C. James and his wife Brenda, weaves together expert teachings, real-life stories, humorous vignettes, and small group opportunities in order to illuminate the challenges and the beauty of God’s design.

Enrollment for the group will be limited to 20 couples.

Cost: \$61.00 per couple, fee includes three meals
and one workbook

\$72.00 per couple with two notebooks

When: March 22-23, 2019

Friday: 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am – 3:30 pm

Where: Kernstown United Methodist Church



Saturday, April 6, 9 AM to 5 PM
Rock Spring United Methodist Church
1655 Rock Spring Rd., Faber, VA 22938
Cost: \$20.00

Advanced Courses Offered:

Called to Preach!

Living our United Methodist Beliefs
Life Together in the United Methodist Connection
(Polity)

QUESTIONS?

Contact Charlottesville District Lay Servant Ministries Director: Tim Worley, (434) 882-0942 or TimWorley@vaumc.org or Charlottesville District Office (434) 977-4254



From the
Bishop

2019 Bible Challenge

Since 2017, Bishop Lewis has been encouraging the Virginia Conference to read the Bible in a year. Each year has featured a different way of reading.

- 2017- read the Bible straight through
- 2018- read the Bible chronologically

For 2019, the Bible Challenge will be a blended style of reading; a mixture of Old Testament readings and New Testament each day. In this new year, challenge yourself to study the Bible and strengthen your faith in the process. Each month's readings will also be printed in each *Advocate* issue.

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. I assure you that these seven steps will help you begin a journey in becoming a "lifelong learner" of God's Word.

[Click here for Monthly Readings](#)

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