



DISTRICT NEWS

A Newsletter of The Harrisonburg District • Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church

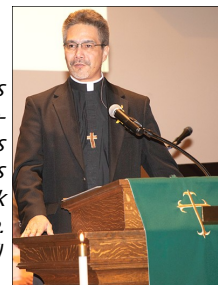
May 2020

Issue 47-5

From Your District Superintendent:

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me - put into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."

- Philippians 4:6-9 (NIV)



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

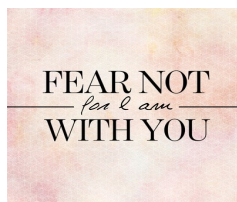
Recently, I came across a commercial from Godaddy called "Open We Stand." You can follow the link at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DsSQos5QI6Y> I hope you get the opportunity to watch this video, but in the meantime let me paraphrase the words. "Open! Do you remember having that feeling for the first time, the first Sunday you preached in a church? The first Sunday you were greeted by your new parishioners? The first Church Council meeting you had? The first confirmation class you taught, the first visitation you had in the hospital, the first baptism of a baby, the first new member received in the church you served, the first wedding, the first funeral? Open, do you remember the night before you open? Who could ever sleep. . . Open. But there is a different question we are asking now, are you going to remain open even when the doors of our churches are closed? Open, that is how we show who we are, and there is another way to be open, to pull together or push depending on the door and we are making it work, and we will continue to make it work, together because open we stand."

I have to confess to you that these past few weeks have been somewhat difficult. I am sure some of you can relate to that. Sometimes I wake up thinking that the nightmare is now over. I wake up thinking that it was all but a bad dream, and I am ready to return to the ways things were before. I simply wake up hoping that everything will come back to normal or at least the way I thought it was normal. But, what is normal anyway?

I have often said: "The church has left the building." Perhaps normal was to have an inward focus of church. Perhaps normal was to take care of our own first, before we extended our hands to those in need. Perhaps normal has been making members, instead of making disciples of Jesus Christ. Perhaps normal was to remain within the four walls of the church buildings. Perhaps, normal was trying to control the Holy Spirit! How naïve! Trying to control the Holy Spirit?

The church has left the building! And now the "normal" is changing before our very eyes. Paul reminds the Philippians: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" Paul is telling us to always rejoice.

Perhaps normal has been allowing fear to take over. Paul also reminds to the Philippians: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation. . . see Paul reminds us that in EVERY situation and that includes this COVID-19 by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." I think fear many times is our worst enemy, and I am right there as I have fear. We face fear almost every day! But Paul reminds us "Do not be anxious about anything."



God places the best things in life on the other side of fear. Paul says: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

The question isn't can you handle the situation. Can you handle being on the other side of fear? The question is, can you handle your mind? Can you manage the thoughts and the emotions that are trying to poison your progress? Forget managing the situation, manage your mind. Training your mind to sit calmly where the fears are present and give them to God. "Do not be anxious about anything." And Finally, says Paul. .

"brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me - put into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."

Brothers and sisters, the Church is not closed. The Church is open. Look! It is in your hands right now, but we must be on the other side of fear. The Church has left the building. Pass it on! Amen.

In Christ, Victor

Congregational

Vitality

From the District Director of Congregational Vitality Gordon Meriwether:

"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. . ."

I Peter 3:15



"RELAUNCH TO GLORY!"

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Under the current social distancing requirements in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the guidance of Bishop Lewis our churches are shuttered, all events are cancelled, schools are closed with home schooling in its stead. . .I could go on. . .but why bother. . .you know what's going on. . .we are quarantined for the foreseeable future. From what I have seen, the pastors, staff, and congregations are doing a great job adapting to the strangeness of ministry in this new wilderness. We are finding new ways to do church. Great! But are we ready for whatever comes next?

What does come next? I attended a Virginia Conference meeting of developers like me (on Zoom, of course) on April 21st. The guest speaker, Rev. Paul Nixon, was discussing the re-launch of our churches following the "all clear". He borrowed a quote from Tony Campolo who said if 1955 comes back, we in the church will be ready. Instead Rev. Nixon offered, "If 2019 comes back after the pandemic we are ready. But it's not coming back." We are in the middle of a reinvention of the church forced on us by this pandemic. And to further aggravate the situation, we are faced with pending social upheaval within the church and a forecasted 2nd and 3rd wave of this pandemic. We are not going back. So what do we do to ready the church?



I am certainly not the soothsayer that can predict and counsel the church on a new way forward, but I can report what I see. There has been a lot of good regarding the church in isolation. We are communicating using the technical gifts of society. Some would say we are getting closer, because it is not just a Sunday morning worship in the Sanctuary, but rather a presence in each of our homes, reaching out to each other, sharing needs and concern. But we still haven't answered the question, "what's tomorrow look like?"

That is anyone's guess. We are spending a lot of brain power and prayer time trying to figure it out. And it is difference for every church, small/medium/large, urban/small town/rural, progressive/moderate/conservative/traditional/contemporary or any combination of the aforementioned.

I truly believe this transition is an opportunity to break the mold on doing church, to free our ministry from the constraints that are holding us back in this changing world: the limitations of a building-based ministry, using modern means to connect with each other, look after each other as an expanded community, broaden our local mission orientation, touch those who would never set foot in the church and offer them a home in Jesus Christ, and reach out into neighborhoods to identify the true needs of the community.

When I read all these (and I am sure there are many more), and I see WITNESS. . .witnessing the Good News to those who are in such dire need, witnessing to our brothers and sisters to build fellowship, witnessing in our prayer and study groups, witnessing the love of Christ throughout our communities. This witnessing of God, and for God, and with God during this time of abject poverty of the soul, this time of grief and loss, can re-launch a realigned church focused on the future, a future of prosperity and growth with new tools to match the times ahead. This pandemic, as tragic and heartbreaking as it is, could rebirth the church as last seen in the days of Luther's *Reformation* or Whitfield's *Great Awakening*.

My Brothers and Sisters, it is not a time for cowering and remorse, but one of hope and passion for the ministry of Jesus Christ here in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and around the world. In these perilous times if our churches in the Harrisonburg District but witness to the truth that Christ is risen, Jesus is Lord, can anyone or anything deny us as we re-launch to Glory? So Be It.

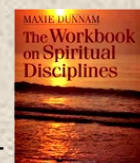
In Christ, Gordon



From Sue MacTavish, District Librarian

May 2020 Featured Item:

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES by Maxie Dunnam, 1990



During this 'stay at home time', I thought it might be a good time to brush up on and review our Spiritual Disciplines. Maxie Dunnam's workbook on *Spiritual Disciplines* seems to fit the bill. The workbook on *Spiritual Disciplines* is a six-week study on spiritual disciplines for the enhancement of the devotional life. It is designed to be used by small groups, especially in the local church setting. Maxie Dunnam believes that discipline is required for the Christian life. But discipline is not to be seen as a religious practice that has merit within itself; it is a means to an end. The end toward which the discipline takes us is to grow spiritually, to mature our Christian faith and life, to be alive in Christ.

Spiritual Disciplines can be found in the Nature/Spiritual Development section of the District Library.



A challenge to read the Bible in 2020

Bible Readings for May



Bishop Lewis has been encouraging 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 all the way through with a thematic reading plan. The thematic plan is found on www.intentionalbygrace.com and Bishop Lewis has selected the following themes for 2020:

April 15 - May 5	(21 - day plan)	Fruits of the Spirit: Joy
May 6 - May 26	(21 - day plan)	Fruits of the Spirit: Peace
May 27 - June 16	(21 - day plan)	Fruits of the Spirit: Patience
June 17 - July 7	(21 - day plan)	Fruits of the Spirit: Kindness
July 8 - July 28	(21 - day plan)	Fruits of the Spirit: Goodness
July 29 - August 18	(21 - day plan)	Fruits of the Spirit: Faithfulness
August 19 - September 8	(21 - day plan)	Fruits of the Spirit: Gentleness
September 9 - September 29	(21 - day plan)	Fruits of the Spirit: Self-Control
September 30 - October 20	(21 - day plan)	Trust
October 21 - November 10	(21 - day plan)	Mercy
November 11 - December 1	(21 - day plan)	Bearing Fruit
December 2 - December 23	(21 - day plan)	Cares of the World
December 24 - January 13	(21 - day plan)	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 in your schedule.
- * Get a good study Bible to help 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 practiced and applicable. These seven steps will help you begin a journey to becoming a "lifelong learner" of God's Word.

[resource: <http://www.vaumc.org/pages/bishop-Lewis/biblechallenge>]



Information on the CARES Act: Financial Relief for Nonprofits - Small Business Administration (SBA) 7a Forgivable Loans for Nonprofits provides funding for special emergency loans up to \$10 million for eligible nonprofits to cover payroll, operations, debt services, etc. Loans can cover payroll and assorted costs, health insurance premiums, facilities cost, and debt service. The loans have a maximum interest rate of 4% and are available as an incentive for employers to hire back as many workers as is feasible. Authorizes administration of new loans until December 31, 2020. Provides lenders authority to make determinations on a borrower's eligibility and creditworthiness without going through all of SBA's regular channels. Eligible borrowers need to make a good faith

certification that the loan is necessary due to the uncertainty of the current economic conditions caused by COVID 19. Loans can be forgiven, in whole, for organizations that maintain employment from March 1 - June 30, 2020, essentially turning the loan into a grant. If your church or UMC affiliated organization wants to participate in the SBA's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), but has not applied yet or has not found an institution willing or able to assist you, please contact the The United Methodist Credit Union. If you are not already a member, you can quickly become one and apply for this program using an online application. If you have an urgent need, TUMCU can also help your church or organization with a low-interest bridge loan or a line of credit while you await SBA funding. Please contact Jomin Mular at (804) 672-0200 for details or visit the UMCredit Union website: www.tumcu.org

(Resources: CARES Act Summary: & e-Advocate 4-21-20)

IMPORTANT NEWS:

Due to the CORVID-19 pandemic important dates have been changes and/or extended. Please read carefully below regarding changes that have been made. [Resources for this page have come from the conference website: www.vaumc.org]

The Annual Conference session postponement will NOT impact the clergy appointment process.



- Annual Evaluation for Clergy deadline moved from June 1, to June 20, 2020
- Annual Review of Church Owned Parsonages are due in the district office on July 1, 2020.
- 2019 Local Church Audits are due July 1, 2020.

Moving Day for 2020 has been changed from Wednesday, June 24, to Tuesday, June 30th. This means moving pastors' last Sunday at the old appointment will be Sunday, June 28th and the first Sunday at the new appointment will be Sunday, July 5th.



See All the People Romans 15:17 (in NRSV)

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the June 2020 session of the Virginia Annual Conference has been postponed until September 18-19, 2020. Information regarding the location of the September 2020 Annual Conference will be forthcoming.

Meeting Max, the company managing the conference's hotel reservation system, will make cancellations for all participants who made reservations through the Annual Conference housing process. If you did not receive your e-mail cancellation confirmation on Thursday, April 9, please call Bev Myers at 804-521-1134 or email achousing@vaumc.org

HOUSING - Information for September 18-19 will be shared at a later date.

BANQUETS - If you would like your banquet listed in the Conference Banquet Schedule, please contact the Banquet Coordinator Michael Reaves at michaelreaves@vaumc.org or mail information to 47 Round Hill School Road, Fort Defiance, VA 24437. Please include: name of your group or gathering; date and time; location; and contact information for those who may desire additional information.

KITS FOR CONFERENCE - The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is currently focusing efforts on Cleaning Kits (aka Flood Buckets), Hygiene Kits, and School Kits. For details of the contents of these kits, please visit the conference website: www.vaumc.org

PLEASE VISIT THE CONFERENCE WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION: www.vaumc.org > Annual Conference 2020



The Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church announced on April 6 that the decision has been made to postpone all 2020 US Jurisdictional conferences scheduled for July. According to the Book of Discipline, all Jurisdictional Conference occur simultaneously on a date set by the Council of Bishops. As soon as the dates for the rescheduled General Conference are released, the Council of Bishops will set a new date for the opening of the Jurisdictional Conferences.



GENERAL CONFERENCE TO MOVE TO 2021: Subsequent to the announcement by the Executive Committee on the Commission on the General Conference that the 2020 General Conference will be postponed, the full Commission met March 21, 2020, to determine next steps to take in setting a new date. After hearing recommendations from Sara Hotchkiss, Business Manager of the General Conference, and discussion of possible alternatives, the Commission made a determination that the General Conference will not meet in 2020 as originally planned and elected to work toward setting a date in 2021. The Commission resolved that holding the event in Minneapolis is a high priority and authorized the business office to pursue other dates available at the Minneapolis Convention Center in 2021. Once new dates for the General Conference are set and adjustments with current vendors are made, additional information will be sent out to delegations regarding a timeline and next steps.



District Committee on Lay Servants Ministry:

The May 23, 2020 Lay Servant Training Classes have been postponed.

Lay Servant Ministry
(All Laity are Lay Servants - see Matthew 25:31-46)



The Lay Servant Training currently scheduled for May 23 at Grottoes UMC have been postponed until September 26, at Grottoes UMC-Grottoes, VA. All the scheduled classes (Basic Course, UMC Polity and Spiritual Gifts) will be taught. The current class registrations will be kept and we will reconfirm with every registrant their availability to attend. Additionally, the books for each of the classes are on hand and will be distributed to each attendee in the first part of August so they can be read before the class is held. **Also, we will continue to accept class registrations up until the day of the classes.** If you have questions, please contact Joe Amend at joeamend3@gmail.com or by phone (301) 741-7633 or Brenda Woods at harrisonburgdistrict@vaumc.org or by phone 540-433-2382

Spiritual Food For Thought

All four Gospel accounts depict Mary Magdalene (and others) going to the tomb where Jesus was buried the morning after the Jewish Sabbath to anoint His body with burial spices. Instead of a body to anoint, they encountered angels, Roman soldiers who appeared to be dead, an earthquake and our Risen Lord. What they saw and experienced was definitely not what they were looking for!

I think we can assume they had absolutely no reference point with which to view the events they experienced that first Easter morning. Currently, we are in the midst of a series of events and situations that most of us probably have no frame of reference for either. This begs the question, "What are we looking for during this pandemic?" Paul in his letter to the Colossians has some excellent advice for all of us, "*Since, then you have been raised with Christ, set your heart on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.*" (Colossians 3:1, NIV)

As I have grown older, and hopefully wiser, one of the first things I try to ask myself is, "Lord, what can I learn from what I have experienced?" One thing my Christian Walk has taught me is that if I am not listening, God will get my attention. I don't know about anyone else, but God has my attention now. Kathy and I are living very quiet, secluded lives. We have a lot of spare time on our hands. My devotions take longer each day. There are several craft projects each of us are doing. There is definitely nothing on our calendars to hustle out the door for. I've also found that calling someone on the phone and talking is more fulfilling than a text or an email. Who would have thought?



This can be a wake-up call for all of us. What is really important in our lives? We worship a transactional God—He wants a relationship with us. Maybe we can also make deeper, more substantive relationships with our family, friends and whoever we interact with a priority. There are a few things in life as satisfying as a human interaction that leaves us feeling better when it is done. During these uncertain times, I challenge each one of us (myself included) to rekindle a relationship that may have grown stale. Remember, we may be the only image of Christ that others will see today. (Upper Room Devotion, April 14, 2020)

Work humbly with God; walk gently with your neighbor, and be at peace with yourself.

Joe Amend, District Director of Lay Servants Ministries

Kid's

K O R N E R



Pastors and Lay Leadership: We are asking that you share children's artwork, stories, or notes from your children with us and we will pass these gifts along in a new section entitled "Kid's Korner" in the district newsletter. Some churches have more children than others, so we will need to spread the contributions equitably. We will protect the children's identity, if desired. You may scan and send items to: Pastor Victor at harrisonburgds@vaumc.org or Pastor Gordon at gordonmeri-wether@vaumc.org or to Ms. Brenda at harrisonburgdistrict@vaumc.org; or send the originals to: Harrisonburg District, Attention: Newsletter-Kid's Korner, 40 Southgate Court, Suite 101, Harrisonburg, VA 22801. We look forward to this exciting new adventure in our district newsletters.



MISSION CENTRAL NEWS

Check out our new website prepared by Bev Earman:
<http://missioncentralharrisonburgva.com/mission-central/>

**Mission Central Children's Clothes Closet:**

The Children's Clothes Closet has been open only for diapers. We give clothes on an emergency basis. We are ready to resume operation as soon as it is safe for all. We anticipate a large need for summer clothing. Stay Safe!

Artie Frederick, Coordinator, 540-208-7669

Meeting

The Mission Central Board of Directors' meeting scheduled for March 19th was cancelled. A meeting date will be announced at a later date. If you have questions, please direct them to Barbara Phillips at grammybp@gmail.com

**Mission Central Medical Equipment for Caring Closet:**

During the COVID-19 time our Mission Central medical equipment loaner closet remains open during its scheduled hours: Mondays 9-11 AM and Thursdays 5-7 PM. We are practicing social distancing and our volunteers are wearing masks. We ask that those who need equipment or supplies honor these precautions. If you have questions, please feel free to call Delores Reid at 540-383-6112. We continue to accept donations of equipment and supplies during this time when people's needs continue. Thank you to those who are helping with this mission and we ask everyone to stay safe.

Delores Reid, Coordinator, 540-383-6112



The Harrisonburg District Council on Ministries Retreat scheduled for Saturday, May 9, will take place from 9:00 -11:00 a.m. via Zoom. Instructions will be forthcoming to DCOM members. Other DCOM meetings scheduled for 2020 are August 20 and November 19. All meetings, unless otherwise noted, will be at the District Office at 7:00 p.m.



Sympathy is extended to the family of Rev. William R. (Bill) Fisher. Rev. Fisher passed away on April 16th in Waynesboro, VA. He retired in 2009 with nearly 40 years of service in the United Methodist Church and had served several churches on the Harrisonburg District: Keezletown, Page, Massanutten, and Toms Brook. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; a daughter, Sandy Gharib (Lindo); and a son, William Zachary Fisher (Rachel); numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Due to COVID-19, all services were private and a Celebration of Life service will be held at a later date.

Sympathy is extended to the Rev. and Mrs. Neil McLaughlin on the death of their son Phillip. Rev. McLaughlin previously served as a pastor on the Harrisonburg District.



Laura Douglass, Retired Deacon and current UMW Spiritual Growth Coordinator for the Harrisonburg District, was to lead a book study at Luray UMC on Saturday, May 2, on Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship by Janet Wolfe. This book study has been cancelled and has not been rescheduled at the present time.

**"What To Do With Your COVID-19 Relief Check?"****New Bridges Immigrant Resource Center**

has established a "Relief Fund" for area immigrant families who will not receive COVID-19 relief checks, even though many have children who are American citizens. There are currently 102 critical requests for corona virus related expenses to assist our immigrant neighbor families. It is up to us, the Interfaith Communities of Faith, to step forward in this challenging time. We appeal to ask your faith community members to help out by going to **NEW-BRIDGESIRC.ORG** for further details and with the opportunity to "pass forward" our COVID-19 checks.

Rev. Andy Sale, Interfaith Organization in Harrisonburg
 Sharon Harold, Interfaith Organization in Harrisonburg &
 District United Methodist Women President



Pray at 12 Noon Every Day - see page 8 for details.

May 5-15 (Tues-Friday) - General Conference, Minneapolis, Minnesota - **POSTPONED***

May 7 (Thursday) - National Day of Prayer

May 9 (Saturday) - District Council on Ministries Retreat, Asbury UMC, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. via Zoom*

May 15-17 (Fri-Sun) - Conference UMW Spiritual Life Retreat, Smith Mountain Lake 4H Center - **POSTPONED***

May 22 (Friday) - Harrisonburg District closes for Memorial Day Observance

May 23 (Saturday) - Lay Servant Training, Grottoes UMC, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - **POSTPONED***

May 25 (Monday) - Harrisonburg District Office closed for Memorial Day Observance

May 28 (Thursday) - Partners in Ministry [PiM] Farewell Dinner, Blessings Lodge-Overlook, 6:00 p.m. - **CANCELLED**

June 18-20 (Thurs-Sat) - Annual Conference, Roanoke - **POSTPONED***

June 20 (Saturday) - Annual Pastor Evaluation due in District Office*.

June 26 (Wednesday) - Annual Conference Moving Day - **RESCHEDULED***

June 30 (Tuesday) - **NEW DATE** Annual Conference Moving Day [Pastors, with new appointments, first Sunday will be July 5.]*

July 2 (Thursday) - VUMCenter & Harrisonburg District Office closes at 1:00 p.m. for Independence Day Observance

July 3 (Friday) - VUMCenter & Harrisonburg District Office closed for Independence Day Observance

July 15-20 (Wed-Mon) - Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, Lake Junaluska - **POSTPONED***

July 24-26 (Fri-Sun) - Mission Encounter, Smith Mountain Lake 4-H Center - **CANCELLED***

August 4 (Tuesday) - District Lay Servants Committee, District Office, 7:00 p.m.

August 20 (Thursday) - District Council on Ministries, District Office, 7:00 p.m.

September 18-19 (Friday-Saturday) - **RESCHEDULED** Annual Conference - Location to be announced.*

September 26 (Saturday) - **RESCHEDULED** District Lay Servants Training, Grottoes UMC, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.*

All events are subject to change.

* Denotes related article elsewhere in this newsletter

United Methodist Women

UMW News:



As we are all dealing with changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I have listed cancellations and rescheduled upcoming events for the district and conference UMW. The District Event Together scheduled for April 30 was canceled.

This has not been rescheduled but we will still collect items for the street backpack ministry that the speaker Ragan

McManus supports. A list of these items are listed below. They can be taken to the district office and I will be delivering to Strength in Peers during May.

Rev. Kathleen Welborn Hayes is also coordinating an effort to make face masks for the homeless population which will be distributed by Ragan. If you are able to make masks or have fabric or elastic that you can donate, please let me know. I have attached instructions for making these masks. When completed these masks may be taken to the district office also. The office is located at 40 Southgate Court, Suite 101 and is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Please call Brenda Woods at (540) 433-2382 before coming to the district office.

- UMW SEJ Meeting in Mobile, AL has been canceled and will be rescheduled later in the year.
- The Conference Spiritual Life Retreat scheduled for May 15-17 is now rescheduled for May 14-16, 2021. Rev. Ileana Rosario has been rescheduled as presenter. This will be held at Smith Mountain Lake 4-H Center.
- The district president's dinner scheduled on May 21 has been canceled. Presidents, instead of reporting in person now, please send me a report on your activities over the past year. E-mail at sharold714@aol.com or mail to me at 4580 Ottobine Road, Dayton, VA 22821.
- UMW Day at Ferrum College has been canceled for this year.
- VA Annual Conference has been canceled for June 18-20 and rescheduled for September 18-19. This will conflict with our District Prayer Breakfast scheduled for September 19th. This event will be rescheduled and I will inform everyone when that date is available.
- Mission Encounter has been canceled for July 24-26. There are plans for some kind of online class. I will keep you updated as I get further information. I have an extra copy of the study book "Finding Peace in an Anxious World" I would be glad to mail it out to anyone who would like to read it or would consider taking the online class.
- UMW books are still available to check out at our district office from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Again, please call Brenda Woods at (540) 433-2382 before coming to the library. Any overdue fees will be waived during this time.

Please contact me if you have questions or concerns.

Street Backpack Items include: Granola bars, trail mix, crackers, bottled water, ponchos, emergency blankets, deodorant, toothpaste & brushes, small flashlights, can openers, socks, razors & shaving cream, feminine hygiene products, band-aids, and sunscreen.

Stay Safe, Sharon Harold, DUMW President, (540) 879-2270 or sharold714@aol.com



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Harrisonburg District webpage: www.harrisonburgdistrictumc.org



Kingsway office is closed and Louise and Pat are working from home. It has really been a learning experience for us as we try to find the necessary things for those the jails and prisons are releasing due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We are still able to send birthday cards and we can keep up with those released that attended the inside church services at Augusta, Coffewood and Fluvanna women's prisons. Living in a Retirement Community that is locked with no visitors gives us a new perspective on what it is like when the prison facilities have lockdowns. I am sure many of you can now identify. We know that Jesus is with us and we will soon return to our office and again be a beacon to the lost as they reenter society. We still need your help as our rent and other office expenses didn't stop once we started working from home which also is an added expense. Keep us and all of the inmates in your prayers and we will get through this time. Please check our website, www.kingswayoutreach.org or follow us on Facebook.

Louise Jennings, Director



DISTRICT NEWS
Harrisonburg District
Virginia Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church

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Harrisonburg, VA 22801

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Call/Text DS: (202) 285-5767

Rev. Dr. Victor Gómez
District Superintendent
HarrisonburgDS@vaumc.org

Rev. Gordon K. Meriwether
District Director of Congregational Vitality
GordonMeriwether@vaumc.org

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Administrative Assistant
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Harrisonburg District on the web at
www.harrisonburgdistrictumc.org
Harrisonburg District on Facebook at
Harrisonburg District of VaUMC
Virginia Conference on the web at
www.vaumc.org

CONFERENCE NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES



From the Bishop

Pray at 12 Noon Every Day

Dear Virginia Annual Conference,

The Apostle Paul writes in Philippians 4:6 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." (NIV) Prayer is essential to sustain our faith and Jesus Christ modeled a life of prayer.

I would like to thank several of you that have suggested a corporate prayer time for the Virginia Annual Conference. I am very blessed to lead an annual conference that believes in the power of the petitioned prayer!

Please join me at 12 noon every day and pray the printed prayer below. Let us invoke the power of the Great Physician to do a mighty work in eradicating this disease all over the world.

Peace and Blessings,
Bishop Sharma D. Lewis

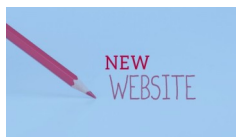
Almighty God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

We thank you for your blessings, past, present and future. You are our rock and the source of our hope in all things and at all times. As Jehovah Jireh, our provider God, we ask you this day to stretch out your mighty hand and eradicate from the face of the earth forever this virus called COVID-19 (coronavirus) that is spreading rapidly from continent to continent.

We also pray that you, Jehovah Rapha, our healing God, would place your hand upon all of those who have been stricken by this virus and restore them to full health. Be with those who have lost loved ones and are grieving. Protect all who are caring for those with this virus and keep them from contracting it themselves. Calm our fears and provide us with your peace that surpasses all understanding.

Strengthen us with the joy of the Lord and help us to hold firmly to the hope that only you can provide.

Unify us that we, the Virginia Annual Conference, may be able to experience anew the promise of your presence in and through the unity of our faith, hope, and trust in you in the days ahead and forever. We offer this prayer in the mighty name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. AMEN.



New conference website unveiled! The Conference Communications staff has released a new conference website with new resources and new possibilities to allow for future communications and resources. Please visit www.vaumc.org to familiarize yourself with the new features and the new layout. Please notice the magnifying glass icon at the top right of the website which will allow you to search the website for anything you might need. If you have questions or concerns, please email: communications@vaumc.org

STRUCTURAL CHANGE

The Conference Common Table Personnel Committee is creating new offices centered on Learning Ministries, Influence Ministries, and Serve Ministries to replace current offices of Justice and Missional Excellence, Next Generation Ministries, and Congregational Excellence. Learn more about the new alignment process at <https://vaumc.org/common-table-makes-structural-financial-staff-changes/>. Resumes will be accepted until 5/15/20 at vision@vaumc.org. Contact Rev. Dr. Ted Smith, Director of Connectional Ministries, at vision@vaumc.org or 804-521-1133 for details.