



THREE NOTCH'D
DISTRICT
VIRGINIA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JANUARY 2024

DISTRICT DISPATCH



My Prayers for the New Year

BY REV. HYO J. LEE, PH.D., DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Dear sisters and brothers in the Lord,

I wish you, your family, and your congregations a most Happy New Year. As we embark on this brand-new year, I would like to share my hopes and prayers with you.

Looking back, 2023 presented us with significant challenges in our lives and ministries. What about 2024? With the upcoming General Conference on the horizon, the November presidential election drawing nearer, and both domestic and international conflicts persisting, it is reasonable to anticipate that 2024 will bring its own set of challenges. The question then arises: Amidst the myriad challenges surrounding us, what is, or what will be, the most crucial focus deserving our attention and commitment?

In 2 Thessalonians 3:5, Paul said, "May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ."

Paul addressed congregations in the Macedonia region, facing persecutions, false doctrines, immoral influences, and the frustrating delay of Christ's return. For them, Paul prayed and blessed that their hearts be directed to the love of God and guided by the steadfastness of Christ. I believe this is what truly matters and what we need—our hearts directed to the love of God and unwavering in that love.

Certainly, we will encounter many challenges. Our faith will be tested, and endurance will be required. Not everyone will agree or walk with us. Yet, as long as we are driven by the love of God, striving to love God and our neighbors in everything we do, there will be no regrets or shame. Our consciences will be clear, and we will indeed have a Wonderful Blessed New Year. So, as Paul did, I pray that you, your family, and your congregations are blessed by the love of God and the steadfastness of Christ, shining God's amazing love in your church, community, and around the world.

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Bishop's Visit to District Feb. 25-26

SAVE THE DATES

As part of her onboarding to the VAUMC, Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson will be visiting the Three Notch'd District next month. Please mark your calendars for February 25-26. Specifically, there will be a dessert reception for all laity Sunday, February 25, at 4:00pm at Aldersgate UMC in Charlottesville. All clergy are invited to a lunch with Bishop Sue on Monday, February 26, 11:30am at Aldersgate UMC. We ask that clergy register for the lunch with Bishop Sue so we may order the right number of lunches. Registration may be accessed [here](#) or you may contact the District Office should you need assistance registering.



District Admin Leader Training Jan. 21

REGISTER TODAY FOR ZOOM TRAINING

All newly elected church leaders should make plans to attend the District Administrative Leader Training being offered by Zoom on Sunday, January 21, 2024. To register for the training and receive the Zoom link, please use the links below:

Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Training, 2:00-3:30pm, register [here](#)

Trustees Training, 2:00-3:30pm, register [here](#)

Finance Training, 4:00-5:30pm, register [here](#)

Lay Leader Training, 4:00-5:30pm, register [here](#)

If you need assistance with registering, please contact the District Office.

Lay Servant Academy Feb. 23-24

REGISTRATION DEADLINE FEB. 16

The annual Lay Servant Academy will be held by Zoom Friday, February 23, 6:30-9:00pm, and Saturday, February 24, 9:00am-4:00pm. The following courses are being offered:

- Virginia UMC Roots, Racism and Discipleship Advanced Course
- Basic Course
- Children and Youth Discipleship - Ministry with Parents/Guardians
- Spiritual Gifts
- Called to Preach

The cost is \$30. For more information and to register, click [here](#). Contact Tianna Durbin, tiannad@arcolachurch.org, should you have any questions.



Images Needed!

Do you have a knack for grabbing good action photos? Do you have an eye for setting up an image to evoke emotion or passion? We need your photos! We are updating our website and would like to present photos of happenings around the district – We would love to see images of our churches, people working hard in the name of the Lord, having fun in Jesus' name, sharing with our neighbors – Please let us know if you have any photos and we will provide a link to upload. Email TNDistrict@vaumc.org to request the link.



VFC Shield

The Virginia Fusion Center is offering a free program for local churches. The VFC Shield was established to increase community awareness of criminal and terrorism trends and incidents within the Commonwealth. The program is free and includes Realtime Alerts on cellphones and Sector-Specific Bulletins for use with your congregation. For more information, visit <https://fusion.vsp.virginia.gov/shield/>. To join, text "Join" to 804-796-0770.

RMC Bailey Scholarship Program

DEADLINE TO APPLY IS FEB. 5

Young people are searching for meaningful vocations as they make plans after high school. Do you know someone considering a call to Christian ministry? Whether it's a call to preaching, mission work, faith-based non-profit leadership, music ministry, youth ministry, chaplaincy... the Church needs young leaders who are prepared to guide us into the future.

Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, VA is the oldest continuously operating Methodist College in the U.S. and is committed to nurturing a new generation of church leaders. The Bailey Scholars program awards a half-tuition scholarship for the first two years followed by a full tuition scholarship for a student's final two years at R-MC.

Bailey Scholars also benefit from two internships (one for academic credit and one for a \$3,000 stipend) and a weekly meeting with other pre-ministerial students. Bailey Scholars complete their B.A. or B.S. degree (their major/minor is their choice) at Randolph-Macon College and then they select an A.T.S. accredited seminary/theology school to pursue a Masters Degree that best suits their call and the requirements of their tradition/denomination. Students from all Christian traditions are welcome into the program.

Please share this information with students who are considering a call to ministry. Learn more at [Pre-Ministerial | Randolph-Macon College \(rmc.edu\)](#). The application deadline for next year's incoming class is Monday, February 5, 2024. Contact R-MC Chaplain and Pre-Ministerial Program Director Rev. Kendra Grimes at kendragrimes@rmc.edu for more information.

Scholarships Available for Students

DEADLINE TO APPLY IS MAR. 1

The United Methodist Higher Education Foundation (UMHEF) welcomes scholarship applications

for the 2024-2025 academic year from January 1 through March 1, 2024. Every year, UMHEF awards \$2+ million to nearly 1,000 students planning to attend a United Methodist-related institution of higher education!

Applications are open to students who are members of either The United Methodist Church, the African Methodist Church, the AME Zion Church, or the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. Additional eligibility requirements may apply. If a student's church has disaffiliated from The UMC, the student should contact UMHEF to discuss options to apply.

Complete details can be found at www.umhef.org/scholarships. Applications open January 1, 2024 and close March 1, 2024.

The grand vision of UMHEF is that it be financially possible for qualified students to attend a United Methodist-related institution of higher education. UMHEF scholarships are separate from those offered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The UMC. Learn more at <https://www.umhef.org/>.



RANDOLPH-MACON
COLLEGE

All God's Children Camp Dates

All God's Children Camp dates are set for 2024. We need 90 folks who are willing to volunteer a week this coming summer and spend time in the great outdoors while mentoring some amazing campers who have an incarcerated parent. So grab your high school youth group, your Young Adult group, or any other adult group in your church and join us! This is a wonderful mission trip in your own backyard! See dates below and contact Lori Smith at agcc@vaumc.org for more information.

Week 1-June 9-14 at Westview on the James
Week 2-June 16-21 at Camp Chanco on the James
Week 3-August 11-16 and Camp Chanco on the James



"When did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?... Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me."
- Matthew 25: 37-40

2023 Pinnacle Living Samaritan Award

THREE CONGREGATIONS IN THE THREE NOTCH'D DISTRICT RECOGNIZED

Trinity UMC (Richmond), Reveille UMC, and Gum Spring UMC received the Samaritan Award for being three of the Virginia Annual Conference United Methodist churches with the highest level of giving to the Samaritan Program (June 2022 - May 2023). The Samaritan Program has been an integral part of the Pinnacle Living mission and ministry since 1948. This program provides financial support to residents of Pinnacle Living communities who have been blessed by longevity and, through no fault of their own, become unable to meet the full cost of services. Trinity UMC, Reveille UMC, and Gum Spring UMC are truly "Good Samaritan" churches when it comes to supporting the benevolent care mission of Pinnacle Living. They are among the top ten Virginia Conference congregations in giving to the Samaritan Program during the 2023 fiscal year. For more information about the communities of Pinnacle Living, visit PinnacleLiving.Org.



BCRS Serving 500+ Families Weekly in 2023

BY HELEN TREVEY, BELMONT COMMUNITY RESOURCE SERVICES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2024 the Belmont Food Pantry will celebrate its 20th Anniversary! When the food pantry started in 2004, it was just a handful of



Belmont UMC members providing food to help their neighbors in need. Today, Belmont Community Resources Services, a nonprofit, oversees the Belmont Food Pantry and The Closet@Belmont which provides food, clothing, and a listening ear every Friday to more than 500 families.

Rev. Larry Tingle (retired) and wife Nancy (Bon Air UMC, see photo below) are regular volunteers, taking time to visit and pray with the more than 350+ families who come through the drive-thru to receive food. An additional 150+ families walk up for food and are typically greeted by Pam and Greg Chamblin (Woodlake UMC). Many families also visit The Closet@Belmont where they can shop for clothes, shoes, diapers, feminine products, and other household necessities at no cost. Donations from UMC churches, local grocery stores, and other community partners amounted to more than 600,000 pounds of food in 2023 and feed over 60,000 people. A special thank you to Trinity UMC, Westover Hills UMC, River Road UMC, and Woodlake UMC who bring food and clothes donations every week.

More than 9,000 volunteer hours were donated by UMC members in 2023 which helped support a more than 40% growth in the program. They are currently looking for Spanish-speaking volunteers, van drivers, parking lot greeters, and food drive donations. Visit their website at www.bcrsrrva.org or call 804-868-8434 for more information.

NOTE: We would love to highlight your community ministry in a future newsletter. Please send an article (250-300 words) and pictures to TNDistrict@vaumc.org.

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." - Luke 6:38



DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

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Area Bishop - Rev. Sue Hauptert-Johnson
District Superintendent - Rev. Hyo J. Lee, Ph.D.
Innovations Coordinator - Rev. Jim Chandler
Vitality Coordinator - Rev. Pam Anderson
Executive Administrator - MaryKaye Cochran
Lay Leader - Elizabeth Farrell
Associate Lay Leaders - George Batten, Susan Custer, Dian McNaught, William & Linda Stead
Treasurer - Tina Gudgel
Youth Coordinator (Richmond area) - Andy Glascott
Youth Coordinator (Charlottesville area) - Rebecca Wagner
United Women in Faith President - Linda Porter



UPCOMING DATES

January 11 - District Board of Church Location & Building Zoom meeting
January 15 - District Office closed
January 16 - Youth Ministry Lunch
January 21 - District Admin Leader Training by Zoom
February 1 - UM Day at the General Assembly
February 23-24 - Lay Servant Academy by Zoom
February 25-26 - Bishop's Visit to District