



Good Friday and More Good News

by Rev. Hyo Lee, Ph.D., District Superintendent

As we journey through Holy Week—the week of rejection, crucifixion, and burial of our Lord Jesus Christ—we follow closely in his footsteps, from the Mount of Olives to the hill of Calvary and to the tomb. We walk with Christ through the path of his passion.

During this sacred season, I am reminded of a question I once asked my homiletics professor, David Buttrick: “Why do we call this day Good Friday when nothing good seemed to happen to Jesus? How can we call it ‘good’ when he was rejected, beaten, and crucified?” He replied, “While nothing good happened to Jesus on that day, his suffering and death brought to us God’s good news of forgiveness and love. That is why we call it Good Friday.”

Even so, I still feel the tension in calling this day “good.” I find myself wishing we had another word. Yet perhaps that very tension invites us into deeper reflection—not only on Christ’s suffering, but also on the depth of God’s love for us.

As the prophet declares:

“Out of his anguish he shall see light;
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.
The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.” (Isaiah 53:11)

In the same way, Jesus foretold his suffering and resurrection, saying that he must be rejected, handed over, suffer, and be crucified—and on the third day be raised (Matthew 16:21; 17:22–23; 20:18–19).

And this is the good news: the story does not end on Friday. Christ is risen on the third day. Because he lives, we too are given new life—transformed, renewed, and filled with hope. This promise of resurrection is at the heart of our faith.

As you journey through Holy Week and toward Easter Sunday, dear pastors and laity, I am mindful of your faithful work and the challenges you carry. Please know that you are in my prayers—for strength, for grace, and for God’s abiding presence among you.

Above all, I pray that you may be filled anew with the good news of the resurrection—the hope, joy, and life that come through Christ.

This issue:

Message from our D.S.

PAGE 01

**Rev. Lan Wilson &
District Visits,
Immigrant Family Support,
Kits for Conference**

PAGE 02

**Spring Fest,
Climate Forum,
LSM Training,
Bishop Shares Invitation**

PAGE 03

**Prison Ministry Study,
On the Move Online Workshop,
Be Still & Know
Women’s Conference**

PAGE 04



**THREE NOTCH'D
DISTRICT**

BOLDLY FORGING DISCIPLESHIP PATHS



Rev. Lan Davis Wilson Visits TN District

The Rev. Lan Davis Wilson, VAUMC Director of Belonging and Advocacy, visited the Three Notch'd District last week. On March 23, the Charlottesville Cluster had lunch at Brazos Taco Bar. That evening, the Louisa/Orange Cluster had coffee at Louisa UMC. On March 24, Richmond area clergy and laity had lunch at the Pace Center, and on March 26, folks attended a coffee at Welborne UMC. Lan shared about his role as a social justice advocate and DEI officer. He enjoys preaching and teaching all over the conference. He is helping churches focus on welcoming, inclusion, belonging, and advocacy. We are blessed to have Lan serving on the Conference staff. You can email him at LanWilson@vaumc.org.



Kit Packing Events: April 25 & June 6

The Central Virginia HUB continues to work hard to assemble and transport UMCOR kits. Pictured above right, youth packed 134 hygiene kits at Westview on the James last February.

The HUB has two packing events scheduled for this spring:

- 1) **Sat. April 25, 9:00am**, at the Culpeper UMC pavilion (weather-permitting; inside the church if not). The goal is to pack 250 hygiene kits.
- 2) **Sat. June 6, 9:00am**, at the Culpeper UMC pavilion. This packing event will be in conjunction with receiving Kits for Conference.

Kits for Conference Collection Date: June 6

On **Sat., June 6, 9:00am-12noon**, the District will have two collection sites for Kits for Conference. For UMCOR kit assembly directions, click [HERE](#).

- 1) **Charlottesville area: Culpeper UMC**, 1233 Oaklawn Dr, Culpeper. Contact: Darryl Lam, darryllam@comcast.net, 540-219-2829
- 2) **Richmond area: Lakeside UMC**, 2333 Hilliard Rd, Richmond. Contact: Kip Robinson, krobin7856@aol.com, 804-539-2494



Immigrant Family Support Update

District Superintendent Hyo Lee has extended a challenge to have **24 churches and/or persons pledge and donate \$1200** to support an immigrant family in the Richmond area. This family has experienced the husband being deported to Honduras, and the wife is here caring for their three children, one who is a cancer survivor. They have lived in the U.S. for 13 years. The goal is to raise \$28,800 which will cover the family's expenses for a year.

To date, we have received or have pledged 85% of the needed funds! **Thank you to all the churches and individuals who have contributed so far!** We hope to reach 100% by June. Should you wish to contribute, click [HERE](#).

Also on March 19, 25 people attended a prayer session at Belmont UMC (Richmond). Rev. Ben Campbell (St. Paul's Episcopal Church) came along with LaKeisha Cook (executive director of Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy) and Rev. Dr. Jim Melson (executive director of Cornelius Corps). People from a number of churches came including Hill City Church, Reveille UMC, Bon Air Presbyterian, The Quakers, and Branches Baptist. It was a powerful time of prayer for our immigrant neighbors.





Spring Fest: April 12

On Sat., April 12, 3:00-5:00pm, Trinity UMC, Richmond, invites all to celebrate the joy of spring with us at Spring Fest - a fun afternoon for the whole family! We'll have Jonathan Austin ("Jonathan the Juggler") for a fun show, three large jumping and interactive inflatables, hot dogs, a petting zoo, local first responders and business for a touch-a-truck, and a large fenced-in playground. This event is free and open to all ages.



Lay Servant Ministry Training: May 2

The Three Notch'd District is offering a **Zoom Lay Servant Ministries Training on Saturday, May 2, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm**. The BASIC course as well as following advanced courses will be offered:

- Leading Public Prayer
- Life Together in the UM Connection (United Methodist Polity)
- Spiritual Gifts

Lay Servant Ministries (LSM) is one of the most significant lay leadership development programs available within the United Methodist connection.

Through this equipping and empowering system, lay servants have the opportunity to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ who then go and make other disciples. Visit <https://vaumc.org/lay-servant-ministries/> for more information about Lay Servant Ministries.

The cost to attend is \$20 per course. In addition, you will need to purchase a book to complete course requirements. Payment is made online when you register. Please use this LINK or QR Code below to register your attendance. Registration closes on April 27.



National Faith + Climate Forum: April 25

The Highland Support Project's Deep Theology program is a local host for the 2026 National Faith + Climate Forum, in partnership with the Pace Center (Campus ministry at VCU). Join us for this transformative gathering as we explore this year's theme, "The Future We Choose: Faith in Action for a Thriving Tomorrow." Together, we'll learn how our faith communities can lead with courage and hope in the face of the climate crisis.

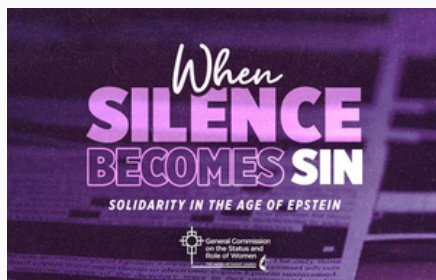
We are honored to feature a keynote address from Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson, co-founder of Urban Ocean Lab and author of "What If We Get It Right?".

• When: Saturday, April 25, 2026, 12:00 pm – 5:30 pm

• Where: Pace Center, 700 W Franklin St, Richmond, VA

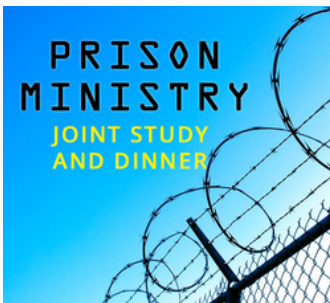
To register visit:

nationalfaithandclimateforum.org and select "Attend in person at a designated host location" as your ticket type. Then, choose "Richmond, VA: Pace Campus Ministry" from the location list to join our local cohort hosted by Deep Theology and the Pace Center!



An Invitation to Lead from the VAUMC Bishop

The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW) has released a statement of support and blessing titled When Silence Becomes Sin: Solidarity in the Age of Epstein, written in response to renewed public attention on sexual abuse, exploitation, and the enduring harm experienced by survivors. This resource was crafted as both a pastoral offering and a prophetic call grounded in our Wesleyan commitment to do no harm, do good, and attend upon all the ordinances of God. This blessing is a resource for worship, prayer, and reflection. Many survivors live within our congregations, communities, and clergy ranks. Public moments such as these can reopen wounds, and it is our sacred responsibility to respond with compassion, theological clarity, and tangible trauma-informed care. Our hope is that this blessing might offer comfort, solidarity, and assurance of God's abiding presence to those who carry deep pain. It is also a call for the Church and her leaders to demonstrate our desire through intentional action in our work for healing and justice when sexual harm is committed.



Prison Ministry Study & Dinner: April 8 & 15

April 8 - We welcome The Rev. Dr. Jim Melson, from the Cornelius Corps ministry and Racial Justice Network, who will share a program about the history of mass incarceration in our country. Dinner begins at 5:30 pm, followed by the program at 6:00pm.

April 15 - Learn more about the importance of prison ministry from Koinonia Community Church Pastor Jay Scruggs. You will also have the opportunity to meet Richmond area prison ministry partners, who will introduce their work, and also have information tables. Dinner begins at 5:30 pm, followed by the program at 6:00 pm. The suggested donation for dinner is \$10.

Please RSVP for these programs at <https://bit.ly/prisonministry-rev26>.

Reveille United Methodist Church is located at 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond, VA 23221. Each program will take place in the fellowship hall. Please park in the rear lot behind the church.



On the Move: The Legacy of 1966 for 2026 Four on-line sessions starting April 21

This year marks the 60th anniversary of a variety of major events in the history of the modern Civil Rights Movement. The anniversary of these events from 1966 is an opportunity to bring people together in faith, gratitude, and fellowship. 1966 was a time when the movement was “on the move” as Dr. King, local leaders, and thousands of others challenged systemic racial injustice not only in the South but increasingly in the North. This history of faith based nonviolent action for racial justice is especially important in our time as we face the challenges of distorted versions of history and attempts to roll back the gains made by their witness and sacrifice.

Rev. Dr. Jim Melson, Cornelius Corps Executive Director, will facilitate the **on-line workshop 7:00-8:30pm on Tuesdays, April 21, April 28, May 5, and May 12**. Through a combination of worship, presentations, video clips, and small group sharing, we will **remember** the witness and sacrifice of so many 60 years ago during the Civil Rights Movement and **recommit** to discerning and following God’s ongoing call for racial justice in our time.

There is no cost to take the workshop. Please click [HERE](#) to access the registration and receive the Zoom link.



Be Still & Know Women’s Conference: July 18

The Women in the Word, a weekly bible study, presents “Be Still and Know”, a women’s wellness conference on Sat., July 18, 9:00am-3:00pm, at Woodlake UMC in Chesterfield. This conference promises to provide a path to physical, emotional and spiritual wellness.

Speakers include: Dr. Mary Brandon, DO; Cameron Kempson, MEd; and Rita Stewart, MEd, M.A.C.E. You are invited to step away from your busy routine into a space of balance and renewal with women who truly understand. You’re invited because your wellness matters. Step away from the noise and reconnect with your purpose, passion and power. The cost is \$65 and includes lunch. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Three Notch’d District Leadership

Three Notch’d District Office
10330 Staples Mill Road, Suite 250
Glen Allen, VA 23060
PHONE: 804.521.1124
EMAIL: TNDistrict@vaumc.org

- Area Bishop - Rev. Sue Hauptert-Johnson
- District Superintendent - Rev. Hyo J. Lee, Ph.D.
- Innovation Coordinator - Rev. Jim Chandler
- District Board of Church Location & Building Chair & Property Manager - Jim Mallon
- District Leadership Board Chair - Don Vaught
- Executive Administrator - MaryKaye Cochran
- Lay Leader - Elizabeth Farrell
- Associate Lay Leaders - Bert Asby, George Batten, Susan Custer, Lauren Leggett, Bob Pattison
- Treasurer - Ivy Solis
- Youth Coordinator (Richmond area) - Mary Elder
- Youth Coordinator (Charlottesville area) - TBA
- UWF Co-Presidents - Jean Swann, Sandra Thornton