

LIVING WATERS

A DISTRICT IN THE
VIRGINIA CONFERENCE OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EMBRACE EVERYONE. EMPOWER PEOPLE. INSPIRE HEARTS. EMBODY CHRIST.

The Living Waters District eJournal With Praises and Thanks! November 2023



Shake It Off and Step Up

Dear Friends from the Living Waters District, Happy Advent, Merry Christmas and Blessed Epiphany! During this high and holy season of the church, I'd like to ask you to ponder which of the two Gospel "Christmas" stories is your favorite? Is it Matthew's story that is told mostly through Joseph's perspective or is it Luke's story that follows Mary's experience? Regardless of our answer, one thing is certain, they both found themselves in an impossible, unexplainable and unpredictable state of chaos as God was about to do something totally unexpected in these two persons' lives that would change the relationship between God and humanity forever.

Perhaps you have heard the parable of a farmer who owned an old mule. One day, the mule fell into the farmer's well. The farmer heard the mule braying and went to the site. After assessing the situation as hopeless, the farmer sympathized with the mule but decided that neither the mule nor the well was worth the trouble of saving. Instead he called his neighbors and asked them to bring their shovels to help him bury the poor mule and put him out of his misery. The mule seemed hysterical and when the dirt struck his back, he shook it off. And as the farmer and his friends continued to shovel dirt onto the mule, a thought struck the farmer. After each shovel of dirt was thrown onto the mule he said, "Shake it off and step up." The mule did what he asked and after a time, the old mule stepped triumphantly out of the well! What seemed to bury him actually became his road to freedom. There is an alternative to every impossible situation!

As we prepare once again for this high holy season, I would like to invite us to consider Mary's

question posed to the angel Gabriel in Luke 1:34a, “How can this be?...” (Wouldn’t we all like to have a dollar for every time we have asked that question in our lifetime?)

When we bring this profound question to God it opens the door to recognize God’s abiding presence, grace, mercy and justice that enters into our circumstances, problems and chaos. At times, the way forward is not always visible to us. But maybe the way “upward” – like that poor mule in the story experienced, is the better way forward.

In both the Matthew and Luke stories of Jesus’ birth, that same question, “How can this be?” became a wonderful pathway of learning about, and leaning on Emmanuel (God with us). It still is today. So where ever we find ourselves this Holy Season, my prayer for us all is to be open to discover that God is with us...always!

Holiday and New Year Blessings to you all!

Jay

Laity.....

You are cordially invited to a Reception
honoring Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson
Virginia Conference
Join us Sunday, January 7th from 3:00 to 5:00 pm
Wesley United Methodist Church
3701 Conduit Rd, Colonial Heights, VA 23834
As we remember the gifts to the Christ child this season,
let us bless this community with an offering to the

Colonial Heights Food Pantry

*Canned beans, fruit, meat, vegetables
Boxed cereal, oatmeal, potatoes, rice*

Downtown Churches United, The Hope Center

New donations of gloves, hats, mittens, and scarves

Boxes will be placed at the entrances of the church for your gifts.

Reservations required by January 1st

Click here to make a reservation

Contact Tish Borden (TishBorden@vaumc.org)
[11605 S. Crater Road, Petersburg, VA 23805] [804.732.2538]

CONFERENCE NEWS

Journeys of Paul Cruise with Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson & the Virginia Annual Conference and Guest Speaker Rev. Magrey deVega Sept. 21, 2024

11 days Crete, Greece, Italy & Türkiye

STARTING FROM \$3999*

Join Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson & the Virginia Annual Conference for 9 Nights on a Journeys of Paul Cruise aboard Royal Caribbeans Odyssey of the Seas, starting at \$3999* departing on September 21, 2024, with Guest Speaker Rev. Magrey deVega. Journey to Naples, Mykonos, Santorini, Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, and more!

Register Early and Save

\$100 Register by November 30, 2023

Full deposit required. Savings deducted from balance.

[Register Here](#)

PASTOR PREFERENCE FORMS DUE DECEMBER 31, 2023

Is your Church/Charge SPPRC Chair (name, address, phone, email) correct in Unity? Please ensure that this information is correct! **Our office will send the Joint Pastor-SPPRC Appointment Preference Form at the end of the month, and your SPPRC Chair will NOT receive information unless they are properly listed in Unity.**

You can also download the form at: <https://vaumc.org/spprcresources/>

Chris Malak, Conference IT Manager, has made the following changes in Unity:

- **For multi-point Charges who perform a Charge Annual Audit (instead of separate churches), a new "Annual Audit Balance Fund" option is available on the Charge.**
- **Lay Servant Reports may now be completed by church and district staff on behalf of the Lay Servant, instead of requiring the Lay Servant to fill them out themselves.**

If you have any questions, please contact Tish Borden in the District Office at 804-732-2538

Unity Statistical Tables Deadlines

Table I (Membership) - due January 15, 2024

Table II (Expenses) and Table III (Income) - due January 31, 2024

Please work with your Pastor, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary to ensure these Statistical Tables are completed by the deadline!

Access UnityWeb here: <https://unity.vaumc.org/Account/Login?>



The Living Waters District Office will be closed December 18th-Jan 1st, reopening on Jan 2nd for the Christmas & New Years Holidays. Messages can be left at 804.732.2538 and will be returned as soon as possible. Thank you!

Announcements



Have you heard what is happening at **Journey Community Center**? Sign up to get their newsletter and see the progress!

[Follow their story!](#)

WE ARE BRINGING A REVIVAL TO YOUR AREA!!!

The Living Waters District is hosting a REFRESH Revival Series in each of our regions. Listed below are the dates, times and venues for each Revival. Bear with us, because we are still figuring out specific details, but we wanted to make sure every church gets this event on their calendars!!!! We will be sending out a dedicated newsletter with more information and volunteer sign ups. Each revival has been created into a Facebook Event. You can visit the District FB page at <https://www.facebook.com/LivingWatersDistrict/>, find the event for your church and then share it accordingly. Stay tuned for more information.

VAUMC Training Videos

It has come to our attention that there is a need for training in Leadership & Development, Trustees, SPRC and other areas of leadership within our churches. Here are a few videos developed by the VAUMC and we hope to bring additional resources to you as the year progresses.

[Click Here for Videos](#)

Calling All Young Adults Discerning A Call to Ministry: Expo 2024 Cohort

Please share this information with any young adults who may benefit from your personal encouragement in exploring a call to ordained ministry...

The Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church is looking for ten young adults (18-26) to go on an adventure of discernment. The Center for Clergy Excellence and the Board of Ordained Ministry is organizing a cohort to attend Explo 2024 in Orlando, FL, February 16-18. Registration and application (new deadline of 12/22) for scholarship funding can be found here: <https://www.explorecalling.org/exploration/>

CLAIMING THE PROMISES

The next 5 day Academy at Roslyn is coming up March 3-8. Above is a brochure that we invite you to share as widely as you can.

I know peoples calendars fill up early so wanted to let folks know in advance. More advertising will happen after the first of the year - but the more people see it and hear about it now - the more it will entice them come January.

Thank you so much.

Shalom, salaam, and peace be unto you and to the world,
Rev. Kimberly Barker-Brugman
Pastor at Lawrenceville United Methodist Church, Lawrenceville, Virginia
church phone: 434-848-2320
cell phone: 540-840-0014

Founder of Soul Story Ministries.org

Soul Story Ministries was created to help individuals find a safe place to share the story of their walk with God and through that make a more intentional connection with the Divine. Please contact me for on-line spiritual direction, retreats, workshops, drama presentations, etc

Soul Story Ministries cell: 540-840-0014

MISSION OPPORTUNITY

I am pastor at Providence UMC in Patrick County on the Mt. View District. We are currently undertaking a major mission project that is beyond our capacity to complete without the help of the connection. It is our hope that we can get the word out as to the monetary needs for this project across the connection as soon as possible. I know that the people of God called United Methodist will respond generously.

Please **CLICK HERE** to learn more about this mission opportunity. Please contact Keith Vernon: keithvernon@vaumc.org

Thank you for any help you can offer.

Peace love,

Keith Vernon, Pastor
Providence United Methodist Church
1021 Providence Drive
Patrick Springs, Va. 24133
<https://www.providenceinpatrick.org/>

Newville United Methodist Church “Nick of Time” Holiday Bazaar

Newville UMC will be holding its 10th annual “Nick of Time” Holiday wreaths, crafts, gift and food bazaar on Saturday, December 9 from 8:00 a.m. to

1: 00p.m. at the church, located at 9010 Hines Road, just beyond the intersection of Pole Run and Hines Road in Prince George County. Our bazaar features beautifully crafted fresh holiday wreaths and centerpieces, hand crafted items, Christmas gifts, baked goods, candies, jams, jellies along with a variety of selected vendors offering artwork, monogramming, and holiday decorations. The Church's "Winter Warmer Café" will also be serving breakfast and lunch items including breakfast casseroles, homemade chicken salad, croissants, pimento cheese and beverages. Proceeds from the event are used for local charities and missions. For additional information, please contact Nancy Chesser at email pgumsecretary@gmail.com

It's a Wrap!!!!

The Southside Gleaning/Salvaging Network had a very blessed and productive 2023. We gleaned/salvaged and distributed 92,200 lbs. of produce. May God be praised for such a bountiful year. Thanks to the growers, gleaners and distributors.

The produce was distributed in the following counties: Appomattox, Bedford, Campbell, Charlotte, Halifax, Mecklenburg, Prince Edward, Nottoway, Pittsylvania and Lunenburg. We want to dedicate this gleaning/salvaging year in memory and honor of Walter Gross who passed away this year.

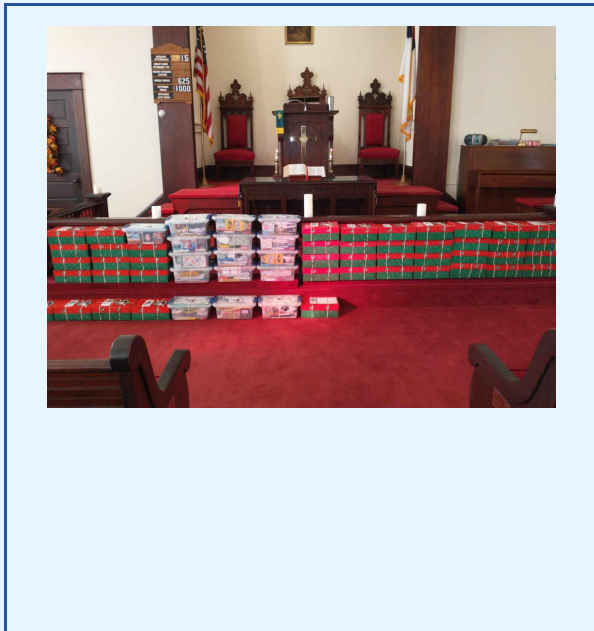


Jubilee Project

On October 25, 2023, the Mt. Carmel/Phenix U.M.C. Charge delivered \$12,608 worth of food, winter clothing, and much needed supplies to Jubilee Project, Inc. located in Hancock County, Tennessee. Hancock County is one of the poorest counties in the U.S.A. We had nine volunteers and three pick-up trucks, and two trailers packed full of supplies. To God be the Glory!!!



The Mt. Carmel-Phenix U.M.C. Charge collected 235 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes (Samaritan's Purse) in 2023. Each shoebox was blessed and prayed over during our dedication service on November 12, 2023. We believe that each shoebox demonstrates the love of Christ Jesus through evangelism, discipleship, and missional outreach. To God Be the Glory!!!



Lawrenceville UMC

We are having a Watchnight Service on Dec. 31st at 11 pm.... Come greet the new year with prayer and songs as we remember 2023 and pray for the new 2024 to be one in which we follow God more closely and live for him more boldly. All are

Christmas Presence

"Unwrapping God's Perfect Gift"

Presented by the Ocran UMC Choir and Drama Cast. At the 7:00pm performance we will be joined by the West End Baptist Church Choir

Arranged and orchestrated by Marty Parks



Sunday December 10th

11:00 am and 7:00pm

OCRAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

20221 Cox Road - Sutherland, Virginia

Youth Events



SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!!!

Share these resources with your students and parents as they prepare for higher education opportunities!

Students who are members of a United Methodist Church can receive financial support for higher education. The GBHEM scholarship application opens December 15th! <https://www.gbhem.org/scholarships/scholarships/list-of-scholarships/> The UMHEF scholarship application opens January 1st! <https://umhef.org/scholarships/apply/>

SUPPORT LIVING WATERS DISTRICT
YOUTH COUNCILS MISSION
WORKSHOPS FOR

JESUS CAMP

SOMETHING IS BETTER THAN NOTHING

**Monetary donations can't be sent into
the district office**

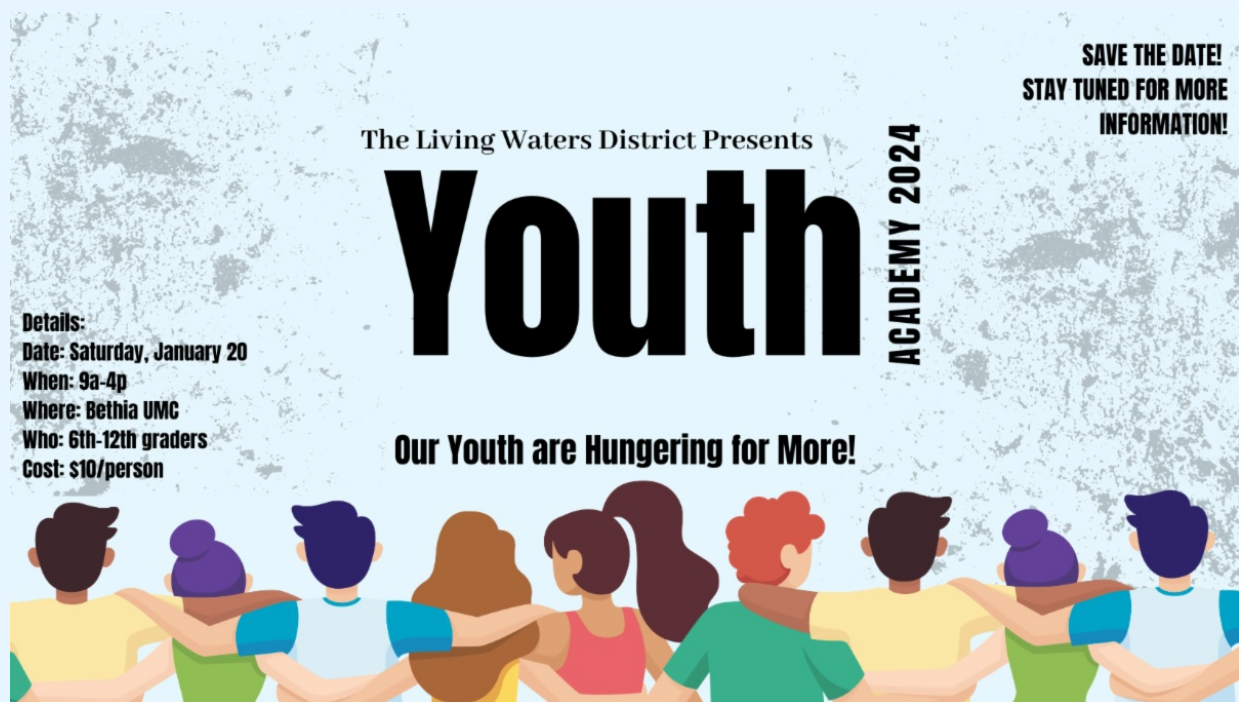
11605 S Crater Rd Petersburg Va 23805

Or by buying supplies from our Amazon wishlist!



Greetings from the Wesley Foundation at Longwood University and Hampden-Sydney College. We are heading to Asheville North Carolina after final exams on December 10th for A Collegiate Challenge build with Habitat for Humanity. The students are excited about seeing a different area and working to build much needed homes for families. To keep the cost down for the students and give the opportunity for students to go that cannot afford the cost, we are asking for donations to help fund the trip. We have received a generous donation to help secure a rental van. We have estimated that with meals, housing and fuel the trip will cost \$4,000 - \$4,200. If your church is able to make a donation of any amount to help with this cost, that would be a tremendous gift to the students and Wesley. We are always working to give students opportunities to develop a passion for missions early in life so that they may continue throughout their lives. Your gift helps to make disciples to spread God's love.

Paula Totten
Administrator, Wesley Campus Ministry
434-392-8089
farmvillewesley2@gmail.com

A poster for Youth Academy 2024. The background is a light, textured grey. At the top right, it says "SAVE THE DATE! STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION!". In the center, "The Living Waters District Presents" is written above the word "Youth" in a large, bold, black font. To the right of "Youth" is "ACADEMY 2024" written vertically. Below "Youth" is the slogan "Our Youth are Hungering for More!". At the bottom, there is an illustration of a diverse group of young people from behind, with their arms around each other's shoulders. On the left side of the poster, there is a "Details:" section with the following information: "Date: Saturday, January 20", "When: 9a-4p", "Where: Bethia UMC", "Who: 6th-12th graders", and "Cost: \$10/person".

The Living Waters District Presents

Youth

ACADEMY 2024

SAVE THE DATE!
STAY TUNED FOR MORE
INFORMATION!

Details:
Date: Saturday, January 20
When: 9a-4p
Where: Bethia UMC
Who: 6th-12th graders
Cost: \$10/person

Our Youth are Hungering for More!

Join the Living Waters District Youth (6th-12th graders) on Saturday, January 20, 2024 for our first Youth Academy at Bethia UMC! (10700 Winterpock Rd, Chesterfield, VA 23832). Our goal is to provide a fun and educational experience with breakout sessions dealing with **Basic Christian Beliefs, Evangelism, Spiritual Disciplines, Music, Sacraments, Social Principles, and many other topics.** Contact Rev. Jacob Sahms (JacobSahms@vaumc.org) if you have questions or call (804) 732-2538. The \$10.00 registration fee will cover a pizza lunch. Send checks payable to Living Waters District, PO Box 3413, Petersburg, VA 23805.

[Register Now!](#)



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 Sr. High youth group, your Young Adult group or any other adult group in you church and join us! This 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

Star of Bethlehem

On Saturday, December 9 from 7 to 9 pm, the Crewe Astronomy Club will present their new program, "The Science behind the Star of Bethlehem" at our church. Kim Kenny of the Crewe Observatory will take us back in time to Bethlehem to see the night sky as it was during Jesus' lifetime. Using the Holy Bible, computers, and astronomy software, we will experience what the Wise Men saw and the signs in the sky from Jesus' birth to His crucifixion.

Please make plans to come, and invite others to join us in this unique holiday event suitable for all ages.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

To download the latest Messenger newsletter please visit:

[Click Here](#)

CLERGY WOMENS COLLECTIVE

The Collective offers sister support, holy set-apart time for reflection on our church and ministry, the Word and Table and a deep sense of connection to our Mothers in the Church. Don't miss out!

We welcome all ordained and licensed women, active or retired, working or on leave, in church or extension ministry...y'all come!

Our future meetings will be:

January 18, 2024 - Conference office

April 11, 2024 - Conference office

July 18, 2024 (after Jurisdictional Conference



Christmas Market

Farmville United Women in Faith

Friday, December 8 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Farmville United Methodist Church, 212 High Street

Homemade cookies, sweets, breads, crafts,

Antiques, Collectibles, Angel figurines and ornaments,

“White Elephant” wares, and

Seasonal surprises!

Proceeds go to local missions.



UNITED METHODIST MEN



Prayer Requests

Officer Bruce Foster and Family (Virginia State University Police)
The Family of Rev. Hugh Harris
Chuck Lifsey, Jr. (Centenary, Jarratt)

Please send your prayer requests to terrirosser@vaumc.org



NewsLetter DEADLINE

December 27th, 2023

Email: TerriRosser@vaumc.org

Living Waters District UMC | TishBorden@vaumc.org | 804.732.2538
Area Bishop: Rev. Sue Hauptert-Johnson
District Superintendent: Rev. Jay Carey
Director of Church Vision & Vitality: Rev. Tim Beck
Administrative Assistant: Leticia Borden
Office Support: Phyllis Goin & Thelma Watts
Communications Coordinator: Terri Rosser
Lay Leaders: Keith Jordan, Carol, Sanger, Thelma Crowder, David Bailey, Tommy Johnson
Treasurers: Kay Mims, Tina Gudgel

Living Waters District UMC | P O Box 3413, 11605 S Crater Rd, Petersburg, VA 23805

[Unsubscribe tishborden@vaumc.org](mailto:Unsubscribe_tishborden@vaumc.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by terrirosser@vaumc.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!