

Mountain View District of the United Methodist Church Enews



July 9, 2026

Notes from District Superintendent Sarah Calvert

*"Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And **let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.**"*

— Hebrews 10:23-25



This is exactly what Annual Conference is meant to be: a place where we motivate one another, encourage one another, and refuse to let distance or busyness keep us from meeting together as the body of Christ. So as you look at all the beautiful faces from Annual Conference that Leigh Anne has so carefully brought together for this newsletter, please remember to ask your delegates what happened! Why are there so many happy faces at annual conference? What inspired them? What concerns do they bring back? And my favorite question: what connections and resources are available to our local church?

Annual Conference is a wonderful place to have all of these kinds of discussions, but if it stays only with the people who physically attended, we've missed the point. Each of your churches had at least one delegate at annual conference who should be reporting back to the entire congregation about what they experienced. I pray this encourages you to continue being part of this great connection.

That same spirit of meeting together carries us into the year ahead. As we look toward another appointment year cycle, eight of our churches are welcoming new pastoral leadership, so please keep all of these transitions in your prayers. And just as those churches will be building new relationships with their pastors, I encourage the rest of us to keep building relationships across the district too. Be your own connection: meet people from other churches at our fall charge conferences. Especially if you hold any leadership position in your church, you're invited to attend these group charge conferences, where we learn from each other and encourage and celebrate where God has been at work over the last year.

Celebrating the uniqueness of our connectional heritage is a beautiful way to remind us of the beloved community God calls us to. It is always bigger than we imagine, and the table keeps expanding as we share God's love and God's story (the gospel!) with the world.

With gratitude,

Sarah

Rev. Sarah Calvert
District Superintendent, Mountain View District

p.s. Dates for Charge Conferences and District Conference are announced in the calendar below. More details will be announced as soon as possible, but we wanted you to have these dates now so you can plan accordingly.

United Methodists lead with love in prayer

Together we pray for those

- who grieve: Matthew Heckman grieving the death of his mother, Rhonda Tucker grieving the death of her husband, the congregation of East Lake Community Church, Moneta
 - with health concerns: Matthew Heckman, Paul Greer, Elaine Brown, Joyce Austin, Betty Marshall, Jane Whitehead, Butch Taylor (*Leigh Anne Taylor's brother*), Anna Johnson (*Nancy and Bruce Johnson's daughter*)
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A hearty welcome to our new pastors in the Mountain View District



Ronda Williams
Providence UMC
Patrick



Terry Young
Stanleytown UMC
Stanleytown



Mark Tinsley
Bethlehem UMC
Concord

*Find out more about our new clergy here: <https://mountainviewdistrict.org/new-clergy>

**to pastors moving to new appointments
within the district**

Jennifer Vestal Moore, Emmanuel UMC, Amherst
Rick Duncan, Bethany UMC, Rustburg
Rick Ecklund, Mount Zion UMC, Concord
Keith Vernon, Rocky Mount UMC, Rocky Mount
David Westmoreland, Mount Vernon UMC, Danville

**and a fond farewell to our clergy friends
moving from our district to new appointments.**

Penny Rasnake, Blacksburg UMC, Blacksburg
Will Waller, South Roanoke UMC, Roanoke
Eunji Kim, Virginia Beach UMC, Virginia Beach

God bless you all in your new ministry settings.



**Celebrating the faithful people of the
Mountain View District at
Virginia Annual Conference**





Left to right, top to bottom: DS Rev. Sarah Calvert, Lay Leader Susan White, Forest Road UMC, Rev. Yusang Chung, Lane Memorial UMC and friends, MVD Youth Delegates Kaylee O'Dell, Rachel Bryant, chaperone Rev. Bryan Buckles, and Maggie Moore, MVD Co-Lay Leader Tammy Burdick, Associate Lay Leader, River View Region Terrie Chaplin and friends, Lay Leader Pat Robinson and Rev. Elaine Brown, Fowler Charge, Rev. Steve Weedling, Pleasant Grove UMC, Rev. Andrew LaBar-Dietz, Peakland UMC, Interpreter Virginia Bryant, Mt Olivet UMC, Jessica Hunt, Henry Fork Service Center, Assistant Conference Secretary Rev. Jennifer Coffey, MVD Youth Delegate Rachel Bryant with Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson and friends, MVD Staff Kim Johnson, MVD Deacons Susan Hughes, Bethlehem UMC, Andrew LaBar-Dietz, Peakland UMC, Leigh Anne Taylor, MVD Staff, and Co-Lay Leader Tammy Burdick, Youth Delegate Eva Lee, Lane Memorial UMC and friends, DS Sarah Calvert and Co-Lay Leader Tammy Burdick

Mountain View District Churches Contribute 1,687 Kits to UMCOR



15 Churches in the Mountain View District collected 1,687 UMCOR Kits for Conference

42 Flood Buckets
50 Feminine Hygiene Kits
1,595 Hygiene Kits
1,687 Kits for Conference!



Many thanks to the friends at
Chestnut Hill UMC, Lane UMC, and
Smith Memorial UMC who served
as our collection sites...and loaded
up the trucks in early June!

Kits for Conference donations by all 8 districts totaled 1,408 Flood Buckets, 14,753 Hygiene Kits, and 1,209 Feminine Hygiene Kits with a total estimated value of \$311,652.00 of donations to UMCOR! Big thanks to each church in the MVD who did their part to offer aid to the suffering in their time of need!

July 26 is Disability Awareness Sunday All Abilities One Body

The Commission on Disabilities has long advocated for churches in the Virginia Conference to dedicate at least one Sunday to recognize the wide variety of gifts members possess and share. Our theme for DAS is All Abilities. One Body. **Our focus this year is on Neurodivergence.** Not all brains process the same way and God can use all those gifts in the church! **The term celebrates the natural variations in human neurology rather than viewing them as deficits, including variations such as autism, ADHD, and dyslexia, which affect roughly 15-20% of the population.**

You are invited to ponder on these questions as we approach this year's celebration:

- How do our worship spaces welcome different ways of thinking, processing, and communicating?
- How can we create environments where neurodivergent people do not simply attend church, but truly belong?
- How can the church celebrate the gifts neurodivergent people already bring to the body of Christ?

Centenary UMC, Lynchburg member Chris Howell has been part of the COD for several years and helped develop worship resources for DAS. "I want Centenary to live out the affirmation I wrote that begins: We believe that every person is created in the image of God, worthy of love, dignity, and belonging."

How will your church live it out?

Discover more resources including worship elements, sermon/discussion prompts on the Commission on Disabilities page of the conference website: <https://vaumc.org/disabilities/>

The Mountain View District is grateful for and proud of the leadership that Mountain View District representatives Chris Howell, Centenary UMC, Lynchburg and Rev. Timothy Barth, St Luke's UMC, Danville have contributed to the Commission on Disabilities and VAUMC.



Lay Servant Ministry Training Offered August 22 in Lynchburg

Saturday, Aug 22, 2026 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at
Chestnut Hill UMC, 4660 Fort Ave, Lynchburg VA 24502

Classes/Teachers/Texts:

Conflict Transformation, taught by DS Sarah Calvert

Text: [*The Spirit and Art of Conflict Transformation: Creating a Culture of Justpeace*](#), by Thomas Porter

A Beginner's Guide to Preaching, taught by Rev. Clyde DeLoach

Text: [*From Pew to Pulpit*](#), by Clifton F. Guthrie

Spiritual Growth, taught by Rev. Leigh Anne Taylor

Text: [*Grow Spiritually Through Daily Discipline: Devotional Life in the Wesleyan Tradition*](#)
by Steve Harper

For more information, contact Leigh Anne Taylor, leighannetaylor@vaumc.org

[Register for Aug 22 LSM Training Here](#)

VAUMC launching 'Miracle Sunday' campaign in September



**FORMING
TRUSTED
LEADERS**

Endowing United Methodist
Theological Education
Africa | Europe | the Philippines

On "Miracle Sunday" October

11 congregations across Virginia are receiving a one-time special offering to provide theological education for 500 students annually in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines.

United Methodists are the only Christian body that began in a university! And we still value theological education for our clergy. In the United States, 71% of clergy spiritual leaders hold a master's degree in theology yet outside the US, fewer than 5% do. Paying for this education has been a challenge – especially in Africa, the Philippines, and parts of Europe.

Bishop Eben K. Nhwatiwa, episcopal leader of the Zimbabwe Episcopal Area said, "In Africa, the church is growing rapidly, yet trained leaders are still few and far between. Formal theological education is pivotal to the present and future ministry of the church in Africa. Miracle Sunday is a concrete way to match the vitality of the global church with the theological grounding it needs to flourish faithfully."

Barbara Boigegrain, co-chair of Miracle Sunday: "We are a part of one church and strengthening one segment strengthens us all. Conversely, when one part of the body lacks access to formation and education, the whole church is diminished. Miracle Sunday invites us not only to give generously but to invest wisely in the future leadership of our denomination."

Find out more here: www.vaumc.org/miraclesunday

Blessings, Rob Vaughn
Virginia Conference Coordinator for the Campaign

Vital Conversations on Immigration

[A Video-Based Study for Churches Seeking Faithful Dialogue](#)

Immigration is more than a political issue—it is a deeply theological and spiritual conversation that calls the Church to reflect on justice, mercy, hospitality, and discipleship. Vital Conversations on Immigration is a five-session video series designed for Sunday school classes, small groups, Bible studies, and congregational learning. Featuring theologians, pastors, advocates, and immigrants themselves, each session combines a short video with discussion questions and a downloadable study guide to encourage thoughtful, grace-filled conversation.

Together, participants will explore:

- The biblical foundations of welcome and hospitality
- Why people migrate and the realities shaping migration today
- The intersections of race, culture, and immigration
- The Church's call to move from charity to justice
- How faith can shape our response to immigrant neighbors

Whether your congregation is just beginning these conversations or seeking to deepen its engagement, this series provides a practical and accessible starting point for faithful dialogue.

For deeper study, pair this video series with **GCORR's 5-session book study** based on "What We Remember Will Be Saved" By Stephanie Saldaña - about five refugees escaping war between Qaraqosh in Iraq and Aleppo in Syria.

Recommended for: Fall small groups, adult education classes, Bible studies, and mission committees.

from UM [General Commission on Race and Religion](#):



Mountain View District Calendar

July 12, 2026 2:30 - 5:30 p.m.	Cross Racial/ Cross Cultural Training	Lane Memorial UMC
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July 26, 2026 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.	MVD Staff, Lay Leaders and Team Leaders Meeting	Zoom
July 28, 2026	MVD Staff Retreat	Bonsack UMC
August 22, 2026 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Lay Servant Ministry Training	Chestnut Hill UMC, 4660 Fort A

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