

Mountain View District of the United Methodist Church Enews

September 4, 2025

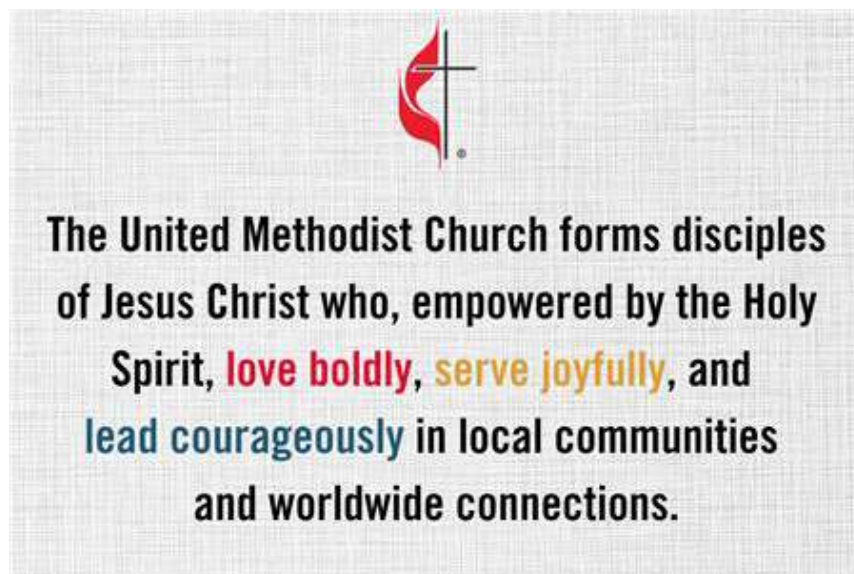


Stepping in faith into a new season of ministry

It's the time of year when we begin *again*: new seasons of study as we begin discipleship groups for all ages, new seasons of worship as we plan for celebrating All Saints, Advent and Christmas, new seasons of mission as we plan for work projects and choose which missions to support. It's an exciting time and sometimes it can be hard to make choices!

I believe it's deeply valuable for us to remember *who we are, what our purpose is, and why we do what we do* as we make those important choices for our churches.

As you come together to make choices this season, I invite you to remember that



Love Boldly: We passionately love God and, like Jesus, embrace and include people of every age, nation, race, gender, and walk of life. (Matthew 22:37-39 | John 13:34-35)

Serve Joyfully: With the heart of Christ, we journey alongside the most vulnerable among us, offering care and compassion with joy. (Psalm 100:1 | Nehemiah 8:10 | John 13:14-15 | 1 Peter 4:10)

Lead Courageously: Following Jesus' example, we resist and dismantle all systems of evil, injustice, and oppression, striving for peace, justice, and reconciliation. (Joshua 1:9 | Ephesians 6:10)

As your congregation begins again this fall, I invite you to study the scriptures referred to in our [UM vision statement](#) together and educate yourselves about the the people in your communities who are vulnerable, who are experiencing evil, injustice or oppression. I invite you to pray and listen for how God is calling you to **Love Boldly**, **Serve Joyfully**, and **Lead Courageously** in Jesus' name in your local community and in our worldwide connection.

May God bless us with everything we need to accomplish it! We're here to support you - don't hesitate to give us a call!

Leigh Anne

Rev. Leigh Anne Taylor (she/her)
Mountain View District Director of Connecting Ministries
leighannetaylor@vaumc.org, 434-439-0443

United Methodists lead our communities with love in prayer

Together we pray for

- all who grieve: Prabha Dhanawade (death of her father), the family of [Ida Powell](#), the family of [Rev. Jim Galford](#), the family of [Rev. Bill Smith](#)
 - all who suffer from ill health: Rev. Susan Hannah, Mike Meeks (*Lynn Meeks' husband*, recovery from surgery), Carol Goulder (*Joe Cailles' mother*, hospice care), Cathy Roach (recovery from surgery) Butch Taylor (*Leigh Anne Taylor's brother*), Anna Johnson (*Revs. Nancy and Bruce Johnson's daughter*), Rev. Randy Harlow
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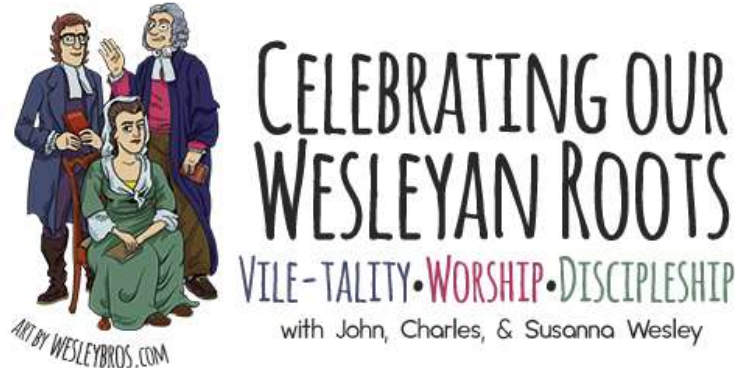
Mountain View District Office has a New Phone Number

The Mountain View District office has a new phone number: **804-514-9482**

While you're updating your contact page, did you catch our new address? **PO Box 3013, Lynchburg, VA 24503**

Please be aware that if you call the old 276 number, it will not ring to the office. It has been disconnected and it is no longer affiliated with the United Methodist Church or our district. Contact Katie at katiwilson@vaumc.org or 804-514-9482.





Mountain View District Charge Conferences Celebrate our Wesleyan Heritage

This year at Charge Conference, United Methodists in the Mountain View District will reconnect with the real lives and Christian service of Susanna Wesley and her two sons John and Charles Wesley as we tap into our Wesleyan roots, celebrate stories of faithful lay leadership in the churches on the Mountain View District, and complete the work of charge conference. (And we'll learn what "vile-tality means! If you want to beat us to it, order [Wesleyan Vile-tality, Reclaiming the Heart of Methodist Identity](#), by Dr. Ashley Boggan, General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History. You'll be glad you did!)

We will meet in various locations around the district on Sat & Sun, Nov 1-2, and Sat & Sun, Dec 6-7. Please click the link below to find the full schedule.

[CLICK HERE for the FULL SCHEDULE](#)

which includes the churches assigned to each site



Lend Your Lens: Volunteer Photographers Needed

Wesley Housing, a nonprofit affordable housing developer and proud partner of the Virginia United Methodist Conference, is [seeking volunteer photographers to help tell the story of our work across Virginia](#).

We recently welcomed several new communities into our portfolio and are looking for local photographers—professional or skilled hobbyists—to capture refreshed exterior and interior images of properties in these local communities: [Appomattox](#), [Bedford](#), Blackstone, Farmville, Louisa, [Lynchburg](#), Northampton, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Staunton, and Stephens City.

If you have a camera, a creative eye, and a heart for service, your photos can help Wesley Housing showcase the importance of affordable housing and the communities where our neighbors live and thrive.

Interested in volunteering your time and skills? Contact cstawick@whdc.org to learn more.

Discernment Day is This Saturday, Sept 6 at Main Street UMC Bedford, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Is God nudging you to do more? Do you think God is calling you, but you're not sure how to answer? Discernment Day is an opportunity for you to explore your sense of call with others who are also discerning. Through prayer practices, age appropriate small groups, and topical discussion groups, you will be provided space to learn more, connect with others, and discover your next steps.

Contact LeighAnneTaylor@vaumc.org

[CLICK HERE to REGISTER](#)



Virginia Conference Youth Retreat

November 14–16, 2025

Rappahannock Camp & Retreat Center | Richardsville, VA

Cost: \$185 until October 15 (\$195 as of October 16.)

Registration closes October 28

Ready to step away from the noise, breathe some crisp fall air, and discover what it means to be part of something bigger? The Virginia Conference Fall Youth Retreat is back—and it's going to be unforgettable. This year's theme, Called to Be UMC, dives deep into Acts 2:1–21, where the Spirit moves, the Church is born, and everyone has a part to play—including you. Through worship, laughter, bonfires, and breakout sessions, we'll explore what it really means to be United Methodist now and next.

To find out more about Leadership Tracks, [click here](#). The schedule is available [here](#).

Contact Dwayne Stinson (dwaynestinson@vaumc.org) if you have questions.

For questions about registration, contact Kay Lorelike (kaylorelake@vaumc.org).

[Register](#)



United Methodists joined Ecumenical Faith Communities at “Recovery-Ready Congregations” Summit

On August 28, faith leaders and congregants from across Central Virginia came together for *Recovery-Ready Congregations: Building Hope, Healing, and Community*. Hosted by [The UP Foundation](#) in collaboration with [Horizon Behavioral Health](#), the summit provided pastors, ministry leaders, and church members with practical tools and spiritual insight to create supportive, recovery-friendly congregations.

Mountain View District UMC's were well represented at the event with a team of 5 laity from Smith Memorial UMC in Collinsville, 7 clergy from various churches, and Sandra and Tee Fulcher who shared the story of the birth of their non-profit, Bethel New Hope, that provides transitional housing for people in addiction recovery.

“We believe the Church has a vital role to play in offering hope and healing. Through education, testimony, and fellowship, congregations left this summit empowered to walk alongside those on the journey to recovery.” said Dr. James R. Stewart.

Is your congregation Recovery Ready? Do you need resources or guidance on how to be a part of a movement rooted in compassion, faith and the belief in restoration? Please contact Leigh Anne at leighannetaylor@vaumc.org for resources.

Lay Servant Training Opportunities

The next Valley Ridge District Lay Servant Ministry Training will be held October 18, 2025 at Granbery Memorial UMC in Covington from 8:30am-4:30pm. Courses offered are Basic, led by Larry Dickenson, District Lay Leader, VRD, Preaching, led by Rev. Brian Boettcher, Pastor, Granbery Memorial UMC and Spiritual Gifts, led by Rev. Dr. Dale White, Dir of Congregational Excellence, VRD. Registration questions: contact Rev. Tim Gearheart at timgearheart@vaumc.org. Training questions: contact Rev. Dr. Dale White at dalewhite@vaumc.org.



Mountain View District Calendar

Sept 6, Sat 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Discernment Day	Main Street UMC 212 E. Main Street Bedford
Oct 9, Thu 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Clergy Meeting	Rocky Mount UMC 35 N. Main St, Rocky Mount
Nov 1, Sat 10:30 a.m. - Noon	Charge Conference	Rustburg UMC 664 Village Hwy Rustburg
Nov 1, Sat 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Charge Conference	Amelon UMC 220 Amelon Rd Madison Heights
Nov 2, Sun 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Charge Conference	Lane Memorial UMC 1201 Bedford Ave. Altavista
Nov 15, Sat 10 a.m. - Noon	Mountain View District Conference	Zoom
Dec 6, Sat 10:30 a.m. - Noon	Charge Conference	Trinity UMC 409 Arnett Blvd, Danville
Dec 6, Sat 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Charge Conference	Fieldale UMC 36 Patrick Ave, Fieldale
Dec 7, Sun 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Charge Conference	Epworth UMC 60 Merriman Way Rd, Moneta
Jan 10, 2026, Sat 9 a.m. - Noon	Clergy Meeting	Zoom
April 25, 2026, Sat 10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Clergy Meeting	TBA



Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, Presiding Bishop

Bishop@vaumc.org

Visit the Virginia Conference website at vaumc.org