

# In Response to the 2019 General Conference of The UMC

February 27, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Verona,

I know that some of you are deeply hurt by the adoption of the Traditional Plan at the recent General Conference of The United Methodist Church. Others are firm in their belief that the outcome was a faithful response to the challenges facing our global denomination over issues of human sexuality, church discipline, and biblical authority. I confess my own feelings of inadequacy in bringing either comfort or deep wisdom to this situation. What I do know without doubt is that I love this church and I love every member of it, regardless of the issues where we might not see eye to eye.

I want to share with you a passage of Scripture that I hope will speak to all of us, no matter where our hearts and minds may be following the General Conference. It is a favorite passage of mine because it reminds me that following Jesus is not always easy—in fact, it can sometimes be devastatingly difficult. I admit that I can sympathize with those in this passage who find Jesus' teachings difficult and walk away from him; I can also sympathize with Peter who, along with the Twelve, remains with Jesus. Jesus asks his disciples "You do not want to leave too, do you?" And Peter answers him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

I pray this day that none of us will allow the events of the past few days to lessen our faith in Jesus Christ and his promises. He has the words of eternal life and in those words is healing beyond our imagining.

Every Sunday morning at VUMC we sing, "I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God." I will always be thankful to God that I am—with you—a part of the family of God in Verona.

In Christ's love, Pastor Bob Weeks

## **TO WHOM SHALL WE GO? (John 6:41-69)**

*41 At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." 42 They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?"*

*43 "Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered. 44 "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. 45 It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me. 46 No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. 47 Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. 48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. 50 But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."*

*52 Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"*

*53 Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. 55 For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. 56 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. 57 Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. 58 This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." 59 He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.*

*60 On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"*

*61 Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? 62 Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! 63 The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. 64 Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. 65 He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them."*

*66 From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. 67 "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. 68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God."*

## **A Message from our District Superintendent, Reverend Victor Gomez, following the Special General Conference 2019**

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As the Special General Conference Session comes to a close in St. Louis, I realize many of you may have questions and concerns with the outcome. All of us wonder what does this mean to the UMC, our churches and our Unity. I pray for you as a colleague pastor. I pray for our churches. I pray for our laity. I pray for our United Methodist Church.

Now it is essential that we all believe that this has been a “Blessed Discernment” under the watchful eye of the Grace of God and in the presence of the Holy Spirit. In Unity we can believe nothing else.

I cannot answer your questions or define our way forward. This will take time. What I can do is to assure you that today we stand in unity as “the people called United Methodist”. I urge you all to join Bishop Lewis on the VAUMC Website for the “State of the Church: Where do we go from here?” on March 4 @ 10 a.m. The website address is <https://livestream.com/vaumc/stateofthechurch>

I also make myself available for you. For now, please join me in prayer for the Council of Bishops, the Judicial Council, and the delegates in these closing hours.

In Prayerful Patience, Victor Gómez (Harrisonburg District Superintendent)

## **A Brief Summary of The Actions of the 2019 General Conference**

**T**he General Conference is the legislative body of The United Methodist Church and is comprised of more than 800 delegates from around the world. General Conference generally meets every four years, but met in a special session Feb. 24-26, 2019, in order to deal with matters of ministry of and with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people.

The delegates to the regularly-scheduled 2016 General Conference recognized The United Methodist Church is not of one mind when it comes to the ministry of and with LGBTQ people. They asked the United Methodist Council of Bishops to set up a process to figure out a way through this disagreement.

The Council of Bishops then appointed 33 people to The Commission on a Way Forward. Their task was to find a structural solution to this theological disagreement.

The commission presented the Council of Bishops three plans: *The Connectional Conference Plan* was a massive restructuring of the denomination. *The Traditionalist Plan* further entrenching the denomination’s stance on human sexuality. *The One Church Plan* codified the regional differences already present in the denomination.

The *bishops* recommended the One Church Plan. The *delegates to the General Conference* chose the Traditionalist Plan reaffirming the current Book of Discipline in regard to the practice of homosexuality and strengthening the enforcement of the Discipline in this regard. In past years the Discipline’s restrictive language regarding same-sex marriage and gay clergy had been increasingly disregarded by certain segments of the church (primarily within the United States) and the passing of the Traditional Plan was in part a response to those actions. *(adapted from the UMC’s Board of Church and Society website)*



# THE TOWER



Monthly Newsletter of  
Verona United Methodist Church

March  
2019

## From Pastor Bob

### VERONA UM CHURCH & AISLE 7 FELLOWSHIP CHURCH STAFF

**Rev. Bob Weeks**  
*Senior Pastor*

**Rev. Shawna Hiner**  
*Campus Pastor*  
*Aisle 7 Fellowship*

**Jennifer Cook**  
*Office Administrator*

**Sheila Fair**  
*Treasurer*

**Joy Tinsley**  
*Music Director*

**Shelley Chandler**  
*Worship Leader A7F*

**Linda Toler**  
*Organist*

**Rhonda Reeser**  
*Pianist*

**Amanda Hall**  
*Director Children's*  
*Ministries*

**Bill, Carolyn Harlow**  
*Directors Youth*  
*Ministries*

**Phyllis Mauzy**  
*Nursery Director*

**Ken & Donna Cason**  
*Custodial Staff*

A question for all the adults reading this—do you remember when you were a child? Memories you can not only see, but you can feel and almost touch.

A lot of my memories revolve around my childhood church. I grew up in what may best be described as a "Simple Church." Simple enough for a child to understand. Simple enough that what is most important didn't get lost in translation.

There are three important things this simple church taught me about God: He is King. His Word is final. And I can trust Him.

Those three beliefs were reinforced in the daily routines of family and church life. - I remember how exciting it was when we had to pull out extra chairs for Sunday morning worship. It meant more people wanted to know Jesus. *And knowing Jesus was what church was all about, right?*

- On Sunday evenings our family would pile into our copper-colored Plymouth station wagon and return to the church for worship. Once a month during those Sunday evening services we worked on our congregational singing, learning how to read the notes in our hymnals. After all, my child's heart reasoned, *our God deserves our very best praise.*

- When we prayed in worship I closed my eyes hard and squeezed my hands together until my knuckles turned white. I wanted God to see how much I wanted my prayers to reach His ears. It was clear to me that *my heavenly Father was listening.*

- Wednesday evenings we returned to the church for a time of singing and Bible study. In my child's heart, *knowing God's will was all that mattered.* And knowing His will began with the Bible my parents gave me.

When I was 10 years old I was sure that when Jesus came again he would take my brother and sister and mom and dad to heaven but leave me behind. I had come to this conclusion by counting the number of times I was spanked or confined to my room compared to my siblings. It was obvious I was on thin ice with God.

So on a hot Sunday morning in July I went forward during the hymn "Trust and Obey" to tell everyone—as I shook uncontrollably—that I was trusting in Jesus as my Savior. That same Sunday morning I was baptized into Christ. I came out soaking wet and happy. I was going to heaven with everyone else. But then, slowly but surely, it dawned on me that I was still "Bobby the smart-aleck." "I was still going to break rules and say the wrong things and provoke my teachers' wrath (and God's).

That's when I made the commitment to never sin again. I would hide out from my trouble-making friends and read my Bible.

If Jesus came soon enough my plan would work.

But my self-imposed isolation lasted just three days before I broke down and re-joined my gang. I would just have to trust that God might overlook the blackness of my ten-year-old soul and go easy on me, even if the adults around me didn't.

*It was all so simple when I was a child.* There are so many days I wish I could go back and be a child again, to live each day in simple faith, laying on my back in the field behind our house and imagining heaven up in the clouds; tightly clutching my hands in prayer and singing songs out of a hymnal as my dad pointed to the words; believing in God just because the Bible told me so.

I'm now 64 years old and I know I can't go back. But I can remember.

So many friends and church members have recently said to me, "It must be hard to be a pastor right now with all the conflicts in our denomination." And they are right. Much of the time church can seem all too hard and life all too complicated.

But God is faithful. During times when I'm ready to throw in the towel He rekindles a flood of memories from my childhood and the decades since. Memories that remind me that life and church don't have to be hard if I will just remember that *He is my King, His Word is final, and I can trust Him.* As a song I learned long ago says, *"Why should I worry? Why should I fret? The Lord God Almighty isn't done with me yet!"*

**Our Mission**

WE **GLORIFY CHRIST** AS WE:  
**REACH** PEOPLE AS THEY ARE  
**RELATE** THEM TO GOD  
**EQUIP** THEM TO SERVE WITH  
US, AND  
**GO FORTH** TO MAKE A HOLY  
DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD

**Newsletter  
Deadline is  
March 18**

Please submit items to  
Jennifer Cook by date  
above for the April  
Newsletter. By phone,  
248-7777 or email,  
jennifercook@  
veronaumc.com

If you would a copy of  
**Church Council Minutes**  
please contact Jennifer in  
the church office:

248-7777 or  
jennifercook@  
veronaumc.com

*All meetings except  
Staff Parish Relations  
Committee (SPRC) are  
open to the congregation.*



**Miss A Sunday?**

Pastor Bob's  
sermons are online.  
Go to

[www.veronaumc.net](http://www.veronaumc.net)  
and check it out!

You can also receive  
weekly announce-  
ments by email.  
Call 248-7777

**News...**

**Shrove Tuesday  
All-You-Can-Eat  
Pancake Supper**

**March 5,  
5:00 to 7:30 pm**

*Pancakes, Sausage, Cooked Apples,  
Orange or Apple Juice  
and Coffee*

**Free Will Offering**

*Sponsored by Homebuilders Sunday School Class*  
**Proceeds benefit our Adult Missions  
and the Verona Community Center**



**Ash Wednesday  
Worship Service**

**March 6 at 7 p.m. at the  
Verona Community Center**



**A Lenten Bible Study**

**with Pastor Bob**

**Sundays at 6pm - March 10 - April 14.**

Discover how Jesus is the key to satisfaction  
by learning the crucial significance  
behind each of His "I AM" statements.

Call 248-7777 to sign up or use the  
tear-off sheet in your Sunday bulletin.

Cost for class materials is \$10.



**Looking Ahead:**

- April 6—UM Women Yard Sale
- April 13 - Children's Egg Hunt at VUMC
- April 18—Maundy Thursday Drama
- April 19—Good Friday Service at Aisle 7
- April 21 - Easter Sunday



**March 10  
Set your  
clocks  
ahead  
one hour!**



## The Nurture Work Area

### Between Services Coffee Time

The following groups/teams/classes are scheduled to host Coffee and Fellowship time on Sundays in September. Information and instructions posted on back of first cabinet door in the kitchen. Questions/concerns? Contact the Church Office.



March 3 - Witness Team	April 7 - Worship Team
March 10 - Open Door	April 14 - Petal Pushers
March 17 - Fearless Conv.	April 21 - Esther Circle
March 24 - UM Women	April 28 - Seekers

**Coffee Time:** We are looking for additional new groups/teams/classes/families/couples to add to the Coffee Time list – If you are willing to do this about 4 times a year (or even once a year) please contact the Church Office at 248-7777.

**Altar Flower Donations** Sign up to donate flowers on any Sunday. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board outside the fellowship hall. Donate in honor or memory of a loved one and help beautify the sanctuary. Call church office at 248-7777 for further information.

### Snacks for Community Center Caf 

We are always in need of snacks for the Verona Community Center Caf . Little Debbie's products, small bags of chips, small packages of cookies, energy bars, peanut butter crackers, etc. are always popular. Just bring by the caf  Monday through Friday or drop in the container in our church's Donation Center.



## Food Pantry Donations

**URGENT: Assist local families in need!**

On the First Sunday of each month we have a special collection for items for our church food pantry. Collection boxes are located at the Donation Center in the main church entrance and lower entryway. You can leave items at any time during the month.

### Food Pantry Hours:

Every Tuesday: 9am-11am  
2nd & 4th Thursday: 6pm-7pm

## Salt & Peppers News Corner

For anyone with a little "salt and pepper" in their hair!

### Dates to Remember:

**March 9th** Saturday dinner at VUMC, 5:00 pm, free. Please let us know you will be attending by Sunday, March 3rd. **UPDATE:** We will have a potato and salad bar with Corkie playing several selections on the sax.

**April 5th** Singer Wanda Eaves Taylor at the Wayne Theatre for a Friday night performance at 7:30 pm; van will leave VUMC at 6:30 for those who wish to meet at the church. Cost is \$15; Tickets must be purchased well in advance, **so we must have your reservation and \$15 deposit by Thursday, Feb 28th.**

**For more info or to make reservations, contact:**

Faye Wills –476-5555, Sandy McAllister –255-6488,  
Gayle Meeks 248-1325

## Helping Hands Ministry

There are a number of small building and repair projects in our community (in neighbors' homes and around our church building) that can be taken care of in a short amount of time with one or two people doing the work. A list of these projects is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex between the Sanctuary and Social Hall. Please review the list weekly to see if there is a project you are capable of doing. If the project will take a few more people, gather up a group and take care of it.

Questions? **Call Doug May at 241-5605.**

## Ways to Serve at VUMC

It may be assisting as an usher, greeter, Scripture Reader or AV operator during worship... or working with our landscape beautification team, The Petal Pushers... or teaching children's Sunday School... or in a dozen other ways. Call the Church Office today for more info on how to get involved—248-7777.

## Join a Verona UMC Prayer Group & Experience the Power of Prayer

**Pastor's Morning Prayer Group** Wednesdays at 9 am, Verona Community Center  
**Wednesday Evening Prayer Group** Wednesdays at 6 pm, next to Choir Room



# REDEMPTION

*a sermon series for Lent*

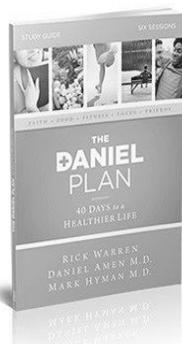
**A**s followers of Jesus, we work out our salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12), all the while remembering that all our work and effort are a response to God's grace, not a way to earn grace. During this season of Lent, we will remember God's work of redemption through the cross of His Son Jesus. We will refocus on the narrative of Scripture where God's story is a story of redemption - unfolding in lives, families, and nations through the ages.

## Lenten Sermon Series at Verona United Methodist Church

March 10	"A Strange Romance"	Scripture: Hosea 3:1-5
March 17	"The Prodigal Father"	Luke 15:11-32
March 24	"The Rescue"	Genesis 14:1-16
March 31	"Out of Egypt"	Exodus 12
April 7	"The Unfamily Becomes Family"	Ruth 4:13-17
April 14	"The Thief and the Garden"	Luke 23:32-43



**Saturday, March 23, 5:00 – 7:30 p.m.**  
**Verona Community Center**  
*Bring your favorite food and game!*  
 Join us for a covered dish meal and a night of games for the whole family.  
 Sponsored by Aisle 7 Fellowship



## The Daniel Plan

*Get healthy and lose weight by eating like God intended beginning Tuesday, March 5th*

**Tuesdays, 6:30pm to 8pm, beginning March 5 at the Verona Community Center**

The Daniel Plan is a six-week faith-based Healthy Lifestyle Program. Eat like God intended, and YES, you will lose weight! **For men and women**, this program is comprised of five essentials: *Faith, Food, Fitness, Focus and Friends*, and leader-added essential, *Fun!* Books £9 from leader; **class is free**, although a donation for use of space is appreciated. Class size will be limited, so please register today at email: [carikerj@comcast.net](mailto:carikerj@comcast.net) or call 540-255-3987



## Community Center Report

**Since it's opening in 2015, the Community Center has served over 40,000 people!**

- The Verona Community Center Café had 577 guests in November 2018, and total guests to the café was up 1,318 compared to the previous year.
- Showers have been used 161 since their installation in May. Laundry facilities were used 49 times in November, bringing the total for the year to 310.
- We've trained several new volunteers in January.

**Community Center Status** The center has filed for 501-c3non-profit status with the federal government, a step which will allow for donations to the center to be tax-deductible without going through the church. Status was still pending as of January 24th.

### Support the Community Center:

Your financial support is crucial to our on-going service within the Verona community. Send donations made out to Verona Community Center, P.O. Box 780, Verona, VA 24401.

**What are you doing on Thursday afternoons?** Spending three hours occasionally at the Verona Community Center is a great way to serve your community!! The 2:30-5:30 shift is often available for volunteers. Usually it's quiet -making it a great opportunity to catch up on your reading. Other times it can be busy - a chance to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors. To volunteer at VCC contact Lydia at Lydspot@yahoo.com or call 886-1460.

*Thank you!*

*For your continued financial, prayer, and volunteer support for the Verona Community Center. We've served over 40,000 guests since 2016 thanks to your help!*

## Response to Natural Disasters

As many disasters threaten communities in the U.S., the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and our partners are prepared to respond.

Please join us in prayer for the areas affected and consider a gift to UMCOR Disaster Response.

To donate to **Disaster Response in the United States**, including hurricanes and fires, make your check out to Verona UMC with the notation: UMCOR Response #901670. 100% of your donation will go to U.S. relief efforts.

## Numbers that Matter thru 2/24/19

Sunday School (VUMC) Avg. Attendance	80
Worship Avg. 2019—VUMC/A7F	187/53
Worship 2/24/19 —VUMC/A7F	183/70

### GENERAL FUND OFFERINGS\*

VUMC General Fund Weekly Need	8064
VUMC General Fund Weekly Avg. 2019	7541
A7F General Fund Weekly Need	1678
A7F General Fund Weekly Avg. 2019	1651

\*Does not include designated gifts including the Community Center, Aisle 7 Fellowship, Food Pantry, Building and Memorial Funds, Youth Missions, etc.



## To set up your account visit:

<http://veronaumc.net/online-giving/>

Contact Jennifer in the church office at 248-7777 for if you have questions or need assistance.

There is a 3% fee paid by our church for use of a credit or debit card. You have the option to add that fee to your donation. If you use an e-check, the fee is 50 cents per transaction.



**Dot Hess** is now a resident at Oak Grove Manor. Let's make her transition easier with cards and visits. Her new address is: Oak Grove Manor, 8 Rainbow Lane, Waynesboro VA 22980.



**Grace United Methodist Church** invites you to our

Recognition Sunday to celebrate the work God has done through the ministry of Rev. Rudy Tucker in

worship on Sunday, March 24, 2019. Three services will be held at 8:25am., 9:45 am, and 11:00 am, a coffee hour will follow each service. Pastor Rudy will be retiring from full time ministry in June. Rudy served as pastor of Verona UMC from 1988-1993. Grace UMC is located at 9750 Wellington Road, Manassas, Virginia 20110.



# MACARONI & CHEESE COOK-OFF

March 24th 11am - 1 pm

*The youth are hosting a Cook-off!*

We need your BEST Mac and Cheese dish!

We will accept 10 dishes of Macaroni & Cheese. You will be able to name your dish and decorate the table in honor of your favorite basketball team!

The youth can help with this if you need extra hands. The youth will provide all other food and drinks. To donate an amazing dish of Mac & Cheese let Bill or Carolyn know!



**GIVE BLOOD  
SAVE LIFE**



**American  
Red Cross**

**Our next Blood Drive will be  
Thursday, April 25th  
12 pm - 5 pm**

We are now working with the Red Cross to provide blood to those in need.

*Mark your calendar and plan to give!*



**We are again soliciting donations of UMCOR kit supplies with this year's focus on Cleaning Buckets (used in flood recovery)**

The average cost of the items to fill the bucket is \$75. Please take an ornament or two from the Angel tree in the Narthex noting specific items to be donated. Items needed by the end of May. Sponsored by the UM Women



**Finance  
Committee**

## **AUDIT for Church Account Holders**

Attention all groups (classes, women's groups, ministries) with accounts in our church's name. Please begin to prepare for the audit which will be done in April and make sure you give your audit form and all of your bank statements to Sandy Rankin or leave in the church office **by April 4th**. Thank you.

*Sandy Rankin, Finance Chair*



**VERONA  
UMC**

# YOUTH GROUP

## Upcoming Dates:

**March 3 - 5:30 pm** - Youth Devotions/supper

**March 17 - 5:30 pm** - Youth Devotions and Mission Meeting/supper; also we will be preparing for Sunrise service. All youth need to help.

**March 24th - MARCH MADNESS MACARONI & CHEESE COOK-OFF**

The youth are hosting a cook-off. We need your BEST mac and cheese dish; we will accept 10 delicious dishes of Mac & Cheese. Name your dish and you can represent your favorite basketball team! You can even decorate your table to represent your team. The youth will provide all the food. If you are interested please contact Bill or Carolyn. Proceeds will benefit the Youth Mission Trip.

**March 21 - 6:00 pm** - youth will serve the Ruritans

**March 31 - 5:30 pm** - youth Devotions/supper

**Youth Group is for  
6th - 12th grades.  
BRING A FRIEND!**

*Our Youth Coordinators are  
Bill & Carolyn Harlow.  
Reach them at 578-5575  
with any questions.*

**Reminder - \$100 donation is due at March 17th meeting for those attending Mission Trip. Background checks for adults are also due for adult members.**

**2019 Youth mission trip** to Winchester, KY June 22-29th 2019. All youth ages 12+ are welcome to come on the mission trip. We will be partnering with Group Work camps this year; we will be serving in the Winchester community with painting and repairs for those in need. We will have devotions during the day and at night plus morning and evening program which are geared to the youth. Please let Bill or Carolyn know if you are interested in attending.



**Sundays!**

**5-6:30 p.m.**

**Social Hall/Dinner Provided**

*We are working on music for Easter!*

## Children's News

**Children's Easter**

**Egg hunt is  
planned for  
Saturday,  
April 13th**

*For details contact  
Amanda at  
amandavumc@gmail.com*



# Greetings from Pastor Shawna

It's hard to believe the season of Lent is upon us. Aisle 7 Fellowship will have an Ash Wednesday Service on March 6 at 7:00 p.m. at the Verona Community Center. There will be some on the NC Mission Trip (including Pastor Bob) so everyone from Verona UMC and the community are welcome to attend the service.



A7F will also participate in a Maundy Thursday Service (Drama) on April 18 and a Good Friday Service on April 19 at 7pm - both at the Verona UMC Campus. Easter is Sunday, April 21. This is a great time of year to participate in these special services, which remind us of God's love for us and the hope we have beyond this life.

Thank you to those from A7F and VUMC who joined us for Worship, Lunch, and or H.E.A.R.T.S. on February 10. We had 38 for lunch and 25 stayed to play the game. Thank you to Bill and Carolyn Harlow and Thelma Smith for providing the food. We raised \$279 that will go towards the North Carolina & Youth Mission Trips.

We will have a Family Game Night on Saturday, March 23 from 5-7:30 p.m. at the community center. Bring your favorite covered dish and game.!

Please keep in prayer Julie Young, in the recent loss of her father; Clyde Eckard and Bonnie Harlow in the recent loss of her husband, Bill Harlow.

We are building a new stage on Saturday, March 2 at 8am for our expanding Praise Team. If you would like to help that day, please contact me.

We are excited for our growth in many ways at Aisle 7 and ask that you continue to keep us in your prayers. We appreciate the love and support from Verona UMC and thankful for your faith and example of making disciples of Jesus Christ. I believe together we are making a powerful impact in the Verona Community and in God's Kingdom.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Shawna      430-5462/shawnahiner@vaumc.org

## Apply for the VUMC Scholarship Fund

Each year our church offers scholarships through our D.I.C.E. Fund (Disciples in Christ Education Fund) to students who meet the following qualifications:

An applicant who is a member of Verona United Methodist Church may approach the DICE Committee to make application for financial assistance; each applicant will complete an application form. In addition, an itemized breakdown of school tuition or conference expenses must be attached to the submitted application. In the event there is a member(s) of our Church who desires to attend an accredited college/graduate school in order to pursue a career in full-time Christian Service, that person may receive from the DICE Fund an amount up to, but not exceeding One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) per year or \$500 each semester.

Additionally, in the event there is a VUMC member who is considering a career in full-time Christian service and wishes to attend a Christian conference or event to explore their commitment, he/she may receive an amount not to exceed \$500 per year to cover their expenses for the conference or event.

Requests for assistance for tuition and books/materials required for classes must be submitted each academic year to the D.I.C.E scholarship committee through the VUMC church office.

**For further details and/or to receive an application form, please contact the church office at 248-7777 or email [bobweeks@veronaumc.com](mailto:bobweeks@veronaumc.com). Completed applications are due by May 15, 2019.**

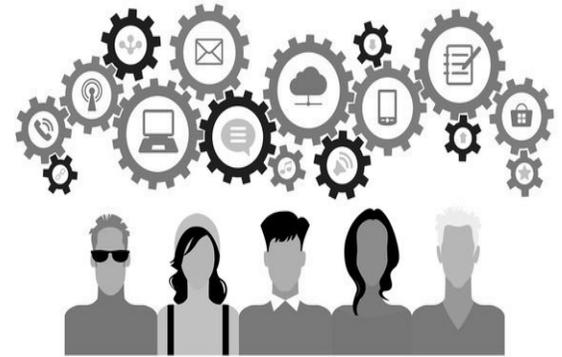


## Donation Processors Needed

### DUTIES INCLUDE

- Counting and posting to accounts all cash and checks collected during the offering at regular services and special events/services or that come into the church during the week. Posting is done in our "Church Windows" accounting software.
- Accurately completing an Excel spreadsheet with all donations to the proper fund/account. This spreadsheet is provided to the treasurer.
- The spreadsheet totals and the items posted in Church Windows are checked and should always match.
- Ensuring that everything is posted correctly so that the Church financial reports and yearly giving statements are accurate.
- Keeping accurate backup documentation – copies of checks, giving envelopes and other documentation as needed each week.
- Filling out the deposit slip and taking the deposit to the bank (night deposit box).

**TRAINING IS PROVIDED** on Sunday Mornings downstairs in the Treasurer's office starting at 10 AM. Donation processing normally takes a team of two people about 2 hours to complete. Processing on another day (Monday or Tuesday) is fine after the processors have been fully trained and are confident of the procedures. Contact the church office (248-7777) to volunteer and/or for further information.



## Technology Team Forming

Technology has become a part of our worship and part of how our church functions. Individuals have helped out in the past and this has been a blessing to our church. We would like to see if there are people interested in forming a technology committee. People with all levels of ability and technology understanding would be on the committee.

Please contact Doug May if you are interested at 540-241-5605 or [dougem@outlook.com](mailto:dougem@outlook.com)



## North Carolina Mission Team Serving March 3rd through 9th

The VUMC/Aisle 7 adult mission team for the North Carolina Hurricane Repair trip has been formed. The team will leave the church on Sunday March 3 after the 8:30 service and return mid afternoon Saturday March 9. The team will be commissioned at that service, We will be repairing homes damaged in the recent hurricanes.

The 18 team members include Noah Bussard, Mike Cash, Amanda and Lee Forbes, Carolyn Harlow, Jeff Harris, Doug May, K.C. Morlino, Ray Patterson, Don Powers, Wayne Smith, Joy and Mike Utberg, Jerry VanLear, Pastor Bob Weeks, Fred Wills and Larry Wills, and Mark Wright.

To the congregation of VUMC and Aisle 7, we ask that you pray for the safety of the team as a unit, for each individual, for the work that we will be doing and for the people of Pamlico County North Carolina that we will be serving.

Thank you for your support.



**Be the person  
 who breaks the cycle.**

If you were judged, choose understanding.  
 If you were rejected, choose acceptance. If  
 you were shamed, choose compassion. Be  
 the person you needed when you were  
 hurting, not the person who hurt you. Vow  
 to be better than what broke you—to heal  
 instead of becoming bitter so you can act  
 from your heart, not your pain.

**Verona Ruritans Offer  
 Three \$500 Scholarships**

You must be from Staunton, Augusta, or Waynes-  
 boro and have been accepted this fall to a Trade,  
 two or four year school. **Applications are due by  
 June 1st.** Contact Fred Wills 430-0612 or stop by  
 the church office for an application.



**Summer  
 Camp at  
 Overlook  
 Retreat &  
 Camp  
 Ministries**

**Day camp and overnight summer Camp  
 programs just north of Harrisonburg  
 for children & youth designed to:**

*Create a Christian environment in an  
 out-of-doors setting that will be conducive  
 to personal and group experiences with  
 God and learning His will for our lives.*

**Visit our website for more info:**

<http://overlookretreatandcampministries.weebly.com>

**5th Sunday Offerings**

Our Fifth Sunday Offering on March 31 will go to  
 the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. This fund is used  
 to meet emergency needs of families in the com-  
 munity and to meet the missional needs of the  
 church. Ushers will have offering plates at the en-  
 trances to the sanctuary to receive your special

**VUMC Chancel Choir News**

*Choir Rehearsals on Wednesdays  
 @ 6:30pm and 7:15pm*

*There will be No choir practice  
 on March 6. (Ash Wednesday)*

*Combined Choir will begin on April 3  
 for the May 19 Simply Gospel Concert.*

**Simply Gospel  
 Concert**

The combined choirs of VUMC invite  
 you to join us on **May 19, 2019**  
 at 7:00 pm in the VUMC Sanctuary  
 for a special Gospel Concert.  
 We will perform well-known  
 hymns set in southern gospel  
 arrangements.



The VUMC Children's Choir will  
 perform as well.

Our special guests is Chris Tortorice.  
 Mark this date on you calendar for a  
 fun evening of Music and Praise!



# VERONA UMW



Remember your Prayer Partner

## United Methodist Women News

### From Joy Utberg, UMW President:

On Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup>, please join us during fellowship time to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UMW and preceding organizations.

On January 31<sup>st</sup>, Gayle Meeks & I participated in the United Methodist day at Virginia General Assembly. It was my first time at the annual event. We met with the Virginia Interfaith Center staff who presented several bills they wanted us to bring before our senators & delegates. That was a challenge as most of them were in committee meetings, but we got to speak with their administrative aides.

We sat in on one committee meeting and saw how a bill is presented, discussed, and voted on. It was an eye-opening experience and I highly recommend going next year if you have the opportunity.

The UMW invites any member of VUMC to participate in a Harrisonburg District UMC volunteer opportunity. We are committing to work at Mission Central in Harrisonburg once each quarter. The next time we will be serving is Wednesday April 10 from 10am-1pm, and Thursday April 11 from 5-7pm. If you cannot commit your time, but can donate the following items, let me know: children's clothes, including winter coats, shoes, socks, undergarments for infant to 15 years old, and all sizes of disposable diapers. **Don't forget the UMW sponsored yard sale from 7am - noon on April 6<sup>th</sup> – rent a table (or 2 or 3) to sell your excess stuff, or come to see what others are selling!**

### Upcoming events:

- Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> - VUMW Officer meeting 10:00am Room 126
- Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> – Celebrate 150 years of UMW
- Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm– District UMW Evening together visiting Mission Central at Cedar Grove UMC
- Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – UMW sponsored Yard Sale

If you have any questions about the UMW, or are thinking of joining, please feel free to contact me at 569-2702, or reach out to one of the 2019 officers:

Carol Brydge – VP Susan Walker - Secretary  
Millie Davis – Treasurer Grace Dick – Spiritual Growth Coordinator  
Lydia Weeks – Reading Program Joy Tinsley – Nominating

### Join the UM Women's Reading Program

The purpose of the United Methodist Women's reading program is to encourage women to expand understanding of God's mission, to increase sensitivity to all human beings and to encourage critical thinking about issues facing humanity.

**Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers.** Inspiring and funny, the author tells hilarious and wrenching tales about various predicaments that have sparked her prayers and inspired her to encourage others to pray anytime, anywhere and any way.

**A Girl Called Problem.** This is a novel for young readers about a 13 year old girl and what happens when her people move to a nearby village.

Whatever Happened to Dinner? Recipes and Reflections for Family Mealtimes. The (local) author examines the role food and mealtime play in the family.

**A New Dawn in Beloved Community: Stories With the Power to Transform Us.** These are stories of people, in their own words. Their goal is to help the church build beloved communities in ways that can transform the world.

**For info. about borrowing books from our lending library contact Lydia (886-1460) or Lisa (248-3379)**

**Not a Member of the  
United Methodist Women?**  
Talk with me and let me tell you about how  
*Great* it is to be a *United Methodist Woman*  
—Joy Utberg, Verona UMW Pres.

**VUMC UMW Circle Meetings**  
Esther Circle–3<sup>rd</sup> Monday 2:00pm at  
the church–Linda Wiseman & Shirley  
Webster, Co-Chairs  
Rebecca Circle –2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, 10am at  
the church – Gayle Meeks, Chair



## Remember *in* Prayer

Debbie Link, Barbara Breedon, Faith Bridges, Winston Jackson, Thelma Smith, Dot Hess, Patsy Dastoli, Ruth Weaver, Ronald Smith, Margaret Helmick, Jean May, Inez

Fultz, Howard Rexrode, Elijah Smith, Don & Caroline McFaden, Roger Moats, Frances Johnson, Ray Smith, Harle Jackson, Jeff Spiggle, Joy Tinsley, Kitty Wine, Bill & Nancy Welliver, Farris Gwin, Wilma Shuey, Corkie Collie, Scott Arbogast, Parker Staples, Marie Cason, Kathy Poarch

## Our Christian Love and Sympathy are Extended To

- Charles Cook, on the loss of his mother-in-law, Willie Lockridge
- Bonnie Harlow in the loss of her husband, Bill Harlow
- The Mzingo family in the loss of Kaye Mzingo
- Julie Young in the loss of her father, Clyde Eckard
- The family and friends of Shelly Hall after her recent passing



Dear Friends in Mission at VUMC,

Thank you for your gift of \$2,480 through The Advance, the designated giving channel of The United Methodist Church. We are pleased to share that 100 percent of your contribution will support UMCOR's U.S. disaster training and response. Giving through The Advance enables United Methodists to partner with one another in mission and ministry around the world. Thank you for joining with us in God's mission.

You can learn more about UMCOR's disaster response and development work by visiting our website at [www.Umcor.org](http://www.Umcor.org). Here you can also track your gift or set up monthly donations. There are photos, stories, videos, webcasts, and other resources available on the website to keep you informed or emerging needs and UMCOR's response, as well as offer you food for thought and reflection.

*-Grace and Peace Rolanda Fernandes;  
General Treasurer*

## Notes of Sincere Appreciation

**Thank you** for the prayers, cards, phone calls, and visits during Kaye's illness. They meant so much to her and our family. Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered. **A special thank you** to all who prepared and served the meal for her memorial service. You blessed us with your generosity and kindness. *-The family of Kaye Mzingo*

**Thank you** for Verona United Methodist Church's generous support for the upcoming RAM Clinic. Your thoughtful support will help bring healthcare that is desperately needed to some of our most vulnerable neighbors. On their behalf I'm deeply grateful. *-Cory Davies*

**I would like to say "thank you"** for all the love and support we received during my mother's passing. I would also like to thank the Open Door class for the food platter. Thank you for all the many prayers and cards we received. *- Twilla Bridges & family*

**A big "Thank you"** to all our volunteers who came out on Feb. 15 to help make our Apple Dumping fund raiser a success. A special "thank you" to our special sales person, Mary Lam. God bless you, Mary, you truly are special. Our next apple dumping making will be later in the year with the date to be announced later. *- Jean & Bernard Bean*



"Church is not something you go to, It's a family you belong to."

## Country Ham Sandwich Fundraiser for VUMC Daycare

The VUMC Daycare is selling country ham sandwiches as a fundraiser. Each sandwich is \$3 and they must be prepaid by March 13th, so that we can place the order. You can pick up on March 15th at anytime at the daycare. Order forms are outside the sanctuary doors for you to fill out. Make checks out to VUMC Daycare. Thank you so much for supporting us!

# Verona UMC March Calendar

## Church meetings/events

- March 5- 5:30-7:30 pm** - Shrove Tues. Supper
- March 6- 7 pm** - Ash Wednesday Service
- March 3 - 9** - Adult Mission Trip to North Carolina
- March 9** - Salt & Pepper Dinner
- March 10** - Daylight Savings Time
- March 11** - SPRC Meeting 7 pm Rm 146
- March 19** - Council Meeting 7 pm Rm 146
- March 23** - VUMW Exec. Meeting 10 am BRMH
- April 1** - WRE Full Council Meeting Rm 147
- April 6** - UM Women yard Sale 7 am
- April 7** - Staunton Choral Society Concert 7 pm
- April 13** - Children's Egg Hunt
- April 16** Finance Meeting 7 pm Rm 146
- April 19** - Good Friday Service at Aisle 7 - 7 pm
- April 21** - Easter Sunday
- April 25** - Red Cross Blood Drive 12 - 5 pm

**Worship Services** held each Sunday at 8:30 and 11 a.m. with Sunday School at 10 a.m.

**Aisle 7 Fellowship**, our second campus, meets at the Verona Community Center at 10:45 a.m.

**Prayer meetings** held Wednesdays at 9 a.m. at the Verona Community Center and on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in Room 201 at VUMC

**Choir rehearsals (COMBINED)** held Wednesday evenings at 6:30 in the Sanctuary

**Rebecca Circle** - 2nd Saturday; monthly 10am Rm 146

**Esther Circle** - 3rd Monday; monthly 2pm, Rm 144

## Community meetings/events

**AA** - Sundays & Wednesdays; weekly 8pm, Rm 302

**AL-ANON** - Sun. & Wed.; weekly 8pm Rm 141

**NA** - 2nd Sunday; monthly 3pm Rm 146

**S-ANON** - 2nd & 4th Tuesdays; monthly, 6pm Rm 302

**TOPS** - Wednesday; weekly 6pm Rm 143

**Girl Scouts** - 2nd & 4th Wed.; monthly 6:30 pm Rm 141

**Happy Notes** - Thursday; weekly 9:30am in sanctuary

**FAA** - Thursday; weekly 6:45 Rm 201

**Verona Ruritans** - 3rd Thursday; monthly 7pm BRMH



3/1 Jennifer Cook 3/2 Linda Toler Carolyn Hamrick John Carper 3/3 Mark Hisey Morgan Smith 3/4 Zack Woods 3/5 Janette Gordon Wanda Broce 3/6 Benny Custer Virginia Pullin 3/7 Michael Cook 3/9 Terry Smith	3/10 Barbara Collie Brian Linger Darlene Propst Viel 3/12 Anne Thompson David Wagoner 3/13 Travis Wills 3/14 Doug May Kim Cash Madi Reeser Katie Mozingo 3/15 Earl Shifflett Connie Rohrer Danny Link Larry James 3/16 Mary Cain	3/17 Linda Wiseman Greg Bean Elizabeth Vallee 3/19 Christina Cason 3/20 Don Swanson Luke Wiseman 3/21 Chuck Wright Rob Carper Roger Moats Daniel Cash 3/23 Carol Brydge 3/24 Sean Weeks 3/25 Bill Lambert 3/26 Judith Cariker Nick Minor Tommy Upton	3/27 Frances Johnson David Roadcap Billy Weeks Melinda Wills Ashley Smith 3/30 Melissa Sumner Daniel Wright 3/31 Brandon Reeser Dwight Shuler Dwayne Shuler
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Verona United Methodist Church  
 P.O. Box 47 - 406 Lee Highway  
 Verona, VA 24482-0047

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Return Service Requested

**Staying in touch:**

**Church Phone #'s:** 540/248-7777 Fax 540/248-2243  
**Church Website:** www.veronaumc.net

**Senior Pastor:** Rev. Bob Weeks  
 Pastor's Study: 540/248-7778  
 Email: bobweeks@veronaumc.com

**Sunday Schedule:**  
 VUMC Worship 8:30 a.m.  
 Fellowship Time 9:30-10 a.m.  
 VUMC Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
 A7F Worship 10:45 a.m.  
 VUMC Worship 11:00 a.m.

Keep track of Lent by coloring in the squares as each day passes.

1	Ash Wednesday	15	16		17	18	19	20	21
2	M	14		36					22
3	y	13	C		37	38			23
4	L	12	a	Palm Sunday	35	39	Good Friday		24
5	e	11	i	34	Alleluia!		Holy Saturday		25
6	n	10	e	33	Christ is Risen!		Easter!		26
7	t	9	n	32				28	27
8		8	d	31	30	29			
9		7	a						
		6	r						

