



Roanoke District
The United Methodist Church

OUR WEBSITE

District Enews - Special Edition 3/26/2020

VAUMC Announces New Guidelines for Worship and Apportionments



In-person worship services are cancelled at least through April 19, 2020 which includes all Holy Week services. The Council on Finance and Administration has adapted new prioritization for Apportionments during this time. Read this March 26, 2020 update from [Bishop Lewis](#).



Local Church Resources

Resources are available as churches explore ways to remain connected to their congregations and communities. Many are shared on our [website](#), including a Litany and an Adaptation of a Love Feast that can be used for online worship in place of Communion.

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One of the best things about the United Methodist Church is our connection. The VAUMC Webmaster, is creating a page on the [conference site](#) for local church stories of how churches are keeping the connection and mission during the coronavirus pandemic. Please send stories and pictures of creative ways your church is in ministry to BrendaCapen@vaumc.org.

Link to More
Resources

District Apportionment Deferment

In the midst of COVID-19 disruptions, we give thanks for the many creative ways in which our churches are worshipping online and staying connected to their congregations and communities. This time of worship cancellations has created financial uncertainties in some of our local churches. With that in mind, the Virginia Conference and Roanoke District are working to resource our local churches with alternative methods of giving.



In addition, the District Finance Committee has approved an optional deferment of payment of District Apportionments through April 2020. This would include District Administration, Board of Missions, Alta Mons, and Wesley Foundation.

We are grateful for the leadership in each congregation that is managing the stewardship of financial resources during this time.

Kathleen Overby Webster, District Superintendent
Chuck Neely, District Finance Committee Chair
Jim Pearman, District Treasurer

Common Table Grants Available



The Roanoke District Common Table is making small grants available to churches **new** to the online giving process. These grants may be used to offset registration, banking or transaction fees that might be incurred during this startup phase. For more information contact the District Office at RoanokeDistrict@vaumc.org More about online giving: <https://www.vaumc.org/pages/news/2020news/vanco>

The Roanoke District Common Table is making small grants available to support churches **new** to online worship and electronic communications. Grants could be used for small expenses like: a tripod for a recording device, *YouTube* packages, or communication software.

Hidden Grace

A Message from our District Superintendent

Rev. Kathleen Overby Webster



Thirty-one years ago this month on March 26, 1989, I, along with all the worshippers came inside the fellowship hall following the Easter Sunrise service, which had been held, as all the best ones are, outside. As we entered the warm building we were greeted by the sounds of the men working on their annual big breakfast and by the smells of cooking: including the strong aroma of frying bacon...it permeated the building...can't you smell it now?

As one woman walked past me down the hall on her way to the meal, she said, "*Boy! It's good no one around here is pregnant, that smell would make them sick! It sure was one of the things that always gave me morning sickness!*" She laughed. I laughed.

I knew, though she didn't, that at 7 pm the next night I was meeting with the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee to tell them that I was pregnant, about 8 weeks along.

I know it is surprising, in Lent, with our focus on the cross up ahead in Jerusalem to hear this unexpected scripture reading (Luke 1:26-38) as we recall the announcement to Mary by the angel Gabriel that she will bear a child, the

overshadowing by the Holy Spirit, the decision to walk in faith, to be a disciple. It is so revealing in this season when we look to the cross, the tomb, and beyond to resurrection, to see God already working to bring new life.

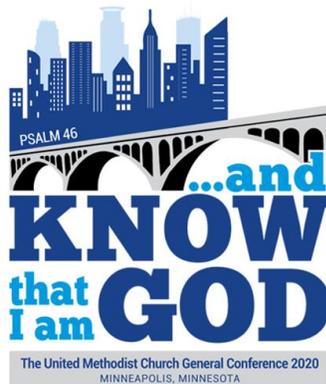
[CLICK HERE](#) to continue the message

District Superintendent's
Articles

District and Conference Office Announcements

As we practice the recommended social distancing, the Roanoke District office is closed to visitors except by appointment. However, you may still contact us by calling (540) 989-3335 or emailing RoanokeDistrict@vaumc.org, as staff are working to support District ministries.

The VAUMC Conference Office in Glen Allen is closed indefinitely at this time. Many staff will be working remotely and will try to answer questions via email.



General Conference moved to 2021

2020 General Conference, which was to be held in Minneapolis on May 5-15, 2020, HAS BEEN POSTPONED until 2021. When rescheduled, this world-wide United Methodist Conference will consider legislation for changes in the United Methodist Church, budgets, and revisions to The Social Principles.

General Conference Links and
Information

Join Bishop Lewis at noon each day in prayer

The Apostle Paul writes in Philippians 4:6 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” (NIV) Prayer is essential to sustain our faith and Jesus Christ modeled a life of prayer.... I am very blessed to lead an annual conference that believes in the power of the petitioned prayer!

Please join me at 12 noon every day and pray this PRAYER. Let us invoke the power of the Great Physician to do a mighty work in eradicating this disease all over the world.

Peace and Blessings, Bishop Sharma D. Lewis



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