

Loving, Learning and Serving Together

TODAY Celebrating Graduates! PotLuck Meal after Worship!

TUESDAY *Amy at Stanleytown UMC for District Clergy Day Retreat*

FRIDAY (6:30 pm) Wesley Covenant Group at Krauss House

SATURDAY (6 pm) Saturday Social at Antioch COB Pavilion:

FCHS Jazz Band followed by the White Family

June 3 (10am) Blessing and Beginning of VBS!

(4 pm) Organ Concert at Antioch Church of the Brethren

(4:30 pm-6 pm) Informational Meeting about the

Commission on the Way Forward at Rocky Mount UMC

(6pm-8:30pm) Vacation Bible School

(7 pm) Community Celtic Worship at St. Peter's Episcopal Church

June 3-7 Vacation Bible School

June 8-10 Altamons Camping and Paintball Trip for Youth

June 15-17 Annual Conference in Hampton Roads, VA

June 17 Cooperative Parish Pulpit Switch!

New Hope (8:30 am) Terry Jamison Preaches

Highland (10 am) Carolyn Saul Preaches

June 18 (7 pm) UMW *Every 3rd Monday (No meetings Jan, Feb or July)*

June 20 (Noon) Community Lunch at Bethany *Every 3rd Wed. of the month*

Newsletter Information due to Pat Webb

June 22 Relay for Life

June 24 (After Worship) Highland Council Meeting

July 13-15 Highland Church Camping Trip

Saturday Social Live Music at Antioch Church of the Brethren

Pavilion (2996 Callaway Road, Rocky Mount, VA 24151)

June 2: FCHS Jazz Band Followed by the White Family

July 14: Cassie Smith followed by the Skillet Sisters

August 4: After Jack September 8: Like the Moon and Harwell Grice Band

Begins at 6 pm—Food, Music, Fellowship—Donations Welcome

Annual Conference June 15-17, 2018

Virginia United Methodists will be gathering at Hampton, Virginia for singing, worship, business, and service. This year's theme is "Servant Leaders Making a Difference" from *1 Peter* 4:10. You can "live stream" morning and evening sessions by going to the Conference website www.vaumc.org

Blessing and Prayer for Graduates

Leader: Graduations and Growing up. Endings and Beginnings.

Hard Work and Celebrations!

People: "I can't stop thanking God for you—everytime I pray, I think of you and give thanks. But I do more than thank. I ask—ask the God of our Master, Jesus Christ, the God of glory—to make you intelligent and discerning in knowing him personally, your eyes focused and clear, so that you can see exactly what it is he is calling you to do..."

(Ephesians 1:15-19, Message Translation)

Leader: Finding a path, a place, and people. Responsibilities and

Discoveries. Commitments and New Experiences.

People: "I lift my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 121, NRSV)

Leader: Living Learnings. Learning from Mistakes. Grace and Faith.

People: God promises: "I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5, NRSV)

Leader: Fear and Joy. Anxiety and Excitement. All Ages Helping and Supporting Each Other.

People: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say Rejoice! The Lord is near..." This is our God; God will guide us forever. Amen.

(Philippians 4:4-7, Psalm 48, NRSV)

July 14: Cassie Smith followed by Skillet Sisters at Antioch COB Pavillion
August 4: After Jack music at Antioch COB Pavillion
September 8: Like the Moon followed by The Harwell Grice Band at
Antioch COB

Update on the Commission on the Way Forward

Please check out the prayer wall (by the Pastor's Office) for articles and information about this Commission's work the past two years.

Two years ago a Commission on the Way Forward was formed to find a way forward through divisions in the church. Their focus was how can we be our best in making disciples for Jesus Christ? Their focus was NOT how to change people's minds. Respectfully, we believe by faith, differently, but together in our differences, we can serve; we can still be a UNITED church in our differences.

After two years of prayerful, hard work of listening, learning, and praying the Commission created and recommended three possible plans for a way forward: One Church Plan, The Traditional Plan, The Connectional-Conference Plan. Two weeks ago all the Bishops of the United Methodist Church from around the world met. The Bishops are sending all three plans to be voted on at the called General Conference in February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis. The majority of the Bishops recommend the the One Church Plan because it "gives freedom at the Conference and local church levels." But they sent all three plans for the delegates to vote on. UMC.org's Heather Hahn:

*"One Church Plan: decisions about whether to ordain LGBTQ clergy or to officiate at same-gender unions would be made closer to the congregational level. The plan would remove the restrictive language against the practice of homosexuality in the Book

Discipline, the denomination's policy book. The plan also adds assurances to pastors and conferences who in good conscience cannot perform same-sex weddings or ordain "self-avowed practicing" gay clergy that they don't have to do so. Central conferences — church regions in Africa, Asia and Europe — could maintain current restrictions.

*The Traditionalist Plan: would affirm the current language in the denomination's Book of Discipline, the denomination's governing document, and seek to strengthen enforcement. The Connectional-Conference plan would allow conferences to choose among three connectional conferences for affiliation.

*The Connectional-Conference Plan: would align based on theology or perspective on LGBTQ ministry — be it traditionalist, progressive or allowing for a variety of approaches. This plan would require multiple amendments to the denomination's constitution."

What does this mean for us? We continue praying, worshipping, and serving. No decision has been made. We keep being faithful followers of Jesus Christ. As you see the plans are wide and far.

What's next? We will know more specifics about these possible plans later in July when a detailed report is given. Then, a called General Conference will take place February, 2019. Worship, discussion, and a decision MAY be made. The United Methodist representatives from around the world may vote for one plan or there may be a completely different solution to be One Church that the Holy Spirit stirs up! It may be possible that everything stays the same and a decision cannot be made.

What's important? We not waste energy in all the "what if's." We stay in the present and presence of God, talking and listening, sharing and receiving. As always I am here for you to listen and try to share how I have understood the Commission's work and what lies ahead. I have attended meetings, kept a folder of articles of each step,

I have put out the prayer wall so people can go to it for facts, information, vision, shared updates, and calls for prayer. Another informational meeting is being held at Rocky Mount on June 3. There are excellent videos I can send links to so you can watch and understand. One of the Bishops recommended that as we pray toward February, 2019, we pray together *Psalm 23* and the Lord's Prayer. We are united in what matters: Jesus Christ. He will lead us and help us be One in all our differences. Thank you.

Pastor Amy