

Loving, Learning and Serving Together

TODAY (10am)Worship and Blessing 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
MONDAY (6pm-8:30pm) Vacation Bible School
TUESDAY (6pm-8:30pm) Vacation Bible School
WEDNESDAY (6pm-8:30pm) Vacation Bible School
THURSDAY (6:30pm) Special Vacation Bible School Presentation and
Make Your Own Sunday Fellowship
FRIDAY -SUNDAY Altamons Camping and Paintball Trip for Youth
June 15 (6-8 pm) Movie Night at Bethany Church of the Brethren
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
July 14: Cassie Smith followed by Skillet Sisters at Antioch COB Pavillion
August 4: After Jack music at Antioch COB Pavillion
August 5 (After Worship) Youth Meeting
September 8: Like the Moon followed by The Harwell Grice Band at
Antioch COB
October 20 Charge Conference

Movie Night at Bethany Church of the Brethren

We have been invited to join our Brethren and Sisters for a movie night at Bethany Church of the Brethren on Friday, June 15 6-8pm. They are showing the oldie but goodie movie "Homeward Bound" and have pizza and other snacks. All ages are welcome! Email me Rev. Slusher at jjslusher@swva.net if you plan on coming!

BLESSING AND PRAYER FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Leader: Where we are going, God only knows.

People: But I will follow wherever God goes.

Leader: No turning back, no slowing us down.

People: I am trusting in the love that I have found.

Leader: God's love is so high, so deep, so wide,
from all the way left, to all the way right,
from the depths of the sea to the stars in the sky.

People: there is no greater love that I have in Christ.

Leader: God's love is overflowing in your heart and its only getting started.

People: I have found the one thing I need to live and serve.

Leader: I come to YOU, Christ.

People: I come to YOU, Christ.

Leader: Where does our help come from?

People: My help comes from YOU, God!

Leader: Where does our hope come from?

People: Our hope comes from YOU, God!

Leader: Where does our strength come from?

People: Our strength comes from YOU, God!

Leader: I come to YOU, Christ.

People: I come to YOU, Christ.

(From the VBS Songs "Overflowing" and "I Come to You")

Leader: We all come to you, Holy Spirit. We give ourselves and this week to you so we experience your glory.

Let us sing *Take My Life* UMH # 399 as we dedicate ourselves and this week to you.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: Jesus says “Come all you who are thirsty. Come to the waters.
And you who have no money, come and eat.
If you are feeling thirsty, come on get a drink.
If you are feeling hungry, come on let’s eat.
God’s got a banquet and you have a seat!

**People: I can hardly wait for the party to start.
My mouth gets to watering and joy fills my heart.**

Leader: With this bread and this cup, Jesus is saying:
“In your darkest night, I will be by your side. You are not alone.
You don’t have to hide the hurt you feel inside.
Because you are always loved.”

**People: With this bread and this cup, Jesus is saying:
“From the mountains high to valleys far below
no matter where you are, no matter where you go,
when you pass through the waters, I will be with you.”**

Leader: With this bread and this cup, Jesus is saying:
“I will fight for you, your strength will be renewed
when you are too tired to stand.
Nothing you can do can make me turn from you.
I will hold you in my hand.”

**People: You say, Jesus, to come just as you are.
So, here I am! Giving my praise to you.
You will give me life brand new.
Fill me with everything I need.
Here I am.
In your presence, I will truly live.
I surrender all to you.
So, here I am.
Fill me with everything I need.
Amen.**

(From the VBS Song “You’ve Got a Seat”, “I Will Be With You”, and “Here I Am”)

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

On Sunday, June 17, offers a special blessing that you do not want to miss! Terry Jamison will be preaching at New Hope (8:30 am) and Carolyn Saul will be preaching at Highland (10 am). Pastor Amy challenges you to ride the circuit—worship at New Hope at 8:30 am and then Highland at 10 am—experience the blessing Amy has all year long! A very special thank you to Terry, Carolyn, and worship leaders Richard Johnson and Jennifer Brubaker.

Saturday Social Live Music at Antioch Church of the Brethren Pavilion (2996 Callaway Road, Rocky Mount, VA 24151)

July 14: Cassie Smith followed by the Skillet Sisters
August 4: After Jack September 8: Like the Moon and Harwell Grice
Begins at 6 pm—Food, Music, Fellowship—Donations Welcome

SAVE THE DATE

October 20 District Conference with Combined Charge Conference

Camp Alta Mons Summer Camp

Come spend a week at one of God's most beautiful creations-- Alta Mons! Owned by the Roanoke District of the UMC, Alta Mons is having summer camp from June 24 to July 20 and we would love to have the children and youth of the Danville District join us! Our 2018 theme is "Waters of Grace" and we are excited already for the kids we will serve this summer! **New this year:** Backpacking Camp! We have options for kids in grades K-12. If you have questions, please call 540-268-2409 or e-mail office@altamons.org and we will be happy to help you!
Meredith Simmons 540-268-2409

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