

Mountain View District of the  
United Methodist Church  
*leading our communities with love*



General Enews  
January 2, 2025

*lead with love - honor*



[Contribute a message and/or photo to Sandra's memory book](#)

[RSVP](#)

While Sandra will be retiring from ministry with the Mountain View District, she won't be retiring from ministry. She'll be following God's call on her life to help provide safe housing for our neighbors recovering from addiction by founding Bethel New Hope - A transitional home for recovering addicts without local family. You are invited to make a donation in Sandra's honor to help provide a home for our vulnerable neighbors in the Martinsville area. You can give online at Bethel New Hope on Zelle or write a check to Bethel New Hope and bring to the reception or mail to the MVD Office, PO Box 4202, Martinsville VA 24551.

[Zelle](#)

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*lead with love - pray*

Please pray for

- all who suffer from natural disaster, and those who provide relief
- all who suffer from civil unrest, war, and for peacemakers everywhere
- all who grieve the death of Rev. Lorenzo Hill, former pastor of Bethany Ebenezer UMC, Mt Airy UMC, Mt Zion UMC (Pittsylvania), and New Ridgeway UMC
- all who grieve: Joyce Austin (death of her sister-in-law Scottie Hamlett), Rev. Mark Tucker (death of his wife Elnora), Sandra Fulcher (death of her brother), Rev. Dan Dibble (death of his brother), Revs. Steve and Faith Weedling (death of Steve's father), Rev. Will Waller (death of his father)
- all who suffer from ill health: Mike Parrish (husband of Susan Hannah), Ella Wickham, (wife of Rev. Charles Wickham), Butch Taylor (Leigh Anne Taylor's brother), Anna Johnson (daughter of Revs. Nancy and Bruce Johnson), Hunter Wickham (daughter-in-law of Rev. Charles Wickham)

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*lead with love - build on Christ*

*“They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built.” (Luke 6:48)*

*“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.” (Ephesians 2:19-21)*

When we begin a new year there is often a focus on letting go of the old and embracing the new - new you, new routines, new habits, new diet, new spiritual disciplines and so on. While this can be a good way to focus for a new year, I’ve been thinking about how simply because something is new doesn’t mean it’s good and the best next thing. We don’t need a new car, new phone, new clothes, new everything all the time simply because it’s shiny and new - this can lead to greed, envy and other brokenness. Also, have you ever gotten a “new” device or update to your phone and it immediately has problems because all the kinks and bugs haven’t been worked out yet?? See, just because something is new doesn’t mean it’s good and we need it.

Perhaps in this new year, we might instead consider focusing on the old - the traditions, the foundations, the cornerstones - that are solid, trustworthy, strong, steadfast and ever present. Perhaps, we might pause to remember the foundations of our faith that make us who we are - as individuals, as churches, as a denomination, as Christians - and seek to cling to them, nurture them, strengthen their presence in our daily lives.

Who are the people that have shaped us in the faith? What are the practices and traditions that have brought us closer to God and strengthened our faith? What are the scriptures that fill us with hope? Which ones challenge us, how might we pray more fervently as we study them and seek to hear God’s voice? Where does God’s justice that the prophets speak of, need to break through? How might our faith move us to action?

This doesn’t mean that change or “new-ness” isn’t needed or beneficial, but rather that “new” is not the focus as we begin this new year. Finding new ways to connect with God, to pray, to serve, to meet the needs of our neighbors can all be holy and beautiful for ministry and mission in 2025. But, only if they lead to love of God and love of neighbor, which are built on the foundations of our faith - on the old, ancient stories and witness of prophets, priests, saints, apostles who have shared the faith for generations. Faith is the focus. Christ is the focus. Loving God and loving neighbor is the focus.

As we begin 2025, may you find love, hope, peace and joy in the presence of God the Father, Jesus Christ our Savior, and the Holy Spirit. May you enter into the new year with hearts open and ready to ‘go and make disciples for the transformation of the world’! And if this includes new practices and ways of being, letting go, connecting to God and others - please do it with great excitement and commitment to all that God can and will do in and through you! (I’m really not saying new can’t be good in the new year!)

But, more than anything, may our new year be focused on what makes us who we are in Christ - the cornerstone of our faith. May we find strength in this foundation as we weather new storms and challenges that 2025 may bring. May we find peace and comfort in this steadfast love and presence of God that never fades away as we face all that 2025 will bring. May we find joy in the same old good news of Jesus Christ, that gives us not simply new, but abundant life now and forevermore!

Wishing you much old good beautiful grace and peace in this new year!

~ Jennifer

Rev. Jennifer Coffey

Connecting Ministry Coordinator, Ridge View Region, River View Region

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## *lead with love - equip the saints for ministry*

### Mountain View District Training Day

How will your church renew it's mission to **go, make disciples**, and **transform your community** in 2025? Laity, come to the District Training Day for inspiration!

If your church brings more than two participants, DS Sarah will pick up the tab for additional participants! To receive reimbursement, go ahead and register individually then submit receipt by email to [KatieWilson@vaumc.org](mailto:KatieWilson@vaumc.org).

If additional scholarships are needed, contact DS Sarah Calvert at [MountainViewDS@vaumc.org](mailto:MountainViewDS@vaumc.org)

[Register for District Training Day](#)

# District Training Day is Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025!



The Mountain View District is excited to partner with the Northern Virginia District for this year's Training Day. NoVa District Training Day is an annual event designed to **equip, encourage, and empower** clergy and laity in their ministry.

This year's theme is **Go! Make Disciples! Transform the World!** and features keynotes from Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, Bishop Kenneth H. Carter, Jr., and Michael Beck.



## 9:00 AM - Following the Holy Spirit's Lead

**Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson**  
Resident Bishop, Richmond Area Virginia Annual Conference



## 10:45 AM - Go Boldly: Reclaiming an Adaptive Church to Transform the World

**Bishop Ken Carter Jr.**  
Resident Bishop, Charlotte Episcopal Area



## 1:15 PM - Never Alone: Sharing the Gift of Community in a Lonely World

**Rev. Michael Beck**  
Director of Fresh Expressions for The United Methodist Church

## SATELLITE TICKET \$45/person

3 Keynote Presentations  
Fellowship & Conversation  
Lunch Provided

### Locations in 3 Districts

- Mountain View
- Three Notch'd
- Valley Ridge

\*Option- Video Library (+\$20)

We have **two Training Day Satellite locations** on the Mountain View District. Attendees can select from **Main Street UMC** in Bedford or **Smith Memorial UMC** in Collinsville. Satellite participants will gather at those locations and experience Training Day together. Lunch is provided.

We encourage you to **bring a team from your church** so that together you can listen, learn, and prepare to equip your church for disciple-making alongside others from across the Mountain View District.

## EVENT SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. -- Welcome & Worship  
9:00 a.m. -- Keynote 1 (Bishop Sue)  
10:45 a.m. -- Keynote 2 (Bishop Carter)  
12:15 p.m. -- Lunch Break  
1:15 p.m. -- Afternoon Workshop

REGISTER: [2025.NOVATRainingDay.COM](https://2025.NOVATRainingDay.COM)

\*Video library includes replays of Keynote Presentations and 25+ mini-presentations in multiple ministry areas.



*lead with love - advocate*



## UM Day at the General Assembly

United Methodists advocate for neighbors by meeting with their representatives! We learn about issues that are facing people all across the commonwealth. We connect with each other, meeting friends old and new! We celebrate our United Methodist faith that values justice, advocacy, and compassion. [Register for UM Day here...](#)

Registration for UM Day closes on January 17, 2025 - \$35.00, Student Registration \$10.00

If you have any questions about this event, please contact Heather Wray at [heatherwray@vaumc.org](mailto:heatherwray@vaumc.org).

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*lead with love - retreat*









Youth from the Mountain View District Churches of Mount Vernon UMC, Mt Olivet UMC, St Luke's UMC, Red Valley UMC, and Main Street UMC attended the VAUMC Youth Fall Retreat in Buckingham VA, Called to Lead. Assisting in leadership for the event were two youth from the Mountain View District, Rachel Bryant (Mt Olivet UMC) and Rebecca Coffey (St Luke's UMC) both in Danville. We celebrate our youth and our youth leaders!

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### Mountain View District Calendar

Dec 22 - Jan 2	Christmas/New Year	District Office closed for holiday
Jan 4 2:00 pm	Celebration to Honor Sandra Fulcher	FUMC Martinsville Uptown Ministry Center
Jan 11 8:00 am - 3:00 pm	District Training Day	Smith Memorial UMC, Collinsville and Main Street UMC, Bedford
Feb 12	Clergy Training Event	ZOOM

time TBA		
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Virginia Conference  
of the United Methodist Church

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, Presiding Bishop  
[Bishop@vaumc.org](mailto:Bishop@vaumc.org)

Visit the Virginia Conference website at [vaumc.org](http://vaumc.org)

Mountain View District

Rev. Dr. Sarah Calvert, District Superintendent  
[MountainViewDS@vaumc.org](mailto:MountainViewDS@vaumc.org)

Susan White, Mountain View District Lay Leader  
[fedsu2@aol.com](mailto:fedsu2@aol.com)

Rev. Leigh Anne Taylor, Director of Connecting Ministries  
[LeighAnneTaylor@vaumc.org](mailto:LeighAnneTaylor@vaumc.org)

Mrs. Sandra Fulcher, Administrative Manager  
[SandraFulcher@vaumc.org](mailto:SandraFulcher@vaumc.org)

Katie Wilson, Administrative Manager  
[KatieWilson@vaumc.org](mailto:KatieWilson@vaumc.org)

Rev. Robert Hardy, Property Manager  
[RobertHardy@vaumc.org](mailto:RobertHardy@vaumc.org)

Rev. Nancy Johnson, Coordinator, Peaks View Region  
[NancyJohnson@vaumc.org](mailto:NancyJohnson@vaumc.org)

Rev. Jennifer Coffey, Coordinator, River View Region & Ridge View Region  
[JenniferCoffey@vaumc.org](mailto:JenniferCoffey@vaumc.org)



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