



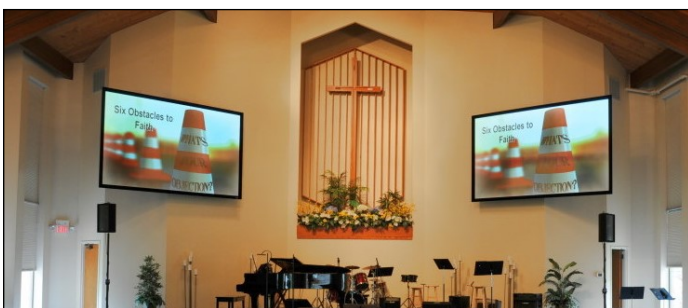
MtJacksonUMC.org

Mt. Jackson United Methodist Church

July 2023

Invite Neighbors To The Community Tailgate Party

The UMW will be hosting a "Tailgate" Party for the community on Saturday, July 22nd from 5-7 pm in the church parking lot. We will have hot dogs, chips, and watermelon available and Tim Ambrose will provide music. The event is free to all. Bring a chair, invite a friend and come enjoy an evening of fellowship and music. In case of rain, we will move indoors.



Audio Visual Update by Cindy Crosby

The new audio visual system was approved by the Administrative Board and the Trustees have signed the contract. *Acuity Audiovisual* of Manassas VA is handling the work. This endeavor is exciting and adds many new facets to our church; such as visual lyrics, accompanying sermon videos for the Pastor, rotating announcements, scripture visuals and more. For our outreach initiative we will have the ability to hold movie nights, special studies, and other church related events.

If you see some dust and changes, these will be minor. The major work will be accomplished in the weeks to come and we are hopeful for a late fall unveiling. What a blessing this will be for our church. If you have questions or comments please contact Cindy Crosby. So much to do!

Ladies Night Out

by Jennifer
Hackenbracht



The next "Ladies Night Out" will be Monday, July 10th at 6 pm at Pizza Bella in Woodstock. Please let Michelle or Jennifer know if you will be able to attend.



John Wesley was a radical pastor who sparked a revival movement that swept across the world. In this new sermon series, discover 3 ways he made a difference:

July 02—He sought outsiders

July 09—He taught spiritual disciplines

July 16—He brought theological reflection



Conference Report

by Wendell Cochran

From the Pastor...

“You will never measure up.” Ever heard those words? They may come from a teacher, coach, boss, or even a parent. But most often these words come from our own thoughts. Throughout our lives we struggle to measure up in a variety of ways. It could be in academics, sports, careers, and relationships. That can include our relationship with God. It’s like the parable of the Prodigal Son. Maybe he felt that he could not measure up to his brother, the “golden child”. Whatever motivated him to leave home and spend his inheritance on wild living, he eventually returned home in hopes he could earn his way back into his father’s favor as a slave. But the father welcomed him and restored him into the family as his son. It’s a reminder that we don’t need to get our act together to earn God’s favor. When we sought God’s forgiveness through Christ, he welcomed us with open arms and received us...not as slaves, but as family.

You have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, “Abba, Father.” (Romans 8:15)

As God’s children, we don’t have to perform to gain his approval. We live for the Lord because we already have it. It’s a joyful response of gratitude for his unconditional love and grace. That’s why Christianity is about relationship, not rules.

The Valley Voice is a monthly newsletter of Mt. Jackson United Methodist Church. All articles or photos for the next issue should be submitted to Pastor Lee by the 20th of each month. Email it to leecrosby@vaumc.org. Use the same address to be put on our email list.

The 2023 Annual Conference of the Virginia United Methodist Church is in the books. It was a busy, but fulfilling, two-days-plus in Roanoke. The conference welcomed newly appointed Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, who presided with wit, charm, and great efficiency. Conference finished their business more than an hour early each day. Veteran delegates couldn’t recall happening anytime recently.

(I served as a Shenandoah River District At-Large Delegate because of my position as co-chair of the District Lay Servant Ministries Committee).

There also was good music, usually with a more upbeat version of some old standards, along with some new tunes. (You can watch the livestream of the sessions at this site: [Annual Conference 2023 | VAUMC](https://www.vaumc.org/annual-conference-2023)).

The theme of the conference was “*United as One in Mission*,” based on Jesus’ instruction in Acts 1:8 to “go to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, the ends of the earth” with his message of salvation.

Bishop Sue, as she likes to be called, opened the conference with a sermon based on Hebrews that asked us to meet Jesus “outside the walls” of our church buildings. “Our job as followers of Jesus is to follow him outside the walls where he waits for us,” she said, reminding us that Jesus was crucified outside the city walls. “Out where there is devastation, out where the unclean are, out where life is rough, out there with people who don’t belong.”

The conference also attended to business, passing an annual budget, hearing reports about church missions and programs.

There also was discussion of the current debate in the church over how to deal with issues relating to human sexuality; in particular, whether to permit same sex marriages in our churches and whether to ordain LGBT persons to ministry. Using a provision adopted at the 2019 Special General Conference, 107 VA. Conference churches have disaffiliated, representing about 13% of weekly attendance.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Another group, of unknown size, will ask to have their disaffiliations approved in a special October annual conference. The issue is likely to dominate debate at the 2024 General Conference, scheduled for April 23-May 3 in Charlotte.

Annual Conference delegates approved a request by the Virginia delegation to General Conference to support a proposal for church reorganization known as the Christmas Covenant. Currently, all United Methodists are governed by decisions made by General Conference and a single Book of Discipline that lays out theological and administrative rules for the UMC. The Christmas Covenant, which originated in the Philippines, would create a set of regional conferences around the world including a U.S. regional conference, that would have an ability to legislate changes in the Book of Discipline based on conditions and circumstances in their region. This is called “contextualization,” because it would permit different rules for different areas based on the “context” of the region. If General Conference approves this structure, each Annual Conference would have to approve a set of denominational Constitutional amendments in order for it to go into effect.

In keeping with the conference theme of *United in Mission*, delegates assembled 20,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger, 3,000 feminine hygiene kits for UMCOR, collected blood donations for American Red Cross, among other missional activities. In addition, the delegates from the Shenandoah River had fellowship at an ice cream social.



Financial Report

by Faye Cochran

May 2023

General Fund

Income \$8,904.42
Expenses \$10,486.55
Difference **\$ -1,582.13**

Designated Giving

Health & Welfare \$69.00
Building Fund \$30.00
Scholarship \$30.00



July 3 -- Betsy Reynolds
July 3 -- Shirley Bock
July 12 -- Bill Golladay
July 12 -- Troy Hackenbracht
July 16 -- Linda Cave
July 18 -- Ruth Crosby
July 21 -- Travis Williams
July 26 -- Joanie Williams
July 26 -- Cindy Frye
July 27 -- Kimberly Frye
July 29 -- Wayne Shaffer
July 31 -- Wendell Cochran



Pastor's Vacation Schedule

August 14-20 & December 25-31, 2023
(Subject to change)