



# THE TOWER



Monthly Newsletter of  
Verona United Methodist Church

February  
2019

## VERONA UM CHURCH & AISLE 7 FELLOWSHIP CHURCH STAFF

**Rev. Bob Weeks**  
*Senior Pastor*

**Rev. Shawna Hiner**  
*Campus Pastor*  
*Aisle 7 Fellowship*

**Jennifer Cook**  
*Office Administrator*

**Sheila Fair**  
*Treasurer*

**Joy Tinsley**  
*Music Director*

**Shelley Chandler**  
*Worship Leader A7F*

**Linda Toler**  
*Organist*

**Rhonda Reeser**  
*Pianist*

**Amanda Hall**  
*Director Children's*  
*Ministries*

**Bill, Carolyn Harlow**  
*Directors Youth*  
*Ministries*

**Phyllis Mauzy**  
*Nursery Director*

**Ken & Donna Cason**  
*Custodial Staff*

## From Pastor Bob

**I**t was over a quarter century ago when I moved with Lydia and our family out to a small farm in Spotsylvania County. I was basically a weekend farmer, driving 45 miles each way to work Monday through Friday. So my weekend time on the farm was valuable and I looked forward to Saturdays as a day to take care of major projects.

On the farm we had a donkey, pony, quarter horse, draft horse, a couple of cows, a few dozen chickens and a lot of beehives. And a dozen or so Angora goats.

One spring Saturday morning I was hoping to move the goats up into a small barn where I could do a health check and administer some medication. While I was out in the field, herding the goats toward the barn, my younger brother Allen drove up and parked near the gate leading into the field. He walked over to the fence and watched me slowly moving the goats along. I thought, "Wouldn't it be great if Allen offered me a hand herding these goats?" Instead, he stood there leaning on the fence, laughing at my attempts to get one particularly uncooperative buck to move toward the barn.

I wasn't amused and it only took a few minutes before I yelled: "This may be funny to you, but I only have so much time to get this done. Either come and help or move on."

Begrudgingly he opened the gate and wandered out into the field. It was quickly obvious that Allen had skipped the goat-herding class in middle school. With his "help" the goats were quickly scattering beyond my control.

At that point I told my younger sibling to just go ahead and leave the pasture. He took offense and before I knew it we were in a back-and-forth verbal nuclear war.

ALLEN: "So you don't want my help. That's fine. I'll never ask for your help again either!"

ME: "That's fine with me. It's not like anyone would describe what you're doing as helping!"

ALLEN: "Great. You don't ask me for help again; I won't ask for your help again!"

ME: "Sounds good to me!"

With that Allen walked over to his car, flung the door open, climbed in, revved the engine—and made a disastrous, spur of the moment decision. Instead of backing up onto the driveway, he drove straight ahead into a mucky, muddy, murky morass of a field, apparently intending to circle back through the field and onto the driveway to exit the farm.

I watched with a slowly widening grin as his car was slowly swallowed by the mud.

For several minutes the vehicle's wheels spun and he sank deeper and deeper. As I watched (and please forgive me for this) I raised my eyes to heaven and said a silent prayer of thanksgiving. Allen was stuck in the mud after our mutually agreed to sacred pact to never ask for each other's help again. Between feuding brothers, it doesn't get much better than what I was witnessing I was the poster boy for smug satisfaction.

Eventually my little brother rolled down his window and yelled across the field, "Well, are you going to help me or just stand there?" "Uh," I replied, "I thought we were never going to ask each other for help again?"

"Come on, Bob. Be serious. I need your help."

I told Allen to wait and I came back a few minutes later with one of our tractors and a chain. We worked together and twenty minutes later he was driving away. But not before we had laid our feud aside and torn up our vow to never help each other again.

No one has a sense of humor like our God. Long ago He saw some mud and said, "I think I'll make a man." On the farm that day, He saw some mud and said, "I think I'll make two men brothers again.." Amen.

*Carry each other's  
burdens, and in this  
way you will fulfill  
the law of Christ.*

*(Galatians 6:2)*

# News...

## Our Mission

WE GLORIFY CHRIST AS WE  
REACH PEOPLE AS THEY ARE  
RELATE THEM TO GOD  
EQUIP THEM TO SERVE WITH  
US, AND  
GO FORTH TO MAKE A HOLY  
DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD

Newsletter  
Deadline is  
January 21

Please submit items to  
Jennifer Cook by date  
above for the November  
Newsletter. By phone,  
248-7777 or email,  
jennifercook@  
veronaumc.com

If you would a copy of  
**Church Council Minutes**  
please contact Jennifer in  
the church office:

248-7777 or  
jennifercook@  
veronaumc.com

*All meetings except  
Staff Parish Relations  
Committee (SPRC) are  
open to the congregation.*



### Miss A Sunday?

Pastor Bob's  
sermons are online.  
Go to

www.veronaumc.net  
and check it out!

You can also receive  
weekly announce-  
ments by email.  
Call 248-7777



## “Kick Off” Luncheon

Please support our Youth Group  
by joining them for lunch prior to the  
BIG “SOUP-ER” BOWL KICK OFF

**Sunday, February 3rd from  
10:30 am to 1 pm**

in the VUMC Fellowship Hall

**Menu:** Vegetable and Potato Soup, Salad,  
Desserts, Coffee, Tea, Lemonade

**Free Will Offering**

**Dine-in or take-out available.**

**All proceeds will benefit**

**The 2019 Summer Youth Mission Trip**



## Valentine’s Lunch & Fellowship

**Sunday, Feb. 10 at 12:15 pm at the Community Center**

Let’s celebrate Valentine’s Day with lunch and play a fun  
game of H.E.A.R.T.S.! This game is fun way to meet new  
people. **Lunch will be provided:** spaghetti, alfredo, salad  
and drinks. *(Donations for meal will go to Mission Trips  
to North Carolina and Ecuador).* The Youth of Verona UMC  
and Aisle 3 Fellowship will join us!



**Altar  
Flowers**

**If you would** like to sign up to honor or remember some-  
one special in 2019. There is a sign up sheet now available on  
the bulletin board outside the Fellowship Hall.



**GIVE BLOOD  
SAVE LIFE**



**American  
Red Cross**

**Our Blood Drives resume on  
Thursday, February 7th**

**12 pm - 5 pm**

We are now working with the Red  
Cross to provide blood to those in need.

*Mark your calendar and plan to give!*

## Looking Ahead

March 5—Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

March 6—Lent Begins

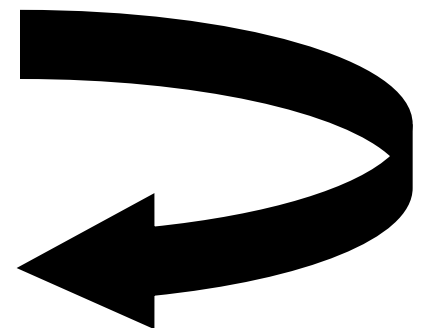
March 20—First Day of Spring!

April 6—UM Women Yard Sale

April 18—Maundy Thursday Drama

April 19—Good Friday

April 21—Easter Sunday





## The Nurture Work Area

### Between Services Coffee Time

The following groups/teams/classes are scheduled to host Coffee and Fellowship time on Sundays in September. Information and instructions posted on back of first cabinet door in the kitchen. Questions/concerns? Contact the Church Office.



Feb. 3 - Petal Pushers	Mar. 3 - Witness Team
Feb. 10 - Esther Circle	Mar. 10 - Open Door
Feb. 17 - Seekers	Mar. 17 - Fearless Conv.
Feb. 24 - Home Builders	Mar. 24 - UM Women

**Coffee Time:** We are looking for additional new groups/teams/classes/families/couples to add to the Coffee Time list – If you are willing to do this about 4 times a year (or even once a year) please contact the Church Office at 248-7777.

**Altar Flower Donations** Sign up to donate flowers on any Sunday. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board outside the fellowship hall. Donate in honor or memory of a loved one and help beautify the sanctuary. Call church office at 248-7777 for further information.

### Snacks for Community Center Cafe

We are always in need of snacks for the Verona Community Center Café. Little Debbie’s products, small bags of chips, small packages of cookies, energy bars, peanut butter crackers, etc. are always popular. Just bring by the café Monday through Friday or drop in the container in our church’s Donation Center.



## Food Pantry Donations

*URGENT: Assist local families in need!*

On the First Sunday of each month we have a special collection for items for our church food pantry. Collection boxes are located at the Donation Center in the main church entrance and lower entryway. You can leave items at any time during the month.

### Food Pantry Hours:

Every Tuesday: 9am-11am  
 2nd & 4th Thursday: 6pm-7pm

## Salt & Peppers News Corner

*For anyone with a little “salt and pepper” in their hair!*

### Dates to Remember:

**Feb 28th** Thursday luncheon at 11:30 at Francisco’s in Bridgewater; Please submit your reservation by Sunday Feb 24th, and please let us know if you plan to ride in the van.

**March 9th** Saturday dinner at VUMC, 5:00 pm, free. Please let us know you will be attending by Sunday, March 3rd. More details to follow on this event.

**April 5th** Singer Wanda Eaves Taylor at the Wayne Theatre for a Friday night performance at 7:30 pm; van will leave VUMC at 6:30 for those who wish to meet at the church. Cost is \$15; Tickets must be purchased well in advance, so we must have your reservation and \$15 deposit by Thursday, Feb 28th.

### For more info or to make reservations, contact:

Faye Wills –476-5555, Sandy McAllister –255-6488,  
 Gayle Meeks 248-1325

## Helping Hands Ministry

There are a number of small building and repair projects in our community (in neighbors’ homes and around our church building) that can be taken care of in a short amount of time with one or two people doing the work. A list of these projects is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex between the Sanctuary and Social Hall. Please review the list weekly to see if there is a project you are capable of doing. If the project will take a few more people, gather up a group and take care of it.

Questions? **Call Doug May at 241-5605.**

## Ways to Serve at VUMC

It may be assisting as an usher, greeter, Scripture Reader or AV operator during worship... or working with our landscape beautification team, The Petal Pushers... or teaching children’s Sunday School... or in a dozen other ways. Call the Church Office today for more info on how to get involved—248-7777.

## Join a Verona UMC Prayer Group & Experience the Power of Prayer

**Pastor’s Morning Prayer Group** Wednesdays at 9 am, Verona Community Center  
**Wednesday Evening Prayer Group** Wednesdays at 6 pm, next to Choir Room



## Community Center Report

**Since it's opening in 2015, the Community Center has served over 40,000 people!**

- The Verona Community Center Café had 577 guests in November 2018, and total guests to the café was up 1,318 compared to the previous year.
- Showers have been used 161 since their installation in May. Laundry facilities were used 49 times in November, bringing the total for the year to 310.
- We've trained several new volunteers in January.

**Community Center Status** The center has filed for 501-c3non-profit status with the federal government, a step which will allow for donations to the center to be tax-deductible without going through the church. Status was still pending as of January 24th.

### Support the Community Center:

Your financial support is crucial to our on-going service within the Verona community. Send donations made out to Verona Community Center, P.O. Box 780, Verona, VA 24401.

**Volunteer Opportunities** Is God nudging you to give back to your community? Being a host at VCC can be a rewarding and fun way to be in ministry with VUMC/A7F. Shifts are 3 hours, M-F, with an occasional need for 1.5 hour shifts. Some shifts available on weekends for events. Contact Lydia at Lydspot@yahoo.com.

*Thank you!*

*For your continued financial, prayer, and volunteer support for the Verona Community Center. We've served over 40,000 guests since 2016 thanks to your help!*

## Response to Natural Disasters

As many disasters threaten communities in the U.S., the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and our partners are prepared to respond.

Please join us in prayer for the areas affected and consider a gift to UMCOR Disaster Response.

To donate to **Disaster Response in the United States**, including hurricanes and fires, make your check out to Verona UMC with the notation: UMCOR Response #901670. 100% of your donation will go to U.S. relief efforts.

## Numbers that Matter thru 1/27/19

Sunday School (VUMC) Avg. Attendance	80
Worship Avg. 2019—VUMC/A7F	195/55
Worship Avg. —VUMC/A7F	203/52

### GENERAL FUND OFFERINGS\*

VUMC General Fund Weekly Need	8064
VUMC General Fund Weekly Avg. 2019	6392
A7F General Fund Weekly Need	1678
A7F General Fund Weekly Avg. 2019	1209

\*Does not include designated gifts including the Community Center, Aisle 7 Fellowship, Food Pantry, Building and Memorial Funds, Youth Missions, etc.



## To set up your account visit:

<http://veronaumc.net/online-giving/>

Contact Jennifer in the church office at 248-7777 for if you have questions or need assistance.

There is a 3% fee paid by our church for use of a credit or debit card. You have the option to add that fee to your donation. If you use an e-check, the fee is 50 cents per transaction.

## 5th Sunday Offerings in 2019

All 5th Sunday offerings this year will go to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund to aid people with emergency needs.

**E**ven if you pay off every debt, build a fully funded emergency fund, invest wisely for retirement, save for your children's college fund, and pay off your house early, you could still be missing the most important personal finance principle: giving!

But always remember this—God doesn't want your money. He wants you. When you share your blessings with others through His Church, you are simply reflecting His love and honoring your Father in Heaven. You are saying, "I am His and He is mine."



## Communion Stewards Needed



FROM BECKY WOOLFREY:  
Due to health issues I will not be able to continue being your communion steward. Many, many thanks to Irene Sutton who has helped me for years.

Would you be interested in serving in this way? It is a humbling, yet awesome opportunity to be the Lord's hands which prepare His table for His children. Ideally, there should be several who can share this responsibility. If you would like more information, please contact Pastor Bob, Ruth Wright or Becky Woolfrey.

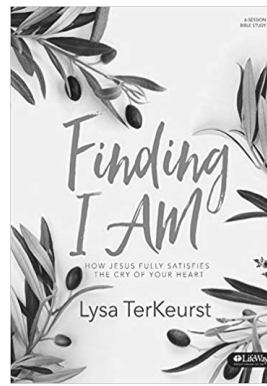
**TRAINING PROVIDED** Becky Woolfrey and Irene Sutton will provide training at your convenience. Communion is on the first Sunday of each month and at 4 or 5 special services throughout the year. Communion stewards prepare the juice and bread and set the communion table and after worship remove the elements, cloths and napkins.

## Donation Processors Needed

### DUTIES INCLUDE

- Counting and posting to accounts all cash and checks collected during the offering at regular services and special events/services or that come into the church during the week. Posting is done in our "Church Windows" accounting software.
- Accurately completing an Excel spreadsheet with all donations to the proper fund/account. This spreadsheet is provided to the treasurer.
- The spreadsheet totals and the items posted in Church Windows are checked and should always match.
- Ensuring that everything is posted correctly so that the Church financial reports and yearly giving statements are accurate.
- Keeping accurate backup documentation – copies of checks, giving envelopes and other documentation as needed each week.
- Filling out the deposit slip and taking the deposit to the bank (night deposit box).

**TRAINING IS PROVIDED** on Sunday Mornings downstairs in the Treasurer's office starting at 10 AM. Donation processing normally takes a team of two people about 2 hours to complete. Processing on another day (Monday or Tuesday) is fine after the processors have been fully trained and are confident of the procedures. Contact the church office (248-7777) to volunteer and/or for further information.



## A Lenten Bible Study with Pastor Bob Weeks

Sunday Evenings at 6pm  
March 10—April 14

## *Finding I Am*

*What is the deep cry of your heart? The ache in your soul that keeps you up at night?*

*The prayer you keep repeating? Jesus not only cares about your spiritual wrestling. He also wants to step in and see you through it.*

**J**oin Pastor Bob during the 6 Sundays in Lent as we explore the seven I AM statements of Jesus found in the Gospel of John (includes DVD presentations with Lysa TerKeurst on the streets of Israel). We will find freedom in difficult circumstances by learning how to shift from "slave mentality" to "set free mentality" .... Discover how Jesus is the key to satisfaction by learning the crucial significance behind each of His I AM statements.... Trade feelings of emptiness for the fullness of knowing who Jesus is.... Grow in our understanding of the Gospel of John.

**Call 248-7777 to sign up or use the tear-off sheet in your Sunday bulletin.**

Cost for class materials is \$10.



## Technology Team Forming

Technology has become a part of our worship and part of how our church functions. Individuals have helped out in the past and this has been a blessing to our church. We would like to see if there are people interested in forming a technology committee.

The technology committee would document, maintain and propose changes to technology used by the church. This would include computers, networking, video surveillance, sound systems, phone systems and cabling. People with all levels of ability and technology understanding would be on the committee.

Please contact Doug May if you are interested at 540-241-5605 or dougem@outlook.com



NOTE: VUMC recently donated money to RAM for lodging support for personnel arriving from out of town.

## **Do You or Someone You Know Need FREE Healthcare?**

**March 2, 6am-6pm / March 3, 6am-Noon  
Rockingham County Fairgrounds**

4804 S Valley Pike, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

865-579-1530 for further information.

**Dental, vision & medical services provided on a first-come, first-serve basis. Completely Free. No pre-registration or insurance needed.**

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:** Typically, Remote Area Medical opens the clinic parking lot no later than 12 a.m. midnight on the first night of the event. Ticket distribution usually begins at 3 a.m., and patients are then served in numerical order according to their ticket number when clinic doors open, which typically occurs at 6 a.m.

This process will repeat throughout the clinic days. In some situations, such as inclement weather, volunteer cancellations, or other circumstances outside of RAM's control, ticketing may occur earlier than 3 a.m. RAM encourages everyone who would like services, especially dental services, to arrive as early as possible.

Dental, vision and medical services are provided on a first-come, first-serve basis. Due to time constraints, be prepared to choose between DENTAL and VISION services. Medical services are offered

## ***Conversations on "A Way Forward" for United Methodism***

**NOTE: Pastor Bob Weeks will be attending both of these sessions at Asbury UMC in Harrisonburg. Contact him if you would like to travel with him on one or both Sunday afternoons.**

**On Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> and again February 10<sup>th</sup>** there will be presentations and discussions on "The Commission on a Way Forward" and the General Conference discussion on human sexuality.

**Both meetings will be at 2 pm at Asbury UMC**, co-hosted by Pastor Adam Blagg of Otterbein Church and Pastor Steve Hay of Asbury Church. The meetings will be in room 300, also called Slaven Hall.

**On February 3<sup>rd</sup> the presentation will be about the options and the decisions before the General Conference, and some of the potential consequences of the plans.** There will be opportunities for questions and discussions. This first meeting will focus more on the institutional questions.

**On February 10<sup>th</sup> the presentation will be about the theological issues raised by the topic of human sexuality.** The values informing the three plans will be lifted up and brief reflections on Biblical/theological approaches will be offered. Again there will be opportunities for questions and discussions around the tables. This second meeting will focus more on the personal questions.

**All are invited to join in both meetings on the first two Sundays of February at 2 p.m. in room 300 at Asbury United Methodist Church, 205 South Main Street, Harrisonburg, 22801.**



**VERONA  
UMC**

# YOUTH GROUP



## “Soup”er Bowl Luncheon

The youth mission team are hosting a Super Bowl luncheon 10:30am-1pm Sunday February 3rd 2019. Menu-taco soup, vegetable soup and potato soup, side salad, desserts, tea, coffee, lemonade. We would love for you to sit rest and enjoy some soup and take out will also be available. Proceeds will benefit our 2019 mission trip.

**Youth Group is for 6th - 12th grades. BRING A FRIEND!**  
*Our Youth Coordinators are Bill & Carolyn Harlow.  
Reach them at 578-5575 with any questions.*

**2019 Youth mission trip** to Winchester, KY June 22-29th 2019. All youth ages 12+ are welcome to come on the mission trip. We will be partnering with Group Work camps this year; we will be serving in the Winchester community with painting and repairs for those in need. We will have devotions during the day and at night plus morning and evening program which are geared to the youth. Please let Bill or Carolyn know if you are interested in attending.



## Upcoming Dates:

- February 10th - 12:15 pm      Hearts game at the Community Center with lunch
- February 17th - 5:30 - 7 pm      Youth devotions and supper provided
- February 21st - 6 - 7 pm      Youth serving the Ruritans meal. Adults and youth needed to help.
- February 24th - 5:30 - 7 pm      Youth devotions and supper provided



**BLAST resumes  
Sunday, February 3rd!  
5-6:30 p.m.  
Social Hall  
Dinner Provided**

## Children’s News

Children’s Church in February we will continue to learn about the books of the Bible.

Children’s Easter Egg hunt is planned for Saturday, April 13th.

*For details contact Amanda at  
amandavumc@gmail.com*

# Greetings from Pastor Shawna

What a fantastic six months of ministry at Aisle 7 Fellowship! Here are some highlights of recent happenings and upcoming events:



- A7F partnered with Pastor Bob Weeks of VUMC and Pastor Drew Ridder of Living Stone Church of the Nazarene for the 5 o'clock Christmas Eve Service held at the Verona Community Center. We had 115 in attendance and the children had a wonderful time as they dressed up as shepherds and animals to be part of the Nativity scene.
- We are excited about our Sermon Series: New Year-New Life-New Standards. We'll spend January and February spending more time in Prayer, Learning to Forgive, Stewardship, Holy Communion, and Baptism to name a few subjects and what God's standards are for our lives.
- Two new Bible studies are happening at A7F. Contact Pastor Shawna if you would like to attend. Women's Bible Study led by Pastor Shawna, "Unshakeable Hope" (Max Lucado) 12 week study on Wednesdays, Jan. 23-Apr. 10, 6:30-8pm at VCC Café area. A Bible Study led by Ray and Sue Patterson, "Intro to the Bible" (Barry Bennett) 8 week study on Thursdays, Jan. 24 -ME. 14, 6:30-8pm at VCC Blue Ridge Room.
- Looking ahead to Lent and Easter. Aisle 7 Fellowship will have an Ash Wednesday Service on March 6 at 7:00 p.m. at the Verona Community Center. There will be some on the NC Mission Trip including Pastor Bob, everyone from Verona UMC and the community are welcome to attend the service. A7F will also participate in a Maundy Thursday Service (Drama) on April 18 held at Verona UMC Campus. Easter is Sunday, April 21. More information to come.

Worship has been powerful and joyful with the addition of Shelley Chandler, Worship Leader and Sandy Bazan, keyboardist. If you have not had the chance to worship with us since they have joined A7F, I invite you to come one Sunday at 10:45 a.m.

I look forward to 2019 and how God will continue to work through Aisle 7 Fellowship to be the light in the Verona Community. I want to thank Pastor Bob and the staff of Verona UMC for all their help in making A7F shine. Thank you to each of you who have been faithful in supporting Aisle 7 Fellowship through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and your witness. You have been part of an amazing journey as the body of Christ and it is an honor to serve with each of you!

*Grace and Peace, Pastor Shawna*  
430-5462/shawnahiner@vaumc.org

## Update on North Carolina Mission Trip

Planning for the **VUMC/Aisle 7 mission trip to North Carolina** is continuing. As of now we have 18 individuals committed to be a part of the team. We have room for up to 2 more men and up to 3 more women. (Sleeping arrangements limits the number of team members). We will be traveling to Pamlico County NC to repair or rebuild homes damaged in the recent hurricanes. We will be staying at Camp Caroline near Oriental NC.

If you cannot go with us but would like to be a part of our efforts, we need your prayers for the team. A complete list of team members will be made available in mid-February so that you might be praying for each individual member of the team.

Contributions toward team expenses made be made to the Adult Mission fund. If you have any questions or an interest in joining the team you may contact Larry Wills at 540-457-1222 or email ljenew@aol.com





## Apple Dumplings

**Friday, February 15th**

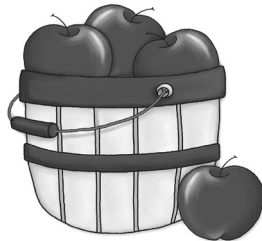
We will be making and selling Apple Dumplings!

**Cost is now \$3.00 each.**

Call the church office to place your order.

540-248-7777

Don't forget to tell your friends!



## Special Verona UMC Church Council Meeting February 28

The Verona UMC Church Council will meet on Thursday, February 28th at 7 p.m. in Room 146 to review and discuss the results of the General Conference of the UMC to be held February 23-27 in St. Louis

### The Reverend Rudy Tucker is Retiring

Rudy Tucker served as Pastor of Verona United Methodist Church from 1988-1993. On Sunday, March 24, 1019, Grace UMC in Manassas, Virginia will have a special day to celebrate Rudy's retirement (effective in June 2019).

Additional details will be forthcoming. Email Rev. Janet Salbert at [jsalbert@umcgrace.org](mailto:jsalbert@umcgrace.org) with questions.

## Shrove Tuesday All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Supper



**March 5,  
5:30 to 7:30 pm**

*Pancakes, Sausage,  
Cooked Apples,  
Orange or Apple Juice  
and Coffee*

### Free Will Offering

*Sponsored by Homebuilders Sunday School Class*

**Proceeds benefit our Adult Missions  
and the Verona Community Center**

## Thoughts on the February 2019 General Conference of The United Methodist Church

**St. Louis, Missouri—February 23-26, 2019**

If you have followed news articles, blogs, editorials, etc. about the upcoming special General Conference of The United Methodist Church, you are probably as brain-weary (and soul-weary) as I am.

In three months in St. Louis, representatives from our world-wide UMC will be given several options on how we might move forward as a united church amidst the deep divisions over questions of human sexuality and the veracity and authority of Scripture. Whether any of these options will accomplish the goal of unity is uncertain.

Many have spent the last couple of years predicting what will happen at this General Conference and what the future of the UMC will look like. You can search the internet and find a wealth of information about the Conference's structure and purpose and possible outcomes if you desire.

But I believe there are some things we can do that are far more important than parsing and debating the technical aspects of what is coming. They include:

- Prayerfully returning to the Holy Scriptures for guidance, strength, and inspiration.
- Giving thanks to God, even in these circumstances.
- Praying for guidance and a path to love and peace in Christ, even if we cannot remain structurally united.
- Repenting of our many sins, including our constant desire to please and impress human beings above our desire to please and obey God.

*- Pastor Bob Weeks*



Debbie Link, Barbara Breeden, Faith Bridges, Winston Jackson, Thelma Smith, Dot Hess, Patsy Dastoli, Ruth Weaver, Willie Lockridge, Ronald Smith, Margaret Helmick, Jean May, Inez Fultz,

Howard Rexrode, Elijah Smith, Don & Caroline McFaden, Roger Moats, Frances Johnson, Ray Smith, Harle Jackson, Jeff Spiggle, Joy Tinsley, Kitty Wine, Bill & Nancy Welliver, Farris Gwin, Wilma Shuey, Corkie Collie, Scott Arbogast, Parker Staples, Marie Cason, Kathy Poarch, Kaye Mozingo

## Welcome to the Hacketts

Mark and Laura Hackett have joined our congregation. Please be sure to welcome them the next time you see them! For address and phone information, call the church office at 248-7777.



This is a brief report on our church's bee hives to let you know about what's coming over the next few months.

The bees seem to be overwintering well. I've been doing an occasional "check-up" on the hives every week—if it's under 50 degrees I quickly open and close the top.

Two things I introduced this winter to help reduce the possibility of the bees not making it through the winter:

1) I have poured out dry granulated sugar on the inner cover just under the hive cover for the bees to feed on. This will help minimize the possibility of starvation.

2) I used plastic insulated wrap-around hive blankets to minimize the effect of wind and cold.

Sometime in March, when the weather is a bit warmer, I'd like to have a painting and clean-up day to prepare our equipment to be used in the Spring. My plan is to add 4 to 6 new hives by splitting the present hives.

I'll let you know when that work-day is.

If you are interested in the honey bee ministry, please let me know—Pastor Bob



**VUMC Chancel Choir News**  
*Choir Rehearsals on Wednesdays*  
**@ 6:30pm**

## Gospel Concert

The combined choirs of VUMC invite you to join us on **May 19, 2019** at 6:00 pm in the VUMC Sanctuary for a special Gospel Concert.

We will perform well-known hymns set in southern gospel arrangements.

The VUMC Children's Choir will perform as well.

Our special guests include Valley Harmony and Chris Tortorice. Mark this date on your calendar for a fun evening of Music and Praise!



## Note of Thanks:

Thank you for allowing us to practice in the church on Thursday mornings. Wishing the church a great 2019.

*Sincerely, Sarah Ralston,*  
*Treasurer for the Happy Notes*



# VERONA UMW



Remember your Prayer Partner

## United Methodist Women News

### From Joy Utberg, UMW President:

Looking forward to March 2019, when we will be celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UMW and preceding organizations. What started with 8 women, has grown into a mission organization with over 800,000 women whose main focus is to help women, children & youth in need.

On a local level, we can make a difference in someone's life through hands-on mission. On January 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, several of our members visited & worked at the Harrisonburg District Mission Central, which is a Clothing Closet for children & youth and a Medical equipment loaner facility. The clothes closet provides for children from infants to middle school. The medical equipment offered ranges from crutches & walkers, to beds & lift systems.

We will again be soliciting donations for UMCOR kit supplies with this year's focus on Cleaning Buckets. The average cost of these is \$75 per bucket. Please be on the lookout for the Angel tree in the narthex with ornaments noting specific items needed. I want to thank the Apple Dumpling Gang for their \$375 seed donation towards this mission.

### Upcoming events:

February 2<sup>nd</sup> – VUMW Officer meeting 10:00am Room 126

February 24<sup>th</sup> – Unit Meeting, Call to Prayer & Self-Denial, 10:00am, BRMH

*Please bring your Self-Denial calendar offering.*

March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Harrisonburg District Spiritual Life Retreat, 9am, McGaheysville UMC

March 23<sup>rd</sup> - VUMW Officer meeting 10:00am Room 126

**SAVE THE DATE:** Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – UMW sponsored Yard Sale – rent a table or 2 to sell your excess stuff!

If you have any questions about the UMW, or are thinking of joining, please feel free to contact me at 569-2702, or reach out to one of the 2019 officers:

Carol Brydge – VP

Susan Walker - Secretary

Millie Davis – Treasurer

Grace Dick – Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Lydia Weeks – Reading Program

Joy Tinsley – Nominating

### Not a Member of the United Methodist Women?

Talk with me and let me tell you about how  
*Great* it is to be a *United Methodist Woman*

—Joy Utberg, Verona UMW Pres.

### VUMC UMW Circle Meetings

Esther Circle–3<sup>rd</sup> Monday 2:00pm at the church

–Linda Garber & Linda Wiseman, Co-Chairs

Rebecca Circle –2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, 10am at the  
church – Gayle Meeks, Chair

### Join the UM Women's Reading Program

The purpose of the United Methodist Women's reading program is to encourage women to expand understanding of God's mission, to increase sensitivity to all human beings and to encourage critical thinking about issues facing humanity.

**Up: A Mother and Daughter's Peakbagging Adventure.** A true story and emotionally honest account of a mother's determination to foster independence and fearlessness in her daughter through their adventures climbing all 48 of New Hampshire's highest mountains.

**An Invisible Thread:** The True Story of an 11-Year-Old Panhandler, a Busy Sales Executive, and an Unlikely Meeting with Destiny.

**Small Things With Great Love: Adventures in Loving Your Neighbor.** This book "will equip and inspire all who read it with the grace and knowledge that they can follow Jesus for real." (S. Scherschligt, The Presbyterian Outlook)

**A Year of Plenty.** A Pastor and his young family embark on a year-long experiment to consume only local, used, homegrown, or homemade. He skillfully integrates lessons on faith, life, and God, integrating the spiritual with the material.

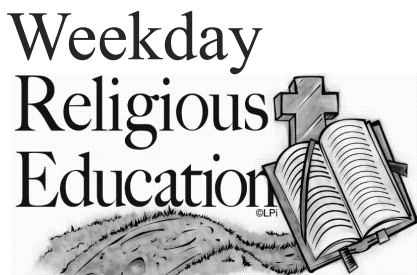
**For info. about borrowing books from our lending library contact Lydia (886-1460) or Lisa (248-3379)**



On behalf of the Board of Director and the staff here at the Valley Mission, I wish to extend our warmest thanks for your support of our agency. The Valley Mission not only provides shelter, clothing and meals to the homeless in our community, but our staff also offers spiritual and emotional support to our residents, which help them face the issues surrounding homelessness. Generous gifts like yours allow us to fulfill our mission to serve those in need, twenty-four hours a day seven days a week.

Your contribution of \$398.00 is greatly appreciated. Most often, those in need of help face difficulties that they simply do not have the tools to repair. Their circumstances cause them to feel beaten down and hopeless that tomorrow could ever bring about the possibility of a positive change in their lives. Because of donors such as yourself, the residents of the Valley Mission are fed, clothed, encouraged and provided the tools that allow them to hope to dream of a better life. In many cases, our residents are making this dream a reality. For so many, your caring support is life transforming.

Thank you all so much for your generous support of our ministry. God bless each of you. Merry Christmas!  
- Susan Richardson, Executive Director



On behalf of the leadership Council of the Middle River WRE, I want to thank Verona United Methodist Church for their support of our program in 2018. With the generous contributions from your budget, your Apple Dumpling Gang, Sunday School classes and the support of other churches, individuals, businesses, and community organizations, we were able to end 2018 in very good financial shape.

I also want thank you for the use of your facilities for our fall concert with the Faithful Men, for the classroom space to hold our regular Leadership and full Council meetings, and to church staff for their assistance with coping our flyers and spring concert programs. - Larry Wills, President Middle River WRE

## Notes of Sincere Appreciation

### I would like to thank

I would like to thank my church family and Pastor Bob for all the prayers before, during and after my recent surgery. The visits, calls and cards from everyone was very comforting and meant so much. I feel very blessed to have such a loving and caring church family. Thanks to all of you so much. - Barbara Breedon

### From The Verona Big Book Group of Alcoholics Anonymous

We would like to say thank you to all the members of this church for the use of your church over the past years. We first started meeting here in 1975, which is 44 years! Please accept our small contribution from our group.

### Thank you to all who serve

Every year dozens of our church members offer their gifts and time to serve in positions of leadership in our congregation. I wanted to thank each and every VUMC member who has given their time to attend meetings, pray, listen, discuss, make decisions, undertake special projects... without your dedication and faith in God our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ would be so much harder, if not impossible. May God bless and strengthen us all in the new year, so that His Kingdom might grow as we share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. - Pastor Bob Weeks

### .... and for your Christmas Cards!

Lydia and I very much appreciated the many cards and signs of love from this congregation during the Christmas season. God bless you all! - Pastor Bob & Lydia Weeks

**A heartfelt thank you** to my church family who have been faithful to pray for me during my surgery and recovery and for the uplifting cards. Thanks to Jim & Doris Long for bringing us home from Duke and to Doris Thompson for blessing us. God bless you all.

-Winston And Ramona Jackson

**Thank you** for the prayers, well wishes, gifts and meals as we welcomed baby Emmett to our family in December. We have been so blessed!

-Josh, Amanda, Carson and Emmett Hall

**"Give thanks in all circumstances,  
for this is God's will for you  
in Christ Jesus"**

- 1 Thessalonians 5:18

# Verona UMC February Calendar

## Church meetings/events

- Feb. 2 - 10am** - UM Women Exec. Meeting Rm 146
- Feb. 3 - 10:30am** - 1pm Youth "Soup"er Bowl Luncheon. Proceeds benefit 2019 Youth Mission Trip  
**5:00 pm** - BLAST resumes
- Feb. 7 - 12 pm- 5 pm** - Red Cross Blood Drive
- Feb. 10 - 6 pm** - Heaven Bible Study
- Feb. 11 - 5:30 pm** VCC Board Meeting at VCC  
**7 pm** - SPRC Meeting Rm 146
- Feb. 12 - 7 pm** - Trustees Meeting Rm 146
- Feb. 15** - Apple Dumplings for Sale, \$3 each
- Feb. 19 - 7 pm** - Finance Meeting
- Feb. 24 - 10 am** - UM Women Unit Meeting BRMH
- Feb. 28 - 7 pm** - Church Council Meeting Rm 146
- March 5- 5:30-7:30 pm** - Shrove Tues. Supper
- March 6- 7 pm** - Ash Wednesday Service
- March 3 - 9** - Adult Mission Trip to North Carolina

**Worship Services** held each Sunday at 8:30 and 11 a.m. with Sunday School at 10 a.m.

**Aisle 7 Fellowship**, our second campus, meets at the Verona Community Center at 10:45 a.m.

**Prayer meetings** held Wednesdays at 9 a.m. at the Verona Community Center and on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in Room 201 at VUMC

**Choir rehearsals (COMBINED)** held Wednesday evenings at 6:30 in the Sanctuary

**Rebecca Circle** - 2nd Saturday; monthly 10am Rm 146

**Esther Circle** - 3rd Monday; monthly 2pm, Rm 144

## Community meetings/events

**AA** - Sundays & Wednesdays; weekly 8pm, Rm 302

**AL-ANON** - Sun. & Wed.; weekly 8pm Rm 141

**NA** - 2nd Sunday; monthly 3pm Rm 146

**S-ANON** - 2nd & 4th Tuesdays; monthly, 6pm Rm 302

**TOPS** - Wednesday; weekly 6pm Rm 143

**Girl Scouts** - 2nd & 4th Wed.; monthly 6:30 pm Rm 141

**Happy Notes** - Thursday; weekly 9:30am in sanctuary

**FAA** - Thursday; weekly 6:45 Rm 201

**Verona Ruritans** - 3rd Thursday; monthly 7pm BRMH



		2/7	Paul Tutwiler	2/14	Linda Garber	2/24	Cindi Shoop
			Barbara Breeden		Laura Andes		Adam Cash
2/2	Avery Shuler		Laura Cason	2/15	Philip Dedrick	2/25	Matt Forester
2/3	Robert Ritchie		Brian Gingerich	2/17	Pastor Bob Weeks		Sam Davis
	Randy Smith	2/8	Fred Bowen		Chad Simmers	2/27	Stephen Reeser
	David Roadcap		Charlotte Ritchie	2/18	Sonja Boice		Dalton Rowe
	Chris Lockridge		Lisa Glover	2/19	McKinsey Shifflett		Deacon Moore
	Scott Cash		Melanie Blosser		Faye Blacka	2/28	Bob Shuler
2/4	Jim Long		E.C. Shifflett		Natalie Hiner		
	Joyce Brubeck		Sondra Harold	2/20	Brandy Austin		
	Jalane Reed	2/10	Hope Racey		Nick Shearman		
	Veronica Clark		David Wright	2/21	Carolyn Simmers		
	Dustin Riley		Alyson Bishop		Shawn Garber		
	Michael Racca	2/11	Sheila Swanson	2/22	Debbie Van Pelt		
2/5	Kristen Landes		Teresa Cook		Mackenzie Halterman		
	Shelley Hall	2/13	Lauren Austin		Matthew Halterman		
	Ray Patterson		Lori Racca	2/23	Ashley Whitesel		
2/6	Ronny Rhinehart		Laura Minor		Susan Dewert		





Verona United Methodist Church  
 P.O. Box 47 - 406 Lee Highway  
 Verona, VA 24482-0047

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**Staying in touch:**

Church Phone #'s: 540/248-7777 Fax 540/248-2243  
 Church Website: www.veronaumc.net

Senior Pastor: Rev. Bob Weeks  
 Pastor's Study: 540/248-7778  
 Email: bobweeks@veronaumc.com

**Sunday Schedule:**  
 VUMC Worship 8:30 a.m.  
 Fellowship Time 9:30-10 a.m.  
 VUMC Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
 A7F Worship 10:45 a.m.  
 VUMC Worship 11:00 a.m.

Find the correct path through the heart below. Write the words in order, as you find them, on the lines below.

“ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_.” Matthew 22:37

**KID'S KORNER**