

## Susanna Wesley UMC

3900 George Washington Memorial Hwy.  
Ordinary, VA 23131

### Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 39  
Hayes, VA 23072

### Sunday Services

Traditional at 8:15 a.m.

Contemporary at 10:30 a.m.

**In-Service, Facebook Live  
Drive-In Worship 101.7 FM**

**January 15, 2023**



## A Mid-Month Update on the Activities of SWUMC

# January Mid-Month

A note from Pastor Tom

When Jesus was about to ascend to be with His Father in heaven, He demonstrated the big idea. It all fit into His extraordinary plan. He had died for our sins. He had been raised from the dead supernaturally. Moments before His ascension, He laid some major visionary plans upon his faithful followers. He stated, as recorded by Luke in Acts 1:8,

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

This was a big idea. Jesus was thinking big! He was calling his followers to expand their belief in Him and His good news. He wanted his followers to begin sharing where they lived, then stretch to their own country, and eventually go into the entire world. This plan for reaching the world with news about His gift of eternal life became the marching orders to the church from our commander-in-chief, Jesus Christ.

Any vision we have needs to be a vision that is tied to the vision of Jesus. He pulls for your vision to be fulfilled when you join Him in fulfilling his vision for the entire world, beginning with your own world.

When we do this, we experience a better future. We see things happen that do not logically make sense. We begin to realize that when God factors into our lives and churches, He creates something that is powerful! The supernatural power of God is unleashed upon you and your church when you have the heart for and begin to step toward reaching your region with the good news of Jesus with great intentionality. The power escalates along with the vision.

Whether you are trusting God for central heat and air to be placed in your building, or something else, ensure the vision somehow connects with reaching others for Jesus. When you connect what you desire to do with His vision, you send your vision to an entirely different level. The commitment from the divine toward you and your church begins to escalate.

Are you thinking big enough? Is your church thinking big enough? It all begins with our vision. Do you have one?

Pastor Tom

# Team Training and Formation

Teams are made up individuals who have volunteered to help for a specific ministry activity like Vacation Bible School (VBS Team) or for an ongoing church related ministry or need. For example, the Worship Team (formerly called the Worship Committee) or the Maintenance Team (formerly called the Trustees who are the ones who maintain the church). As we continue to plan for the new year we are scheduling training and preparing to share more information as we move to this Team structure.

## Video Team

Our Video Booth Team volunteers keep our service's on track supporting the pastor and music ministry team. We are weeks away from holding a training class to help each operator become better aquatinted with the capabilities of the system. We have worked diligently to solve too many issues to list but have finally created a stable platform that will meet the needs of our church for many years to come.

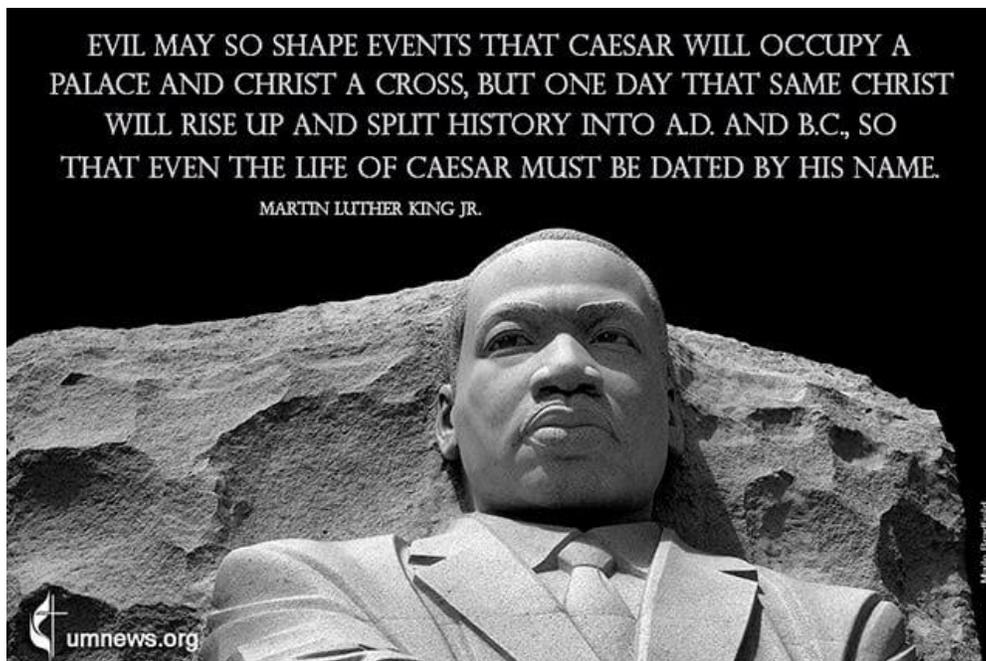
## Greeter Team

One of the most important jobs in our community is being a Greeter. They are the first person we meet when coming through the door and the ones who welcome not only long-term members but also those who are visiting for the first time. The Greeter Team is part of our Worship Team which works with the Pastor in planning our services and our efforts to welcome and engage all who attend our services.

*A greeter's role is to make the guest feel welcome and at ease. They remove the anxiety of a new location. That's when greeters hit their sweet spot. But, to be helpful and successful they require training. In our ever-changing world we they need to have the training and skills needed to not become an obstacle for those who are visiting but to make it easy for our first-time guests.*

We will be working with those who are serving as our greeters and asking others to consider joining team. Our greeters rotate throughout the month.

**Greeter Training Coming very soon – We are working on a date and time that will work for everyone.**



# Our Christmas Offering

Our Christmas messages centered on the theme “Christmas is not your Birthday!” Prayerfully, I hope it helped center your Christmas on Christ in a world that sometimes seems to have gone mad with want and desire. We are doing so many wonderful things to help those in need and our Christmas offering tells a wonderful story of generosity of so many. Our Christmas Offering totaled \$2750.00. On Christmas Day I shared the recipients of our offering. They are:

## Faith Recovery is a Place of Hope



Faith Recovery has been helping men facing addiction since 1979 by providing faith-based recovery. The organization has been a treasure in Hampton Roads assisting with addiction & recovery for nearly 40 years. Many men have found freedom from addiction through the residential program. This year Faith Recovery will move from downtown Newport News to their new home located on Mooretown Road in Williamsburg.

### 30 Day Program

Our 30-Day Program serves those age 18 and older facing life-controlling issues such as addiction. During the introduction to recovery phase residents focus on developing a solid foundation. The 30 days focus on developing new and healthy routines as residents are required to follow a comprehensive schedule. This includes daily lectures, 12 step meeting attendance, biblical recovery studies, chapel services, relapse prevention, life-skills classes, peer recovery mentoring, recreation, and group counseling.

### Comprehensive Program

Our Men's Residential Program serves those age 18 and older facing life-controlling issues such as addiction. The complete program is 12 months in length and conducted at the Hope Center in Hampton Roads. Graduates of the program may also participate in the Reentry phase for 3-6 months.

### Family Enrichment

The devastation of drug addiction and alcoholism is not limited to the addict. In fact, in most cases, when the addict decides to get help they go into treatment while the family is left to pick up the pieces. It is our goal to bring the family into the recovery process. Through educational classes, counseling referrals, family member group sessions, and family activities, we want to facilitate the healing process in the entire family.

## The Fix Ministry in King William County



The Fix Ministry is located deep within King William, Virginia on a beautiful 28-acre farm, surrounded by nature preserves, fields and babbling creeks. Part of the vision of The Fix is to provide a safe-haven where the students can get away from their old surroundings and discover who God is through His beautiful creation.

Many nights we build a bonfire under the stars to worship, roast marshmallows and study the word of God. We also host Family days on site, having cookouts, games and outdoor fun. It is a great environment for kids and parents to receive healing and restoration.

When you pull into The Fix you are met with a plaque that says “The Eyrie, Where Eagles Nest”. By very definition the eagle’s nest “is built in a high inaccessible place”. We believe that God has given us a place of refuge where we can take men who have fallen and make eagles out of them.

Living on a small farm requires upkeep and maintenance. We have daily chores and work days built into our schedule to also help teach responsibility and instill a work ethic. It is important for us to teach stewardship for it is our prayer that each man while be established in their own “Eagle’s Nest”.

# Charlotte's Toy Drive 2022

To everyone who has supported Charlottes' Toy Drive.  
We served 52 families with 147 children

## Thank You!

A special thank you to [Susanna Wesley United Methodist Church](#) and its members for such amazing support!



We are already preparing  
for next year



Let's Dream Big and  
Pray Large to help  
more families this  
coming Christmas





## 2023 Objective *200 Boxes!*

We are dreaming big and praying large for this year's collection and have set a goal of 200 boxes. We will begin with collection for the 2-4-year-old age group; boys and girls. Packing for that will take place in late April. This will be followed by collection for the 5-10-year olds with packing in late July. Finally, the older girls and boys-- with packing in Oct.

Boxes will be available for individuals to pack throughout the year. Each box should contain a wow item such as dolls, trucks, balls with air pumps, musical instrument, personal care items, a clothing item, accessories, and craft items. If you would like to learn more we suggest going to: [samaritanpurse.org/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoobox-suggestions/](https://samaritanpurse.org/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoobox-suggestions/) This is a wonderful website that gives suggestions by age and category.

### So, we're making jump ropes for 200 boxes and we need your Tired, Worn and Discarded T-Shirts



We've begin collecting your worn, tired and discarded t-shirts (adult sizes). You still have time to go through your t-shirt collections and pull out the ones you haven't worn for a long time or they have tears or holes.

**Drop off location:** A box for the shirts is to the right of the Coffee Bar



## Mission River District News

We are *136 United Methodist Congregations* with one uniting vision — to make disciples of Jesus Christ

Supporting churches from Fauquier County through the Northern Neck to Tidewater.

**<https://www.missionriversdistrict.org/>**

We begin 2023 as the Mission Rivers District. The local district office is located at 6515 George Washington Memorial Hwy, Suite 203, Yorktown, VA. The district office number is (757) 596-3476.

- The Rev. Dr. Charles Ledlum-Bates, District Superintendent: [MissionRiversDS@vaumc.org](mailto:MissionRiversDS@vaumc.org)
- Lisa Jones, Administrative Assistant: (757) 596-3476 [LisaJones@vaumc.org](mailto:LisaJones@vaumc.org)
- Lynn Manley, Administrative Assistant: (757) 879-9472 [LynnManley@vaumc.org](mailto:LynnManley@vaumc.org)
- The Rev. Dr. Clarence R. Brown Jr., District Director of Connectional Ministries: (757) 477-4474 [ClarenceBrown@vaumc.org](mailto:ClarenceBrown@vaumc.org)
- The Rev. Jim O'Quinn, District Director of Connectional Ministries: (757) 879-0309 [JimOQuinn@vaumc.org](mailto:JimOQuinn@vaumc.org)

Sign-up for the District Newsletter at: <https://www.missionriversdistrict.org/newsletter-signup>

Join Us!



Saturday  
January 28th  
8:00 - 4:00

# Mission Rivers Celebration Launch!

*First time we've been together since 2019*  
*First time we will be together as one district*  
First time District Training has been offered since Covid.

**Come join us for worship,  
fellowship and training**

*Classes offered:*

*Safe Sanctuaries*  
*SPRC Training*  
*Youth Engagement*  
*The Power of the Latty*  
*Finance 101*  
*Missions*  
*Grant Writing*  
*Microchurches*

**REGISTER HERE:**

<http://bit.ly/3QmXCLM>

**Sign up to attend the Celebration Launch:**

**Lunch reservations close on January 18**

**Class & Event registration continues through January 27**

[Click here to register](#)



There will be an UMVIM Team Leader Training class on February 7, 2023, from 9 AM to 2 PM. The location is Williamsburg UMC, 500 Jamestown Rd, Williamsburg VA, 23185.

Gathering time is 8:30 AM. Class will start promptly at 9 AM. Trainers for this class are Kip Robinson and Terri Morgan.

Coffee, fruit and pastries will be provided. Box lunch also will be provided.

A training manual will be made available to you electronically. Printed manuals are available upon request. Those needing CEU credits can request them during the registration process. Please follow this link to sign up for class: <https://vaumc.org/february-2023-umvim/>



The United Methodist Higher Education Foundation makes it financially possible for Methodist students to be educated at a United Methodist-related institution of higher education. We award \$2+ million in scholarships annually.

## **UM Dollars for Scholars**

### **Applications Now Open!**

**Deadline: March 1, 2023**

*(Exception: Students attending Andrew College or Louisburg College may apply through June 1, 2023.)*

The United Methodist Dollars for Scholars (UMDFS) program involves matching support from a student's church, UMHEF, as well as participating United Methodist-related schools and UMC conference foundations. Awards may total up to \$4,000. Funds are limited at each matching level; awards and totals are not guaranteed. Keep reading for full details!

# Our HVAC Systems Replacement Loan Status

There seems to be differing opinions on the status of the HVAC system replacement. First,



the systems have been replaced and the final bill has been paid. The final cost is \$58,208.00. Second, we received a **loan** that has allowed us to pay the bill. The balance on the bill as of December 31<sup>st</sup> was **\$17,492.26**. As we begin this new year. Our goal is to end 2023 debt free. We have worked hard over the years to pay off the church mortgage, replace our roof, upgrade our facilities, etc. Several of the units we replaced were installed 34 years ago, the remainder were mixtures of initial installs with portions replaced. We have been blessed by the generosity of so many of you. We have

allocated \$7,800 (\$650.00 per month) of this year's budget towards this debt. This will leave a balance of \$9,692.26 or \$807.69 per month from additional needed donations. Our goal is to begin 2024 debt free. We want to encourage everyone to pray about helping pay down this debt.

As we begin a new year pray about giving a 2<sup>nd</sup> mile gift or committing to a donation that you can spread over several months.

**Loan balance after Church January Payment:**

**\$16,842.26**

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## December Giving Report

Budget for November \$19,264.00 (monthly number)

Received - \$39,904.08

Above Budget this month: \$20,640.08

We want to thank everyone for catching up on yearly giving.

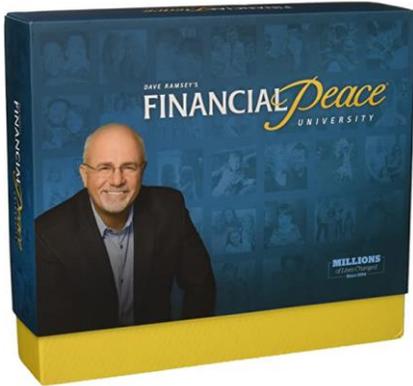
We ended the year with \$5,265 in our account.

Yes, we exceeded our Budget goals for not only December but for 2022. Your Leadership Team will be praying about where we can use these funds this coming year to expand our ministries (Nursery, Children's Ministry, etc.)

NOTE: We tithe 10% of our giving which goes to our Mission Outreach Team for distribution to ministries and missions in our community

# Would you like to experience freedom in your finances?

Financial Peace University is a 10-week class that helps you take control of your financial future and find real freedom.



## LESSONS INCLUDE:

Lesson 1: Build a Starter Emergency Fund and Learn How to Budget

Lesson 2: Pay Off All Debt

Lesson 3: Save a Fully Funded Emergency Fund

Lesson 4: Invest for the Future and Build Wealth

Lesson 5: Buyer Beware

Lesson 6: The Role of Insurance

Lesson 7: Retirement Planning

Lesson 8: Real Estate and Mortgages

Lesson 9: Outrageous Generosity

This virtual experience will involve weekly videos, a workbook, and coming together as an online community to learn.

Tell Pastor Tom – I'm interested in taking this course or email him at [pastor@susannawesleyumc.org](mailto:pastor@susannawesleyumc.org)

## CLM Module One

### CERTIFIED LAY MINISTERS (CLM)

#### COURSES

Spring 2023

Zoom Sessions – 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

March 19, April 16, May 21 2023

Cost: \$75



It is with great joy that the VAUMC announces the second cohort of Certified Lay Minister (CLM) training! What is a CLM?

This is a lay person who deepens their ability to serve in their local church and district as lay leaders, preachers, connecting the church with mission in their community, parish nurses, children's or youth ministers, administrators, or congregational care ministers to name just a few! These lay people are dedicated to working beside the clergy as they answer the call to serve their churches and communities.

To become a CLM, the layperson must complete the BASIC and Spiritual Gifts courses through LSA. The individual then takes four modules of training, meets before DCOM for recommendation to the Board of Laity, and is approved by the Board of Laity. They require the support of their local church and the district as they work through the modules.

Module One will be offered March-May with 3 Zoom meetings and the rest of the work asynchronous. All coursework is online. Cost is \$75 and covers the cost of the CLM Module One training book. There are four modules in all, which will be offered this fall through fall 2024 to complete the entire training.

**\*Register for training at <https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/index.php?eventid=724068&>**

The course will be taught by the Rev. Dr. Joanna Dietz and Mrs. Jenn Robinson O'Brien. For more information contact Joanna Dietz [joannadietz@vaumc.org](mailto:joannadietz@vaumc.org) \*Registration closes March 12.

# To Activate the Prayer Chain:

*Step 1: Call any of the individuals listed during the time indicated.*

*Step 2: Please leave a message if your call is not answered before calling another member of the prayer chain.*

*Step 3: Pray as the prayer chain prays for your need*

*You may also place your written requests in the drop box at the front door or email you prayer request to:*

[Prayers@susannawesleyumc.org](mailto:Prayers@susannawesleyumc.org)

*How can I join the prayer chain?*

*Call the office: 804-642-7551*

## DAYTIME: 7AM – 5PM

- Phyllis Russell (540) 903-2817
- Joyce Neville (804) 815-2089
- Louise Quinn (804) 693-2192
- Julia Scarborough (804) 642-4525
- Deborah Wilson (757) 784-2451

## EVENINGS: 5PM – 11PM

- Vicki Barnes (757) 592-4489
- Barbara McGlohn (804) 384-1693
- Goldie Rowe (804) 824-7377

## NIGHTTIME: 11PM – 7AM

- Phyllis Russell (540) 903-2817
- Sonnie Leonard (804) 815-2864
- Marsha Germek (804) 815-3639

**Church Office: (804) 642-7551**  
**Pastor Tom Tipton: (703) 307-6892**

**Please keep the following parishioners in your prayers:**

**Contact Pastor Tom or the church office - 804-642-7551 to add people to or remove people from the prayer list.**

- For our brothers and sisters in Christ with unspoken prayers
- For those who have COVID, Flu, RSV, or other health crisis's or are caring for loved ones. Prayers for healing and no long-lasting effects.
- For Clifford Beach for healing
- For the people in Ukraine
- For Traci Noah's nephew J.P. for healing, peace and strength
- Lisa Scarborough Kim for strength and peace
- G.U.E.S.T. program as they plan for winter
- ECHO Ministry as they help families with no other hope
- For Lorrie Wolostoncraft
- Jimmy Huff for continued healing
- For Raymond Church for healing and strength along with Judy for pain relief in her shoulder and strength
- For Don Wilson & Deborah Wilson
- For Jim Hansen for peace, healing and strength
- Praises for Karen Peabody (Mike Hansen's sister) for continued healing and strength
- For Jeff & Scott Leiffer who both have multiple myeloma
- For Linda Triolet and her family as they care for her mom
- For Lois Hensley and David Tipton as the rehab from knee replacement
- For Charles Rowe, continued prayers for healing and strength
- For Rev. Gary Livermon for continued healing and strength
- For Sondra Colbert's mother
- For Phil Lyliston (Pastor Tom watches over him)
- For Vicki Barnes, prayers for healing as she continues treatment
- For Marvin Fanton
- For Mark & Curtis Rice
- For Angela Jenkins
- Most of all for people dealing with loneliness at this time of year

**“Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.” Matthew 5:4**

- For Patti Hansen and her family in the passing of her father
- For Ben Gibbs and his family in the passing of his mother
- For Mike Hansen and family in the passing of his mother
- Danny Carey's family in the passing of his brother
- For Jim Germek's family in the passing of his mother
- For all who have lost loved ones, prayers for strength, joy of remembrance and peace in the knowledge they are with Christ



# A Message from our Virginia Conference Lay Leader, Martha Stokes



January 8, 2022

With an early January birthday, in my adult years I've alternated between setting intentions at the start of the calendar year or waiting until my birthday, the start of my new year. I don't use the word "resolution," just like I don't say I "preach" but offer a message. Surgery on December 28th for my spouse, Steve, made the decision somewhat obvious this year. Our New Year's celebrations were pretty quiet. What I have struggled with is choosing a word of intention for 2022.

The word that has emerged over the last week is **voice**.

As of tomorrow morning, at 6:53 AM, I will have been in this world for 32,061,600 minutes. I don't remember ever hearing a story of whether I whimpered, cried loudly or silently entered the world. I know by the time I was a

young child that my introverted tendencies were strongly emerging. It didn't surprise anyone when I got the "unsatisfactory" marks on my high school report cards for not participating in class. My voice – as an advocate for myself and others, as a bridgebuilder, as a person worthy of trust – is something I have had to courageously work to use. My preference is to show you that I care, to express my character and opinions without words, to act upon my intentions – not state them loudly for all the world to hear.

But is that what is needed for this time and this place where we find ourselves at the start of 2022? In some ways, yes – more than ever! I believe, especially as a follower of Jesus Christ, that the world must see me act authentically, living out what I claim to be and profess. Yet, in so many other ways right now, we need non-anxious, steady voices to push for justice and compassion. Voice is needed to speak life to a future that is different from what we are experiencing today. That voice must help us realize that we are not going to return to what was. The voice must call us to accept the uncertainties of not fully knowing what is ahead and move us to be bold, creative and unafraid to take the risks that are necessary to faithfully step forward.

I pray as my new year begins that I use my voice in 2022 to do no harm, to do all the good that I can and to share the message of the unconditional love of God that I know through my relationship with Jesus. Wow!

How much more United Methodist can you be?? #BeUMC

How will I use my voice this year? – as the child born over 32-million minutes ago – as sister and aunt – as spouse to Steve – as team member at Pinnacle Living – as Conference Lay Leader?

How will I use my voice to transform the world?

How will you use your voice?

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martha E. Stokes". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional but personal style.

Martha E. Stokes, Conference Lay Leader

Contact information:

Email – [ministryofthelaity@gmail.com](mailto:ministryofthelaity@gmail.com)

Cell Phone – (804) 366-7162

*Articles and Ministry updates for submission in the Monthly newsletter are due by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month. Mid-Month submissions are by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the current month.*

**HAVE** hope

**TRY** new things

**BE** active

**SEE** the good

**SAY** "I Love You," more

**CHALLENGE** yourself

**CHOOSE** to be happy

**EAT** better

**ENJOY** today

**FORGIVE** more readily

**READ** more often

**BECOME** your best you

