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FEBRUARY 16, 2016

## TOP NEWS

Headlines, important events and information



### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING IS MARCH 6TH

When disaster strikes around the globe-Haiti's 2010 earthquake or Typhoon Haiyan in 2013-so many watching the drama unfold on our living room televisions feel entirely helpless. How could any one person make a difference in the wake of such widespread devastation? As responders around the globe scramble to help survivors, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, UMCOR, is prepared to act.

Prepare now for this Special Sunday in your local church.

[One Great Hour of Sharing website](#)

[One Great Hour of Sharing Pastor and Leader's Kit](#)

### WE BEAT DENVER!

We may have fallen short on the football field, but United Methodist Carolina Panther fans kept pounding!

In the two weeks leading up to the Superbowl, UNited Methodists in North Carolina collected 636,891 food items and 177,000 pounds of potatoes.

[Read the story](#)

### DISCIPLE BIBLE OUTREACH OFFERS FREE TRAINING FOR WNCC

Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries is offering free Disciple Bible Study facilitator's training across the Western North Carolina Conference in the spring of 2016.

This training is open to both lay and clergy persons. This will be an excellent opportunity for those who have never taken DISCIPLE, for those who have never had the training, or for all current or former DISCIPLE Bible study teachers.

[Read more](#)

### GENERAL CONFERENCE RESOURCES

A page to prepare you for General Conference, May 10-20, 2016, is available with a variety of resources to learn about our quadrennial conference. [GC 2016](#)

#### Prayer emphasis

We are asked to be in prayer in the days leading up to General Conference. Learn more about the [Western North Carolina emphasis](#)

[Download March Bulletin Insert](#)

### HOUSING FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

In order to request housing in one of the Junaluska-owned facilities (not including the cottages), you will submit a Housing Request Reservation Form between

Monday, February 15, 2016 and Friday, February 26, 2016. See more at [ac2016.org](http://ac2016.org)

### **BROTHERHOOD/SISTERHOOD SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 21**

The third Sunday in February has traditionally been observed as Brotherhood/Sisterhood Sunday. The Board of Directors of the Brotherhood/Sisterhood encourages every local church in the Annual Conference to observe Brotherhood/Sisterhood Sunday on this day, or on another Sunday in February that is convenient for your congregation.

[Details and bulletin inserts are here.](#)

### **MISSION TO MINISTERS IS FEBRUARY 23- REGISTER NOW**

Myers Park United Methodist Church  
Tuesday, February 23, 2016  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

[More Details and Registration Information](#)

### **IDK '16 SET FOR FEBRUARY 27 IN 3 LOCATIONS**

IDK'16 will be on February 20th from 9:00 am-3:30 pm at three different sites. We will have an IDK'16 event at Covenant Community UMC in Asheville, Main Street UMC in Kernersville and Denver UMC in Denver, NC.

[More information](#) | [REGISTER NOW](#)

### **COKESBURY OFFERS VBS SHOWCASE IN GASTONIA**

February 25th at First UMC, Gastonia- [Details](#)

### **THOMAS LONG LECTURES AT HAWTHORNE LANE UMC, CHARLOTTE**

Sunday & Monday- February 28 & 29- [More Information and Registration](#)

### **METRO DISTRICT LAITY ROUNDTABLE- MARCH 5TH**

Training for lay leaders in a number of areas- [Details and Registration](#)

### **METRO DISTRICT LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES TRAINING- APRIL**

Four different locations and various dates in April. Both Basic and Advanced courses available. [Get all of the details and register](#)

### **NC COUNCIL OF CHURCHES' CRITICAL ISSUES SEMINAR ON RACE, POWER AND PRIVILEGE**

Saturday, April 23rd in Greensboro- [Details and Online Registration](#)

### **EXPLORE OPENS APPLICATIONS FOR 2016**

The Office of Ministerial Services is pleased to announce a summer ministry internship for college students.

This 10-week, full time ministry experience is for college students who are exploring a vocation in ministry.

The internship will begin May 23, 2016 with a training session for interns and mentors and will conclude on Sunday, July 31, 2016.

[Get the details and download application](#)

#### **APPALACHIAN DISTRICT LAY SERVANT TRAINING APRIL 9 & 16**

Lay Servant Training is a two-day opportunity for youth and adults to learn about ways to serve in the United Methodist Church. You must attend both sessions in order to complete the class. [DETAILS](#)

#### **UNION SEMINARY ANNOUNCES CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS**

Check out opportunities on their Continuing Education [calendar](#) and their [Leadership Institute](#)

#### **"SOULS TO THE POLLS" FROM NC COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

The NC Council of Churches is partnering with many folks across NC for the "Souls to the Polls" and voter registration efforts.

See: <http://www.naacpnc.org/faithcenterpledge> and <http://www.naacpnc.org/voterpledge>.

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#### **CAMP TEKOA REGISTRATION OPEN FOR SUMMER 2016**

Ready for a life-changing summer?

Camp Tekoa is a summer camp and conference center located in the Blue Ridge mountains of North Carolina, near Hendersonville. Tekoa offers a wide variety of summer resident and day camps for boys and girls. These include elementary day camp, and overnight camps for elementary, middle school and high school students. Tekoa also offers Adventure camps for middle and high school students.

Our mission is "Touching hearts, changing lives, sharing the light of Christ."

Register now before spots fill up!

Come serve with us! If you are looking for an opportunity to spend a life-changing summer in the mountains, apply to join our staff! You will serve campers of all ages, experience high adventure and have the opportunity to share the light of Christ each day.

Website: [www.camptekoa.org](http://www.camptekoa.org)

Promo Video: <https://vimeo.com/144617720>

Brochure: <http://camptekoa.org/camps/brochure-2016>

#### **MT. SHEPHERD TAKING 2016 SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATIONS**

Registration is open for summer camp at Mt. Shepherd.

[Summer Schedule](#)

[Descriptions](#)

[Register](#)

## CONFERENCE RELATED



**Healthy Conversations Forum**  
**Sunday, February 21**  
**3:00 - 5:00pm**  
**Mill Grove UMC (7311 Mill Grove Rd, Indian Trail, NC 28079)**

**Please see below for live-streaming locations**

The 2015 Annual Conference approved a petition which directed the Bishop to appoint a task force to collaborate with the Justice and Reconciliation Team in developing plans that "lead, model, resource, and cultivate" holy, healthy conversations across the conference. This forum is the first planned event in which participants will have the opportunity "to listen to one another, to listen for the promptings of God's Spirit, and to discover new ways in which we can serve and be in ministry together in spite of holding different opinions about a number of issues" (from Bishop's post-Annual Conference Reflections.)

On **February 21**, you are invited to join others in exploring ways in which small groups can engage in healthy conversations around issues of human sexuality. The afternoon will include:

- A 4-person demonstration of a Healthy Conversation around Human Sexuality
- A presentation on guidelines and best practices for healthy conversations
- An opportunity for small groups at each location engage in a healthy conversation
- A discussion of next steps and closing worship with communion.

Because the Healthy Conversation Task Force believes that the most effective conversations around the issue of human sexuality and other important topics happen in small groups where persons have the opportunity to build trust with one another, resources for small group studies will be made available on the conference website for follow-up conversation and study after the event.

To encourage as much participation as possible, this forum will be live-streamed to locations in each district:

### **District Live-Streaming Locations**

Appalachian	Millers Creek UMC (3260 North Hwy 16 Millers Creek, NC 28651)
Blue Ridge	Skyland UMC (1984 Hendersonville Rd Asheville, NC 28803)
Catawba Valley	First UMC, Gastonia (190 E Franklin Blvd, Gastonia, NC 28052)
Metro	Mill Grove UMC (7311 Mill Grove Rd, Indian Trail, NC 28079)
Northern Piedmont	Rehobeth UMC (4475 Rehobeth Church Rd., Greensboro, NC 27406)
Smoky Mountain	The Foundation for Evangelism (125 N Lakeshore Dr., Lake Junaluska, NC 28745)
Uwharrie	Pfeiffer University (48380 US-52, Misenheimer, NC 28109)
Yadkin Valley	Main Street UMC, Kernersville (306 South Main Street Kernersville, NC 27284)

[Calendar Link- Updates will be posted here](#)

### **CLERGY ETHICS SEMINARS 2015-2016**

Required by all clergy (provisional and associate members, licensed local pastors, and full connection members) and diaconal ministers under appointment (active or retired) within the bounds of WNC Conference (in churches, ABLC, extension ministries).

Clergy must participate in one (1) of the eight (8) events and must remain the entirety of the event [FULL DETAILS](#)

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT NEWS

### **Big Sigh Ministries Presents GRACE BREAK: Planning Your Renewal Leave**

Choose one workshop from three different dates and locations over the Western North Carolina Conference. All one-day workshops are from 10:00am-3:00pm, lunch included. The Lake Junaluska workshop is overnight plus three meals. [Details and registration information](#)

### **Leadership Development Grants Awarded**

The Leadership Development Team seeks to partner with regional providers to enhance their capacity to offer effective resources to clergy and ministry leaders. Nearly \$50,000 dollars was awarded to providers in the last cycle. [Read more...](#)

## CALENDAR ITEMS

Upcoming events from across the connection



### **MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER- MARCH 4-6 IN CHARLOTTE**

[Full details- register now](#)

### **VBS OVERVIEW IN THE SMOKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT**

Two locations and two dates- [May 5 in Franklin](#) & [May 12 in Lake Junaluska](#)

### **WOW YOUTH RETREAT**

April 8-10, 2016

Valley Haven Retreat Center, Hickory

Andy Lambert is the Retreat Pastor

More info: (336) 723-0237

### **PAUMCS ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

April 14-16, 2016

Wichita, KS

[Details](#)

### **BARNABAS CAMP WEEKEND**

April 15-17

Camp Tekoa

[More information](#)

### **KALEIDOSCOPE 2016 IS APRIL 15-17**

Kaleidoscope 2016 is a weekend long retreat for middle school students at both Camp Hanes in King, NC and BonClarken Retreat Center in Flat Rock, NC.

The weekend will be filled with amazing music, fun activities, and touching worship services. The theme for this year will be The Amazing Race.

[More Information and Applications](#)

**NORTH CAROLINA PREACHING FESTIVAL**  
**April 25-27, 2016**  
**St. Mark's United Methodist Church**  
**Raleigh, NC**

This three-day festival will draw in pastors planted in local congregations, who understand the weekly challenges and blessing of nurturing "the preaching life" and speaking to a particular people.

The Western North Carolina Conference Leadership Development Team has provided a grant for 30 WNC clergy and ministry professionals to receive a \$100 scholarship. Discount available on a first come, first serve basis. Scholarship indicated upon registration.

There is an amazing cast of speakers including Nadia Bolz-Weber, Tom Berlin, Audrey Warren, Brian Combs, and more. Learn more and register at this link:

<http://www.ncpreachingfestival.org/#future-preaching-excellence>

**SPIRITUS 2016**

**August 4-7, 2016** at Epworth by the Sea on St. Simon's Island, GA  
&  
**August 12-14, 2016** at Fort Caswell, Oak Island, NC

[Details](#)

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**OTHER NEWS**

Other information for your use



**APPALACHIAN DISTRICT- SUMMER YOUTH MISSION TRIP**

July 17-23, 2016  
Plymouth, NC

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

**FROM LOCAL CHURCHES:**

**Central UMC in Asheville: February 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>** we will welcome back Dr. James (Mickey) Efird as he leads a bible study workshop on the Gospels Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The event will begin on Friday from 6pm-9pm and will continue on Saturday morning from 9am-12pm. The cost of the event is only \$10 which covers the cost of dinner on Friday night. If you don't plan to eat with us on Friday night and come only for the beginning of the class, the event is free! Learn more about the event [here](#)

The Parables of Christ will present a worship with music service at **Carson's Chapel** in **Marion** on **February 28, 2016 at 11:00 AM**. Luncheon will be served after the service. Carson's Chapel is on Tom's Creek Road

**Tabernacle UMC** in **Greensboro** is hosting Rev. Andy Lambert for a series of services on **March 13-16 at 7:00 p.m.** each evening

**Children's Music Festival: A Cultural workshop and concert with the African Children's Choir**  
**April 22-23, 2016** at St. Luke's UMC in Hickory [More details](#)

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## RECORD OF DECEASED CLERGY AND SPOUSES

Bookmark this link to view the latest postings of deceased clergy and their spouses on the website:  
[Record of Deceased Clergy and Spouses](#)

## GENERAL CONFERENCE

Items related to General Conference in 2016

The United Methodist General Conference is scheduled for May 10-20, 2016 in Portland, Oregon.



#CTTALKS- CONVERSATIONS ABOUT GENERAL CONFERENCE- [See video series](#)

### Share & Go!

Help young United Methodists share their best ideas for the church and have a chance to speak at General Conference 2016.  
[Read more](#)

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### #GC4JC

Read more about this opportunity for children to be involved with General Conference. [Here is the news story](#)

Go to website: [www.gc4jc.org](http://www.gc4jc.org)

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[Connect with General Conference Through New App](#)

## CONNECTIONAL NEWS

From across the denomination

### UMNS

[umns.umc.org](http://umns.umc.org)

[Weekly Digest- February 12, 2016](#)

### UMCOR

[umcor.org](http://umcor.org)

[Hotline- February 10, 2016](#)

### General Board of Global Missions

[umcmmission.org](http://umcmmission.org)

[connectNmission-February 3, 2016](#)

[Recent News](#)



**Discipleship Ministries**

[umcdiscipleship.org](http://umcdiscipleship.org)

**Jurisdictional News**

[sejumc.org](http://sejumc.org)

Lake Junaluska- [Upcoming Events](#)

Hinton Center- [Upcoming Events](#)

**Follow Jesus. Make Disciples. Transform the World.**