

FEBRUARY 14, 2017

TOP NEWS

Headlines, important events and information



PRAYING OUR WAY FORWARD WEEK IS FEBRUARY 19-25

This is our conference's opportunity to lead in the denomination wide prayer emphasis for The United Methodist Church and for the Commission on a Way Forward. To learn more, go to [UMCprays.org](#).

[Information sent to all clergy and lay leaders on February 13](#)

BROTHERHOOD/SISTERHOOD SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 19TH

February 19 is designated in our WNCC as Brotherhood/Sisterhood Sunday. We encourage all churches to include the following information in their church newsletters and bulletins to inform the lay members of this ministry to our clergy families and to lift up our ministry during their worship services that day or on a more convenient Sunday closest to it. [DETAILS](#)

2018 BUDGET REQUESTS FORMS AVAILABLE

To be considered for inclusion in the 2018 Budget please complete and return to the office of Mission Partnerships and Connectional Relationships. Please have the first draft of your request **February 15th , 2017**. The first draft should include the spreadsheet and what you have completed of the narrative questions. You will receive feedback after a preliminary review on February 20th. The second and final application deadline will be February 28. You will receive feedback again after the final application is reviewed.

All forms at: <http://wnccumc.org/discipleship-ministries/>

FYI: For Active Clergy and Retirees Under 65 on conference group health plan.

To be compliant with the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the conference group health plan must provide you with a Summary of Benefits and Coverage (SBC). Here are the links to the 2017 Basic Plan SBC and the 2017 Basic Plus SBC. If you have difficulties in opening the link, please let the Conference Benefits Administrator know and a copy of the SBC will be mailed to you. The links can also be found under the Benefits Admin tab on the Administrative Services website: www.wnccadmin.org

[Basic Plan SBC](#) | [Basic Plus Plan SBC](#)

Celebrating Ministries with Youth Events

Northern Piedmont Event- **February 18**
Metro Event- **March 4**
Uwharrie Event- **March 18**

[Registration Link](#)

Ignite Us
(Middle School Retreat)
April 28-30
Camp Walter Johnson
Denton, NC

<http://wnccumc.org/event/ignite-us-middle-school-retreat/>

New Scholarships and Updated Resources Available Through United Methodist Foundation's Website

As of February 2017, the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc. has made several updates to the information and resources on their website.

Scholarship funds are an important part of the ministry of the Foundation. Several of the current endowed and managed scholarship funds help provide assistance for the next generation of United Methodist Clergy and Christian Educators. Scholarship funds can be established honoring or memorializing loved ones. For more information about establishing funds, please contact [Christian Burns](#), Executive Director of Client Relations & Cultivation.

To see the current scholarship offerings or download an application please visit www.umfwnc.org/pScholarship.cfm.

The United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc. is also able to provide assistance related to gifting stock. United Methodists in The Western North Carolina Conference or United Methodist Churches/related institutions with questions about asset donation should contact [Caroline Cox](#), Executive Assistant. Instructions for giving stock through the United Methodist Foundation can be found at www.umfwnc.org/rResourcesAll.cfm.

More from the United Methodist Foundation of WNC:

Special Lenten Season Offering by Melvin Amerson - [Read article](#)

Building the Church for Generations to Come- [Read statement](#)

FRESH EXPRESSIONS VISION DAY

The Conference Vitality Team is hosting a Fresh Expressions Vision Day on **Saturday, May 6, at First UMC - Salisbury from 9-4.**

Fresh Expression Vision Day is a great way to discover more about Fresh Expressions. In an interactive format, you will have the chance to:

- Hear how Fresh Expressions is renewing the church
- Talk about the development of Fresh Expressions US
- Learn more about the Mission-Shaped Church
- Discover tools to start Fresh Expressions in your area

2017 BUILDING TEAMS RECENT UPDATES

Updates for the WNCC UMVIM Building teams: The Alaska teams will go to Juneau (still open) and Seward (full). Costa Rica Team 13 has merged with Costa Rica Team 26. The February Haiti team is cancelled. At least a dozen teams still have openings, while others are full, complete, or in progress. Check our status sheet, For more information, review the team projects files for the 2017 team projects and/or basic BTC information (included with team projects). All Guatemala trips are full.

Can't go, but want to support the building teams? The explosive growth of Christianity continues in developing nations, but the Building Team Committee receives more requests than it can provide for additional teams and projects. Consider making WNCC UMVIM a regular part of your church mission budget or your own second-mile giving. Send your contributions to: WNCC Building Teams * c/o Bill Buchanan, Treasurer, PO Box 792, Kannapolis NC 28082. Contact Bill at wncbctreas@yahoo.com or 704.938.8431 or 704.796.7284.

<http://mission.wnccumc.org/building-teams/>

SAFE SANCTUARIES PARTNERS WITH TRAK-1

Have you heard? This is GREAT news! The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church is partnering with Trak-1 Technologies for background checks.

Here is an economical, safe and recommended solution to:

- Safe Sanctuaries Background Checks

- UMVIM Background Checks
- Conference Youth Event Background Checks
- Pre-Employment Background Checks
- and so much more!

[CLICK FOR DETAILS](#)

YOUTH MINISTRY COACHING PROGRAM (YMCP) OPENS NEW COHORTS

New for 2017-18 the WNCC is offering a level 1 and Level 2 cohort. Level 1 is for anyone working in the area of youth ministry. [Read the article](#)

[MORE INFORMATION](#) (and application link)

Questions? Contact [Monica Childers](#)

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

A Conversation with Robert Jones, Ph.D.

Author of [The End of White Christian America](#)
and CEO of the Public Religion Research Institute



[Sunday, March 12, 3:00 pm](#)

Covenant Community Church, Asheville
Presented by WaterRock Institute & The Blue Ridge District of the WNCC

[Monday, March 13, 9:30 am](#)

The Duke Endowment, Charlotte
Presented by WaterRock Institute and The Duke Endowment

Online registration to be posted soon!

EQ-HR Workshop

May 8-12
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory, NC

<http://leadwncc.org/emotional-intelligence-eq-and-human-relations-hr-workshop/>

A reduced rate is available for WNC clergy and ministry professionals due to a grant from the WNC Leadership Development Team.

Clergy Financial Planning with a Certified Financial Planner

Whether you are brand new in ministry or approaching retirement, do you have questions or concerns about your personal finances? Who doesn't? For those who would like some expert advice, perspective, and planning assistance, we are pleased to offer the Clergy Financial Planning Program. Get all of the details for this new offering:

<http://leadwncc.org/clergy-financial-planning-with-a-certified-financial-planner/>

Contact Rev. Kim Ingram, Director of Ministerial Services, at kingram@wnccumc.org if you have any questions.

AC 2017

Keep up with all of the news for Annual Conference at [AC2017](#):

Housing Requests begin tomorrow at 8:00 AM - [Online Housing Request Form](#)



AC2017
Western North Carolina Conference
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The WNC Conference Commission on Archives and History will continue their tradition of recognizing all churches celebrating their 100th, 150th, and 200th anniversary during 2017 during Annual Conference in several ways. If your church is celebrating one of these anniversaries this year, please contact James L. Pyatt, Archival Associate, by April 1. All churches recognizing significant anniversaries this year will be recognized at the Commission on Archives and History's display at Annual Conference and in a PowerPoint Presentation to be shown before and after several of the conference sessions. Please send your responses to jpyatt@wnccumc.net.

Thank you! ([ARTICLE](#))

Also- Applications for Annual Conference Displays will open this week.

DISASTER RESPONSE UPDATES

Below are links to important information from the Disaster Response Team:
[Disaster Response Team Page](#) | [Disaster Response Information](#)

Upcoming Training Events

Sat, February 18, 2017, Zion UMC, Monroe 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
[REGISTER NOW](#)

Note: There is not a need for Flood Buckets at this time.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Greensboro College- Faith & Culture Essay Award
1st Prize Full Tuition + Room and Board

Due Date is March 15, 2017

[Get all of the details](#)



Register now for online Lent Study with others: 40 Days with Wesley
Course Dates: March 1 - April 13, 2017

Are you looking for personal growth and a sense of community during Lent? If you ever feel like you miss out on the journey of Lent in your busy life, arriving at Easter and Jesus Christ's wonderful gift unprepared, then this daily devotional class and discussion group can help.

<http://www.beadisciple.com/online-christian-courses/ifd148-40-days-with-wesley-a-lenten-study/>

Openings for CONFIRM '17

If your confirmands and adult mentors and counselors can join us these weekends, go to the website as soon as possible, and register - www.fcfconfirm.net

There are openings this spring:

March 3-5 @ Lake Junaluska, NC - 44 (this has recent openings)
April 28-30 @ Lake Junaluska, NC - 18
May 5-7 @ Lake Junaluska, NC - 121

Upcoming Webinars- Church Finances

The Church Audit: You Can Do This!- March 9
Offering Electronic Giving: What Are You Waiting For?- May 11

<http://wnccumc.org/upcoming-webinars-for-clergy-and-church-finances/>

Take Thou Authority- Appalachian District Clergy Day Apart (open to all clergy)
March 23rd - 9am - 4 pm

Join the Appalachian District for a day with Mike Slaughter, Lead Pastor of Ginghamburg United Methodist Church, in the Dayton, Ohio area. Mike will lead the discussion about what it means to be the leader of the church in a world that is less and less receptive to pastoral leadership.

[Details](#) | [Registration Link](#)

Big Sigh Events in 2017

March 14, 2017, The Catholic Conference Center, Hickory, NC

May 16, 2017, The Catholic Conference Center, Hickory, NC

September 12, 2017, The Catholic Conference Center, Hickory, NC

[More Information & Registration](#)

Southeast Church Network Conference

Church Administration: The Business of Ministry

April 30- May 3, 2017

Lake Junaluska, NC

[Download Brochure](#)

Registration is now open for YeTI

Pfeiffer University's Youth Theological Institute. YeTI is a two-week summer experience for rising high school sophomores, juniors and seniors sponsored through a grant from the Lilly Endowment. Dates for the program are June 18-July 1, 2017. The first week will be held at Pfeiffer's Misenheimer campus. Second week cohort locations include Asheville, N.C., Washington, D.C. and Charlotte, N.C. Students will explore the global church, sports ministry, eco-theology and intentional community. For more information and to register go to www.pfeiffer.edu/yeti.

INTO THE DESERT

Retreat Days for Nurturing a Different Wisdom

Come away and experience a set-apart time from the outside world to increase your capacity to listen for a wisdom the world cannot give. Mondays: February 20 • May 15 • August 21 • and/or November 20 • Starrette Farm Retreat, Statesville NC Everyone seeking wisdom is invited!

Learn more here www.TheLydiaGroup.com

Questions? Contact Ann Starrette at AStarrette@DavidsonUMC.org.

SCHOOL OF THE SPIRIT

School of the Spirit is a distinct one-year school of contemplative practices, grounded in the basic spiritual practices of Jesus and the early church.

Are you considering joining School of the Spirit 8? Journey with 24 pastors and Christian leaders beginning May 1-2, 2017. If God has been nudging you, take the next step! Learn more and apply now at www.SchooloftheSpirit.com. Questions? Contact program director, Ann Starrette, at Starrette@mindspring.com or 704-488-5825.

Listening for the Heartbeat of God: A Retreat with J. Philip Newell

June 30-July 2, 2017

This spiritual retreat in the mountains of Western North Carolina, will offer contemplation, worship, and thoughtful reflection through the lenses of Celtic Spirituality. Led by acclaimed poet and peace maker, J. Philip Newell, the weekend will be filled with engagement as we listen for the heartbeat of God. This event is designed by Jennifer McSwain Martin, Owner and Lead Designer of First Light Productions. Learn more and register at: www.firstlightproductions.org.

Concert Tour of Great Britain has openings

Piedmont Christian Chorale led by Saxon Scarborough has open spaces for their Concert Tour of Great Britain - **September 8-15, 2017**. For more information, go to: [online brochure/registration](#),

Contact Saxon Scarborough- saxon@fumcgastonia.org

CALENDAR ITEMS

Upcoming events from across the connection



Pfeiffer Wellness Expo- March 2, 2017

11am- 2 pm Pfeiffer University- Charlotte, 4701 Park Rd, Charlotte, NC [more](#)

Restorative Justice and Prison Ministry Event- March 14, 2017

9:00 am- 3:00 pm, March 14 at Edenton Street UMC in Raleigh

[More Information and Registration Link](#)

Evergreen Conference- March 18, 2017

9:30 AM - 3:30 PM- First UMC, Hickory, NC

Rev. Dr. William Randolph, Director of Aging and Older Adult Ministries at the General Board of Discipleship will lead worship for the day,. There are 10 different breakout sessions scheduled for the day. Registration is \$25 dollars for the event. [MORE INFO](#)

NC Preaching Festival- April 24-April 26, 2017

St. Mark's UMC, Raleigh NC

Come hear powerful preaching from Rudy Rasmus, Kaji Dousa, Otis Moss III, Emily McGinley, and others.

This year's Preaching Festival centers on the theme of ONE: One with God, One with each Other, and One in ministry to the World. WNC Leadership Development Team is supporting the event by offering scholarship funds to WNC clergy and ministry professionals who register on a first-come basis. The reduced fee is available when they register. The deadline is **February 15**.

[Registration and more information](#)

SAVE THE DATES- May 24th to May 26th, 2017

A Ministry With the Poor Experiential Training Workshop: "A WELCOMING TABLE"
at

Haywood Street Congregation in Asheville, North Carolina | haywoodstreet.org

UMW Spiritual Retreat- June 16-17, 2017

Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center

Theme: S.M.I.L.E. Seeing Miracles in Life Everyday

On-line reservations begin **February 1**. Go to www.wnccumw.org for detailed information and to register.

OTHER NEWS

Other information for your use

FROM LOCAL CHURCHES:

WILL RUN FOR FOOD 5K

February 25- Centenary UMC, Mt. Ulla, NC

<http://wnccumc.org/centenary-umc-mount-ulla-sponsors-5k-for-servants-with-a-heart/>

CRAFT FAIR

Oak Forest UMC, Winston-Salem, NC Craft Fair with local vendors and food. Sat. March 11th 8am-2pm.

Proceeds benefit The Dragonfly House Children's Advocacy Center serving Davie and Davidson counties.

More information: <http://www.oakforestumcnc.org>

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](#)



CONNECTIONAL NEWS

From across the denomination

UMNS

umns.umc.org

[Weekly Digest- February 10, 2017](#)

UMCOR

umcor.org

GBGM is in transition to Atlanta, new Hotlines available later in the year

General Board of Global Missions

umcmmission.org

[Recent News](#)

Discipleship Ministries

umcdiscipleship.org

Jurisdictional News

sejumc.org

Lake Junaluska- [Upcoming Events](#)

Hinton Center- [Upcoming Events](#)



Follow Jesus. Make Disciples. Transform the World.