

# Wesley Tidings

September 2022

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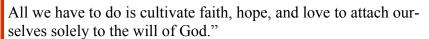
#### Hunger Action Month-bible Study Red Cross Counter Schedule Labor Day-Closed

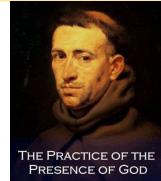
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## PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

"We must not grow weary of doing little things for the love of God, who looks not on the great size of the work, but on the love in it. We must not be surprised at failing frequently in the beginning; in the end, we will have developed the habit that enables us to produce these acts of love without thinking about them, deriving a great deal of pleasure from them.





—Excerpted from The Practice of the Presence of God, by Brother Lawrence



"Let's not get tired of doing good, because in time we'll have a harvest if we don't give up." Galatians 6:9

Brother Lawrence was a 17th century French Christian who lived his life with the Carmelite Order. He served and wrote on the topic of practicing faith, especially experiencing God's presence in everyday life. His writings about the simplicity of living in love with God by every means has inspired the faith of many, including myself. A focus on practicing faithful action as a means to grow in love with God, I believe, also underlies much of John Wesley's teachings and our Wesleyan Tradition.

Think over your experiences in life. For me it has been through intentional action that I have been most nourished in spirit. Practicing forms of prayer which open my whole self to God's presence. Practicing discipleship in service with others which opens my whole self to each person God brings into my life. Allowing every simple daily action to be a window for Holy Spirit to enter: focus on breath as gift, meditating on the gift of water while washing dishes or laundry, considering God's rich creation while removing dust.

Brother Lawrence encouraged habits of looking at the ordinary, the simple as glimpses at God's majesty. He also knew it would require ongoing practice. And he knew how this practice with all its failed attempts would bring us to a life of loving as God loves us; as natural as breathing. Do something little with simple love everyday, practice the presence of God.



Shalom, Pastor Gretchen Page 2 September 2022 Volume 13, Issue 9

## **September is Hunger Action Month**

Join in a Zoom Bible Study Sunday afternoons at 4 PM September 11-25 for an hour exploring what the Bible has to say about food and hunger. Each household is invited to consider ways to help end hunger in our communities.

### Here are some ideas to get you talking:

Perhaps it is through calling and writing to local representatives regarding free lunch availability in schools. Maybe it is organizing a food drive to replenish local food pantries.

It could be your family explores the neighborhood and local communities for food deserts and makes a plan to work for healthy food options in the area.

Possibly a dinner church offering for community residents to have a hot meal once a week while also experiencing God's love through a simple prayer service.

Consider an idea to start a service to help locate infant formula when it becomes available and communicate that to local parents.

Take time this month to explore how God is inviting you to be a disciple for Hunger Action. Watch Wesley for ideas and opportunities throughout the month.

#### Pastor Gretchen



## **Society of St. Andrew**

Each year, September is dedicated as a national month for action against hunger. Partnering with the Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) is a simple way for you to invite your faith family and community to grow further in the mission to end hunger. This is an opportuni-

ty to come together as a family of faith by devoting time to giving, serving, learning, and leading with the Society of St. Andrew.

Find resources at https://endhunger.org/ham/

### **Counter Schedule**

OFFERING SEPT 4—Mary Saylor/Clyde COUNTERS Gumbert

SEPT 11—Clyde Gumbert/Pat Fitzgerald SEPT 18—Pat Fitzgerald/Stephanie Eitzen

SEPT 25—Stephanie Eitzen/Amy Stanley

OCT 2—Amy Stanley/Renee Arnold

OCT 9—Renee Arnold/Becky Morris

OCT 16—Becky Morris/Zach Eitzen

OCT 23—Zach Eitzen/Clyde Gumbert

Contact person, Amy Stanley



The Church Office will be closed in observation of Labor Day September 5



## Red Cross Blood Drive Sept 12th 2:00-7:00 PM

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for people to volunteer to be at Wesley to give blood and to assist with signing in blood donors.

To sign up please visit: redcrossblood.org
Sponsor Code: WUMC

## **Music Ministry:**

## **COFFEE HOUSES**

Harmony House - September 9 - Open Mic. 7:00 - 9:00PM

Please come early at 6:30PM to sign up to perform. We will be welcoming singers, instrumentalist, poets, dramatists, mouth harps and even accordion players. Banjo players will have to audition (just joking). Tell your musical friends to come and share their songs of faith with us. We are an equal opportunity open mic.



Tidewater Friends of Acoustic Music. - September 23 - Troy Breslow 7:00 - 9:00 PM



Troy Breslow is a country & folk singer currently residing in Newport News, VA. He's been playing guitar and writing songs since I was 13 years old, shortly after discovering Bob Dylan. Since August of 2017, he has been a full time working/touring musician, having played over 900 shows throughout the southern and Midwestern United States. After moving to Nashville in 2018, I was recognized Country Artist of The Year by Veer Music Awards in Norfolk VA and nominated for Americana Artist of The Year by The Tennessee Music Awards. In 2019 I returned to Hampton Roads, VA upon the loss of some relatives and the birth of his son.

Mark your calendars for October 28 when TFAM presents Roger Adams.

For any questions, please contact Jerry Sowers.

#### SANCTUARY CHOIR



Thanks to all who help with the special music this Summer. God always provides.

Anyone interested in singing in the Sanctuary Choir, please meet with us Thursday, September 8, at 7:00. Our first rehearsal of the new year always ends with a dessert social. We will rehearse two or three anthems and then dismiss to a Calorie Consuming Contest.

I'm looking forward to, hopefully, a normal Sanctuary Choir year. Normal in schedule, abnormal is what God can do with this ministry at Wesley UMC.

Jeannie Caprioli will be filling in for Cynthia (who is out recuperating from knee surgery) during most of the last quarter of the year. Please welcome her on board.

For any questions, please contact Jerry Sowers.



## Solid Rock Concert

Sunday, September 22nd at 6:00 P.M.

(A love offering to support their ministry will be taken and they will have CD's for sale)

Ice Cream Social to follow. Please bring a favorite topping to share.

Solid Rock is a Bluegrass Gospel band based in the Hampton Roads region of Virginia. The ministry God has given them is to share His Message with the lost and to encourage His saints through Bluegrass style Gospel music.

http://solidrockbluegrass.com

Contact person, Charlie Morris (757-897-7715)

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## United Women in Faith News



Wesley's United Women in Faith will not be meeting this month. Instead Wesley's UWF are encouraged to attend the York River District's Annual meeting on Saturday, September 24 at 9:30 AM at Williamsburg UMC 500 Jamestown Rd, Williamsburg, VA 23185. Special Speaker—Monica Sprague

There will be a ZOOM option to attend. Contact person, Nancy Gumbert

## Mark your calendars for a Special Business Meeting Mission Rivers District UWF

Saturday, Oct 1, 2022—9 AM Via Zoom

Nominees for new Mission Rivers UWF Mission Team will be Presented (additional nominees may be called), Installation of Mission Team, Standing Rules and Budget approval.

You are Cordially Invited to:
York River District
Advent Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, December 3 at 9:30 AM

First United Methodist Church Fox Hill, 1 Salt Pond Rd, Hampton.

The delicious breakfast this year will be \$12.00. Prepared by the United Methodist Men of 1<sup>st</sup> UMC Fox Hill.

Our theme will be "Experiencing God—Finding Joy."

Our speaker will be Deborah Clark, Pastor of St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Hampton. She will present the message, "I Am Salome". We will learn about Joseph and his family.

## **Community Connections**

Wesley collected several boxes of school supplies as part of the local Salvation Army drive for local students. Thank you all for participating in this ministry of compassion.





Wesley provided breakfast for teachers and staff preparing for students on Thursday, August 25th. Together offering support and gratitude for their care of local students. Watch for ways to connect in community. Thank you to all who made this a blessing.







## Pumpkin Patch 2022

Pumpkins have been ordered and are expected to arrive at Wesley on Saturday, October 1st (time TBA).

Please consider ways we all can contribute to the success of this community outreach. I welcome ideas for how to make this the best experience for each of us as well as those who visit the Patch.

If anyone feels led to take on this ministry, I will be delighted to share what I have learned these past few years and pass on the "Pumpkin" baton to another! *Blessings, Pat Fitzgerald* 

#### Pastor Gretchen:

Looking toward October and the Pumpkin Patch, consider special ways to be missionaries through this community connection. Beginning the first weekend with a Blessing of the Animals. The Leadership Board is exploring weekend engagement activities and asks for your ideas. Watch for more information as October approaches. Save the dates for October weekends in the Wesley Pumpkin Patch.



## Sunday Bulletin Change

Wesley is moving toward a more green, more digital presentation for worship. There will be

less bulletins printed as we work for stewardship of resources. Should you like a print copy please ask a greeter/usher.

Watch emails and call the church office for details about upcoming events, prayers, and calendar items.



## **United Methodist Prayer for the Classroom**

A new school year can be exciting or scary – or both. We can try to

make that transition easier by praying to God and giving thanks for the people in our schools. Share this back-to-school prayer from United Methodist Discipleship Ministries with your friends, family, church, and classmates to help prepare your hearts and minds for the upcoming year. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=057zhlxg6sU





## **Update your Directories**

A quarterly update for the printed directory is underway. Please contact the office with your preferred contact information including email and cell phone.

Sylvia Krisnow, Office Administrator



## **Leadership Board Retreat**

Saturday, September 10 9:00 AM-2:00 PM Fellowship Hall

## The Pastor's Discretionary Fund

The Pastor's Discretionary Fund is used to assist the local families in need of help with their utilities. The fund is very low at this time. If you would like to contribute, please mark checks and envelopes "for Pastor's Discretionary Fund".



## **Henderson Settlement Christmas Mission**

We are collecting items for the Henderson Settlement Christmas Mission in Kentucky. Each year, over 200 of the neediest families are served, with over 500 children receiving gifts. We took gifts from 18 churches, besides our church, last year. In addition to the toys, each family also receives a new blanket, a set of towels, and a winter coat



for each family member. We are asking all churches on the York River District that are able to contribute to the Henderson Settlement Christmas Mission by collecting and donating the following items this year:

New toys or other age appropriate gifts for children ages newborn to 18

New pajamas for children aged newborn to 18

New blankets (Full or Queen)

New towels sets (bath towel, hand towel, and washcloth folded together as a set)

New or gently used coats, hats, and gloves for children and adults

Please prayerfully consider supporting the Christmas Mission again this year by collecting items on the list above, or by sending a check payable to Bethany United Methodist Church with "Henderson Mission" in the memo line. The check can be mailed to 13088 Mill Swamp Road, Smithfield, VA 23430. **Thank you for any help you can give. The parents and children of Appalachia are so appreciative.** 

Linda West – cell 757-876-3944

lwest562@gmail.com

Della Carrico – cell 757-377-7252

dellacarrico@gmail.com

God Bless You, Linda and Della, Bethany UMC, Smithfield, VA



## Is The United Methodist Church really...?

*UM NEWS*--Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications, has received many questions from congregations wondering about the future of the denomination and whether they should consider disaffiliating from it. These have included recurrent questions that reflect misperceptions or misinformation that congregations are receiving as they discern their next steps.

This is the first of a series of articles offering accurate responses to such misperceptions or misinformation.

Learn more: <a href="https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-is-the-umc-really-part-1">https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-is-the-umc-really-part-1</a>?



## **Certified Lay Ministers Courses to be held in Fall 2022**

The first offering of Certified Lay Minister (CLM) training in the Virginia Annual Conference will be held this fall (**September 11, October 2 and November 6** from 6 to 8 p.m.).

To become a CLM, the lay person must complete the BASIC and Spiritual Gifts courses through Lay Servant Academy (LSA). The individual then takes four modules of training, meets before District Committee of Ministry (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 September-November with three 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 spring 2024 to complete the entire training. The course will be taught by the Rev. Dr. Joanna Dietz and Mrs. Jenn Robinson O'Brien. For more information contact Joanna Dietz at <a href="mailto:joannadietz@vaumc.org">joannadietz@vaumc.org</a>. Register at <a href="https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/index.php?eventid=703552&">https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/index.php?eventid=703552&</a>.

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Sages County Grill Wednesday August 24











**Project Crossroads**August 14-20

Pat Fitzgerald, Donna Turley, Clyde and Nancy Gumbert Joined 1st UMC Hampton 9 Adults 7 Youth Green Shirt in front is Harry Howe Project Crossroads Leader *More pictures next page* 























We stayed at the Red Oak Presbyterian Church in Marion, VA in the youth area and used some of the classrooms for sleeping.

Our first project was repairing a ramp and decks. The floor boards and railings were replaced. The slats for the railing were removed, nails taken out then put back.





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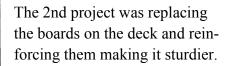








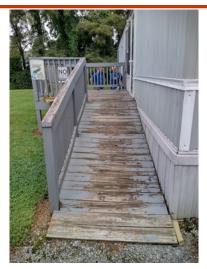




















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## **Prayer Concerns**

Abby

Barbie Holland Ben Stanley Betsy Pinder Bill Lauder Bill Mee

Bud and Joyce D'Bene

Buddy Carlisle
Caleb Coates
Caren Thomas
Charles Lineberry

Charlie

Craig Savage Cynthia Campbell

Dale and Kathy Stumpf

Dave Bisacre David Hale

Deb

Debbie Woodward

DeJohn

Don Brookman Doris Dameron

Dylan
Dorothy
Freta Lamb
Grayson
Helen Cope
Janet Wagenfeld
Jeff Birdsall
Jeremy Knight

JoAnn
Joella
John Miller
Jonnie Sowers
Judi Hines
Judy Ursy
Karen
Kath

Kelly Phillips Kenny Crocker Lillian Hale Lucy Stowe Mason Allen Nancy Companion Nina Winfree Pat Fitzgerald Patty Bumgarner

Pearl

Peggy Langford Phillis Cole Sam and Logan Sheri Robinson

Stacy

Stew and Jean Bowden

Susan Nichols Tammy Burnell Terry Lynn Harbuck

Wanda

Wayne and Judy
Wayne Posey
Zach Perkins
Zeb Cope





Thank you for the phone calls, cards, and texts we received following the passing of David's step-mother, Pat. The love and support of our church family is a cherished gift.

With His love, David & Susan Brookman



#### Concerns:

Prayers for the recovery groups that meet at Wesley. May they feel your loving presence and healing powers. Be with teachers, staff and students as they get ready for a new school year. Be with parents as they shop for school clothes and supplies. Prayers for those affected by the rains, flooding and fires. Be with the first responders and all who have gone to help all in need. Safe travels for all the teams of Project Crossroads while they are in mission to make peoples lives better. Prayers for teachers, students, parents and all school staff as they prepare for the start of a new school year. The safe return of our mission team. May all who were helped have their lives made better by the work that was accomplished. Prayers for our Conference and District and the restructuring that is coming. Give us all guidance on how to move forward and continue in mission. Pat Fitzgerald will feel better and enjoy her family being here for her granddaughter Tiffany's wedding on Tuesday. May all the students staff returning to school be safe. Drivers take extra around bus stop and children walking to school. Prayers for Pastor Gretchen and Mike to have a relaxing and enjoyable vacation. Return them to us rested and refreshed. The Coronavirus; the tragedies occurring in our country and around the world; police officers and first responders; all who are grieving; our seniors; our church and the United Methodist Church; recovery from addiction; young adults needing a closer walk with Christ; those awaiting test results; healing for those in pain.

### Christian Sympathy goes to:

The Brookman family on the loss of David's stepmother Pat Brookman. Tom and Sue Markferding (Clyde's cousin) on the loss of their daughter, Debbie. The family of Karen Krippene, in Arizona, as they mourn her death.

### Glory Sightings:

Jeanne Lineberry- Sharing the scripture and reading from the Upper Room with 4 people and talking about it with them. Having lunch with my mom and my friend Trina and her mom. Seeing a rainbow after the storms we had. Mike Nelson- Nine families on Facebook and 2 on Zoom sharing the worship service today. Tom Fickett- Janice is 3/4 of a century old today. Happy Birthday! Clyde Gumbert- Unexpectedly seeing a former bandmate at church today while visiting the area. Caroline Morris- Talking with other people while waiting for the train at Busch Gardens. Jerry Sowers- Traveling on I-64 and living to talk about it. Nancy Gumbert-While on my morning walk I saw a hawk flying close by. Pastor Gretchen- Being able to have interactive worship with Mike because of technology. While in the drive thru at Glaze Donuts the person in front of me gave a gift card to me telling me I had been "Gifted with a random act of kindness." A worker there had returned to work after an accident. David Roane-Last week we took home a copy of the Upper Room after Jeanne talked about how helpful it was to her. While visiting his brother's home he noticed that he had copies of the Upper Room for his church. How far reaching the Methodist Church truly can be. Mike Nelson-While in Philadelphia last week for a conference on feeding the hungry two volunteers from Louisiana shared a song they had written about the hunger problems in our country. Very moving and uplifting. Lynnette Scalzi-Spending time with Michelle and family while trying on wedding dresses. Jerry Sowers- He saw pictures of his niece's triplets that were born this morning. Sylvia Krisnow- Diane Fishburn visited this weekend. We also visited with Homer and Claire Lewis. It was good to visit with friends. Donna Turley- The excitement and fun on the Project Crossroads Mission trip. Watching the teenagers learning to use power tools. Seeing the projects before we started and after we finished our work. Burrell Taylor- I attended Hampton High School's 70th reunion this weekend. It was good to see classmates and spend time together. Mike Nelson-Finally got our Facebook feed to connect so everyone can be a part of the service. Lynnette Scalzi- Audrey sharing her musical talents with us this morning. Pat Fitzgerald- The joy seeing two families joined together in marriage. Having family together to share the celebration. Jerry Sowers- Friday night's TFAM with Roy Ira Moats was a true blessing for everyone there as he sang a song about having God in his life. Robin Welch - Clan McCool playing and entertaining different groups of people. Becky Morris- The joy that Tom and Janice were married on Wednesday at Wesley by Pastor Gretchen. Saw Cynthia and she is doing well with her recovery. Caroline Morris- spending time at the beach and celebrating my grandpa's birthday. Susan Brookman- Being with family and celebrating together and remembering the loved ones we lost. Knowing that God was with us through it all. We were able to worship with our church family even when we weren't in person. Mike Nelson- Our cat had been ill but is now back to good health.

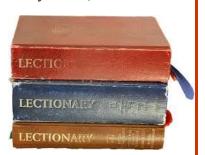
Lectionary
Readings

**SEPTEMBER 04** | 13th Sunday After Pentecost (Green) Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 (*UMH* 854); Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33

**SEPTEMBER 11** | 14th Sunday After Pentecost, Grandparent's Day (Green) Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14 (*UMH* 746); 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

**SEPTEMBER 18** | 15th Sunday After Pentecost (Green) Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; Psalm 79:1-9 or Psalm 4 (*UMH* 741); 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

**SEPTEMBER 25** | 16th Sunday After Pentecost (Green) Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15; Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 (*UMH* 810); 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31



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## Birthdays and Anniversaries

	<i></i>			
Eddie Page	9	Doug and Carolyn Gallaer ()	20	Don Ward
Joe/Debbie Coccimiglio (1988)	11	Jack Lynch (former Pastor)	22	Casey Taylor
Ariel/Maricel Arus (1987)	12	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		Carl Morrison
Clyde Gumbert	13	2	26	Jeanne Lineberry
Sarah Snow		•		Jullian Lutes
Kirsten Burt		<b>Q</b> ( )	27	Joyce D'Bene
Corrine Coccimiglio	15	Burrell Taylor	30	Anne Companion
` ` _ `	16	Zach Ames		
		Hunter Snow		
J 1	17	Lori (Page) Roberson		
Rick Hartung	18	Carolyn Gallaer		
	Joe/Debbie Coccimiglio (1988) Ariel/Maricel Arus (1987) Clyde Gumbert Sarah Snow Kirsten Burt	Joe/Debbie Coccimiglio (1988) 11 Ariel/Maricel Arus (1987) 12 Clyde Gumbert 13 Sarah Snow Kirsten Burt Corrine Coccimiglio 15 Emily Winn (Stumpf) 16 Christopher Stumpf Riley Companion 17	Joe/Debbie Coccimiglio (1988) 11 Jack Lynch (former Pastor) Ariel/Maricel Arus (1987) 12 Donna Kennedy Clyde Gumbert 13 Brenda Baynham Sarah Snow Rick/Nita Hartung (1986) Kirsten Burt Joey Scalzi Corrine Coccimiglio 15 Burrell Taylor Emily Winn (Stumpf) 16 Zach Ames Christopher Stumpf Hunter Snow Riley Companion 17 Lori (Page) Roberson	Joe/Debbie Coccimiglio (1988) 11 Jack Lynch (former Pastor) 22 Ariel/Maricel Arus (1987) 12 Donna Kennedy Clyde Gumbert 13 Brenda Baynham 26 Sarah Snow Rick/Nita Hartung (1986) Kirsten Burt Joey Scalzi 27 Corrine Coccimiglio 15 Burrell Taylor 30 Emily Winn (Stumpf) 16 Zach Ames Christopher Stumpf Hunter Snow Riley Companion 17 Lori (Page) Roberson

#### NAWAS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, INC.



## HOSTED BY BISHOP SHARMA D. LEWIS & REV. DR. HYO LEE



For more information go to:

https://vaumc.org/bishop-lewis-dr-hyo-lee-hosting-trip-to-greece-and-turkey/



## Register Now for Early Response Team (ERT) Training

Are you certified as an ERT (Early Respond Team) member or UMVIM

leader? Did you know that both certificates require a renewal every 2-3 years? Due to the pandemic, there was a limitation to offering training for both certifications. Both pieces of training required an in-person gathering due to their hands-on approach.

As churches are getting ready to assemble a mission trip and respond to disasters such as hurricanes or floods, we see that this is an excellent time to refreshen your certification. Early Response Teams (ERT) training is being offered **September 10** at Culpeper UMC, Three Notch'd District, and at Aldersgate UMC, Coastal Virginia District.

This 8-hour training session will begin at 8 am. ERTs respond during the first phase of disaster relief, providing a caring Christian presence. Your church and community could truly benefit if faced with a disaster. You are also trained to respond, when requested, to other conferences during a disaster.

Registration fee is \$35, which includes the training manual, UMCOR ERT badge, T-shirt and lunch. Checks should be made payable to the Virginia Annual Conference and brought the day of training.

https://vaumc.org/ert-certificate-training/



### Our Calendar is updated daily! Please go to our website for a current calendar. http://www.hamptonwesley.org



Congratulations to Tom and Janice Fickett on the occasion of their marriage on August 24<sup>th</sup>.



Not one, not two but three musicians Tidewater Friends of Acoustic Music Coffeehouse—Roy Ira Moats, Jim Bulleit and Kevin Berry on August 26th



## Wesley United Methodist Church

## 2510 N. Armistead Avenue Hampton, VA 23666

Phone: 757-838-3044 Fax: 757-838-1663

E-mail: secretary@wesleyhpt.hrcoxmail.com

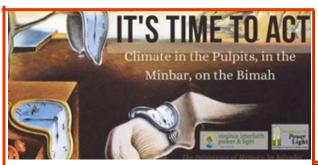
GretchenNelson@vaumc.org

WEBSITE: http://www.hamptonwesley.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Prepared with love especially



It's Time to Act, it's...

An Interfaith Climate REVIVAL

Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 6-9 PM

**Immaculate Conception Catholic Church** 2150 Cunningham Drive | Hampton, VA

**OUR FEATURED SPEAKER, REV. DR.** JIM ANTAL, is a denominational leader, climate activist, author and public theologian. Hundreds of churches are reading his 2018 book, CLIMATE CHURCH, CLIMATE WORLD. Jim is a graduate of Princeton University and Yale Divinity School. He has preached on climate change since 1988 in over 300 settings and has engaged in nonviolent civil disobedience on numerous occasions. He currently serves as Special Advisor on Climate Justice to the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. There is no charge for the event, but participants are asked to pre-register at <a href="https://">https://</a> forms.gle/s9nkhLDnixK1PtwB9.



## Join the denomination in sharing why you are #BeUMC

#BeUMC honors the core values that connect the people of The United Methodist Church (The

UMC). This grassroots campaign, <a href="https://www.umc.org/en/who-we-are/our-people/beumc">https://www.umc.org/en/who-we-are/our-people/beumc</a> built upon powerful stories of congregations and people living their faith, celebrates what draws us to The UMC and what we aspire to be.

The UMC is founded on a Wesleyan theology of grace, anchored in Scripture, and based in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and the continuing movement of the Holy Spirit.

The full story of The UMC reflects all of our interwoven experiences. Consider our common roots and your answer to the question, "Why am I United Methodist?" Then, post a video, photo or written testimony on your preferred social media platform – don't forget to use the hashtag #BeUMC. http://vaumc.org/beumc/