

NOVEMBER 2020

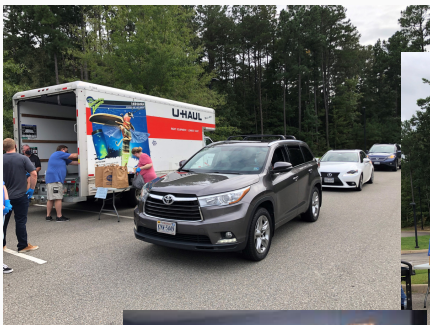
# THE RICHMOND DISTRICT DISPATCH

A Newsletter of the Richmond District-VAUMC

## Sunday Food Drive a Great Success

On Sunday, September 27, Woodlake UMC held a Food Drive to fill the food pantry at L.C. Bird High School. Well over 100 families dropped off food. By the end of the afternoon, a U-Haul truck was filled with donated food. A team of volunteers delivered the food on Tuesday, September 29. Through the Holy Spirit, the entire L.C. Bird food pantry was completely filled with less than half of the food donated.

With the remaining donations, the food pantries at Meadowbrook High School and Falling Creek Elementary School were also filled. In one morning, three food pantries at Chesterfield County schools were filled! Many tears of joy were shared between the volunteers who delivered and the school administrators who received the food. It was an amazing and humbling experience for all who participated. All praise and glory be to God!



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# A Life of Joy and Peace - Phil. 4:4-9

BY REV. HYO LEE, PH.D., DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

The Reuters reports that one side effect of COVID-19 is it could age our brain ten years. That is scary. We have family members who have tested positive or even died. France is trying to figure out what to do about the ruthless killing of a teacher. As the election nears, we are more and more divided as a nation. Yes, we worry about our nation, economy, our job, our family and health. Is it possible for us to live in joy and peace in a time like ours today? I believe it is. The Apostle Paul in his letter to the Philippians shares his secret of joyful and peaceful living in and through all challenges of life. He had plenty of disappointments, betrayals, hunger, beatings, and imprisonment. Yet, through it all, he learned how to have joy and peace in God.

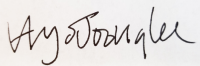
The first secret of Paul's life of rejoicing and peace is that he was rejoicing in the Lord always. If we want to live in true joy and peace, then the secret is we find joy in the Lord, not in the things of this world. The world promises joy in terms of "when" - "Oh when this pandemic is over, oh when I get that dream job, oh when I have good health, etc., then I will be happy!" In other words, the world and people seek joy from a change of circumstances whether that is about people, money, relationships or health. But Paul learned that those circumstances change all the time. He finds joy in the Lord, in God. The secret of Paul's joy is "grounded in his relationship with Christ."

The second secret of his rejoicing was in practicing gentleness (4:5) "Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near." Here the word gentleness means "being gentle, kind, humble and fair." A person is kind and gentle to others because one follows the spirit of the law rather than the letter of the law. A person can be gentle, humble, and kind when s/he follows the Holy Spirit. With God near and with us always, we will be helped to do the right thing, to be gentle and kind.

The third secret of Paul's rejoicing life is turning worries into prayers (4:6) "Do not worry about anything but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Worries distract us. Worries rob us of joy and peace. Worries stress us and depress us! There is a saying "Worrying doesn't help." Paul knew this and turned worries into prayers.

Just as Paul and Silas prayed and praised God in prison, we too can follow Paul's example and put into practice rejoicing in the Lord, living a life of gentleness with humility, and turning our worries into prayers. Then the good news is, no matter what life throws at us, no matter what our circumstances may be, we live in God's joy and peace. (4:7) "And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

In the Lord,



## Upcoming Events at Heart Havens

**Holidays at Heart Havens:** Heart Havens takes pride in providing a joyful holiday for all our residents. There are people in our homes who would not otherwise receive gifts. Would you or your church or community group help us by sponsoring Christmas for a Heart Havens home with donations to buy gifts for the residents? Holiday donations allow staff closest to the resident to shop for items they know they will love, giving joy to our residents and staff. You can note "Christmas for Heart Havens" with your donation or contact us to learn more at [jenniferboyden@hearthavens.org](mailto:jenniferboyden@hearthavens.org).

**Target Circle:** We are honored and excited to be a part of the Target Circle program. Now through Dec. 31, 2020, vote for us through the Target Circle program to help determine how Target's donation will be divided up. You can vote multiple times.

**Giving Tuesday:** Join us on Tues. Dec. 1, 2020, a global day of unity and giving. Our goal for Giving Tuesday is to raise funds for urgent maintenance needs. You can find more details at [www.facebook.com/hearthavens](https://www.facebook.com/hearthavens).





## 2021 Richmond District Leadership Training

### RICHMOND DISTRICT LEADERSHIP EVENT

Sunday, January 10: 4-6PM  
Sunday, February 21: 4-6PM  
Sunday, March 21: 4-6PM



Rev. Jorge Acevedo

Richmond District Leadership Training will look different this year. Rev. Jorge Acevedo, Lead Pastor, Grace UMC in Florida, will be presenting on the three dates listed above. Churches are encouraged to have laity, staff and clergy sign up for this FREE Zoom training. Jorge will focus on five characteristics of vital congregations: team, context, focus, strategy and improvement. He will share how these five things can take a good church to a great church.

Please check the Richmond District website for a flyer and Jorge's biography. A registration link will be posted on the website starting November 16.

Richmond District  
Conference  
Sun. Jan. 10  
3:15-3:55pm  
via Zoom

District Admin Training  
Sun. Jan. 24  
via Zoom  
2:00-3:30pm  
*SPRC*  
*Trustees*  
4:00-5:30pm  
*Finance*  
*Lay Leaders*

## Re-Focus Your Church on Ministry!

TO FEATURE KAY KOTAN SAT. NOV. 21, 9AM-12NOON

Kay Kotan is a nationally known speaker and leader who has helped many churches reshape their committee set-up and church structure by streamlining administration and making more space for ministry. Meetings are not ministry! Let's focus on ministry while making meetings fewer in number but larger in meaning.

The Simplified Accountable Structure Workshop is a deep dive into why, what and how to move into this model with both adaptive shifts to help prioritize mission as well as technical shifts to help implement ministries we want to do! Whether you have already moved to this model and need to hone your understanding for further implementation or whether you are considering the move, you will find this workshop well worth your investment of time. Kay will be joining us November 21, 9am-12noon, via Zoom for a joint event with the James River District.

Churches of all sizes will benefit from considering moving to a simplified accountable structure, so please mark your calendars now and start recruiting a team from your church to join us. This training is being offered FREE to every church team. Registration is available at <http://tiny.cc/SAStraining> and is required to attend. Maria Maxwell, Coordinator of Church Revitalization and Leadership Development, is certified to coach any church in the implementation of the SAS. For more info, please email Maria at [mariamaxwell@vaumc.org](mailto:mariamaxwell@vaumc.org).



*Simplified* **Accountable**  
**Structure**

Make more space for  
ministry.

(Meetings are not ministry!)



Hosted by the James River and Richmond Districts of the  
Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church

## UMFS December Offering

### NEW RESOURCES NOW AVAILABLE

United Methodist Family Services (UMFS) is the Virginia Conference designated offering for December. UMFS deeply appreciates the support of local churches in this ministry, helping high-risk children create a brighter future. We have created a variety of digital assets to support the offering this year, and help you share the work of the ministry with your congregation. You can find the following resources at [www.UMFS.org/church](http://www.UMFS.org/church): four short videos, an electronic bulletin insert, church offering scripts, and images for newsletters, emails, social media, and websites. Please contact Jill Gaynor, [jgaynor@umfs.org](mailto:jgaynor@umfs.org), 804.254.9463, with any questions. Thank you for your support!

## Volunteer Opportunities

### CHURCHES WITH IMMEDIATE NEEDS

Many area churches have adapted to these uncertain times and are serving in their surrounding communities. For information about volunteering, please visit [www.thepacecenter.com/volunteer](http://www.thepacecenter.com/volunteer) for listings.

## November 14 is the Lay Servant Academy

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS NOV. 6

[Please visit www.vaumc.org/event/lay-servant-academy-virtual-training-for-trying-times](http://www.vaumc.org/event/lay-servant-academy-virtual-training-for-trying-times) for more information.

## Advent Resources

### PLANNING FOR A SAFE ADVENT

Please use this link to access a handout of ideas for planning Advent activities for your church during COVID.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uqsJNgsad3vOZQyoOfnPMI8C9dqKaVYy/view?usp=sharing>



*Happy Thanksgiving*  
FROM YOUR RICHMOND DISTRICT STAFF



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