

News From the Griffin District

A monthly publication of
The Griffin District of The United Methodist Church

Rev. Richard Winn
District Superintendent

February 2020

The Great Love of God

Greetings to the faithful servants in the Griffin District. I pray that the blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ are upon you, and that God is moving powerfully in your churches.

Happy February to all of you. It is that time of year and love is in the air! Stores are filled with fresh cut flowers, heart shaped chocolates, and red balloons. People deeply desire to love and to be loved in return. I truly believe that there is no greater love that we could share with them than the love of God.



As you all know, I have a deep affection for the hymns. They have meant so much to me over the years. I cry them out in difficult times, I utter their words in exaltation for worship, and I find their words on my lips when my heart is light. One of my favorite hymns is "Victory in Jesus." It's a familiar hymn and I'm sure many of you know its first line: "I heard an old, old story, how a Savior came from glory, how he gave his life on Calvary to save a wretch like me."

An old, old, story about God's love for us all and how God's grace can transform our hearts. That's what the Gospel is. It is a story that is hundreds and hundreds of years old, but it is just as relevant today as it ever was. People need to hear that story. People need to experience that story. People need to be transformed by that story.

It is our role, our responsibility, and our commission to go out and tell our neighbors, our friends, and all of those who enter into our churches about this amazing love. There is no other love like God's love for us. It is unconditional, irrevocable, and unable to be earned. However, it is lavishly bestowed upon us. Let us go out and share with the world the story of this magnificent love of God!

Richard



Lay Servant Classes

March 7 & 14, 2020

The following Lay Servant Classes will be offered on March 7 & 14 at the Andrews Chapel UMC (133 Watterson St., Jonesboro). 9:00-am – 3:30pm. Cost is \$40 and includes all materials and lunch. Registration deadline is February 14. Brochures with registration forms are available on the District Website (www.ngumc.org/grfn), from the District Office, or from District Director, Randy Brown (randy.brown.0754@gmail.com).

UM Heritage – Rev. Richard Winn

Prayer – Ms. Elaine Childs

Spiritual Gifts – Rev. DeeDee Lawson

Aging and Ministry in the 21st Century – Ms. Baraba Donaldson

Basic – Mr. Jay Wansley

Night of Worship with Bishop Sue

Join the Griffin District for a Night of Worship. Please invite your congregation to join together on Wednesday, February 19th @ 6:30 PM at Wesley Chapel UMC in McDonough for a time of worship as we prepare for the Lenten season. Our guest preacher will be Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson and music will be provided by the amazing choir at Wesley Chapel UMC. Everyone is encouraged to bring canned goods, which will be our offering, to be donated to a local food pantry in Henry County. A nursery will be provided.



North Georgia United Methodist
Housing and Homeless Council

Helping the Church serve our neighbors in need.

February 23 is the date for the Housing & Homeless Offering

If that date is not convenient, the offering can be collected on another Sunday.

Offering materials are available in the District Office and can be picked up on Tuesday or Thursdays. Information is also available on their website,

www.nghhc.org. Please give generously.

JOIN US FOR

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? Rom. 10:14 nkjv

March 14, 2020

10am - 2pm at Warren Temple UMC
416 East Depot St LaGrange, GA 30240

the LOCAL PASTOR
Word, Sacrament and Service

SUMMIT

Equipping Local Pastors with Vital Tools for Ministry...
CEU's Available

Hosted By:
NGA Black Congregational Development

Facilitators: Rev. Samuel Townsend, Rev. Elvira Rogers & Rev. Bobby Church

Leadership: Effective Pastoral Leadership in the 21st-century Church
Simply Missions: Connecting with your Community
Tending to Your Soul: Taking Care of You!
The Next Level: Plenary Discussion

Summit is Free of Charge. To Register: visit www.ngumc.org
For More Information contact Rev. Dr. Greg Williams or Rev. Ralph Thompson Jr

North Georgia Delegation Listening Session

The North Georgia delegation to General and Jurisdictional Conference has scheduled another listening session to hear from North Georgia United Methodists. It will be Saturday, March 21, 1:00pm, at Griffin First UMC.



Clergy and laity of the North Georgia Conference are invited to address the delegation on topics related to the 2020 General Conference. Maximum length of presentations will be communicated to registrants prior to the session. **To speak, you must pre-register: [Registration is now open](#).**

Thank You to Rev. Keith Harris, District Statistician, and his team – Rev. DeeDee Lawson, Rev. Skip Mitchell, and Rev. Valerie Loner – for all their work assisting churches with the End of Year Reports, and for verifying all the information that was submitted by the churches. We appreciate the hard work!



Town Halls with Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson

Clergy and laity are invited to attend a town hall meeting with Bishop Sue on the future of The United Methodist Church here in North Georgia and beyond. The Griffin District meeting is scheduled for March 29, but if that is not convenient, you may select another date.

Schedule:

March 1 | [AROS/AMAR](#) | Hillside UMC | 3 pm
March 8 | [ACPK/AMRY](#) | Peachtree Road UMC | 2 pm
March 22 | [ATHN/ADOX/AGST](#) | Madison First UMC | 3 pm
March 29 | [GRFN/LAGR](#) | Fayetteville First UMC | 3:30 pm
April 19 | [NWST/ROCA](#) | Trinity at the Well UMC | 3:30 pm
April 26 | [GNSV](#) | Gainesville First UMC | 3 pm

The Griffin District Strategic Growth Committee will be meeting at Senoia UMC (325 Seavey St.) on Monday, March 16 at 10:00am. For more information, contact Chair, Rev. Andy Postell.

North & South Georgia Joint Clergy Spouses Retreat March 13-15, 2020, Epworth By the Sea

*“We Live by Faith, Not by Sight”
2 Corinthians 5:7*

For more information, contact the District Office for a brochure, or visit the Happenings page of the District website, to download a copy.

Greetings Fellow Stitchers in the Griffin District,

My name is Jennifer Morris and I'm very excited to send this announcement!

Several ladies from different churches and denominations have come together forming a community service ministry to stitch for a cause (sewing, knitting and crocheting for community service). We meet at Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, McDonough, 397 Racetrack Road, McDonough, GA 30252!



I'm asking Stitchers from your house of worship to join us by volunteering your time, talents and resources. We meet in the spacious Thomas Fellowship Hall, outfitted with outlets, tables, chairs and a kitchen when needed. **Our meetings are scheduled from 10:00am – 3:00pm on the 3rd Thursday monthly!** "Come when you can and leave when you must!"

Currently, we are stitching needed items for the following organizations:

- Alzheimer/Dementia/Autism Fidget/Twiddle Gear (Aprons/Cuff/Muffs for memory care facilities)
- APQ 1 Million Pillowcases (Children's Health Care of Atlanta, CHOA)
- Quilts (Child Protective Services/Foster Care)
- Knitted/Crochet Beanies (Outreach)
- Each One Teach One Workshops (Parent Child Stitch Lab)

Please feel free to bring lunch or be prepared to buy lunch. My prayer is for Threads of Love Needle Arts Ministry to be a blessing and a comfort in our community! Thank you in advance for your prayers, encouragement and support. Also, please share with your membership and have them contact me if interested in joining us to stitch for a cause!

Peace and blessings,
Jennifer Morris, Coordinator
jennifersherese@att.net
240-505-6523 (mobile#)
Threads of Love Needle Arts Ministry
Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church

The **United Methodist Federal Credit Union** offers a \$1000 scholarship annually to college bound students aged 17-35. For more information, or to get a copy of the application, visit their website at www.umcfcu.com .



There is also information about a number of other UM scholarships at www.umcommission.org.

UMCOR Early Response Team Training

Winter Quarter is the season for Disaster Response training. ERT training is a hands-on class experience. Wear comfortable clothes. The trainer will make contact prior to class by email with any updates. ERT classes typically run from 8:30am -4:30pm. Register below for any of the following training dates:

February 8 | Northside UMC
February 22 | Ben Hill UMC
February 29 | Location TBD
March 7 | Northbrook UMC / Roswell
March 7 | Greensboro FUMC, South Campus
March 14 | Peachtree City UMC
March 14 | Carrollton UMC

[REGISTER](#)

Continuing Education Opportunities: Upcoming Webinars at ClergyEducation.com

Continuing Education for United Methodist Clergy & Leaders

Bishop Sharma Lewis: Preaching During Lent and Easter

Tuesday, February 4

<https://clergyeducation.com/events/bishop-sharma-lewis-preaching-during-lent-and-easter/>

Rebekah Simon-Peter: Helping Your Congregation Dream Like Jesus

Monday, February 10

<https://clergyeducation.com/events/rebekah-simon-peter/>

Susan Groseclose: Preparing Yourself for Lent (Church Leaders/Clergy)

Wednesday, February 12

<https://clergyeducation.com/events/susan-groseclose-church-leaders-preparing-yourself-for-lent/>

Ken Willard: Time Management for the Christian Leader

Tuesday, February 18

<https://clergyeducation.com/events/ken-willard-time-management-for-the-christian-leader/>

Jason Moore & Roz Picardo: Getting Your Church Out of a Rut

Tuesday, February 18

<https://clergyeducation.com/events/jason-moore-rosario-picardo-from-franchise-to-local-dive/>

Workshop: 7 Practices of a Church on a Mission

This one-day workshop featuring David Fitch and J.R. Briggs will give you concrete methods for organizing your church to join God's mission in the world. The workshop will be held from 9 am to 3 pm on Thursday, March 5, at Mount Pisgah UMC in Johns Creek. Participants will explore seven tangible practices for embodying Jesus' faithful presence that are rooted in the model of Jesus and designed for the changing cultural landscape. Tickets include lunch and a copy of the book by David Fitch, "7 Practices for the Church on Mission".

[REGISTER](#)

[Let Go: Leading into a Future Without Fear... A Day With Matt Miofsky](#)

Thursday, February 27, 9am-4pm

Hosted by Marietta First UMC

Cost: \$10 (covers lunch)

Matt Miofsky is the pastor of the Gathering UMC in St. Louis. A multi-site church plant, the Gathering itself is a story of churches in decline, churches seeking revitalization, and churches gutsy enough to experience death in order to see resurrection. Matt has authored several books offering wisdom to church leaders, most recently [Let Go](#) and [8 Virtues of Rapidly Growing Churches](#). This day-long event will offer a deep dive into the practical leadership qualities and strategies laid out in these books, as well as stories of success, failure, and everything in between in leading churches through change.

This is a stand alone event. We hope you will attend, and even bring your ACE group, RIM group, accountability group, church leadership team, and/or key leaders from your congregation or context with you, to increase the likelihood that learnings from the day will follow you home.

To register, click [HERE](#)

Webinar: Clergy, Get Smart about your Taxes!

Clergy face unique challenges when it comes to things like social security payments, estimated tax payments, housing allowances or exclusions, and reimbursed expenses. Your corner tax preparer may not understand the unique situation of clergy, and finding a



preparer who does can save you substantially in money and aggravation. Join in as the Rev. Don Joiner, a certified financial planner, helps us navigate the preparation of taxes and planning for a sound financial future. The webinar will be Monday, February 17, at 11 am.

[REGISTER](#)



Church Development Grants Available

The Griffin District Trustees, Finance Committee, Board of Church Location & Building, and the District Leadership Team have recently approved the creation of District Church Development Grants that will be available to assist churches with a variety of property related issues. The grants will be funded through proceeds from the sale of closed churches in the district, and will be available to vital and active churches that are current with apportionments and District Work Fund, have at least 1 outreach ministry, and have some funds on hand or pledged for the project. Projects could include parking lot paving, making the facility more handicap accessible, major upgrades or repairs to the facility, etc. Grants will not exceed \$5000, except in rare cases. Applications will be accepted quarterly, with the first deadline of March 15, 2020. To receive an application and more information, contact the District Office (grfn@ngumc.net or 770-227-1074.)



Happy Birthday to the following ministers in the Griffin District celebrating birthdays in February:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 4 - Carol Cook | 18 – Wilma Hastings |
| Nathalie Nelson Parker | 19 – Debbie Lefevers |
| 14 – Wayne Mims | 21 – David Williams |