

News From the Griffin District

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

Rev. Susan Landry
District Superintendent

July 2020

Meet Susan Landry

Dear Griffin District,

Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

I am Susan Gary Landry, greeting you today as your new District Superintendent. You have been in my prayers since I first learned that I might be working with you. Those prayers will continue. You have been in the care of my esteemed colleague and friend, the Reverend Richard Winn for these last 7 years, and I know you will miss him, as will I. Truly, the Cabinet will not be the same without him! However, we all wish him well as he steps into this new chapter in life and are excited to see what God does through him and his wonderful wife, Karell in the days and years to come.



I'm sure you are aware that the legacy district of LaGrange and most of the Griffin district will be coming together to form the new Southwest District 8. (<https://www.ngumc.org/district-restructure>) I step into this role as your Superintendent with you joyfully and humbly, in the full understanding that I have much to learn. I will be listening to you, even as I trust that I will bring strengths to bear for our efforts.

I envision that we will come together to form a stronger church in this region to meet the challenges of our time. I'm sure you have already made adjustments in many ways, including new ways to worship. It was necessary to find new strength within ourselves and for our community.

My goal is to discover how to best build on our collective strengths, and aid in areas of challenge. We will be leaning into our connection as we discern local opportunities to share Christ's love, making Disciples for Him for the transformation of the world.

Allow me to add: This transformation begins with you and with me, as we open ourselves to the work of God through the Holy Spirit! I am excited about this moment in time, following the call to be especially alert, and critically thoughtful for how we might best *love our neighbors*. This call has not changed through the ages, and it will not change until Jesus comes again. Yes, I am encouraged and excited as I look forward to *working side by side* with you!

Susan

New Southwest District Information

The new Southwest District will consist of all churches from the former LaGrange District plus the churches in the Griffin District, minus the churches in Henry and Clayton Counties. All churches located in Henry County, will now fall under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Quincy Brown. Churches in Clayton County, plus England Chapel, which is being paired with New Hope Clayton Co., will now work with Rev. Dr. Michael McQueen.

District Office Location: 430 W. Poplar St., Griffin, GA 30224 – current Griffin District Office

District Office Mailing Address: P. O. Box 13, Griffin, GA 30224

Telephone Numbers: 770-227-1074 office phone
770-467-0010 office fax machine

Email Address: District8SW@ngumc.net

District Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 9am – 4:30pm

Denise Wilson, District Administrative Assistant, will continue to be in the Griffin office during the hours stated above, and will be in LaGrange, working from home on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Both she and Susan will be available to meet at locations throughout the district as needed. All current phone numbers and email addresses will be closely monitored during this transition time so that we may be available to talk with you and assist you as always. Please take note of the above contact information and begin to make these transitions with us.



We extend a warm welcome to the following pastors who have received new appointments in the district:

Katie Mattox (John)	County Line
Billy Beard (Jo Ann)	Forsyth First (9/1/20)
Nelson Furtado (Michelly)	Griffin First, Associate
Charles Starr (Sandra)	Hanleiter
Russell Nuss (Elizabeth)	Pomona
Bob Wooten (Jackie)	Prospect
Maria Bowers Gardiner (Rick)	Sunny Side/Searcy (9/1/20)

HealthFlex Participants: Quest to Offer At-Home Screening, Updates Deadlines

Wespath will be partnering with Quest to introduce an at-home screening option, called Qcard. We recognize that some individuals may not feel comfortable receiving their screening in person, even from their own physician. The Qcard allows participants to do a finger stick test at home and self-report their biometrics. The Qcard option will be available to all participants by July 1.

Participants will sign up to receive an at-home kit in the same way they sign up for a Blueprint for Wellness screening—online or by phone. Participants and primary spouses will still earn the \$100 incentive for completing the Blueprint for Wellness Screening via Qcard, and the Qcard will include the metrics needed to receive wellness points for healthy results.

Blueprint for Wellness and HealthQuotient (HQ) deadline dates have been moved to September 30, 2020.



RELAUNCH RESOURCES FOR NGUMC CHURCHES

As churches are slowly returning to in-person worship, please be reminded of the resources and guidelines available to you on the Conference Website at <https://www.ngumc.org/relaunch-resource-hub>.

Churches are encouraged to pay attention to local guidelines that have been put in place and to form committees to study all information available and make the decisions that are best for your church members.



Clergy are strongly encouraged to check their ngumc.net email addresses directly through Gmail. However, some clergy prefer to forward their address to another account. Pastors who moved July 1 and forward their ngumc.net email should be sure to update the forwarding account. Access to your ngumc.net email is important for receiving district and conference communication as well as virtual Annual Conference credentials.

Thank you!

Rev. Winn wishes to express his thanks for the very generous gift that was presented to him on behalf of the churches of the Griffin District in June during a Facebook Live presentation. He will be greatly missed!

2020 Annual Conference Sessions

Annual Conference will take place “virtually” on Saturday, August 29. We will be providing detailed information on this meeting in the coming weeks, but



please take note of the following dates and meetings related to Annual Conference. Do note that you will need an email address in order to participate (vote) at the sessions.

Clergy must use their conference email address.

Important dates for the virtual 2020 Annual Conference Sessions include:

- July 6-13 – Clergy Executive Session Registration
- July 14 – Registered Clergy Receive Credentials for Executive Session by Email
- July 16 – Virtual Clergy Executive Session
- August 7 – Laity must have personal email address on record in Data Services
- August 10 and 25 – Annual Conference Registration
- August 26 – Registered Members Receive Credentials for Annual Conference by Email
- August 29 – Virtual Annual Conference Session

Murphy-Harpst Special Offering Sunday

July 19

The Conference-wide special offering for Murphy-Harpst is Sunday, July 19, (or another Sunday chosen by your church). Find digital resources and graphics in next week's Weekly Update.