

News From the Griffin District

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

Rev. Richard Winn
District Superintendent

March 2020

Friends,

March is a very special month for me. The month is full of special events. To name a few, we have March Madness. This is the time of the annual NCAA college basketball tournament, generally throughout the month of March.

We've celebrated Super Tuesday. This is when the greatest number of U. S. states hold primary elections and caucuses. Approximately one-third of the delegates will be won on Super Tuesday.

In 2020, we've celebrated the bulk of the Sundays in Lent in March. They went from March 1 through March 29. In March, we celebrate Caregivers Appreciation Day (March 3), Dentist's Day (March 6), Girl Scout's Day (March 12), International Find a Pay Phone Booth Day (March 10), St. Patrick's Day (March 17), the beginning of Daylight Savings Time (March 8), and many others.



I have a special commitment to the month of March in that I was born on March 13, 1948. I will be 72 years old on that day. Because of the United Methodist polity, I must retire at the 2020 Annual Conference. Wow!!! My wife was also born in the month of March.

One of my favorite hymns is "We're Marching to Zion". The hymn itself has no relevance to the month of March, I simply like it. Isaac Watts wrote that hymn and 600 others. My favorite verse is,

"The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets,
Before we reach the heavenly fields, or walk the golden streets."

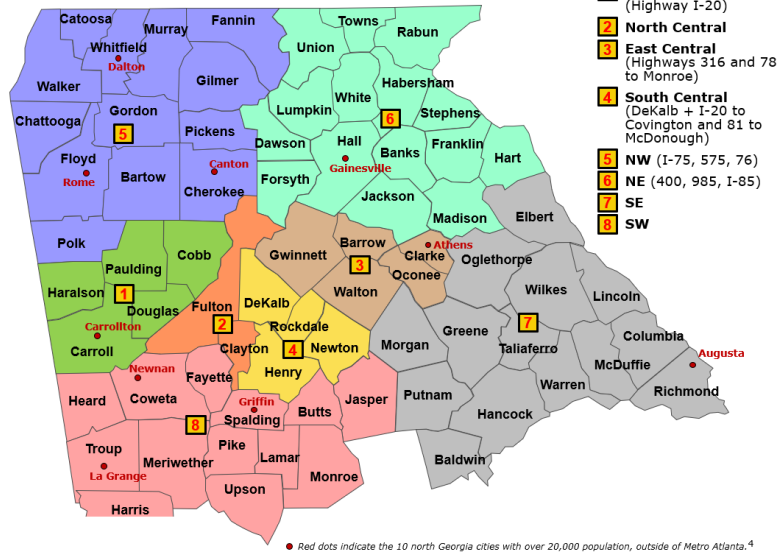
What a joy it is to know that regardless of our birth month, we can experience sacred sweets here on earth and when we walk the golden streets.

Peace,

Richard

Redistricting in North Georgia for Mission and Stewardship

Recommended 8-District Structure



With an aim toward optimizing mission, ministry, and stewardship across the North Georgia Conference, Conference leadership has developed a proposal to restructure our districts from 12 to 8. Working with a strategic growth consultant, new district lines have been drawn in a mission-focused manner more reflective of today's North Georgia Conference and the communities we serve. Follow the link below for a FAQs, a presentation, and a video about the new district structure.

[NEW STRUCTURE](#)

Local Pastor's Summit: Vital Tools for Ministry

The North Georgia Conference Black Church Development Committee will offer a Local Pastor's Summit on Saturday, March 14 from 10 am to 2 pm at Warren Temple UMC in LaGrange. With a theme of equipping local pastors with vital tools for ministry, workshop topics will include pastoral leadership, missions, and tending to your soul. Facilitators are Rev. Samuel Townsend, Rev. Elvira Rogers, and Rev. Bobby Church. To register, please visit the Center for Congregational Excellence page of the Conference Website.

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

If you would like to submit a question for Bishop Sue prior to the Town Hall, please visit the following link: www.ngumc.org/questions. While she may not be able to address every submission, she will answer as many as possible.

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](#).**

SRA - Scouters Religious Academy (teaching Boy Scout and Girl Scout leaders how to build Duty-to-God into their Scout programs)

Date: Saturday, April 18th (8:30 am – 3:30 pm)

Location: Peachtree Rd UMC (3180 Peachtree Rd, Atlanta, GA 30305)

Who's Invited: Boy Scout and Girl Scout leaders of all faiths

Cost: Free

Information: [Click Here](#)

Registration: [Click There](#)

Questions: Yolanda Wareham (Course Director) – SRAcademy20@yahoo.com



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.

Important Dates:

March 15 – Deadline for Submitting **District Church Development grant applications**

March 16 – **District Strategic Growth Committee** meets at Senoia UMC, 10am

March 17 – **Local Pastor Evaluation forms and Annual Report forms due** to the District Office

March 31 – **DCOM meets with all local pastors** (schedules have been mailed), McDonough First UMC

April 2 – Meeting of the **Committee on Church Location and Buildings**, District Office, 6:30pm

April 28 – **DCOM meets with new and continuing candidates** (schedules will be mailed very soon), McDonough First UMC

Mark your calendar now for the **District Pre-Conference Briefing** for all clergy and lay delegates to Annual Conference. It will be held on **Sunday, June 7, 2020** at 3:00pm at the Griffin First UMC. Important information about the Annual Conference will be discussed. Delegate Handbooks are not being printed this year, but will be available online soon.



Children's Ministry Think Tank

*Sharing Ideas & Calendars
Gizmos & Gadgets
Encouragement & Renewal*

March 23 - McDonough

9:30 Am - 2:30 Pm

Host: Amy May

RSVP To amysmithmay@yahoo.com

Prayer and Giving: Responding to Tennessee Tornadoes

3/5/2020

Volunteer Sumant Joshi clears tornado debris in front of East End United Methodist Church in Nashville, Tenn. Photo by Mike DuBose, UM News.



Three Nashville-area United Methodist churches — East End and Braden Memorial in East Nashville and Dodson Chapel in Hermitage — were heavily damaged by tornadoes that swept parts of Tennessee early on March 3.

The nighttime storms claimed at least 24 lives, particularly in Putnam County, about 80 miles from Nashville. More than 150 of those injured were taken to hospitals in the Nashville area, according to CNN. The tornado, which reportedly cut a 10-mile path through downtown Nashville and into its eastern suburbs, caused significant damage in the neighborhoods of Germantown and East Nashville and the suburb of Hermitage.

The North Georgia Annual Conference has reached out to our neighbors in the Tennessee Conference to offer our prayers and support and to let local leaders know that our trained Early Response Teams stand ready when they are needed.

The area is still under emergency and as such, neither the Conference nor the local communities are ready to receive volunteers at this time.

There are three ways we in North Georgia can help at this time:

- **Do not self-deploy.** Instead, wait for an invitation for teams to help with response efforts.
- **Give through UMCOR.** Designate donations using North Georgia Conference Fund #4390 or [UMC Advance #901670](#).
- **Pray.**

UMCOR Sunday, March 22

Through United Methodist sharing, vulnerable people affected by crisis or chronic need witness the love of Jesus Christ.

Click the link below to access information that can be used for a special offering for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)

<http://www.umcsgiving.org/resource-articles/umcor-sunday-pastor-and-leaders-kit>



Happy Birthday to the following ministers in the district celebrating birthdays in March:

7 - Courtney Wallace
9 - Karen Fisher
13 - Richard Winn
14 - Kara Wilson

14 - Sandra Fendley
18 - DeeDee Lawson
25 - Jonathan Andersen
28 - Andy Cunningham