



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

Rev. Susan Landry
District Superintendent

May 2021

The Welcoming Table



Over the past two weeks, Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson and the Conference Cabinet have met with North Georgia United Methodists to offer their vision of a Welcoming Table. This vision, based on John 17:22, invites us to the table where all are revered and all have reverence for Jesus Christ. Using the links below, read the Welcoming Table Vision document, watch a conversation between the Bishop and a cross-section of our Cabinet, and read a helpful Q&A. You are encouraged to use this information to start helpful conversations in your churches.

- [Welcoming Table Vision](#)
- [Welcoming Table Conversation](#)
- [Welcoming Table Q&A](#)

Annual Conference, 2021

All Annual Conference delegates are reminded of the timeline of events for the upcoming virtual Annual Conference. Delegates should make plans now to attend the Pre-Conference Briefing and register their attendance online.

- May 16 - Pre-Conference Briefing Webinar for all delegates, 2:00pm
Link: <https://zoom.us/j/92088851765>
- May 16 to May 31 – Online Registration
- June 3 - Online Clergy Executive Session
- June 4 - Online Annual Conference Session
- June 5 - Live Streamed Ordination Service, Live Streamed Memorial Service

Pastors, please make sure your church's delegate information is complete and correct on the Lay Leadership Report in Data Services (Charge Conference Reports). Any updates should be made before May 16. An individual email address is required for every delegate.

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson has named the North Georgia Conference Ministerial Education Fund as the Annual Conference Special Offering. This Fund provides scholarships to seminary and undergraduate students, course-of-study for local pastors, and license to preach school. Churches are invited to collect the offering any time before or after the 2021 Annual Conference.

Paycheck Protection Program Loans Available Through May 31



The United Methodist Connectional Federal Credit Union reminds churches that forgivable loans through the PPP program are still available through May 31. There are two ways this can benefit you church:

- Churches are eligible for a second draw if they have already received a PPP loan, if they can show a 25% reduction in gross revenue between corresponding quarters of 2020 and 2019. Under some circumstances, this includes churches that received a first draw earlier this year.
- Churches are also among the businesses eligible for a first-time PPP loan in 2021. There is no revenue decrease requirement for this.

For more information from the UM Connectional FCU, visit <https://www.unitedmethodistcu.com> or contact Jonathan Curtis at jonathanc@unitedmethodistcu.com or 770-835-4994.

cherish
every 
moment

Wesley Woods Mother's Day Offering Sunday, May 9

For more information, visit
www.wesleywoods.org/foundation/



(Pictured: Newnan Chapel UMC outreach event)

District Disaster Response

A huge thank you goes to Bill Pound who has been heading up the North Georgia Conference Early Response Team (ERT) work in the SouthWest District following a devastating tornado in the Newnan area in late March. According to Bill, Coweta County is now in the process of transitioning from the clean-up phase into the rebuilding phase. As of April 25, Conference ERTs and individuals have logged 1,676 volunteer hours, cleaning up debris and tarping roofs. These teams and individuals represent at least 23 different churches within the conference. There are still a number of families requiring temporary housing. Red Cross, St. Vincent DePaul, Salvation Army, One Roof, Bridging the Gap, and the Coweta Community Foundation have been assisting with many of these needs.



Pictured: Rev. Terri Lemons and Rev. Yolanda Jones-Colton with other community leaders at Newnan Chapel UMC

The North Georgia Conference has set up a special fund to assist the ERT groups with their work. Contributions can be made through your local church to Fund #3752 to assist with this work. Churches should send checks to the Conference Treasurer's Office designated for this fund.

Mathew Pinson Elected President/CEO of the Georgia United Methodist Foundation

The Georgia United Methodist Foundation Board of Trustees has unanimously elected Mathew Pinson as the Foundation's next president and CEO, effective July 1, 2021. Pinson will succeed Rev. Keith E. Lawder, who is retiring after serving as the Foundation's president since 2016.

GUMF Search Committee Chair Kathryn Dennis said of Pinson's selection, "We selected Mathew after conducting an extensive nationwide search. He brings great talents and a strong vision to lead the Foundation in the challenging years ahead. We are delighted he has accepted the challenge!"



Pinson responded, "I believe the Georgia United Methodist Foundation has an exceptional opportunity to provide leadership and resources for Methodists across the state. We have great potential to convene strong partners to advance the Foundation's mission further—from our existing programs to developing new opportunities.

The way the Foundation directly supports individuals, congregations, and organizations is inspiring. I look forward to joining a strong team of board members and staff at the Foundation as we seek to serve as a leading financial partner by providing faith-based solutions for investing, lending, training, and planned giving."

Pinson has served Emory University in various roles for nearly 14 years. He currently serves as assistant vice president and chief of staff to the senior vice president for advancement and alumni engagement. This division supports the university and health sciences programs (including Emory Healthcare). Previously, Pinson served as associate dean of development and alumni relations at Candler School of Theology at Emory University.

Pinson is passionate about serving The United Methodist Church. He has served on the Board of Directors of Wespeth Benefits and Investments and the General Council on Finance and Administration; served as a delegate to six General Conferences and five Jurisdictional Conferences; chaired the North Georgia delegation and served as Conference Lay Leader for the North Georgia Conference. A native of Newnan, Georgia, Pinson is a graduate of Reinhardt University. Before his work at Emory, Pinson served as director of development at Tennessee Wesleyan University.

Pinson is married to the Rev. Susan Pinson, senior associate pastor at Glenn Memorial UMC. They have a daughter and a son.

District Calendar

May 4 – District Nominating Committee, 6:00pm, via Zoom

May 16 – Virtual Pre-Conference Briefing, 2:00pm

May 17 – DS in Forsyth to meet pastors in the area (Contact District Office for appointment)

May 18 – DCOM meets via Zoom, 4:30-5:30pm

May 20 – Full Time Moving Pastor Meeting, District Office, 11:00am – 1:00pm

June 1 – Deadline for candidates seeking Provisional status to notify District Office

June 8 – Part Time Moving Pastor Meeting (with SPR Chairs, Finance Chair, and Treasurers); 5:30pm,
Location TBA



Happy Birthday to the following pastors in the SouthWest District who are celebrating birthdays in May:

2 - Brandon Fletcher	16 – Brenda Rhodes	20 – Tommy Ross
3 - Aubrey Thompson	17 – Howard Gossett	28 – Michael Jackson
Shane Moore	19 – Moses Woodruff	31 – Kaylen Short
13 - David Ahearn	20 – Yolanda Jones-Colton	