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Annette Ashton



Trinity UMC (King George), Mission Rivers District

Email: benashton@verizon.net

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 70

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: TUMC Mission and Outreach Coordinator, member of Mission Committee, Permanent Endowment Committee, Disciple Bible Study, Member of TUMC PRG (2023) , Mission POC for purchasing/delivering individual food items from TUMC to Social Workers in KG County Schools for at-risk children

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: To bring unity among UMC churches in my district, state and globally.

My passion for mission and ministry is: Serving others in mission.

Heather Bagnall

Wesley UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: Bagnall.HJ@gmail.com

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: Multi-Racial
Age: 501

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: Choir director and Seminarian

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: To be abgift to the world in need

My passion for mission and ministry is: Education, arts, and social justice

Cindy Banek



Williamsburg UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: banek1@cox.net

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 65

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I am a Certified Lay Minister, a Certified Christian Educator and an Assistant District Lay Leader for our District. I have over 30 years of ministry experience in the local church as a Christian Educator. I also teach Lay Servant and Safe Sanctuaries classes for the District and Conference. At my local church, I serve as the chairperson of our Hospitality Committee and help coordinate volunteers at our new Modern Worship service.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: My prayer is that United Methodists take more responsibility for their faith. There is more to spiritual health than coming to worship periodically. We must be active participants in our commitment to follow Jesus.

My passion for mission and ministry is: Since becoming a Certified Lay Minister, I have discovered a passion for leading worship and preaching. I am focused on becoming more proficient in speaking the word to others.

Stephen Bearekman

Henderson UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: bear7780@yahoo.com

Gender: Male
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 75

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I am a member at Henderson UMC in Callao, Virginia. In June of 2026 my beloved wife (Brenda Bearekman) of 56 years passed away from Huntgington's Chorea. My Lord told me to "finish the race." Recently through prayer I accepted the "Lay position" offered to me by my church. My pastor has asked me to consider representing our church at the Annual Conference. My plan is to dedicate the remainder of my life serving God. The individual that currently represents our church is Jim Landrum. Jim and his wife Nellie

(wonderful people) will be leaving or church soon to move closer to their family in Northern Virginia. God has blessed me my whole life. Bottom line, I want to Glorify my God in everything I do the remainder of my life.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: Spread the gospel and help others to become disciples of Jesus Christ. Serve others using the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the fruits of the spirit.

My passion for mission and ministry is: I want no one on this earth to take their last breath without having a relationship with Jesus Christ. I pray several times a day. Salvation is one of my top priorities.

Joe BeMiller

New Hope UMC (Fredericksburg), Mission Rivers District

Email: jrbemiller@gmail.com

Gender: Male
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 66

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: As a Certified Lay Servant, I enjoy providing services at our church and any church within our District and as a ADLL, I am actively involved with the churches in my Cluster. Being the pastor's husband, I am always involved with the church and will serve in any way.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: We continue to grow and have Faith that Jesus is in control and we "Let go and Let God".

My passion for mission and ministry is: I enjoy being able, at the last minute, step up and assist a Pastor to do their church service for them, should the need arise.

Kerry Blazek



Warwick Memorial UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: kerryblazek@gmail.com

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 48

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I have been a member of Warwick Memorial UMC since I was 7. I have raised all 3 kids here and I was the Youth Director from March 2019 to August 2026. I have completed my laity speaker training, finish my youth ministry certificate. I have attended a number of conferences in the past few years.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: My prayer is to continue to spread Gods word through our church. Inviting everyone, loving all and making sure the world knows God loves you for who you are!

My passion for mission and ministry is: I am very passionate about ministry in our church. Not just through our youth ministry but I was also coleader of our Upward basketball and cheerleading ministry. In addition, I have attended Red Bird Mission for 9 years and was leader for 7. I am strong in believing teaching through action.

Michael Byers



Warwick Memorial UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: byersmichael97@gmail.com

Gender: Male
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 29

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: In the absence of the pastor, I've been asked to lead worship services and give the sermon on Sunday mornings and Warwick Memorial's Wednesday night dinner church. When needed, I substitute-teach Sunday Schools classes with lessons I've created. I am a certified lay speaker.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: Strength and growth through consolidation. While I know that reducing the number of churches in a given area by combining the

congregations is somewhere between difficulty to nearly impossible, I equally believe that churches can do more for the community by having more members at each congregation. More members in a congregation means that each committee and project can be supported by more members, lightening the workload for each individual member, and improve both funding and the opportunity to recruit volunteers from a larger pool of people. A larger congregation at fewer locations also helps with buildings costs and overhead.

My passion for mission and ministry is: Teaching, learning, and participating in classes. I have experienced the Holy Spirit working through me while participating in a class and teaching - I will start to give an answer and then expand on that answer with new insights I wasn't expecting to say when I began to speak.

Mary Ann Buscher



Ebenezer UMC (Stafford), Mission Rivers District

Email: inmotion246@gmail.com

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 61

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I have been a member of Ebenezer United Methodist Church for fifteen years. Currently I serve in the choir, lead a women's Bible Study, and participate in missions and outreach opportunities. This has included meals ministries, cold weather shelter, and food bank activity. In 2023 I participated in Ebenezer's mission trip through Helping Children Worldwide. We went to Bo, Sierra Leon to the Child Reintegration Center and Mercy Hospital. There we participated in a variety of outreach and provided for maternal healthcare needs and learned more about all services. In 2025 I went on mission in Appalachia alongside Ebenezer's mission partners, Rice + Beans Ministries Appalachia. Through construction and work projects, our team came alongside families, offering practical help while building meaningful relationships. Prior to my membership at Ebenezer I spent several years as a Licensed Pastor in the district. Previously I have served as East Ohio and as West Ohio church delegate.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: As we continue to move into new realities in the United Methodist Church, I pray that we continue to discern ways by which to come together in unity with all our brothers and sisters in Christ within our churches and denomination, while also seeking to do so across denominations and the world.I

My passion for mission and ministry is: I love creating connection among people and am passionate about multi-generational community. We have so much to learn with and from each other.

Mia Buster



Ebenezer UMC (Stafford), Mission Rivers District

Email: katherinebuster@gmail.com

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: Multi-Racial
Age: 14

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I'm involved in youth group at Ebenezer, volunteer with Sunday School for elementary kids and volunteer regularly for 4th Saturday Meals feeding unhoused individuals.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: Continue to share our faith and express it (without overly pushy and rude). To make the world better.

My passion for mission and ministry is: To help younger kids grow in their faith.

Tony Clement



First UMC (Fox Hill), Mission Rivers District

Email: clementtony01@gmail.com

Gender: Male
Race/Ethnicity: African American/Black
Age: 16

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I have been involved with the youth cohort since seventh grade I believe. I am an active member of the VAUMC Youth Council. I am also apart of my church praise band and church youth group.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: We may finally have some long unanswered questions answered this year.

My passion for mission and ministry is: To show that kids like me despite being unpredictable at times can also make an impact in important decisions.

Mary Elder



First UMC (Newport News), Mission Rivers District

Email: melder96@gmail.com

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 30

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I have been a member of my church since childhood, and have been deeply impacted and shaped by First UMC along with the United Methodist Church. I currently work at Shady Grove UMC as Director of Discipleship, and have been attending Annual Conference and participating in programs and mission groups within the Virginia Conference for all of my adulthood.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: I pray that we continue to build and grow pathways for people to deepen their personal spiritual lives, as well as serve our communities in ways that are fresh, meaningful, and impactful. I dream of a church which makes all feel welcome, which facilitates healthy spaces for conversations and friendship across our differences, especially in today's world. I pray for a church that is doing work in our nation and world that sets an example for others of what it means to live as disciples, through our character and our mission engagement in our communities.

My passion for mission and ministry is: As part of my job itself, I am most passionate about youth ministries and local missions. I truly love the Church's teenagers across the conference, and believe that their spirit, their love, their openness, and their access to information make them one of the best groups to shape the future of the church, especially if they are well-equipped with the tools they need to understand faith well. I also do not believe that the church could or even should exist if it not doing God's work in our communities, bringing people together for community in the face of loneliness and division, feeding the hungry, and uplifting those who our culture and nation have belittled or neglected. I feel so privileged to get to do these things regularly as part of my work!

D Blair Ellis



Saint Luke's UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: blairellis@vaumc.org

Gender: Male
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 77

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: Church Council Chair @ St. Luke's, Counter, Nominations; District - Former dCOM member, Mentor Coordinator for District until 1 July 2026; Conference - Board member of Board of Ordained Ministry, Conference Relations Committee member

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: Phillipians 2 verses 3-5: Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interest, but the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.

My passion for mission and ministry is: Supporting the local UMC church and community in ministry and mission and supporting the District and Conference in the same way.

Mary Ella Fuquay

Saint Matthias UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: mefuquay@gmail.com

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 82

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I am currently serving as Lay Leader and as our prayer coordinator, and I am active in our UWF group, a member of our CARE Team, as well as many other areas where I can serve our congregation with love and support. I am on our Leadership Team, our SPPRC team, I volunteer to work in our nursery once a month, and I have taught Sunday School, both for children and adults. I lead a weekly Bible study that meets in our homes. I love saying "Yes" whenever the Lord calls me.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: That we might be bold, enthusiastic

Christians, being the light and salt for the world that desperately needs to know the Lord who loves us. I pray also that we might celebrate the fact that we are more like our brothers and sisters in Christ than we are different; that we might respect and honor those who are different from us, knowing that we are ALL precious and perfect in the eyes of the God who created us. I pray that we might be more committed to serving the Lord than to serving any other leader, and that the United Methodist Church might lead the way toward peace, harmony and love for one another.

My passion for mission and ministry is: To meet my Christian brothers and sisters where they are; through ministries like our Love and Laundry, our Food Pantry, our Community Celebration days, participation in Stafford County R.I.S.E., our blessing of students and volunteering in our local schools, we can show our neighbors true Christian love, with no judgment or condemnation. We can BE the church wherever it needs to BE!

Julia Meade (JM) Gallier



Trinity UMC (King George), Mission Rivers District

Email: jmcg5580@gmail.com

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 70

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I am a past President and Vice President of Trinity UMW/UWF, a former Sunday school teacher, a former Vacation Bible school Coordinator, Past Ashland District UMW Vice President & Treasurer, past Rappahannock River District UMW President, and currently the VA Conference UWF Vice President. I have been a member of the UMC since 1969. I value the teachings of John Wesley that form the foundation of our denomination. I strive to discern how to work within our denomination as we face the living of these days and pray that we meet Jesus' Great Commission in our daily walk.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: That we show God's love to all persons, regardless of any person's situation in life.

My passion for mission and ministry is: United Women in Faith ministry to women, children, and youth

Horace Gilchrist



St. James

Email: horacegilchrist@hotmail.com

Gender: Male
Race/Ethnicity: African American/Black
Age: 52

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I am a Lay Servant, Administrative Council Chair, and Liturgist at Saint James UMC. I have served as At Large Lat Delegate for. Mission River District for five years.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: My prayer for the UMC is that it continues to bring Christ's light to the world by welcoming all who seek him.

My passion for mission and ministry is: My passion is bringing the word to young people and youth to show them that Christ is loves them.

Richard Griffin



Warsaw UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: rgriffin1151@gmail.com

Gender: Male
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 74

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I am Co-Chair of the Administrative Council and Co-Chair of the outreach committee with my wife, Traci Griffin. I volunteer at the church Food Pantry, Operation Inasmuch, and at the local Boys and Girls Club, and I am actively involved with the Warsaw Methodist Men.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: Gracious and loving God, Thank You for the opportunity to serve You and Your Church. Guide me with wisdom, humility, and an open heart as I seek to represent the Mission Rivers District at Annual Conference. Help me to listen faithfully, discern Your will, and work alongside others to strengthen our United Methodist Church and share the love of Jesus Christ in our communities. In Jesus' name, Amen.

My passion for mission and ministry is: My passion for ministry centers on bringing people together in Christian fellowship and extending God's love beyond the walls of the church. I enjoy organizing and participating in outreach activities that strengthen relationships, build camaraderie among church members, and foster goodwill throughout our community. I have been actively involved in supporting the Boys & Girls Club, Operation Inasmuch, our church's Trunk or Treat celebration for local children, and distributing cookies during Warsaw Christmas Town. These experiences have reinforced my belief that the church is called not only to worship together but also to serve others through meaningful acts of kindness, compassion, and generosity. I believe that when we work together in service to others, we strengthen both our congregation and our community while sharing the love of Jesus Christ.

Traci Griffin



Warsaw UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: tracifgriffin@gmail.com

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 66

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I serve as Lay Leader of Warsaw United Methodist Church, part of the Richmond County Charge in the Mission Rivers District of the Virginia Conference. I am also an Associate District Lay Leader for Clusters 12A and 12B, supporting congregational connections, collaboration, and the development of micro-communities. At the local church level, I am actively involved in worship leadership, community outreach, and ministries addressing food insecurity, children's literacy, and the needs of underserved populations. I help coordinate our food pantry, community partnerships, and special outreach initiatives. I am completing the United Methodist Lay Speaker educational requirements and plan to pursue Certified Lay Minister training. Drawing upon more than 30 years of nursing and healthcare leadership experience, I am passionate about strengthening congregational vitality, developing collaborative ministries, and extending the church's mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: My prayer for the United Methodist Church is that we continue to grow as a welcoming, Christ-centered community, united in faith, strengthened by our connections, and committed to serving others. I pray that we embrace new opportunities for ministry, build meaningful relationships across congregations and communities, and reach beyond the walls of our churches to share God's love through compassionate action. May we honor our Wesleyan heritage while remaining open to renewal, empowering both clergy and laity to work together in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

My passion for mission and ministry is: My passion for ministry is rooted in caring for people,

building unity, and strengthening connections within and outside of our churches, and with the communities we serve. I believe the church is called to be a place of belonging, where individuals feel valued, supported, and loved, and where we work together to meet the needs of our neighbors. I am especially passionate about bringing congregations together, encouraging collaboration, and creating opportunities for meaningful outreach and service. Drawing upon my lifelong commitment to caring for others, I hope to help build a more connected, compassionate, and vibrant United Methodist Church that reflects Christ's love through both our words and our actions.

Zachary Griggs



Williamsburg UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: zgriggs@williamsburgumc.org

Gender: Male
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 30

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I serve as the Family Ministry Coordinator at Williamsburg UMC, and I am a certified deacon candidate in the VAUMC. I have brought our Youth Group to the Conference Youth Retreat before, and I have served as an at-large young adult conference delegate for the last three years.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: That we will move together into the future as an inclusive and missional church that is united in the Holy Spirit to incarnate God's love in the world by following the lived example of Jesus Christ.

My passion for mission and ministry is: To work with people hurt by the church, companioning children and youth in faith formation, and providing pastoral care to all people as they navigate the difficulties and joys of life

Sandy Harper



Williamsburg UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: wrscharper@gmail.com

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 79

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: Currently I attend Williamsburg UMC weekly and participate in occasional activities.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: I pray for our church and our leaders constantly. May we allow for trust and vision to develope within each church and neighborhood.

My passion for mission and ministry is: Allowing growth in discipleship and neighborhood mission work.

Warren Harper



Williamsburg UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: wrsc200@yahoo.com

Gender: Male
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 81

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: Williamsburg UMC is one of our larger churches on the district. We have two new pastors. It is an exciting time. I am currently on SPPRC and attend UMM functions. On the District I currently serve on the District Superintendency Committee. For the Conference I serve as the chair of the Conference Episcopacy Committee. For the Southeast Jurisdiction of the UMC I serve on the Episcopacy committee and on a task force. For the Denomination I serve as Lead Lay Delegate from Virginia on the General Conference Delegation.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: I pray for the living Christ to guide our church in a new direction allowing all persons to share their gifts of love and hope for a better time. Amen

My passion for mission and ministry is: Discipleship is critical for our laity to share their gifts in new ways. Laity need to find a passion for sharing themselves in new ways alway looking to our neighbors with love.

Janice Herzog



Morrisville UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: Jherzog108@hotmail.com

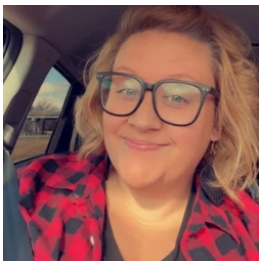
Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 71

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I am the Pastoral Care Coordinator for MUMC

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: Promote walking in the nature and character of Christ. Do not conform to this world.

My passion for mission and ministry is: Feeding programs for our community

Rachel Hundley



Tappahannock Memorial UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: hundleyrach20@gmail.com

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 42

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I have been involved in the VAUMC at all levels for most of my life. I have participated in conference activities including Voices of Youth as a youth and as the conference coordinator, youth events, District Committee on Ordained Ministry, Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, mission trips and local church activities.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: My prayer for the UMC is that we will focus on the teachings of Jesus and in being compassionate and loving, not divisive and hateful.

My passion for mission and ministry is: rooted in helping those who are most in need and who feel lost and left behind by the rest of the world.

Andy Hurst



Grace-Providence UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: hurst.windswept@gmail.com

Gender: Male
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 68

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I have been a member of Grace Providence UMC for over 39 years and it has been an integral part of my community, spiritual and personal growth in all that time. We have a very fulfilling Sunday bible study in addition to other studies. We have an adult group that gathers frequently for a dinner together. We are involved in a monthly hymn sing at the local adult/senior care center, are involved in a local youth support group as well. I attend District Conference annualy and attended Annual Conference last year.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: That we humbly and sincerely seek to do The Lord's will and stay true to the Holy scriptures.

My passion for mission and ministry is: Showing the love of God through the actions of my hands, feet and my words and deeds while being fully aware that it is only through God's grace and the blood of Christ that I am forgiven and saved and able to do so as result.

Ezekiel Johnson



Williamsburg UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: ezekielfjjohnson@gmail.com

Gender: Male
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 13

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I'm in the youth group and youth choir and I attend church every Sunday

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: To finally be fully inclusive to LGBTQIA+ persons

My passion for mission and ministry is: to help the world through service and the word of god

Jeremiah Johnson



Williamsburg UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: jeremiahajohnson11@gmail.com

Gender: Male
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 15

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: My dad is the lead pastor at Williamsburg umc. And I attend church every week. I am involved in the church and do many things to help out. I love my church and try to make it a better place

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: My prayer is that we are okay with being inclusive and that we can accept people who have different beliefs and have a healthy church with people on both sides learning to accept each other for who they are.

My passion for mission and ministry is: Is being loveing and careing to everyone and being the pearson god calls me to be.

Kim Johnson



Williamsburg UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: kimjohnson@vaumc.org

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 46

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I am a lifelong United Methodist who is passionate about helping churches reach their communities, make disciples, and reach the next generation. I currently serve as the Director of Resourcing for the Virginia Conference, where I get to use my gifts and talents to help the local church at both the District and Conference level. I spent 10 years as the Director of Communications for the Northern Virginia District and several years as the Director of Communications and Youth Ministry for Haymarket Church. I have previously served at the Center for Congregational Excellence (5 Talent Academy and Church Development Team), and have taught classes and consulted with churches across the conference. I have a Master's Degree in Christian Education (focused on youth and digital

ministry) from Union Presbyterian Seminary. I've spent 26 years in youth ministry, helping teenagers grow in faith. I'm also the wife of a UMC pastor and mom of two boys. I hope to use my faith, experiences, education, expertise, and deep passion for the UMC to help enable the UMC to be faithful to Jesus and responsive to the needs of the contemporary world.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: My prayer for the UMC is that we will make it through what is now so that we can get to what is next. There is so much beautiful work to do. So many disciples to make. So much future ahead. I pray that we can find our way forward, together, and continue to share the awesome story of Jesus with ALL of those in our communities.

My passion for mission and ministry is: My passion as a communicator is to help churches communicate clearly with their congregations and communities. I love getting to help churches improve communication and technology. My passion as a youth leader is to see students navigate the world through a lens of faith and to encourage community among teenagers.

Peggy Jones

Saint Matthias UMC, Mission Rivers District



Email: pegjonesva@gmail.com

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 71

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I have always been involved in our local church in some capacity. For many years I served as the chair of many committees, sometimes simultaneously. I served as our church's Annual Conference Delegate for 4 years and then served as a District At Large Delegate for the past three years.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: I pray for continued reconciliation and to be able to move forward to continue to serve our God as we have been commissioned to do. I also pray that we can continue to come together as one body and continue be welcoming to ALL our brothers and sisters.

My passion for mission and ministry is: My passion is serving and helping on any level anyone who is in need and spreading that passion to others.

Brian Lamb



Wrights Chapel UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: brianlamb@vaumc.org

Gender: Male
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 42

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I am a Certified Candidate for Deacon. I am an adult volunteer with my church's youth ministry. I have taught classes with the Lay Servant Ministry and have represented the district and my local church an Annual Conference for the past several years.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: That we will multiply and equip mission focused persons for ministry in the local church and beyond.

My passion for mission and ministry is: Supporting youth in an effort to build a strong faith and to teach them to serve the church and their community. Additionally, bring a safe place for students of all beliefs and backgrounds in the public school setting.

David Ledbetter



Memorial UMC (Charles City), Mission Rivers District

Email: ledbetterward@gmail.com

Gender: Male
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 76

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: SPRC Chair at Memorial. MRD Board of Directors. President of Board (outgoing). Past Delegate to Annual Conference many time, from three districts.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: That we grow in unity and commitment to sharing God's love.

My passion for mission and ministry is: Nurturing those who hunger spiritually and physically, and singing.

Nokomis Lemons



Shepherds UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: nokwall@aol.com

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: Native American
Age: 66

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I have been a member and present member of the SPPRC for my church, past member of the district SPPRC, former Admin Board Chair and presently serving as the Ass't ABC for our church. I am the Worship Leader for Shepherds and Choir Director. Have been involved in various committees such as fellowship, missions committee.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: Is that we continue to follow the Methodist Discipline, to love one another as Christ loves us.

My passion for mission and ministry is: To serve those who are in need and less fortunate, to be an example of Christ to all and to share his word/gospel in word and action.

Catherine Loose



Colonial Beach UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: ktloose@verizon.net

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 66

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: Our small church is made up of primarily older adults. After stepping out of the Lay Leader position, I am stepping back in to fill a vacancy. I serve as Worship Coordinator, help sustain connection with the body of Christ through Congregational Care, Prayer Ministry, and participate on the Communications Team. I have attended AC in different capacities over the last 3 years.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: God of grace and new beginnings, strengthen our connections locally and within the denomination. Reveal Your vision for our next steps within and outside the church. Guide our hearts to seek those who are lost, lonely, and searching.

Embolden us to reach others in different environments and unconventional surroundings. Show us how to love one another fearlessly as we welcome all. It's in the power of Your Spirit and the name of Your Son Jesus I pray. Amen

My passion for mission and ministry is: Congregational Care and Worship.

Debra McDaniels



Saint James UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: dhmcdaniels@gmail.com

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: African American/Black
Age: 68

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I have been an active member of St. James UMC in Hampton for over 30 years. Service is an important element in my faith journey and I have served in multiple roles, including children's Sunday School and VBS teacher; a member of the Administrative Council, Finance Committee, and usher board, and Leadership Committee; and various positions within UWFaith at the local, district, conference, and national levels. I also have served as a VA Conference Delegate at Large for multiple years (2019-2025) and am eager to continue to serve in this capacity, especially after the results of the 2024 General Conference and disaffiliations.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: My prayer for the United Methodist Church is that each of its members lives into our vision statement as they are uniquely lead and empowered by the Holy Spirit, to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.

My passion for mission and ministry is: As a longtime member of United Women in Faith, my passion is for mission and advocacy for women, children and youth.

Amy Miller



Ebenezer UMC (Stafford), Mission Rivers District

Email: amydwaynemiller@comcast.net

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 52

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I have been attending Ebenezer UMC since we moved to Stafford, VA in 2003 and became members shortly thereafter. I have been nurtured spiritually over the last 24 years by countless members of Ebenezer that have poured into me relationally. They encouraged me to use my gifts to serve out in our community and to create opportunities for others in our congregation to serve as well. It has been my joy to come alongside many local, national and international organizations to learn, serve and love all of God's creation.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: That we would continue to serve our communities in very tangible ways near and far, modeling what it means to serve with humility and love.

My passion for mission and ministry is: Connecting with our local community in ways that show compassion for those in need and truly understanding poverty as it exists in our micro communities. Learning how we can come together to navigate these issues ecumenically across denominations to really impact our region as true brothers and sisters in Christ.

Terri Morgan



Williamsburg UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: tlynmorgan@icloud.com

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 70

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I've been a member at Williamsburg UMC since @ 2001, and am active in choir, SS, frequent book studies and Global Outreach. A former lay leader, I've served many committees and am genuinely enriched by holy conferencing. This would be my 7th or 8th year representing the district. If not inappropriate, I would love to do so

again. I can also be an alternate if we have new and interested applicants.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: To move forward purposefully, with the Holy Spirit, to engage suffering, unchurched or otherwise neglected neighbors in Christian love.

My passion for mission and ministry is: Global Outreach and mission travel. However, last year I removed all other forms of civic and other volunteerism from my calendar because I feel called to offset damage being done to immigrants, underprivileged and non-traditional families & individuals here in the US. I'm working with others at WUMC to effect social justice closer to home.We founded Greater Good Group this year to address, primarily, injustice.

Carolyn Nelson

Dahlgren UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: ncarolyn226@gmail.com

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 85

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: DAHLGREN UMC – Member: Church Council, Finance Committee, Nominating Committee, SPRC; Facilitator – Disciple/Chosen Bible Study; Assistant Christian Studies Adult Teacher Past: Chair: Church Council, Finance Committee, SPRC, Ministry Audit, Visioning Team; UMW President & Treasurer Sunday School teacher Grades 1-3; DISTRICT – Past: UMW Steering Committee-New District, 2010; Delegate VA Conference, Committee on Superintendency, Chair-UMW Membership & Nominations Committees, CONFERENCE- Past: Member of Health & Welfare Committee, Member of VICOMIM, Member of Board of Global Ministries and Secretary & Nominations Chair:, Member of Conference Leadership Discovery & Development Committee, Member of Conference Small Church Leadership Team

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: that the UMC will better communicate the love of Jesus Christ to people who have lost hope so that they may come to know the saving power and eternal life offered by Christ.

My passion for mission and ministry is: Reaching those in our community with message of what Jesus has done for the world and what faith in Him can do to bring joy to their lives.

John Nelson

Dahlgren UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: nelsonjnc65@gmail.com

Gender: Male
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 86

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: VIRGINIA CONFERENCE • Annual Conference Delegate (1973-2026)except 1985,2022 • Conference Director of Lay Speaking Ministries (1995-2001) • Conference Church Development Committee (2008 – 2015) • Vice-President United Methodist Men (2002-2004) MISSION RIVERS (RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER DISTRICT, FREDERICSKBURG DISTRICT, ASHLAND DISTRICT) • District Lay Leader (2002-2006) • Director of Lay Speaking Ministries (1984-1993) • Co-Chair District Connectional Ministries (2014-2020) • Chair of Superintendency Committee (2011-2014), and Co- Chair (2015-2022) • District Board of Missions (2011-2019). • District Steward, District Finance Team last several years DAHLGREN UMC • Current Member of Church Council, Finance Team, Church Historian • Chair, Stewardship Team from (2006-2021) • Lay Speaker (Servant) since 1976 • Past President of Methodist Men • Chair of Dahlgren 75th Anniversary Team (2007) & Co-Chair Dahlgren UMC Founders Day (2024)

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: For the Virginia Conference UMC and Dahlgren UMC to make disciples of Jesus Christ by sharing the Good News with people in our community and throughout the world.

My passion for mission and ministry is: to make disciples of Jesus by sharing the God news with people in my community and the world

Sarah Newton

Morrisville UMC, Mission Rivers District



Email: snewtonmrd@gmail.com

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 43

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I have been an active member of the UMC denomination for 40 years. I was raised by parents very active in our local UMC church, which in turn lead to my involvement. I transferred my membership to Morrisville UMC in 2008 on the

same day that my daughter was baptized and welcomed into the family of Morrisville. For 19 years I have served as the music leader/pianist at Morrisville. These people are my family and have helped guide my daughter and I through good times and challenges. I also am very involved with our cluster of UMC churches as I have helped host cluster hymn sings for churches that are without musicians. Since 2022 I have served as a district member at large for the Annual Conference, and for the past 2 years I have also volunteered to sing in the AC choir. I'm currently serving my 3rd year on the Mission Rivers dCOM and my second year as the secretary. Last year I was asked to be part of the new initiative of Assistant District Lay Leaders and am looking forward to continued work under the leadership of Deb Buetel. Finally, since 2023 I have been employed as the Executive Director of Warrenton United Methodist Church in the Northern Virginia Area. All the experiences help provide me with a unique and diverse view of the UMC throughout my local area and beyond.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: To continue to boldly and more fully live into our vision of Open Hearts, Open Doors, and Open Minds. I pray that we can rise above the divisiveness of the world to authentically live out our call to follow Jesus and be disciples of Christ, so that each person we meet may know the love of Jesus.

My passion for mission and ministry is: Connecting scripture and the word of God through song and music. I see our singing and instrumental music as another expression of our faith and worship to God, and I enjoy picking music that conveys the message so that people leave with a song that will carry them throughout the week. I also enjoy meeting people where they are, and attending to their basic needs - benevolent assistance. Some of my most treasured moments have been praying with those in desperate situations because these are the most authentic and heartfelt prayers I have ever heard. ALL people need to be reminded that they are loved by God, no matter what their circumstances, no one is every lost from the love of God.

Mary Podlesny



Saint Matthias UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: mbpodlesny@gmail.com

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 66

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I am the Finance Chair at SMUMC. I also served on the Conference finance committee for two years. I attended the 2026 Annual Conference.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: I pray that the UMC will continue to welcome all through inclusive messages, programs and actions. I pray that the church will continue to attract and grow youth involvement to ensure a healthy future.

My passion for mission and ministry is: My passion is involvement with our finance team, supporting and participating in our VBS, working with the unhoused in our area, and assisting in community events to spread the Methodist faith and attract new members.

Kait Priest



Ebenezer UMC (Stafford), Mission Rivers District

Email: kpriest41@gmail.com

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 22

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I am currently a certified candidate for ordained ministry in the VAUMC, pursuing ordination as an Elder working primarily in parish ministry. I am a second year MDiv student at Duke Divinity School and am doing an internship with White Plains UMC in Cary, NC, working with their Spanish-speaking ministry. This past summer, I was a theology intern with the General Board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church. I was a Young Adult Member for the Mission Rivers District at Annual Conference both in 2025 and in 2026. I also have had opportunities to help lead worship services and preach at my home church, Ebenezer (Stafford) UMC, this past year. I also led a class on Wesleyan theology at Colonial Beach UMC this past August.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: Shared unity and discernment as we look ahead to General Conference 2028.

My passion for mission and ministry is: I am called to be an ordained Elder in the VAUMC, working primarily in parish ministry. That calling serves to instill passion in me for both ministry and mission.

Donna Potts



Williamsburg UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: quiltercatlady@gmail.com

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 65

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I am currently actively involved in UWF as the Program Resources Coordinator and annual membership yearbook Coordinator for the Unit, and the treasurer for my UWF Circle. I have previously served my circle as a co-chair. I assist with coordinating various fund-raisers for UWF, provide meals for our week when we host the Homeless Shelter, and assist other circles with their fundraising activities. I play in the church orchestra and serve as a greeter for the 11:00 service. I was a church lay delegate at the 2018 and 2019 Annual Conferences.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: My prayer is for the church to stand up to leaders who are not treating others humanely and to actively engage them to bring justice to the country and the world.

My passion for mission and ministry is: My passion is to help others, provide comfort to those in need, and to build relationships with people from all walks of life and circumstances.

Nancy Ransome

Saint James UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: nanq52@charter.net

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: African American/Black
Age: 74

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I've been an active member at St. James since 1985. I'm currently co-President of UW of Faith and a member of the District Trustees team — third year.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: That United Methodist that we continue to be United in our beliefs, principles and that Holy Spirit continue in be our hearts to be loving to everyone looking beyond racism and treating others with respect and Christ-like.

My passion for mission and ministry is: Christ-centered connections between individuals, local churches, and communities that outreach beyond Sunday worship creating more inclusiveness and developing loving relationships for all ages.

Caroline Reardon



Tabernacle UMC (Fredericksburg), Mission Rivers District

Email: amyreardon119@gmail.com

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 12

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I have been involved with Tabernacle since I was younger. I have been involved with Good News Bears, a mission group for elementary students when I was younger and last year I joined our youth group when I started middle school. I completed the confirmation process at my church last year and I joined our church. I have attended youth retreats in my district, I was a youth delegate to the annual conference last year, and I attended camp at Westview on the James.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: That it can continue to grow and be a safe place for all people. I hope people feel happy and loved when they come to my church.

My passion for mission and ministry is: I like to help people, especially the homeless, and I help with packing meals for them. I love to help people in need in every way possible. My family and I get gifts for people on the angel tree every year. my parents encourage my brother and I to save money to tithe every month. I just donated mine to the imagination library so other kids can have books. I am also involved with foster cats. My family fosters kittens and takes care of them until they can get adopted.

Julianne Rosas



Benn's UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: tulae333@gmail.com

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White,Hispanic/Latino
Age: 41

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: United Women in Faith

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: Inclusion

My passion for mission and ministry is: Women, children, youth

Sylvia Rumsey

First UMC (Hampton), Mission Rivers District

Email: sylviaprumsey@gmail.com

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 84

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: Current President of UWF, serve on Nominations & Leadership and Congregational Care Committees. Former Peninsula District UMW positions and York River District UMW President.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: My prayer is that we continue to love God and each other as we seek His Will.

My passion for mission and ministry is: My passion for mission is to support the purpose of UWF and my personal ministry is to the campers of Camp Rainbow Connection as I hope to return as a counselor in 2027.

Dallas Russell

First UMC (Fox Hill), Mission Rivers District



Email: tex.russell58@gmail.com

Gender: Male
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 15

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I haven't been to annual conference

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: My prayer for the United Methodist Church is that we continue to grow in faith, love, and unity. I pray that we focus on following Jesus, serving others, and sharing God's love with everyone. May our churches be places where people feel welcomed, supported, and encouraged in their faith.

My passion for mission and ministry is: I just want to get more involved with my church

Kathleen (Kate) Schmidt



Warsaw UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: kathleenschmidt0824@gmail.com

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 14

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: This is Pastor Dick Lahey nominating Kate. Kate is a regular attender at worship and was recently selected as the youth member of Warsaw UMC's Administrative Council. She is heavily involved in the life of the church and, now, the Richmond Charge. She regularly reads the Bible lesson on Sunday. Kate is very goal driven and a natural born leader.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: My prayer for Kate is that she brings others of all ages to know Christ and continues to sustain her church community as we strive to sustain her.

My passion for mission and ministry is: What I've seen is a young woman who confidently goes before her church not only at "children's church" but as our reader.

Cecelia Short



First UMC (Hampton), Mission Rivers District

Email: dr.cshort@gmail.com

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 76

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: Layleader, Chair, SPRC, UWF Circle Co chair, Choir, certified Lay Servant

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: That we will be obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

My passion for mission and ministry is: That all will come to a saving knowledge and become disciples of Jesus Christ.

Suzanne Shrader

Warsaw UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: suzanneshrader@aol.com

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 76

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: Warsaw UMC: Worship Chair, Choir, AV Team, Warsaw Community Food Pantry, UWF, Council Secretary, Archive Committee; District: Social Action Coordinator for the UWF, District Representative Board of Church & Society; Conference: Board of Church & Society, Secretary Board of Church & Society, Creation Justice Team (board)

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: that we as members of this denomination live out our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ and emulate the things that are written in scription to take care of creation, to recognize the lost and least of these, and see the opportunity to truly serve through our voice, actions, and love that we can give others.

My passion for mission and ministry is: that we see all people as children of God regardless of their denominational affiliation, race, and ethnicity. As the saying goes, there are more ways that we are alike than different, and we need to look and learn from the differences as much as from how we are the same. We must reflect on opportunities to respond to poverty, homelessness, immigration situations, supporting education of children in our communities, and disaster responses. My hope is that we never by-pass the opportunity to make a difference no matter how small. Sometimes, only a smile or hug is needed.

Monica Sprague

Wesley UMC, Mission Rivers District



Email: monicaleighsprague@gmail.com

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 66

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I currently serve as Secretary/Communications at Phoebus UMC, I am the lay member for the Laity Board at Wesley UMC, previously held many positions in UMW/UWF. Served on the Conference Board of Church and Society 2016-2018.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: To invite ALL people to God’s kingdom through the vastly immense table of Christ where we all share in a multi-cultural feast of food, culture, language, laughter, joy, tears, grief, love, and care.

My passion for mission and ministry is: Inclusivity and justice for all

Anna Tate



Fredericksburg UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: annatate2304@gmail.com

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 22

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I am a member at Fredericksburg UMC, however as I am in college I do most of my mission work at Farmville UMC. I serve as Farmville UMC's AV Tech and I attend the Wesley Foundation at Longwood University when I am physically able. At Fredericksburg UMC I do mission work whenever I am at home from college. I have attended Annual Conference since I was 13 as a Youth Cohort Member, then as a member of Virginia United Methodists for a New Thing as a participant in their Pride Service, and now as a District-At-Large member for the Mission Rivers District.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: That we all may come together as a global church community to serve God and those in need of help. The Church has done incredible things, but there is still more to do to help people. My prayer is that we can come together to do God's will regardless of personal belief or affiliations.

My passion for mission and ministry is: My passion for mission is serving the United Methodist Church as an encouraging and accepting individual. I want to help others in whatever ways I am able through the church. While I am trying to decide what exactly I would like to do once I graduate University, I know that I want to help people. This may be through seminary, or this may simply be in the standard field of Graphic Design which I am studying. No matter where I end up, I believe that God is calling me to serve his people.

Tina Taylor



Lower UMC (Hartfield), Mission Rivers District

Email: tmtaylor51@gmail.com

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 65

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: As a pastor's wife, I have attended Annual Conference for the past seven years, including three years as a district delegate. I have also participated in district trainings, workshops, and conferences. In my local church, I have served as a worship leader, been involved in children's ministry, attended small-group studies, and served on various committees.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: My prayer for the United Methodist Church is that we would find unity and make disciples through the teachings of Jesus Christ. I would like to see the Church grow, learn from past events, and move forward together as one body, strengthening our relationship with God.

My passion for mission and ministry is: My passion for mission and ministry is centered on building meaningful relationships with others so they may come to know more fully the love Jesus has for them. I especially enjoy working with children and watching their faith grow and develop as they learn about God. I believe all mission and ministry work begins with forming genuine relationships with people.

Susan Thomas



Lower UMC (Hartfield), Mission Rivers District

Email: sntliloscar@gmail.com

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 66

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: We are small but mighty, our church is a praying church, hungry to serve the Lord

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: We will reach out from the walls of our church,

serving and welcoming the community and when they visit our church that we will be equipped to show the love of Christ

My passion for mission and ministry is: To know the Holy Spirit deeper and to pray for everyone god sends my way and to have the words to encourage and lead them into closer to Christ

Crystal Tucker-Oberlin



Susanna Wesley UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: catoforchrist@gmail.com

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: African American/Black
Age: 47

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I am a lay servant at my church. I am also working towards my CLM.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: My prayer for the UMC is for us to come together to continue what John Wesley began.

My passion for mission and ministry is: My passion for mission and ministry is to bring lead people of every nation tribe and tongue to a relationship with God.

Aaron Ward



Lower UMC (Hartfield), Mission Rivers District

Email: adelt76@me.com

Gender: Male
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 49

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I was born and raised in the United Methodist Church and baptized as a child. The church has been an important part of my life for as long as

I can remember. My involvement in ministry began at a young age, particularly through youth ministry and music. As a teenager, I was actively involved in developing youth ministries and served as President of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries at the conference, jurisdictional, and national levels. One of my greatest joys was founding and directing a district youth choir of more than 100 young people, which traveled and shared its music ministry around the world. That experience continued through my thirties and helped shape my lifelong commitment to the church and its mission. I attended LaGrange College in Georgia, a United Methodist-affiliated college, and have served as Director of Music in several United Methodist churches, including my home church, Lower United Methodist Church. Today, I remain actively involved in the life and ministry of Lower UMC, with a particular passion for music, worship, fellowship, and finding meaningful ways to connect our church with the community.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: My prayer is that the United Methodist Church will find renewed strength, unity, and purpose in the calling that brought us together in the first place: to make disciples of Jesus Christ and share His love with the world. I pray that we will focus less on the things that divide us and more on the things that unite us—our faith, our love for Christ, and our responsibility to serve others. I pray for a church that is welcoming, compassionate, relevant, and unafraid to reach beyond its walls. May we rediscover the excitement of ministry, invest in our children and young people, encourage new generations of leaders, and make sure everyone knows there is a place for them at God's table. Most of all, I pray that we will be a church that doesn't simply talk about God's grace but lives it every day.

My passion for mission and ministry is: My passion for mission and ministry is rooted in a lifelong belief that the church should be a living, breathing presence in the community and that everyone has something meaningful to contribute. I have always been drawn to ministries that bring people together, particularly through music, youth development, worship, and opportunities to serve others. Some of my most meaningful experiences have come from working with young people, creating opportunities for them to discover their gifts, develop their faith, and become leaders in the church and the world. I believe we must continually find new ways to engage people of all ages, welcome those who may not yet feel connected to a church, and create opportunities for people to experience the love of Christ in tangible ways. I am passionate about helping the church look beyond its walls, building relationships within the community, and creating ministries that make a lasting difference. I believe ministry is not confined to Sunday morning or the church building. It is found in the relationships we build, the encouragement we give, the lives we touch, and the grace we extend to others. My greatest hope is to help ensure that the church remains a place where people find purpose, belonging, faith, and a reason to come back.

Stephen Lee Werner



Memorial UMC (Charles City), Mission Rivers District

Email: Stevewerner26@gmail.com

Gender: Male
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 75

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I have served on the Board of Trustees and the SPPRC for several years. I am involved in any local missions activities that our church initiates.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: Heavenly Father pour out your holy spirit upon the church leaders. Grant them wisdom, clarity and a discerning spirit as we seek to follow your will. Help us to promote peace, justice and healing as we support the church through our prayers and activities. In Jesus name, amen.

My passion for mission and ministry is: To help people to find joy in knowing God, loving God, and aligning their hearts with his purpose through our outreach programs and worship.

Mary Wilson



Galilee UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: mary.lilmar47.mw@gmail.com

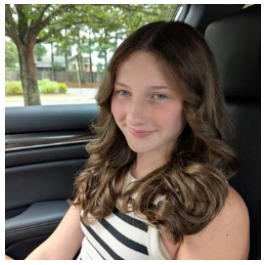
Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: African American/Black
Age: 79

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I am a lifelong member of Galilee. I am a member of the Admin Council at Galilee

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: That God will Continue to bless us

My passion for mission and ministry is: Community, and Congregation

Sonya Workman



Tabernacle UMC (Fredericksburg), Mission Rivers District

Email: tpayneworkman@gmail.com

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 13

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: I joined my church in May 2026. I am an active youth group member, and I am an assistant Sunday school teacher.

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: I pray that the United Methodist Church will be a strong, loving community, and spread God's word.

My passion for mission and ministry is: When people receive assistance and support from Christians, they get to experience God's love.

Allison Xanthopoulos



Fredericksburg UMC, Mission Rivers District

Email: Allisonxan@gmail.com

Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Age: 45

Church/District/Denominational Involvement: Been involved in different capacities since 2006; small group leader, sing in the choir, MOPS coordinator, attendee of a small group off-site, and attended 3 AC's so far. I'm also on staff at FUMC as the Communications Coordinator

My prayer for the United Methodist Church is: Through listening to each other, the needs of the community and world and taking action we may flourish.

My passion for mission and ministry is: Through Micah in Fredericksburg region, we have

been advocates for community dinners, cold weather shelters so no one sleep outside in the winter, struggling mothers and the food pantry.