



# AMELON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



September 2018

**Sunday Morning Worship: 9:00 a.m. and 10:53 a.m.**

September 2	<i>Holy Communion</i>	“Upside-Down Kingdom”	Matthew 20:1-16
September 9		“Old Age and Grey Hairs”	Isaiah 46:4-5
September 16		“The Tongue Twister”	James 3:1-12
September 23		“The Last of the Least”	Mark 9:30-37
September 30		“Un-trapped”	Psalms 124:1-8



**Sunday School at 9:45 each Sunday**

**School Supplies:** A BIG THANK you for the tremendous support during Amelon's School Supply drive. We will deliver over \$1,050.00 in supplies to schools in our community. This will allow children in our community who are less fortunate to have the supplies they need to start the new year. Our collection ends on September 2. Thank you, *Mike Ogden*



## September Happenings

**Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners resume on September 5 at 6 p.m.** Please make reservations by Tuesday, September 4. The fellowship dinners will occur the first Wednesday of each month.

**Following the second service on Sunday, September 9,** Pastor Mark will have a brief discussion about his strategy for the future, which will last about 15-20 minutes.

**Fall Fish Fry:** Saturday, September 22, 4 - 7 p.m.

**Staff Appreciation Day** on September 23 at second worship service with reception following.

**Luncheon, sponsored by our Youth:** Sunday, September 30 following worship services.



**Fall Fish Fry, Saturday, September 22, 4-7 p.m.,** Fellowship Hall, sponsored by UMM. Join us for great tasting tilapia or catfish served with baked potato, slaw, desert and drink, as well as hot dogs for the non fish lovers. Prices: \$9.00 for adults, \$5.00 for ages 5-12, ages 4 & under free. Tickets can be purchased from the AUMC men or at the door.

### Church Staff

Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Mark A. Tinsley  
  
Director of Music  
Herb Chamberlain  
  
TLC Director  
Teresa Loving  
  
Administrative Assistant  
Mary McCarthy

### Social Media

**Amelon UMC website** <http://www.amelonumc.com> has information about our church, contacts, programs and up-to-date lists of events as well as links to our church newsletter and Facebook page.

**Amelon's Facebook page** <https://www.facebook.com/Amelon-United-Methodist-Church-160321360700826/> has ongoing updates about church events, changes in schedule, sermon topics and other happenings as well as news from our ministry partners. We are always looking for pictures and insights from our members. Just share it or drop us a private message.

**Pastor Mark's blog site** can be found at [www.inquiry4today.com](http://www.inquiry4today.com)



## Pastor's Corner

Friends of Amelon!

Good day, everyone! I hope this newsletter finds you all in great spirits and with many blessings.

Amelon United Methodist Church is poised for the future. We have a congregation full of people who are ready to teach, serve, and love our community. Indeed, many of you are already doing these things, as our Teach-Serve-Love journals showed and as leaders in the community have testified to me on numerous occasions. I am so very thankful to be a part of the Amelon community and cannot wait to see what God does with us.

But the work ahead of us is great and the potential for frustration, hardship, and pain is always looming over our heads. So, let us never forget the God whom we serve, and may we lean on Him during our times of trial and despair. You know, the Bible never promises us ease in the outworking of our faith. In fact, we are promised hard times! Glory be to God, though, Romans 5:3-5 tells us, "Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." Do you believe that today? If not, join me today in believing it! Let's put our faith solely in God as we move forward at Amelon, so that when the inevitable tribulation strikes, we can say, "Get thee behind me, Satan!"

With that said, let's do our work of teaching, serving, and loving, Amelon!

God bless.

Pastor Mark

### **Long-term Prayer Concerns:** Pray for our ministry at Amelon UMC.

Ruth May, Jesse Staton, Genevieve Hudnall, Ben Payne, Linda Neighbors Maddox, Ronnie & Gail Sims, Sammie Stinson, Frances Dalton, Betty Myles, Dawn Fesler, Phil Brown, Sam Cunningham, Imogene Tyree, Steven Wood, Elva Banton, Marilyn & Joe Mathews, Lawrence Cooper, Linwood and Judy Morris, Tony C. Cash, Jody Choberka

*Pray for others who have been on our prayer lists as they continue their journey to healing and wholeness.*

**Prayer Concerns:** Please call the church office if you have changes or updates in the prayer concerns in the bulletin or newsletter.

**Prayer Chain** contact person is Barbara Weatherman whose phone number is 434-929-1180. Her email address is: [brw160@yahoo.com](mailto:brw160@yahoo.com)



**Virginia Conference Bishop's Convocation on Prayer:** Both laity and clergy are invited to attend the Bishop's Convocation on Prayer on Saturday, **September 15, 2018**. The event will be held at Reveille UMC, 4200 Cary Street Road, Richmond, VA 23221. The registration cost is \$10 and includes lunch. **Deadline to register is September 8.** Contact Marc Brown for questions at [MarcBrown@vaumc.org](mailto:MarcBrown@vaumc.org).

Please see the church bulletin boards for more information about church and community activities and our involvement locally and throughout the world.

+ + + + +

The next church newsletter is scheduled for **October**. Please submit information to the church office **by Friday, September 21**.

**The Upper Room** and **Our Daily Bread** devotional booklets are available in the narthex.

### **Whom Shall I Fear?**

*“The Lord is my light and my salvation - whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?”  
Psalm 27:1*

**All God's People in  
All Places,  
And in  
All Times,  
Are Called to Love  
And to Serve.  
Ministry of the Laity**

There are times, situations and even people in life that can grip us; that make us fearful and afraid. We can easily allow fear to take hold to the point that we can't move. But in this one verse, David tells us that we do not let fear win because God is our light and God is our salvation. He proclaims that God is the strength of his life. My prayer is that you know God as your light, your salvation and your strength.

As we move forward as the Body of Christ, let us proclaim God as our light, as our salvation and as our strength. In the face of challenges that may scare or frighten us, let us boldly accept the God-given opportunities by stepping up in faith to teach, serve and love as we positively impact this community. May we be transformed and may the fear and hesitation to step beyond our comfort zone, be replaced with the love and the desire to be in service to Almighty God who is our light, our salvation and our strength.

In His Love,  
Caroll, Lay Leader



### **Teaching Little Christians Preschool**

(434) 929-2880



TLC had a special chapel on August 22 as Pastor Mark led us in communion. This is the first time in the history of our preschool that we had communion offered. Pastor Mark was dressed as a WWII Military Chaplain and talked to us about what life would have been like for a chaplain during the war. Please feel free to join us for chapel every Wednesday morning at 9:05 in the church sanctuary.

TLC's Parent/Teacher night was held on August 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary and TLC education wing. On August 24 our teachers and staff worked hard on the annual teacher/staff work day preparing their classes for the upcoming 2018-2019 academic year. Our academic year began August 27.

We are looking forward to a special visit from some of Pastor Mark's friends on September 27th around 10:00 a.m. Our children will be marching and learning the correct way to fold the American flag.

Our four year classes are full and two year classes are nearly full, we still have spaces available in our three year classes and the Before & After School Program which serves Amelon and Elon Elementary Schools. For information on how to enroll a child contact the TLC office by phone or e-mail: 434-929-2880 or [tlcdirector@amelonumc.com](mailto:tlcdirector@amelonumc.com) Remember to like us on Facebook.

Blessings,  
Teresa Loving, TLC

### **Neighbors Helping Neighbors**

FALL FOOD DRIVE kicks off Saturday, September 8, 2018. Volunteers will be at Food Lion stores in Amherst and Madison Heights from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm passing out NHN shopping lists to customers. Donations received during the food drive help us as we enter the back to school and holiday seasons when the need increases.

Encourage friends and family to participate in the Fall Food Drive either by shopping at Food Lion Amherst/Madison Heights or donating on our website, [www.nhnamherst.org](http://www.nhnamherst.org).

### **With Thanks**

*Thank you so much for your thoughts, concerns and prayers that were shown and prayed to and for my family. Having friends that care makes the heart happy!*

*Blessings,  
Fedell Coyle*

*Dear Amelon Family,*

*Thank you so much for your prayers and thoughts on the passing of my mother, Katherine White.*

*Thank you, Pastor Mark, for being there for me in my time of need.*

*Yours in Christ,  
Sam Pinn*

**Annual Conference 2018**  
Servant Leaders Making A Difference  
1 Peter 4:10

Bishop Sharma Lewis convened the 236th Session of the Virginia Annual Conference on Friday, June 15th in Hampton, Virginia. The theme for the 2018 Virginia Annual Conference was “Servant Leaders Making A Difference.”

The conference was about the business of the church, worship and praise, remembering those who passed away during the year, celebrating those being ordained, and honoring those retiring. There were glory sightings, goodbyes to churches that were closing and hellos to new communities of faith. There was a vote on a constitutional amendment, approval of resolutions and an update on the Commission on a Way Forward. One of the glory sightings was of the Parkview Community Food Bank. After the video was shown, a minister came to a microphone to state that Parkview was what the church should be about, reaching outside the doors of the church to serve those in need in our communities.

Clergy and lay delegates voted on the corrected proposed Constitutional Amendment 1. The corrected text reads as follows, “As the Holy Scripture reveals, both men and women are of equal value in the eyes of God. The United Methodist Church acknowledges the long history of discrimination against women and girls. The United Methodist Church shall confront and seek to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, whether in organizations or in individuals, in every facet of its life and in society at large. The United Methodist Church shall work collaboratively with others to address concerns that threaten women’s and girls’ equality and well- being.” Results will be announced after all annual conferences vote on the amendment.

The Rev. Jan Rivero brought a motion to the floor that the annual conference condemn the manipulation of Scripture to justify the political policy that is contrary to the command of Jesus to love all people, especially children. She spoke to the motion about the history of children being separated from their parents which is now being done on the U.S. southern border. The motion called upon all public figures to implement policies and actions that reflect the words of Romans 13:10 which reads, “Love does no wrong to a neighbor, therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.” The motion called upon the Department of Justice and appropriate agencies to release detained children, reunite families unjustly separated, and develop immigration reform that protects all children and families. The motion was adopted.

The body discussed three of eight resolutions. One resolution was ruled out of order and the other two were approved. Resolution 3, which was approved, called for Compassionate Support for Members of the Armed Forces, Veterans and Their Families Suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress and Moral Injury. Resolution 1, which was approved, called for us to Affirm Unity in Christ. It resolved that the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church urge the 2019 General Conference to affirm unity in Christ in the midst of our diversity, to challenge in love all that divide, and to offer to all people God’s saving grace through Jesus Christ that transforms the world. We urge and pray that the 2019 general Conference will resist schism and express openness to diverse perspectives in matters of sexual identity and practice. We urge all faithful United Methodists to pray for a way forward that nurtures an inclusive, evangelical and faithful church.

Tom Berlin, member of the Commission on a Way Forward, gave a status report on the work of the Commission. Materials from the Commission are available on the Virginia Conference website. The website is: [www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org).

Bishop Lewis reminded us of the mission of our conference: To make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Our vision is to develop Disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve. She reminded us that all Virginia United Methodist Churches will have a process of intentionally forming disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by 2020. She stated that each church will have to individually choose what this will look like for their context. She suggested that each church begin in prayer, have a conversation about their potential fields to form disciples, and to study. She recommended three books for us as we study:

1. Developing an Intentional Discipleship System: A guide for Congregations by Junius B. Dotson,
2. Engaging Your Community: A Guide to Seeing All the People by Junius B. Dotson, and
3. From Membership to Discipleship: Grow Maturing Disciples Who Make Disciples by Philip Maynard.

Saturday afternoon was the Great Day of Service: Conference members served in one of three areas: they helped clean up areas around Hampton and conducted block walks in neighborhoods; packaged hygiene kits in the conference center; or attended three sessions on social justice issues. Bishop Lewis said that we were focusing on how we can make a difference as disciples of Jesus Christ in the transformation of the world by our servant leadership. She stated that God came in flesh and blood and acted. She said that we were going out to let the world see the living Christ in us. We must go out and serve like Jesus.

Bishop Lewis based her Sunday morning service on 1 Peter 4:10. She told us that each of us should use whatever gifts we have received from God to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. She told us that it was time to "stir up the gifts and that the Bible clearly teaches that every Christian has a spiritual gift with which to serve the Lord. She said that when we use the gift that God has given us, we will discover that God will give us the power we need to operate in the gift. She said that it was by grace that we received the gift and by grace that we use the gift. She said that once we had discovered our gift, we needed to do something specific with the gift that God has given us. She told us that we should not sleep on the gift but use it!

#### Conference Stats:

- The Conference Treasurer reported that we are still in decline, but the conference has 320,000 members and over 100,000 in worship every week. The conference has 95,000 in small groups. Some 3,300 persons were received by professions of faith and 2,400 were baptized. Some 75,000 serve in missions reaching over 1 million in our communities and around the world.
- Financial resources are good. The Virginia Conference members tithed \$200 million, and church owned assets generated \$25 million.
- We have a thousand active clergy serving the conference led by one great bishop.
- Conference members brought 44,774 disaster relief kits for United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to Annual Conference, and 9,000 pounds of canned and boxed dry food.
- 881 churches paid 100% of their apportionments.
- The conference is strong financially. The 2019 budget is \$31,615,000 and is a reduction over the 2018 budget.
- This year's class of retirees had 1,285.5 years of service.

The Rev. David Forrest said during the worship service, "We don't have to have all the answers to know Christ; keep following the Lord. He stated, "I'm convinced that you and I don't know much about God but what we do know is so important that we've got to go around the world and across the street to share the good news about what we do know. What we do know makes all the difference."

The Virginia Annual Conference will be in Roanoke in June, 2019 and the days of the conference will change from Friday-Sunday to Thursday-Saturday allowing families to be together to celebrate Father's Day on Sunday.

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the Virginia Annual Conference as your lay delegate.

*Judy Dudley, Lay Delegate to Virginia Annual Conference*

## LYNCHBURG DISTRICT NEWS

**Laity desiring to represent the Lynchburg District** as At Large Delegates at Annual Conference must complete a nomination form and return to the district office by September 10, 2018. The Annual Conference will be in Roanoke, June 20-22, 2019. The form is available on the church bulletin board or in the church office.

**Lynchburg District Conference** is Sunday, September 16, 3 to 6 p.m. at Amelon UMC.

**Lynchburg District Lay Servant Training**, October 19-20, Mountain View UMC

**Madison Heights Cluster Charge Conference**, October 28.

## Amelon United Methodist Women

Thanks to all of you who attended our meeting on August 13th. There were fifteen of us present and we discussed visiting members of the church, creating “welcome” gifts for first time visitors to the church, and making “tie blankets” for the large family Christmas Cheer Boxes which area churches will be putting together in December. We also discussed our upcoming Annual Bazaar, visits to area nursing homes to sing Christmas carols and the possibility of sponsoring inspirational speakers and/or musicians. Thanks to Julie Cooper, we all enjoyed a delicious blueberry dessert. We are hoping that she will share the recipe with us.

On October 15, we will be asking for others of you to join us for an evening of fellowship and the making of “tie blankets” for the Christmas Cheer Boxes. We hope that you will join us for an evening of fun, fellowship, and the making of beautiful blankets which will give warmth to people in need.

On November 3rd, we will have our Annual Bazaar and Brunswick Stew sale. We hope that you will come to the bazaar and take home a lot of treasures, have lunch, shop some more, and then purchase some of the delicious Brunswick Stew for those cold winter nights ahead of us. Please bring your family and friends with you for a fun time and some delicious food.

On December 4th, we will be singing Christmas carols, giving out cards and “goodies” to residents of Fairmont Crossing. This is a great time for all involved. Suzanne Bryant will be strumming her guitar and we will all be singing carols as we stroll the halls. Please come and join us. On December 10th and again on December 17th, we will be singing carols/providing an activity for residents of Heritage Green. Again, please join us on one or both of these days, if you can.

Our next meeting will be held on September 10th at 6:30 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. Please join us. We are always interested in ideas about how we can reach out to those in our community and in our church. Please come and share your ideas with us.

Life is about love. Come help us spread love everywhere we go and to show love to everyone we meet.

*Judy Dudley*

Amelon United Methodist Women



## September Birthdays

- 1 Donna Shumaker
- 2 Charlie Moss  
Shelby Woody
- 4 Sandra Vest
- 5 Lisa Kidd  
Laura Lundgren  
Zach Coleman
- 6 Pauline Hutzenbiler
- 8 Carter Morcom
- 9 Jones Stanley  
Faye Cash
- 11 Bobby Harris
- 14 Charles Foster  
Max Morcom  
Beth Terry  
Lisa Campbell Tomlin  
Jimmy Coleman
- 15 Judy Morris
- 16 Keith Teegarden  
Joey Campbell
- 18 Clyde Butler
- 19 Ivy Mae Wright
- 20 Genevieve Hudnall  
John Michael Maddox  
Kelly Coleman
- 22 Linda N. Maddox  
Sydney Blanks  
Timothy Tomlin
- 23 Sylvia Powell  
Carter Landon Cash
- 24 Kimberly Farmer
- 25 Courtney Harris
- 26 Charlie Dalton  
Pam Hart Story  
Destiny Swift
- 27 Joann Woody  
Margaret Ogden  
Susi Reynolds  
Patti Stanley
- 28 Mathew Cash
- 29 Frankie Clements Keen

H  
A  
P  
P  
Y



B  
I  
R  
T  
H  
D  
A  
Y

### August Counter Schedule:

**Tuesday, September 4**

Mike Ogden & Linda Foster

**Monday, September 10**

Bob Taylor & Dot Freeman

**Monday, September 17**

Becky Woody & Sandra Moss

**Monday, September 24**

Becky Woody & Dot Freeman

### Financial Report January - July 2018

Total Receipts	\$ 125,588
Weekly Average Receipts	\$ 4,186
Total Expenses	\$ 145,664
Weekly Budget	\$ 5,071