



The Christian Progress

Dahlgren United Methodist Church

JULY 2021

New Beginning

Bleh and I are grateful to God for the opportunity to begin a shared ministry with God's people at Dahlgren United Methodist Church as of July 1, 2021. Our thanks and appreciation go to Bishop Sharma D. Lewis and her cabinet for appointing us to Dahlgren UMC. We certainly appreciate Pastor Tom and Patti Lee for their kind gestures during the transitional period and we will keep them in our prayers as they begin their retirement. We want to thank the leadership of Dahlgren UMC for their generous hospitality shown us during the transitional period.

... the whole body, joined and knit together ...



as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

EPHESIANS 4:16, NRSV

One of the things that I have come to cherish as a United Methodist Church pastor is the itinerant system. A system in our denomination where pastors are appointed to a new church after serving another church for some time. The Scripture that has helped me, and continues to help me keep the focus on God's abundant grace and assurance to do ministry with and among God's people for these many years is from Isaiah 43:1-2. Along with Isaiah 43:1-2, I am also encouraged by a hymn written by E.W. Blandy in our United Methodist Hymnal page 338 entitled, "Where He Leads Me".

Serving in many countries around the world and also in the Virginia Conference has afforded me the opportunity to learn different cultures, languages, and strong faith in God's people. Thanks be to God and the United Methodist Church for the itinerant system. I invite you all to join me in allowing God to do what God knows how to do best as we begin our shared ministry together at Dahlgren UMC in reaching all for God's Kingdom. I am humbled and excited to be serving as your new pastor for such a time as this to proclaim the good news about God's redemptive work through Jesus Christ.

Peace,
Pastor George



**Our Vision:
Reaching All
with the Love of
Christ**

**Rev. George Warner,
Pastor**

**P.O. Box 1797
Dahlgren, VA 22448**

**Office Hours:
Tuesday - Thursday
9:00AM-1:00PM**

**Church Office:
(540) 663-2230**

**Emergency Contact:
georgewarner@vaumc.org**

**Email:
office@dahlgrenumc.org**

**Website:
www.dahlgrenumc.org**

NEWS FROM



VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE was held virtually the weekend of June 18-19. The theme of this Conference was “United as One” based on John 17:20-23...”My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me, and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

Conference is primarily a business meeting for the churches and ministers/pastors and lay leaders. Roberts Rules of Order prevails, and a parliamentarian sits at the Bishops right hand. In addition to the business meeting, there are worship services and services focused on ordinations, remembrance, retirements, and appointments.

This year the business meeting on Friday the 18th ran about 3 hours past closing time because people were concerned about the realignment of our VA Conference and going from 16 Districts down to 8. Our own District Superintendent Rev. Charles F. Ledlum-Bates will be responsible/oversee the Rappahannock River District as well as the York River District effective 1 July 2021. The purpose of the realignment is twofold: to streamline some of the programs within the Conference as well as cut down costs in the Conference. Graphs provided during Conference indicated more monies will be put toward ministries/programs than overhead.

The Conference offering will be divided between: **Food Insecurity in the Commonwealth**. VA residents with a need will receive food from this program; **Partnership of Hope** will focus efforts to share the Good News globally. The Conference plans to strengthen our partnership among local churches to reach out to our partners overseas. Cambodia, Mozambique, and Brazil are the three countries in which we are focusing our efforts. In Mozambique the focus will be support to Theological for Leaders Ministry. In Brazil the focus will be Water and Shade Ministry, and Cambodia will be in support of the street children and making Cambodia a provisional Methodist denomination. The Mission Group of DUMC made an offering of \$600.00 to Conference.

Seven churches in the Conference closed this year; one church was severed from the denomination.

This year 58 pastors retired from pastoring with a total of 1,226 years, including our own Thomas G. Lee, Sr. Thirty-one pastors were ordained, including 12 women and 19 men, as well as one deaconess. In addition, we had 22 retired pastors named in the Service of Remembrance.

Personally, I was glad to be in front of a computer at home, to attend this meeting on Friday and Saturday, rather than the auditorium in Hampton or Roanoke. Conference plans to be in person in 2022.

Denise Ramsbotham



IN-PERSON WORSHIP

We continue our in-person worship on Sundays with one service at 10:00AM. Masks are now optional for vaccinated persons and 3-foot social distancing is to be maintained. All in attendance must agree to the health acknowledgement each Sunday as you come into the church.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The Church Administrative Assistant is in the Church Office Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00AM – 1:00PM and continues to work from home during the time the office is closed. To reach her regarding an administrative matter, you may contact 540-903-6060. She will be monitoring email as they come in from (office@dahlgrenumc.org) and all telephone messages. To reach Pastor George regarding a Pastoral matter, please email (George.warner@vaumc.org.)



LAY SERVANT TRAINING

Lay Servant Academy 2021:

August 21st, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM (online)

Anyone interested in continuing their personal development as a United Methodist is encouraged to take the Basic Course.

Course information is available at

<https://doc.vaumc.org/Laity/LSACourseDescriptions2021.pdf>

DUMC will pay for the book and course fee for all interested people. Contact Rob Getty (rob@gettyfamily.com) with any questions.



Thurman Brisben Homeless Center/Fredericksburg

People lose their housing for all kinds of reasons which need to be addressed if they are to regain it. The Thurman Brisben Homeless Center in Fredericksburg is a facility that can and does provide such assistance to local families and individuals who find themselves in that situation. Founded in 1988, the Brisben Center has provided shelter and support services to over 7,000 people since 2005. (<https://brisbencenter.org/>)

DUMC has supported the Thurman Brisben Homeless Center for many years with material and financial donations. Also, four times a year, DUMC congregation members prepare and serve meals at the Center for its residents and staff.



If you would like to help the local homeless families and individuals staying at Thurman Brisben, you might think about:

- A financial donation to the church designated to go to the Thurman Brisben Center.
- Providing material donations: Urgent need items at the Center are hairbrushes & combs, 13-gallon trash bags, disposable razors, and laundry soap (liquid). Your material donations can be dropped off at the Mission collection box in the church foyer. Mission group will get them to the Center.
- Volunteering to prepare/serve a meal: The last 2 dates of 2021 for DUMC volunteers do this are Friday, August 20 and Friday, November 12. If you have time and interest, please come join us. Let the Church office know if you are interested. Mission group will contact you with details.

Most of us are very fortunate in these times. Some are not.

DUMC Volunteer Day at Love Thy Neighbor Food Pantry

The next DUMC Volunteer Day at Love Thy Neighbor (LTN) will be the 4th Sunday of July (the 25th). You may volunteer for the whole block of time (noon-4:30ish pm) or part of the day. Set-up is 12:00-2:00 pm, the food pantry is open to patrons from 2:00-4:00 PM, and clean-up starts around 4:00 PM and usually takes about 30 minutes. Every week there is a volunteer opportunity mid-week on Wednesdays from 1:00-5:00 PM to unload deliveries from the Fredericksburg Food Bank and re-stock the shelves/tables.



If you have not volunteered at LTN before and plan to join us on the 27th or for a mid-week time, please register as a volunteer on their website at www.kg-ltn.org. For more information, contact April Getty at vbsdiretor@gettyfamily.com.



Vacation Bible School: July 19—23, 2021

VBS will be virtual again this year with videos posted each day on the church's Facebook page (also accessible from the church's website at www.dahlgrenumc.org).

Families may pick up a Kid's VBS Crafts & Activities Bag (one per child) on the days/times/locations listed in the table below.

We encourage families to also drop off a donation for Love Thy Neighbor at the time they pick up the bag(s).

Monetary donations, or donations of items, would be great! The items most needed are canned meats, peanut butter & jelly, beef stew, soups, cereals, health and hygiene items (toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, bar soap, feminine products, bladder leaks pads/briefs, laundry pods).

Our goal is to collect 1,000 items!!!



Drop off a donation, pick up a Kid's VBS Crafts & Activities Bag:

Date	Time		Location
Sunday, July 18 th	9:45 – 11:30 am		Dahlgren United Methodist Church (atrium)
Monday, July 19 th	1:00 – 3:00 pm		Love Thy Neighbor building
Tuesday, July 20 th	1:00 – 3:00 pm		Love Thy Neighbor building
Wednesday, July 21 st	2:00 – 5:00 pm		Love Thy Neighbor building

For questions, contact the church office at 540-663-2230 or office@dahlgrenumc.org. Love Thy Neighbor is located at the top of the hill on rt. 301 northbound (5769 James Madison Pkwy, King George, VA). Their website is www.kg-ltn.org and follow them on Facebook (KG Love Thy Neighbor). They are open for patrons to shop for food every Sunday from 2:00-4:00 pm. Volunteer opportunities are Wednesdays from 1:00-4:00 pm and Sundays from 12:00-4:30pm.

FINANCIAL UPDATE JUNE 2021

Note from the Finance Committee: From January to May, the church has spent more every month than it has received in offerings. We have been able to keep up with the bills due to the Payroll Protection Program loan that was forgiven; however, we are coming to the end of those funds. As we enter our traditionally low giving time of the summer, please continue to support your church. For those not attending in person, online giving options are linked to the church website or donations can be mailed to the church office.

GENERAL FUND GIVING

As of June 28

\$25,323.53

Expenses as of June 28

\$22,315.27

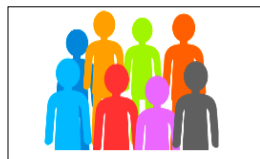
General Fund Monthly Goal:

\$28,337.00

Please continue to give via mail or the church website and of course in the offering box at the in-person services. Thank you for your support.



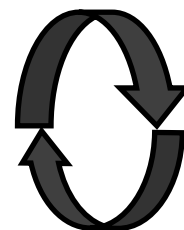
WAYS TO DONATE TO DAHLGREN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Mail to P.O. Box
1797 Dahlgren, VA
22448 or directly in
offering box at back
of sanctuary



DUMC Website
(dahlgrenumc.org)
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