

## *The Shady Grove Voice*

– Volume I, Edition II

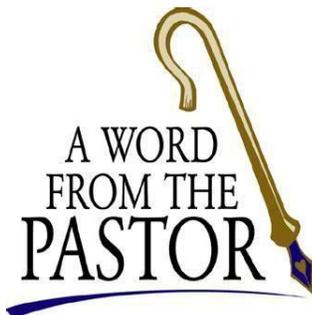
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*Shady Grove United Methodist Church is a prayerful fellowship that strives to witness the love of God in our community. With God's grace and providence, we offer outreach ministries to support our church family and the needs of our neighborhood*



As we continue to walk in faith together, Shady Grove United Methodist Church remains committed to honoring God's work in our lives and our community. This quarter brings moments of transformation, leadership transitions, uplifting events, and a call to deepen our mission as disciples of Christ.

**Devotional: Psalm 121 – God, Our Keeper**

**"The Lord will keep you from all harm—He will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore." – Psalm 121:7-8.**

Psalm 121 is a powerful declaration of trust and faith. It reminds us that no step we take is beyond God's watchful care. He is our Guardian, our Refuge, and the One who never tires in His protection over us. Through each season of life—whether joyful or challenging—God stands beside us, guiding our path and strengthening our hearts. As we move forward in faith, may we find peace in knowing that we are never alone, and that His love surrounds us always.

## The United Methodist Church Unveils New Guiding Vision Statement



**Council of Bishops**  
The United Methodist Church



The Council of Bishops, in conjunction with the Connectional Table, is pleased to announce the unveiling of a [new vision](#) statement for The United Methodist Church. This vision reflects the Church's deep commitment to embodying God's dream for the world. The vision states:

**The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.**

This vision statement complements the Church's longstanding mission statement, inspired by Matthew 28:18-20: "The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

[For more information see: <https://www.resourceumc.org/vision>]

## United Methodist Church Restructuring & Virginia Conference Vote



As we walk forward in faith, we recognize that true transformation begins within—through the movement of our hearts toward God's love, grace, and calling. Just as Psalm 121 reassures us of God's unwavering presence, this theme invites us to trust in His guidance, embrace renewal, and step boldly into the work He has set before us. Whether in leadership transitions, church-wide initiatives, or personal spiritual growth, we are called to move in harmony with His will.

In this season of change and purpose, may our hearts remain open—ready to receive, reflect, and respond to God's movement in our lives and community.

During the General Conference held from April 23 – May 3 in Charlotte, NC, delegates voted to restructure the United Methodist Church, ensuring that the denomination reflects a more just and equitable framework at the worldwide level.

As part of this process, the Virginia Annual Conference in Roanoke, VA June 11 – June 14, will cast its vote on Worldwide Regionalization—a plan designed to create a more balanced global structure while strengthening missional effectiveness across different regions. This decision will shape the future of our denomination and how we serve communities worldwide. We encourage our congregation to pray for wisdom and discernment as discussions continue. For more details, visit [vaumc.org](http://vaumc.org) for full information on all the events that happened at Annual Conference.

## **Welcoming Our New District Superintendent**

Leadership transitions bring fresh vision and renewed purpose to our ministry. On July 1, United Methodist Churches across the region will welcome their new spiritual leaders, including within the Mission Rivers District. At this time, Rev. Dr. Charles Ledlum-Bates will pass the baton to Rev. Lindsey Baynham Freeman, who will step into the role of District Superintendent. We give thanks for Rev. Ledlum-Bates' faithful service and extend our prayers for Rev. Freeman as she leads with wisdom, grace, and a heart for ministry.

(See the full article in the newsletter for more details.)



### **Clergy Appointment Announcement for 2025-2026**

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, Resident Bishop of the Richmond Area, has confirmed the continued appointment of Rev. David E Craig (Retired) to Shady Grove United Methodist Church in Spotsylvania, VA. We are grateful for his leadership and service and look forward to another year of ministry together. It is a honor to continue to serve a great church with awesome people.

### **Upcoming Events at Shady Grove**

Our church family will come together for two special events this quarter, offering opportunities for worship, fellowship, and celebration.

#### **Gospel Sing – June 21 at 6:00 p.m.**

Join us for an evening of uplifting music and worship at our **Gospel Sing!** We are blessed to welcome **The Smoot Family** and **Sonrise** as our featured artists, bringing heartfelt melodies that glorify the Lord. Invite your friends, family, and neighbors to this special night of praise and fellowship. Let's come together and celebrate through song, lifting our voices in worship and thanksgiving!



# Gospel Sing

## Fundraiser

SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2025

6:00 P.M.

SHADY GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

11007 WEST CATHARPIN ROAD, SPOTSYLVANIA

No admission charge. A love offering will be taken for the ministries of Shady Grove UMC.

*For more information, contact 540-846-3209. Light refreshments will be served.*

**Featuring:**

**THE SMOOT**

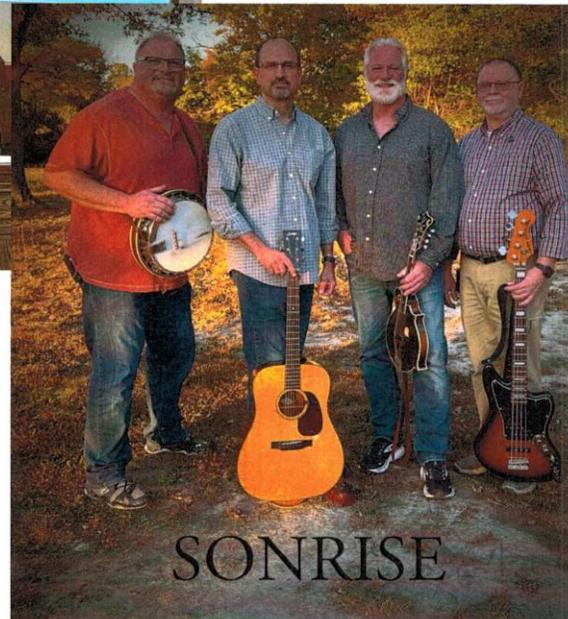
**FAMILY**

**&**

**SONRISE**



*"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!" ... Psalm 98:4*



## **Fifth Sunday Fellowship Luncheon – June 29**

Following our morning worship service, we invite you to stay and enjoy a time of fellowship at our Fifth Sunday Luncheon. This gathering is a wonderful opportunity to invite family and friends to connect with one another, share a meal, and strengthen the bonds within our church family. Bring your appetite and a heart ready for fellowship!



### **Closing Thoughts: United in Faith & Purpose**

As we step into the days ahead, may we hold fast to the truth that God is always moving in our hearts, shaping us to be instruments of His love and grace. Whether through worship, fellowship, or service, we are called to be lights in the world, reflecting His goodness to all we meet.

Let us continue to lift one another in prayer, support one another in faith, and seek God's guidance in all we do. May our church family remain strong, united, and ever faithful to the mission He has placed before us.

I invite you to follow us on

Facebook, or

YouTube



Blessings in Christ,  
**Pastor David**

## *A Message from The Choir Loft*

### **ARE YOU HIDING YOUR LIGHT?**

God's call to us for our personal ministry can sometimes be challenging. We often go out of our way to hide from God's call—convincing ourselves that we are unworthy. Know this—however—God will not be dissuaded. He has a plan for each of us to serve. Paul reminds us in his letter to the church at Rome: Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship...For just as we have many parts in one body and all the body's parts do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually parts of one another. However, since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to use them properly. If you feel that God is calling you to be more active in the music ministry at Shady Grove, we would love to invite you to join us in our choir. Or perhaps you play a musical instrument and have never shared that talent with your brothers and sisters in Christ at Shady Grove—uncover that talent and let it shine for Jesus! If you have questions about how you might get involved in the music ministry, please reach out to me or Rev. Craig, and we would be happy to help you find your niche.

Blessings.

Jeff Howard, Pianist

## **Welcoming our New District Superintendent**



On July 1, a significant leadership transition will take place across many of our sister United Methodist Churches as they welcome their new spiritual leaders. This change includes the Mission Rivers District, where Rev. Dr. Charles Ledlum-Bates will pass the baton to Rev. Lindsey Baynham Freeman as the new District Superintendent.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Rev. Dr. Ledlum-Bates for his dedicated leadership during a period of unprecedented challenges, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the divisiveness surrounding Disaffiliation. His guidance and commitment have been invaluable to our district, and we wish him all the best as

he embarks on the next chapter of his ministry.

Rev. Lindsey Baynham Freeman is currently pastor at Welborne UMC in Richmond, Virginia.

Pastor Lindsey is an ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church. Before Welborne UMC, Pastor Lindsey served in the Conference Office, Campus Ministry and as an associate pastor.

Pastor Lindsey is a Virginia native and grew up in Richmond as well as Yorktown, VA. Both equally feel like home. Matthew, Pastor Lindsey's husband, is a consultant for Race & Diversity Inclusion through his business Dialectix Consulting. They were married in December of 2020, and have 2 children, Bronwyn & Myles. They both love music, cooking and travelling. When it comes to ministry, Pastor Lindsey is passionate about crafting worship experiences for folks to encounter the holy, connecting folks in light of their gifts, preaching, teaching and being in mission with the community.

## Shady Grove UMC Launches Free Little Library to Share Books with Community



Shady Grove United Methodist Church is excited to announce a new partnership with the Little Free Library organization, bringing a free book-sharing ministry to the heart of the community. This initiative is part of a global movement led by Little Free Library, a nonprofit based in Saint Paul, Minnesota, whose mission is to build community, inspire readers, and expand book access through a worldwide network of volunteer-led book-sharing boxes.

The Shady Grove Little Free Library is now open and ready to serve readers of all ages—from the youngest booklovers to lifelong readers. The small, weather-proof library is stocked with a rotating selection of books. Each visit offers a new opportunity to discover something different on the shelf. Best of all, everything is completely free. Community members are encouraged to take a book—or a few—to enjoy at

home. If you have a book to contribute, you are welcome to leave it in the library to help keep the collection fresh and diverse.

Shady Grove UMC invites everyone to help spread the word. Tell your friends, neighbors, and family about the new Little Free Library and help foster a love of reading throughout the community. Come by, browse, and find your next great read—no library card required!

## ***Scotch's Page***



Scotch was Alberta Pritchett's cat and in March he came to a new family, and a new home, and since Alberta was such close friends with so many members of our church Scotch now has his own page to keep you updated on his progress.

The picture above was taken on his third night at his new home when he decided to come out from his hiding place and nestle down with something familiar, his toys. He worked very hard to get his favorites out of the basket and he slept next to them all night.

His food and water are nearby and he is content.

## **Provisions Thrift Store**

Provisions Thrift Store has a blessing closet open on Tuesdays 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Families may apply once every 30 days on a Tuesday for hygiene and cleaning items. Every family can get one small level basket of children's clothes and one pair of children's shoes every 30 days.

Provisions Thrift Store, at 8613 Patriot Highway (Rt. 1) just north of Massaponax Church Road is open Monday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.