



Grace Notes

October, 2026

Official Newsletter of Raleigh Shared Ministries, Raleigh County WV

Including Beckley Community, Mabscott and Sophia United Methodist Churches

TEAM WORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK!

United Methodist churches in the Beckley area are exploring opportunities to work together. Beckley Community UMC, Perry Memorial UMC and United Methodist Temple are already collaborating for United Methodist Men meetings and other events. As a result of these successful joint endeavors, members of both congregations, along with their pastors, are discussing possibilities for expanding the relationship between our neighbor churches to better serve our community and God's kingdom.

Members of the United Methodist Temple SAW Ministry team came and helped Beckley Community UMC clear the brush from the steep hillside behind the church. It was huge job, but with the right tools and enough help, the hillside was cleared before lunch!!

Plans are being made for the holiday season. Possibilities include possible participation in the Beckley and Sophia Christmas parades as well as joint Bible studies and programs during Advent.

Stay tuned for additional ways we will be working together to fulfill the mission of our church!



DATES TO REMEMBER

October 4 - 2:30 pm 1st rehearsal for Community Christmas Chorus at United Methodist Temple

October 8 - 5:00 pm Southern District Day with the Bishop. United Methodist Temple. Register at: www.wvumc.org

October 11 - Undie Sunday. Bring new underwear, socks, t-shirts for distribution to WV mission sites.

October 15 - 5:00 pm Raleigh Parish United Methodist Men at Beckley Community UMC.

October 17 - 5:00 pm Alaskan Fish Fry Beckley Community UMC

October 18 - 4:00 pm Raleigh Shared Ministries Charge Conference at Mabscott

October 20 - 3:00 pm Beckley Community United Women in Faith meeting

October 23 - 24 - United Women in Faith Annual Meeting. Wayside United Methodist Church, Vienna WV

October 24 - 5:00 pm Pancakes & Parables

October 24 - 8:00 am Lay Academy at Johnson Memorial, Alderson WV

October 25 - Laity Sunday at Beckley Community UMC

October 29 - 6:00 pm Volunteer meeting for Beckley Warming Center at Beckley Community UMC

November 5 - 6:00 pm Volunteer meeting for Beckley Warming Center at Beckley Community UMC



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT PLANNED

The Beckley Community Chorus, the United Methodist Temple Celebration Choir, the New River Jazz Band and the UMT Handbell Choir will be combining their talents to bring the Sounds of Christmas concert to Beckley and the surrounding communities on Sunday, December 13, 2026 at 3:00 pm. All singers, past and present, are invited to join in this celebration of the Christmas season.

The concert will feature music from all genres, including traditional favorites such as White Christmas, I'll Be Home for Christmas, traditional Christmas carols and other holiday favorites.

The first rehearsal will be Sunday, October 4, at 2:30 pm in the sanctuary of United Methodist Temple. If you have questions or need more information, contact Dan Spurgeon at 304-252-6213.



WARMING CENTER TO OPEN

It's that time of year again and WE NEED YOU!! Volunteers are needed to keep the Warming Center open for our neighbors who so desperately need it! On the nights the center is open, there are three 4 hour shifts that need to be staffed by 3 volunteers each. That's 9 volunteers per night!! Please consider becoming a volunteer for this ministry! There are two volunteer training sessions scheduled, October 29 and November 5. You only need to come to one session. We look forward to having you on the team!



BECKLEY WARMING CENTER

2026-2027

The Beckley Warming Center is preparing to open for the 2026-2027 season and we need YOU!!

We need donations of the items listed below and monetary donations, but most importantly, we need you!! This outreach to our community IS a community effort as many churches and local citizens are already involved with supplying needed items and volunteering at the warming center. Volunteers are the heart and soul of the warming center and it will not succeed without you!

If you are interested in volunteering or just have questions about the center and its mission, there will be two volunteer training meetings, one on October 29 and one on November 5. The meetings will be at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall at Beckley Community United Methodist Church, 217 South Heber St., Beckley WV 25801.

We would love to come to your church or organization meeting to give more insight into the Beckley Warming Center. Just give us a call at 304-252-3435. The secretary is in the office Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9 to 12. Just leave a message if you call at another time.

The address to send monetary donations is:

Beckley Community United Methodist Church
217 South Heber St.
Beckley WV 25801

ITEMS BEING ACCEPTED



NEW PILLOWS



WARM GLOVES



**NEW OR GENTLY
USED COATS**



**NEW OR GENTLY
USED CLEAN
BLANKETS**



NEW SOCKS



WARM HATS

The need for this community outreach continues to expand. Thank you for your consideration in helping the Beckley Warming Center maintain this vital community resource!! We look forward to hearing from you and see you at our volunteer meetings!!



VIRTUAL, HYBRID & IN-PERSON – FALL 2026

Southern District – WV Annual Conference

LAY SERVANT ACADEMY

Updated 08/17/2026

(Unable to use or access Zoom? Please contact the Southern District Office so that we may attempt to make "other" Arrangements for your Participation!)

Registration

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REGISTRATION -

YOU MAY register on-line

OR YOU MAY send your name, church, and registration information to:

Southerndistrict@wvumc.org

OR YOU MAY call and register or ask questions at the Southern District office at 304-252-7985.

Registration is required prior to course start (so we can order books!)

Questions? Call 304-252-7985

or

Southerndistrict@wvumc.org

ALL LAITY ARE WELCOME - FAQ's

- Lay Academies are opportunities to advance understanding of the scriptures, spiritual life and UM Church and enjoying fellowship.
- By coming to an Academy are you committing to speaking from the Pulpit?
NO!
- Anyone can take any course for self-improvement/enrichment without any prerequisites or expectations of certification.
- Please call the District Office with any other questions: 304-252-7985

Course Offerings: FALL 2026 Academies

Over Zoom & In Person (at UM Temple),

201 Templeview Dr., Beckley, WV 25801;

7:00-8:30 PM; Thu 20 Aug-24 Sep

Writing Devotions – '200' Level ** — Developing and strengthening our spiritual lives with study for and writing devotions for specific Biblical Topics understanding spiritual disciplines. This course is HYBRID: partly Zoom and partly in-person; see course description.

- Leader: Audrey Stanton-Smith;

In Person: at

Johnson Memorial UMC,

104 N. Monroe St.; Alderson, WV 24910

8 AM to 3:30 PM, Sat, October 24, 2026

Leading Worship & Understanding Sacraments*

This course focuses on the ministry of the lay servant who either occasionally or regularly leads a group or congregation in worship. Also, emphasis on the Sacraments and how the Lay Servant may assist. (there will be some pre-class reading required)

- Led by Rev. Richard Moeller, Elder
- To register: <https://wvumc-reg.brtapp.com/LeadingWorshipUnderstandingSacraments>

"Basic" *

- **8 AM to 3:30 PM, Sat, October 24, 2026**
- **((May also be ZOOM, on-line, if requested))**

This starting place and the initial study or a refresher course for those who are exploring ways to be of service and seeking greater understanding of the United Methodist Church. (there will be some pre-class reading required). ***This is an UPDATED Basic for those who have already had the old Basic, too.***

- Led by Gary Hartsog, Certified Lay Speaker.
- To register: <https://wvumc-reg.brtapp.com/Basic>

* Advanced Course for Lay Speaker/ Servant/ Minister Certifications and
**Continuing Education Credits