



# NOVEMBER CIRCUIT

VOLUME 2/NUMBER 7

The West Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church

## Engaged People. Empowered Disciples. One Shared Story.

### In the Beginning...

The opening sentence from Genesis and the Gospel of John invites us to listen closely to hear a story. But not just any story, this is the beginning of the story of God reaching out to and engaging with the world; God's good creation.

The best stories grab our attention, captivate us, and invite us to stick around to hear what happens next. Stories invite us to think, they make us laugh, they help us remember. Stories remind us who we are and whose we are. Stories told via compelling pictures, music and videos can stir our emotions and spark our imaginations. Christ-led, spirit-filled stories inspire us to change the world.

The local church is the vessel that holds the sacred stories of the people called United Methodist in the West Virginia Conference. Each local congregation has written a story since the faith community was founded. These unique stories live on today through your ministry, mission, love and outreach to God and neighbor.

Your Conference Communications team is here to walk alongside you, the local church, to help share your story of faithfulness in new, 21st Century, ways. We have tools and training that empower our local churches, conference agencies and mission sites and leaders: clergy and laity alike, to share the story of how

God is leading us into a future filled with hope.

Inside this issue of the Circuit Rider: Communications Edition you have an opportunity to meet our talented communications team. We also share some of the ways that we tell the stories of the West Virginia Conference using our website, social media and photographs.

If your local church would like to expand the ways that you share your story please contact us! We would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with you to discover the best ways to reach out to your community. If you know someone who has a gift for story telling – please share their name with your District Communications Coordinator (see page 7), Whitney ([wcherry@wvumc.org](mailto:wcherry@wvumc.org)), or myself ([dcoble@wvumc.org](mailto:dcoble@wvumc.org)).

And finally, I'd like to direct you to a really good resource to help you cultivate your church's story. Visit [umcom.org/story](http://umcom.org/story) for tools and tips that you can use to get started today!

We look forward to hearing and reading your stories please share with us via email and be sure to tag #wvumc on social media.

*Deborah Coble is the Director of Communications for the West Virginia Conference.*

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**Communications Team Mission:** *We will engage and empower people and the connection to share the good news of Jesus Christ.*

**Our Core Values:** *Stories that show the kingdom-building truth of the gospel and build grace-filled relationships so that lives will be transformed for Jesus.*

# Many Gifts, One Story.

How your **COMMUNICATIONS TEAM** is living into ministry.



## Going Live

*Cheryl George - Pastor of the Baker Charge, Communications Chair | [pastorcheryl@mail.com](mailto:pastorcheryl@mail.com)*

Have you ever had a moment on Sunday morning that you just wish you could share with others? You can! Facebook Live is the perfect tool to share an instance in the life of the church. The best thing about Facebook Live is that it does not take a lot of preparation. Perfection in lighting or optics is not the goal; the goal is to share God's glory in the moment. Facebook Live can be used to share a snippet or a whole service. The possibilities are endless.



## Making Connections

*Judy Pysell - Pastor of the Richwood Charge, District Communications Coordinator for Greenbrier | [judypysell@gmail.com](mailto:judypysell@gmail.com)*

What unites us is stronger than what divides us. On the Richwood Charge, God's people are encouraged to participate in the worship service, young and old alike, especially in the celebration of communion. Hands on is important in learning and growing in your faith and to see it visually is more than we can put into words. Feel the connection, see the connection, and rejoice in the connection as you invite others to enter into a relationship with God.



## The Art of Photography

*Jonathan Nettles - Pastor of Christ-St. Andrews, Communications Team member | [nettlesjk@gmail.com](mailto:nettlesjk@gmail.com)*

Photography encourages me to slow down and let God reveal Himself through other people and all of creation. When I'm fully present and attentive, I encounter God in daily life and am changed. At their best, photos reveal God at work in the world and help others sense His presence.





## Importance of Print

*George Hohmann - District Communications Coordinator for Midland South | [g.hohmann48@gmail.com](mailto:g.hohmann48@gmail.com)*

It's important to regularly tell your church's stories so everyone in your congregation has an opportunity to learn what's happening. It's also important to share these happenings with potential members. No single effort to tell your church's stories will reach everyone. That's why it is important to tell your stories using a variety of media. For example, print journalism in the form of a monthly newsletter is an especially good way to tell your church's stories. Publishing the newsletter on your church's website makes those stories available to a broader audience.



## The Digital Age

*Brad Bennett - Pastor of Community-Johnson Chapel, Communications Team Facilitator | [pastorbradbennett@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbradbennett@gmail.com)*

My passion for communications began with a desire to help the church leverage the tools of the digital age to spread the Kingdom of God. It has lead me to engage in multimedia, web design and spiritual leadership. I have discovered that Gods desire is to communicate Gods love through every disciple of Jesus Christ.



## Team Creativity

*Joe Webb - Provisional Deacon at Sand Hill, Communications Team Member | [pastorjoe.shumc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjoe.shumc@gmail.com)*

What I enjoy most about working with the WVUMC Communications Team is the sense that we can be a creative catalyst for evangelism for our conference and our local churches. Often, when we talk about marketing and communications in the church, that can seem very secular and we might question its value, especially in light of our general cultural distrust of media. But the work of marketing and communications is nothing more or less than helping us to tell our story. And that story is nothing more or less than the one cosmic story lived out through the incarnation, life, ministry, relationships, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ. We get to harness the best of the tools that are available to us to help our churches tell their story to the most people in the most possible ways, which is a very Wesleyan concept. It's our way of helping churches do all the good we can, by all the means we can, in all the ways we can, in all the places we can, at all the times we can, for all the people we can, as long as ever we can.

## Getting to Know Your COMMUNICATIONS STAFF

**Where are you from originally?** I am originally from Pennsylvania however I have had the opportunity to live in Illinois, Tennessee, Georgia, Colorado and Iowa too!

**Where did you attend college?** The University of Tennessee at Martin. I majored in Communications with a minor in Agriculture.

**What are some other jobs you've had?** I've been a radio DJ, wrote and produced promotional videos for TBS, TNT and other TV stations. Most recently I served as a pastor in a county seat church in rural Iowa.

**What show do you never miss?** "The Voice" I love how this show celebrates people's God given gifts!

**What is the best part of your job?** I enjoy exploring ways for our churches and members to share their unique stories of God at work in their community.

**What is your favorite verse or quote?** John 1: 14 "The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out, true from start to finish."

**Who do you admire?** My daughters, Lauren and Hannah. They are both young mothers juggling families, careers and volunteer work. I admire their energy and passion to make the world a better place for their children.

**What is your favorite color?** Blue – the color of the sky and the sea.

**What is your favorite season?** All of them are wonderful – I particularly like taking time to watch the seasons change. Right now, Autumn is my favorite!

**What can you be found doing on your free time?** I enjoy knitting and making gifts for my children and grandchildren.



*Deborah Coble*  
Communications Director  
Mom of four.  
Grammie of three.  
Pie baker.  
Beloved child of God.



*Whitney Cherry*  
Communications Assistant  
Mommy & Wife.  
Photographer.  
Chocolate connoisseur.  
Lover of all things Southern.

**Where are you from originally?** Born and raised in West Virginia - Hurricane to be exact.

**Where did you attend college?** Marshall University – Go Herd! BA in Public Relations, and an MS in Human Resources Management.

**What are some other jobs you've had?** Mostly working in Corporate Communications since College, my first job in high school was waitressing at Bob Evans - which gave me a new-found respect for that profession!

**What show do you never miss?** Fixer Upper - I just love that family, and seriously...house goals!

**What is the best part of your job?** Telling the sweet stories of ministry in our local churches.

**What is your favorite verse or quote?** Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

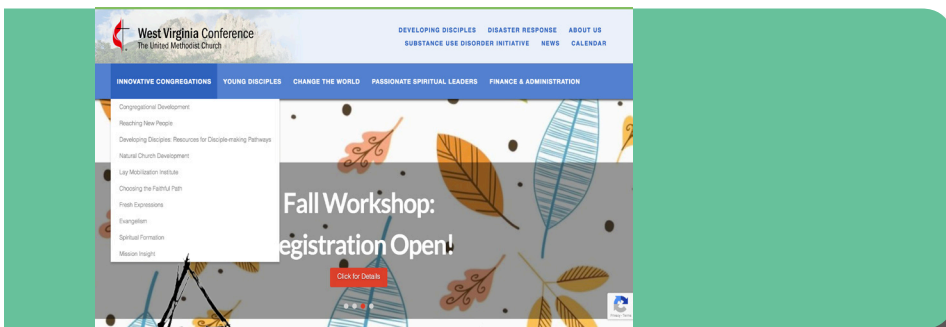
**Who do you admire?** My dad – his work ethic is unparalleled.

**What is your favorite color?** Turquoise - it puts me in a "beach" state of mind.

**What is your favorite season?** Summer for the heat, Fall for the colors.

**What can you be found doing on your free time?** Spending precious time with my daughter, Riley, and husband, Justin - we love movies, the park, and cooking!

# A Look into the **NEW** [wvumc.org](http://wvumc.org)



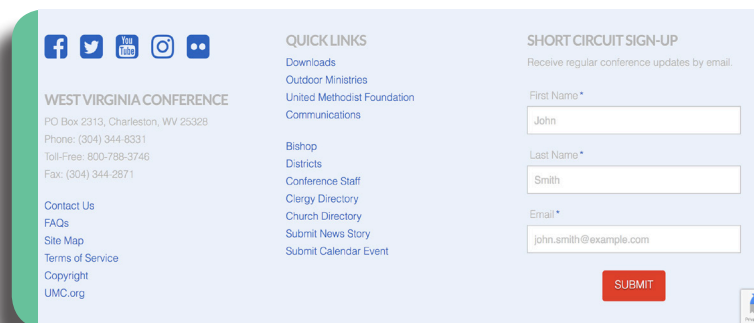
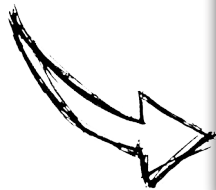
*The new and improved Conference Website is here for you to be a rich resource for the local church, including: an interactive calendar, frequently used forms, information on mission sites, a user-friendly clergy and church directory, and so much more!*

Drop-down menus are full of details about each area of ministry in the Conference.

Stay up-to-date on Conference News! Sign up to receive the weekly Short Circuit in your email with a simple form located at the bottom of the homepage.

(You'll also find Conference contact info. and quicklinks here.)

For a fun and informative tutorial on how to best utilize our website, visit: <https://youtu.be/7HFMGE5UJiM>



*Cont. from pg. 3*

## **Unthinkable, Undrinkable** *Dustin Merrill | [merrill.dustin@gmail.com](mailto:merrill.dustin@gmail.com)*



In 2017, the United Methodist Women chose a group of four women to receive the Theresa Hoover Community Service and Global Citizenship Award. The grant was awarded to Kelly Schaefer, Kirsten Rumsey, Kayleigh Vickers, and West Virginia's own Cassie Jo Garcia of LIFE United Methodist Church. Their project is called "Unthinkable Undrinkable: Exploring Clean Water and Access in the United States." The goal of the Unthinkable Undrinkable mission is to bring awareness to the clean water crisis in our own back yard and to make available a collection of educational resources in the form of audio, video, digital publication and print.

The United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia recently awarded Dustin Merrill a grant to purchase technology to aid in the documentation, archiving, and distribution of the materials generated by the Unthinkable Undrinkable mission team. Dustin has volunteered to work with the team as an Audio/Visual specialist to capture the powerful stories of those directly effected by water crisis and the men and women who have become active in climate justice advocacy.

*Pictured above by the Elk River are Cassie Jo Garcia and Kirsten Ramsey with Angie Rosser, Executive Director of the West Virginia Rivers Coalition, and her friend and activist Eddie Fletcher.*

>>To learn more about the UM Foundation's grant program visit: [umfwv.org/foundation-grants](http://umfwv.org/foundation-grants)

# Communications **RESOURCES** for Local Churches

*As United Methodists, our theological understanding obligates us, as members of the body of Christ, to communicate our faith by speaking and listening to persons both within and without the Church throughout the world to utilize all appropriate means of communications. The responsibility to communicate is laid upon every church member, every pastor, every congregation, every annual conference, every institution, and every agency of the Church.-- ¶ 1801. Book of Discipline*

## UNITED METHODIST COMMUNICATIONS

Through its ministries, United Methodist Communications informs, inspires and engages the Church and the world.

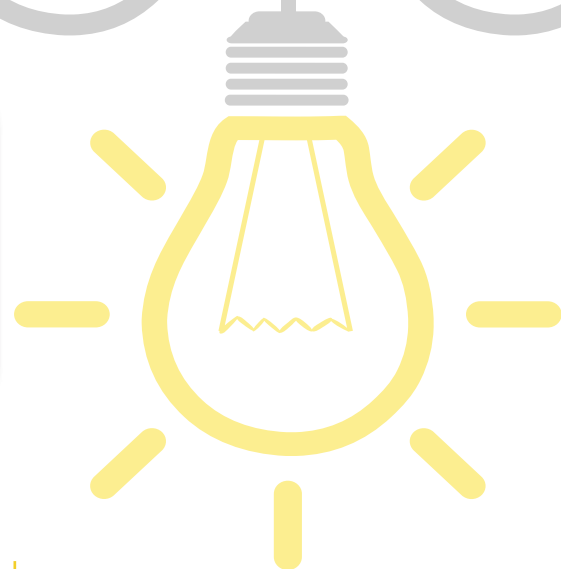
Did you know that UMCOM offers services such as:

- Communications Audits
- Web Services
- Videos for Church Use
- Local Church Advertising
- Video and Audio Services
- & More!

UMCOM is also your greatest resource for United Methodist Branding and Graphics! On their website, you will find:

- **Graphics Library** - including photos, graphics and usage standards.
- **Branding Toolkit** - including the official cross and flame logos and approved color palettes and fonts.

Visit [www.umcom.org/story](http://www.umcom.org/story) to begin using your resources today!



## WE'RE HERE FOR YOU!



[www.wvumc.org](http://www.wvumc.org)



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[www.youtube.com/user/wvumc](https://www.youtube.com/user/wvumc)



[www.instagram.com/wvumc](https://www.instagram.com/wvumc)



Visit the Conference Website to view a full calendar of events at [wvumc.org/calendar!](http://wvumc.org/calendar!)

The screenshot shows the WVUMC calendar interface. At the top, there are search filters for 'EVENTS IN' (2017-11), 'SEARCH' (Keyword), 'NEAR' (Location), and a 'FIND EVENTS' button. To the right is a 'VIEW AS' dropdown set to 'Month'. Below this, it says 'Events for November 2017' with navigation arrows for 'October' and 'December'. The calendar grid shows days from 29 to 2. Specific events are listed for November 10, 11, 17, 18, 19, and 20. At the bottom right, a red button labeled 'EXPORT EVENTS' and 'Submit an Event' is circled in red.

### To Submit a Conference-Wide Event:

1. Go to [www.wvumc.org](http://www.wvumc.org)
2. Click the "Calendar" tab on the top menu bar
3. Scroll to the bottom to click "Submit an Event"
4. Fill-in all fields, then click "Submit"

### The Monthly Circuit

PO Box 2313  
Charleston, WV 25328

Voice: 304.344.8331  
Email: [wvumc@wvumc.org](mailto:wvumc@wvumc.org)

### Resident Bishop:

Sandra Steiner Ball

### Director of Connectional Ministries

Ken Krimmel

### Communications Director:

Deborah Coble

### Communications Assistant/Publication Design:

Whitney Cherry

### Communications Chair:

Cheryl George, Potomac Highlands

### Conference Communications Team:

Judy Pysell, Greenbrier  
Ken Peters, Little Kanawha  
Dusty Merrill, MonValley  
George Hohmann, Midland South  
Kerry Bart, Western  
\*Maria Wiblin, MonValley  
\*Brad Bennett, MonValley  
\*Jake Steele, Northern  
\*Jonathan Nettles, Little Kanawha  
\*Joe Webb, Little Kanawha  
\*Jennifer Kniceley Sprouse, Wesleyan

\*Member At-Large



To find inspiration as you lead your congregation in generous living, sign up to receive the free Giving Notes and Mission Moments and More newsletters that provide tips, resources, prayers, newsletter copy and helpful tools.

>>Visit: [www.umcgiving.org/why-we-give](http://www.umcgiving.org/why-we-give)

WV Annual Conference of UMC  
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**February 10, 2018**

*Save the Date!*

## MEMBERSHIP TO DISCIPLESHIP

A TRAINING EVENT  
FOR CHURCH LEADERS

SATURDAY 2.10.18

visit [wvumc.org](http://wvumc.org)  
after 11/1 for registration info.

**In person:** Forrest Burdette UMC

**Live simulcast at one of these locations:**

**Greenbrier:** St. Luke's, Craigsville & Lewisburg UMC

**Little Kanawha:** Stout Memorial UMC

**Midland South:** Forrest Burdette UMC

**MonValley:** Gateway UMC

**Northern:** Christ UMC, Wheeling

**Potomac Highlands:** Canaan Valley Resort &  
Petersburg UMC

**Southern:** UM Temple, Beckley

**Wesleyan:** Duff Street UMC

**Western:** Forrest Burdette UMC

Bring a team from your church to gain new insights on building discipleship pathways from Phil Maynard, author of *"Membership to Discipleship."*

Phil Maynard has served local congregations for over 20 years and now serves as the Director of Congregational Excellence in the Florida Conference. Phil's calling is to walk with leaders in the church to help them develop strong leadership practices and healthy and missional congregations for the Kingdom! We look forward to his time us on **February 10, 2018.**



**West Virginia Conference**

The United Methodist Church

*WVUMC is a Christ-led, spiritual breath of fresh air that changes the world!*