



Blue Ridge District

Fall Gatherings 2016 *A Share in the Kingdom of God*

Worship

Gathering

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn

And Are We Yet Alive?

#553

1. And are we yet alive,
and see each other's face?
Glory and thanks to Jesus give
for his almighty grace!

2. Preserved by power divine
to full salvation here,
again in Jesus' praise we join,
and in his sight appear.

3. What troubles have we seen,
what mighty conflicts past,
fightings without, and fears within,
since we assembled last!

4. Yet out of all the Lord
hath brought us by his love;
and still he doth his help afford,
and hides our life above.

5. Then let us make our boast
of his redeeming power,
which saves us to the uttermost,
till we can sin no more.

6. Let us take up the cross
till we the crown obtain,
and gladly reckon all things loss
so we may Jesus gain.

Scripture

Luke 14:15-24

¹⁵Hearing this, a man sitting at the table with Jesus exclaimed, "What a privilege it would be to have a share in the Kingdom of God!"

¹⁶Jesus replied with this illustration: "A man prepared a great feast and sent out many invitations. ¹⁷When all was ready, he sent his servant around to notify the guests that it was time for them to come. ¹⁸But they all began making excuses. One said he had just bought a field and wanted to inspect it, so he asked to be excused. ¹⁹Another said he had just bought five pairs of oxen, and wanted to try them out. ²⁰Another had just been married, so he said he couldn't come.

²¹"The servant returned and told his master what they had said. His master was angry and said, 'Go quickly into the streets and alleys of the city and invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind.'

²²After the servant had done this, he reported, 'There is still room for more.' ²³So his master said, 'Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full. ²⁴For none of those I invited first will get even the smallest taste of what I had prepared for them.'"

New Living Translation



Blue Ridge District

Fall Gatherings 2016
A Share in the Kingdom of God

Message

A Share in the Kingdom of God

Rev. Beth M. Crissman

Responsive Hymn

Here I am, Lord.

#593

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save. I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have born my peoples pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them, Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them, My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide, till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

Response of the People

Please bring forward your offering to support our Welcome Tables throughout the Blue Ridge District

Thank you to the pastors and leadership of our host churches.

Christ UMC Weaverville, First UMC Hendersonville, First UMC Marion, First UMC Rutherfordton, Francis Asbury UMC, Groce UMC, and Spruce Pine UMC.



Blue Ridge District *of the* United Methodist Church

SERVING BUNCOMBE, HENDERSON,
MADISON, MCDOWELL, MITCHELL, POLK,
RUTHERFORD, TRANSYLVANIA, YANCEY
COUNTIES OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

Overview of Blue Ridge District Missional Strategy

Mission of the Blue Ridge District

to provide direction, support and accountability
for churches and clergy of the Blue Ridge District
in the fulfillment of our shared mission
to make and send disciples for Jesus Christ to serve and transform
the communities in the nine mountain counties of the Blue Ridge District.

Our Missional Strategy

To work with leaders of the Blue Ridge District and the Missional Networks (clergy and laity) to identify means by which to make a tangible difference in the real needs of real people in our communities (measurable outcomes).

To foster healthy collaboration and partnership among churches within the Missional Networks to fulfill our shared mission.



To provide support for equipping and deploying “missionaries” from our local churches through: Training, Resources, and Ministry Opportunities.

To provide healthy accountability regarding what congregations and clergy are able, willing, and committed to do in fulfilling the Call and Commission of the Church.

Blue Ridge District

of the United Methodist Church

Fostering

Vital Transformed Leaders



Leadership Development

- Training
- Coaching
- Mentoring
- Discipleship Ministries
- Lay Servant Ministries

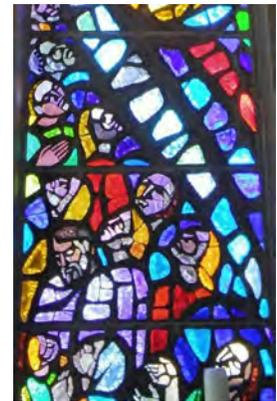
Vital Transformed Churches



Congregational Development

- Church Transformation
- Team Services
- Discipleship Ministries
- Lay Servant Ministries

Vital Transformed Communities



Missional Engagement

- Missional Networks
- Strategic Partnerships
- C4C
- Welcome Tables
- BEAR Closets
- Medical Loan Closets
- NetworX

Our Communication Strategy

To foster communications from the district to churches and leaders to ensure timely and accurate information is shared across the district.

Blue Ridge District Website: www.blueridgedistrictumc.org

To sign up for district newsletter and notifications: Click on the “For Leaders” tab and follow the links.

Serving Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk,
Rutherford, Transylvania, Yancey Counties of Western North Carolina

