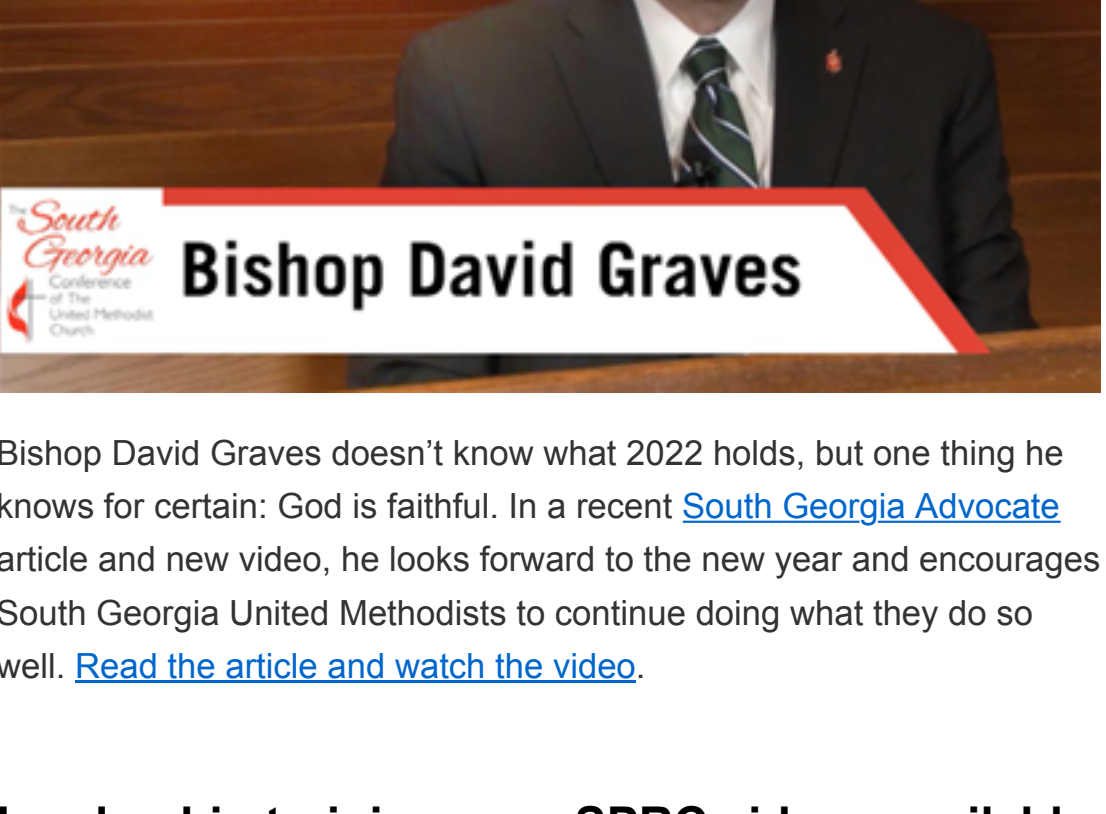


Welcome to The Link, a way to keep you informed and connected with what's happening in South Georgia United Methodism and beyond!

Every two weeks, The Link will be delivered to your inbox, full of Conference news, Connectional news, resources, and event information to keep you up to date and in the know.

Conference News

Bishop Graves: A look forward into 2022



Bishop David Graves doesn't know what 2022 holds, but one thing he knows for certain: God is faithful. In a recent [South Georgia Advocate](#) article and new video, he looks forward to the new year and encourages South Georgia United Methodists to continue doing what they do so well. [Read the article and watch the video](#)

Leadership training, new SPRC videos available for local church leaders

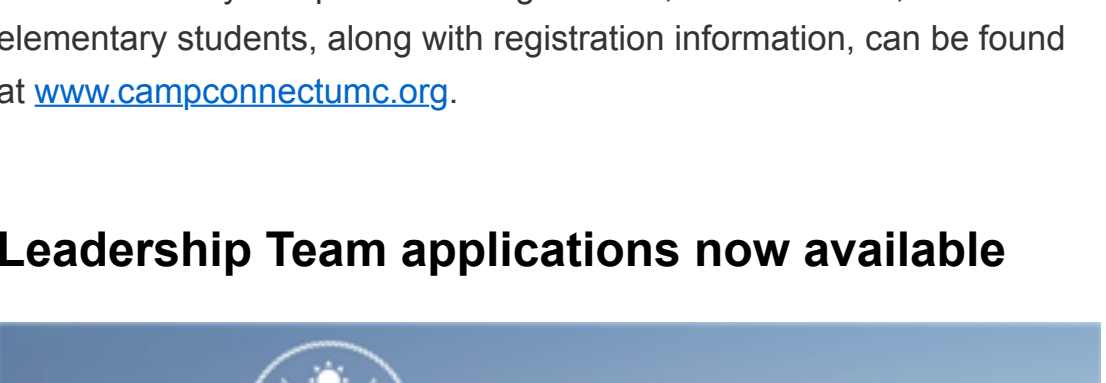
A series of training videos designed for local church leaders is [available on the conference website](#). Laitly who are stepping into new roles or who are continuing to serve in key leadership positions can take advantage of these video resources. In the videos, leaders will receive tools, training, and encouragement that will equip and empower them as they begin the year in their roles. Bishop Graves has recorded a new Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) video. [Click here](#) to find the videos, resource documents, and to see the full listing of Leadership Training topics.

Save the Date: Virtual Clergy Time Apart set for Feb. 15

Bishop Graves invites all Alabama-West Florida and South Georgia clergy to a special virtual Clergy Time Apart that will help pastors learn how to more fully care for themselves in order to more effectively serve.

Set for Tuesday, February 15 from 10 a.m. until noon EST via Zoom, the virtual conference will focus on "Empathy as Pastoral Leadership". Continuing to Care while Maintaining Spiritual Wellness." [Click here for additional information and registration](#)

Registration for summer camps now open



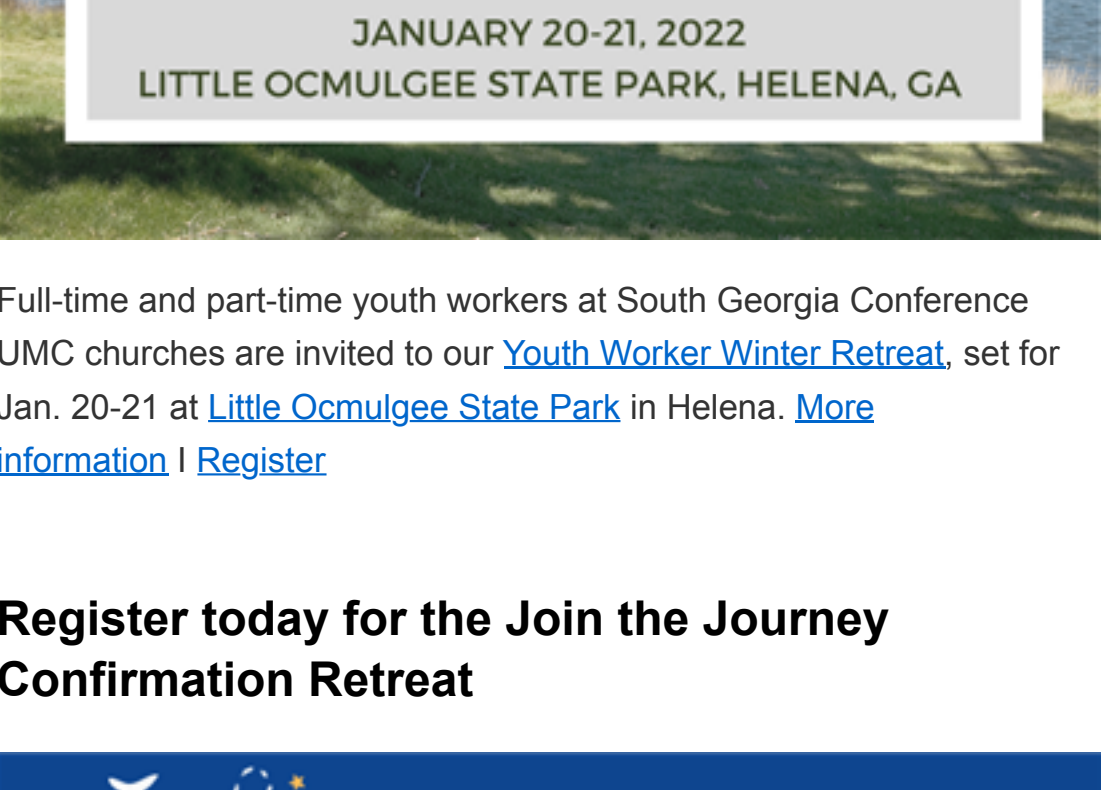
[CampConnect](#), the camping ministry of the South Georgia Conference, is headed home to Epworth By The Sea for the 2022 summer camping season! Weekly camp dates for high school, middle school, and elementary students, along with registration information, can be found at [www.campconnectumc.org](#).

Leadership Team applications now available



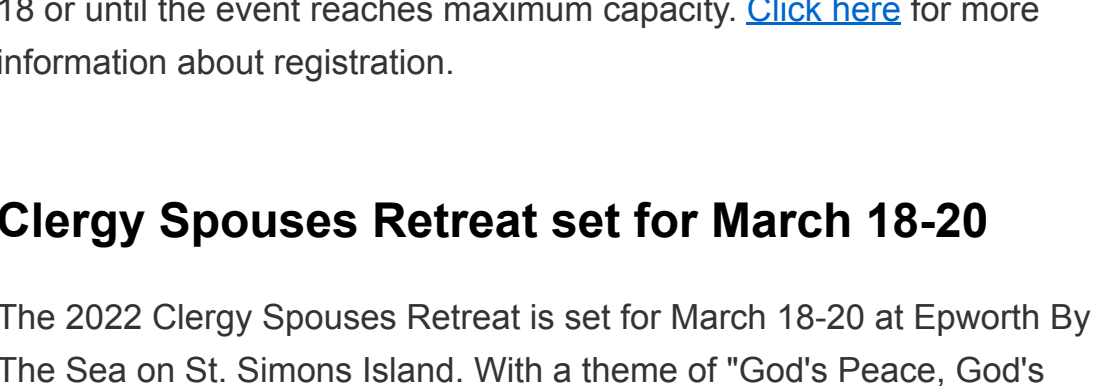
Applications are now being accepted for the 2022 [CampConnect](#) Summer Leadership Team at Epworth By The Sea. Applications are open to college students who have completed at least one year of college. The Leadership Team will commit to nine weeks of camping ministry which will include serving hundreds of youth and children while making Christian friendships with other staff members that last a lifetime. [Click here for more information](#).

Don't miss the Youth Worker Winter Retreat, Jan. 20-21



Full-time and part-time youth workers at South Georgia Conference UMC churches are invited to our [Youth Worker Winter Retreat](#), set for Jan. 20-21 at [Little Ocmulgee State Park](#) in Helena. [More information](#) | [Register](#)

Register today for the Join the Journey Confirmation Retreat



"Join the Journey" Confirmation Retreat is back! The South Georgia Conference's 21st annual retreat will be held at Epworth By The Sea March 4-6. Online registration is now open. The deadline is February 18 or until the event reaches maximum capacity. [Click here](#) for more information about registration.

Clergy Spouses Retreat set for March 18-20

The 2022 Clergy Spouses Retreat is set for March 18-20 at Epworth By The Sea on St. Simons Island. With a theme of "God's Peace, God's Calm" and featuring speaker Joyce Ashley, the retreat will be a weekend of fellowship, renewal, and worship. [More information](#)

United Methodist Men Spiritual Life Retreat set for April 22-23 at Epworth By The Sea

The South Georgia Conference's United Methodist Men will gather for their annual retreat April 22-23 at Epworth By The Sea on St. Simons Island. Bishop James Swanson, episcopal leader of the Mississippi Conference and president of the General Commission of United Methodist Men, will be the featured speaker. The Goshen Travelers Praise Band will provide musical leadership. [Download brochure](#) | [More information](#)

2022 Clergy Compensation List now online

The 2022 Clergy Compensation List is now available online to view: [www.sgaumc.org/clergycompensationlist](#)

Scholarships available to certified candidates of the South Georgia Conference

The [UMCCommission Higher Education + Collegiate Ministry](#) provides provides scholarship opportunities to South Georgia students every year. The scholarships are open to current undergraduate and seminarian students for members in the South Georgia Conferences. The application open date is January 3 - May 1. The James Leon and Myrtice Marie K Peed Scholarships are awarded to certified candidates of the South Georgia Conference. More information and application for each of the scholarships can be found at [umccommission.org/scholarships](#).

GUMF January newsletter now available

The GUMF United Methodist Foundation's Faith & Money January 2022 eNewsletter is now available. [Click here to view](#). Watch their latest video, "Our Purpose is Your Mission," [here](#).

Unto the Least of His Ministry hosting leadership conference

[Unto the Least of His Ministry](#) is sponsoring a Dream Again Conference Jan. 25-26, 2022 in Savannah. The conference is designed to help churches to come alive in Christ. For more information and to register, call or text Rev. Bobby Gale at 478-233-0345 or email [bobby@totheleast.com](#).

Sharing the Good News: Advocate stories

The South Georgia Advocate tells the good news of what God is doing in and through South Georgia United Methodists and our UM churches. Below are a few stories from our [Jan. 5 edition](#):

- [Bishop Graves: A look forward into 2022](#)
- [Central UMC's Work-Out Bible Study aims to firm body, mind, soul](#)
- [Wesley Glen Ministries announces Cameron Bishop President and CEO](#)
- [IC2M: Our main articles from 2021](#)

Quick Links to explore more

[Classifieds](#)
[Conference Calendar](#)
[Annual Conference](#)
[General Conference](#)

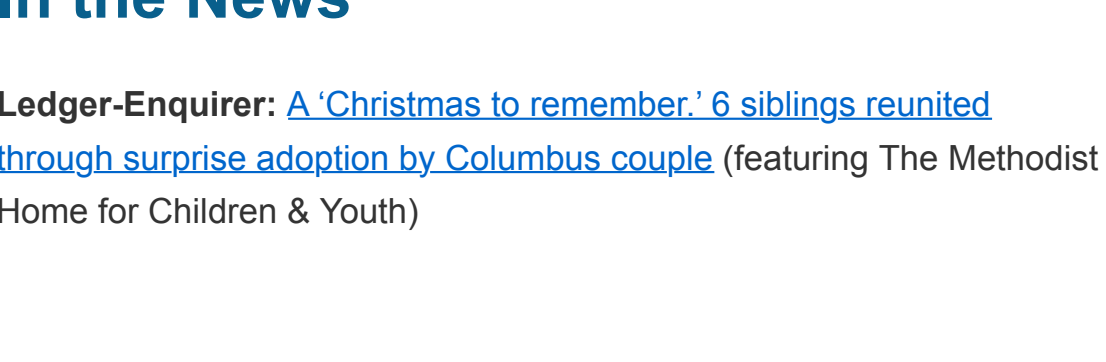
Upcoming events

- [Certified Lay Ministry Training, Brunswick - Jan. 15](#)
- [Human Relations Day - Jan. 16](#)
- [Youth Worker Winter Retreat - Jan. 20-21](#)
- [Basic Lay Servant Training, Macon - Jan. 21-22](#)
- [Certified Lay Ministry Training, Leesburg - Jan. 22](#)
- [Certified Lay Ministry Training, Brunswick - Jan. 29](#)

[See all Conference events](#)

Around the Conference

ERT team helps clean up tornado damage in Colquitt County



A South Georgia Conference ERT team helped clean up after an F1 tornado came through Colquitt County at the end of 2021. Water was restored and major debris was removed.

In the News

[Ledger-Enquirer: A Christmas to remember: 6 siblings reunited through surprise adoption by Columbus couple](#) (featuring The Methodist Home for Children & Youth)

Connectional News

UMCOR worked across the globe in 2021

(Global Ministries) Emergencies in the U.S., Haiti, Afghanistan and other parts of the world kept the United Methodist Committee on Relief busy in 2021. UMCOR also awarded more than 30 U.S. churches with Mustard Seed Migration Grants for one-time, community-based service projects. [Read story](#)

Churches turn to social outreach amid pandemic

More than half of Christian congregations say they have started a new ministry or expanded an existing one during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a survey. The second report from the Hartford Institute for Religion Research is part of a five-year project called "Exploring the Pandemic Impact on Congregations." United Methodist Communications is assisting the ongoing research. [Read story](#) | [Read report \(PDF\)](#)

GBHEM awards scholarships, 14 to SGAUMC students

We celebrate that the GBHEM Office of Loans and Scholarships will be awarding more than 2,100 students a total of \$5 million in financial assistance for 2021! These future leaders range from first year freshmen to doctorate-level students across the denomination.

South Georgia students were awarded \$94,000 in scholarships and financial assistance.

Students who are members of The United Methodist Church may apply for a Fall 2022 GBHEM scholarship online until March 24 at [www.gbhem.org/scholarshipapplication](#).

Human Relations Day is Jan. 16

Need downloadable resources to help get your congregation ready for Human Relations Day Sunday? United Methodist Communications has assembled a collection of resources that you can download to promote this Special Sunday to your members before Sunday, January 16. [Download resources](#)

What are the Special Sundays of The UMC?

Use this simple one-page document to learn and share about the Special Sunday giving in The United Methodist Church. [Download document](#) | You can also [download the planning calendar](#) to find tasks, tips, opportunities, publicity ideas and celebratory events to get your church engaged!

Spanish-language hymnal turns 25

(UMNS) This year marks the 25th anniversary of Mil Voces Para Celebrar, the Spanish-language hymnal of The United Methodist Church. The hymnal was no mere imitation of the United Methodist Hymnal, offering a range of different texts, fresh translations and Latin rhythms. [Read story](#)

Foundation offering local church grants

The Foundation for Evangelism is launching a new \$250,000 Equipping the Local Church grant cycle. Grants for \$5,000 or \$10,000 will be awarded to Wesleyan-tradition congregations with under 250 participants, or clusters of churches working together. Applications open Jan. 15. [Read press release \(PDF\)](#) | [Learn more](#)

IGC 2022 grant applications are open

The Intentional Growth Center is now accepting applications for a new round of grants. These grants are available to local congregations and church organizations. It will focus on ministries that increase Christian Discipleship and Church Leader Development for clergy and laity of all denominations. Primary attention will be given to projects of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church. The application deadline is February 1. Grants are expected to be awarded in late March. [Learn more](#)

Resources

One of Discipleship Ministries' most popular resources is available now!

[Click to download the 2022 Revised Common Lectionary Calendar](#) and start planning for the year ahead!

The 2022 United Methodist Women Prayer Guide is available

Previously called the Prayer Calendar, this beloved resource has a new name to reflect its new devotional features for reflection and connection. Encounter God and find joy through the stories and prayers in the 2022 Prayer Guide. [Get yours today](#)


New liturgy available for Disability Awareness Sunday


As worship leaders and pastors begin planning their upcoming church year, a new resource is now available from the Commission on Disability Concerns of the Baltimore-Washington Conference. The new liturgy, created by persons with disabilities, includes hyperlinks to webcasts, alternative materials and additional recommendations for consideration. The Book of Discipline requires that annual conferences designate a Sunday to observe Disability Awareness Sunday. [Read announcement](#) | [Download resource](#)


Your church, and the responsibility of personal data collection


(UMCom) Most Americans believe the potential risks of data collection outweigh the benefits. Just because it might be a church, they are no less concerned about how their data is used and how the use of their personal information could be out of their control. Because of these concerns and increasing legislation regarding privacy, it may be time for your church to examine your data protection and collection policies. Find out how to keep your and your congregation's data secure. [Read more](#)




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