



30 ON THURSDAYS

30 On Thursdays are 30-minute Zoom gatherings that highlight an innovative ministry, success story, or unique way of being the church. The Zoom will start with a few brief questions, followed by a few minutes of open dialogue, and end with providing contact information for any further questions. The call will be held from 9:00-9:30 AM on the following Thursdays with a unique theme each session. Use the recurring Zoom link to attend for each session shared separately with pastors in emails or contact RobinBarge@vaumc.org or 540-989-3335 for the Zoom link. It may be shared with key church leaders who may have an interest in one or more of the topics. For use outside the

Valley Ridge District connection please contact Rev. Dr. Dale White at DaleWhite@vaumc.org for consent. Zoom meetings may be recorded for later use.

January 11: NURTURE MINISTRY

Rev. Mike Derflinger and Rev. Doug Kanney of St. Paul UMC, Christiansburg will discuss their Matthew/Mark/Luke/John Nurturing Ministry Team, which provides a structure for comprehensive congregational care.

January 25: MERGING CHURCHES

Rev. Jeff Wilson, Rev. Warren Carswell, and Wanda Martin, of Genesis UMC, will talk about the new church formed by merging two churches. Two pastors, one new congregation with a new name and new energy. We'll talk briefly about the background/planning of the uniting churches, benefits of coming together, and the two pastors---how do you make that work?

February 8: 365 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

For two years, **Rev. Peter Choi of Fishersville UMC** has developed a Daily Devotional Guide of 365 that includes devotionals by church members and others. Where the concept came from, challenges of putting together 365 devotions and the impact it makes. Perfectly timed just before Lent!

February 29: THINK AND LET THINK PODCAST

Taylor Mertins: Raleigh Court UMC. The world functions on cell phones. Very few of us survive without them. Taylor has a podcast "Think and Let Think" which is easy to open on a cell phone or other device, and in just a few clicks his sermons and inspirational thoughts can be heard. We'll talk to him about the impact of podcasts, and on details about how to set one up.

March 7: STRATEGIC PLANNING TEAM

Jennifer Fletcher and Don Witt: Windsor Hills UMC. For churches to be most effective, they need to plan ahead with a dedicated team, be introspective, have a mission/strategy, and reevaluate that strategy regularly. The Windsor Hills team does all of that and more, not just in theory but in practice. We'll talk to them about their strategy team, the professional strategic planner they work with, their strategic plan, and how strategy impacts their effectiveness.

