

Worship Leader Bios

Bishop Kenneth “Ken” H. Carter Jr. · Opening Worship



Kenneth H. Carter, Jr. is the resident bishop of the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. Along with the Cabinet, he gives pastoral and administrative leadership to over 1,000 congregations, fresh expressions of church, campus ministries, and outreach initiatives in an episcopal area that stretches across the 44 western counties of the state.

Bishop Carter served as the president of the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church from 2018-2020, and he was one of three moderators of The Commission on a Way Forward, from 2016 to 2018. In addition to his responsibilities with the Western North Carolina Conference, he serves as the bishop of the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church and as bishop-in-residence and a consulting faculty member at Duke University Divinity School.

Bishop Carter is author of 18 books, most recently a memoir, “God Will Make a Way” (Abingdon, 2021). His great hope for the church is that she will rediscover an orthodox Christian faith which offers the radically inclusive grace of God to all people, and at the same time calls every follower of Jesus to inner holiness, missional compassion, justice rooted in the gospel and hopeful witness. He travels extensively across the state, preaching in local churches and encouraging lay and clergy leaders.

Bishop Carter and his wife Pam have been married for over 40 years. Pam has served as an ordained elder in The United Methodist Church, most recently in disaster recovery. They are blessed with two adult daughters: Liz, a professor of Chinese at Western Washington University, and Abby, chief officer for communications and marketing at the University of Tennessee Southern. Abby and her husband Allen are parents of Paige and Natalie, the bishop’s granddaughters.

In this season of assignment to two episcopal areas, the Carters reside in Charlotte, North Carolina and Tampa, Florida and consider it a great blessing to serve the people of the Western North Carolina.

The Reverend Charlie D. Rivens Sr. · Closing Worship Preacher



Rev. Charlie D. Rivens is a pastor in the United Methodist Church and has served in the Western North Carolina Conference for twenty-seven years. He holds the Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Montreat College, Montreat, North Carolina and a Master of Divinity degree from Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury, North Carolina. He has served in various areas of the local church, district, and conference.

Rev. Rivens is currently the pastor of a new church start, The Place Church, in Charlotte, North Carolina and Coordinator of African American/Black Church Growth and Vitality for the Western NC

Conference.

Rev. Rivens' straightforward, preaching/teaching ministry challenges others to be true disciples and brings those who are lost and without hope to a relationship with Christ. He is a good preacher, pastor, teacher, and community organizer. He leads by example and encourages laity to exercise responsibility in doing the work of the church. His Christ centered mission is to restore hope, faith, and love to the community and to remove barriers that separate people in the worship experience.

Rev. Rivens is married to DeEtta Rivens. They have two adult sons, a daughter-in-law and three grandchildren.

The Reverend Dr. Hyung Jae Lee · Saturday Morning Devotion



Rev. Dr. Hyung Jae Lee serves as the Smoky Mountain District Superintendent. Most recently he served as pastor of Calvary UMC in Charlotte (2013-2021). Previously, he was pastor of Wesley UMC and Thrift UMC, both in Charlotte, and associate pastor at First UMC in Brevard. Born and raised in South Korea, Dr. Lee completed his undergraduate and master's degrees at Hanyang University in Seoul. He came to the United States in 1997 and earned a Master of Divinity and a Master of Theology from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University and a Doctor of Ministry at Duke Divinity School. Dr. Lee is married to Kim, a registered pharmacist in North and South Carolinas, and they have three adult children. He loves western North Carolina's mountains and enjoys walking and hiking.

The Reverend Dr. Stephanie Moore Hand Friday Morning Devotion/Memorial Service



Rev. Dr. Stephanie Moore Hand is truly a woman of spiritual fortitude. Her ministry is indicative of passion, dedication, and discipline. Aspiring to progress in places where God is moving, she works in line with the power of the Holy Spirit. Through her service, she hopes to assist, transform diverse lives, and equip diverse communities to thrive. She currently serves as District Vitality Associate in the Metro District of the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. Dr. Hand received her bachelor's degree from UNC-Charlotte, master's from Pfeiffer University and Hood Theological Seminary, and doctorate from Wesley Seminary. Before serving in ministry, she was an airport executive for Marriott corporation, a Fortune 500 company. She held various management positions and was one of the youngest African American executives in America leading in the airport industry. Dr. Hand is married to Walter "Chip" Hand Jr. and together they have two high-energy children, Ashlee and Walter III. She enjoys hanging out with family and friends, sports, the beach, the mountains, music, and deep laughter. Dr. Hand is passionate about telling the old, old stories of Jesus in a relevant and meaningful manner to a 21st century generation.