



THE MINI-MESSENGER

EARLY APRIL 2020

“On Eggs and Easter When The World Breaks Wide Open”

Usually at this time of year, any egg-related concerns I might have would be mundane things like getting the plastic eggs filled and returned for the Easter Egg hunt at church or making sure I remembered to pick up a dyeing kit and an extra dozen for my kids to decorate at home. But who knew that one of the side effects of a global pandemic would include a shortage of eggs and that people would suddenly be lot more concerned with having enough eggs for eating and baking than for decorating. Or that regular activities like crowds of people hunting eggs in the park or the smell of Easter lilies in the sanctuary would seem like relics from a bygone era? Turns out eggs are the least of our concerns right now. Easter looks a lot different this year on many fronts. And while we'll still celebrate the resurrection of course, we can add Easter Sunday to the growing list of experiences we'll now share in a new way "together."

What a time we are in, my friends. I wish I had the perfect words to offer enough hope, wisdom and courage for this moment, but I will confess those perfect words haven't come. We are all juggling important needs and responsibilities and simultaneously learning the depths (and limits) of patience with our loved ones. We are all learning new rhythms and also missing the experience of familiar routines. We are all a little weary and a lot overwhelmed. And while there have been breathtaking experiences of grace in every single day of these last few weeks, there has also been a good amount of fear and loss and heartache as well. I know that. And I feel it too.

Truthfully I don't know how to make any of that go away or even how to make it more manageable. But what I do know is that in the midst of so much uncertainty our church has continued to be a place where faith is alive. Where people are reaching out to one another with phone calls and prayers and offering grocery runs, medical support and food collections for folks in our community. It is a place where we are blessed with technological resources and a truly gifted group of staff and volunteers to help us stay connected to one another. It is a place where we have the ability to worship together from our homes and where Confirmation classes and Lenten groups

are Zooming away each week. A place where we are graced by ongoing generosity in online giving and where people finding are creative ways to share encouragement with one another. BUMC is a place where the power of Christ is alive and at work and I could not be more grateful for it.

I realize of course that this is happening not only in our own church, but also in individuals and communities around the world. Human compassion runs deep, thanks be to God. It is becoming clear how deeply interconnected and interdependent we are, even as we are more physically separated from one another. And while this is a deeply painful time, we are also witness to the resilience of love and the transformative power of sacrifice at work in medical and service professionals, emergency personnel, business owners, delivery drivers, truck drivers, cashiers, parents, grandparents, teachers, caregivers and so many more. Hope is rising up in the most unlikely of places and new life keeps breaking out between the cracks of all that is broken.

So...about those eggs again. One of my very favorite children's books is called "After the Fall (How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again)" by Dan Santat. It tells the story of how a fractured and scared Humpty Dumpty egg musters the courage to venture back out to the wall after his infamous fall, but then has yet another accident. This time though tentative wings emerge from the cracked pieces of his shell and we realize that Humpty Dumpty has actually been a bird all along. And on the final pages he leaves behind the empty shell and rises into the sky, soaring into his new life. I don't know about you, but that sure sounds a lot like Easter to me.

Somehow, in the midst of our world breaking wide open, a truly powerful resurrection is being unleashed too. So while it may look a little different this year, we will be lifting our Alleluias together on Easter morning once again and those joyful words will not only span the distance between us, but carry us onward to new life. Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Peace, Rev. Jenny

WORSHIP

Our livestream worship services continue this month at **10:00 a.m. every Sunday**. The bulletin is emailed out on Fridays and you can access the services at washmorefeet.org/livestream. Be sure to subscribe to the BUMC YouTube channel (youtube.com/bethesdaumcmd) while you are there. Parents, each service includes a Children's Message and kids are encouraged to fill out the Children's Bulletin that is emailed on Fridays, too! Thank you to everyone who has been tuning in and participating in worship. It's so great to be in community with you!

Holy Week at BUMC

Even though we can't be together in person, Holy Week at BUMC continues online. Join us!



Palm Sunday, April 5th

Worship at 10:00 a.m.

"Blessed are the pure in heart"

Tune in at washmorefeet.org/livestream

Love Feast

In lieu of our monthly communion, we'll be celebrating a Love Feast as part of our Palm Sunday service so have your coffee or breakfast ready to be blessed and celebrated.

Send us your photos!

(email pictures to bethesdaumc@washmorefeet.org by **Friday, April 3rd at 10:00 a.m.**).

Palm Processional: Be part of our Palm Processional by sending us pictures of you and your family waving branches from your yard (or ones you've created).

Faces of BUMC: Share photos of how you are spending this time at home. The pictures will be part of a closing worship slideshow.



Maundy Thursday, April 9th

Dinner & Worship

5:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

"Blessed are the peacemakers"

Email bethesdaumc@washmorefeet.org for information on joining one of these Zoom events.

Join us for one of two Maundy Thursday virtual dinners. Our 5:00 p.m. seating will be specifically geared for families with children. We'll share meal time together as we read scripture, pray and commune from our respective dinner tables. If you would like to serve as a reader for this service, please contact *Susie Sabatano* (sabatanos@comcast.net).



Good Friday, April 10th

Worship at 7:00 p.m.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake"

Tune in at washmorefeet.org/livestream

Our service will follow the format of the Stations of the Cross using scriptures, prayer, music and art following the last days of Jesus' life. If you'd like to serve as a reader for this service via pre-recorded video, contact *Susie Sabatano* (sabatanos@comcast.net). We are also looking for photos that reflect themes such as hope, comfort, suffering, grief and compassion. If you are interested in contributing photos, contact *Rev. Jenny* (jenny@washmorefeet.org).



Easter Sunday Sunday, April 12th

"Rejoice and be glad"

Tune in at washmorefeet.org/livestream

Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m.

Grab a cup of coffee and join us bright and early to celebrate the resurrection with this simple but powerful service. For the full experience, we invite you to grab a blanket and a chair and watch with us as the sun rises!

Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Celebrate Easter Sunday online at BUMC. Our service will include a special Children's Message so be sure to tune in and celebrate with us. We invite you to share photos of resurrection and new life to be included in the service. Email your pictures to bethesdaumc@washmorefeet.org.

Online Giving

Thank you to everyone who continues to give online to support BUMC's ministries. Even though our building is closed, our ministries and expenses continue. Giving online is easy...just go to washmorefeet.org/give. You are also, of course, welcome to mail a check to the church office if that's easier for you. We are so grateful for your faithful support during this difficult time. If you have any questions, email *Kris Hoxha* (Kris@washmorefeet.org).

GROW



Adult Sunday School

We invite you to join us online for weekly classes and the chance to connect with one another. Adults have

the option of being part of one (or more) of three Sunday School classes:

Beyond: Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

The Beyond class is wrapping up their Lenten study on the Beatitudes on Palm Sunday and will start a new series on April 19th. Join us for this opportunity to go beyond the scripture lesson and sermon on Sunday and delve into deeper meaning and application of the day's text. Class meets at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. Contact *Jack Fisher* (jrfisher57@outlook.com) for information about how to connect via Zoom.

Faith-Filled Parenting

Sunday, April 5th at 9:00 a.m. (*future sessions may be offered at an alternate time depending on the group's preference*)

We don't have to tell you that these are challenging times for parents. Come be part of this supportive community as we share how we are working to balance the new demands on our lives while raising and educating our children with love, grace, and patience. We might not have all the answers, but together we can offer support to one another and a place to share ideas and resources. To be added to our Zoom group, contact *Beth Reilly* (beth@washmorefeet.org).

Philosophy, Theology and Religion (PTR) Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

The long-running and ever popular *Philosophy, Theology and Religion* (PTR) class, led by *Don Ross*, resumes meeting on April 5th with a Zoom gathering. If you like digging deep into topics, this lecture style class is for you. PTR is continuing with the most passionately anti-religious Existentialist, Friedrich Nietzsche, before moving on to Heidegger and Sartre. Contact *Don Ross* (donandpatty1@verizon.net) to be added to our Zoom group.

Social Media



Stay connected with BUMC via our social media platforms (YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) and watch for new content and information. Look for us @BethesdaUMCMD.

CONNECT

Men's Group

Our regular gatherings continue in April via Zoom. For more information about how to connect with us, contact *Jack Fisher* (jrfisher57@outlook.com).



Grille Gathering: Our monthly breakfast is taking place on **Wednesday, April 8th, 6:30-7:30 a.m.** Grab a cup of coffee in your kitchen

and connect with us via Zoom for a chance to talk about things that matter with people who care.

Evening Gathering: Join us on **Wednesday, April 22nd, 8:00 p.m.**, on Zoom for this time of fellowship and discussion.

Women's Ministry

Book Group: Our group of readers is continuing their discussions online. For more info about the group, contact *Dawn Lowrie* (ddlowrie@icloud.com).

Spring Retreat: Our April Women's Retreat has been cancelled. For more info, contact *Susie Sabatano* (sabatano@comcast.net).

Young Adult Group

Small Group: The young adult group has wrapped up their Lenten study and plans to continue meeting on **Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m.** via Zoom following Easter. Contact *Rev. Scott* to get connected.

Online Game Night: Join us this **Saturday, April 4th, 7:30 p.m.**, for an online game night. RSVP to *Erin Fykes* (fykese18@alumni.wlu.edu) and let her know if you have any game suggestions. Hope you can join us for some fun and fellowship.



A Community in Prayer

There are several ways that you can share prayer requests and connect in prayer with other BUMCers.

- ① Email your prayer requests to our prayer team at prayers@washmorefeet.org and know that they will be prayed for each day.
- ② Join us for a short time of prayer at **12:00 pm, Monday-Saturday**. For info about how to connect, email bethesdaumc@washmorefeet.org.
- ③ Join us for *Prayer Time with the Pastor* on **Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.** via Facebook Live.

GROW: Children & Youth




BUMC Kids' Stuff

These are difficult days for our children (and parents, too, of course). As your family settles into new routines, we want to offer opportunities for you and your children to continue feeling connected to your church family during this time of social distancing. We invite you to check them what's available, let us know if there's something else that would be helpful, and encourage your children to continue worshiping, growing, learning, and serving. If you have any questions, contact Beth Reilly (beth@washmorefeet.org).

Worship: A children's message is included as part of each Sunday service. Don't forget to download the Children's Bulletin that is emailed out on Fridays!

Sunday School: Sunday School resources from our Cokesbury curriculum will be posted online weekly (washmorefeet.org/children/children-online). Feel free to print off material, read the scripture, do an activity and share in discussion with your children.

Children's Time Online: Tune into Facebook Live or YouTube for our weekly **Children's Time** on **Tuesdays at 10:00 am** (or whenever is convenient for you!). So far, we've enjoyed a story, a craft, a Bible game, and inspiring rainbows.

 **JOIN OUR GROUP ON Facebook** **Support for Parents:** In addition being part of the **Faith-Filled Parenting** class which continues online (see p. 3), we invite you to be part of our new **BUMC Family Facebook Group**. We hope this will be a place that you can ask questions, seek support, share joys and concerns, offer information and resources, and connect with one another.



VBS Registration On Hold

Registration for VBS (currently scheduled for June 22-26) is on hold while we examine any potential impacts that prolonged school closures and/or extended health recommendations related to COVID-19 may have on the calendar. We appreciate your understanding and patience as this situation unfolds. If you have any questions, email vbs@washmorefeet.org.

Calling All Youth

Just because you're stuck at home, doesn't mean that you can't see your BUMC friends! Join us this **Sunday, April 5th at 7:00 p.m.** for UMYF online. Look for the Zoom link to be emailed and get ready for a fun time together. Questions or suggestions? Contact us at youth@washmorefeet.org.



BUMC Scholarships

BUMC is awarding scholarships to selected graduating high school seniors. The scholarships are awarded based on the student's participation in service activities, both church and community-wide. While the Scholarship Committee will ask for a copy of the applicant's transcript, grades are not the primary criteria. Any high school senior who is actively involved with the church is encouraged to apply. **The deadline is April 30th** and the recipients will be announced on **Graduate Recognition Sunday, May 10th**. If you're interested in applying, email *Dana Sippel* (dana@glassmanwealth.com).

Summer Mission Opportunities



We are currently still planning to offer both of our summer mission opportunities for youth. Stay tuned in the coming weeks for updates.

High School *Faith in Action* Trip July 19th - 25th

Our group of high school youth is heading Erie, PA to serve this community through home improvement and repair. This trip is open to all high school youth, including next fall's rising 9th graders through recent high school graduates up to 20 years of age. To sign up or if you have any questions, email *Gunnar Gunnarsson* (gunnarBUMC@gmail.com).

Middle School Mission Camp July 26th - 31st

Sign up for this adventure-based camp to get a taste of mission experience in partnership with Manidokan's neighboring communities. Youth will complete 16-20 hours of hands-on mission and also enjoy zip lining, rafting, water games and campfire cooking. Sign up at bwccampsandretreats.com/manidokan.

SERVE



BUMC Connects

BUMC Connects is a ministry that connects volunteers to help with some of the short-term needs of the BUMC community. During this

season of social distancing this ministry is particularly important. There are several ongoing teams of BUMC Connects volunteers that are focused on specific needs (see list below). We especially draw your attention to the first three ways to help which are marked with an *.

***Cards:** Sending cards to members of the congregation who are unable to participate in services or who are ill or who are in any way in need of a bit of encouragement.

***Phone Tree:** Making regular check-in type phone contact with those facing difficult times (at the request of the pastors and participants).

***Grocery Support:** Assisting with shopping or grocery delivery for those who are homebound or unable to shop for themselves due to health concerns.

Care Meals: Providing meals for those recovering from illness or childbirth.

Hospitality: Helping with receptions (typically following memorial services or in celebration of all-church events).

Rides: Offering rides to individuals in need of transportation to church events or special appointments.

Special Events: Participating in single church-related events (e.g., decorating the Sanctuary for holidays, participating in clean-up projects, painting, and other similar one-time events).

Volunteers who sign up to help are added to an email list and are only contacted when a specific need arises. Signing up to be included on one (or more) of these email lists does not commit you to anything other than receiving periodic emails (no meetings) and you are not in any way obligated to respond to any particular request. Within the next few weeks, you will receive a questionnaire by email asking you to indicate your interest in participating in any of these areas. Please complete it - even if you are not able to help at this time and even if you have completed it in the past - *our lists are in need of updating*. If you are unable to complete the questionnaire online, we will have paper copies available. If you have questions or comments, contact *Mary Ann Toomey* (matoomey@outlook.com).

MUSIC



A Note from Chris

I'd like to thank everyone for their emails, texts, and phone calls to express their appreciation for the live-streamed music and worship services the last few weeks. The Sanctuary Choir, Praise Band, Bethesda Bells, Church Folk, and Common Ground all miss being together to make music - particularly live music that enhances live worship. None of us expected to be in this situation, and we are doing the best we can to stay connected. Special thanks to *Max*, who will be taking on the Thursday night hymn sing by himself. He has also freely shared his technical expertise to help all of the live-streams happen. He will be playing a key role as we continue to provide online worship experiences from multiple remote locations. Special thanks also to *Jacob Couch* who continues to provide unbelievable behind-the-scenes support for everything mentioned above.

Despite the new travel restrictions, there will still be weekly services and musical offerings - it's just going to be a little different than we have been able to do the last few weeks. Please continue to tune in to YouTube on Sunday mornings for worship, Thursday evening hymn sings, and everything else going on, especially next week during Holy Week and Easter. Beyond that, look for some form of a virtual FolkFest to occur after Easter - see below for preliminary details. Everyone misses their church - and we hope and pray to be back together as soon as possible.

Chris Warrington, Director of Music

Hymn Sing: Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m.

Tune in on YouTube

Join our Choir Director, *Max Nolin*, as we share in a virtual hymn sing guaranteed to lift your spirits! Email any requests to *Max* (max@washmorefeet.org) and don't forget to download the lyrics so you can add your voice to our joyful noise!

Virtual FolkFest

Although we weren't able to gather together in March for FolkFest, that doesn't mean that the music has to stop! We invite our musicians to send us a video of themselves performing one or two pieces for our virtual Folkfest. Videos are due by **April 17th** (stay tuned for details on how to upload your video). We are planning to premiere our online Folkfest by the end of the month. Thanks!

FOOTWASHER OF THE MONTH: Megan Baldwin

BUMC is a community of footwashers and this monthly feature highlights people in our church family who are serving in a variety of ministries, either here at BUMC or out in the community. This month, we hear from Megan Baldwin about returning to BUMC after college and her work with our youth.



How long have you been part of this church community and what experiences stand out in your memories of growing up in this congregation? How do you think these experiences influenced your faith life?

Megan: I came to BUMC when I was 6 years old after my family moved up here from Austin, Texas. I have been lucky enough to see many great pastors over the years and make friends with so many people. My favorite Church event has always been Easter, specifically the 11:00 service. I made sure that I was able to come home from college on that weekend just so that I could attend that service. That day always shown me the power that hope and music has on faith.

After graduating from college, you chose to return to this congregation. Can you share what makes this church a good place for a young adult? Are there any ways that you'd like to see this area of ministry grow?

Megan: I have mainly been involved with the youth since I've returned, but have met many of the young adults attending here. I think it is a good place to meet genuine people in this crazy world of online dating and social media. The young adults here are exactly as they present themselves and they represent the future leadership of the church.

Since returning to the Bethesda area, you've become involved in a leadership role with BUMC's youth ministry. Tell us a little about this and what you hope to pass onto our youth as they grow in their faith.

Megan: I have had the pleasure of helping out with both youth group and Sunday School since I have returned from college. They are a wonderful group of young people, many of whom I got to see grow up into who they are today.

It's not been too many years since you were a youth here at BUMC. Do you feel like our current youth have any different challenges than your generation did? Did any of your experiences as a youth here at BUMC inform your work with the current middle and high school youth?

Megan: The biggest difference I have seen with today's youth is technology, especially in schools. Social media has definitely increased and they need to be wary (as we all do) of what they see and hear online. When I'm working with them, I try to think back to the adult leaders that I had and try to emulate their enthusiasm and love for this work.

We're sad to hear that you'll soon be leaving us again for graduate school in Texas to pursue a career in speech pathology. Tell us a little about what drew you to this field and what role your faith plays in your career.

Megan: I stumbled into speech pathology in undergrad. Many of my fellow classmates knew they wanted to go into speech therapy since middle or high school based on personal or family experience with the field, but I found it, researched it, and thought it sounded interesting, so here I am! I have to have a lot of faith in my clients and in myself when I'm working, since there are often so many challenges that need to be overcome. I think communication is a basic human right, and no one would know about Jesus if they didn't talk about him, right?

Finally, any parting advice for our older youth as they prepare for their own transitions to college and life post-high school?

Megan: I would want to tell them to not give up on their faith when they go off to school and to recognize it as a part of themselves and not as a part of their past. Faith seems to fade in people when they go off to college, but it needs to be remembered and recognized in order for you to be a complete person, even if you are not as participatory as you were in high school.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES



Birth

Love and blessings to **Kara & Billy Jaeger** on the birth of a daughter, **Hailey**, on February 29th.



Death

We extend our love and prayers to **Joe & Carolyn Long, Johnny & Judy Long** & their families (8101 Connecticut Ave, #N408, Chevy Chase, MD 20815) in the death of Joe & Johnny's mother, **Elaine Long**, on March 21st. A service celebrating Elaine's life will be held at a later date.



April Celebrations

Happy Birthday

- 4th Sofia Arulpragasam, Sylva McCulloh, Andrew Mitchell, Jack Rogstad, Gail Trost
- 5th Mary Carr, Jenna Kronenberg,
- 6th Charlotte Kirwan
- 7th Blair Reeves, Shawn Russell
- 10th Sarah Early
- 11th Thomas Tanman
- 12th Eric Quam
- 13th Julian Dahiya, Peter Fitzmaurice
- 14th Marion Foltz
- 15th Leslie Ponder, Carl Sansbury, Kenneth Wesley, Henry Whitaker
- 18th Beth Reilly, Patty Ross, Chloe Schwartz, Wendy Whitaker
- 19th Sue Andrews
- 20th Elizabeth Gnanaselvam, Martin Kulik, Lyla Smith, Merric Tate
- 22nd Benjamin La
- 23rd Allison Lazare
- 24th Will Browning, Grace Smith
- 25th Bob Gillette, Laura Sim
- 27th Antonio Zabel
- 28th Jeff Diamond
- 29th Elizabeth Sansbury
- 30th Marilyn Wilkins



Happy Anniversary

	<u>Date</u>	<u># of Years</u>
Cherry & Kim Kaiser	5 th	75
Lynn & Mike Koenig	7 th	19
Liz & Joel Helke	12 th	12
Kathryn & Andrew Weiland	25 th	11
Jill Captain & Scott Schneider	29 th	31

Called Charge Conference

BUMC's Church Council will be meeting by Zoom on **Wednesday, April 15th at 7:30 p.m.**, and as part of the meeting will vote on an adjusted salary package for **Rev. Scott**, which was approved as part of the 2020 budget. Changes to pastor salaries require a called charge conference, which means that this portion of the meeting is open to all members of the church for voting. The zoom link is <https://zoom.us/j/783310467> and the Meeting ID is 783 310 467 if using a computer, tablet or smartphone. You can also dial in by phone using 301-715-8592 or 253-215-8782 with the Meeting ID: 783 310 467 Please contact **Rev. Jenny** or Church Council Chair **Mike Moran** (mismoran54@gmail.com) with any questions.

General Conference

In light of the COVID-19 public safety concerns, the UMC General Conference scheduled for May 2020 has been postponed until 2021. This means that voting on legislation related to denominational changes and *The UMC Book of Discipline* will be postponed until that time. The Baltimore Washington Annual Conference has also been postponed from our regular gathering in May and will convene sometime in the fall. We will continue to keep you apprised of the new General Conference updates and any other updates related to the future of the UMC. In the meantime, we are in prayer for our church and are grateful that BUMC continues to be a community of welcome for all!

Contact Us

www.washmorefeet.org + 301-652-2990

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scott@washmorefeet.org

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APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

WORSHIP ONLINE!

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Be sure to subscribe to the BUMC YouTube channel (youtube.com/bethesdaumcmd). (page 2)

TUNE INTO ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us on Sunday mornings via Zoom for one of our three adult Sunday School classes: Beyond, Faith-Filled Parenting or Philosophy, Theology and Religion. (page 3)

CHILDREN'S & YOUTH NEWS

Even though we can't go to church, that doesn't mean we can't stay connected and continue to grow in our faith! Check out all the ways we can do that (page 4)

FOOTWASHER OF THE MONTH

Megan Baldwin (page 6)



Palm Sunday, April 5th
Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Tune in at washmorefeet.org/livestream

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Dinner & Worship
5:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Connect via Zoom

Good Friday, April 10th
Worship at 7:00 p.m.

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