The Messenger

April 2023

Easter Joy!

What memory do you have for Easter? As a member of the clergy, I remember the joy of sunrise services, even though Easter morning was always cold, whether on the roof of a building or in the cemetery. I also remember the joy of watching my daughter find plenty of Easter eggs at home with her dog without any competition. As a mother, I enjoyed purchasing an Easter dress for her each year, taking her to church and sharing a special dinner as a family.

For Christians, Easter is a holiday that brings joy that has the power to lift our spirits and bring us closer to one another. It is a time to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, embrace new beginnings and come together with family and friends. Easter is a reminder of God's living faith, hope and love, and it is a time to reflect on life beyond death.

In the face of challenging circumstances... how can we find true joy as Christians?

However, in the face of challenging circumstances such as the Ukraine war, economic downturn, natural disasters, the bankruptcy of big banks, and the ongoing horrors of school shootings, finding joy seems almost impossible. So how can we find true joy as Christians? Here are a few ways we can cultivate joy even amid difficult times during this Eastertide.

First, this Easter, we can find joy in the knowledge that we are loved by God. In Romans 8:38-39, the apostle Paul writes, "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, neither angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (NRSVUE) No matter what happens in the world around us, we can be confident that God's love for us remains constant and unwavering. This knowledge can bring us a deep sense of joy and peace, even in the midst of challenging circumstances.

Second, this Easter, we can find joy in serving others. In Matthew 25:40, Jesus says, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me." (NRSVUE) By serving others, whether volunteering at the church or simply reaching out to a friend in need, we can experience the joy of knowing that we are making a difference in the world and living out our faith in tangible ways.

Third, we can find joy this Easter in the hope of a better future. In Isaiah 43:18-19, we can take comfort in the knowledge that God is working to make all things new each and every day. God declared through prophet Isaiah, "Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?" (NRSVUE) Our prayer is that God will give us eyes to see "a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." (v.19)

For example, Bill and Gloria Gaither wrote the hymn "Because He Lives," the all-time favorite song for Easter, in the late 1960s while the Gaithers were going through a rather traumatic time in their lives. Bill was recovering from mononucleosis, and it was a period of anxiety for Gloria, who was expecting a baby.

The lyric is a confession of hope in Christ's resurrection, conquering fear in their daily circumstances. It echoes within our hearts that we might be able to face tomorrow with all of the uncertainty that it brings - "Because he lives, I can face tomorrow; Because he lives, all fear is gone; Because I know he holds the future, and life is worth the living just because he lives."

Finally, this Easter, we can find joy in the community of believers. In Hebrews 10:24-25, we read that we should "provoke one another to love and good deed, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another." (NRSVUE) We can find strength, encouragement and support when we come together with fellow Christians. Even when the world around us seems bleak, we can take comfort in knowing that we are not alone in our struggles. Come home to Bethesda on Easter morning.

May God richly bless you and your family with full of joy on this Easter, a time of rebirth and renewal!

Rev. HiRho

Worship

New Members

BUMC welcomes the following persons to our church family who joined on March 26:

Don Mobley

Chris & Kasia Murray

Maria Beane & James Duvall

Michael & Carynee Jarrell

Birth

We celebrate Nicole & James Gillette on the birth of a son, John Robert, on February 26. The proud grandparents are Debbie & Bob Gillette.

Online Prayer Requests

If you wish to receive the list each week via email, please use the form on our website, https://washmorefeet.org/prayer-ministry to sign up. As always, we will continue to have the printed version of the prayer list available at our worship services. Please know that our prayer team will be praying for you and your loved ones throughout the week.

Ways to Give

- Online: Go to washmorefeet.org/give
- Via Paypal to bethesdaumc@washmorefeet.org
- Text-to-Give: Text the amount of your donation to 301-679-7266
- Mail a check to the church office

Worship Attendance

In-Person:

March 5 - 114
March 12 - 123
March 19 - 143
March 26 - 127

Online:

March 5 - 93
March 12 - 85
March 19 - 68
March 26 - 65

Altar Flowers

Want to help beautify our altar for worship on Sundays while also remembering or honoring a loved one? We invite you to sign up to provide an arrangement of flowers on the Sunday of your choice.

You can have us place an order from our florist, order one yourself from your choice of florist, or make your own arrangement from flowers picked from your garden. Just let us know your preference on our online signup (washmorefeet.org/flowers).

Questions? Contact Sue O'Hara.

Praying Together

There are two opportunities during the week to join with others from our church in prayer. You're invited to stop by the church on Wednesdays at noon and be part of a Taizé Prayer Service. This time of worship includes communion and will be led by Rev. HiRho and/or Dr. Shaw Brewer. Then, on Thursdays at noon, you are invited to be part of an online prayer time with Shaw Brewer and others from our congregation. Email Shaw for the Zoom link.

RE-Iterating Holy Week

What are you doing next Thursday and Friday (April 6 and 7)? Busy? I'm sure you are – we all are, but if you use the "I'm busy" excuse to avoid attending the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, you're going to miss out! On what? For starters, some great music. Beyond that, a complete and otherwise full experience of Holy Week. The journey from Palm Sunday (Rejoicing) to Easter Sunday (Resurrecting) is incomplete without the experience of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday (Rejecting). To paraphrase words said by a famous person nearly 50 years ago:

"Only when you've been in the deepest, darkest, valley can you truly know how magnificent it is to stand upon the highest mountain peak."

Here's a summary of what you can expect from our Holy Week Services:

Palm Sunday, April 2

11:00 a.m. (in-person & online) We'll celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem with the waving of palms and the singing of (more than) a few choruses of "Prepare Ye." The weather looks good, so we'll venture outside for our palm parade. Back inside, our Children's Choir will lend their voices to the celebration as will Bethesda Bells and the Sanctuary Choir. Since it's the first Sunday of the month, we'll have Communion and then end the service with a slight turn in tone – a brief foreshadowing, if you will, of what is to come later in the week. The song we'll use to close the service is entitled "Hosanna" and not only foreshadows the inevitable rejection and crucifixion of Jesus but serves as a call to empathize with Christ – to walk with Christ to the cross during our daily lives. It's a foreshadowing – but it's also an invitation to attend and experience the darker services later in the week.

7:00 p.m. Evensong Healing Service (in-person only) Join us in the Sanctuary for our final Evensong until Advent. Music for this Service of Healing will be provided by John Euler, Carl Eichenwald, Mike Moran and Gail Williams. Join us for Communion, anointing with oil, and some old favorites like "How Great Thou Art" and "Why Me, Lord?"

Maundy Thursday, April 6 – 7:00 p.m. (in-person & online)

The word "Maundy" is one origin of the word "mandate." On Maundy Thursday, Jesus and the disciples celebrated the traditional Passover meal, but the meal had a surprise ending that involved some bread and a cup. Jesus surprised the disciples again by washing their feet and issuing the mandate to "love as I have loved you." Our service that night will have communion, but also a few surprises. Shaw will use a song from an 80's movie as an illustration in her sermon. The Praise Band will offer the song during communion. The movie in question? "The Breakfast Club." The song? You'll have to come to find out.

Good Friday, April 7 – 7:00 p.m. (in-person & online)

The Good Friday service completes our journey to the cross with the crucifixion and death of Jesus. We will experience a Tenebrae service again this year – that is, a series of Scripture readings and musical offerings which chronicle Jesus's final week, including the crucifixion and burial. After each reading a candle is snuffed out, until only the Christ candle remains lit. The Sanctuary will gradually be stripped of any paraments or altar décor. The Sanctuary Choir will present several movements from Handel's Messiah during this service. Congregational singing of traditional Good Friday/Passion hymns will also be included.

Easter Sunday April 9

Sunrise – 6:30 a.m. (in-person only) Sunrise on Easter Sunday is at 0641 (What's the "0" stand for? "O my, it's early!"). If you've never been to a sunrise service on Easter Sunday, take it from this non-morning person, it's worth the early rise! Weather permitting, our sunrise service will be outside in the parking lot. It will be a very short service complete with the visual of an open tomb, some simple music, scripture and a brief Easter message.

Blended Easter Service - 11:00 a.m. (in-person & online) In the Sanctuary, we'll have our blended Easter Service featuring our Sanctuary Choir, Praise Band and organ. Come early for some great pre-service music from our Praise Band, join in the singing of "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" during the service, and you definitely won't want to miss the communal singing of Handel's "Hallelujah" from Messiah.

Finally, if you think you know who said the above-referenced quote, come find me and let me know who you think it is…no Googling allowed, but the answer might surprise you! I'm usually in or near the chancel on Sunday mornings.

If you're planning to be out of town and otherwise unable to join us for any of these special services, from all of us at BUMC - we hope you have a wonderful Easter.

- Chris Warrington – Director of Music

Worship - Events - Gatherings

Pride 2023

BUMC is providing several opportunities for those who would like to participate and support the June 11 events surrounding Capital Pride 2023. All are welcome! Capital Pride is an annual festival celebrating the LGBTQ+ community held in early June in Washington, DC. It was founded in 1975 as Gay Pride Day, a one-day block party and street festival. This year's theme is "Reveal! Build connections that can be then used to create positive change in our region, our country, and our world." Please capitalpride.org or contact Dennis Williams for more details. On Saturday June 11, a group of interested church members will head down to the Pride Parade as part of a Baltimore-Washington Conference to bear witness and show support.

Fasting Prayer for BUMC on Saturday, April 1

On the first Saturday of each month, we encourage you to fast as you pray for BUMC and its ministry. You can fast a meal or two or an entire day according to your health condition. In April, please pray for these items:

Strength for leaders: Your pastors and staff will appreciate your prayers during this busy Holy Week and Eastertide.

Use of the facility: We are applying for a grant from Montgomery County which will help to update our building to code.

Upgrading Media Technology Equipment: We seek God's guidance and funding for this need.

BUMC RUMMAGE SALE (Church Yard Sale), Saturday, May 13. It's a great way to RECYCLE and to find great deals on used TREASURES

We will be holding the BUMC RUMMAGE SALE, Saturday, May 13, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The proceeds will go to support justice-oriented ministries at BUMC. The Rummage Sale is a big event, so we really need your help. There are FIVE ways you can volunteer. 1) Help us advertise by placing a short piece in your neighborhood or child's school list-serve. (SEE SAMPLE ADVERTISEMENT BELOW) 2) COME to the Rummage Sale on Saturday, May 13 and BUY some second-hand treasures! 3) Volunteer to be a cashier (2-hour shifts) on Saturday, May 13. 4) Help sort and price the donated items in the BUMC Narthex during the preceding week, May 8 - 12 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. 5) On early Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m., help us set up by carrying the sale items out to the sidewalks along Huntington Parkway.

If you would like to DONATE items for the BUMC Rummage Sale, they can be dropped off in the BUMC Narthex during the preceding week, Monday, May 8 - Friday, May 12. (We will not take large furniture but will take clothing in good condition. Below is a list of items that can be donated.)

SAMPLE ADVERTISEMENT to put in your neighborhood or school list-serve:

> CHURCH YARD SALE, Saturday, May 13, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Bethesda United Methodist Church, 8300 Old Georgetown Road (Corner of Huntington Parkway and Old Georgetown Road). Come buy wonderful second-hand treasures in the categories of jewelry, toys, games, books, vases, kitchen wares, tools, sportsequipment, electronics, videos, computer games, artwork, clothing, shoes, small furniture, Christmas treasures and linens. Proceeds will go to justice-oriented outreach ministries at BUMC. http://washmorefeet.org

Please contact Janet Edmonds to volunteer, j.edmonds@erols.com.

Church Works

How is God Calling You?

Have you ever wondered what it takes to run a church? A church is the body of Christ here on earth and lay people are the heart of that body! Lay people serve on committees and on our Church Council to run our church and church programs. Lay people work alongside our staff to create and oversee our budget, manage and maintain our physical infrastructure, enhance and plan our weekly and seasonal worship activities, provide human resources and staff support, plan and develop educational and Sunday School activities, and create and administer our outreach programs which allow us to serve out into our community and world.

Every year we look for volunteers to fill the needs of our committees and Church Council. We'd like you to discern where you see yourself serving here at BUMC. Do you have a background in accounting, billing, bookkeeping or finance? Perhaps you might consider being on our Finance Committee. Do you work in project management or have a background in human resources? Perhaps you might consider being on the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC). Do you have a background in construction or maintenance, or just want to see our church property looking its best? Consider volunteering to serve on Trustees. Do you have children or youth and want to help to guide their spiritual growth and exploration? How about volunteering for our Education Committee positions? Do you love music, art or the seasons of worship? Consider being a volunteer on the Worship Committee.

We currently have needs on Trustees and Lay Leadership for the upcoming term, as well as openings for an Annual Conference Delegate and a Vice Chair for our Church Council. Please prayerfully consider how God might be calling you to serve this year and feel free to reach out to us or any of our current leaders listed below.

Lay Leadership Committee co-chair: Debbie Reed-Gillette

Lay Leader: Karen Fratantoni

Our Church Council

Co-Chairs:
Lynn Ricciardella
Pat Kirwan

Secretary: Bill Allman
Treasurer: John Borchert

Lay Leader: Karen Fratantoni
AC Delegate: Karen Fratantoni

Worship Reps:
Bill Allman
Cindy Osnos

Connect Rep:
Mary Ann Toomey
Rebecca Conley

Grow Rep:
Janine Gregory
Lisa Nevans-Locke

Serve Rep:
Shannon Snypp
Susan Bender

Youth Rep: Open
Young Adult Rep: Grace Gyanagawa

Trustees Chair: Jamie Hays
SPRC Chair: John Euler
Finance Chair: Bob Gillette
Stewardship Rep: Mike Moran

Mission and Advocacy

Gun Violence Prevention

Gun violence continues to plague our nation – at Michigan State University, in Mississippi, in Nashville, and Washington, DC. According to Shane Claiborne, president of Red Letter Christians, "We live in a scary world – hate crimes, bullying, sexual assault. But the promise of Scripture is that 'perfect love drives out fear' (1 John 4:18) ....Grace has the power to dull even the sharpest sword. There is something in the world that is more powerful than fear: love." – from *Beating Guns: Hope for People Who are Weary of Violence*, by Shane Claiborne and Michael Martin.

What else can we do?

- Provide love and understanding to those who are dealing with injury or trauma from gun violence. Support the Tra-Ron Center in Washington, DC for young trauma victims.
- Speak out – Are you a doctor or EMT? Law enforcement? Social worker? Teacher? Lift your voice and speak out about gun violence and its consequences.
- Write or email a letter to the editor on the issue and share with your friends and family.

Delegation from our church attending our annual conference's National Lobby Day

Three small children killed, their school director, custodian and a teacher- 6 deaths. Yet another school shooting, this one in Tennessee. Lord, have mercy on us. Pray that we may learn to live together in peace, pray for the grieving families, pray for the young classmates who will live with the trauma, pray for our leaders to reach a balance of rights with responsibilities. To combine prayer with action, consider calling your Congressman and Senators.

BUMC has an opportunity to help TraRon kids go to camp this summer at our own West River UMC Camp. We've long supported TraRon, a DC non-profit which helps children traumatized by gun violence by providing after school and summer programs and related therapy. Rev. Jenna Johnson, assistant director at West River Camp is enthusiastic about working with TraRon founder Ryane Nickens to tailor an overnight camp opportunity for four nights for 20 TraRon kids this summer. TraRon kids could benefit from an experience like this to help change the trajectory of their lives away from violence and toward agape love. Let's help fund getting the kids there.

Online Giving: Go to our online giving portal at washmorefeet.org/give and use the "Miscellaneous Outreach" box

Check: Make a check payable to Bethesda UMC with TraRon Camp on the memo line. Send to:

Bethesda UMC
8300 Old Georgetown Rd.
Bethesda, MD 20814

Mission Monday

Our next Mission Monday will be Monday, April 3. We will collect meat and cheese sandwiches and trail mix for Martha's Table and non-perishable foods for Bethesda Help in the Huntington Parkway lot between 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. We hope you will help with our food collections that morning!

We will celebrate BUMC's 40 years of collecting sandwiches for Martha's Table on Sunday, May, 7 during the worship Service! More details will follow in the next few weeks.

Bethesda Help specifically requests donations of:

- Spaghetti Sauce (not tomato sauce please) - plastic jars or canned
- Tuna
- Peanut butter
- 1 lb bags of rice
- Healthy Cereal

Email Campaign: Moses African Cemetery

During worship on Sunday, March 19, we asked those in attendance to copy the text of the letter below to emails sent to Montgomery County officials in order to stop the desecration of the Moses African Cemetery, located on River Road. This campaign is ongoing. If you have not already, please take a moment to send this letter to the officials listed at the bottom of the page.

Dear Elected Officials and Public Agency Leaders of Montgomery County:

As a member of Bethesda United Methodist Church at 8300 Old Georgetown Rd, I urge you to meet with the Bethesda African Cemetery Coalition (BACC) and negotiate with them to stop the desecration and ultimately create a museum and memorial as a lasting tribute to the Moses African Cemetery. Located in a triangular area bounded by River Road, Little Falls Parkway, and Westbard Avenue, the cemetery is the burial ground of enslaved African Americans and subsequent generations.

In 2021, Circuit Court Judge Karla Smith issued an injunction halting the sale by the county's Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) of Westwood Towers and the surrounding land. The HOC appealed her decision in the summer of 2022. Meanwhile, the construction in this corridor continues unabated, threatening the erasure of history and the complete desecration of the Moses African Cemetery. To stop the desecration, we call on the HOC to negotiate with the BACC with the aim of establishing a museum and a memorial on the land near Westwood Towers.

access this text on our website

You have an opportunity to exert real leadership and demonstrate a commitment to racial and restorative justice. If you meet with the BACC and negotiate a solution that includes a memorial and museum, you will preserve history and provide invaluable educational opportunities for future generations. Future atrocities can only be avoided if we remember and teach.

Imagine all the field trips that school classes could take to a memorial located at the Moses African Cemetery. Imagine the lectures that could be given by descendants of the original African American community.

Instead of sanctifying sacred ground, the County has dismissed the community and its ancestors. Dr. Michael Blakey, a renowned anthropologist, advised County Executive Marc Elrich to stop the excavation of Moses Cemetery and return unearthed bones, primarily believed to be of enslaved children, to the descendant community. Mr. Elrich has not followed this advice, nor did he report the finding of potential human remains to the police. I insist that the county must follow proper anthropological procedures including returning the remains and funerary objects to the descendant community, now!

If the leadership of Montgomery County shirks its responsibility to preserve Moses Cemetery, it would be a most shameful action that would lead to the erasure of one more African American cemetery and local African American history in Bethesda.

The time to act is now. Any further delay risks permanent damage. Montgomery County has a reputation as a progressive and inclusive place. This status is endangered if our leadership allows desecration of cemeteries and continues using taxpayer dollars to support the HOC's appeal. We ask you to uphold our best values and act now to preserve the Moses Cemetery.

Here are the officials to which your letter should be sent and their email addresses. You can send your letter to all the recipients in one email since the letter is addressed to elected officials and public agency leaders:

- General Counsel Aisha Memon, Housing Opportunities Commission: aisha.memon@hocmc.org
- For all members of the County Council, you can send just one email: county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov
- County Executive Marc Elrich, email Deborah Spielberg, Special Assistant to the County Executive: deborah.spielberg@montgomerycountymd.gov
- Fagan Harris, Governor Wes Moore's Chief of Staff: fagan.harris@maryland.gov

Bethesda Bells

Ten of our Bethesda Bells ringers attended the annual Area III Ocean City Hand Bell Festival in Ocean City, MD on March 17-18: Tiia Karlen, Sue O'Hara, Dave Moyer, Jill Larson, Riley Williams, Nancy Gauthier, Janet Tyson, Mike Moran, Darlene Forte and their director, Gail Williams. They joined 16 other handbell choirs (approximately 200 ringers) from Delaware, Maryland, Washington D.C., Virginia and North Carolina at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center.

The conductor for the event was David M. Harris, conductor of the Raleigh Ringers, an internationally acclaimed handbell choir based in Raleigh, North Carolina.

There were approximately 6 ½ hours of rehearsals and 2 hours of class time throughout the weekend. All this effort culminated in a 5:00 p.m. concert on Saturday night with all 200 ringers performing Calypso on "He Leadeth Me" arranged by Tammy Waldrop, Eternal by Jason Krug, Grazioso by Arnold Sherman and Jubilation Fanfare by Sandra Eithun.

A bit of history: Bethesda Bells has been attending Area III each March since 2009. This trip was Bethesda Bells first year back since March 2019. They were very happy to return!

Disaffiliation and the Status of the UMC

The United Methodist Church faces increasing divisions over human sexuality among centrist, progressive and conservative constituencies. One major point of disagreement is related to the reality of irreconcilable differences in theology, biblical interpretation and disciplinary practices of homosexuality - the ordination and marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals. As a response, 16 United Methodist leaders negotiated the "Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation" in December 2019. The Protocol committed $25 million to create a new conservative "traditionalist" Methodist denomination.

However, the General Conference originally scheduled to take place in 2020 to approve the Protocol was postponed to 2024 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Now the General Conference will happen on April 23 – May 3, 2024, in Charlotte, NC. Until that time, congregations wishing to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church must comply with the process defined in the Book of Discipline (BOD) ¶ 2553. Under the BOD ¶ 2553, congregations and clergy who disagree with the denomination's stance on the above issues can leave the church while retaining their property and assets if they meet the requirements. I will delineate the details of the requirements later.

As a result, some congregations and individual clergy have chosen to leave the United Methodist Church and affiliate with other denominations or form new ones. For example, the Global Methodist Church (GMC) is a proposed new denomination formed by a group of conservative United Methodists who are opposed to the direction the United Methodist Church has taken on issues related to human sexuality and the interpretation of scripture. The proposed Global Methodist Church officially launched its church on May 1, 2022. The GMC has a conservative theological orientation and adheres to traditional scripture and church doctrine interpretations.

In December 2021, a liberal group within UMC formally declared the formation of the Liberation Methodist Connexion (LMX) as a denomination. The LMX seeks to prioritize social justice, anti-racism, and inclusivity in the practice of Christianity. The LMX is still in its early stages, and they will negotiate for financial support during the General Conference in 2024 such as the traditionalists received in the Protocol.

A United Methodist News Review found that annual conferences so far have approved the disaffiliations of 2,036 churches.

It is unclear at this time how many congregations or clergy will choose to leave or what the long-term impact will be on the United Methodist Church. However, a United Methodist News Review found that annual conferences so far have approved the disaffiliations of 2,036 churches.

The provisions of BOD paragraph 2553 expire at the end of 2023, and they shall not be used after that date. (BOD ¶ 2553.2) The summary of specific provisions are; 1) a decision to disaffiliate by a two-thirds majority of the professing members present at a church conference (not charge Conference, ¶ 2553.3); 2) the payment in full of two years of that congregation's apportionment commitment as set by the Conference (BOD ¶ 2553.4.b); 3) the payment in full of the congregation's pro-rata share of the Conference's pension liability, based on a formula approved by the Annual Conference (BOD ¶ 2553.4.c). However, each annual Conference can develop additional standard terms. In the case of the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference, if a church disaffiliates from the UMC, it requires that half of the valuation of a church's building be included in the cost of disaffiliation.; 4) The local church shall satisfy all other debts, loans, and liabilities or assign and transfer them to its new entity before disaffiliation (BOD ¶ 2553. 4. e). All the payments shall occur before the effective date of departure.

On March 20, Bishop LaTrelle Easterling of the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference informed us that 38 churches had sued the Conference among 85 churches in the process of disaffiliation, demanding immediate separation from The United Methodist Church. These congregations have refused to follow the procedure of disaffiliation under BOD ¶ 2553 and chose to file this lawsuit instead. According to Bishop Easterling, their lawsuit is "an attempt to undermine the core of the connectional commitments all churches and conferences in our denomination have to one another. And it is outside the bounds of established church law, doctrine, and theology. We ask that any groups involved in the disaffiliation process uphold the obligations and responsibilities set forth in paragraph 2553 and the BWC disaffiliation policy, which were established pursuant to the General Conference in 2019."

By the way, according to the Lewis Center for Church Leadership, disaffiliating churches are more likely to have a male pastor, overwhelmingly have a majority white membership, and are overwhelmingly located in U.S. South and Southwest. In April 2024, delegates from Africa, Europe, Asia, and the U.S. will attend the 11-day General Conference gathering, which is expected to attract between 5,500-7,500 people. It will be another historical moment of Methodism when we affirm the official split of the United Methodist Church as we have known it since 1968.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Rev. HiRho at hrpark@washmorefeet.org.

- Rev. HiRho, Lead Pastor

Children's Ministries

Easter Egg Hunt!

Our Easter egg hunt will take place on Easter morning, Sunday April 9, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in Greenwich park. All kids 5th grade and under are invited to participate. Please bring a bag to empty candy and prizes into. We will collect the plastic eggs at the end to use next year.

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

Children's Sunday School continues at BUMC. We continue our younger class for grades PreK - Grade 2 that meets upstairs in Room 102. Our older class for Grades 3 - 5 meets downstairs in the Chapel room (across from the youth room).

11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

Let's WORSHIP Acolytes & Readers: We invite children to serve as acolytes and read scripture during our 11:00 a.m. Sunday morning worship services. Please email Kara Peace (Kpeace@washmorefeet.org) if your child would like to be included on our team of acolytes and/or our team of scripture readers. Kara is happy to work with children to help them prepare for each type of worship ministry plus we have online training that is simple and quick. We love having children be a part of our BUMC worship experience!

Kids With Purpose (KWP), our program for preschoolers – third graders that is held during the service. During the month of April Kids With Purpose will be showing our compassion to animals. We will make catnip toys and dog treats for the animal shelter. The kids will make bird feeders to take home and watch to remind them of God's love for animals.

Children who would like to participate sit with their families at the beginning of worship and head to KWP in Room 104 after the Children's Message. They return to the service before offering.

Volunteers needed! We are looking for adult leaders and youth helpers for KWP! Volunteering is a great way to serve our community and be a part of children's ministry. Little-to-no preparation is involved; lesson plans and supplies are provided. Contact Dennis Williams (dennis@washmorefeet.org) to sign up or learn more.

Nursery: Did you know we have nursery care each Sunday during 10:00 a.m. Sunday School and 11:00 a.m. Worship? Our Nursery has been a longstanding service at BUMC. If you would like your littles to receive care during the service or if you would like a calm place to step away from the service with them, come on by!

VBS This Summer: Hero Hotline!

Mark your calendars and plan to join us June 19 - 23 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. as we join the Hero Hotline where we are called together to serve God at Vacation Bible School!

Our Hero Hotline will include exciting new music and dancing, amazing science and crafts, fun recreation and memorable Bible stories that will encourage children to turn to God for all they need and join God in providing for the needs of others.

<= Registration: VBS is open to all children ages 4 through rising 5th graders. Registration runs until April 30. Please sign up ASAP!

Youth Ministries

Join us this month for a variety of events and activities with BUMC Youth Ministries. More detailed information can be found in our weekly emails as well as the "band" group. Email Kpeace@washmorefeet to join our group messaging app for all the latest updates.

Youth are not just the future church, youth are the church now!

There are many ways you can participate in the 11:00 a.m. worship service at BUMC. Each week youth can participate through scripture reading, prayer reading, acolyting, technology volunteering, liturgical dance, playing an instrument including any band or orchestra instrument, and more. Would you like to lead us in prayer or scripture? What about helping us remember that Christ comes into worship with us and goes out with us into the world? That's what it means to be an acolyte!

Is working with children something you are more interested in? **What if you become a Kids with Purpose volunteer?** You could work with children during the service and help them with their variety of amazing community service projects. If you have any questions email kpeace@washmorefeet.org.

Youth Sunday School

Meet us Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the youth room! Youth Sunday School is unlike any other! First, we get to spend time socializing, or playing ping pong or pool. Next, we talk about our weeks and catch up. To finish, we will participate in our topical devotion time that will typically consist of scripture reading, a brief explanation from the devotion leader, and discussion questions.

Youth Sunday School Calendar

April 2: Sunday Social with light breakfast
April 9: NO Sunday School (Easter)
April 16: Sunday School
April 23: Sunday School
April 30: Sunday School

United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF)

6:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted

Join us for our variety of events this month as we strive to connect, serve and grow together. Each month we connect with a fellowship active, we serve with a service project and we grow with a faith formation night.

April 2: Connect - Easter Party in Greenwich Park with dinner
April 9: 9:00 a.m. Hide Eggs for the children's Easter Egg Hunt, No UMYF
April 16: GROW (Faith Formation) Youth Room
April 23: No UMYF
April 30: SERVE (service project) Youth Room

Youth celebrating 109 years of ministry at BUMC!

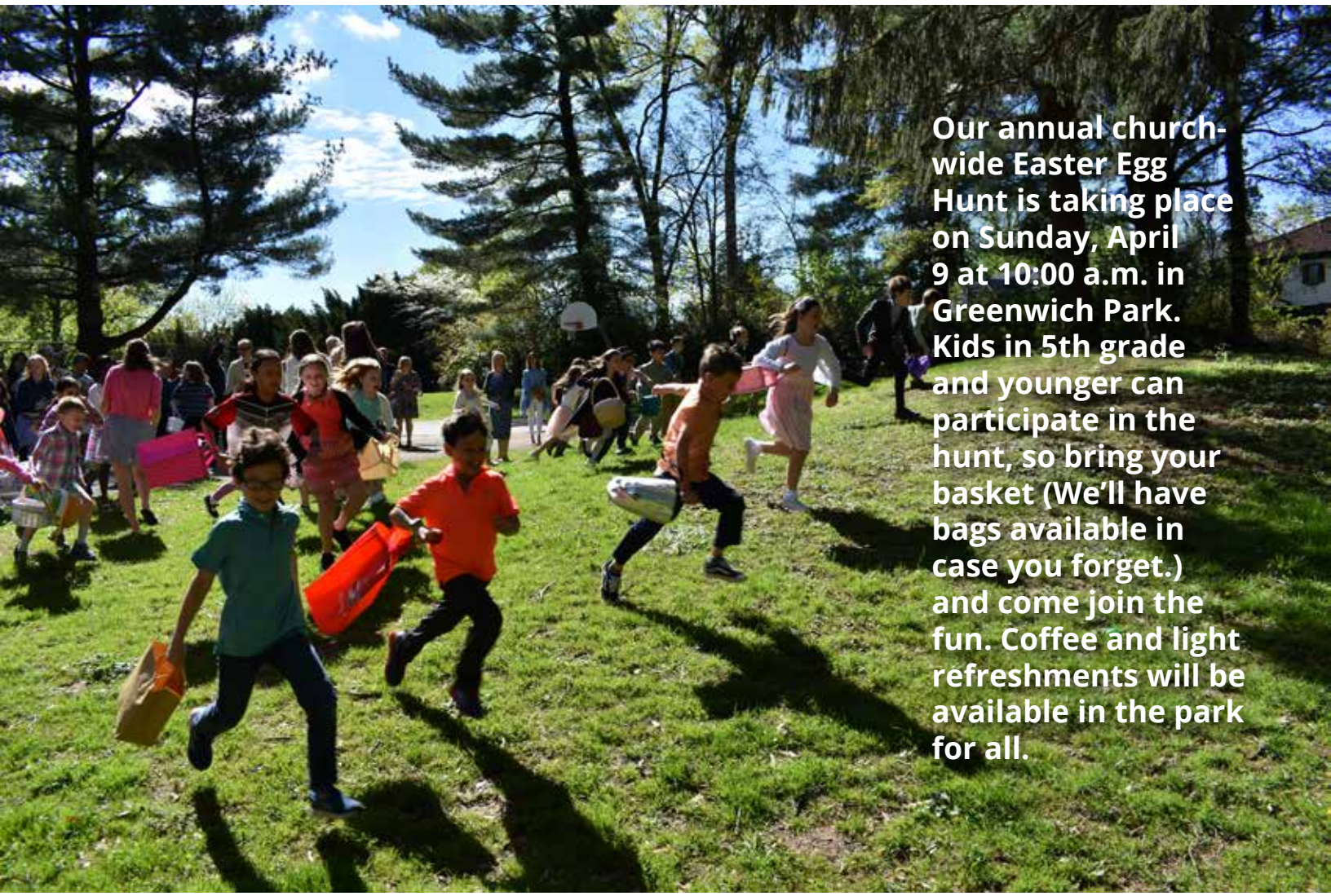
Visit Heifer Global Village

This summer, **Kids With Purpose** again will be raising money to support Heifer International, an organization that seeks to raise families out of poverty. Join us on Saturday, April 29 as we take a hike through the woods on a guided walking tour of model houses representing impoverished communities around the world where Heifer works. Learn about other cultures and the stories of children in these areas. Located in Sharpsburg, MD (about 1 hour, 20-minute drive from church), the Village is one of only three Heifer learning centers in the world. Bring a picnic blanket and lunch to enjoy a meal together before the tour starts at 1:00 p.m.

When: Saturday, April 29; 12:15 p.m. picnic lunch; 1-2:30 p.m. walking tour and educational activity

Cost: $12 per person

RSVP: Registration is needed by Thursday, April 13. RSVP to Kara Peace (kpeace@washmorefeet.org)

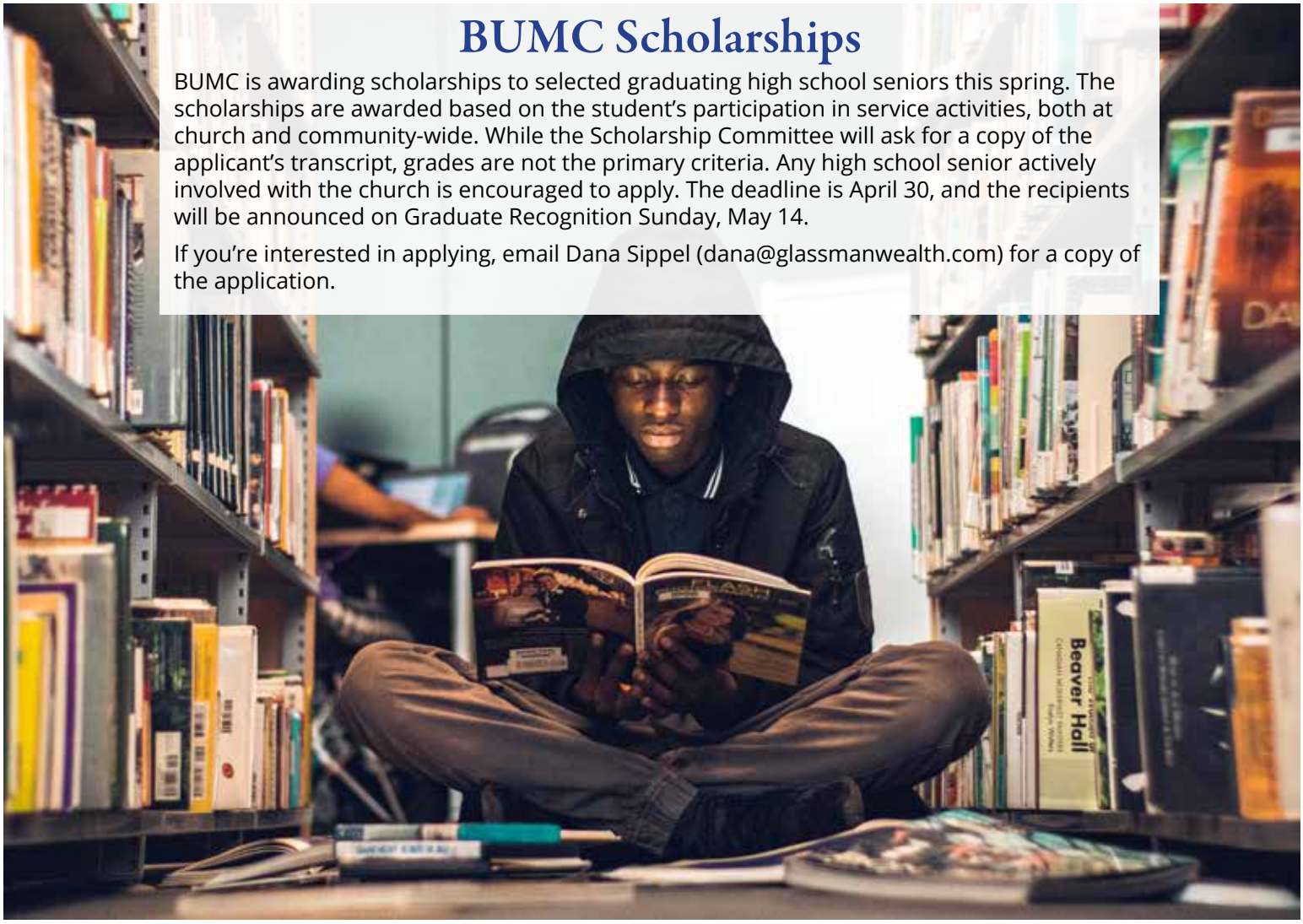


Announcing

BUMC Scholarships

BUMC is awarding scholarships to selected graduating high school seniors this spring. The scholarships are awarded based on the student's participation in service activities, both at 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 actively involved with the church is encouraged to apply. The deadline is April 30, and the recipients will be announced on Graduate Recognition Sunday, May 14.

If you're interested in applying, email Dana Sippel (dana@glassmanwealth.com) for a copy of the application.



Young Adults

Join us for a fun Saturday night on April 21 where we will enjoy pizza and play board games. You bring the games, drinks, and desserts; we will provide the pizza and the place.

When: April 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Where: the Community Room at 7710 Woodmont Ave.

Shred Event & Food Drive

Bring any documents that need to be securely disposed of to a free drive-through shred event (no folders or binders) at BUMC on Saturday, April 29, 9:00 a.m. - noon. BUMC member and local realtor Lisa Clarke is sponsoring the event and all are welcome. Lisa is also collecting non-perishable food donations for Nourish Now.

Supporting Migrants

Of the 12,000 migrants who have been bussed to the DC area this past year, about 1,000 are staying in our area longer term. As a part of Good Deeds Week, the Migrants Assistance Partnership, in conjunction with Bare Necessities Foundation, Inc, is supporting newcomers who are setting up new apartments with "Welcome Home Bags," filled with essential, full-sized home items (detergent, shampoo, feminine supplies, soap, etc). If you would like to donate items, please use the Amazon Wish List at this link. =>

At checkout, when choosing a shipping address, please check "Karen C Shilling" under "other addresses."

April 2023

BUMC Calendar

Apr 2023 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 5th Sunday in Lent New Members' 9:30am - Children's Choir 9:45am - PTR Class @	27 7:30pm - Bethesda Bells 7:30pm - Online Lenten	28 10am - Staff Meeting (in- 7pm - Capital Carillon @ 7:30pm - Lenten Small 7:30pm - Online Lenten	29 BUMC Joins On 7pm - Troop 204 @ 7pm - Troop 204 Parents 7:30pm - Men's Lenten	30 12pm - Lenten Meditation 6:30pm - Praise Band @ 8pm - Sanctuary Choir @	31 7pm - Lenten Small Group	1 Fasting Prayer
2 Palm Sunday 9:30am - Children's Choir 9:45am - PTR Class @ 10am - Sunday School 11am - Blended Worship	3 8:30am - Mission Monday 7:30pm - Bethesda Bells 7:30pm - Online Lenten	4 10am - Staff Meeting (in- 7pm - Capital Carillon @ 7:30pm - Lenten Small 7:30pm - Online Lenten	5 12pm - Lenten Prayer 7pm - Troop 204 @ 7pm - Troop 204 Parents 7:30pm - Men's Lenten	6 Maundy Thursday 12pm - Lenten Meditation 7pm - Worship @	7 Good Friday 7pm - Tenebrae Service	8
9 Easter Sunday 6:30am - Easter Sunrise 7:15am - Easter 10am - Easter Egg Hunt 11am - Easter Sunday	10 Easter Monday - Office 7:30pm - Bethesda Bells	11 7pm - Capital Carillon @	12 6:30pm - SPRC Meeting 7pm - Troop 204 @ 7pm - Troop 204 Parents 7pm - Trustees Meeting 7:30pm - Women's Book	13 6:30pm - Praise Band @ 8pm - Sanctuary Choir @	14	15 Eagle Scout Project @
16 9:30am - Children's Choir 9:45am - PTR Class @ 10am - Sunday School 11am - Blended Worship 6pm - United Methodist	17 7:30pm - Bethesda Bells	18 10am - Staff Meeting (in- 7pm - Capital Carillon @ 7:30pm - Online Bible	19 12pm - Taizé Prayer 7pm - Troop 204 @ 7pm - Troop 204 Parents 7:30pm - Church Council	20 12pm - Meditation 6:30pm - Praise Band @ 8pm - Sanctuary Choir @	21	22
23 9:30am - Children's Choir 9:45am - PTR Class @ 10am - Sunday School 11am - Blended Worship 6pm - United Methodist	24 7:30pm - Bethesda Bells	25 10am - Staff Meeting (in- 7pm - Capital Carillon @ 7:30pm - Online Bible	26 12pm - Taizé Prayer 6:30pm - Women's 7pm - Troop 204 @ 7pm - Troop 204 Parents	27 12pm - Meditation 6:30pm - Praise Band @ 8pm - Sanctuary Choir @	28	29 9am - Community Shed 12:15pm - Children's
30 9:30am - Children's Choir 9:45am - PTR Class @ 10am - Sunday School 11am - Blended Worship 6pm - United Methodist	1 7:30pm - Bethesda Bells	2 10am - Staff Meeting (in- 7pm - Capital Carillon @ 7:30pm - Online Bible	3 12pm - Taizé Prayer 7pm - Troop 204 @ 7pm - Troop 204 Parents	4 12pm - Meditation 6:30pm - Praise Band @ 7:30pm - Outreach & 8pm - Sanctuary Choir @	5	6 Fasting Prayer

the Messenger

Bethesda United Methodist Church
8300 Old Georgetown Road Bethesda, MD
20814

301-652-2990
Bethesdaumc@washmorefeet.org
www.washmorefeet.org
@BethesdaMDUMC

Contact Us

www.washmorefeet.org

301-652-2990

Lead Pastor: Rev. Dr. HiRho Park

hrpark@washmorefeet.org

Minister of Worship & Justice: Dr. Shaw Brewer

shaw@washmorefeet.org

Music Ministry

Chris Warrington (Director): chris@washmorefeet.org
Max Nolin (Choir Conductor): max@washmorefeet.org
Gail Williams (Bethesda Bells): gail@washmorefeet.org

Director of Student and Children's Ministries
Kara Peace: kpeace@washmorefeet.org

Assistant Director for Children's Ministries
Dennis Williams: dennis@washmorefeet.org

Communications

Steven Martin: communications@washmorefeet.org

Office Manager

Kris Hoxha: kris@washmorefeet.org