

THE GOOD NEWS

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | JUNE 2021



On Sunday, May 23rd, about 15 people showed up at 9 a.m. to set up for our first face-to-face worship gathering in 15 months. It was chaos. It was a lot. It was beautiful. It was a movement of the Holy Spirit. After

worship was over, people sprang into action to clear chairs and tents and tables and altars and flowers and sound equipment and video equipment and a piano and bells and music stands. Again, it was chaos. It was a lot. And it was beautiful.

It was in many ways shared ministry at its finest. We worked together to make something happen. We were partners who brought the parts and pieces of worship together to honor God.

Was it flawless? Nope.

But it was beautiful.

We have been living into a season of being the church where everything feels more than a little bit complicated. More precisely, everything feels HARD. But somehow Sunday didn't feel quite so hard. It felt like a revelation.

In a discussion recently about a specific ministry of the church, a colleague asked if the leadership and volunteers thought in terms of being partners in ministry with those who participated. Let

me clear that up a bit. We often think about ministries of the church in terms of who will "receive" the work of the ministry or who will participate. But to be partners in ministry is something entirely different.

In so many ways, this past year has been about forging new ways to be the church together. And as I reflect on that discussion and reflect on things that are happening at Faith, I am aware that there are places where we have quite naturally fallen into new partnerships in ministry.

Let's think about small groups. Some groups have a designated leader, others have rotating leadership. Some meet weekly, some have chosen a different frequency. Some stick closely to the book and some venture further afield. There are conversations about resources and check-ins for support. But the groups operate as small bundles of partnership to make ministry happen.

Or what about our congregational care team? A group of folks gather and share information and resources and ideas about making sure those who are sick or mourning or lonely or going through a tough season hear from someone who cares. Is it perfect? Nope. Do we reach everybody. Nope. But it feels like a partnership rather than a service – recipient relationship.



The choir is a ministry partnership. Folks invest practice time, learn new skills, grow in relationship to one another. In the season of COVID restrictions, folks have taken on learning new skills, flexing new muscles.

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PASTOR LAURA

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As we begin to think about how we will emerge from a season of separation, I hope we'll keep thinking about how to be partners in ministry. How is this true for our youth ministry? Our family ministry? Our worship? Our efforts to serve? Our finance ministry? Our building? Our Christian education offerings? How will we partner with one another to be the church that is becoming right here at 6810 Montrose Road?

Beloved, it has been a hard season, but you are doing so much to care for one another. The world needs this church so. Let's partner with our community to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, while also seeking to invite others who need a place to belong in community, become a follower of Christ, and believe the Good News of the Gospel.

May it be so.

Amen.

Pastor Laura

OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE



Join us for Faith's next outdoor service scheduled for Sunday, June 6th at 10:00 a.m. At this worship service, we will recognize all of our graduates and celebrate communion! We will have live music! The Bell Choir and Bob Holder will add their talents to our worship service again! We will be outside, we will social distance, and we will gather to praise God! May 23rd, the Pentecost outdoor service was attended by over 60 people!

Following the CDC, state of Maryland and Montgomery County guidelines, the re-entry task force has determined that we will worship outdoors on the **first and third Sundays of each month** in June. Attendees need to pre-register!

The Details

We seek to care for one another well and do no harm as a first priority. At this time, there is still no vaccine available for the children of Faith and some either cannot receive the vaccination or are not fully protected by the vaccination due to other health concerns. We will care for one another by:

- wearing masks
- practicing social distancing
- listening to music and not singing
- pre-registering online each week
- entering a covenant to care for the safety of all

There is an option to remain in your car if that feels more comfortable. Please indicate that intention when you register. Attendees are asked to bring their own chairs if able. (We will have chairs available for visitors and others who need them!)

[JUNE 6TH: PRE-REGISTER FOR OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE](#)

CHURCH CONFERENCE TO VOTE ON RECONCILING STATEMENT SUNDAY, JUNE 13TH AT 11:15 A.M.

On Sunday, June 13th, at 11:15 a.m., Faith Church will hold a church conference to vote on two questions:

- 1) Whether Faith Church adopts the Reconciling Statement proposed by the Love One Another Ministry; and
- 2) Whether Faith Church will become affiliated with the Reconciling Ministries Network.

The Reconciling Statement was drafted by the Love One Another Ministry, and was presented to the Church Council at its May 19th meeting. The Council voted to submit the two questions to a vote of the full church on June 13th. Several church-wide meetings have been held to explain the impact of the vote, and to answer questions. The full Statement is in the box to the right.

This church conference will be open to all professing members of the congregation, and all professing members in attendance can vote. Professing members include all people who have come into membership by profession of faith or by transfer from other churches. Attendees at the meeting constitute a quorum. No proxy votes will be taken. Although votes at a church conference are normally by a simple majority, the Reconciling Ministries Network requires that a decision to join the Network be supported by 75% of the vote by a congregation. Therefore, unless the questions are approved by a 75% vote, Faith will not become a member of the Network.

The meeting will be held online through ZOOM. Members can attend through the ZOOM application, or by telephone. **All attendees must pre-register for this meeting (refer to page 4) and will be asked to identify themselves so church membership can be verified.**

FAITH UMC RECONCILING STATEMENT

We are Faith United Methodist Church in Rockville, Maryland. We affirm that God created all of humankind in God's image and we aspire to be a church where all people are loved and accepted as beloved children of God. We believe the mission of The United Methodist Church -- to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world -- and the great commandment to love God and neighbor are incompatible with exclusion of any persons from the full breadth of ministry.

We celebrate God's gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed.

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CHURCH CONFERENCE TO VOTE ON RECONCILING STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

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Voting at the meeting will be carried out in two ways:

- 1) Attendees using ZOOM will vote using a Google form, which will require accessing a web browser while using ZOOM.
- 2) Persons accessing the meeting by telephone, or who cannot access the Google form, can vote by calling the church office, where persons answering the phones will ask for the voter's name (to verify that the voter attended the meeting and is a professing member), and will tally the voter's votes on each question.

Votes will be taken during the meeting itself, and no late votes or votes by non-attendees will be counted. Sufficient time will be provided for all attendees to vote by one of the two methods, and meeting leaders will provide ample warning before the time to vote is closed. The vote count will be monitored and tallied by a team of church leaders and will be announced at the end of the meeting. Individual votes will not be published or reported.

All Faith members are urged to participate and make their voices heard on this important decision.

Church Council

ZOOM INVITATION TO PRE-REGISTER FOR CHURCH CONFERENCE!

Using the information below, register your household/family. If you have multiple members attending the church conference and you will be using the same computer/ipad/laptop, you only need to register one person and respond to the questions appropriately. After you have registered successfully, you will receive the Zoom credentials for the church conference.

IF you do not have or use a digital device (computer, etc.), please call the office (301-881-1881) to pre-register for the church conference.



Register in advance for this meeting:

[Click here to pre-register](#)

NEW SMALL GROUP FORMING



Some of the folks in our Simon Peter study have decided they'd like to continue gathering on Zoom as a new small group! Leadership will be shared by those who are comfortable leading. We will be studying Adam Hamilton's "Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet." Start date is still to be determined. We will be gathering on Wednesdays at 7:00pm. If you're interested in joining this group, please contact Gina Dawson at gdawson@faithworkshere.com.

100 CLEANING BUCKETS FILLED!



AFFORDABLE HOUSING



Reverend Adrienne Terry

On the occasion of Mother's Day (also known as The Festival of the Christian Home), we were asked by our District Superintendent to consider a

special offering appeal to support the *Adrienne Terry Affordable Housing Fund*.

The Rev. Adrienne Terry was a founding leader of what became known as InspireDC's Affordable Housing Coalition (AHC). Her vast experience with affordable housing—including her efforts to stop the displacement of hundreds of residents in SW—was instrumental in catalyzing this effort.

Rev. Terry's sudden death on June 25, 2016 was a significant blow as AHC leaders and friends grieved the loss of her bright light. It is the hope that this fund will honor her legacy.

The District Superintendent hoped that collectively all the churches in our Greater Washington district could raise \$10,000 in this special appeal to convert the uninhabited Hebron House at Jerusalem Mt. Pleasant UMC in Rockville (one of our "cluster" churches) into a home for a family in need of affordable housing. Faith raised \$285 through this appeal and the Outreach Team elected to add an additional \$500 from their undesignated budget fund. In total, **FUMC contributed \$785 to help ensure that one more family has a safe, decent and affordable place to call home.** Thanks for your support!

Friday, May 14th and Saturday, May 15th, over 45 volunteers prepared supplies, organized buckets and their contents, and assembled 100 blue buckets in the Memorial Garden! These buckets were donated to The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and will be stored in warehouses across the country. When disaster strikes, such as hurricanes, floods or tornados, UMC conferences can request assistance and the buckets are delivered quickly where needed.



Thanks to all the volunteers that helped count trash bags and handiwipes, filled buckets with a variety of cleaning supplies and snapped those pesky lids on the buckets! Thanks also to Jay Moore and Jan Spencer for assistance with shopping. Last week, Bob Fuller from St. Matthew's UMC in Bowie picked up the buckets using his church's box truck. St. Matthew's is a Mission Hub working with Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, PA and UMCOR to deliver and distribute these donations. Learn more about Mission Central here. <https://missioncentral.org/>

Carol Henley, Outreach Team

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR THIS SUMMER



As chair of the Outreach Team, I wanted to take a moment and share with you some of the various ways we have been working in the communities surrounding our church. Many of these organizations need volunteers and hopefully, some may interest you.

When you are out and about, share with us what you have experienced maybe you helped a neighbor or a friend or even a stranger. Perhaps you have visited some of the places I have mentioned below. Email us at office@faithworkshere.com or call us at 301-881-1881. I wish everyone a safe and happy summer.

Nancy Kneisly

MCCH Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless: Since 1990, Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless (MCCH) has provided solutions to end homelessness in Montgomery County. What initially began with three paid staff operating a loose network of emergency shelters and soup kitchens has grown to over 150 employees operating ten programs that serve approximately 1,600 men, women, and children each year. They have many needs and areas that need volunteers, such as donating a meal or assisting someone to learn English. You can find them at mcch.net or 301-217-0314.

A Place to Call Home - a program of Mount Pleasant Methodist Church: Their vision is to provide safe, secure and stable housing. The task force is currently working on a third project to renovate Hebron House in Rockville, MD. They are requesting contributions as they seek to raise \$10,000. In the future there will be a need for volunteers to help with the actual renovations. Please visit the website address <https://impumc.org/>.

A Wider Circle: Their mission is to end poverty through a holistic approach that integrates on-the-ground services for the creation of stable homes, workforce development, and neighborhood revitalization. There are many ways to help them that can be done at home - for example, talking with someone on the phone or crocheting. They also need in-person volunteers at their center in Silver Spring. More information can be found at Awidercircle.org or 301-608-3504.

Interfaith Works is a non-profit that helps people living in Montgomery County who are homeless or living in poverty. They recently opened a clothing store on Twinbrook Parkway. You may want to volunteer sorting or hanging donated clothes. They also have a food pantry that requests volunteers to sort food and bag it for clients. Their contact information is iworks.org or 301-424-3796.

Jerusalem Mount Pleasant Methodist Church: I recommend learning more about their history beginning in 1834, as it helps us understand how our own faith and religion has transformed over the years. You can read their history on the Mount Pleasant's website at <https://impumc.org/>.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



Thank you.

Faith choir members
Andre Coleman, Marie Day, Tim Evans, Nancy Kuhn, Mike Newton, Jane Rall, Clyde Ragland, Sara Romeyn, Nancy Skinner, Andrew, Jan and Katie Spencer, Ellen Stanley,

Glenda Winters and Bob Wood have all contributed to our virtual choirs since March 2020. Nancy Kuhn and our Bells of Faith have emerged to ring together, when vaccines and time have made it possible to come together again. Julia and Will Evans contributed virtual solos and duets. Bob Holder anchors our music with his renowned keyboard (and pedal) virtuosity. We have recorded more than 130 hymns and canticles from our *United Methodist Hymnal* and a half dozen more from *The Faith We Sing*. And our church YouTube channel has a wealth of additional preludes, postludes, and special music to show that we continue to "Sing to the Lord a new song."

I have just sat through graduation rituals at Landon School, and the praise heaped on the Class of 2021 focused on their resilience, community-building, perseverance, openness, and service in the face of unprecedented challenges from COVID19, social justice reckonings, and on-line learning on the fly for both them and their teachers. We at Faith church have been all that, too. We have been resilient and transitioning to worship on-line in ways we invented as we went along. We continue to work to contribute to those less fortunate with targeted giving that benefits community organizations. We have explored ways to demonstrate that our worship, our music, and our Christianity can reflect and include the voices of those who do not look or sound like us.

Shortly after my arrival at Faith in 2009, Rev. Dr.

Kathryn Woodrow wondered how musicians who "gig" like me practice sabbath. I responded that my sabbath comes in a more macro chunk. Working at a school and with a civic children's chorus as well as at Faith has often meant one or more jobs is still going while another winds down. That has not been true for the past 15 months, where everything about teaching music and ensemble singing has become countless hours in front of a computer to create moments that used to happen in moments. So, I have made a conscious and deliberate effort to find pause in all things for the month of July to follow what Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell invites us to do every Sunday: take a deep breath.

We have a wonderful new digital piano that made its debut with our first in-person service May 23. That Yamaha Clavinova has real wooden keys that are weighted and in a complete 88-key pattern that

We have explored ways to demonstrate that our worship, our music, and our Christianity can reflect and include the voices of those who do not look or sound like us.

Bob and other gifted pianists can play just like the real thing. We have new skills and mindsets about worship, inclusiveness, and making music that will inform how we can reunite our in-person choirs and continue to work of worship in this place. And, we have the gift of time to see how continued vaccination rates shift in the coming weeks and how that impacts the timeline and protocols for how we return to being in person, in addition to a committed core of Faith members who have crafted guidelines for our community to come together while doing no harm.

I look forward to seeing you in person and soon. And, I appreciate the continued opportunity to serve.

Michael Wu

Celebrate Our 2021 Graduates!

We applaud the accomplishments of each of our graduates! Celebrating and marking milestones is more important than ever when times are difficult. Let us keep them in our prayers and thoughts as they step forward into the next part of their journey. *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”* Jeremiah 29:11



Nicole Beisner, daughter of Bill and Patti Beisner, graduated a semester early from The University of Maryland, Dec. 2020. She received her degree in Communications with a focus on digital media and visual communications. Her parents are extremely proud of her and can't wait to see what the future has in store for her.



Naomi Kathryn Lawrence, granddaughter of Linda Pickle and Jim Pearson, is graduating Magna Cum Laude from the University of South Carolina with a BA in Public Relations. She will pursue a Master's degree in PR/ Communications at USC starting in the fall.



Charles Clark, son of Steve and Tracy Clark, graduated from Thomas S. Wootton High School and is planning to work and attend community college.



Keenan Greenwood Machalek, son of Woody and Alisa Machalek, and grandson of Roberta and Roland Zapp, is graduating from Winston Churchill High School. He received a Governor's Merit Scholastic Award for earning a GPA in the top 5% of his graduating class. He has been accepted into the Honors College at the University of Maryland to study engineering in the fall.



Samantha Clark, daughter of Steve and Tracy Clark, graduated with Honors from Colorado State University with a Bachelors of Science in Animal Science. She is starting a Masters Program at CSU this Fall in Sustainable Agriculture.



Elizabeth "Libby" Spriggs, daughter of Bill and Debbie Spriggs, graduated from Parsons, the New School of Design, with a Bachelor's of Business Administration. She majored in Strategic Design and Management with a minor in Fashion Communications. Throughout her time at Parsons, Libby was on the Deans List all four years. This summer, she is working at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.



Billy Moore, son of Susan Costlow and Bill Moore, is graduating from Winston Churchill High School in June. He will be attending Towson University in the fall, where he will study Kinesiology and Exercise Science.

GATHERING AT FAITH UMC



After a year of navigating a global pandemic, we will begin testing new ways of being together while being safe, all the while maintaining access to worship and nurture and care for those not yet ready to be gathered outside of their home.

A team of congregational leaders has faithfully considered the guidance and mandates of health experts and local officials to craft re-entry guidelines. Their work has been guided by the first general rule of Methodism – do no harm. Those guidelines can [be accessed here](#).

As a result of the re-entry team’s hard work and the positive progress toward the vaccination of our wider community we are worshipping outdoors on the first and third Sundays of the month, weather permitting. On the alternating Sundays, we will continue to worship online for now. We will revisit the status of moving indoors to our sanctuary on an ongoing basis in coming weeks. This is complicated by the need and desire to be able to stream worship from the sanctuary when we re-enter, and because we are committed to sharing our building well with Mizo.

We welcome the return of leadership meetings, small groups and external organizations into the Faith building that will adhere to our re-entry guidelines. To read the full letter penned by Pastor Laura and disseminated to the Faith UMC congregants on May 21st, [please click here](#).

MAD SCIENCE CAMP IS PARTNERING WITH FAITH UMC

Faith UMC is excited to announce that Mad Science of D.C. will be offering several weekly camps at our facility this summer! Mad Science of D.C. offers kids full-day and half-day camp experiences for kids entering 1st-6th grade in Fall 2021 that are sure to entertain and delight! They will be wowed by green glowing liquid, messages written in secret code, autonomous robots, and mystery substances that change from solid to liquid in seconds. There's something for everyone!



As Faith UMC is partnering with Mad Science, they are offering a \$20 discount on registration fees for any children in our congregation who would like to participate in one of their summer camps. Each camp is one week from 9 a.m.—4 p.m. (1/2 day sessions are also available) and will be held in the Fellowship Hall at Faith. The camps will be staffed by Mad Science of D.C. staff.

Visit their website to learn more about their COVID precautions, exact camp dates and to explore their weekly camp themes at www.dc.madscience.org.

To register, please contact Valerie at vkunsman@faithworkshere.com. Slots are limited, so register today!

Baptism

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." ~Matthew 28:19-20

In baptism, we reject the power of sin and begin our journey as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Kayden Malik Henley, son of Kristina Burell and Joseph Henley, and grandson of Carol and Gordon Henley, was baptized Sunday, May 2nd, 2021 with family at the Chapel in the Woods. Faith UMC and the congregation welcomed Kayden into God's family and celebrated his baptism during the Sunday, May 9th online worship service.



WHAT ARE THOSE VANS DOING IN OUR PARKING LOT?



Several folks have inquired as to why we now have 2 vans parked in our parking lot, near Montrose Road. Here's the answer. The Diener school reached out to us in February of 2020 seeking a parking solution for the 2020/2021 school year. They asked if their staff could park in our back parking lot (M-F) and their vans could be parked all week long, when not shuttling staff to and from the school. The Trustees agreed to this arrangement for the 2020/2021 school year and a rental agreement was signed. When COVID hit and the school went virtual, the parking was no longer needed. Recently, they

asked again about renting space to park the vans and we agreed. Because of our outdoor worship in the back parking lot, they are parking the vans in the lot closer to Montrose Road.

June Birthdays



June 1	Ginger Gill, Alisa Machalek and Cameron Manning	June 20	Smith Keene
June 4	Bob Wood	June 21	Kathleen Moore and Gerry Tomlin
June 5	Stas Mitchell	June 22	Belinda Tilley
June 6	Howard Wickham	June 23	Ian Mullinax
June 7	Katie Spencer	June 25	Phil Dawson Griff Lindsay
June 9	William Kuhn	June 26	Chip Buel and Sarah Jones
June 11	Dave King	June 27	Melissa Lauber
June 14	Karen Simpson	June 28	Stephanie Bloom and Mark Napack
June 15	Lloydie Zaiser		
June 19	Janice Toney		



June 9	Robert & Ruth Eaton Dave & Kathy King
June 12	Roberta & Roland Zapp
June 14	Ann & Mike Coppersmith
June 16	Adam & Katie Brand Beth & Jerry Hillard
June 20	Bill & Rosemarie Cooper Joe & Paula MacCormack
June 23	Bob & Linda Bowles Ajit & Arvina Gadre
June 24	Athena & Nathan Springer
June 25	Brian Hahs & Kristen Wayne
June 28	Lesley & Ralph Avery
June 30	Nick Finamore & Drew Rosenzweig



We share in Christian love and sympathy the passing of Faith UMC member, Doug Dismukes, on Friday, May 7th. We ask that you continue to remember his wife, Carol and family in your prayers. Condolences to the family may be sent to the address below.

Ms. Carol Dismukes · 12212 Ambleside Dr. · Potomac, MD 20854