

# Contact

North Bethesda  
United Methodist Church

Lenten 2019  
Volume 48 Issue 2

## General Conference 2019 Decision



As we go to press, the outcome of the United Methodist Church General Conference and its affirmation of the discriminatory language in the UM Discipline is making headlines. The last few days are historic in the life of the United Methodist Church.

Unlike other US protestant denominations that support LGBTQIA+ clergy and marriage - the UCC, Presbyterians, Episcopalians and Evangelical Lutherans - the UMC is a world-wide church. Representatives from primarily Africa, Russia, and the Phillipines joined with conservative christian groups in the US to oppose change.

I know there is a lot of pain related to the decision to adopt the Traditional Plan for the church. God's love is not legislated. We are still here, loving, welcoming, encouraging, and accepting all of God's children. The challenges we face will need our prayers.

Meanwhile, our own church remains open and welcoming to all. We offer support to one another, always.

Do we know the full ramifications of this vote? No. There is more to come.

Pastor Jeff.

On February 23-26, a Special Session of the UMC General Conference (GC '19) was held in St. Louis, MO. The General Conference was conducted well and with graciousness that included much worship, prayer, and song. Over 850 delegates, representing the global United Methodist Church, voted on the Plans submitted by the Commission on the Way Forward. The plans were a Traditional Plan (TP), a One Church Plan (OCP), or the Simple Plan. These Plans addressed LGBTQIA+ rights within our denomination, including ordination of openly gay clergy and same sex marriage. Delegates also voted upon related Resolutions addressing financial, real property, and disaffiliation issues. Hundreds of non-voting volunteer observers attended to add their voices in support of the three plans as well as their support for their conference delegates.

The two Plans with the greatest support were the TP, which ultimately prevailed, and the OCP, endorsed by most of the UMC Bishops. From the first day of the proceedings, the Traditional Plan exhibited strong support. The TP passed by a vote of 438 - 384: 53% to almost 47%.

The One Church Plan did not receive a majority of votes to be sent out of Committee. However, it was considered by the full General Conference through a motion on the floor on the third and final day of the Conference. The OCP failed to receive a majority of votes.

Key argument of the Traditional Plan is that being gay is a matter of sexual ethics and accountability, and is not compatible with Christian teaching or lifestyle. The TP relies heavily on Bible references.

Key arguments for the One Church Plan for LGBTQIA+ supporters is that being gay is not a choice, but more of an immutable characteristic. Gay people deserve full, free, and open lifestyles like straight people. Most importantly, gay people love the United Methodist Church and want to become ordained clergy and marry in the Church. Gay people want to be accepted by the Church as people of sacred worth, beloved in God's eyes, as others are loved.

Amy Duroska

*God only knows  
God makes his plan  
The information's unavailable  
To the mortal man*

Paul Simon (Slip Slidin' Away Lyrics)  
© Universal Music Publishing  
Group



2 Karen Nogues  
5 Marvin Burt  
13 Michael Donigian  
15 Linda Thompson  
15 Allison Ghaman  
15 Diane Tabatabai  
20 Kwame Amoa-Awua  
28 Dinah Taylor  
29 A.J. Ow  
30 John Michael Replogle  
31 Jennifer Fellows



4 Kitty Johnson  
13 Beth Wason-Blair  
17 David Poole  
22 Daniel Blair  
24 Barbara St. Aubin  
24 Armin Tabatabai  
27 Jeffrey Colbert  
28 Virginia Nanzetta

If you have additions or corrections you can contact Diane Tabatabai at 301-983-6878 or [diane@linktech.org](mailto:diane@linktech.org)

## NBUMC Weekly Email

We now have a weekly email going out Friday afternoons with information about Sunday's service, current events and activities, timely notices, reminders of worship-service participants, and more. It goes to the NBUMCFlash mailing list. If you are not receiving a copy and would like to, please contact the Church Office or email [Ardoth@gmail.com](mailto:Ardoth@gmail.com)

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## HOT Letter

### Heat and Other Things

NBUMC is incurring numerous unexpected expenses. A cold winter means increased utility costs; our heating system has needed major repairs; snow requires removal; leaky pipes require fixing. Our parsonage property is vacant and not generating income. The church must cover its utilities and other expenses.

Pastor Jeff send a letter to our Church Family with a special appeal for contributions to help defray some of these expenses.

Please be generous. You may make a contribution, please mark it "HOT", by placing it in the offering baskets, sending it to the Church Office, or donating online.

Thank you!

## Preacher Feature



The Lenten season has always been a full and emotionally mixed bag of thoughts and feelings. I want to grow in my faith, the steps we take during Lent are to encourage us to be inspired to be more like Jesus. This is a big challenge. It's a lot like working on New Year's resolutions. You know you want to do better, but sometimes are not quite sure how to get there. We make big plans and within days, they have disappeared, overcome by the habits and practices we can't seem to break.

Lent is a chance to have God's Holy Spirit help in dealing with these challenges. The gathering, the study, the hearing of the Scriptures can add to the resources we need to make a difference. Knowing you are not alone in this pilgrimage may make it easier to grow in faith. I pray for you to find courage and commitment to be one of the pilgrims on a path to a deeper experience of God's love, and a determination to have more Christ like thoughts and actions in your day to day life.

If you haven't already signed up for a daily devotional in your inbox, I would urge you to consider one. The *Upper Room* can be sent to you. The *Upper Room Discipline*, based on the scriptures of the Common Lectionary is another. *Our Daily Bread* has one. *Sojourners* magazine offers daily thoughts and prayers. The *YouVersion* app can offer a devotional. You can Google devotions and find numerous possibilities. I'm enjoying the devotions of a one-year Bible using the *The Bible Project* as the source. These have a video introduction to each book of the Bible, which I find very helpful.

Blessings on your journey, Pastor Jeff

## LENTEN JOURNEY

Lent is always a special time of the year, especially from a Spiritual standpoint. How do you get ready for the very important moments in your life? Do you remember how hard you worked to get ready for a wedding? Or how hard you worked to welcome family to your house? Or going back a very long time ago, studying to finish your papers, etc. so you could graduate? Preparation and work are connected to all those things. So is Lent.

In ancient times, Lent was the time that new believers were trained to be fully connected members of the church. They would have to study and show themselves worthy of being a part of the congregation. They had to know a lot about Jesus and to be able to show how much they had put Jesus into their own lives and behavior. Could a family member see Jesus in them? They would fast, and study, and on the night before Easter they would be baptized, so that Easter morning they could fully and completely participate in worship and the sacrament of Holy Communion. It was a major effort for them.

We don't quite go through that much preparation, but maybe we should? How ready are we to fully embrace Jesus' lifestyle into our own? How ready are we to have and to show the Love Jesus had for all the others he connected with? The more we know about Jesus, the better we can live like he did. That is the intention of being a follower of the Way. That's why we are emphasizing putting Christ or keeping Christ in Christian. Lent is a natural time to rekindle our love for God and for one another, and live like believers.

Let me encourage you to spend more time praying to be like Jesus. Let me encourage you to fully participate in worship. May I encourage you to study and read a Gospel like Luke this Lenten Season?

Pastor Jeff

# Worship Themes

## The Lectionary

### March 3 Transfiguration Sunday

- Exodus 34:29-35
- Psalm 99
- 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
- Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

### March 6 Ash Wednesday

- Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12
- Psalm 51:1-17 2
- Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
- Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### March 10 First Sunday in Lent

- Deuteronomy 26:1-11
- Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
- Romans 10:8b-13
- Luke 4:1-13

### March 17 Second Sunday in Lent

- Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
- Psalm 27
- Philippians 3:17-4:1
- Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

### March 24 Third Sunday in Lent

- Isaiah 55:1-9
- Psalm 63:1-8
- 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
- Luke 13:1-9

### March 25 Annunciation of the Lord

- Isaiah 7:10-14
- Psalm 45 or Psalm 40:5-10
- Hebrews 10:4-10
- Luke 1:26-38

### March 31 Fourth Sunday in Lent

- Joshua 5:9-12
- Psalm 32
- 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
- Luke 15:1-3, 11b-3 John 12:1-8
- John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

Worship in the next seven weeks will bring us to rediscover the most important stories about Jesus and God's love for us. Each week we explore how God shares that love with us and points to a part of what we can do to respond to such incredible love. Stories of Jesus are familiar to us, but sometimes that familiarity keeps us from discovering something new. We include the passages here to help you reflect and prepare for a renewal of faith in this Lenten Journey. Join us and bring a friend who you know needs a renewed sense of God's love for them, and the healing power these moments can be for each of us.

3/3. Transfiguration Sunday. Luke 9:28-43a reveals to the disciples and to us that Jesus is so special. In a world of so many religious ideas, Transfiguration helps us identify the authentic Jesus that God points out to us. The value is in listening to what Jesus has to teach us.

3/5. Shrove Tuesday Pancakes & Talents. This is the day before Lent, and it has been a day to prepare, by removing the barriers to a fresh walk with God. It's a great way to celebrate God's gifts to us by sharing our talents and recognizing what is possible in an inspiring way.

3/6. Ash Wednesday at AWE. The scripture this night is from the sermon on the Mount. Matt. 6:1-6,16-21, a description of what a disciple looks like. Lent is like Spring training in that it's a period of time for us to prepare and grow to be more like Christ. We see what he hopes for in us, and offers us a chance to leave the past behind, with the Ashes, and points to the future banquet, with Holy Communion. Plan to be here too.

3/10 Lent 1, Jesus is tempted, Luke 4:1-13, By sharing his experience in testing, we learn how to handle the temptations and tests we face. All the self-help books try for that improvement, and we have the answer in our relationship to Jesus. There is great wisdom for life in what he offers us.

3/17. Lent 2. Jesus & Jerusalem, Luke 13:31-35, Jesus is offering us the reality of being challenged to follow the world's advice, rather than following God's wisdom. Prophets tried to offer direction back to God, and were often killed for their message.

Two things come to mind. One is Jeremiah 29:11 -- "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." The other is a variation on our committal service: "Into your hands, we commend your body the United Methodist Church, in the sure and certain hope of resurrection." It's Friday, but in some form or fashion, Sunday is coming.

Rev. Joyce Jones, Retired; Interim Pastor, Faith UMC

# Worship Themes

3/24. Lent 3. Tragedy & Warnings, Luke 13:1-9, Jesus answers the questions about why bad things happen to good people. His message leads us to think about getting ready to face God, no matter what our other circumstances are. Being prepared is so valuable.

3/31. Lent 4. Prodigal Father & Party, Luke 15:1-3,11-32. The story is very familiar, but it about God's extravagant love, which the older brother had such a hard time with. We often fit the older brother's shoes, so this story may help us warm up to God's love for us all. Love Wins.

4/7. Lent 5. Holy Communion. Mary & Bethany anointing, John 12:1-8. Gratitude is extravagant. When we truly understand how much God has done for us, showing our thanks, flows into all of life. And the Attitude of Gratitude has awesome benefits to our heart, soul, mind, and physical being. Why would we want to miss that?

4/14. Palm Sunday Luke 19:28-40 & 22:14-23:56. This is going to be a major rediscovery of all that Jesus did when he came to Jerusalem to die. This will be a special service involving many readers.

4/18. Maundy Thursday, John 13:1-35. The last supper. We will have a dramatic presentation in our sanctuary of how the disciples felt as they went through this last supper with Jesus.

4/19. Good Friday at Rockville UMC noon. You are welcome to join our Cluster churches as we remember Jesus on the cross.

4/21. Easter Sunrise & Breakfast. Our Fine Arts committee is working on the details for this Sunrise service outdoors by the cross and then in fellowship hall for breakfast. Traditional Easter worship at 10 a.m.

## The Lectionary

### April 7 Fifth Sunday in Lent

- Isaiah 43:16-21
- Psalm 126
- Philippians 3:4b-14
- John 12:1-8

### April 14 Liturgy of the Palms

- Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
- Luke 19:28-40

### April 14 Liturgy of the Passion

- Isaiah 50:4-9a
- Psalm 31:9-16
- Philippians 2:5-11
- Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

### April 18, 2019 Maundy Thursday

- Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14
- Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 1
- Corinthians 11:23-26
- John 13:1-17, 31b-35

### April 19, 2019 Good Friday

- Isaiah 52:13-53:12
- Psalm 22
- Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
- John 18:1-19:42

### April 21, 2019 Easter Day

- \*Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25
- Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1
- Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43
- John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

“Get up off of your knees. Come out of your churches, your mosques, your temples. God can hear your prayers for peace, justice, and hope in this broken world just fine while you're out creating peace, working for justice, and giving hope to this broken world. When are we finally going to realize that humanity is the solution to inhumanity? When will we finally understand that we are all drops of the same ocean, hurting together, healing together, hoping together? Don't just pray for hands to heal the hurting. Pray with hands that are healing the hurting. Don't just pray for arms to help the helpless. Pray with arms that are helping the helpless. Don't just pray for feet to respond to need. Pray on feet that are responding to need. Don't just pray for someone to do something. Be someone who does something. Don't just pray for answers. Be the answer.”

L. R. Knost [<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/9106523-get-up-off-of-your-knees-come-out-of-your>]

# HAPPENINGS



## NBUMC Hosts Ecumenical Christian Unity Service

Representatives of seventeen Montgomery County ministries celebrated the twenty-fifth annual Christian Unity service held at NBUMC on January 27. The theme was “Justice, Only Justice, Shall You Pursue” (Deuteronomy 16:20). NBUMC Pastor Jeff Jones was the Host Pastor and Presider. Monseigneur John F. Macfarlane delivered the sermon, tracing the twin calls to mercy and justice. The Heavenly Bells of Trinity Lutheran Church rang out resonant traditional melodies and peals. A dozen choristers from participating churches joined the Chancel Choir to conclude the service with an inspiring anthem underlining the theme of Christian Unity, “One Faith, One Hope, One Lord.”

Denominations that were represented included Catholic, Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist and Presbyterian. In addition, officiants attended from the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land, French Speaking Protestant Church of Washington DC, Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church, and Suburban Hospital ministry. Offerings were dedicated to the Casa de Maryland. The theme from Deuteronomy was contributed by the Christians of Indonesia.

A reception took place in Johnson Hall following the service.

Carol Malmi



### Kina Mama Breakfast

Rose Ahle organized a Kina Mama breakfast for the women of our church on January 26th. A good time of fun and fellowship was had by all!

### Free Movie Night - *The Follower* - a success!

On Sunday, Feb. 24th, a premiere screening of the film, *The Follower*, was shown at NBUMC. Jason Campbell, the producer and director of the film, was there to introduce it, and tell us a bit about his production company and how they come up with stories for their movies. The crowd enjoyed free popcorn, and juice boxes. The new, padded folding chairs were greatly appreciated, and the blackout blinds that Valerie Blane purchased for Johnson Hall were very helpful in creating a movie atmosphere in the late afternoon. A special thanks to Ed Swanson for getting the projection and sound system set up for the showing! The Arts Committee hopes to show another free movie later this year.

*Natalie McManus*



## Reconciling Fellowship Leads Prayer Supper for UMC LGBTQ Rights

Over 40 NBUMC members gather with the Reconciling Fellowship for a spaghetti supper on February. 23. It was the first day of the United Methodist Church General Conference meeting in St. Louis to consider removing all language discriminating against LGBTQ persons from the Book of Discipline (the UMC master policy document).

The program began with everyone linking hands in a circle and praying for the UMC conference to reach an inclusive decision that would end the discriminatory policy. Organizer Rose Aehle, Lay Leader Gordon Cragg, and Pastor Jeff Jones led prayers. Participants dined on spaghetti, salad, cookies, and cake. They found places at tables arranged in a large U shape and covered with a rainbow of pastel tablecloths. Johnson Hall buzzed with conversation about the Conference. Many recalled the three-year process of discussion and education that NBUMC went through to become a Reconciling Congregation in 2012. Betsy Duane lead all in singing the first verse of “Amazing Grace.”



Planners included Rose Aehle and Diane Walsh Barberesi. Cooks were Anthony Gaskins, Betsy Duane and Natalie McManus. Carol Malmi



NBUMC celebrated its second annual Black History Month in February. Each Sunday, NBUMC hosted a different guest preacher. We were blessed by sermons from local ministers such as Reverends Alexis Brown (United Methodist Campus Minister, Howard University) and Jonathan Jones (Children and Youth Minister, Takoma Park Baptist Church), as well as visiting ministers, the Reverends Raphael Koikoi and Andrew Momolue Diggs. The final Sunday included a powerful musical and historical reflection on our nation’s relationship with Black and African American populations—led by Renee Newman and the children’s and youth choir. After four Sundays of various performances and perspectives on our roles as Christians in society today, NBUMC concluded the celebration with a multicultural luncheon. Many thanks to Penny Clarke for organizing the celebration, to Ms. Newman for her work with the children’s performance, and to the volunteers and guest ministers who made Black History Month an enriching experience.

Brandon Kesselly



## NBUMC Charge Conference Appoints 2019 Leaders

The annual church Charge Conference, held on September 22, 2018, confirmed appointment of the 2019 committee and work area leadership. The previous leaders transitioned to the new team in January this year. All committees and work areas welcome questions and suggestions from congregation members.

### 2019 Church Committee Chairs

Church Council	Penny Clarke
Vice Chair	Elvira Williams
Secretary	Jacqui Cragg
Lay Leader	Gordon Cragg
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Mark Aehle
Trustee Chair	Michele Bernot
Staff Parish Relation	Tsitsi Sithole
Finance Chair	Nathaniel Clarke
Fine Arts	Natalie McManus
Membership and Evangelism	Mary Lou Griffin
Missions	Sara Barakat
Treasurer	Kathy Devadas
Assistant Treasurer	Jesse Jennings
Finance Secretary	Chris Lee
Membership Secretary	Mary Lou Griffin
Connectors Coordinator	Linda Thompson
Historian	Paul Hurlburt
Contact Editor	Ardoth Hassler-Short
Librarian	Jacqui Cragg
Altar Guild Coordinator	Emma Amoa-Awua
Council Members at Large	Irving Williams Janet Replogle Fred Stetson

The NBUMC Membership thanks the outgoing Committee Chairs for their service. Amy Duroska, Church Council Chair; Mike Haney (pictured right with Pastor Jeff), Staff Parish; and Rich McManus, Missions.



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## Rainbow Candle Blessing, Sunday March 3

The new rainbow candle purchased by the Reconciling Fellowship Ministry will be blessed Sunday, March 3, during worship. When lit with its LED lights, it will exude a rainbow-infused light around its perimeter.

## Shrove Pancake Supper and Talent Show

Tuesday, March 5th at 6pm is our annual Pancake Supper, followed by various talent showings from our church family. Come feast on pancakes, sausages, and baked apples, then enjoy the show. For those having talents in sewing, quilting, painting, pottery, jewelry making, etc. - there will be tables set up to display your creations - and sell them if you wish. - Natalie McManus



**Birthday Luncheon** following the church service on Sunday March 31, 2019. Sign up during coffee hour after worship. The Luncheon will be catered. Please indicate any special food needs when you sign up.



April 18th - 6pm

Come for a Soup Supper and stay for a Maundy Thursday Last Supper Performance and Service, with foot/hand washing for those who wish to participate. Please speak with Rose Aehele if you wish to supply a soup. Natalie McManus will be looking for Disciples to perform that evening.

## Spring Rummage Sale!!

June 1, 8am – 2pm



The Annual Spring Rummage Sale is rapidly approaching! As you start your spring cleaning, please remember to save items for this major NBUMC Missions fund-raiser. We welcome donations (clean and in good working order, please) of furniture, household items, books, DVDs, clothing (new or gently used), toys, collectibles, jewelry, dishes, artwork, tools, electronics, but please, NO computers, printers, monitors, TVs or phones, and also NO beds, mattresses, curtains, curtain rods, baby car seats or prams. Remember, through your donations you

- raise money for local, national, and global charities
- provide help to many in our community who desperately need good items and clothing at prices they can afford
- clear your attic and basement of unneeded clutter, and you can get a tax deduction

**100% of proceeds will benefit NBUMC Missions.**

## Silent Witnesses: A Record of Memorial Gifts to NBUMC (continued)

Carol Malmi and Joyce Newcomb had thoroughly and systematically been updating list and re-cording new memorial gifts throughout the church. The 2019 Epiphany Issue of the *Contact* articulated gifts in the Sanctuary, Narthex and first floor. This issue inventories the memorials and dedications on the ground floor. We have saved the best for last; those will be in the Pentecost *Contact*.

### Narthex and Hall

68

Acrylic Painting of NBUMC  
[Inside exterior door, Johnson Hall]  
Painted by B. Warren Allin  
For NBUMC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Presented In Memory of the  
Ellis and Roeder Families  
By Margie Ellis

#### Parlor

69

Breaking Waves at Sunset  
Painting  
In Memory of  
Dr. Norman E. Hearn  
Feb. 9, 1924 – May 20, 1984  
Chairman of Administrative Council and  
Staff/Parish Relations

#### Johnson Hall

70

Pew  
[left of double door]  
Commemorating the Marriage of  
Richard A. Barr  
& Kathleen A. Terry  
June 1, 1974

### Ground Floor Rooms

71

Choir Room / Music Library  
"Make a Joyful Noise  
Unto The Lord"

This Choir Room is Dedicated by the  
following patrons  
Lorene & Henry Benedict  
Mary Lou Childers  
Ginny Chisholm  
Marcia Early  
Sue & Jack Enders  
Lori Kravchick  
John Malone  
Debra Matos  
Ken & Sara Medearis  
Ken & Bets Ow  
Ardoth Hassler-Short & Jim Short  
Jeanne Snodgrass  
Lois Tigert

72

Bust of Dr. James Alderson  
First Minister of Music  
1956  
Presented by  
Jacqueline Cone

### Sunday School Wing

73

"Be doers of the Word, and not  
hearers only." James 1:22  
  
In thanksgiving for the renovation  
of this Sunday School wing:  
Will Workman, for his vision;  
Morris McFarland, for his  
dedication and coordination of the  
work team:

Marcia Early  
Lois Gawler  
Ray Gilbert  
Kelly Miller  
Janet McFarland  
Scott Osgood  
Ken Ow  
Harvey Poenack  
Henry Benedict  
Ed Swanson  
May 16, 1992

74

Nursery  
Our nursery was renovated  
through the efforts of  
Will & Renee Workman  
Dedicated to their Children  
Willy, Nana, Jeffrey and Ryan  
Sept. 15, 1991

75

[Class] Rooms 8-9-10  
Are Dedicated to  
The Memory of  
Al Poenack  
"Your praise reaches up to the  
heavens, it is sung by children and  
babies." Psalm 8:1-2

76

Korean Message  
[ three lines in Korean]  
Rooms 3, 4, & 5 are dedicated by  
Potomac Korean United Methodist  
Church to Educate  
All God's Children  
1992  
[this Korean congregation met at  
NBUMC before its church was  
built]

77

Room 6  
is Dedicated  
In Honor and Memory of  
Rev. Richard Irving  
Our First Minister  
By Margery & Donald Smith

76

Room 7  
In Honor of  
Christian Parents Everywhere  
& In Loving Appreciation of  
My Parents  
Russell & Esther Pelot  
By Marcia Early and Family

77

Room 11  
Is dedicated to  
Pat DeSpain

And All Christian Educators  
"Instruct children in the way they  
go; and when they mature they  
will not depart from it."  
Proverbs 22:6



## **Jeanne Snodgrass**

### **NBUMC Leader and Benefactor**

Jeanne Snodgrass, a member of NBUMC for over 35 years, was a dynamic, determined, and diligent leader. She was a ball of energy. Professor and Chair of Human Kinetics and Leisure at The George Washington University (where she had earned her B.S. in 1954 before getting her M.S. at Columbia University in 1957), Jeanne was an active sportswoman. She skied; she played golf, squash, and tennis. She was a competitive player. She often accompanied her colleague and fellow church member Lynne George and Lynne's husband Jim on far-flung sports vacations. She was an active leader in community services, serving as Chairman of the Montgomery County Commission for the Aging, an advisory and advocacy agency serving senior citizens. At NBUMC, she was the first Chair of the Endowment Fund Investment Committee, served as Church Historian, and sang tenor in the choir.

But her major claim to fame at NBUMC was in adult education and health. Jeanne was a founder of the Older Adults in Kinship and Service (OAKS) program in the early 1990s. The original weekly OAKS format began with an exercise class with co-leader Ginny Hawke at ten o'clock. Jeanne followed at eleven o'clock with a lecture or film program featuring member expertise or guest speakers. At noon, everybody opened their lunch boxes and had a good visit together. Twelve to fifteen, or more, people attended regularly in OAKS' heyday. They went on field trips, excursions to art galleries, restaurants, historic sites, and other points of interest, including the casual dining room at Asbury Methodist Village to visit with several members who had retired there.

Jeanne was deeply committed to keeping seniors healthy, alert, and enjoying life by receiving engaging stimulation. Thus, the OAKS combination of physical exercise, food for thought through lectures and outings, and fellowship at lunchtime. As NBUMC's senior population dwindled, the OAKS program began to fade. Jeanne suffered serious illness and surgeries in her last years, and her last days were spent at the Asbury Methodist Village long-term care facility, the Wilson Building. She died in 2016, still on our prayer and visitation list.

**- Carol Malmi**

### **OAKS Founder Jean Snodgrass Bequests to NBUMC**

In her will, Jeanne donated a \$5,000 contribution to the NBUMC Endowment Fund. Her leaf, on the lower right side of the Tree of Life, is inscribed: "In Memory and In Honor of All OAKS." It seemed a touching final farewell to the church she loved.

But Jeanne wasn't done yet. Recently, NBUMC received a residual legacy of \$13,000 from Jeanne's now-settled estate. The bequest has been deposited in the Endowment Fund.

## GREETINGS FROM KUMBI AND SY KASAMBIRA



I'm sorry that it has taken me some weeks before writing to our church family. As you know by now, from what Tsitsi (Sithole) told you, we have decided to extend our stay in Zimbabwe indefinitely. The decision to stay was not planned and was quite unexpected. This was due to Sy's illness. After we arrived, it became evident that it would be difficult for him to make the long trip back after the planned three weeks. However, this decision was a blessing in disguise because the familiar home environment and the interaction with family and friends is a source of great joy for both of us. The weather is perfect this time of year and the greenery is breathtaking. We wake up everyday to the beautiful sunshine and birds singing. Already we have a flourishing vegetable garden at the back of our house. I have a passion for flowers and I had missed working in our yard. Now I have all the time to do just that. We have appreciated streaming visits from family and friends who made sure to bless us with prayers before leaving. We have the health professional support that we require and medication is available, although at a price. I'm confident that I'm equipped to help and support Sy in his illness because of the training and experience that I received in my work out there. I think God was preparing me for this time.

We miss our church family very much and think of you all the time, especially on Sundays. The love and fellowship that we enjoyed and the friendships that we made will be treasured for always. It goes without saying that we miss our children and grandchildren very much but feel that this is where God wants us to be at this time in our lives. Now, they can come and visit Zimbabwe often. We would also love for our church friends to look us up anytime they come this way. I will try and share some pictures so that you are updated on how we are doing. We need your prayers as we adjust to life here. The love and support of family is priceless and of course the church is our biggest support.

We were humbled to learn that our daughter Tsitsi was asked to chair the SPRC. Please pray for her and her family and also our son and his family. Finally I would like to thank everyone who has touched our lives in one way or the other. Thank you Linda for all you do. Thank you Pastor Jeff for the messages that you bring to your flock every Sunday and days between. Please thank Patience Ball for providing our last meal. Everything was perfect including the soup that she was worried about.

Love & prayers,

- Kumbi & Sy

## Betty Tabb Remembers NBUMC

Please accept this gift from my mother, Betty Tabb. She wanted the distribution as follows:

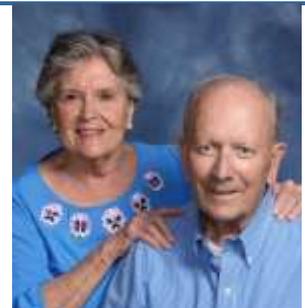
\$5000.00 to The Enabling Ministries. My Mom spoke often and showed me the "tree" in the hall as part of the Enabling Ministries. I would like my parents' names to go on a leaf and be added to the tree.

\$2500.00 to The Special Music Fund. It was Tony Ashur and his music that reached my mom's heart, and she spoke of this often.

\$2500.00 to The Older Adult Ministry. When my mom could no longer attend church, it was visits by Linda [Thompson] and Joanna [Voight] that kept her informed about what was going on in the church. I deeply appreciate the many visits and phone calls from Linda since my father passed away. This was the only correspondence I had with the church and it was always a bright spot for my mom. After my dad passed away in 2014, everyone knew this was devastating to my mom.

Thank you respecting my mom's wishes.

- Steve Tabb



## Missions Refugee Support Volunteer Opportunity

The NBUMC Missions Group is currently looking for volunteers who are interested in helping a Muslim family from Syria that was processed and resettled in the US through the refugee program. We will be working with members of Tifereth Israel Congregation in DC, who have been helping this family for some months now, and with St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Gaithersburg. The



family are a mother, father, and six beautiful children, age 11 and under, including a newborn. They live in Prince George's County near the other family from Columbia we have been working with for a couple of years now. We have visited the new family several times already. We recently purchased a laptop for them and acquired a printer, two donated cribs, and other items including homemade crib covers that Beth Wason-Blair made. We will invite our friends from Tifereth Synagogue to NBUMC for an information session (date TBD). In the meantime, anyone interested in volunteering, please contact Rich McManus 301-505-1848 [mcmanusrfm@gmail.com](mailto:mcmanusrfm@gmail.com)

Volunteer Opportunities for Refugee Families include:

- **Transportation.** Mostly for doctors' appointments that occur during the work week. It is important to maintain a list of volunteers who have offered to help. As the need arises, a request can be circulated, for who is available on a given date and time. Refugee families requiring assistance typically live in Prince George's County.
- **English tutoring.** Volunteers work with family members to learn English. The goal is to develop a curriculum that meets the individual needs of the refugee. Most tutoring has occurred in their homes in Prince George's County. Tutoring occurred through Skype.
- **Tutoring children in school subjects.** The children of the refugee families frequently need tutoring help related to their school subjects. This tutoring can occur on weekends.
- **Medical professionals.** Occasionally, assistance is needed from physicians, dentists, mental health professionals, and nurses – to consult on medical issues as well as to periodically provide health services.
- **Assistance with employment opportunities.** Families need help preparing resumes and looking for employment opportunities. Knowledge of specific job availabilities is always welcome.
- **Resources.** Volunteers with knowledge and experience with public benefits, such as Medicaid and SNAP benefits are helpful. Expertise in areas of budgeting, finances and tax laws is beneficial as well. The Syrian family urgently needs someone willing to help find any summer schools or camps appropriate for their three school age children.
- **Explore housing opportunities.** Refugee families typically live in Prince George's County, primarily because the rent is less expensive than Montgomery County. Montgomery County generally offers better employment opportunities and services than Prince George's County. Ideally, long-term identification of affordable housing opportunities in Montgomery County would aid families who may want to move.

Other opportunities to assist include providing financial assistance or gift cards.

- Rich McManus



### The Narthex Windows: Holy Bible with Shining Candle Given by the Donigian Family

The Open Bible indicates that God's Holy Word is accessible throughout the world, and that translations of the Bible have been published in more than a thousand tongues. To the ancients, a lighted lamp, or candle, was not merely a light for darkness, but also a symbol for wisdom and knowledge, enlightenment and religious enthusiasm. "Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

I have been posting a great deal about the United Methodist denomination over the last couple of days; I am angry and wounded. I stand by what I have said about the denomination, as it is currently constructed, and its exclusion of the LGBTQIA+ community.

The experience of God’s love that we call ministry, however, happens at the local congregation. There, LGBTQIA+ persons and their allies, will find welcoming spaces and experiences of grace. What the denomination cannot change is how local communities live out the Gospel to each other. The Table of Grace is spread wide in these places, and hearts are wide in mercy.

Even now, pastors are composing and publishing letters reminding their communities of the promise of love and the fidelity to the Gospel of hope they claim in Christ. They are all assuring their congregations that who is and is not accepted has not changed for them. These strong witnesses remind us that the church is experienced first as the hand that holds ours, the shoulder that supports us, and as the smile that greets ours. These are visceral, tactile, ‘I am sitting with you,’ moments. No legislation can take that away. And, I salute, honor, and pray for my fellow colleagues tonight as they care for their whole communities.

I am angry at my denomination for doing so much harm today and for it adding anxiety and threat to the ministry of the church. But, I want to affirm that the denomination is not where most people experience the depths of grace that it is the Christian community gathered, known as the church; it’s in the pews of the local congregation.

There, at the local church that you have known to be welcoming, you will continue to find a full embrace of Christian love without distinction.

Rev. Bryant Oskvig  
Director of Protestant Chaplaincy,  
Georgetown University

As a person born into the Methodist Church, it’s hard to imagine ever leaving it. We must work from within to affect change.

Ardoth Hassler, *Contact Editor*

We’ve had emotional, frequent, & uplifting music. I learned that you can distract Methodists from sex - with music.

Amy Duroska

Due to poorly timed health reasons, I was unable to go to St. Louis for general conference. However, I felt I was well represented by a young adult from Mill Creek UMC. I’ll run again for 2020. There is a lot of work still to be done...since it doesn’t look like anything got done in St. Louis! Unfortunately, much harm was done and hurtful words were spoken. NBUMC will continue to love all!

Ken Ow

No matter what was decided yesterday (February 26, 2019) my church and my church family at North Bethesda United Methodist Church do no harm. NBUMC welcomes all and loves all. No exceptions, no amendments, just simple love. We will continue to march forward.  
Rose Aehle

Footnotes:

- The letters LGBTQIA+ refer to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, and asexual or allied.
- Amy Duroska attended General Conference as an observer. She sent photos of the general session during debate and the stole and buttons worn by a LGBTQIA+ supporter. She sent a humorous yet poignant quote.
- Quotations cited or used with author permission.



# March 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 World Day of Prayer 8:00 am Montessori BP	2
3 Transfiguration Sunday 10:00 am Worship - S 11:15 am Coffee - JH 11:45 am Church School	4	5 Shrove Tuesday 10:00 am Fitness for Eternity - JH 6:00 pm - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - JH	6 Ash Wednesday 9:30 am LaLeche League-BP 10:00 am Tai Chi - JH 7:00 pm AWE - BP	7 10:00 am Fitness for Eternity - JH 7:00 pm Tai Chi - JH 7:00 pm Choir	8 10:15 am Jazzercise - JH	9 8:15 am Montessori - BP
10 Daylight Savings Starts 10:00 am Worship - S 11:15 am Coffee - JH 11:45 am Church School	11 Napping Day  7:00 pm Trustees - BP	12 10:00 am Fitness for Eternity - JH 7:00 pm Finance - BP	13 10:00 am Tai Chi - JH 7:00 pm AWE - BP	14 10:00 am Fitness for Eternity - JH 7:00 pm Tai Chi - JH 7:00 pm Choir	15 10:15 am Jazzercise - JH	16
17 St. Patrick's Day 10:00 am Worship - S 11:15 am Coffee - JH 11:45 am Church School 1:00 pm Plano Recital - S	18	19 10:00 am Fitness for Eternity - JH 7:00 pm Church Council - BP	20 First Day of Spring 10:00 am Tai Chi - JH 5:00 pm Montessori - JH 7:00 pm AWE - BP	21 10:00 am Fitness for Eternity - JH 7:00 pm Tai Chi - JH 7:00 pm Choir	22 10:15 am Jazzercise - JH 7:30 VS Rehearsal - S	23 7:00 pm VS Concert
24 10:00 am Worship - S 11:15 am Coffee - JH 11:45 am Church School	25 Maryland Day 	26 10:00 am Fitness for Eternity - JH 7:00 pm Worship - BP	27 10:00 am Tai Chi - JH 7:00 pm AWE - BP	28 10:00 am Fitness for Eternity - JH 7:00 pm Tai Chi - JH 7:00 pm Choir	29 10:15 am Jazzercise - JH	30
31 10:00 am Worship - S 11:15 am Birthday Pot Luck - JH	<p><b>"The LORD is my light and my salvation" (Psalm 27:1)</b> Thank you, God, for being all I ever need.</p>					



# April 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 April Fool's Day 	2 10:00 am Fitness for Eternity - JH 7:00 pm SPRC - BP	3 9:30 am LaLeche League - BP 10:00 am Tai Chi - JH 7:00 pm AWE - BP	4 10:00 am Fitness for Eternity - JH 5:00 pm Montessori - JH 7:00 pm Tai Chi - JH 7:00 pm Choir	5 4:30 pm Montessori - BP	6 Nat'l Tartan Day 
7 10:00 am Worship - S 11:15 am Coffee - JH 11:45 am Church School	8 7:00 pm Trustees - BP	9 10:00 am Fitness for Eternity - JH 7:00 pm Finance - BP	10 10:00 am Tai Chi - JH 7:00 pm AWE - BP	11 10:00 am Fitness for Eternity - JH 7:00 pm Tai Chi - JH 7:00 pm Choir	12	13 10:30 am Library
14 10:00 am Worship - S 11:15 am Coffee - JH 11:45 am Church School	15 Tax Day 	16 10:00 am Fitness for Eternity - JH 7:00 pm Leadership - BP	17 10:00 am Tai Chi - JH 7:00 pm AWE - BP	18 Maundy Thursday 10:00 am Fitness for Eternity - JH 7:00 pm Tai Chi - JH 7:00 pm Choir	19 Good Friday 	20
21 Easter 10:00 am Worship - S 11:15 am Coffee - JH 11:45 am Church School	22 Earth Day 	23 10:00 am Fitness for Eternity - JH 7:00 pm Worship - BP	24 10:00 am Tai Chi - JH 7:00 pm AWE - BP	25 10:00 am Fitness for Eternity - JH 7:00 pm Tai Chi - JH 7:00 pm Choir	26	27
28 10:00 am Worship - S 11:15 am Coffee - JH 11:45 am Church School	29	30 10:00 am Fitness for Eternity - JH	<p><b>"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:"</b> Ephesians 2:8</p>			

# North Bethesda United Methodist Church

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## MARCH and APRIL WORSHIP SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

This is the schedule for worship participants for the months of March and April. Please note on your calendar. If there is a conflict with your schedule, **please arrange for a substitute and inform the office of that change so it can be published in the weekly bulletin.** Liturgists are for individual Sundays. **Greeters and ushers are for the whole month.** Communion Stewards are for the first Sunday of the

DATE	LITURGIST	GREETERS	USHERS	COMMUNION STEWARDS
March 3	Rose Aehle	Joanna Voight Brandon Kesselly	Fred Stetson  Volunteers	Rose Aehle Steve McSpadden
March 10	Natalie McManus			
March 17	Sophie de Merteuil			
March 24	Joy Burt			
March 31	Gordon Cragg			
April 7	Penny Clarke	Elvira Williams Irving Williams	Volunteers	Mary Lou Griffin Nancy Kane Penny Clarke
April 14	Choir			
April 21	Janet Replogle			
April 28	Amy Duroska			