

Response to Hate Speech

October 15, 2021

On Sunday morning, October 3rd, members of North Bethesda United Methodist Church and other passersby discovered that the church sign, which called for prayerful support of Afghan refugees, had been defaced with white supremacist graffiti. We learned from police that similar words and symbols were found on walls at Walter Johnson High School that morning.

Our first concern is for the emotional, spiritual, and physical safety of our community members and neighbors of color, whose experience of seeing or hearing of the graffiti may have been triggering or traumatic. We recognize that, while all of our community members likely feel righteous anger, the violation of sacred space with targeted hate speech is linked to more personal pain for people belonging to groups that have been and are systematically terrorized or oppressed.

North Bethesda UMC is a proudly international congregation, and we value the diversity of the entire community and surrounding congregations. We center the voices of our members and neighbors who said they feel afraid, vulnerable, or singled out; we hear and honor your pain, and we grieve beside you. Our priority in any collective denouncement of hate speech goes to the needs and dignity of those who are most directly impacted. We will not reprint or re-broadcast the words or symbols. We will always work together to remove hateful graffiti as quickly as possible and replace it with stronger messages of anti-racism and unafraid love. We will continue to examine the ways our biases, practices, and risk-averse avoidance of hard conversations contribute to a culture where hate speech and racism remain so prevalent.

The teachings of our varied but interconnected faiths compel us to repent and work for restoration, while also giving us a basis for unwavering hope in the face of what seems overwhelming. God is in the midst of pain, on the side of the oppressed, and moving us toward community wholeness and healing. We are not alone. And for that we give thanks.

Rev. Kara Scroggins, on behalf of North Bethesda United Methodist Church
Rev. Dr. Laura Norvell, on behalf of Faith United Methodist Church, Rockville
Rev. Martha Meredith, on behalf of Rockville United Methodist Church

(See Page 2)

“Domestic terrorism incidents have soared to new highs in the United States, driven chiefly by white-supremacist, anti-Muslim and anti-government extremists on the far right, according to a Washington Post analysis of data compiled by the Center for Strategic and International Studies. . . . The surge reflects a growing threat from homegrown terrorism not seen in a quarter-century, with right-wind extremist attacks and plots greatly eclipsing those from the far left and causing more deaths....”

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/interactive/2021/domestic-terrorism-data/>



- 1 Jesse Jennings
- 2 Renee Delacroix
- 6 Victoria Lewis
- 6 Carol Malmi
- 8 Ping Din
- 8 Emmett Ward
- 9 Adam Robinson
- 12 Sabrina Clarke
- 13 Obrimpong Amoa-Awua
- 13 Jesse Shelton
- 15 Joyce Newcomb
- 17 Elyssa Ow Mechairia
- 17 Hilda Smith
- 22 Jordyn Swanson
- 23 Ken Ow
- 24 Bethany Leidl
- 25 Olanma Okoji
- 28 Steve McDaniel



- 5 Penny Clark
- 7 Patricia Hilling
- 13 Lois Gawler
- 14 Mark Aehle
- 16 Dick Getzinger
- 17 Stephanie Lehmann
- 24 Vera Jennings
- 25 Sue Enders
- 31 Karina Mobley

If you have corrections or additions, please contact Diane Tabatabai at diane@linktech.org or 301-983-6878



**Contact Deadline for
Epiphany Issue:
January 2, 2022**

North Bethesda United Methodist Church

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Minister of Visitation: Linda Thompson

Music Director: Tony Ashur

Coordinator of Education: Renee Newman

Contact Newsletter Editors: Ardoth Hassler-Short, Carol Malmi

Contact Newsletter Publisher: Chris Lee

Tony Goes Digital with Latest Music Release

NBUMC Director of Music and Choirmaster Tony Ashur has released a new collection on his Mirror Morning label, *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*. "This is what I worked on during the pandemic," he says. Until now, Tony's collections of piano hymn stylings have been distributed on CD. Church members snapped them up. Moving with the current of the music distribution industry, *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* is available digitally on major online music platforms Spotify, Apple Music, iTunes, Amazon, Pandora, and Deezer. You may preview the pieces at anthonyashur.HearNow.com



CDs also available: Tony can pre-order a limited number of CDs at a cost of \$12.00 each *if demand warrants production*. To preorder CDs, contact Tony at tapiano@aol.com no later than November 12.

The collection contains *Great Is Thy Faithfulness, Shall We Gather at the River, What a Friend We Have in Jesus, Softly and Tenderly, Abide With Me, Perfect Love, Just a Closer Walk With Thee, Rock of Ages, I Need Thee Every Hour, Precious Lord Take My hand, In the Garden, and How Great Thou Art.*

Following up on Hate Speech Response

The letter on page 1 is published on a forum that allows a continuous collection of signatures. You are welcome to add your name if you like, or simply to share it with others if you feel led. It is posted to our church's public and private Facebook pages. Here is the link:

<https://openletter.earth/response-to-hate-speech-84d88bc2>

Message from the Pastor

SHOWING UP

One of my favorite things about being at the beach, camping in the mountains, or simply being outside later than my usual (super-early) bedtime is watching the stars come out. After the sun sets and daylight slips out of the sky, the stars emerge into visibility, one by one. I love the gradual way in which they fill the sky, each one appearing at a particular moment to take its place in the bigger picture.

We spent the summer looking at favorite Bible stories, and lots of them came from the book of Genesis, but we skipped over a great one: In Genesis 15, a childless Abram is told by God in a vision to “look at the stars.” The night sky—presumably filled with more specks of light than could be counted—became a vivid reminder of God’s promise to fulfill Abram’s dream of innumerable descendants. The thing about stars, though, as promising visual reminders, is that we have to be able to see them for there to be a compelling picture. As witnesses to God’s enduring covenant, it helps if the stars show up. If Abram had looked at a sky on an overcast night, or when it wasn’t yet dark enough, or had he managed to be somewhere where there was light pollution, the effect of the stars would have been pretty underwhelming. Sure, we can know intellectually that the stars are there without actually seeing them, but stargazing’s capacity to be a powerful experience is dependent upon each individual star that manages to show up.



Showing up, and doing so as part of a larger body, makes a difference. We intrinsically know this, and so we make an effort to attend children’s sports events and performances; we turn out for milestone birthday parties, weddings, and funerals; we join marches, protests, or vigils as a way of demonstrating solidarity and support. While these events are not all about us—and we may occasionally wonder whether anyone even noticed we were there—our presence, like those stars, contributes to a compelling bigger picture. Especially when we choose to go somewhere we’d rather not be, or to be with someone who isn’t our first-choice companion, the decision to show up completely—to be fully present—is an act of love, and it can be transformative.

As Christians, we believe in a God for whom physical presence is indeed a transformative act of love. We believe in a God who became human, who arrived in our world as one of us, to walk alongside and to teach, heal, and reconcile us. Modeling for us how to live in holy community, Jesus showed up for people when they were afraid, hurt, grieving, or confused. Even in his darkest, final days, Jesus continued to show up, and asked his disciples to do the same: to be present with him, to eat and to pray together.

And so how do we, as children of a God whose redemptive act in the world was showing up in it, live our lives after the example of Christ? What do we make sacrifices to show up for? How are we present—as individuals, present to the church, and as the church, present to the community? We are called to be a church whose witness to God’s faithfulness and love is as compelling as that night sky was to Abram.

I pray that, this month, when we look at our calendars (and read the newsletter!), we will practice a spirit of openness to the places where God asks us to commit. Each of us, with the unique presence we bring, makes a difference when we choose to show up, whether it’s in the Sanctuary or on Zoom for worship, small groups, service or fellowship, or outside of this church as a witness in the community. The power of our collective witness—the magnitude of the light in a dark sky—is dependent upon each star that, at any given moment, manages to show up and shine.

Peace, Rev. Kara

CROSSING THE BRIDGE TO A NEW BEGINNING

On September 1, 2021, the Peninsula-Delaware and Baltimore-Washington Conference of the UMC began a new affiliation. It is an opportunity for mission and ministry, and leveraging our strengths and listening and learning where we have differences. They will be led by Bishop LaTrelle Easterling. Pen-Del has 416 churches and about 81,100 members in the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Delaware. The BWC has 615 churches and approximately 150,000 members. For more information, click on the title of this article.

SPRC Honors Rev. Kara in Recognition of Pastor Appreciation Day

Flora Milans, SPRC Chair, reports:

“On behalf of the NBUMC congregation, the Staff Parish Relations Committee gave Rev. Kara a Cokesbury gift certificate. The Cokesbury bookstore provides religious books, church supplies, and related items. This was a token of our appreciation for her thoughtful sermons, Bible studies, visitations, and leadership under difficult times of physical distancing.”

In 1994 the American Christian organization Focus on the Family began promoting Clergy Appreciation Month as a National Month of Observance. Pastor Appreciation Day, the second Sunday in October, grew out of this movement.

<https://www.focusonthefamily.com/church/celebrating-pastor-appreciation-month/>

A Note of Thanks

Thank you so much for the Pastor’s Appreciation Cokesbury gift card, given to me by the SPRC on behalf of the congregation. I used it to buy this beautiful Guatemalan stole, and I look forward to wearing it in worship one day soon! It is a true joy to be with you as your pastor. I am grateful for your enthusiasm and abundant grace with me as we start on this journey together. You are the gift!

Peace,
Rev. Kara



The Lectionary

November 7: All Saints Day

Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9 or Isaiah 25:6-9;
Psalm 24; Revelation 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44

November 14: 25th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 1:4-20, Daniel 12:1-3 or
1 Samuel 2:1-10, Psalm 16
Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25; Mark 13:1-8

November 21: 26th Sunday after Pentecost Reign of Christ

2 Samuel 23:1-7, Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 or
Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18), Psalm 93;
Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

November 25: Thanksgiving Day

Joel 2:21-27; Psalm 126; 1 Timothy 2:1-7;
Matthew 6:25-33

**Year C of the
Revised Common Lectionary
Begins with the
1st Sunday of Advent**

November 28: 1st Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10;
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

December 5: 2nd Sunday of Advent

Baruch 5:1-9 or Malachi 3:1-4;
Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-1; Luke 3:1-6

December 12: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6;
Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

December 19: 4th Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7;
Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

December 24: Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14;
Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

December 26: 1st Sunday after Christmas Day

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148;
Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

January 2, 2022: 2nd Sunday after Christmas Day

Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20;
Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9), 10-18

WORSHIP THEMES

November/December Worship Highlights

After many Sundays of “Ordinary Time,” we finally get to change our liturgical colors and break out the Advent calendars! The first Sunday in November is All Saints Sunday; please send to the Church Office any names of family or friends who have passed away since November 1, 2020, so that we can name and light candles for them in worship on that day.

Advent begins on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, November 28th, and we will all be worshipping on Zoom that day. Our theme for Advent this year is “Fear Not.” Each Sunday, we’ll look at a different passage where characters in the Christmas story are told to not be afraid. Tony and the choir are preparing some special music for us, and we’ll have lots of opportunities to observe the season both virtually and in-person.

WORSHIP PLAN



November 7th: All Saints' Sunday. John 11:32-44

November 14th: Rev. Joye Jones: What should I do? Matthew 19:16-22

November 21st: Reign of Christ/Christ the King Sunday: John 18:33-37

November 28th: First Sunday in Advent: Fear Not! Luke 21:25-36 (Zoom Worship Only)

December 5th: Second Sunday in Advent: Fear Not, Zechariah! Luke 1:5-25

December 12th: Third Sunday in Advent: Fear Not, Mary! Luke 1:26-38 & 46-55

December 19th: Fourth Sunday in Advent: Fear Not, Joseph! Matthew 1:18-25

December 24th: Christmas Eve: Fear Not, Shepherds! Luke 2:1-20

December 26th: Pajama Zoom! Christmas Stories and Songs (Zoom Worship Only)

Longest Night Service

There is a lot of pressure this time of year to be constantly “merry and bright,” but if you’re not always feeling that way, you are not alone. The long nights and bitter cold of winter can be hard on our spirits, and Christmastime can be especially difficult for those of us struggling with grief, worry, loneliness, or a sense of overwhelm. So, no matter what you’re feeling or just not feeling this season, we invite you in for a time of respite. Come as you are--in your comfiest clothes in your own home--to a contemplative worship service via Zoom at 7pm on Monday, December 20th. Here, we will hold space for each other and take time to wait for the Spirit who intercedes with sighs too deep for words. Nothing will be asked of you, and all of who you are and what you carry will be welcomed with grace.

Christmas Eve Tentative Plan

Everyone knows what happens to the best-laid plans, especially during Covid. However, our tentative plan for Christmas Eve this year is to have two services in the Sanctuary: one at 5 p.m. and the other at 11p.m. The 5 p.m. service will include special music from (hopefully!) our younger members and friends, a children’s message, a sermon, and carols by candlelight. The 11 p.m. service will include special music from our choir or a small group of singers, Communion, a (different!) sermon, and carols by candlelight as we welcome the dawning of Christmas Day.

Come to one or both, and invite your friends and neighbors to join us!



LOOKING BACK

Paul Hurlburt, Church Historian

High Emotions as Our Church Ended 1957 and Began a New Year

The joy of Christmas in the second year of our church continued into the new year with understated but glad tidings on the front page of the January 1958 *Synopsis* newsletter: "To date, 175 contacts have been made with church members and friends, with total pledges for the year of \$19,153. This is somewhat less than our goal, but it is enough that our dream of our own building this year will probably become a reality." Undaunted by the lack of a church, the congregation held services and met at the Armory, Walter Johnson High School's cafeteria, and space in nearby churches.

In the vacant lot on Old Georgetown Road where our church was to be built, "Christmas figures" carved by Fred Graham and his team greeted passersby. Expanding on her new duties as chairman of the Commission of Education, Pat DeSpain joined Anne Musgrove in painting and erecting this "striking Christmas scene," the *Synopsis* reported.

Funding was paramount in the weeks leading up to Christmas. The Men's Club used the vacant lot to sell Christmas trees, which added \$415 to the building fund, while the Women's Society raised \$250 selling Christmas cards and fruitcake. The women also fielded several requests from missionaries during this period.

The success of the church in nearly achieving its \$20,000 goal centered on an "Every Member Canvass" led by Clayton Johnson. It involved several committees, as described in the October and November 1957 issues of the *Synopsis*, but perhaps the most crucial was the Visitation Committee, led by Jack Lefever. This committee sent out seven teams, each comprised of a captain and five members, to visit not only members of the church but other neighborhood residents. "All members of the Church, as well as our friends, will be visited and given the opportunity to make individual pledges," the *Synopsis* stated, while recognizing the canvass members for the "hard work, devotion and enthusiasm" they had already displayed.

October 1957 also saw the rise of Soviet space technology, with the successful launch of Sputnik, the world's first manmade satellite to orbit the Earth. Readers of the November *Synopsis* could hardly escape the "IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!!!!!" on page 3: "Three outstanding military officers...will discuss 'Our National Defense' at the Men's Club meeting on November 12.... It will be interesting to learn how our government is working toward peace...."

Many might have asked God to "let me be an instrument of your peace" during services to celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace at Walter Johnson High School the morning and evening of December 22. The night before, the children presented a Christmas program after the monthly Fellowship Supper at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Old Georgetown Road and Grosvenor Lane. Despite global tensions, the young church no doubt anticipated the new year with high expectations, with much hope and love to share for decades to come.



A sign announcing the future site of our church at 10100 Old Georgetown Road provides a photo op for a happy tractor crew, with a toddler aboard sticking his tongue out. Perhaps they had just finished plowing up the community garden that flourished there in 1957. Fees collected from garden-plot rentals helped to make the church building we now enjoy possible.

Traveling? Can't Make it to Church or Zurch?

Join Us on YouTube

Every Sunday, NBUMC's worship service launches at 10 a.m. (EDT) on our [YouTube channel](#). Rev. Kara posts a complete service from Introit to Benediction, with music and the same sermon she preaches to the in-person congregation. It's a great way to hear the Message and stay in touch with NBUMC. Click on the link above or go to: [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search for "North Bethesda United Methodist Church."

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

COVID-19 has disrupted all of our lives again this year. Once again, we were not able to hold our annual rummage sale, which raises funds for several organizations we support. However, the needs of these organizations are greater than ever, so we on the Service and Outreach Committee (SOC) are appealing to our church family for donations by holding our **Second Annual Virtual Rummage Sale**, as well our **Gifts of Caring** campaign.

We would greatly appreciate your considering one or more of the following options to make a contribution.

- Think about how much money you normally spend at the rummage sale, and consider contributing that amount.
- Consider the amount of time that you volunteer at the church preparing for the rummage sale to get everything ready for the sale, and estimate a donation based on the time you would have spent.
- Virtually shop for furniture that has been donated to the church for the rummage sale. Several pieces of furniture are on the stage, and Rev. Kara has posted many of these pieces on Craigs List.

If you would like to provide support, please mail your checks to the church office (address on page 2). Or, consider using [NBUMC's online donation form](#) and select "Miscellaneous". For either, please put "Virtual Rummage Sale" or "Gifts of Caring" in the memo field.

For **Gifts of Caring** again this year, please let [Gordon and Jacqui Cragg](#) know the organization(s) and amounts you are donating to each organization. They will arrange for providing you the cards and organization descriptions.

NBUMC is a qualified charitable organization (a 501(c)3). If you itemize your taxes, there is a new allowance that has carried over from 2020 into 2021 because of COVID-19. The law allows for an "above the line" deduction for charitable gifts made in cash of up to \$300 for individuals, \$600 for married filing jointly. Consult your tax advisor, but you may be able to take this deduction even if you no longer itemize your taxes.

We support 5 Local organizations:

[Bethesda Cares](#): works to prevent homelessness through programs supporting people in danger of eviction/utility shut-off in Montgomery County, and having other needs.

[Bethesda Help](#): supplies food to needy families in Montgomery County. Their pantry is housed at NBUMC.

[Capital Area Food Bank](#): supplies food to needy families in the Washington region.

[Cornerstone Montgomery](#): empowers people living with mental health and substance use disorders.

[Primary Care for Kids](#): affordable healthcare children of low-income families in Montgomery County.

We support 3 National organizations:

[Bread for the World](#): lobbies Congress for support of programs to feed the hungry in the US and globally.

[Henderson Settlement, Kentucky](#): supports poor and abused families in Appalachia.

[Intermountain Children's Home, Montana](#): cares for abused children and families from the US.

We support 5 Global organizations:

[AHEAD Inc.](#) (Adventures in Health, Education, and Agricultural Development): Founded by NBUMC members Irving and Elvira Williams; supporting education and health programs in rural Tanzania and The Gambia.

[French Medical Institute for Mothers and Children, Afghanistan](#): Founded by the French and Afghan Govts., the Aga Khan University, and the French NGO, La Chaine de l'Espoir; providing world-class healthcare to Afghan families at a hospital in Kabul. The governing board is chaired by NBUMC member, Lee Hilling.

[Institute of Grace, Haiti](#): provides education, healthcare and meals for poor families in Haiti.

[Samata Sarana, Clarendon Foundation, California](#): supports the homeless and hungry in Sri Lanka.

Samburu School, Kenya: support for the education and meals for poor rural children in the Samburu region. (Dr. Janet Jalloul; contact Jacqui Cragg)

[I AM ZIMBABWE](#): our very own Tsitsi Sithole is on the leadership team of this wonderful organization in Zimbabwe that works to nurture, educate and empower a community of safe and healthy children, youth and older adults.

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness and generosity. - Sara Barakat, Chair, SOC

HAPPENINGS

NBUMC Celebrates World Communion Sunday Under the Open Sky

NBUMC had two Sunday services on October 3. One was our familiar Zoom service at 10:00 a.m. The second was an 11:00 a.m. outdoor masked service held at the corner of the church parking lot near sugar maples ablaze with fall color. Over 20 church members participated. Folding chairs, hymnals, and a sign-up sheet were set up as people began to arrive. Gordon Cragg prepared cups of grape juice and bite-size bits of bread for communion.

Percussion instruments were handed around to accompany some of the songs: maracas, bongos, tambourines, rattles. The people made music with their voices: singing a Taise round praising God; "Hakuna Wakaita sa Jesu" from Zimbabwe, sung in the Shona language to the sound of percussion; Amazing Grace; and, Blessed Assurance. Musician Basil Manns's voice, coming from the back, kept everyone in tune and in time.

Kathleen Edelman read an opening prayer, Jacqui Cragg read a scripture from Ezra, Janet Replogle read from Paul's letter to the Philippians. Rev. Kara led a joyous service, including a sermon calling on Ezra and Paul to remind us of their message: in these overwhelming times when so many needs call out, if you are at a loss to know what to do, find out what is important to you, and do that.

The traffic on Old Georgetown Road passed by without honking. A young family played ball and ran around on the lawn during the service. The air was clear, the sun was warm, and all were glad to be together, even masked, even seated six feet apart. The service ended, and many hands pitched in to return everything to its place inside.

NBUMC's doors opened again for a masked service in the sanctuary on October 10. The Zoom service went on as usual.

- Carol Malmi



Rev Kara leads the October 3 service. Blue sky, quiet traffic, twenty NBUMC members listening and singing.



Janet Replogle has the bongos, Joanna Voight has the tambourine, and Rev. Kara is holding up the words for Hakuna Waikata Ya Jesu.



Gordon Cragg sets the Communion Table.

Helen Geraldine Everett Poole

NBUMC's last surviving charter member passed away on Monday, October 4, 2021, at her home. Helen was 89. Helen is survived by two children and their spouses, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. A memorial service will be held at NBUMC (and offered on Zoom) on Saturday, October 30 at 2 p.m. Check the weekly email for details. A tribute honoring Helen will be published in the "Epiphany" (January/ February) *Contact*. ([Obituary](#))

Right: Rev. Kara, Linda Thompson and Helen Poole (July 2021)



HAPPENINGS



Arts:
Natalie,
Mark, Flora
Sound: Ed



Rev. Kara



Lily and Coco



Kathy, Jim, Paul and Grace



Kalani and Rev. Kara



Sara and Charlie



Kathy and Rhoda

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

The Arts Committee sponsored a Blessing of the Animals ceremony held on Sunday, October 24 at 4:00 p.m. outdoors at NBUMC. All animals were welcome. There were several dogs, one cat and one gerbil. Rev. Kara Scroggins blessed them all after a brief reading and prayer. We closed by singing, *He's Got the Whole World In His Hands*, with some appropriate new verses! - Natalie McManus, Chair



Rev. Joye and Dixie



Hamster



Riley, Rev. Kara and Friends



Rev. Kara, Coco, Ed and Lily



LUNCHES FOR THE WOMEN'S SHELTER

NBUMC usually serves meals at the Interfaith Works Women Shelter twice a year. This fall, the shelter requested lunches but no dinners. Sunday, October 24, Rich McManus and Basil Manns made sandwiches, while Jacqui and Gordon Cragg, and Leslie McIntire packed lunches.



HAPPENINGS

2021 Charge Conference

NBUMC was among five United Methodist churches represented at a virtual Cluster Charge Conference presented via Zoom on October 6, 2021. District Superintendent Rev. Gerard Green moderated the opening session, introducing presiding elders who represented each church present. He offered a brief worship service emphasizing the theme of servanthood and service in our time of social unrest and pandemic. Church groups then separated into break-out rooms to conduct their individual charge conferences. The five churches are diverse in size, mission, and membership. In addition to NBUMC, they are Rockville UMC, Faith UMC, Jerusalem-Mount Pleasant UMC, and Mizo Fellowship UMC.

Rev. Green, as presiding elder, Rev. Kara Scroggins, and the 22 NBUMC members in attendance began their break-out meeting with prayer. Rev. Kara, Lay Leader Gordon Cragg, and retired clergy Rev. Joye Jones presented brief reports. Rev. Green expressed appreciation for NBUMC's diverse international congregation. Three items requiring Charge Conference votes were approved unanimously:

- Pastor's Compensation, including salary, housing allowance, and reimbursement fund
- Nominations from the Committee on Lay Leadership
- Membership report including names of inactive members to be removed from the rolls.

The 2021 Charge Conference Book is online. [Click Here.](#)

- Jacqui Cragg, Church Council Secretary



November 6
when you go to bed



Celebrating All Saints Sunday, November 7, 2021. Please send the names of your saints to be remembered to the [Church Office.](#)



Upcoming Events

LESSONS AND CAROLS

4th Sunday of Advent
December 19th

The choir is eagerly preparing for a Ceremony of Lessons and Carols, and glad to be singing together, even in black duck-bill singers' masks!

Please mark your calendar and plan to join in-person or on Zoom.

Advent Wreath Kits!

Advent starts on Sunday November 28th this year. In order for everyone to join in the celebration from home, the Arts Committee will be assembling Advent Wreath Kits, which will come with all the necessary materials for families to put them together. Families are asked to notify Natalie McManus ([natvoice at aol.com](mailto:natvoice@aol.com)) by November 14th if they wish to have a kit. We'll be assembling the kits on Saturday, November 20th; you are welcome to join us that day and take yours home, or pick it up at worship on Sunday, November 21st. The kits are free (one per household, please). Donations to cover supply costs are welcome, but not necessary.



Women's & Children's Shelter Christmas Collection

The Arts Committee will be collecting donations for the holidays for the Greentree Women's & Children's Shelter. Items should be new and NOT wrapped.

Please leave your items in the red wagon in the Narthex on **Sunday, December 5th** or you may drop off your donations at NBUMC at the Narthex doorway on **Wednesday, December 8th from 12-1 p.m.** The items will then be taken directly to the shelter on December. 8th.



Items suggested by the shelter:

Holiday Gifts:

*The Shelter prefers items that will contribute to the cognitive and fine and gross motor skills development of the children, who range in age from newborns to age 18. (Please—NO battery operated items.)

-Board Games, for example, Monopoly, Candy Land, Sorry, Parcheesi, Chess, Checkers, Trouble, etc.

-UNO cards

-Crayons and Coloring Books

-Lego sets—for all different ages

-Dolls—both African American and Caucasian

-Super Hero dolls

-Puzzles—simple wooden, and up to 100 piece puzzles

-Chapter Books for children and teens

-Children's Books

-Trucks and Cars

-Blocks for babies

-Large plastic animals

-Educational toys for young children: e.g., plastic ring stacking toy, stacking cups, shapes in hole boxes

-clothing for girls and boys 3-6months.of age

-winter hats, scarfs, and gloves

Practical, Everyday Items:

-Diapers

-Towels

-Washcloths

-Pillows

-Blankets

-Sheets sets—Twin bed, extra long

-Toothpaste

-Toothbrushes

-Tampons and Sanitary Pads

-Socks

-Children's Underwear

NBUMC Endowment Fund Updates Its Policy Documents

The NBUMC Endowment Fund began 25 years ago. Since then, a lot has changed. To bring the Endowment's documents up to date, the Investment Committee launched a nearly-year-long process of research and review. This article is a progress report.

The NBUMC Endowment began in 1996 with one fund: the Capital Improvement fund, begun with a generous bequest and added to over the years by many generous Church members through the Tree of Life program. In 2006 we established the Enabling Ministries fund initially with donations and recently from a bequest. In 2019 we sold the parsonage and created the Parson's Housing Allowance Fund according to United Methodist Church requirements. These three funds are invested together but accounted for separately. In accordance with Endowment rules, over the past 25 years over \$750,000 has been released from investment gains to support the work of Trustees, Church Council, and other church committees. The combined funds total \$1.8M as of September 28, 2021.

During the 25 years of the Endowment's existence, new and amended legislation has been passed at the Federal (IRS) level, State level, and by the United Methodist Church. Our committee recognized the need to catch up with the changed legal environment as well as to address certain operating policy issues that have arisen over years. We met with a representative of the United Methodist Foundation twice in the past two years to ask for advice on current endowment best practices. He provided resources and encouragement to update our Endowment policies and documents.

In April, a task group composed of Rich McManus and Carol Malmi began researching and drafting a proposal to govern our Endowment into the twenty-first century. A proposed "master" policy will govern all of the funds. The new individual fund proposed documents have been similarly revised for consistency and clarity and are accompanied by simple forms to facilitate withdrawal of money, create a record, and provide an audit trail. A Gift Acceptance Policy was drafted. One new fund was recommended based on United Methodist Foundation guidance: a General Fund to receive non-restricted bequests and gifts. The General Fund can release monies upon Church Council request and is not limited to the annual fund release or the designated spending purposes required of the other funds.

Despite all of these and other minor changes, the work of our Endowment Committee will remain essentially the same. Some new committee membership guidelines are being added, as are sections concerning liability and legal standing. Each sub-fund retains its unique purpose and procedure.

The Investment Committee has twice reviewed the Endowment proposed draft document, and once all our committee review comments are agreed to, the project documents will be made available for the next steps: review by Trustees and approval by Church Council. After that we plan on having the Endowment documents reviewed by outside Counsel before submitting the Endowment governing documents for approval at a special Charge Conference (per the *Book of Discipline*) sometime early in calendar year 2022.

- Carol Malmi

Current Members of the Endowment Committee

Dick Getzinger, Chair
Rich McManus, Treasurer
Marv Burt,
Investment Manager
Jim Short, Secretary
Carol Malmi
Michael Din

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NBUMC Taps Federal, UMC Funds

Jesse Jennings and Carol Malmi

Federal Forgivable Loans (now Forgiven)

In response to the economic disaster caused by the Covid 19 virus, the United States Congress in 2020 passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) stimulus package that included the 1st Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan. In 2021, Congress passed the consolidated Appropriations Act that included the 2nd PPP loan.

The PPP loans were designed to help small businesses and 501(c) organizations with less than 500 employees retain those employees by providing "forgivable" loans. These PPP programs were administered by the Small Business Administration (SBA) through various banks and credit unions.

NBUMC's PPP loans were obtained through our existing financial institution (SunTrust Bank). Detailed financial records including, but not limited to, IRS Forms 941's and W-3 Income Tax Filings, were required to substantiate the requested loan amount. For the loan to be forgiven, documentation had to be provided that reflected actual salary payments.

NBUMC received its 1st PPP loan in May 2020, and it was forgiven by the SBA in December 2020. For the 2nd PPP loan, we had to prove that our income had fallen by at least 25% during a selected quarter when compared to that corresponding quarter during the previous year. Our 2nd PPP loan was received in April 2021, and was forgiven in October 2021.

The SBA requires NBUMC retain all the application and forgiveness documentation regarding these loans for the next 4 years.

UMC Baltimore-Washington Conference Grant

The United Methodist Church Baltimore-Washington Conference launched a grant program in 2020 to help churches acquire equipment to keep services running online while "live" in-sanctuary worship was prohibited during the Covid 19 emergency. NBUMC applied and received a \$1,000 grant in 2020. Some of the funds were spent to purchase equipment to enable services to be broadcast from the church. The remainder will be used to further upgrade NBUMC's telecommunications capabilities.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of September 30th, we have received \$45,219 in Pledges & Identified Offerings. This represents 21% of our fiscal year budget of \$215,000. Ideally, we should be at 25%. Our expenses to date total \$103,512 or 26.3% of the fiscal year budget of \$393,535. Our fiscal year deficit is currently **\$19,352**.

Please remember to keep your Pledges current! Your tithes and offerings are vital to helping pay staff salaries, utilities and ongoing operational expenses. You may bring your offering to church, mail checks to the church office, use our [online donation system](#), or text (**TEXT \$ (your donation amount)**) to 301-905-9998. Several retired members make their contributions via qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) from the IRA funds. [Check with your financial institution before doing this.]

THANK YOU!







Scan this code with the camera on your smartphone, and a secure website will open for you to make your donation online .

November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 All Saints Day	2 10:00 am Fit for Eternity	3	4 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 7:00 pm Choir	5 Nat'l Redhead Day 	6
7 Daylight Savings Time ends 10:00 am Worship All Saints Sunday	8 7:00 pm Trustees	9 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 7:00 pm Finance	10	11 Veteran's Day 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 7:00 pm Choir	12	13 World Kindness Day 
14 10:00 am Worship 5:30 pm PrimeTime K-3 6:00 pm PrimeTime Youth	15 Nat'l Philanthropy Day 	16 Nat'l Fast Food Day 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 7:00 pm SPRC	17	18 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 7:00 pm Choir	19 Wedding Rehearsal	20 Wedding
21 Christ the King Sunday 10:00 am Worship	22	23 10:00 am Fit for Eternity	24	25 Thanksgiving Day 	26	27 Small Business Saturday 
28 10:00 am Worship (Zoom and YouTube only) 5:30 pm PrimeTime K-3 6:00 pm PrimeTime Youth	29	30				

DECEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 World AIDS Day	2 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 7:00 pm Choir	3	4
5 10:00 am Worship	6	7 10:00 am Fit for Eternity	8	9 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 7:00 pm Choir	10	11
12 10:00 am Worship 5:30 pm PrimeTime K-3 6:00 pm PrimeTime Youth	13 7:00 pm Trustees	14 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 7:00 pm Finance	15 Int'l Tea Day 	16 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 7:00 pm Choir	17 Wright Brothers' Day 	18
19 10:00 am Worship	20 Go Caroling Day 7pm Longest Night Service	21 Winter Solstice 10:00 am Fit for Eternity	22	23 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 7:00 pm Choir	24 5 pm Christmas Eve Service 11 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day 
26 10:00 am Worship (Zoom and YouTube only)	27 Nat'l Fruitcake Day	28 10:00 am Fit for Eternity	29	30 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 7:00 pm Choir	31 Watch Night 	

North Bethesda United Methodist Church

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NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

This is the schedule for worship participants for the months of November and December. 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 month.

DATE	LITURGIST	<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday Worship 10:00am</p> <hr/> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Contact the Church Office to be added to the mailing list for weekly updates.</p>
November 7	Rev. Joye Jones	
November 14	Clayton Clark	
November 21	Carol Malmi	
November 28	Carol Malmi (Zoom)	
December 5	John Melton	
December 12	Lessons & Carols	
December 19	Clayton Clark	
December 26	Carol Malmi	