

Contact

North Bethesda United Methodist Church

Fall 2023

Volume 52 Issue 4

“God saw everything that They had made, and indeed it was very good.” - Genesis 1:31

NBUMC went on a road trip of the National Parks in Rev. Kara’s summer sermon series entitled, “Lessons of Faith from the National Parks,” ending with a service of “campfire stories,” where folks shared about the places where they have encountered the face of God. Together we explored:

- Yellowstone: Faithfulness (Acts 11:1-18)
- Everglades: Diversity and Gifts (Romans 12:3-8)
- Death Valley: God’s Presence in Low Places (Psalm 23)
- Big Bend: God Along the Border (Luke 10:25-37)
- Crater Lake: Curiosity (Acts 8:26-40)
- Acadia: Refuge (Psalm 91)
- Petrified Forest: Possibility (Ezekiel 37:1-14)
- Shenandoah: Transformation (Isaiah 43:19-21)

End of Summer Road Trip: Campfire Stories (Psalm 42:1-8)

We spent the summer learning much about the places we ‘visited’--both biblically and vicariously--seeing great sights and not waiting for our mountains and valleys. We learned about one another, and shared food and fellowship. And, we encouraged our graduates to soar.

Oh, the places you’ll go.

**You’ll be on your way up,
You’ll be seeing great sights.
You’ll join the high fliers
Who soar to high heights.**

**You’re off to Great Places.
Today is your day.**

Your mountain is waiting.

So...get on your way.

- Dr. Seuss*



The National Parks where we’ve been!

Prayer Lists

We are sharing our prayer requests in worship and in an email Rev. Kara sends on Mondays. Prayer requests are published for one calendar month. If there is anyone you would like added or carried over to the next month, please send their names to our Office Manager, [Gwendolyn Daniels](#). In September, we're also starting a new practice where each month we'll hold people of a different helping/service profession in our prayers. For September, it will be people who work in education, from early childhood through college and university levels. This includes teachers, school bus drivers, administrators, aides, custodial and food services workers, counselors, professors, and probably many more we haven't thought of. If you or someone you love works in the area of education (or is a student), and you would like us to name them in our September prayers, you're invited to send those names to [Gwendolyn](#).



Save the Date!
NBUMC Charge Conference
September 16, 2023

**Deadline for Next Issue:
October 15, 2023**

Upcoming Memorial Services



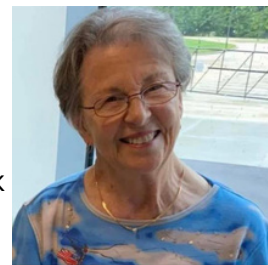
Fred Stetson

There will be a memorial service for Fred Stetson on September 30, at 11 am in the Sanctuary. Fred passed away November 8, 2023. His obituary appeared in the [Epiphany/Lent Contact](#) in February 2023.

Marcia Early

Former long-time member Marcia Early passed away on Friday, June 9, 2023. Marcia is survived by her husband Bob, daughter Lori Kravchick, son David, and three grandchildren. She and Lori both sang in the choir.

There will be a memorial service for Marcia at [Trinity UMC](#) in Prince Frederick MD on Saturday, October 7, 2023, at 11:00am, followed by a luncheon at the church. The service will be live streamed through Trinity's website for those unable to attend.



Contact Is Going Virtual!

Starting with this issue of the *Contact*, we will only be publishing it online via the NBUMC website. We will no longer be mailing newsletters to all members. However, we will continue to mail copies to those who are homebound and/or to those who do not use computers. If you would like to continue receiving the *Contact* in the mail or would like to pick up a paper copy at the church, please fill out [this form](#). If you don't want the *Contact* mailed, you don't need to do anything. We will send an email with a link once it is published. Environmental and financial costs of printing and paper, as well as the labor involved in producing print copies, are the drivers for this change. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

* Cover: Excerpt from
Seuss, Dr. Oh, *The Places You'll Go!* Random House, 1990

Photo Credits: Mark Aehle, John Berg, Jenna Clark, Ardoth Hassler, Lori Early Kravchick, Dawn Krawczyk, Natalie McManus, Rev. Kara Scroggins, Diane Walsh-Barberesi, JoAnne Wong



SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER WORSHIP: A NOTE FROM REV. KARA

After ten years as a pastor, I have observed enough meetings, worship services, and Bible studies to conclude that—at least in the congregations that I have served—the vast majority of people think they’re “bad” at prayer. When there’s an opportunity for a volunteer to pray out loud, most people look intently at the floor; *please do not call on me!* Many people have come to me with questions about how, exactly, to cultivate a prayer life; or why we’re supposed to pray in the first place; or they don’t feel like they’re saying the right words. We know in theory, and from observing the world around us, that there are many, many ways to pray, and none of them are wrong. And yet how often do we take the time to practice something new, especially if we’re already convinced we’re “bad” at it?

This September in worship, we’re going to revisit prayer and learn to see it as something that is accessible to all people. You don’t have to be a poet to pray; you don’t have to be good at focusing; you don’t have to have any answers at all about who God is, or how prayer works, or what precisely you believe. Prayer is simply a leaning in, a turning towards, the Holy. Whatever strategies or practices we have to turn our attention to God—those are prayers. Our worship series will follow a beloved book by Anne Lamott called [Help, Thanks, Wow](#), which boils all prayers down into those three basic themes. (We’re going to add a fourth basic prayer—Sorry—to our exploration.) As we move through this series, we’ll be experimenting with lots of different ways to pray. Gwendolyn is busy installing a “Prayer Wall” near the entrance to the sanctuary. Sometimes words fall short, and yet Paul says in Romans that the Spirit intercedes anyway. And so for this prayer wall, you’re invited to bring pictures from newspapers or magazines, or even a photograph or something you’ve drawn, to add to the wall as an act of prayer and of inviting others to pray alongside you.

If you are more of a word-y person who likes to journal your prayers, you’ll definitely want to check out our Journal Swap in the Narthex. Drop off any blank (or nearly blank!) journals in the basket, and pick out a new-to-you one to use throughout this special season of prayer.

We’ll also have an opportunity to practice sung prayer and silence in the manner of the Taizé community in France every Tuesday evening in September. We’ll gather in the Sanctuary from 7-7:30pm, and Simon will lead us in beautiful music, with a reading of scripture and a time of community silence.

Let’s start the school year off both ready to learn new things, and committed to prioritizing our connection with God!

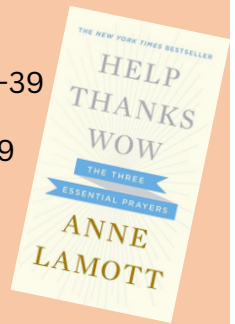
Help, Thanks, Sorry, Wow! Series on Prayer

September 3: Help
Psalm 40:11-17 & Matthew 26:36-39

September 10: Thanks
Isaiah 12:1-6 & Philippians 4:4-9

September 17: Sorry
Psalm 51

September 24: Wow
Psalm 29



During the month of October, we will focus on the spiritual discipline of generosity as we enter into a time of prayer about the ways we are called to give to the ministries of NBUMC in 2024. Our Stewardship Theme this year comes from my sabbatical experience walking the 500-mile Camino de Santiago. I will connect lessons from that journey (illustrated with photos and stories!) to lessons from Scripture about how the Spirit uses practices of generosity to help us grow more Christlike and build beloved community that reflects God’s priorities.

The Way of Generosity: Lessons from the Camino October Stewardship Series

October 1: Pilgrims & Those Who Welcome Them
Luke 24:13-34, Hebrews 13:1-2

October 8: Take Only What You Need
Luke 9:1-6

October 15: Do Just One Thing
Luke 10:38-42

October 22: The Courage to Depend on Community
Acts 3:1-10

October 29: Letting Go
Mark 12:41-44 and 1 Kings 17:8-16

November 5: All Saints’ Celebration & Pledge Sunday
“Donativo” Receiving from the Past, Giving to the Future
Hebrews 11:23-12:2

Church News

Board Report

Your Board met on August 15th to prepare for our annual church conference on Saturday, September 16, at 10:00 a.m. As a new United Methodist when I joined NBUMC in 1999, I did not understand the significance of this event in the life of our church. It is the primary opportunity for each of us to take part in shaping the leadership and direction of our church's ministry. We report on our activities over the past year, discuss our resources, and plan how we can further God's work all around us for the coming year. It's an exciting time, and I encourage you to take an active part.

Important projects are in the works to upgrade our systems and technology for better security, efficiency, and outreach. Through the generosity of donations in honor of our own Kathleen Edelman's retirement from the US Public Health Service, Kathleen graciously funded the purchase of a new computer workstation for the main office. Thank you to Ardoth Hassler for her guidance in selecting the equipment and helping purchase it.

Now that our worship service is readily available online, funds previously set aside for taping worship for the home-bound have been designated for system upgrades to help us with live streaming and for a new computer for our treasurer function. In addition, the Board agreed to move some funds into higher-yielding deposit products to take advantage of current rates. Being good stewards of our resources to help bear fruit is an important part of the Board's work. I'm very grateful to Kathy Devadas, Flora Milans, Jesse Jennings and Gwendolyn Daniels for their time and diligence regarding our financial records.

Overall, our year-to-date operating finances through July improved due to increased pledges and identified offerings (thank you!), higher building-use revenue, and reduced expenses due to staff vacancies, and the availability of the Lilly Grant to support renewal activities for Rev. Kara and our congregation this year.

God is working in us and through us all the time. As we travel into fall and begin planning for 2024, I hope you feel the love and support of your church family – and choose to be a part of it. Help us to grow and share in God's love for each of us and for all of us.

May the blessing and peace of Jesus be with you. - Janet Replogle, Board Chair (email: boardchair)

New Director of Children's Ministries

We are so pleased to welcome our very own Tsitsi Sithole to the staff of NBUMC! Tsitsi, a long-time member, has accepted the position of Director of Children's Ministries. In this role she will develop and oversee programming for our children inclusive of Prime Time. Tsitsi has over 20 years of experience in early childhood education with a focus on equity and inclusion. She received her Ed. M. in Early Childhood and Adolescent Risk and Prevention from Harvard Graduate School of Early Education. We could not have a more qualified or passionate advocate for the children at North Bethesda to learn more about faith in God.



Financial Update

At the end of July 2023, NBUMC 's YTD 2023 budget has a surplus of \$30,147. Revenue for January - July was \$242,948, which includes the budgeted \$26,250 Housing Allowance from the Pastor's Housing Fund.

Expenditures for this period were \$212,801. We've paid 100% of our Mission Shares to the BWC Conference. NBUMC's planned Financial budget for 2023 is \$419,043.

- Jesse Jennings, Assistant Treasurer

Our Graduates



Karina Mobley graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park, with a BS degree in public health. She is taking gap year before returning to school to pursue nursing, and working in a doctor's office as her gap-year experience. Karina took a gap year after high school as an exchange student to Bulgaria. Despite taking that year off from college, she nevertheless graduated from college four years after high school.



Grace Mobley graduated from Walter Johnson HS in June. She will begin a life-work preparation program this summer.

Karina and Grace are the daughters of Paul and Yani Mobley.



Sedinam Appiah Asase graduated from the Thatcher School. The daughter of Nana Appiah-Korang, Sedi has spent the last four years dedicated to (among other things) the nonprofit she helped to found, Child 2 Child. Her efforts have brought tens of thousands of books to schools in Ghana and Nigeria. Sedi is taking a gap year this year, and we are delighted to have the chance to welcome her back to NBUMC.



Sequoia Santoro graduated from **Northwood HS** in June. The daughter of Kim and Mark Santoro, Sequoia plans to attend the University of Maryland in the fall.



We celebrated our graduates and their parents on Father's Day, June 17th, with Sydney assisting Rev. Kara with the message, and all youth participating in the service.



Sydney Akpebu is a WJHS 2023 APEX (Advanced Placement Experience) scholar and an AP scholar and received an award for Outstanding Academic Excellence. And you may have guessed this, she received an academic award for outstanding choral dedication and service for the 2022-2023 academic year. She was also recognized for being a 2023 WJHS minority scholar. She plans to attend Northwestern University.

Care Packages for College Students

Let's show our college students some love, and let them know we're thinking about them in midterms season! Throughout September, you're invited to bring any of the following items to a basket in the Narthex. We'll sign cards and pack the boxes together during Coffee Hour after worship on **October 1st**. We currently have about six students in college, and we'll put together any extra items and cards to share with the United Methodist Campus Ministries at local colleges and universities. If you'd like to donate toward shipping costs rather than purchase any items, please make a donation to NBUMC online or by check, and specify the intended use.

- Homemade treats that ship well (bring these on 10/1 rather than before, for maximum freshness)
- Aspirin/Tylenol/Ibuprofen
- Tea/hot chocolate packets/instant drink mixes
- Dorm-friendly foods (ramen, snacks, etc.)
- Antiseptic wipes
- Cough drops
- Command strips/hooks
- Gum
- Hand sanitizer
- Chapstick
- Pens/Highlighters
- Gift Cards
- Air fresheners

Our People




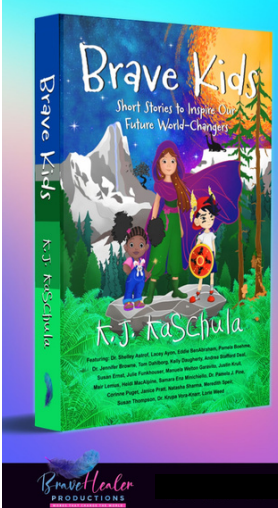
Rev. Dawn M. Hand is our District Superintendent. A wonderful bio of her is in an earlier [press release](#) from BWCUMC.



Congratulations to the Walter Johnson High School JV Hockey Team for winning the Maryland State Championship! Coach Brian Lewis is pictured (left) with the trophies!



NBUMC helped Jack Enders celebrate 93-years young. His wife, Sue is pictured. Jack continues to serve on NBUMC committees.



CHAPTER 20
Susan Ernst

Chann is Called to the Principal's Office
A Change of Heart Can Help!

amazon

Susan Ernst has a chapter in the recently-published book entitled [Brave Kids: Short Stories to Inspire Our Future World-Changers](#). All proceeds go to [Agape International Missions \(AIM\)](#). It is available from Amazon, or Sue may still have a few copies at the publisher's price. She will happily sign the book for you.

Remembering Mel Thompson

Long-time member Melvin "Mel" John Thompson, beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend, passed away on June 9th at age 90 following a prolonged battle with Alzheimer's. A native Michigander, Mel held a BA from Michigan State University, and a MA from American University. He served for more than 20 years as the Director of International Programs for the National 4-H Council where he promoted peace through understanding and broad engagement among youth around the world. Prior to his work with 4-H, Mel worked with the US Peace Corps staff and served as the Peace Corps Director for West Africa in Ibadan, Nigeria, from 1964-66. Melvin also served as an extension agent at Michigan State University. He was a US Army veteran. Mel was spotlighted in a "This Is My Story, This Is My Song" feature written by Carol Malmi in the [NBUMC Contact](#) in January 2021. See page 11 to learn more about this stellar man.



Melvin was extensively involved in service, particularly through NBUMC's Missions Commission (now the Service and Outreach Committee) and the Washington Pastoral Counseling Service. He was inducted into the Michigan State University Emerald Clover Society for his contributions to the university and society. He was also inducted into the National 4-H Council Hall of Fame in 2012.

Family was of the utmost importance to Mel. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Linda Faye Thompson, their children Dean (Jane) Thompson and Dawn (Nathan) Krawczyk, grandchildren Marshall (Hannah) Bierson, Kendall Thompson, Grace Thompson, Jimmy Krawczyk, Chloe Krawczyk, and Rodger Krawczyk, and great-grandson Garrison Bierson. He is survived by his sister and four brothers.

Memorial donations may be made, in memory of Mel, to the [Alzheimer's Association](#) or [NBUMC](#).



Journal Swap

We're having an NBUMC journal swap to inaugurate our September series on prayer! Simply bring your notebooks to church over the next few weeks, and place them in a basket in the Narthex. Starting after worship on September 3rd, you're invited to pick out a "new" prayer journal from the basket to use throughout the series and beyond.



Labor Day Picnic September 3, 2023

Join us at the church picnic after worship this coming Sunday, September 3rd. We will have plenty of food and lots of fun; rumors are there will be corn hole and other lawn games, and perhaps even some prizes to win! All are welcome.



Part of our September worship series will be a weekly opportunity to practice sung prayer in the style of the Taizé community in France. Join us at 7pm every Tuesday in September (9/5, 12, 19, & 26) for a 30-minute musical service in the Sanctuary.

Church Conference Saturday, September 16th at 10am

Young Adults Game Night

Our group for people in their 20s and 30s is getting together on the first Thursday of every month for fellowship and board games. We'll often gather on Zoom in order to accommodate our community members who are living at a distance, but every once in awhile we'll do an in-person night as well. September's gathering will be on Zoom at 7pm on Thursday, September 7th. Email Rev. Kara for the Zoom link!



Blessing of the Pets!

The Arts Committee and Rev. Kara will be leading a Blessing of the Pets on Sunday, October 22nd at 4pm. The Blessing will take place outside and everyone is encouraged to let their friends and neighbors know. Please be sure dogs are on leashes and cats are in carriers. ALL pets are welcome!

Serving Dinners at the Women's Shelter

NBUMC will be serving dinners for 5 nights Monday to Thursday, October 23rd to 26th, and Saturday October 28th at the Interfaith Works women's shelter at 16911 Crabbs Branch Way, Derwood, MD 20855. (We provided meals to this shelter last year.) We will be back in touch closer to the time with details, but please mark these dates on your calendars.



Our Active Church

June: Pride Month



Rose Aehle with a new batch of Pride Stoles, compliments of Rose and Ardoth Hassler. Contributions for the stoles go to support NBUMC Pride activities.



Sue Ernst and JoAnne Wong did a wonderful job helping us celebrate *Pride Month* at Fellowship Hours each week after worship.



Video of the **Capital Pride Parade**: The **United Methodist Float** appears at 51:52. Our own Jenna Love drove the float.

Capital Pride Parade

June 10, 2023

Mark Aehle, Rich McManus, Jenna Love and Kelly Wells (below, L-R) at the Parade.



Our Active Church

Serving Dinners at the Women's Shelter June 18th to 24th

Many thanks to Rose Aehle, Sara Barakat, Bob and Monica Dean, Susan Ernst, Joy Hallman, Ardoth Hassler, Joye Jones, Christine Lee, Basil Manns, Leslie McIntire, Natalie McManus, Patricia and Steve McSpadden, Kimberly Santoro, Diane Walsh-Barberesi, and Jerome and Jeremiah Williams for providing delicious dinners and/or financial support for the dinners to the Shelter ladies in June. From all reports, they clearly enjoyed the dishes with many coming back for seconds. They showed their appreciation with enthusiastic 'thank yous' and cheerful farewells as we left.

AS ALWAYS, THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT AND COMPASSION. - Gordon and Jacqui Cragg



Two of our serving teams

Thursday Team

Photo LEFT: (L-R) Gordon, Jacqui, Joye, Natalie, Basil

Friday Team

Photo RIGHT: (L-R) Sara, Susan, Jerome and Jeremiah, Joy, Kim



Church Retreat



NBUMC held a retreat at Bon Secours Retreat Center in Marriottsville, MD, June 24-25. We used metaphors of maps and navigation to reflect on where we have been recently and where God is calling us to go next, both as individuals and as a community. We also shared in wonderful meals, board games, worship, and time outside in the beautiful surroundings. Our retreat was generously funded by our Renewal Grant from the Lilly Foundation.

Our Active Church

Backpacks!

Rev. Kara and NBUMC were asked by the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless to help supply backpacks and school supplies for 20 children--10 middle schoolers and 10 kindergartners. Through your generosity, we got to help set them up for a successful school year. We also received enough financial donations to purchase ten \$50 gift cards for the middle schoolers to pick out their own new pair of shoes.



Linda Thompson, Sterling Scroggins, & visitors help pack school supplies.



Grace Thompson puts the packed backpacks in order!



The finished products!



Rev. Kara blesses the students and teachers during worship as they begin a new school year.

The Face of God in Every War-Weary Soul

Kathleen Manning Edelman

During worship on August 27th, people spoke about God-encounters. Here, Kathleen Edelman shares her encounters with God while she was on active duty with the US Public Health Service. Kathleen is currently a public health analyst for the US Department of Health and Human Services.



I was deployed onboard the USNS COMFORT during the first part of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. We treated 165 coalition (US and British armed forces) and 198 Iraqi (mostly women and children). All of us onboard saw some pretty-rough stuff—people whose homes were hit by rocket-propelled grenades; people who were in vehicles hit by improvised explosion devices (IEDs); and people who ran into land mines, including children who thought they were toys (most mines were plastic) and tried to pick one up.

As the only Registered Dietitian onboard, I had a dietary consult for an Iraqi woman who was refusing to eat. I asked the translator what was going on and learned that the Iraqi Republican Guard had murdered her four children in front of her and then shot her in both arms, disabling her. She was refusing to eat. She had lost the will to live. Her lunch tray was resting on her abdomen, but of course she could not feed herself. I asked the translator if I might offer her some food. The translator offered the woman the opportunity to have a bite to eat with my help, and she nodded yes. She was on the lower bunk, so I got down on my knees and spoon-fed her some lunch. I can't explain it, but as I looked into her eyes and patiently fed her, it seemed as if I felt her soul and truly saw the face of God. As I've never had children, I cannot imagine the pain that woman must have felt and hope that she felt at least some kindness that day from us strangers.

Fast forward to 19 years later. I was deployed to Operation Allies Welcome (OAW) in Bethesda, MD and Leesburg, VA. We were receiving “medically fragile individuals” from Afghanistan during January/February and May/June 2022. In Leesburg, we were the first to receive these folks when they had just gotten off the plane at Dulles International Airport. One of my jobs was to welcome people as we were checking them in and help lead them to the COVID-19 testing area and then to the medically fragile individual check-in area for screening. Just about every woman there had at least two, and in a few cases up to ten, children with them. I saw the women were tired. I thought they were realizing that all of their support (mom, grandma, sister, auntie, whoever) was back in Afghanistan and they were truly on their own to take care of their children. As I greeted every woman in every family group and looked into their eyes and welcomed them to the United States--again, I can't explain it-- but it was as though I could see each one's soul and was looking into the face of God. I can only hope that they are now doing okay and have been able to make homes for their families here.



LOOKING BACK

Paul Hurlburt, Church Historian

Chancel Stained-Glass Window Comes from a Long Tradition



In June our church received a “legacy box” of historical documents relating to the stained-glass window in the sanctuary chancel. Recounting the life of Christ through a series of symbols in vivid color, the 34-foot-tall lancet-shaped window is the architectural highlight of our sanctuary. The chancel window design inspired church member Lillieanna Beck to sit on a sandbag in the uncompleted structure to capture its wealth of detail in a drawing that helped many a minister through stained-glass-themed sermons. Its cost of \$1,800 to design, fabricate, and install was separate from the \$364,730 spent in 1965 to design and build the sanctuary, parlor, library, classrooms, offices, and an enlarged kitchen, which were attached to what we now call Johnson Hall.

The “legacy box” came from visitor John McCurry. His company, Associated Crafts and Willet Hauser, has roots in the Willet Stained Glass Studios that provided all the stained-glass windows in our sanctuary 58 years ago. William Willet, who founded the company in 1898, had worked with John La Farge, a major figure in the stained-glass window revival led by Louis Comfort Tiffany at the turn of the 20th century. Instead of the milky stained-glass Tiffany favored, Willet led a movement to create clear stained-glass windows in brilliant colors like the ones found in the Gothic churches of medieval Europe.

Our window was a collaborative effort between the church and Willet Studios, resulting in a one-of-a-kind custom work of art. The window is comprised of “faceted glass,” a technique developed in France in the 1920s. Individual pieces of glass were cut and chipped to give them a reflective jewel-like quality and then sealed in a matrix of poured epoxy. William Willet’s son Henry Lee Willet introduced the technique in the United States in the 1950s. In a May 18, 1965, letter to NBUMC describing the proposed chancel window, Henry Lee Willet wrote that his intention was to create a “column of jewels.” The colors “will be kept rich so as to take advantage of the strong sunlight,” he added. Indeed, his personal engagement in the creation of our chancel window has resulted in a powerful work of art, seen up close or from the back of the sanctuary. The window, completed in 1967, is dedicated to 18-year-old church member Michael L. Renner who died of cancer.

Since its installation, our “column of jewels” has likely appreciated greatly in value, Mr. McCurry suggested. Even more, it has inspired several generations of church members and visitors. Let’s pray that it will continue to inspire future generations who enter our sanctuary in the years to come.

Willet stained-glass windows can be seen at the Cadet Chapel in West Point, NY, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and the United Nations Church Center in New York, the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., and the Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church in Bethesda.

The Gothic stained glass window tradition began in France during the 1100s when art depicting scenes from the Bible was crucial to educate and inspire believers in an era of widespread illiteracy before the invention of printing machines. “The concept of bringing God into the church through the heavenly light created by magnificent stained-glass windows” was also key to their development, notes Elizabeth (Aislin) Reynolds.

scholarspace.jccc.edu/honors_journal/vol4/iss1/3.

Who Is My Neighbor? Assisting Migrants in DC

Submitted by Rev. Joye Jones

And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.” (Matthew 25:40, NRSVUE)

Since 2022, Capitol Hill United Methodist Church (CHUMC) in partnership with other organizations and churches in the District of Columbia, began receiving buses with migrants being sent from Texas. For a year, CHUMC and other churches met the buses and welcomed the people, offering a warm meal or two, clothing and hygiene items, and support on the next leg of their journey. Countless hours of volunteer service have been spent sorting donations at several local churches and restocking shelves at CHUMC to maintain the clothing closet for the migrant community. At the end of May 2023, DC announced that they were opening their own facility to continue to receive the buses and walk-ins of new arrivals.

CHUMC and other partners continue to offer migrants clothing and hygiene supplies. Migrants are welcome at CHUMC twice a week, Monday 3-6pm and Wednesdays 1-3pm to pick up things they really need. CHUMC also offers a mini respite (meal and transportation provided) to newly arrived individuals and families where they can come pick up clothing and supplies.

How NBUMC can help:

- Volunteer: If you are interested in volunteering to help, or supporting the weekly restocking at CHUMC (Monday 1-3pm), please contact [office at chumc.net](mailto:office@chumc.net).
- Go to the “wish list” on Amazon to purchase items that will be sent directly to the church. Wish lists: [baby supplies](#) or [everything else](#)! (If the hyperlink doesn’t work, go to <https://www.chumc.net/migrant-respite>, scroll down to “Donations Support” and click the link found in: Current donation needs and drop off locations can be found [here](#).) Anything you buy through the wish lists will be sent directly to CHUMC by Amazon.
- Donate clothing of good quality (**preferably NEW**) from the list below. While they accept gently used clothing in good shape, we should offer Jesus’ sisters and brothers better than that! We will set up a collection box in the narthex during September where you can bring these gifts. We will then sort & label the donations and take them to the distribution site.

Clothing needed (as of 6/28/23): This list may change, but please don’t bring other kinds of clothing until a change has been announced.

- Sneakers: **Donate ONLY sneakers** (no other kind of shoes)
 - Adult sizes: Men 7-9, Women 4-7
 - Children: sizes 10-4Y (boys and girls)
- Boys pants and shorts, sizes 2T (toddler) up to size 16 (boys)
- Short sleeve shirts for children, sizes 5-10 (small and medium), both boys and girls
- Short Sleeve T-shirts for men, size small only
- Sweatshirts and hoodies for men and women (small-large) and for children (all sizes)
- Bras for women: small/medium sports bras, 32-36A-C regular bras

The CHUMC website lists other items that can be donated, but please call before making any such donations because there is very little storage space.

CHUMC is located at 421 Seward Square SE, Washington, DC 20003.

Adapted from the CHUMC website, <https://www.chumc.net/migrant-respite>



New Neighbors Interfaith Alliance

by Rich McManus



The New Neighbors Interfaith Alliance (NNIA) is an informal all-volunteer network that combines the efforts and resources of Montgomery County and Prince George’s County faith communities (Christian, Jewish, Muslim and others) to support the local immigrant community in all areas necessary for them to have a healthy and productive life in Maryland. NNIA provides support to local, newly resettled immigrants in need, including refugees, asylum seekers and others, our "new neighbors." NBUMC has supported NNIA financially for several years and our members have volunteered with them. Our Social and Outreach Committee (SOC) fully endorses the good work they do. NNIA is currently engaged with 26 immigrant families and other individuals who occasionally need a "hand up."

Donations needed: NNIA’s August Newsletter reports that their greatest current need is financial support to help families make their rent payments. In July, NNIA provided rent support for three families. It also financially supports other needs, including food for families that do not receive SNAP, purchase of SmartTrip cards and grocery store gift cards, and meeting unforeseen emergency expenses. SOC works with the Finance coordinator at NNIA to ensure that any donations to this NBUMC Fund go where they are most urgently needed. Anyone interested in contributing can donate directly through NBUMC. Make sure to indicate on the memo line (check or via online donation) or with a note/email that the money is to go toward our SOC Committee refugee fund “special reserve” set up for this purpose.

Volunteers needed: The NNIA Food Committee needs several substitute drivers to deliver food and take over for assigned drivers when they are unavailable. NNIA also needs drivers who can take families that do not have a car yet to appointments, food sources, schools, and other necessary activities in the Rockville/Gaithersburg area and the Wheaton/Silver Spring area. Child car seats are provided. Three newly-arrived families need volunteers to serve a variety of needs, including English language tutors (no experience needed), job coaches to help potential breadwinners find jobs, school liaisons, movers to help with furniture, etc. Training and orientation for new volunteers will be provided. In all cases, you can volunteer as much or as little as you are available.

On Saturday, August 26, Grace United Methodist Church sponsored a successful NNIA Potluck Picnic at Seneca Creek State Park in Gaithersburg. NNIA provided Halal meat for kabobs, and volunteers and sponsored families brought dishes to share.

For further information about NNIA, go to nnia-maryland.com or contact [Rich McManus](#) of the SOC Committee.

The Rev. Debbie Scott, NBUMC's Senior Pastor from 1999 to 2014, has retired. During the celebration June 10th, Rev. Deb baptized former NBUMC member Amanda Berg's son, Evan Sampson Berg. The Treblemakers reunited to sing as Rev. Deb's time of ministry at NBUMC was celebrated. Her last full-time assignment was at Lovely Lane UMC, the seat of American Methodism, in Baltimore.



(L-R) Amanda Berg, Janet Replogle, Erin Steele, Ardoth Hassler



(L-R) Lay Leader John Strawbridge, Rev. Deb, Evan, Amanda, and sister Nora

Miscellany

While members and friends “back home” were visiting National Parks with Rev. Kara during worship, at least some of us actually visited National Parks in person.



Janet and Michael Replogle with Janet's sister, and “friend” at Denali NP in Alaska in July.



Ardoth Hassler shot this photo of the wild horses at Assateague National Seashore in August.

Some of us only had to look in the backyard to see wildlife.



Photo credit Ardoth Hassler

Or look across the church parking lot. ALL are welcome but this family is very early for the Blessing of the Animals!



Photo credit Sue Ernst

Had there been a “prize” for traveling long distances this summer, it would have been a competition between the Williams, the Craggs and Joy Hallman!



Elvira (center) and Irving (third from right) Williams at the US Embassy in Tanzania.



Gordon and Jacqui Cragg (left) with friends. Table Mountain is in the background with Cape Town, South Africa at its feet.



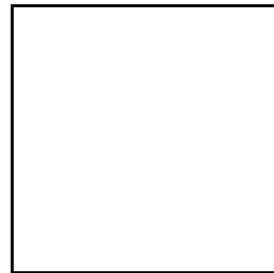
Joy Hallman (left) and friends at the Women's World Cup ready to cheer on the US vs. England in Sydney, Australia.

North Bethesda United Methodist Church

10100 Old Georgetown Road
Bethesda, MD20814

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Fall 2023

North Bethesda United Methodist Church

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Bethesda MD 20814

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Sunday Worship

10:00 a.m.

and via YouTube

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