



North Bethesda United Methodist Church

Advent 2024
Volume 53 Issue 4

"Hope In Small Places"

Ten years ago, in 2014-2015, I was living in a house with all sorts of roommate dynamics and rather poor insulation, so I spent as much time as I could out and about in Tenleytown, DC, in search of warm, quiet places to get some work done. The library, in particular, was a frequent spot, on account of the fact that I was a late-term holdout on the switch from flip phones to smartphones, and so I was always needing to run in and use the library's internet to look up directions, check my email, etc.

There was frequently an older man at the library, also waiting to use the public computers, or simply sitting indoors on blustery days, blowing on his hands to warm them up. He would greet me, and I would greet him in return. I started to see him, not just at the library, but sleeping outside, or sitting on a bench when I ran by on my morning run. One day, as we both stood in line waiting for library computers, he asked me about my running. It turns out he was from Peru, which at the time was in the international spotlight for its elite ultramarathon distance runners. He started bringing me newspaper clippings about running, or copies of the free endurance sports magazines that you would find in shoe stores. I would tell him about upcoming races, and he would remember to ask me how they had gone. Every time I saw him, there was a small offering, a kindness, a connection.

After a few years, I moved away from Tenleytown. I finally caved to the ways of the world and got myself a smartphone, and later a car. No longer did I need to stop into the library to see when the next bus was coming, or spend time waiting in line to check my email. Then the pandemic hit, and I just never returned to working in coffee shops or libraries. My life shifted; our society shifted; and all these shifts of various magnitude added up to the end of my quirky but comforting interactions with this man at the library, whose name I never knew. Life filled in the empty spaces, and I nearly forgot those sweet daily scenes of simple human-to-human care.

Ten years later, I have recently moved back to Tenleytown, and just today, I was going by a little neighborhood church, and there he was. He was hired several years ago, apparently, to be a caretaker for the church grounds, and today he was hanging up greenery to decorate for Christmas. He tends to the garden and the building; he helps strangers find their way to whatever it is that they need. He earns enough to afford a place to live. His gentle smile is as bright as ever. The minute I saw him there with some pine roping in his mittened hand, memories of kind greetings, newspaper clippings, and inquiries about the last weekend's race all came flooding back, and I felt--even if just momentarily--an inexplicable sense of hope well up inside my weary soul.

"A thrill of hope," the beloved carol goes, *"the weary world rejoices."*

All this to say, our worship theme for Advent is "Hope in Small Places." Because when the big picture is overwhelming, or scary, or we don't even know where to begin, we start small. This is the message of Advent. God starts small. God starts with simple human connection, with a baby, in a forgotten town, cared for by the poorest people. God teaches us, again and again, that the smallest and simplest acts of resistance, kindness, or peace are the mustard seeds from which the Kingdom grows.

So much has changed in our country, our world, and my life since 2014, when I would strike up one-minute conversations with a nomadic stranger in the library. So much has changed in our world since God showed up 2,000 years ago as a nomadic stranger in Judea. And yet, even now hope is still springing up, surprising me, reminding me that I am known. I am loved. I am not alone. Come with us through this season, and find the thrill of hope for yourself, in the smallest of places. You are known. You are loved. You are not alone.

Peace,
Rev. Kara

Recent Scenes of **Worship**



Pictured above are four of the wonderful witnesses who shared during our October worship series about the parallels and lessons from practicing a sport to practicing their faith. The photo of the choir is from World Communion Sunday, when they sang a French piece that carried special meaning for Simon, in memory of his mother. To the left, Ms. Tsitsi leads our children in a song during the Word for All Ages.

Coming Up In Worship

Advent & Christmas at NBUMC



Join us for this holy season of preparation, as we take time to intentionally look for the signs of God's hope among us. In the "Nurture" and "Service" portions of this newsletter, you'll find information about Bible studies and opportunities to give and serve during Advent.

On the worship front, our **weekly Taizé services** have already started back up on Tuesday evenings, from 7-7:30pm. You are invited to join us in a circle of peaceful prayer and beautiful music. On the Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 22nd, our choir will lead us in a service of **Lessons & Carols**.

And then on **Christmas Eve**, which falls on a Tuesday this year, we will have with two services of carols and candlelight: one at 5pm, with worship leadership from our younger members and a special children's message, and the second at 9pm, with worship leadership from our choir and a brass quartet. We hope you'll come to one or both, and that you'll extend the invitation to neighbors, friends, and family!

The Sunday after Christmas, December 29th, we will gather for our annual "**Pajama Zoom**" service. We will not hold in-person worship that day, and instead invite you to join us from wherever you may be traveling for a time of worship, prayer, and carol-singing.

Worship Themes/Scriptures

December 1: **Hope in Small Places - Sprouts** Luke 21:25-36

December 8: **Hope in Small Places - Wilderness** Luke 3:1-5

December 15: **Hope in Small Places - Friendship** Luke 1:39-55

December 22: **Advent Lessons & Carols**

December 29: "Pajama Zoom" Carols & Prayers

January 5: Epiphany Matthew 2:1-12

January 12: Baptism of the Lord Matthew 3:15-22

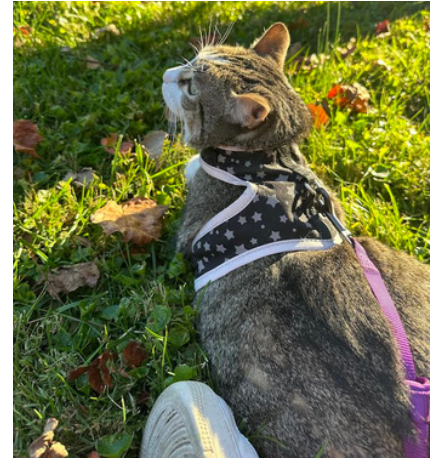
January 19-February 3: **Wesley's Covenant Prayer Worship Series**

Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service

If, for whatever reason, you are finding it hard to be consistently "merry" in this season, we invite you to a special service that recognizes and leaves generous space for the challenges, grief, longing, or pain of our lives and the world. Join us on Tuesday, December 17th, at 7pm in the Sanctuary. We will continue to use the Taizé style of sung prayers and quiet that we have used on Tuesdays throughout Advent, but we will also incorporate intentional liturgy and space for naming and candle-lighting. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite a neighbor or friend who may be going through a difficult time to come to a gentle service.



Recent Scenes of **Nurture**



Our annual Blessing of the Pets was a huge neighborhood hit! A circle of 30 people helped to bless 11 dogs, two cats, a snake, two stuffed animals, and several pictures of pets. To the right, a glimpse of some of our kids at Prime Time, and below, a snapshot of our new Community Bulletin Board, where anyone is welcome to post announcements.





Rev. Kara and Max roll in to the October Movie Night in Halloween splendor; Advent Elves transport a newly-donated Christmas tree for our Narthex; and, to the left, eight care packages brimming with treats and handmade cards make their way to our NBUMC college students, thanks to the donations and packing work done by our community during Coffee Hour.

To the right, five new members and their sponsors stand before our congregation on October 6th.



Upcoming *Opportunities for* **Nurture**

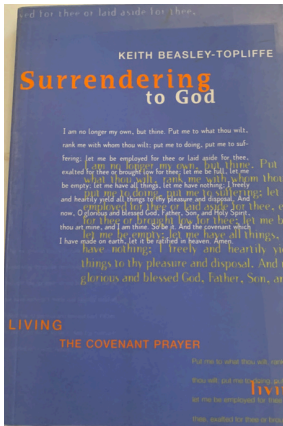
Advent Festival

We will celebrate the season of Advent with an afternoon of crafts, snacks, and a short worship service. Join us on Sunday, December 8th! This family-friendly event is intended for people of all ages. You may come any time after 4pm and move to the different craft, story, game, and snack stations at your own pace. We will gather for the worship service to light our Advent Wreath at 5pm. If you have questions or would like to help, email tsitsisithole@gmail.com.

Advent Bible Study

Our Advent Bible Study is underway, but you are welcome to drop in and join us even if you missed the first week (or two or three)! We gather in the Parlor on Tuesday evenings starting at 6pm for conversation about the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday. We conclude a few minutes before 7pm to give time to move to the Sanctuary for our Taizé service (or if Taizé is not your thing, you definitely don't have to stay.) Let Rev. Kara know if you have any questions!

Post-Christmas Book Study: "Surrendering to God - Living the Covenant Prayer"



"I am no longer my own, but Thine...."

Do you feel that prayer has become rote repetition, or that the simple prayers of childhood have lost their meaning? Has prayer ceased to be a part of your daily practice due to external events or distractions? What does prayer have to do with the Wesleyan ideas of "going on to perfection" and "prevenient grace"? Has the perceived need to "keep doing something" for the new year overwhelmed your desire to just sit, deeply listen, and discern what God has in mind for you?

If the answer to any of these queries is "yes," and if you seek something new in terms of your spiritual life, then please join us for an eight week book study to be

held at NBUMC starting in January, just after worship (with time to stop by coffee hour too!). Our text will be *Surrendering to God: Living the Covenant Prayer*, by Reverend Keith Beasley-Topliffe. In this life-changing little book, the author and UMC minister shares his experience of the Covenant Prayer and makes the case that surrender to God is both the heart of Christian formation and the key to experiencing the Holy Spirit's transforming power. Line by line, Reverend Beasley-Topliffe uses the wisdom of the prayer as a guide for those who want to trust God more, and also as a means to open the doorway to a deeper connection with their Christian faith. Incidentally, the Covenant Prayer is also the focus of the Wesleyan Watch Night Service (traditionally held on New Year's Eve).

Join us on Sundays after worship in the library, starting on Sunday, January 12 and running through March 2, 2025. Please RSVP to Scott Roby, the coordinator of the study and a member of our choir, at scottroby1125@gmail.com by Friday, December 20th, in order to reserve a copy of the text.

Rockville Area Churches Joint Bible Study

The pastors of our Rockville/North Bethesda-area United Methodist Churches (Rev. Laura of Faith UMC, Rev. YouJung of Rockville UMC, Rev. Ashley of Jerusalem-Mt. Pleasant UMC, and Rev. Kara) have been meeting for monthly breakfasts for many years now, and we think it's time that our congregations break bread together too! We invite you to participate in a joint Bible study using a Baltimore-Washington Conference curriculum called "Who Are We?" which explores some of the history and dynamics of United Methodism in our local geographic area and invites discussion about topics of justice, antiracism, and inclusion. For this six-week study, we will move our meeting place from church to church each week, and we will begin each gathering with a simple soup supper. Join us on Tuesday evenings from 7-8:30pm, starting January 21st. Let Rev. Kara know if you are interested!



Seeking Lent Group Hosts!

Even though Lent is a bit late this next year (it begins in early March), it's not too early to start thinking about whether you would like to host or facilitate a Lenten Small Group. These groups have become a wonderful way to connect with one another and explore the worship themes and scriptures throughout the six weeks of Lent. The curriculum is always provided, and we hope to offer several weekly groups hosted in people's homes or on Zoom (hosts/facilitators get to choose the day and time for their group's meeting.) If you are interested or would like to know more, simply reach out to Rev. Kara.

Children & Youth Nurture

Youth Group News

Our youth started with a kick-off event at the end of September at Cabin John Park, where our young people and their families met and mingled and ate together. Since then, we have met each Sunday evening, alternating locations between Faith and North Bethesda. Our youth have gotten to know each other, played games, and shared meals provided by members of our congregations. In mid-October, they made and served an extravagant taco bar for the women at the Interfaith Works Women's Center in Rockville. As we enter our new year, we have so many opportunities for our youth to work together and reach out to help others.

- Starting the first week of Advent, we will begin the study *Advent: Reality v. Expectations*, a study from the Center for Youth Ministry Training. Focused on those moments when our expectations don't align with our reality, this study allows us to explore what it meant for Mary and Joseph as their lives were turned upside down by the ultimate call. Join us to see how God meets us in our surprise realities and shattered expectations.
- From Nov. 17 until Dec. 8, our youth will be holding a toy and book drive for the city of Rockville Holiday Drive. They will be reaching out to the community to provide new or gently used toys and books that can be donated to young people in need right here in our area. This is a great opportunity for you to clean out before the holiday rush begins! Stay tuned for more information on how you can help.
- Join us for our family Christmas party on Dec. 22nd. We will meet from 5-7 PM at NBUMC for food, fellowship and games. All are welcome!
- Come with us as we bowl away the blues on Jan. 26th! Conquer the winter doldrums with lanes and stylish shoes - more information to come!
- Nothing says love like serving others! We will spend some of our February spreading the love by providing acts of service to those in the community. Do you know someone who could use a little love? Reach out to youth coordinator Suzanne Smedberg at ssmedberg@faithworkshere.com

Want to help our youth? Sign up to spend some time with us. There is no preparation necessary - just sign up and join in the fun! Not ready for an evening with us yet? Bring a meal! We are looking for volunteers to bring dinner on a Sunday night. You can sign up for both at bit.ly/RockvilleYouth.

We are growing something new and exciting in our youth - are you ready to join us?

*Suzanne Smedberg,
Youth Coordinator*

Confirmation

We are thrilled to launch a Confirmation class for high school students in January. The class will meet on Sunday afternoons and will facilitate students' exploration of their own faith using the curriculum "Confirm, Not Conform." If you would like to be involved on a one-time or regular basis to help support and mentor our youth, please let Rev. Kara know. We will celebrate the courageous journeys undertaken by our Confirmation class participants on Pentecost (June 8th.) We are also planning to offer a Confirmation class for younger (middle school) students in the next school year, so stay tuned!

Recent Scenes of **Service & Advocacy**



Thanks to the wonderful teams who served delicious dinners to the ladies of the Interfaith Works Taft Court Women's Homeless shelter from October 27th to November 2. We were all greatly gratified by the friendliness and warm thanks expressed by the ladies. -Gordon Cragg



To the left and below, you'll see two photos of the amazing work done on November 17th, packing 251 hygiene kits to be sent to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Directly below is a photo from the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington concert, which filled our sanctuary with joy and beauty.



Upcoming Opportunities for **Service & Advocacy**

Gifts for National Center for Children & Families

We are collecting toys, clothing, and personal essentials for the National Center for Children and Families (formerly the Greentree Shelter) from Dec. 1 - 15th. Please leave donations in the wagon located in the Narthex. Items should be new and unwrapped. 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.

Toy suggestions include children's board games; crayons and coloring books; LEGO sets for all different ages; dolls reflecting the racial and ethnic diversity of our community; superhero figures; puzzles ranging in difficulty up to 100 pieces; children's picture books; chapter books for children and teens; trucks and cars; blocks for babies; large plastic animals; and educational toys for young children (again, no battery-operated toys.)

The shelter also seeks donations of clothing and practical, everyday items: clothing for babies ages 3-6 months; winter hats, scarves, and gloves; children's underwear and socks; diapers; towels and washcloths; pillows; blankets; sheets sets (twin bed, extra long); toothpaste and toothbrushes; and tampons and sanitary pads.

Natalie McManus, Chair of Arts Committee

MLK Day of Service

It has become our church's tradition to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by participating in a meal-packing event through the organization Rise Against Hunger. Unfortunately, for 2025, MLK Day falls on the same day as the Inauguration, and the organizational leadership at RAH has decided not to move forward with events on that day. We will instead hold our meal-packing on Presidents' Day, February 17th.

HOWEVER, we still feel that it is imperative that we continue to honor both the legacy of Dr. King and Christ's call to service by holding a Day of Service on January 20th. We invite you to join us for shifts (or the entire time) from 9am to 1pm in our Fellowship Hall. We will have four service & advocacy projects set up, with tasks suitable for people of all ages and abilities. Save the date, and stay tuned for more details!

"Poinsettia" Dedications That Feed Hungry People

Instead of buying physical poinsettias for our Christmas altar, we invite donations toward the meals we will be packing together at our Rise Against Hunger event in early 2025. Forms are available online and in the Narthex to make a dedication that will be printed with the bulletin on December 22nd and Christmas Eve. Each gift of \$40 will pay for 100 meals. We are hoping to raise \$4000 for 10,000 meals.

And then save the date for February 17 (President's Day), 2025, when we will once again come together with St. Mark Presbyterian Church to pack tens of thousands of meals for RAH. A registration link will be available soon to sign up for a shift. This is a fun and impactful event, and we welcome church members, friends, neighbors, and family of all ages and abilities to join us!

GIFTS OF CARING - A HOLIDAY ALTERNATIVE

NBUMC is a qualified charitable organization (a 501(c)3). Through the church, members are able to make charitable contributions to local, national and global organization via additional donations. Don't want to get on another mailing list, but want to donate? Designate the organization and give through NBUMC. NBUMC then aggregates the donations and sends them out. Gift dedication cards, and organization descriptions, are available. Watch the *Weekly Email* for further information.

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](#) provides 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 6 Global organizations:

- [AHEAD Inc.](#) (Adventures in Health, Education, and Agricultural Development) was founded by NBUMC members Irving and Elvira Williams and supports education and health programs in rural Tanzania and Gambia.
- [French Medical Institute for Mothers and Children, Afghanistan](#) was founded by the French and Afghan Governments, the Aga Khan University, and the French NGO, La Chaine de l'Espoir and provides 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](#) provides 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 of the Service and Outreach Committee (SOC)

Calendar: Looking Ahead

December 2024

- 1: NO youth group for Thanksgiving Weekend
- 3: Advent Bible Study, 6pm in the Parlor, and Taizé service, 7pm in the Sanctuary
- 8: Advent Festival, 4-5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall and Outside (Youth Group joins for Advent festival and continues with dinner at 5:30pm)
- 10: Advent Bible Study, 6pm in the Parlor, and Taizé service, 7pm in the Sanctuary
- 15: Board Meeting in the Parlor following worship Youth Group, 5-7pm at Faith UMC
- 17: Advent Bible Study, 6pm in the Parlor, and Blue Christmas Taizé service, 7pm in the Sanctuary
- 22: Youth Christmas Party, 5-7pm at NBUMC
- 24: Christmas Eve services, 5pm and 9pm in the Sanctuary
- 29: Pajama Zoom Church (no in-person Sunday worship), 10am on Zoom

January 2025

- 5: Young Adults Epiphany Party, 5-7pm at Rev. Kara's house
- 12: Covenant Prayer Book Study begins; meets Sundays after worship
- 20: MLK Day of Service, 9am to 1pm in the Fellowship Hall
- 21: Rockville Area Churches Joint Bible Study begins; meets Tuesdays 7-8:30pm
- 26: Youth Group Bowling Night, details TBD

...Later in 2025

- February 17: Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event
- March 4: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper & Talent Show
- March 5: Ash Wednesday
- May 3: Tentative date for the next RUMMAGE SALE!

Looking Back

NBUMC Membership Peaked in the 1970s

by Paul Hurlburt, Church Historian

The membership of our church peaked in the 1970s, prompting the question, “What happened then?” Starting with an enrollment of 118 in 1956, our church membership had soared past 700 by 1970 and continued its ascent through 1974 when it peaked at 850.

By 1979, our church membership had fallen slightly to 833, but just ten years later, it was down to 490. The losses occurred throughout the 1980s but especially in 1986 when exactly 100 members left in the year after the death of our beloved pastor, the Rev. Harold Johnson, for whom Johnson Hall is named.

Since the downward trend in church membership began in the mid-1970s, this column will focus on that time period for clues to answer the question “What happened then?” Answers are hard to come by, based on what’s in our history files, because apparently a church newsletter was not published during the 1970s. There was a one-page (front and back) “Opportunity Sheet” that came out periodically but copies in our files are scant.

A timeline of major events in the life of our church lists only two events in the 1970s, the dedication of a new organ in 1975 and the arrival of our third pastor, Dr. Joe Sergent, in 1978. Yet working group photos of well over a hundred church members suggest that our church was thriving for most if not all of the decade.

There were “struggles,” though, discussed by members looking back on the decades at a church retreat in 2002. Among them, “graduating youth were not being replaced by younger children” and “the local community had not turned over with newer young families,” John (Jack) Enders wrote in a report on the retreat. He also noted “some dissatisfaction with emphasis on ‘by the book’ rigor in worship practices and administrative rigidity.” But the top two “struggles” listed in his report were (1) “general social turmoil reflected in local churches, with some disaffection of youth,” and (2) “intergenerational schisms reflecting Kent State and Vietnam war controversies.” Meanwhile, the Methodist Youth Fellowship at our church remained “strong,” as did many other church programs, the retreat members noted under a list of church “strengths.”

From a national perspective, our denomination entered the 1970s with a boost in membership with the addition of 750,000 members who formerly belonged to the Evangelical United Brethren Church. They joined with the Methodist Church to become the United Methodist Church in 1968, locally putting the “U” in NBUMC. This merger resulted in a membership of 11 million. The trend was downward, however, with UMC membership dropping to 9.5 million by 1980.

The loss in membership in the UMC during the 1970s fit the overall trend in church membership nationally. “For the first time, the number of Americans affiliated with religious institutions fell substantially behind national population growth during the decade,” the Washington Post reported October 2, 1982, citing a recent study by Catholic and Protestant leaders. “The population grew at 11.5 percent, but religious institutions gained by only 4.1 percent.” What growth there was occurred largely in smaller, evangelical denominations, including churches that broke away from larger denominations including the UMC.

Meanwhile, a shrinking NBUMC continued to develop its strengths and make progress toward becoming a Beloved Community. More to follow.

-Paul Hurlburt, Church Historian



The Commission on Education was one of a dozen or so committees dedicated to the work of our church in 1976. Members shown, in front from left, are Marcia Early, Vickie Ransom, Joy Burt, Lillian Roberts, Mary Alice Edwards and Avonell Greene. In back, from left are Mark Spotz, Beverlee Harbin, Diane Mitchell, Evelyn Snarr, Viola McDaniel, Bob Kalk, Bill Anderson and Marjorie Wood.

From the Board

Deep Listening Initiative

This summer, the members of the NBUMC Board met with members of our congregation and conducted our Deep Listening Initiative. We were encouraged to find that most members were eager to speak with us, and brought very interesting views and comments to our conversations. Our goal was to listen to each person very intentionally, and to hear their thoughts about the life of our church, as well as their hopes and concerns for the future of the church, and possibly, their future role at NBUMC.

We found that many had similar thoughts on ways to serve God through NBUMC and what their role could be in accomplishing their ideas. The discussions were very informative for the Board members, and well received and appreciated by our church members.

In the next few months, the next step in our Initiative will be to take these conversations outside the doors of NBUMC into the community, to businesses, schools and organizations, and to hear thoughts and concerns that we, as a church, might possibly address, and how we may be able to better serve God in the community, as well in our church. We look forward to the next step in our initiative, and sharing our conversations with the church.

Pamela Major, Board Member



Photos from the Town Hall Meeting hosted by the Board on October 27th

2024 Financial Update

As of the end of October 2024, NBUMC is on target to have a balanced budget for fiscal year 2024. We currently have \$334,404 in income and \$334,229 in expenses. We've received \$208,440 in Pledges & Identified Offerings, which represents 83.38% of the \$250,000 budgeted. We are current on all expenses, including NBUMC Mission Shares to the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

The Board is extremely grateful to those individuals/families (50 pledging units) who have made a pledge for 2025. We had 12 individuals/families submit a pledge for 2025 who had not previously pledged. The amount pledged thus far exceeds the amount pledged for 2024. The Board will use these amounts as we diligently complete NBUMC's 2025 fiscal year budget.

Jesse Jennings, Assistant Treasurer and Board Member

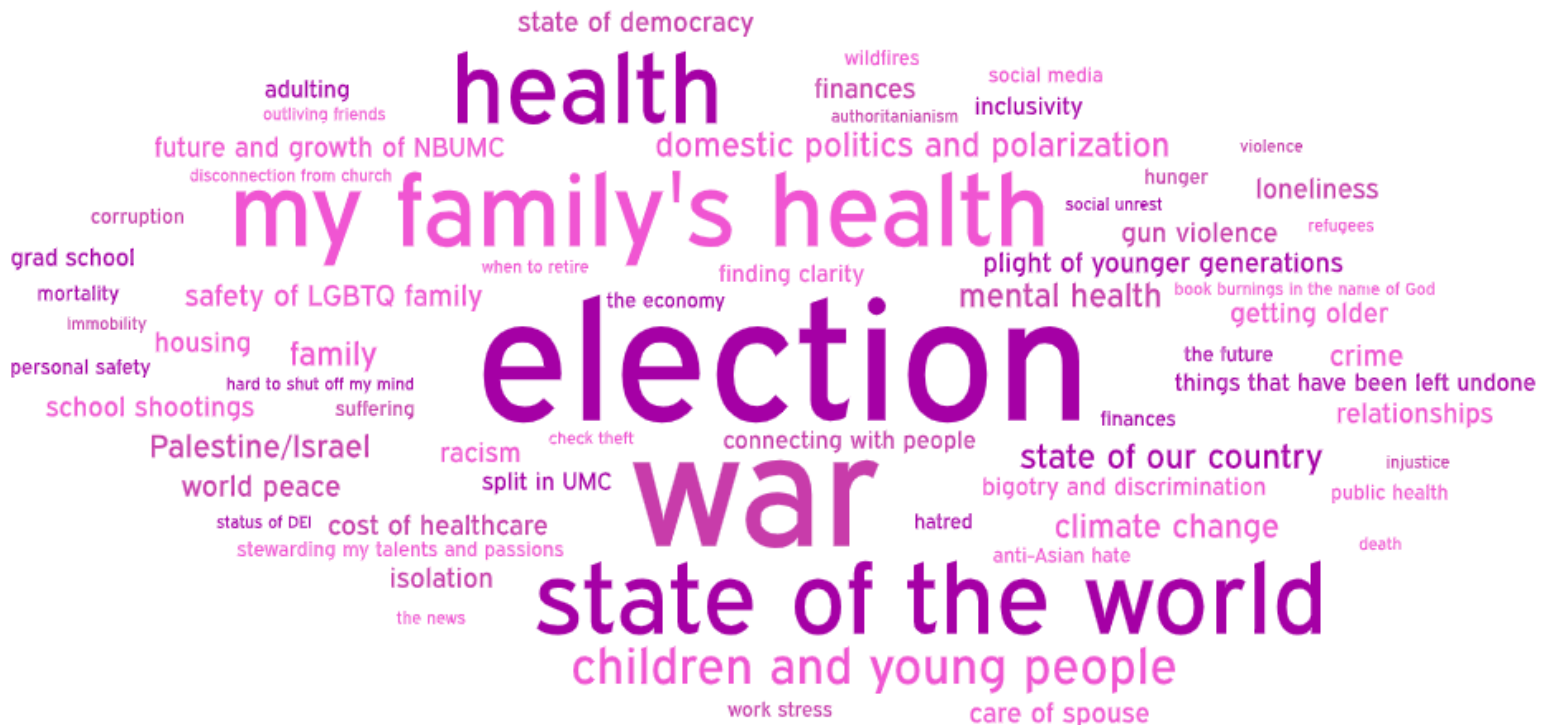
Word Clouds Created from the Congregation's Responses to Two of the Board's Deep Listening Questions

*Check out the bulletin board in the hallway outside the office for responses to more questions.
In a Word Cloud display, the size of words indicates the number of people
who mentioned it in their response (larger font = more people).*

Question: What keeps you here at NBUMC?



Question: What concerns do you find your mind drifting to, (for example when you're trying to clear your mind to sleep)? Feel free to name global, national, or community concerns, or any personal concerns you feel comfortable naming.

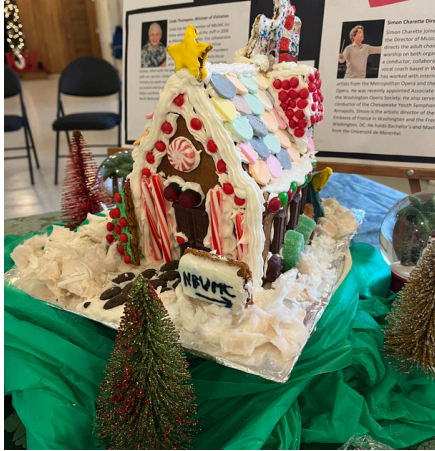


North Bethesda United Methodist Church

10100 Old Georgetown Road
Bethesda, MD 20814

Time/Value Dated Material

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Fall 2024

Photos of children and youth are printed only with permission of their parents/guardians, and/or we blur their faces out of respect for their privacy. We have not identified anyone by name in the photographs from this month. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Church Office.

Photo Credits: Rose Aehle, Sara Barakat, Brandon Kesselly, Jenna Love, Natalie McManus, Ken Ow, Janet Replogle, Kara Scroggins, Linda Thompson, Julie Toohey, and JoAnne Wong

North Bethesda United Methodist Church

10100 Old Georgetown Road

Bethesda MD 20814

Phone: (301) 530-4342

Office Hours: Monday -Thursday

9:00AM- 3:00PM

E-mail: office at northbethesdaumc.org

Website: www.NorthBethesdaUMC.org

Pastor: Rev. Kara Scroggins cell: 202-618-1078

Office Manager: Gwendolyn Daniels

Minister of Visitation: Linda Thompson

Music Director: Simon Charette

Director of Children's Ministries: Tsitsi Sithole

Church Board: board at northbethesdaumc.org

Contact Newsletter Editors and Principal Writers:

Gwendolyn Daniels, Carol Malmi, Kara Scroggins

Copyright: North Bethesda United Methodist Church

Sunday Worship

10:00 a.m.

and via [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Visit us at:



northbethesdaumc.org



@lovingallneighbors



NBUMC Weekly Podcast