

# Contact

North Bethesda  
United Methodist Church

Winter Issue 2020

Volume 49 Issue 6

## SOMETIMES, WE NEED A LITTLE CHRISTMAS



2020 is a year we will never forget. Living in the midst of a global pandemic has been a challenge for us all. Our contact with others, including our families, is limited; we must “shelter in place”, and wear masks when we go out; we’ve had 34 consecutive weeks of “Zurch” or Zoom Church, with virtual coffee hours and recorded music. It’s worn on all of us.

So, We Need a Little Christmas! There is a song in the Jerry Herman’s Broadway musical “Mame” by this name. It was first performed by Angela Lansbury in 1966. [Our younger generations may know her as Mrs. Potts in Disney’s original movie, “Beauty and the Beast.”] In “Mame” the characters have just learned of the stock market crash of 1929 and need cheering up. What better way than to celebrate Christmas?

In Christian churches, we start preparing for Christmas with Advent. “Advent” means “to come” in Latin, and this is the coming of Jesus into the world. We use this period of four Sundays to prepare and remember the true meaning of Christmas.

Of course, before Advent and Christmas, we will celebrate All Saints Day, remembering too many who have died this year. And, we’ll celebrate Thanksgiving. We have a lot to be thankful for including our wonderful church family, and the love and fellowship we share.

In the mid-1990s, NBUMC created Daily Devotional Readings for Advent (and Lent) from writings of many of our members. In going through some of my files, I found the readings for Advent from 1994 and was amazed how applicable they are today. Some writers are still active in our church. I share a few excerpts inside to help you prepare for the coming of Christ. (see p. 8-9)

- Ardoth Hassler-Short, Editor



- 1 Jesse Jennings
- 2 Renee Delacroix
- 6 Victoria Lewis
- 6 Carol Malmi
- 8 Ping Din
- 8 Emmett Ward
- 9 Adam Robinson
- 10 Michael Donigian
- 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

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Contact: Deadline for Epiphany Issue: January 5, 2021  
Publication will be mid-January

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Would you please take a minute to check your information in the last directory to confirm that we have your current information. If you have any changes to your Name, Address, Phone numbers or Email address, please send your corrections to Chris as soon as possible at: [nbumc.office@gmail.com](mailto:nbumc.office@gmail.com).

Thank you very much,  
Mary Lou Griffin, Chair, M&E Committee

*The best thing you can do for our beloved NBUMC right now is tell your friends to join you on Zoom, or follow up if you can't be around at 10 am each Sunday. Now is the perfect time to help people connect to our ministry, to find the support and love we share, and to enjoy our virtual coffee hour breakout rooms or showing up early to chat and check in with each other.*

*The more you share, the stronger we will be on the other side of this pandemic.*

### CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

*With coronavirus cases regularly increasing in Montgomery County, including over 100 new cases in 5 of the last 7 days, we are holding steady with our plans to wait until there is a vaccine and a major reduction in the potential for illness being spread among us. The two largest spreaders of Covid-19 are family gatherings, and worship experiences. Stay safe.*

# Preacher Feature



I have always had a hard time with waiting! It seems nothing comes when I want it to, unless it's getting older. Having a birthday reminds me that some things come quickly, others take their own sweet time.

So here we are, in the middle, with time going by fast and not fast enough. Being stuck in this pandemic, and waiting for a cure or a vaccine we can live with, is hard on us all. Mark's Gospel uses the word "immediately" a lot. Jesus did this and "immediately" things happened. Or, Jesus left one place and "immediately," he was somewhere else. This is not very helpful when we are stuck waiting and wishing for "immediately."

The Old Testament helps us see that God is with us in the long haul. He was with the Israelites through 400 years of slavery in Egypt, 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, and almost 40 years to enter the promised land. Later, during the Exile, some were in captivity 70 years, others for 70x7 or 490 years. The prophets urged them to learn patience and the art of waiting. We still do.

Some of the struggle with waiting can be eased with an attitude of gratitude. If we pause, and count or measure the ways God has been with us, we will be blessed with a sense of comfort. This Advent Season is about waiting, and I hope it brings comfort into your heart and soul as we go together with each other on this journey. I want to urge you to really do the study, the reading, the praying so that together we will develop some skills for the waiting.

Another gift of this Advent season is the reality of Incarnation, God with us. We know that Jesus was born in Bethlehem so long ago, but Advent reminds us that Jesus can be born within our hearts and lives, here and now. "Jesus within" is part of the story of Christmas. "Jesus within" can take place just as easily and powerfully when we are absent one from another as when we are together. Let this Advent season be a time to remember the reason: Jesus is in our hearts, and lending us all his spiritual resources to help us get through each day in our daily lives.

The final gift of Advent is the preparation for the coming of Christ in the closing curtain, whenever it may come. The world we live in, and how we do our living, matters to Jesus. Saint Peter said he was waiting for more people to be blessed by "Jesus within." There will be a final exam when each of us dies, and for the whole world when he returns in glory.

We will soon face yet another waiting challenge: waiting after Election day for firm and final results may require our utmost patience. Advent season tells us God helps us with all kinds of situations. Ask God for Help.

Thank you all for your well wishes for my birthday, your prayers, support, encouragement, and help along the way as we wait for the time to be together again in our church sanctuary. May the Lord watch between me and thee, while we are absent, one from the other.

God Bless Us Every One!

- Pastor Jeff

Let us all remember to observe Pastor Jeff's Days of Rest: Thursday afternoons, Fridays and Monday mornings.

# WORSHIP THEMES

11/1. All Saints Holy Communion  
Think Like Jesus # 8 Final session  
“What Is Eternity Going to Be Like?”  
11/8 Introduction to our Advent Theme  
“Waiting for a King” Daniel 7:9-10,13-14  
11/15 Rev. Joye Jones, leading  
worship. Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-9  
11/22. Thanksgiving Sunday

## The Lectionary

Year A—2019-2020

November 1: All Saints Day  
Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22  
1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

November 8: 23rd Sunday after Pentecost  
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7  
Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

November 15: 24th Sunday after  
Pentecost  
Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

November 22: Reign of Christ Sunday  
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100  
Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

November 26: Thanksgiving Day  
Deuteronomy 8:7-18; Psalm 65  
2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Luke 17:11-19

## Contemporary Word: “It Is Impossible”

By Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling  
(BWC 9/27/2020)

It is impossible to perpetually demean a group of people and then pretend that those very people will be respected within that society.

It is impossible for persons to witness consistent maltreatment and then claim it to be hidden from the naked eye, nonexistent by the rational mind, or unacceptable by the disciplined heart.

It is impossible to establish an ethos of equality built upon a corpus of legal, philosophical, theological, psychological, biological and medical pedagogies of inequality.

When you continue to treat certain lives as worthless because of who they are, you give permission for persons in and out of power to misuse, abuse, ignore, intimidate, discriminate against and kill those who have been invalidated.

You give permission for them to be raped in custody, beaten while questioned, ignored while standing on line, mistreated within systems, violated by laws, held in contempt while explaining that their lives are not contemptible, and murdered while protesting being murdered, all with impunity.

Arguments will be made to substantiate the abuse because, after all, the persons being mistreated or harmed are “others” — substandard beings, who through their very existence have brought it upon themselves.

It is impossible to produce justice for persons who have been chronically and consistently abused when that nation’s legal system is but a facade, a subterfuge, a well-crafted game to continue the denial of personhood inscribed in the founding documents negation.

It is impossible to argue that persons created in the image and likeness of the God of all creation and pronounced “very good” by that God are inherently unworthy, uncivilized, unholy, ungodly and unequal to every other being created in the image or likeness of that same God.

It is impossible to arrive at a new destination by continuing to travel in the same wrong direction. At some point a change of course is required. At some point, the system will have to scream “RECALCULATING” and chart a new path.

It. Is. Time.

The people cry out that it is past time.

We cannot continue to travel down this road of degradation and claim to be creating a more perfect Union.

It is impossible.

Unless

It is time to: Reveal.  
Repent.  
Reconcile.  
Reclaim.  
Rebirth  
Recalculate.  
Redeem.

Then the impossible will be possible.

\*\*\*With thanks to our bishop



The  
best  
in  
our  
world

# Adven-ture

We are aiming to take people broader and deeper into all that worship can be, and are committed to excellence and breadth in music, and exploring other forms of worship and creativity in church. We are particularly interested in the intersection between worship and other aspects of life—worship and mission, worship and the outdoors, worship and creativity... and so on.

The material provided will give us many ideas for the process of waiting. From making Chrismons for our own Christmas Tree or as a gift, to reading and reflecting on all the places in our scriptures that encourage us to find hope in the waiting.

Advent means “coming”. Constance Cherry points out that there are three “comings” of Jesus that we can focus on during this season: “Christ *has come* in the incarnation, Christ *is come* in that his presence lives in and among us even now, and Christ *will come* at the end of the age.” (The *Worship Architect*, page 213.)

In this resource we invite congregations to step into the anticipation of all these comings. What was it like for Mary, John the Baptist and all of Israel to wait for the coming of the Messiah? What does it mean for us to anticipate the coming of Jesus by his Spirit into our lives today? And how should we live in the light of Jesus’ final return?

I hope you enjoy this Adven-ture.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jeff

**Watch the NBUMCFlash for more  
information about  
Lessons and Carols on December 13  
and  
Christmas Eve Services**

## WORSHIP THEMES

### Liturgical Year B 2020-2021

11/29. Advent One  
“Holy Suspense” Mark 13:24-37

12/6 Advent Two Holy Communion  
“Active Patience” 2 Peter 3:8-15

12/13 Advent Three: Lessons & Carols  
(Tony Ashur and the choir)

12/20 Advent Four. “Awe-struck  
Anticipation” Luke 1:26-38,46-55

12/24 Christmas Eve

12/27 1st Sunday After Christmas  
“No Longer Slave but Son & Daughter”

### The Lectionary

November 29: 1st Sunday of Advent  
Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

December 6: 2nd Sunday of Advent  
Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

December 13: 3rd Sunday of Advent  
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126  
Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 20: 4th Sunday of Advent  
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55  
Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

December 24 & 25: Nativity of the Lord  
Christmas Eve, Morn, or Mid-Day  
Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

December 27: 1st Sunday after Christmas  
Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148  
Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

January 3, 2021: 2nd Sunday after Christmas  
Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20  
Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9), 10-18

# HAPPENINGS

## CELEBRATING THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



All Saints Day  
November 1, 2020  
Remembering our Saints  
and our beautiful Sanctuary.



October 31  
when you go to  
bed

November 3



# HAPPENINGS

The Chrismons Kits are coming!

Place your request by Nov. 8 – FREE!

The Arts Committee is assembling Chrismon kits for Advent. *Chrismons* are Christian symbol ornaments. The kits will contain patterns, and supplies needed for making your own Chrismons for your Christmas tree. Please let Natalie McManus know by NOVEMBER 8th if your family would like a kit. If you have friends or neighbors who would like a kit, let us know. You can show off your Chrismons during our Zurch services in December. Kits will be distributed from the NBUMC parking lot on SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28th from 10-11am. Contact Natalie at [natvoice@aol.com](mailto:natvoice@aol.com) for more information.



## 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.

You can drop off your donations at NBUMC at the Narthex doorway on Wednesday, December 9th from 12-1pm and on Thursday December 10th from 5:30-6pm. Order from Chef Majed on Wednesday and pick up your dinner and drop off your donations at the same time on Thursday!

Donations should be new and NOT be wrapped.



### 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 – ex – 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

# READINGS AND THOUGHTS FOR ADVENT

## FINDING THE TIME

Matthew 25:31-46

Mary Alice D. Edwards

Take Time to Read, Reflect, Pray and Share.

Prepare for Christmas

Advent is the season in the church year when we prepare for the coming of the Messiah. Because we know that baby in the manger was God in human form, we worship him. We also know the life he lived, what he taught, how we died and then rose from death. He will come again! As you prepare for Christmas, look for Him every day.

## THERE IS HOPE

Lamentations 3:10-26

Instead of prayer, time is often spent lamenting the disasters of our current world. Feeling that never must have been more terrible than it is now. The news reminds me every day that there are many who do not truly seek to know Christ.

I wonder at times if I can make a difference. If there is so much evil in the world, will my small contribution as a Christian make a difference when others have decided to give up and think only of themselves and their own needs?

Lamentations reminds me that each generation has coped with their own tragedies. The people of God continued to have faith even through the fall of Jerusalem. They did not yet know that Christ would come.

Christ is here. I must daily remind myself that for this reason and the hope He brings, I must still try. Even if it is a meal that will feed a very few of the hungry in the world, my hope is that we as a Christian family will grow and feed more and more every year. Joy is the success of feeding even the few while striving to help the many. - Santa Oldham

## A MOVEABLE FEAST

John 4:7-15

...it seems to me that the presence of God is a moveable feast. Isn't this what Jesus was saying to the Samaritan woman? The sustenance God gave the world with the gift of Emmanuel is for always; it goes with us, nurturing-loving-forgiving-renewing, wherever we go. In fact, it is out there ahead of us before we even arrive. It is, our Spiritual Moveable Feast!

Prayer: Precious Lord, awaken my heart to your daily revelations that I may live in the embrace of your Presence in my present. In Jesus' name, hear my prayer. Amen.

-Rev. Jeanne Klauda, former Pastor, NBUMC

## NO BARRIERS FOR CHRIST! Luke 2:8-14

I remember so many special Christmas moments. One of my home towns was Williamsburg, Iowa, a country town with close to a thousand inhabitants. It was not a sleepy town but a lively place. About a fourth of the population were descendants of the Welsh who had started the town. They were Presbyterians; another fourth were Irish and Roman Catholics; another fourth were of German descent and belonged to the Lutheran church and another group of us were Scotch-Irish, English, Scandinavian and of many mingled strains and mostly belonged to the Methodist or the Congregational churches.

People who read this may not have experienced strong animosities between Catholics and Protestants but in the 1920's, those feelings existed in our town. Prejudices die hard. However, Father Glenn came to town to be the priest. Father Glenn didn't seem to know that any barriers existed. He got to know every minister in town. He seemed to know the name of almost every kid in town. He came to the High School football games and somehow was a part of various civic ventures.

Our Methodist young people always went caroling at Christmas time. Usually, we just walked around town with our pastor and our adult leader. We'd sing on the porches of shut-ins and our Sunday School teachers. Sometimes somebody would ask us in to get warm. Iowa winters are shiversome. Someone was likely to hand us out popcorn balls. Does anyone remember popcorn balls sticking to knitted mittens?

What I remember is going to Father Glenn's. We crowded up on the porch and did our best with "Silent Night." Father Glenn himself asked us in. His housekeeper produced hot cocoa. This young and very wise priest laughed with us about our red noses. We felt that the true spirit of Christmas had invaded us.

Meditation: What are some of the ways we can cross the barriers of separation? How can I be aware of people who need a friendly, accepting voice? What can I do to help bring the Peace on Earth the Christmas Angels foretold? -Pat DeSpain

## A LIGHT IN THE DARK

Luke 1:78-79; John 1:4-5; John 3:16

A few days ago Henry and I were returning from some upcounty errands; the time was sunset. As we drove along, a wide stretch of ground opened out to the west revealing a sky clotted with clouds. The whole horizon blazed red, suddenly the dark underside of the cloud bank was suffused with this brilliant red glow.

Unbidden, the thought came to me that this reflection of light on the clouds was analogous to the role Christ plays in our lives. Yes, there are difficult times, times that try our faith, but when we lift our troubles up to our Saviour in prayer, the light of His love shining over them will carry us through the dark times.

Prayer: Blessed Jesus, let me learn to turn to you in times of trouble. And when things seem darkest, help me to remember I am not alone.



# READINGS AND THOUGHTS FOR ADVENT

## THE PRINCE OF PEACE ...

Isaiah 52:7-10

PEACE (n.) 1. The absence of war or other hostilities. 2. Inner contentment; serenity; peace of mind. (American Heritage Dictionary)

When Jesus was born, the angels sang of "peace on earth", and at Advent we celebrate this with greeting cards and carols. And yet how difficult it is to focus on the message, especially at this busy time of year. With all the emphasis on shopping and present-giving, worldly demands have a way of overwhelming the meaning of the season.

Our world will never be a place of peace until we learn to achieve the inner peace that comes from putting possessions in their proper place. H.E. Fosdick said it best:

"Cure thy children's warring madness,

Bend our pride to thy control;

Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,

Rich in things and poor in soul.

Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage Lest we miss thy kingdom's goal ... " (Hymn 577 vs. 3)

Jacqui and ...

## ... THE PRICE OF PEACE

Matthew 5:7-9

Five years ago this November (Ed. 1989) the Berlin Wall came crashing down and many anticipated the dawn of a new era of peace. But the following years have seen the growth of ugly nationalisms and the evils of genocide ... Bosnia, Somalia, Rwanda, Haiti (Ed. and too many more). The world has looked to our country for leadership and the might of the United States has been employed in errands of mercy and peacemaking. Such actions are fraught with danger and frustration and the causes sometimes seem hopeless. Yet, the emergence of signs of peace in regions as disparate as southern Africa, Haiti, the Korean peninsula, and the Middle East give reason for hope and joy. Despite many internal and external pressures, our nation must not shrink from sacrifice in the exercise of mercy and the pursuit of peace for these are the very virtues blessed by our Lord Jesus.

"Hark! the herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King.  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled  
... "

...Gordon Cragg

## MARY

Luke 1 :26-38

Was Mary a docile, religious, and loving young girl? That is the picture so often portrayed. But would God choose a quiet obedient woman to shape the life of the growing boy whose ideas as a man were to challenge and revolutionize the religious world and turn the understanding of God upside down?

I like to think of Mary as bright, and perhaps challenging, spontaneous, rash. I like to think of her as being aware of God in the best of the Jewish tradition. Yet when suddenly the Holy Spirit left her with the knowledge of the special child she was to bear, I believe it left her changed: changed because she was now aware of the personal presence of God in her life, changed because she knew she had said "Yes!" to God with no regard for the consequences, only trusting in Him for direction. I like to think that this gift to Mary was part of the heritage that God intended for His son as she and Joseph guided his early years.

Meditation: What is it that each of us can do to add to the growth of some child near us? Is there something we can do to support the everyday courage of parents around us? - Carol Getzinger

Reprints in part and whole from: *ADVENT Daily Devotional Readings* November 27—December 25, 1994, North Bethesda United Methodist Church. Mary Alice D. Edwards, editor.

## THE FUTURE KING

Isaiah 9:1-7 & 11:1-9

This is the time of year that we remember the hope the birth of Jesus brought into the world. We share that same hope each year when we wait for Jesus' birth.

My hopes are many. I hope for peace and for love among all people. I hope that everyone can have food to eat and a place to live. I hope that businesses care about how they affect the world around them. I hope that governments begin to understand each other. Your immediate response to all of these hopes might be, "All this seems impossible."

Yes, it might seem to be so. But, what if we take one thing at a time? We know that God works through us to bring the Kingdom that Jesus talked about. So, we must wait like watchful guards for the dawn of Christmas and the advent of the Kingdom. Do this with confident hope.

Jacquelyn Thorpe

## ARE YOU READY? (Luke 2:1-14)

Mary Alice D. Edwards

Christmas Eve! Are we ready? Packages all wrapped? Tree trimmed? Baking done? House cleaned? Stop a moment. Take a breath. Why do we do all this?

Yes, Christmas does brighten midwinter. Yes, it does give opportunity to show love to family and friends. Yes, the music is glorious. But Advent reaches its climax when we hear within our own hearts the love of Christ's presence. Born in Me! And you, you ... - Mary Alice Edwards

# TRUSTEES

## AND THEN THERE WAS LIGHT!

Thank you to Jim Short (right), Diane Walsh-Barbarisi, Ed Swanson, Michael Din, Ardoth Hassler and Ken Ow for their work replacing the LED lights in the parking lot. Their work saved NBUMC over \$8,000. All of the light "heads" had to be replaced and one pole rewired. The tricky part was fitting the new lights to the old brackets. One pesky light in the middle of the parking lot is still out. It has a broken wire somewhere under the asphalt. Solar options for its replacement are being researched.



None of this work could have been accomplished without Diane. She made numerous trips to the church to turn power on and off, fetch tools, and most importantly, contract and supervise tree trimming where branches impeded access to the poles or blocked light. Meanwhile, in the midst of all this, she was supervising the roofers and HVAC contractors who had to return after the new roof leaked following the heavy rains from tropical storms. Thank you, Diane for all you do.

- Ardoth Hassler

## BINDWEED By Carol Malmi

It crawls everywhere, invasive ground cover,  
Lower than a snake's belly and high as the tree-  
top it throttles with winding, turning grasp.  
Its bloom, pale and small, worships its cousin,  
Glamorous Morning Glory, blessed by dawn,  
enfolded gently by night. But bindweed's business is a  
meaner kind. Gardeners Call bindweed  
foul and roughly root it out, forever  
failing. We wrench it hard, but it comes back.  
Bindweed is with us always, bound to tie  
it all together in triumph; like slang or curse,  
inflicts the lowest form of embrace on all  
in its path, for it smothers as it covers, a blanket of  
shadow and dark, not comfort, blocks  
lifegiving light from its own dearest darlings.  
They can wilt, or die, from this clutch of  
love. The old hymn says, blest be the tie that  
binds, and bindweed obliges.

To rescue its captives,  
show no mercy, no regret, and know your  
victory is brief, for bindweed root runs deep.  
We inherit the weed as well as the flower.  
Nothing is perfect, since Eden's gate was locked.

*Ed. Note: apparently, a LOT of Bindweed grows around NBUMC and was a topic of discussion at a recent virtual Coffee Hour.*

## BINDWEED REPLIES

Oh, yeah? You think I'm a pest?  
Well, let me tell you, buster,  
I'm no creepy parasite.  
Beneath an acre of field  
Lie two and a half tons  
Of deep bindweed roots,  
Drinking in calcium that rises  
up the stem and, at season's  
End, in a compost pile,  
Returns to nourish the soil.  
Permaculture experts  
Call me a dynamic nutrient  
accumulator. Hah!  
Each plant grows ten feet  
radially in a season.  
Twenty feet below, the  
same root anchors eroding  
hillsides. As for medical  
uses, check me out  
Online. I'm good for you.  
So would ya please ease up  
on the contumely.  
P.S

I saw you leaving Eden.  
I'm still here.

By Carol Malmi



Bindweed \*

# GENEROSITY CORNER

*Providing information about our Budget and the help you can give to continue to support and change lives for Jesus' sake.*

Here is a special look at how we spend the money you give so generously to our ministry. I think it's more helpful to see how it touches your life, than a line item on the budget page.

N E S W, our compass points, help us see how we divide up the points that show us our areas of ministry. We've tried to divide some of the expenses to the type of ministry within the area where it's actually been expensed.

NOURISH our Souls	Growing in faith & learning	\$96,111.80	24%
EMBRACE our Neighbors	Connect to one another	\$66,249.00	16%
SHARE & SERVE	Our community & world	\$114,722.50	28%
WORSHIP OF GOD	Worship & Praise	\$127,939.10	32%
TOTAL BUDGET FY 2021		\$405,022.40	

Unfortunately, most of our bills are ongoing, whether we are in the building or not. Gas, electric, insurance etc.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Your Finance Committee

## NBUMC CHARGE CONFERENCE REPORT

(Adapted from meeting minutes prepared by Jacqui Cragg)

Rev. Dr. Gerard Green, District Superintendent, conducted the annual Cluster Charge Conference via Zoom on October 18, 2020. Churches represented were North Bethesda, Rockville, Faith, Jerusalem-Mount Pleasant, and Mizo Fellowship. Fourteen members of NBUMC joined the meeting.

A time of worship preceded the individual charge conferences of the five churches, which were held in Zoom "break-out rooms". Rev. Green prayed for God to lead us to safe harbor at this time of uncertainty, based on Ephesians 4:1-16. Rev. Green said that in the tumult of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have adjusted, using electronic resources, and have become more mindful that the church is not a building, the church is its people. Sometimes virtual church has expanded participation to reach new people who could not attend physically. We must always look for new ways to serve and to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.

The United Methodist Church has responded to the recent racial unrest since the death of George Floyd, and it deplores the sin of racism. There has been study and conversation about racial justice in the churches, and we must remember that the Kingdom of God is not distant, but is within us, and we must let it out.

Rev. Green spoke about the money raised for the Rev. Adrienne Terry Fund for Affordable Housing. For more information and to contribute, [click here](#).

In the NBUMC Zoom breakout room, Pastor Jeff Jones and representatives met with Rev. Green as presiding elder. [NBUMC's Charge Conference Report](#) was approved at our Church Council Meeting September 27. Pastor Jeff, Gordon Cragg, Lay Leader, and Retired minister, Rev. Joye Jones, referenced their own and other written reports.

Voting: The Pastor's Compensation Report and Nominations from the Committee on Lay Leadership must voted on at Charge Conference. Both votes were held by acclamation and approved.

# SERVICE AND OUTREACH

COVID-19 has disrupted all of our lives this year, but one of the biggest disruptions for our church was our inability to hold our annual rummage sale, which raises funds for several organizations we church 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 a "virtual rummage sale".

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

SOC will also be doing **Gifts of Caring** again this year. If you would like to make your donation part of the GOC program, 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.

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)

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

## ENDOWMENT FUND 2020 RELEASE: \$38,600

The Endowment Fund Investment Committee annually reviews fund performance and identifies monies that can be released as provided by the Endowment's charter documents. At its October 14, 2020 meeting, \$38,600 were identified for release.

The Capital Improvement Endowment Fund (CIEF), administered principally by the Trustees, will receive \$36,900. As of September 30, 2020, the CIEF has available \$4,638 previously released but not yet spent.

The Enabling Ministries Endowment Fund (EMEF), administered principally by the Church Council, will receive \$1,700. As of September 30, 2020, the EMEF has available \$2,985 previously released but not yet spent.

The value of the Endowment Fund on September 30, 2020 was \$1,495,287.37. Endowment Fund performance benefited by income from the sale of the parsonage in June 2019. The income from the sale is kept in the Pastor's Housing Allowance Fund (PHAF) and invested together with Endowment Funds from all sources. The income from the PHAF is also accounted separately to ascertain that the income from investment of the parsonage sale is sufficient to pay the annual Pastor's Housing Allowance of \$25,000.

At the meeting, Pastor Jeff Jones reported that the Trustees plan to repay the Endowment Fund's loan of \$66,400 to support replacement of the church building's flat roofs. The repayment to the Endowment would take place over a number of years, contingent upon emergency expenses that might arise. The amount to be repaid was reduced by members who generously contributed \$4,350 to help pay for the roof project. - Carol Malmi

# IKAIA PROJECT

## FIRST PROJECT

When Ikaia Sithole visited Tanzania as a volunteer in the summer of 2018 when he was 8 years old, he visited the Bukara Secondary School and realized that the boys' toilets were not as clean and nice as the girls' toilets, which were newly constructed. He thought that toilets for the boys should be reconstructed so they would have toilets like the girls. Ikaia led a successful fundraising effort through AHEAD, Adventures in Health, Education, and Agricultural Development. Returning home, he went from door-to-door in his neighborhood asking for support of his project. With the support of his parents, Tsitsi and Cheng Sithole, Ikaia raised \$5,870 to construct the boys' toilets and a rain-water catchment system.



Left: Original Boys' Toilets



Right: Ikaia Project

Catchment System

## SECOND PROJECT

Now, Ikaia has launched a 2nd project to raise \$15,000 to purchase computers for middle and secondary school students in the two secondary schools in Maruku Ward. He is genuinely concerned that children are not going to attend school now, especially in rural communities in Tanzania, because of this global pandemic. Students are unable to communicate with their teachers to continue their education because families do not have money to purchase computers for their children to participate in virtual learning. Today's technology enables youth to communicate not only with their teachers and friends, but to talk with their family and friends in other towns and countries, a privilege not shared by children in rural Tanzania. Ikaia says, "Your donation is one step closer to helping me reaching my goal, please donate whatever you can!"



Ikaia at Bukara Secondary School



Bukara Secondary School Students



To donate:

Option 1 – Go to AHEAD's website [www.aheadinc.org](http://www.aheadinc.org) and click on the donate tab and in the "comment section" please mention donations towards computers for secondary school students.

Option 2 – Make a check out to AHEAD, Inc. In the memo you can write "towards student computers." The mailing address is P.O. BOX 2172, ROCKVILLE, MD 20847-2172.

Option 3 – Donate through NBUMC's "Gifts of Caring" (see article p. 12)

- Submitted by Elvira Williams

# Miscellany



Avalynn Yuanyi Antosz (7lbs, 19 3/4”) was born September 20th to Matthew Antosz and Jing Yi Yu. Proud grandmother is Joy Hallman. Many will remember Matt from Youth Group. The baby lamp at right was Matt’s that Joy refurbished for Avalynn.



## A Bi-coastal Virtual Baptism!

Nora Grace Berg, born to Treble-Maker Amanda Berg on October 27, 2019, was baptized on Sunday, September 20th. Amanda and Nora (and her Godfather) were in San Diego where Amanda is stationed with the US Navy. Three other Treble Makers (L-R, Ardoth Hassler, Janet Replogle, and Erin Bone Steele) reunited at Lovely Lane UMC with Rev. Debbie Scott and Amanda’s parents for a bi-coastal, virtual baptism via Zoom!



## Murder Hornets

By Carol Malmi

Aliens have landed in Oregon and neighboring Canada. Huge Murder hornets, two inches long, They are big, like bumble bees but not so amiable. Apian Genocide is the name of their game. When it comes to cousin Honey Bees , like Alice’s Red Queen, They cry Off with their heads, and make it so By biting off said heads. It is Murder Most foul. An All Points Bulletin has been Issued and hot pursuit ensued. The vile Invaders are not quick. They hug close to the hive. Their demise arrives when Their queen is slain. The colonies collapse Without her, and the honey bees are saved. But first, to catch a queen is no mean thing. Let us pray, like the mantis, for The end of this dire threat, no mercy, no Regret, and safe return of golden honey.

**Ed. Note: as we go to press, scientists have begun to track these monsters and eradicate them!**

## MICROGRANT TO UPGRADE NBUMC CONNECTIVITY

NBUMC applied for and received at grant of \$1,000 from the BWC to upgrade our technology and connectivity to continue to enable online worship and live-streaming. Stay tuned as we purchase some equipment and work to improve bandwidth in the Sanctuary. (A. Hassler)





# November



2020

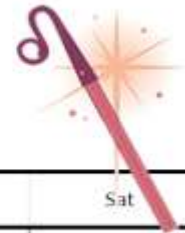








Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Saints Day 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Breakout Coffee Hour	2	3 Election Day  10:00 am Fit for Eternity	4	5 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 6:00 pm Chef Majed Meals 7:30 pm Current Affairs Class	6 World Community Day	7
8 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Breakout Coffee Hour	9 7:00 pm Trustees	10 USMC Day 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 7:00 pm Finance	11 Veteran's Day 7:00 pm AWE	12 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 6:00 pm Chef Majed Meals 7:30 pm Choir	13 Caregiver Appreciation Day	14 11:00 am Prime Time
15 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Breakout Coffee Hour	16	17 Take a Hike Day 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 7:00 pm SPRC	18 7:00 pm AWE	19 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 6:00 pm Chef Majed Meals 7:30 pm Current Affairs Class	20	21 Nat'l Adoption Day
22 Christ the King Sunday 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Breakout Coffee Hour	23 Nat'l Espresso Day 	24 10:00 am Fit for Eternity	25 7:00 pm AWE	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28 French Toast Day 11:00 am Prime Time
29 Advent Begins 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Breakout Coffee Hour	30					



# DECEMBER

2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 World Aids Day 10:00 am Fit for Eternity	2 7:00 pm AWE	3 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 6:00 pm Chef Majed Meals 7:30 pm Current Affairs Class	4 Nat'l Cookie Day 	5
6 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Breakout Coffee Hour	7	8 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 7:00 pm Finance	9 Anti Corruption Day 7:00 pm AWE	10  6:00 pm Chef Majed Meals 7:30 pm Choir	11	12 11:00 am Prime Time
13 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Breakout Coffee Hour	14 7:00 pm Trustees	15 10:00 am Fit for Eternity	16 7:00 pm AWE	17 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 6:00 pm Chef Majed Meals 7:30 pm Current Affairs Class	18 Charles Wesley's Birthday 	19
20 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Breakout Coffee Hour	21 Winter Solstice 	22 10:00 am Fit for Eternity	23 7:00 pm AWE	24 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 6:00 pm Chef Majed Meals	25 Christmas Day 	26 11:00 am Prime Time
27 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Breakout Coffee Hour	28	29 10:00 am Fit for Eternity	30 7:00 pm AWE	31 Watch Night 10:00 am Fit for Eternity 6:00 pm Chef Majed		

# North Bethesda United Methodist Church

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## SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER WORSHIP SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

This is the schedule for worship participants for the months of September and October. 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. Stewards are for the first Sunday of the month.

DATE	LITURGIST	
November 1	Joye Jones	<p>Sunday Worship 10:00am</p> <hr/> <p>Alternative Worship experience:</p> <p>Wednesday 7:00pm</p> <hr/> <p>Contact the Church Office to be added to the mailing list for weekly updates.</p>
November 8	Richard McManus	
November 15	Carol Malmi	
November 22	Steve McSpadden	
November 29	Elvira Williams	
December 6	Pat McSpadden	
December 13	Natalie McManus	
December 20	Carol Malmi	
December 27	Irving Williams	