



# The Octagon

Severna Park United Methodist Church News

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## Gathering the Crumbs

I remember seeing a Gillette ad a few years ago. It began with a typical scene of a man shaving in a mirror but what caught my attention was the simple script: “Some men think of shaving as something you do once a day. At Gillette, we approach shaving as something you do for a lifetime.”

thinking of all those other things that fit into our daily and weekly routines that we often view as having a short-term effect: you eat a meal and that holds you over to the next one, you get gas in your car and you drive it until you run low and have to refill, you shave and then you have to do it again tomorrow.

Suddenly, I found myself

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## Gathering the Crumbs

### Worship in the Garden

We're offering these relaxed services every other Wednesday at 7pm this summer to allow you to worship God in a beautiful setting and provide an opportunity to stay connected in prayer and community in those weeks when you are traveling on the weekend(s). Join us in Memorial Garden on July 11 & 25 and August 8 & 22.



### YAG Summer

It's summertime for the Young Adult Group! YAG has planned a bunch of fun activities, all focused on spending time with one another and getting to know each other better. We would love for YOU to plan to join us! Here's what's coming up:

#### **Bowie Baysox Game vs. Harrisburg Senators**

*Sunday, July 8 at 1:35pm*

Contact Leah to get tickets!  
[westlw88@icloud.com](mailto:westlw88@icloud.com)

#### **Food Truck Tuesday**

*Tuesday, July 24 at 5:30pm*

Church at Severn Run:  
8187 Telegraph Rd, Severn, Maryland 21144

#### **Lunch at Ledo's Pizza, Millersville**

*Sunday, August 5 at 12pm*

#### **Food Truck Thursday**

*Thursday, August 23 at 5:30pm*

Odenton Volunteer Fire Company: 1425 Annapolis Rd, Odenton, MD 21113

For the parents - you're welcome to bring the kids along for any of these activities, and we'll all enjoy hanging out together.

[csurber@severnaparkumc.org](mailto:csurber@severnaparkumc.org)

### Welcome New Members

In June we welcomed 5 new members into the life of our congregation: Tom & Sharron Stomps, Marty & Jami Wilt & Gemma Malcolm. Please do your best to make all of these folks feel welcome here!



*Tom & Sharron Stomps*



*Marty & Jami Wilt*



*Gemma & Tony Malcolm*



You know it's an important part of your faith... but why do we do the things we do in worship? This summer, we are thrilled to have our children and youth in worship every Sunday as we spend 6 weeks learning more about what it means to worship together as the body of Christ. Together, we'll think about practices such as prayer, singing, preaching, and communion, and look for where our scripture directs our worship. For adults and kids alike, come to worship this summer with a childlike heart; it will be formative for all ages!

**July 1:** Why Do We Come Here?

**July 8:** Why Do We Always Read the Bible?

**July 15:** Why Do We Talk with God?  
*VBS Celebration at 9:30*

**July 22:** Why Do We Sing Together?  
*VBS Celebration at 11am*

**July 29:** Why Does the Pastor Talk So Much?

**August 5:** Why Do We Eat in the Sanctuary?

**August 12:** Sent Forth to Love and Serve!  
*ASP Sunday*

### Gathering the Crumbs

(continued from page 1)

What the ad did was to broaden my horizon and begin to think of the cumulative effects of any one of a hundred habits. One healthy meal won't make much difference, but over a period of time if you cut down on calories and saturated fats and eat more vegetables, you may notice a real difference in how you feel and look.

Similarly, we often think of worship as just something we do for "an hour on Sunday" when in reality, worship does its work on us not just weekly but over the long haul of our lives like water slowly wearing down rock. We hear the sacred words of scripture week by week and get drawn into God's salvation story and begin to find more connections to our lives. We pray "forgive us our trespass we forgive those who trespass against us" long enough and find that we are less comfortable holding grudges and more compelled to offer and seek forgiveness. We sing the songs of faith, whether ancient or contemporary, and we find that the words keep doing their work on our hearts long after the last note has been struck on the organ, long after we've sung the last verse.

**An Hour on Sunday** is our worship series for the month of July and it will spill into the first couple of weeks of August, as well. We're giving our Sunday School teachers a break which means our children (elementary and above) will be in worship with us for 6 weeks. Together, we'll be exploring some real fundamental questions with child-like wonder like "Why do we eat in church?" and "Why

do we always read from the Bible?" My favorite is, "Why the does the pastor talk so much?" which, if we're honest, is probably not just a question our kids ask but one we all ponder from time to time. We'll be taking a step back to look at the various components that make up worship -- gathering, singing, reading scripture, participating in the sacraments, preaching -- and seeing how they fit together and add to the whole. Such reflection might rescue us from falling into the trap of seeing worship as just another hour on a Sunday. Hopefully by engaging these basic questions about the nature of worship as an intergenerational family of God, we'll all come away with a deeper understanding and commitment to gathering week after week to praise God, reconnect our lives as the living body of Christ and live in service to our neighbor.

In her book, *The Worshiping Life*, Lisa Nichols Hickman writes, "In worship we gather up the crumbs, and in our gathering we are reminded that a miracle has taken place. We pick up the day-to-day-ness of our lives and give it to God as an offering... We worship because we live amid crumbs. We worship because we know in God there is a wholeness greater than the pieces in our lives."

My hope and my prayer is that we will come to worship with expectation this summer as we allow Christ to gather the crumbs of our lives and turn them, and us, into something holy.

Be God's,

*Rev. Ron*

## Cookies & Conversation

For the last 6 years two other women and I have been in ministry with the homeless population up at Arundel House of Hope in Glen Burnie. Each Tuesday, we meet with a group of 5-10 people and offer a devotional study and conversation. At the end of the hour we take prayer requests – and of course there are cookies and milk. Unfortunately, due to some health concerns, the other two ladies cannot continue in this ministry.

I am looking for someone who could volunteer their time on Tuesdays from 10:30-11:30am starting this fall. You would only volunteer one out of three Tuesdays or more if you desire. We are looking for someone with a heart to work with the homeless, a willingness to present two short devotional lessons (book will be provided) and pray at the end of the session, and to either make or purchase cookies.

If you are interested in this ministry, please contact me, Carolyn Heim, at 410-987-4924 or [cvheim@aol.com](mailto:cvheim@aol.com)

Blessings,

Carolyn Heim

## SPUMC Softball Team Schedule

Games are played on Sundays at Cypress Creek Park or Elvaton Park.

**July 1:** No Game

**July 8:** 3:30pm, Cypress 1

**July 15:** 3:30pm, Cypress 1

**July 22:** 2pm, Cypress 1

**July 29:** 2pm, Elvaton 1

**August 5:** 2pm, Cypress 1

**August 12:** 3:30pm, Cypress 1

If you're interested in joining in, or just want more info, contact Lori.

[spumcsoftball731@gmail.com](mailto:spumcsoftball731@gmail.com)

## ALL October Announcement

Do you have a hobby or a collection that you'd like to share with others? If so, please let Lou Kamm know so we can include you in our October ALL meeting program.

[lkamm@severnaparkumc.org](mailto:lkamm@severnaparkumc.org)



## Baptism Class

Baptisms take place several times each month. If you are interested in having a child baptized at SPUMC, please join us in the Parlor for a Baptism Class on Sunday, July 29 at 11am to learn about what is involved.

[bfrank@severnaparkumc.org](mailto:bfrank@severnaparkumc.org)

## Connections Class

If you're new here and want to know more about SPUMC or you're interested in joining our church, we invite you to attend a Connections Class on Sunday, August 9 at 9:30 am in the Parlor, designed to introduce you to some of the ministries of our church and to give us a chance to get to know each other better. Childcare is provided. RSVP to Beth.

[bfrank@severnaparkumc.org](mailto:bfrank@severnaparkumc.org)

## Sierra Leone Update



Since January 2017, our church has been building a partnership with the June Hartranft Memorial Primary School for Girls and Trinity UMC in Moyamba, Sierra Leone. This partnership has been facilitated by our own Jennifer Pilholski, whose great-aunt June served as a United Brethren missionary in the region. In May, the school celebrated their 50th anniversary. Your generosity during our January 2018 communion offering enabled the community in Moyamba to make much needed building repairs in preparation for this celebration. Thank you! Stay tuned as we make plans to continue this partnership.



## A Way Forward for the UMC

In June, we had a great turnout for all four of our information forums to discuss the UMC Council of Bishops' report of the Commission on a Way Forward as we head toward the specially called General Conference in February of 2019.

If you weren't able to attend, or were but still want more information, please visit the Way Forward Page on our website for several helpful videos, web and book resources and the information sheet that we distributed. Stay tuned for details as we develop additional forums for conversations around these important issues facing our church.

[severnaparkumc.org/wayforward](http://severnaparkumc.org/wayforward)



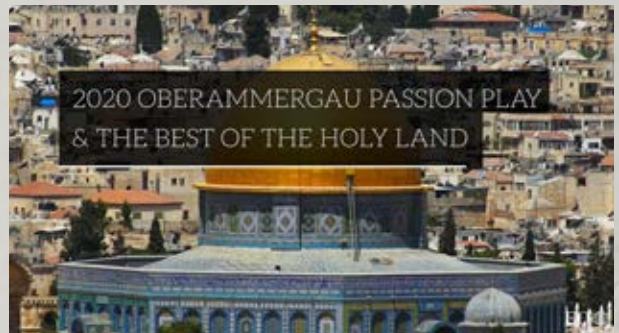
## SPUMC's Man of the Year

We are thrilled to announce that this past Sunday on Father's Day, Chip Linehan was honored by the United Methodist Men as their Man-of-the-Year. Chip is well-deserving of this award as he currently heads up our Heaven's Kitchen outreach ministry, has just become the Volunteers in Mission Chairperson, sings in the Early Riser's Choir, has been a long-time teacher of short and long-term classes and Bible studies with his wife, Hope, and contributes in so many more ways. Please let him know that you are celebrating with him by sending him your personal congratulations in person or by card. Way to go Chip!



## Holy Land Trip Filling Up

Rev. Ron & Holly are leading a trip to the Holy Land & Oberammergau June 14-27, 2020. We have over 65 people signed up so far and we have now opened it up to family and friends. The cost is \$4695 per person. Pick up a brochure at the Welcome Desk to learn more or contact Holly. [holronfost@aol.com](mailto:holronfost@aol.com)



# Gathering the Crumbs



## Music Ministry News

- Children's Choirs on break for summer. Will resume in September.
- Want to learn to read music? Chris and Paul will be leading classes to help folks learn to read music and sight-sing. Classes will be held **Wednesdays at 10am** and **Thursdays at 6:30pm**. Classes begin **Thursday, July 5**. Please RSVP to Chris, if you would like to attend or just simply show up. [cdillard@severnaparkumc.org](mailto:cdillard@severnaparkumc.org)
- Summer Choir rehearsals will be **Thursdays on July 12** and **August 9**. It is a great time to join one of our great choir ensembles.
- Summer Men's Chorus: GUY'S, WE NEED YOU! Rehearsals will be on **Thursday, August 16 & 23** from **7-8pm**. We will sing on **Sunday, August 26**. You do not have to be an active member of choir to join.
- Altus Worship Conference: On **August 25**, Wayne Kerr, a very talented worship

leader and music director from Katy, TX will lead a conference on worship at SPUMC and work with our praise teams.

## Church Orchestra

Your church orchestra is calling violins, cellos, flutes, woodwinds, brass, percussion! We are organizing an SPUMC Orchestra for special services and WE NEED YOU. Time to DUST OFF your high school instruments and share your music for God.

Benefits abound:

- Make new church friends
- Learn cool music, classical and praise
- Easy-going, relaxed atmosphere (we'll play when we're ready)
- Stress-relief
- Improve memory and cognition

For more information please contact Nicola. [npatterson@severnaparkumc.org](mailto:npatterson@severnaparkumc.org)

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