



The Octagon

Severna Park United Methodist Church News

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Mountaintops

“Mountaintop experience” has long been a term used by the faithful to describe an exhilarating, deeply touching time when one feels a unique closeness to God, and sense of self as a child of God. The term comes from remembering various Biblical stories where mighty things happened between God’s chosen

leaders and the Almighty when on a mountaintop. Summer at SPUMC provides a few of these opportunities.

ASP and VBS are these awe inspiring, mountaintop faith moments for our children, youth, and the adults who lead alongside them.

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Mountaintops

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 August 8 & August 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:

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.

To stay connected with YAG, text **YAG** to 410.983.3507 and join our Facebook group: facebook.com/groups/sparkumcyag



Serve with Heaven's Kitchen

On the fourth Saturday of every month, a team of volunteers from our church goes to Brooklyn Community UMC at 10am to cook and serve a meal to the people of Brooklyn and Brooklyn Park. This mission is a great way for people of all ages to serve in our local community. Contact Chip Linehan for more. boxslsman@aol.com

VIM to Costa Rica

Volunteers in Mission is taking a team to Costa Rica this month to work with Costa Rica Mission Projects. They'll work on older church buildings in Golfito. The buildings were originally built by The United Fruit Company as part of a plantation but now belong to the Methodist church. Please keep the team in your prayers:

Jacob Charles, Mike Charles, Delanie Colborne, Logan Dill, Jacque Eagleson, Maddie Finnerin, Rev. Ron, Martha Hollidge, Brian Huntley, Grace Johnson, Hope Linehan, Craig Linehan, Dave McKinney, Isaac Merritt, Mel Merritt, Katie Parker, Tommy Parker, Beth Smith, Sue Springett, Casey Van Vliet, & Fred Wetzel

Congrats 2018 Grads!

Congratulations on successful completion of studies. Wishing you the very best!

Christina Provenza: PhD in Medicine, West Virginia University. Currently doing Residency at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine

Jacque Kirby: Masters in Social Work with concentration in Clinical Behavioral Health, University of Maryland-Baltimore

Brianna Callahan: Masters in Social Work, University of Baltimore

Stacy Biddlecomb Endriss: PhD in Ecology, Colorado State University

Bradley Hogan: BS in Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Maryland

Dan Lee: BS in Aerospace Engineering, University of Maryland; Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force

Jenny Proebstle: BS in Political Science & Women and Gender Studies, University of Delaware

Jimmy Shipley: BS in Political Science, minor in Arabic from the U.S. Air Force Academy; commissioned as a Second Lieutenant

Mike Netherland: BS in Biology, Towson University

Katie Parker: BS in Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies, minor in Elementary Education, James Madison University

Taylor Kitzmiller: BS in Government and Politics, University of Maryland

Allison McNerney: BS in Occupation and Well Being, Towson University

Update from the Beals

This is the busiest time of year for us in Texas. Bruce leads a summer program for elementary school students at the International Linguistic Center in Dallas where we live. Unfortunately, Bruce's parents are not doing very well physically, so part of his time is spent helping them in many ways. We would appreciate prayers for Bruce's dad, as it is very difficult to care for him at home right now.

Heather's main focus is teaching a graduate level course on oral Bible translation at the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics. This semester there are students participating via internet from the US, Canada, Mexico and the other side of the world, as well as here in Dallas. It's a challenge to juggle time zones, but it's exciting to give people training without making them take time out from their assignments to return to Dallas. It's also exciting to be part of this emerging field, focusing on getting the Word of God to people who don't read. Oral translation provides a reliable, accurate, consultant-checked version of the Bible to anyone who can hear, reaching more people for Christ.

The kids are enjoying their summer. The pool at the center where we live opened, offering relief from the 109° temps. They've watched some summer movies and are getting to know our new dog.

Thank you again for your prayers and support - without it we could not continue in this ministry. May the Lord richly bless you and yours this summer!

Heather, Bruce, Michaela, & Joshua Beal

Mountaintops

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This excitement in God, Jesus, and the church in action sustains their faith throughout the year. They move to a deeper understanding of God's love and grace. Being on the mountain top provides them with an awesome way to witness to others when asked about their summer vacation. And during the spring, their excitement in Christ is renewed as they look forward to another year of ASP and VBS.

Kids come to Vacation Bible School for a variety of reasons and from a variety of faith backgrounds. For some kids this is the first time they have heard of God who loves them unconditionally and is with them through it all. For others this is a high energy reminder that God is on their level whether they are in preschool or grade school, whether they are into athletics or the arts, whether school is a breeze or daily struggle. They learn the Bible truths through story and movement so each type of learner embodies the message. This week of VBS sticks with kids long after they are back into their usual routine. The music becomes ingrained into them (and their parents). Weeks after VBS, kids are reminded that when they struggle or feel lonely... Jesus rescues. They remember the joy of being on the mountaintop with Jesus at VBS!

ASP – Appalachia Service Project – literally takes our senior high youth to the mountains of central Appalachia. There they learn to put their faith into action as they repair homes for poor families. But the week is more than the hard work. ASP

is a relational ministry; the youth meet people from a very different culture, learn acceptance and practice compassion. Many take significant steps in their faith journeys, as well as share their faith with the people there. Whether they are aware of it or not, they bring a new level of hope to the Appalachian people they meet. They are given the biblical foundation for service and participate in both Bible study and deep discussions. Most will tell you it is the best week of their summer, or maybe even their year! Many go on to volunteer with similar projects in college. Once you have been to the mountaintop, you feel the need to return!

We are all chosen by God for learning and service. When God calls, God also promises to bless us, our experiences, and the work of our hands. We are thankful that our young people can have these kinds of amazing experiences through the commitment of this congregation.

Gratefully,

Erica & Lee

Faith & Race Group

Rev. Ron will be leading a monthly reading group on "Faith & Race" beginning in September. Each month, we'll read a book together and engage in honest conversation about how race continues to be a major source of misunderstanding, implicit & explicit bias, inequality, and tension in our society. How does Jesus' message of the radically inclusive Kingdom of God speak to us as parents, neighbors, colleagues and fellow citizens in a racially diverse world? Our first book will be *Just Mercy* by Brian Stevenson.

UMYF News

Sunday, August 5, 7pm:
Summer MYF with “Messy Game Night”

Sunday, August 12, 7pm:
Summer MYF with the Snowball Truck

Sunday, August 19, 7pm:
Summer MYF

Sunday, August 26, 7pm:
Summer MYF

“Minute-to-Win-It” Results:

Donut-on-a-String:

Girls — Marlena Summers & Elizabeth Bosanko

Boys — Ben Howard & Ian Russell

Tic-Tac-Toe: Ariana Lecouras, Fran Zyla, Nora DiMaggio
Runners-up: Nick Plummer, Jack Finnerin, Ryan VanVeelen

Saltine Whistle: Elizabeth Bosanko, Jack Finnerin, Ryan Van Veelen, Chase Meadows, Tommy Parker

Marshmallow Drop: Bella Hahn & Grace Atkinson

Runners up: Ian Russell & Chris Nunn

Frisbee Throw: April Collins, Chase Meadows, Erick Howard, Noah Young, Bradley Hogan, Tommy Parker

Strangers or Community?

Fellowship Clubs are small mixed gatherings of 6 or 8 adults (singles and couples) who grow to appreciate each other’s commonalities and differences by sharing brunch, lunch or dinner and conversation 4 to 6 times each year, either in restaurants, food trucks, picnic spots or in each other’s homes.

SAVE THE DATE: Please put the Fellowship Clubs Kickoff bring-a-dish September 23, 4-6pm on your calendar. Childcare and children’s activities can be arranged for Kickoff – just ask. More details to follow by email, so please sign up in Fellowship Hall. Kickoff can be a time to first meet your small group. We also celebrate Christmas together in December and plan a fun Spring picnic with all the small groups and families. Contact Dixie Catlett for more information.
dixiecatdc@gmail.com

Backpack Project

The United Methodist Women are sponsoring 100 children as part of the Anne Arundel County Back to School Backpack project. Stop by our table in Fellowship Hall today to sign-up to fill a backpack for a child from Park or Brooklyn Park Elementary Schools and you’ll receive a list of needed supplies. Backpacks should be returned to Fellowship Hall by August 19. Help these kids be more successful in school with all the right tools! Thanks.



Appalachia Service Project





Red Cross Blood Drive

Come give the gift of life on Monday, August 13, 2-7:30pm in Fellowship Hall and receive a \$5 Amazon gift card!

dmckinney@severnaparkumc.org



Backpack Buddies Thanks

Thank you to all our Vacation Bible School families for supporting Backpack Buddies by filling our pantry for the fall. We're excited to begin supporting local children again in September by ensuring they have nutritious food every weekend. To find out more or get involved, contact Norma Graber.

nlgraber@gmail.com

Options, Options, Options

Just like they say *location, location, location* is the key to successful real estate sales, the key to successful giving results for churches seems to be *options, options, options*. SPUMC offers several giving options to its members.

As always, you can certainly place cash or check in the offering plate on Sunday. However, there are other ways to give:

- Checks can be mailed to the church. 731 Benfield Road, Severna Park, Maryland 21146
- Give online through the church's website at severnaparkumc.org/give
- Give online by texting **GIVE** to **410-988-3507**.
- Set up automatic bill-pay through your bank. Your bank will write and mail your check for you.

Members wanting to make sizeable lump-sum gifts such as stock or retirement fund donation should contact the church's treasurer, Lynne Chaput, for pertinent information. lchaput@severnaparkumc.org

Anyone wanting to make gifts to the church upon their passing should contact SPUMC's Finance Committee for details.

Finally, don't forget to include your children in giving to the church at Sunday School or in the sanctuary. Including children in the family's activity of giving instills a pattern of lifelong generosity.

With your giving, our church will continue to flourish and be a beacon in our community and, subsequently, God's work, through our church, will thrive.

Rise Against Hunger

Do you want to do something to help end world hunger? SPUMC is sponsoring a "Rise Against Hunger" meal packing event October 14. You are invited and encouraged to bring a friend to help!!

When: Sunday, October 14, 2018 from 1:30-3:30 (Set up Noon)

Where: Fellowship Hall

Who: All ages are welcome! We have jobs for ages 5 to 95, so bring your friends! We need 70 volunteers.

What: We will package 10,000 meals (yes, you read that correctly, 10,000!). We will receive equipment, training and meal supplies from the Rise Against Hunger event coordinators.

Rise Against Hunger is an international hunger relief organization that distributes food and life-changing aid to the world's most vulnerable, mobilizing the necessary resources to end hunger by 2030. Most meals are distributed to children in school feeding programs in poorer countries, enabling children to receive an education. Rise Against Hunger has a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator.

You can sign up in Fellowship Hall beginning mid-September or email Becky Clapp. becky.clapp23@gmail.com



Missing Flags Return

You may have noticed that the US & Maryland flags have returned to the Sanctuary after an absence of a little over a year. Originally, they were removed during Lent of 2017 with the intention of being put back later that spring. But out of sight, out of mind, they remained unintentionally tucked away in a closet. When we (the staff) became aware of this later that summer and hadn't heard from anybody about their absence, we decided to keep them out a little while longer to see if they would be missed. In late October and early November, about 6-8 people expressed an interest in having the flags returned to the Sanctuary and we had some face-to-face and email conversations with individuals about this.

They remained out for Advent and Christmas so that the newly created candle banners could occupy the alcoves that they traditionally had been in. Then the Worship Committee took up the matter about where they should "live" on a more permanent basis at their January and March meetings earlier this year and the decision was made to move them to the Fellowship Hall.

This summer during the week of Fourth of July we heard from several more people who felt strongly that the flags should be in the Sanctuary and they were returned the following Sunday. The Worship Committee and Church Council may talk about this some more in the coming months, but for the time being, our plan is to have them in the Sanctuary the majority of the time unless there are liturgical reasons to move them out

temporarily (like Advent/Christmas or Lent/Easter). In these cases they will be displayed in Fellowship Hall and then returned to the Sanctuary at the end of that season. So now you know the story of the disappearing and reappearing flags!

If you ever have concerns or questions about something going on at the church, we encourage you to call, email or come in to talk with one of us. As a staff we try our best to lead faithfully and take seriously the many diverse opinions, perspectives and feelings that are represented in our congregation. We may not always agree on everything but my hope is that we will always listen openly to and expect the best from one other.

Rev. Ron & the SPUMC Staff

SPAN Needs

Lower-income families struggle during the summer to feed their children the meals that they receive at school during the school year, and food drives don't usually occur during the summer. The greatest current needs at Serving People Across Neighborhoods are canned fruit, pasta sauce, jelly, pancake mix, and syrup.

Thanks to everyone helping this summer to fill SPAN's pantry and feed those who need our help. If you have overflow produce from your garden, please drop it off at SPAN Monday to Thursday, 10-2pm. It's a wonderful help!

Mountaintops

Doughnut Volunteers

Want to make your friends and neighbors at SPUMC smile every Sunday? Serve them doughnuts! If you're looking for a way to volunteer or to get to know others here, this is an easy way to help out on Sundays. Volunteering only requires 1.5 hours four times throughout the year. Please consider joining us for a good cup of coffee and contribute to our celebration each Sunday! The schedule will be finalized September 1. Contact Kris Zyla for info or to sign up.
carpenterzyla@hotmail.com

Operation Welcome Home

So far this year 5,000 cards have been written by SPUMC members and delivered through Operation Welcome Home to military personnel returning from overseas. It only takes about 10 minutes to write the notes, and we'd love for you to pick up a pack of cards in Fellowship Hall and join in.

Iona Pilgrimage on Hold

The trip to the island of Iona in the summer of 2019 that Rev. Ron was hoping to lead has sadly been put on hold for now. Due to extensive renovations at the McLeod Center and the Iona Abbey where pilgrims are typically housed for their one-week stays, they will not be ready to receive guests until the following year. Maybe August of 2020 or 2021 instead? Stay tuned and know that it's still on my list of things to do down the road!.

ALL August Lunch

Yes, Elvis will be in the building on Tuesday, August 28 for the Adults Loving Life luncheon! Join us in Fellowship Hall for a patriotic indoor picnic if you want to be "All Shook Up" by Jed Duvall as he delivers gospel favorites. Sign up in the FH for a great lunch from Mission BBQ (\$10 at the door). ALL@severnaparkumc.org

ALL St. Michael's Trip

Sign up soon for the Adults Loving Life trip to St. Michaels! This fun trip includes a wonderful cruise from Annapolis to St. Michaels and free time to explore the charming area. Our yacht will be handicap accessible and include climate-controlled conditions on the lower deck while providing open air and covered areas on the upper deck. Registration with check for \$117 per person is needed by August 15th. Trip forms are located in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Lou with questions. Ikamms@severnaparkumc.org



Vacation Bible School



UNITED TO LOVE

RALLY FOR LOVE, PEACE & JUSTICE

**“LOVE IS THE ONLY
FORCE CAPABLE OF
TRANSFORMING AN
ENEMY INTO A FRIEND.”**

Martin Luther King Jr.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 2018

11 AM - 3 PM

NATIONAL MALL - 4TH STREET NW | DC

REGISTER TODAY AT WWW.UNITEDTOLOVE.ORG

United To Love

United To Love is a rally for love, peace and justice on Sunday, August 12 from 11am-3pm on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol. BWC Bishop Easterling is inviting all United Methodists to overcome hate

with love on the anniversary of the hate-fueled violence in Charlottesville, VA in 2017. Visit severnaparkumc.org/Top5 to learn more about this event. Contact the church office if you are interested in joining Rev. Byron at the rally.
bfrank@severnaparkumc.org

Severna Park United Methodist Church
731 Benfield Rd. Severna Park, MD 21146
410.987.4700 | severnaparkumc.org