



October 2017

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The Octagon

Severna Park United Methodist Church News

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INCLUDED
INTENTIONAL
I'M IN!
INVESTED
INVITED

I'm IN!

A few weeks ago, I heard a familiar quote on a favorite podcast: "Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle." The podcast host, a well-known author, talked about the experience of knowing someone socially and then reading their memoir. Suddenly, she said, she would see their

whole life in a new light. Knowing her friend's past experiences and struggles through their writing showed her how important it is to be kind – because you never know what they're really going through.

We all have a story.

(continued on page 7)

Update on LWOW

Several years ago, the Church created a non-profit organization to operate a mission from a row house on Wilkens Ave. in Baltimore City. The intent of the mission is to provide women caught in trafficking, prostitution or wrestling with drugs, a place, where for a few hours a day, they could find refuge off the street. We offered food, a place to wash their clothes, shower, relax and perhaps become acquainted with our Lord. The house was operated for about 15 months by a paid manager who in March of this year decided to return to her family in New Jersey.

Since then, the Board of LWOW has been exploring various options to continue operation of the facility. We have concluded having one individual operating the house is insufficient to maintain a viable mission, and believe we do not have the resources to provide the additional personnel and expertise that is needed. We have met with a number of organizations to explore use of the house in continuance of the original mission. This may result in leasing the house to another non-profit organization. However, leasing the facility raises several legal issues. We continue to work to overcome the various obstacles to reopening the facility for use as originally intended. In the interim, the house is being maintained to protect the original investment. If you have any questions, Please do not hesitate to contact Ted Mathison, Board Chair and President. tem2@verizon.net



Winter Relief Mission

November 6–13, 2017

In six short weeks our church will host Winter Relief, a mission where we house 45 homeless men and women for an entire week. We offer shelter, meals, showers, laundry, warm fellowship and most importantly the love of God to these men and women. There are many ways you can be involved such as serving as a host volunteer (working directly with the guests), helping with meals, transportation, laundry, activities and much more. You will again be able to sign up in Fellowship Hall or online. It takes 300 volunteers to run this mission. Please consider serving during this very important week. If you have any questions you can contact Carolyn Heim at 410-987-4924.

severnaparkumc.org/wrsignup

SPAN Turkey Trot

SPAN is holding its 2017 Stride for SPAN Turkey Trot, a 5K Run, & 1M Fun Walk, on Sunday, November 12. Sponsors are needed for this fun event, and it's a great way to get your company name seen while helping a worthy cause. Sponsorship and participation forms are available on the SPAN board in the Fellowship Hall, and e-mail if you have questions. spanhelps@yahoo.com



October 14
4:30-6:30

Join us for an evening of fun fellowship as we celebrate the fall with chili!

Bring your secret recipe and see if you can win!

Visit the website for more:
severnaparkumc.org/chili

Chili Cook-Off

Want to enter your chili into one of the five competition categories? Visit the webpage for instructions and full event details. severnaparkumc.org/chili

SPAN Holiday Caring

The SPAN Holiday Caring Program helps our neighbors by providing assistance with Thanksgiving and Christmas food and gifts for children. As a sponsor you will be matched with a family to purchase food and/or gifts, and deliver the donation to SPAN for distribution. Drop-off Thanksgiving food on November 13, and Christmas December 10.

To become a sponsor, please complete a sponsorship form located on the SPAN bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Email Jennifer at SPAN. spanhelps@yahoo.com

Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes

The Learn and Share Circle will be collecting holiday boxes starting in October. Children's gifts go all over the world, including here in the US. Boxes and info available in Fellowship Hall.

SPUMC Pumpkin Patch

Money raised goes to our church and to Navajo Indians in New Mexico who grow, harvest, & ship pumpkins. Please sign up online to help us with sales for a couple hours (especially needed on weekends). severnaparkumc.org/pumpkin



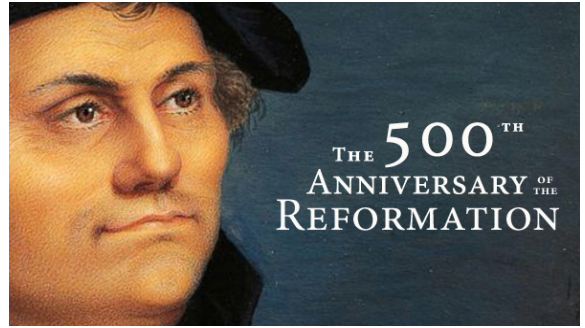
Special Presentation – The Protestant Reformation

This year is the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, and we are pleased to be offering a unique 2-evening presentation giving an overview of the world changing event. On October 23 & 30 at 7pm, Rev. Sherrin Marshall will offer an in-depth look at what brought on the Reformation and the effects it had.

Rev. Sherrin Marshall will provide a broad view of the Protestant Reformation and includes less known precursors, such as the Beguines, Beghards, and Lollards, giving background on the political and religious situation that brought about the rise of Martin Luther. We will learn how he was reluctantly thrust into the role of reformer. We'll see how the Reformation affected ordinary people - male and female, rich and poor, changing lives and the countries in which these folk lived -- and how it continues to impact people worldwide to this day.

Dr. Marshall holds a Ph.D. in the history of early modern Europe, and taught at Northeastern University and the University of Massachusetts at Boston. She also earned an M.Div from Wesley Seminary and served as pastor in the UMC for 20 years. The era of the Reformation has continued as a scholarly interest throughout her life. In her retirement, Sherrin and her husband have located with us here at SPUMC.

Sign up in Fellowship Hall, or just show up for this fascinating presentation.



Kairos Candy Bar Sale

Buy candy bars for \$2 each and donate them to one of SPUMC's ministries:

- Operation Welcome Home
- Winter Relief
- Backpack Buddies
- Heaven's Kitchen

The proceeds of these sales support KAIROS Prison Ministry, and the candy will bless you or can be donated to bless someone in these ministries.

Giving Creatively

As part of this year's Stewardship Campaign the Endowment Committee is sponsoring a workshop from 7-8pm on November 6 in room 208 entitled: "Giving Creatively" designed to share with the congregation a variety of ways to give to SPUMC and to include SPUMC in your estate planning. The primary speaker is estate planning and elder law attorney Larry Adashek. Mr. Adashek is an officer and member of the Elder Law Section of the Maryland State Bar Association, and a frequent lecturer on the subjects of Estate Planning and Elder Law. For additional information, contact endowmment@severnaparkumc.org

The Garage Sale Needs Your Help!

After 20 years of faithful service, Gwyn Linthicum has decided that it is time to “retire” from managing and coordinating the VIM Garage Sale. Under her careful direction and stewardship, the sale has been wildly successful and has grown exponentially! And while this October 7th sale will be the last one she coordinates, she has graciously agreed to help us manage a successful transition.

As we have met to talk about the future, we have all agreed: we will never be able to replace Gwyn! And the job has gotten too big for just one person. Thankfully, Gwyn has helped us divide the job of coordinating a successful Garage Sale into manageable “chunks.” The people accepting responsibility for these roles will be a part of our new Garage Sale Committee and with all of us working together, SPUMC will continue to have a fantastic sale!

We are so grateful for the ways you have all contributed to the Garage Sale over the years, making it a key

part of raising funds for mission work through our church – and we would love to have YOU on the new Garage Sale Committee! If you think you could help with just 1 “chunk” listed in the sidebar, now is the time to let us know. This fall’s sale is a great opportunity to shadow Gwyn and learn from her, so our new Garage Sale Committee will be fully staffed in the spring.



Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, October 9 at 2pm-730pm, Fellowship Hall

Please schedule your lifesaving donation by emailing Dave. The need is always there, but is even more critical during times of natural disasters. Please give if you can—one donation can save up to 3 lives!

dmckinney@severnaparkumc.org

Garage Sale Committee

There are so many ways to make the garage sale a success. Would you enjoy one of them?

- *Sale Coordinator*
- *Pre-sale and Post-sale Logistics*
- *Set-Up/Take-Down Captains*
- *Front of Church*
- *Fellowship Hall & Café*
- *Back of Church*
- *Security Coordinator*
- *Logistics Coordinator*
- *Outside Distribution*
- *Back Hallway*
- *Inside Organization*
- *Mission Shopper Coordinator*

If you're interested in serving in one of these roles or want to learn more about what's involved, email Rev. Carissa. Let's join forces to continue the legacy of the SPUMC Garage Sale!

[csurber \[at\] severnaparkumc.org](mailto:csurber[at]severnaparkumc.org)

INCLUDED INTENTIONAL I'M IN! INVESTED INVITED

Stewardship Series

October 22: I'm INcluded

October 29: I'm INTentional

**November 5: Reformation/All Saints:
Not part of the "I'm IN!" Series*

November 12: I'm INvested

November 19: I'm INVited

VIM Team Heads West

SPUMC will be sending a Volunteers-in-Mission team to the UMCOR Depot in Salt Lake City to work on hygiene and cleaning kits that are distributed throughout the US in the wake of disasters. We will commission the team of 22 individuals on Sunday, October 15 at our 8am service. Please hold them in your prayers as they do this important work.

Operation Welcome Home

Adults Loving Life will be collecting individually wrapped pieces of candy for Operation Welcome Home. It will be distributed to soldiers returning to the USA through the BWI airport. There is a box in the Fellowship Hall under the Operation Welcome Home card boxes where you can drop off your leftover Halloween candy through November 15.

SPUMC recently passed a new milestone with Operation Welcome Home cards. Because of our faithful card signers, Adults Loving Life was able to deliver 2,000 more cards recently, making our 2017 total 6,000 cards! The dedicated volunteers who faithfully meet planes of soldiers returning to the U.S. were very appreciative of your dedication. Thank you, and keep those cards coming!

I'm IN! (continued)

Some of us are very open about our stories, posting on Facebook and chatting with friends. Others keep our stories hidden, only sharing with close friends after years of trust has been earned. Some stories are filled with the anguish and pain of incredibly personal battles against cancer, infertility, loss, or shame. Other stories are accounts of quiet triumph, victories earned the hard way, surprising joy at the end of a long road. Some stories lead us closer to God as we marvel at the miracles of life, while others cause us to ask, "How long, God? How long?"

In a few weeks, we'll start our next preaching series, called "I'm IN." It won't be a money-centric stewardship campaign, but a thoughtful time to share our personal experiences of God with one another. Across the four weeks of the series, we'll hear ancient stories from scripture and personal stories across our congregation. Some will be filled with celebration, and others filled with heartache. But in every story, we'll see how God is inviting us to go deeper with our faith.

This fall, you're invited to think about your faith story. How is God calling you to go deeper in this season? What has brought you this far, and what is the next story God will write in your life?

My prayer is that you will find a deeper and more meaningful faith this fall, as we all take the next faithful step of discipleship together. The road won't always be easy, but we can trust that when we walk with Jesus, the journey will be worthwhile.

Friends, God is inviting us on a grand adventure, and it's going to make a great story one day.

Are you in?

Rev. Carissa

Moms Connect

Moms Connect is a semi-monthly gathering of moms who desire to connect with one another, grow in their faith, and form a community of care and support. All moms are welcome. Childcare is provided in the nursery. Text *Mom* to 410-983-3507 to stay connected.

October 5: *Garage Sale Setup*

October 19: *Learn about the spiritual practice of fellowship*

Annual Ladies Christmas Tea

*December 10, 2017
1:30-3:30pm
Fellowship Hall
\$10/ticket*

Tickets are sold in Fellowship Hall until November 26 (or until they're sold out.) Get yours early to ensure you are not disappointed. You can also sign up to host and decorate a table. Invite your friends to join you!

Women's Retreat

9th Annual Women's Retreat

Save the Date!
April 6-8, 2018

Powerpoint Clickers

Do you feel called to donate a little extra time on Sunday mornings? We could use a few extra people to click through PowerPoints during services!

Contact Paul Ford. [pford \[at\] severnaparkumc.org](mailto:pford@severnaparkumc.org)

UMYF News

UMYF is United Methodist Youth Fellowship, a group for 7th-12th graders that meets weekly for the purpose of study, fellowship, and service.

Sunday, October 1: 7pm, Elections

Sunday, October 8: 7pm, Program, "The Science of Happiness"

Sunday, October 15: 7pm, Dragon's Tail

Sunday, October 22: 7pm, Program, "Is It Ever Okay to Fail?"

Sunday, October 29: Annual Bonfire and Halloween Party at the Harden's

Super 6th News

Super 6th is for Sixth graders and their friends. It meets every other week for games, discussion, and fun.

October 8: 5pm, Games and BINGO!

October 22: 5pm, Halloween Party

November 5: 5pm, Group building

November 19: 5pm, Thanksgiving

The Coming Advent

Carols, Cookies & Crafts: A great family event on December 3 to help celebrate the holiday season. Bring cookies or an hors d'oeuvres to share.

Online Advent Studies: Coming this December Carissa & Erica will be hosting an online advent studies for young adults and young families. Stay tuned for more information.

3rd Grade Bibles

Congratulations to our 3rd graders who are receiving Bibles this year.

- Elizabeth Grace Milauskas
- Carson Andrew Donaldson
- Peter Liam Acosta
- Kendall Leigh Bishop
- Jordyn Elizabeth Urban
- Adrianna Carissa Ardis
- Isabella Faith Burleson
- Brianna Nicole Knutsen
- Reese Hilde Roberts
- Madeline Jeanette Barger
- William David Dickerson
- Adam Robert Sexton
- Patrick Cole Martin
- Jordan Francis Dill
- Abigail Rose Roberts (4th Grade)
- Ava Helen Lazzor



Last year's Bible recipients