



November 2017

Volume 3, No. 11

The Octagon

Severna Park United Methodist Church News

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A Bigger Table

It's hard not to think about tables covered end to end with food at this time of year. Most of us have vivid memories of Thanksgiving meals at various stages of our lives. For some, those pictures in our minds are warm and rich: faces of family and friends gathered around a table where there are

all the favorite dishes (some that only made a yearly appearance) and there is lots of laughter and plenty of good conversation. I am blessed with a lot of memories of this kind, both as a child when most years we hosted cousins...

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UMYF News

Sunday, November 5: 7pm, Annual Bonfire, Deadlines for retreat signups

Sunday, November 12: 7pm, Light program & games

Friday, November 17 - Sunday, November 19: Fall Retreat. No evening meeting.

Sunday, November 26: 7pm, Group Building Night

Congratulations to our recently-elected officers:

SENIOR HIGH

President: Bella Hahn, VP1: Jack Finnerin
VP2: Sam Keeler, Jr. VP: Reilly Mitchell
Soph VP: Anna Trull, Fr. VP: Tim Zyla
Secretary: Grace Atkinson

MIDDLE HIGH

President: Josie Dike, 8th VP: Keaton Hill
7th VP: Elliot Gerig, Secretary: Ian Russell



Super 6th

Sunday, November 5: 5pm, Game Night

Sunday, November 19: 5pm, Thanksgiving Program

Sunday, December 3: Help with Carols, Cookies & Crafts

Sunday, December 10: 5pm, Christmas Party

YAC

SPUMC's young adult group is serving and spending time together this November! If you're in your 20s or 30s, we hope you'll join us!

Wednesday, November 8: serve at Winter Relief from **4-7:30 pm** (meet in the church kitchen)

Friday, November 10: food & fellowship potluck from **5:30-8pm** at Tracy's (8221 Daniels Purchase Way in Millersville)

Monday, November 27: serve with Backpack Buddies from **6:30-8pm** (meet in church room 208)

Questions? Just ask Rev. Carissa at 410-983-3507 (text only) or carissa@severnaparkumc.org

Book Fair

Sparkhouse Family Book Fair Award-winning Bibles, books, and videos for babies to 12-year-olds.

- Board Books & Picture Books
- Thanksgiving & Christmas Books
- Bibles & Reference Books

The books will be on display **Sundays, November 5, 12, & 19.**

Turn in order form and payment by November 26 to ensure you receive your books for Christmas.

The books are offered at a discounted rate, and SPUMC keeps 20% of the sales revenue.

Chili Cook-Off Recap

On a fall evening, spoons were out and ready for sampling. SPUMC's first chili cook off was a delicious success! Approximately 15 chefs entered their chilis in our 4 categories. Everyone who attended sampled each chili and then voted. Our youth brought their best chilis and beat out the competition. The overall winner was Christina Smith (7th grade) with her Honey Zucchini chili. Dylan Jones (6th grade) came in 2nd and won the under-18 category. A special thanks to our talented musicians who set a wonderful ambiance as we ate. Kids went home worn out from playing game and bouncing in the moon bounce.

Tweak your recipes this fall and winter so you can bring your best chili **October 20, 2018** for our 2nd Chili Cook Off.



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

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

Operation Welcome Home

Adults Loving Life is 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 (unopened bags or single-size) and needed snack bags through **November 15**.



Stewardship Series

November 12: I'm INvested

November 19: I'm INVited
Thanks & Giving Sunday

Thanks & Giving Sunday

Join us for worship on Thanks & Giving Sunday, November 19, which will conclude our **I'm IN** stewardship campaign and celebrate the ministries that make SPUMC a church alive in Christ. Together we will give God Thanks for the blessings (both big and small) that grace our lives and church. You will have the opportunity to make your commitment of Giving back to God in the form of financial support, mission engagement, and spiritual growth for the coming year. Don't miss it!

Thanksgiving Service

Join us for a Potluck Thanksgiving Feast and Worship Service on **Tuesday, November 21**. The meal starts at **6:30pm** in Fellowship Hall and will lead into a time of family-friendly worship beginning at **7pm**. If you can't be there in time for the dinner, you are welcome to simply come for the worship service.

Remembering With Love

Many of us still remember with love Janet Stomps who was killed in a tragic traffic accident on June 16, 2016 on Ritchie Highway. There will be a sentencing hearing on November 28 for the individual responsible for her death at which only family members may speak. However, the presiding judge will also read impact statements from anyone who submits one.

If you would like to write a short statement on the positive impact that Janet had on your life and the void that she leaves in our community, you are encouraged to send it to: **Judge Kiessling, AAC Circuit Court, 8 Church Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401 (Case #C02CR171350).**



Moms Connect

Moms Connect is a gathering of moms who desire to connect with one another, grow in faith, and form a community of care and support that meets the first and third Thursdays of each month. All moms are welcome. Childcare is provided. Text "Mom" to 410-983-3507 to get updates. moms@severnaparkumc.org

November 16: *Discussion on Submission from "Mom Seeks God."*

Christmas Eve Worship Schedule

Join us on **Sunday, December 24** for worship at **9 & 11am** that morning. That evening, we'll gather at **7, 9, & 11am** to celebrate Christmas Eve.

7pm: Family

9 & 11pm: Traditional

Holiday Treat Make and Take

Come to our 3rd Annual Holiday Treat Make and Take on **December 2** from **5-9pm**.

Every year we get together to fellowship while baking holiday treats. At the end of the night you will go home with an assortment of treats and cookie doughs, including buckeyes, scones, chocolate covered pretzels and much more all for \$25.

As a group, we'll make extras to give to Heaven's Kitchen kids to go in their gift bags.

Sign ups and payments are due by **November 16**. Checks can be made out to SPUMC.

Childcare is available. Let Michelle McVey know the ages and times of children attending so care can be properly arranged.

myshelldancer@gmail.com

Carols, Cookies, & Crafts

Join us on **December 3, 4-6pm** as we sing carols. Bring hors d'oeuvres or cookies to share. Enjoy decorating sugar cookies and building gingerbread houses. Make crafts for your home and gifts for your friends. All are welcome to this inter-generational event.

ebenjamin@severnaparkumc.org

Advent Angel Tree

Give generously this Christmas season by fulfilling a need from the Advent Angel Tree. The tree will be up in Fellowship Hall on **November 26**. This year, our church has adopted 15 families through the Salvation Army, giving us the chance to brighten Christmas for 31 children in our community. You can also choose to give through our Backpack Buddies ministry, provide gifts for children whose mothers are in prison, help Heaven's Kitchen provide warm food for the Brooklyn Community, and so much more. This is a great opportunity for your family to participate in missions together during the Christmas season.

carissa@severnaparkumc.org

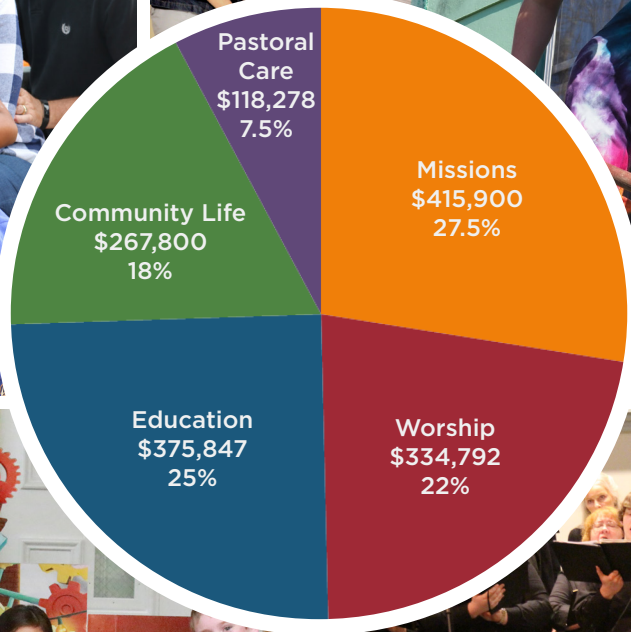
Annual Ladies Christmas Tea

*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!

Online Advent Studies

Coming this December Carissa & Erica will be hosting an online Advent study for young adults and young families. Stay tuned for more information.



Our 2017 Financial Picture

Where does my support to SPUMC go? How is the church impacting the life of our community? How do our leaders return the generosity of the congregation to the world? If you have ever asked yourself these questions, you are not alone! To explain how SPUMC puts your generosity to work for Christ, the Finance

Committee has produced a narrative budget. While you can always access the line-item budget through the church office, this version shows how every aspect of our church goes to support our mission of loving, serving, and following as we walk in the way of Jesus.

Look for the the full Narrative Budget brochure on Sunday, November 12.

A Bigger Table (continued)

and grandparents at our home in suburban Philadelphia and as an adult with our children in one of the five places we have lived.

For others of us, the memories are more complicated, some good years, some painful ones; some pictures that recall tables of love and others that remind us of loss.

Almost all of us can remember (or maybe you are dreading this year) being at a table with an odd bunch of people (let's be honest here) who only get together once in a while and who bring with them their histories, opinions, personalities, quirks, expectations and "stuff" and well... it can get messy, especially in these deeply divided times where we're not even sure how to talk with one another anymore.

Recently I shared with our staff a book that I've been gobbling up with deep satisfaction. It's called A Bigger Table: Building Messy, Authentic and Hopeful Spiritual Community by John Pavlovitz. It's not surprising that a follower of Jesus should be drawn to write about tables since Jesus sure

talked about and spent time at them enough. Pavlovitz writes about his own spiritual journey and his expanding view of the grace-filled Kingdom of God this way:

"I was seeing just how big the table could be and should be—the one that I'd later give everything to build as a pastor. It was the gathering place where strippers and gay caterers and atheists all had a standing invitation, not to receive charity from someone morally superior and not to serve as a religious project to be converted and fixed – but as welcome dinner guests of a hospitable Jesus who modeled what happens when we break bread with the broken: we find ourselves there too...the heart of the bigger table is the realization that we don't have to share someone's experience to respect their road."

Friends, whatever tables you find yourselves at this Thanksgiving, I hope that they are filled with all the good things your heart desires: turkey and stuffing, love and acceptance, mashed potatoes and gravy, laughter and forgiveness, pumpkin pie and apple pie, kindness and compassion. May you and yours be blessed with a big messy table this season. Who knows? Maybe Jesus will even show up.

Be God's,
Rev. Ron

Joan Boyer Thanks

"To our church family, thanking you for your kindness and prayers for Chuck and I over many months of illness and your comfort after Chuck's death and comfort for me." - Joan Boyer

Never Alone Support Group

Our cancer support group Never Alone will not meet during the month of November. Make plans to join the next meeting on **December 5.**



Clothes Closet Ministry

The clothing ministry will not have cards available today, but will have them next Sunday, November 12. Pick one up and help out people in need!



Choir to NYC

Our choir has been invited to participate in a performance of Mark Hayes's International Carol Suite at Carnegie Hall in New York City on November 19, 2017. They will join with a select group of choirs from all over the country for several days of clinics with conductor and composer Mark Hayes leading up to the concert. If you would like to help support the choir in this venture, you may contribute by check or online. Please be sure to mark "Carnegie Hall" in the memo line in either case. Thanks! severnaparkumc.org/give

assembling and checking health kits, flood buckets and other relief supplies.



VIM Returns

Welcome back to our Volunteers-in-Mission who just returned from a week of serving at the UMCOR West Depot

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