



The Octagon

Severna Park United Methodist Church News

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Do. Love. Walk.

On two occasions, I’ve had the privilege of being a week-long pilgrim with the Iona community on an isolated island off the west coast of Scotland, where morning and evening worship takes place in an ancient Benedictine church whose very walls feel soaked in prayer. The morning liturgy contains these beautiful and

powerful lines that are recited each day as the opening responses: *Love and faith come together, justice and peace join hands.* Those words always stir my heart whether I am saying them with a group of believers in Maryland or in that 13th century sacred space.

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Backpack Buddies

This is our eighth year of the Backpack Buddies program here at SPUMC. Each week during the school year we send home food items to provide nourishment over the weekend and breaks to students who may not have enough food at home.

Current Needs: Constant Needs:

Shelf life milk	Jars of peanut butter
Fruit cups	Juice boxes
Single serve cereals	Chef Boyardee microwave cups
Peanut butter crackers	Crackers in sleeves (Ritz, saltines)
Pudding cups	Granola bars
Packs of nuts	Applesauce cups
Raisins	Tuna or chicken pouches

All donated items should be individually wrapped single servings size except for crackers. We have lists of needed items and dates and times for upcoming packings for the 2018-19 school year in Fellowship Hall.

Want to help? Here's how:

1. Purchase items from the list above and place them in the bins in the Fellowship Hall labeled Backpack Buddies.
2. Assist with set up for packings on Sunday mornings before church in Room 208. Our first Sunday packing is **September 23** at **9am**.
3. Join us in Room 208 on Mondays from **5-6:30pm**. Our first Monday packing is **October 1**.
4. Assist with delivering the food.

Contact Norma Graber or more info about this mission. nlgraber@gmail.com



“A Way Forward” Event with Tom Berlin

The United Methodist Church is at a crossroads as it lives into a season of discernment and choosing. In February, a special session of the General Conference will be held to consider the work of the Commission on a Way Forward and how the denomination will address LGBTQ inclusion. It is a time, some say, for the church to decide if we will walk together loosely or part with a blessing.

On **September 15**, Rev. Tom Berlin, a member of the Commission on a Way Forward, will discuss the different options facing the church from **10am-3pm**, at Nichols-Bethel UMC, 1239 Murray Road in Odenton. The final reports of the Commission and a video of Rev. Berlin's presentation to the BWC in May is online. Learn more at bwcumc.org/wayforward.



Third Grade Bibles

On Christian Education Sunday, **October 14** at **9:30am** our third graders will receive brand new Bibles. In order for third graders to receive their Bibles they must attend a class with a parent or guardian on **Sunday, September 30** at **11am** -or- **Wednesday, September 19** at **9am** (AACPS are closed this day). Those unable to attend either session must meet with Erica in person prior to October 14.

Sunday School Volunteers

We are in need of 2 teachers for our 9:30am toddlers and twos class. The commitment requires being on a teaching team from September 9-June 9, setting a schedule that works for you volunteering about once a month, completing Safe Sanctuary paperwork and arriving 10 minutes early the Sundays you volunteer. Contact Erica for more information.

ebenjamin@severnaparkumc.org

Backpack Thanks

Thank you to all those who donated school supplies as part of the United Methodist Women's annual Back-to-School Project. With your help, we sponsored 100 children between Park and Brooklyn Park Elementary Schools! Please keep these children in your prayers as they begin a new year of learning.



Safe Sanctuary Review

As we continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in the Roman Catholic Church who have suffered from sexual abuse and the accompanying years of silence/cover-up, we wanted to remind you of the practices we have in place to ensure the safety, well-being, and spiritual growth of the children and youth entrusted to our care. Every person, whether staff or volunteer, who works with our children completes our Safe Sanctuary process. This process consists of an application, references, background check (rechecked every 5 years), and questionnaire (completed annually). Only once volunteers have been vetted through this process may they begin to serve.

While working with children, volunteers are expected to adhere to a code of conduct laid out in our policy to ensure that there are not opportunities for abuse to occur. If allegations of abuse are brought forth (whether they occurred on site or not), the clergy and staff are mandatory reporters. This means that in addition to notifying our professional chain of command, we also notify the proper legal authorities. The well-being of children within our care is of the utmost importance to us. As we affirm every time we baptize a child, we all pledge to "live according to the example of Christ... that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life." If you have any questions about our Safe Sanctuaries process, please contact Erica Benjamin, our Children's Ministry Director.

ebenjamin@severnaparkumc.org

Do. Love. Walk.

(continued from page 1)

In some ways, they echo for me the even more ancient words of the prophet Micah, who in the sixth chapter rhetorically asks what God desires more: our ceremonial worship or our committed lives? The answer comes in one of the most foundational and memorable verses in scripture. “*What does the Lord require of you? But to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*” (Micah 6:8)

Those convicting words of the prophet will be our anchor and guide in our next worship series, “Do, Love, Walk” which will begin on **September 9** and run for six weeks. We have stunning new Micah 6:8 banners that will hang in the Sanctuary (thanks *Carol Rice, Nancy Densmore & Diane McGrath!*) as a visual invitation into this text. We’ll spend two Sundays each exploring what it means to seek God’s justice, to extend compassion to our neighbors and to live with a deep and authentic sense of humility. Each week, we’ll offer suggested follow-up readings and two of our fall study options will allow us to explore this theme more deeply.

On Wednesday nights, I’ll be teaching a 7-week study on the world-wide refugee crisis called *Welcoming the Stranger* and we’ll be talking about how difficult, urgent and polarizing (both inside and outside the church) this issue has become. Additionally, I’m launching a new year-long monthly *Race & Faith Book Group*. Our first selection is *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson, an inspiring lawyer who has committed his life to challenging bias against the poor and people of color.

Beyond these two groups, we are also offering a wide range of Bible and book studies: *Anxious for Nothing* (Rev. Lee), *A Fresh Look at the Bible* (Rev. Byron), *Disciple 2* (Dave McKinney), *Better Together* (a marriage enrichment group with Rev. Carissa and Matthew), *Inspired* (Young Adult Group) and *Heavenly Minded Mom* (Moms Connect with Erica). There is more information about these classes and more on pages 6-7. We hope that you will use this season to deepen your own faith journey as we **Do, Love, Walk** together.

Rev. Ron

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.

Join us for the Fellowship Clubs Kickoff Bring-a-Dish on **September 23, 4-6pm**. 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

UMYF Fall Start-Up

The United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF) will resume full fall programming on **Sunday, September 9, 7pm** with our annual “SUPER SUNDAY!” For youth in grades 7-12, the evening will include introductions, skits, and an all-you-can-eat ice cream sundae bar. Friends are welcome.

Weekly programming will follow **every Sunday** night, **7-8:30pm** and will include group building games, devotions, easy discussion, and good people. Watch the mail, the website, and the bulletin for more detailed announcements.

Super 6th

SUPER 6th is a unique and important opportunity for our 6th graders. This fun, preparatory fellowship group meets twice a month, **Sundays, 5-6:30pm**. Our 6th graders learn about fellowship, our rules, the other people in their grade, and UMYF’s great leadership.

The first meeting, September 30, is full of games and a pizza dinner. All 6th graders are welcome. Bring friends!

lferrell@severnaparkumc.org



Connections & Baptism Classes

If you’re new to SPUMC and just curious or if you’re ready to join our church, you are invited to attend our **Connections Class Sunday, September 16 at 11am** in the Parlor. Come meet with Rev. Ron to learn more about our core mission, our various ministries, and where you might fit in.

If you are interested in having a child baptized at SPUMC, please join us for a **Baptism Class** in the Parlor on **Sunday, September 23 at 11am** to learn about this sacrament and what’s involved.

Childcare is provided. RSVP to Beth if you’re planning on attending either class.

bfrank@severnaparkumc.org

Bible Studies & Classes

Sundays

***8:15am ~ Search the Scriptures:** A study of *Ezekiel*, followed by *Daniel & Revelation*. Begins **September 9**. (Bob Wimbrow)

***9:30am ~ Saints and Sinners:** *Anxious for Nothing* by Max Lucado is a reflection on Philippians 4 that offers ways God helps those dealing with life's inevitable anxieties. Begins **September 9**. (Nancy Landers & Dick Legare)

***11am ~ 11th Hour Bible Study:** Begins **September 9**. (Reid Reininger)

Mondays

6:30pm ~ Better Together: A seven-week marriage enrichment class for couples that will cover topics such as personal stress, conflict resolution, finances, navigating change, and more. Strengthen your marriage, no matter how long you've been together. \$35 fee to cover cost of Prepare and Enrich curriculum. Begins **September 17**. (Rev. Carissa & Matthew Surber) **Childcare provided.**

Tuesdays

7pm ~ Anxious for Nothing by Max Lucado: A five-week study of Philippians 4, including DVD and discussion, addressing the feelings of anxiety gripping so many of us. Begins **September 18**. Also being offered on Fridays at 10am. (Rev. Lee Ferrell)

7pm ~ A Fresh Look at the Bible: An in-depth look at the Bible over six weeks – sacred history, “Word of God,” higher righteousness, different points of view, Scripture as “inspired,” and modern translations. Begins **October 23**. Also being offered on Wednesdays at 10:30am. (Rev. Byron Brought)

7pm ~ Faith & Race Book Group: September's book is *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson, a true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a call to fix our broken justice system. Stevenson is the executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative and has devoted his life to challenging bias against the poor and people of color. Copies are available from the church for \$12. Other selections will include *Raising White Kids*, *America's Original Sin*, *White Awake*, *Plantation Jesus*, and *Between the World and Me*. **Meets monthly on the fourth Tuesday**, beginning **September 25**. (Rev. Ron Foster)

***7pm ~ Disciple 2:** This 24-week study will immerse you in the books of Genesis & Exodus and Luke & Acts. The focus helps readers deepen their understanding of these books, then invites participants to decide how to respond in their lives. Begins **September 11**. (Dave McKinney)

Wednesdays

10:30am ~ A Fresh Look at the Bible: An in-depth look at the Bible over six weeks. See description for Tuesday, 7pm. Begins **October 24**. (Rev. Byron Brought)

7pm ~ Welcoming the

Stranger: There are more than 20 million refugees in the world today, men, women and children, forced from their homes by violence and persecution. What was once a humanitarian issue has become a divisive political issue, even in the church. This 7-week study will help us look beyond the headlines into the real experiences of displaced people to determine what a faith-filled response to this ongoing crisis might look like. Begins **September 12.**

(Rev. Ron Foster)

7pm ~ Women’s Book

Study: A discussion group for women designed to explore the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit with the goal of “growing in Christlikeness” by reading two short books about the topic, and conducting a personal inventory to learn about our own Gifts, how to best use them for God’s purposes, and how to cultivate Fruits of the Spirit in our own lives. **Meets monthly** beginning **September 26.**

(Tina Robinson)

Thursdays

***6:30pm ~ Moms Connect:**

A study of **Heavenly Minded Mom** by Katie Bennett, intentionally looking at how to rise above the daily routine and see a bigger plan and purpose for motherhood. Through short devotions and conversations, moms embrace a simpler life full of God’s promises and love. Begins **September 6.** (Erica Benjamin) **Meets first and third Thursdays; childcare provided.**

***6:30pm ~ YAG (Young**

Adult Group): Conversations around **Inspired** by Rachel Held Evans. Begins **September 13.** (Rev. Carissa Surber) **Meets second and fourth Thursdays; childcare provided.**

Fridays

10am ~ Anxious for Nothing

by Max Lucado: A five-week study of Philippians 4. See description for Tuesday, 7pm. Begins **September 21.** (Rev. Lee Ferrell)

*** Indicates a long-term or ongoing class**

Stay In Touch

The Young Adult Ministries always has a lot going on. Be sure to keep in touch!

For up-to-the minute updates on the **Young Adult Group**, text **YAG** to **410-983-3507** and join the facebook group. severnaparkumc.org/yagfb

To stay on top of what **Moms Connect** is doing, text **Mom** to the same number. You can check out their facebook group, too, by emailing moms@severnaparkumc.org

And don’t forget, everyone is invited to stay in the loop! Join the church-wide text group. Text **Loop** to **410-983-3507.**

Garage Sale Save-the-Date

Friends work
together

And donate
unwanted items;

Lots of money goes
to Missions so

Love can be shared

GARAGE SALE:
Saturday, October 6

Work Days:
October 3-5

Sign-ups begin
Sunday,
September 16.



UMM Breakfast

Kick-off of the United Methodist Men's 2018-2019 Monthly Breakfasts on **September 8** in the Choir Room. Special presentation & demonstration of 3D Printing by Sean Wise. Reservation not required, but appreciated for meal planning. Contact Reid for information. reidr@aol.com

UMW General Meeting & Dinner

Join the United Methodist Women on **September 20** at **6:30pm** as they welcome guest speaker, Rev. Martha Meredith. The meeting is open to all women at SPUMC. Dinner will be served, and Childcare is provided. Contact Vera for information. verasummers@verizon.net

Christmas Tea

Please join us on **November 25** at **1:30pm** for the 8th annual Christmas Tea. Wonderful fellowship, special music, and delicious food all for only a \$10 ticket!

Tickets will be on sale in Fellowship Hall beginning October 14.

Please bring mittens or a scarf to be given to a mission project for Christmas.

Music Ministry Fall Schedule

Spark Worship Team
7-9pm Wednesdays

Bell Choir
6-7pm Thursdays

Adult Choirs
7-9pm Thursdays

Children's Music
8:45am-9:30am Sundays

Children's Music will begin on **September 9**. Cherub Choir "Meet the Director" Night is next **Thursday, September 6** at **6pm**.

Contact Chris for more info. cdillard@severnaparkumc.org

October ALL Lunch

Do you tote your canvas around to paint landscapes? Are you a collector of unusual trinkets? Perhaps your hobby that will reveal a new side of your personality! On **October 23**, the presenters will be our very own participants.

We are providing spots for 8 folks to spend about 5 minutes sharing from their collections or hobbies. This is the opportunity for us to enjoy the creativity, uniqueness, craftiness, or just plain fanatics among us. You won't want to miss this afternoon of fun at 12noon. ALL@severnaparkumc.org

ALTUS

Deeper



Join us in welcoming Wayne Kerr as he leads ALTUS, a worship clinic for worship teams from across the Annapolis district, here at SPUMC on Saturday, October 13, 9am-2pm.

Wayne will also be leading worship at our 9:30am service on Sunday, October 14.

Live Music + Bounce House + Games

CHILI COOK~OFF

October 27

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!

Don't do chili?

Bring a dessert to share.

Do. Love. Walk.

Costa Rica Volunteers In Mission (VIM) Trip







Farewell to Chris Dillard

It is with deep sadness for us (and great joy for him!) that we announce that Chris Dillard will be leaving our staff at the end of the year to become the Music Director of Kingwood UMC just outside of Houston, Texas. This is a great opportunity that came looking for Chris (he was contacted by a good friend from his days at LSU who was on the search committee) and will provide him an even bigger arena to share his extraordinary gifts (they are a 5,000 member church with a larger music program than we currently have). We have formed a Search Committee and are already at work looking for his replacement. Please keep them in your prayers. If you have any suggestions of someone we should talk to or ideas about what we should be looking for, contact Craig Linehan who will be heading up the team. clinehan3@gmail.com

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, 1:30-3:30 (Set up at 12noon)

Where: Fellowship Hall

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

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 September 16 or email Becky Clapp. becky.clapp23@gmail.com



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