



The Octagon

Severna Park United Methodist Church News

Contents

A Safe Place	2
Raising White Kids	2
Leaders Return from COR Inspired	3
Rise Against Hunger	3
3rd Grade Bibles	4
Young Adult Ministries	5
Winter Relief	5
Pumpkin Patch	5
Stay In Touch	5
Adding Machines Ready?	6
Missions Moment	6
SPAN News	7
Endowment Grants	7
Connections & Baptism Classes	7
Church Conference	8
Helen Carter's Family Thanks	8
Christmas Tea	8
October ALL Lunch	8
ALL Theatre Trip	8
Women's Bible Study	8
ALTUS Conference	9
Vets Day Concert	9
Christmas Greens	10
1000 FB Likes	10
UMYF Pics	11
Chili Cook-Off	11



Attitude Adjustments

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."

Philippians 1:3-6

Paul's letter to the Philippians has always been one of my favorite books of the Bible. It's upbeat and encouraging, full of joy and warmth and while it's short, contains some of the best theology in the New Testament. It's also the first book I ever led a Bible study on when I was a freshman in college. *(continued on page 4)*

Attitude Adjustment



A Safe Place

In the midst of a deeply partisan and rancorous confirmation process for Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court, the issue of sexual assault and trauma has come to the forefront. And it's not only Dr. Christine Blasey Ford who is telling her story. Thousands of other women have been empowered to come forward and tell their stories of being victimized and mistreated, some for the first time.

My intent is not to take sides or to presume either guilt or innocence. I have no doubt that as a congregation we are deeply divided over the issue of who is "telling the truth" with two seemingly credible witnesses offering very different stories of long ago events, whether or not this is justice crying out or a smear campaign designed to derail a qualified judge of character. Countless polls suggest that the way we interpret the events of the last few weeks has been largely influenced by whether we are Republican or Democrat, male or female, younger or older. We are divided as a nation and divided in this church.

But I hope that we can be completely united when it comes to making our church a safe and supportive community

for women (or men) to tell their stories of being sexually assaulted. All of your pastors are available to listen, to pray, to offer sacred space for healing. Please know that your story will be received with care and in confidence. In my recent sermon, *Just Mercy*, I quoted Bryan Stevenson who said "We are more than the worst thing that we have done" and added my own corollary: "We are (also) more than the worst thing that has ever been done to us." Praying for all of you who are carrying deep wounds.

Rev. Ron



Raising White Kids

The **Faith & Race Book Group** is off to a great start. You're invited to join us in the Parlor on **October 23** at **7pm** for a discussion of our second book, *Raising White Kids* by Jennifer Harvey. This is an excellent resource for parents of children & youth and highly recommended by our Children's Ministry Director, Erica Benjamin. Books are available for perusal and purchase (\$16) in Fellowship Hall. You are welcome to drop-in any 4th Tuesday of the month that we are reading something that interests you and you don't have to have finished the book (or even read much) to be part of the discussion.



studied on multiple occasions here), was the featured speaker along with Bishop Robert Schnase, Rev. John Ed Mathison, and many more. There were numerous helpful insights and best practices shared that we are anxious to begin to integrate into the ways that we invite and form people as disciples of Christ here at SPUMC.

Rise Against Hunger

SPUMC is hosting our first “Rise Against Hunger” meal packing mission event for all ages on **Sunday, October 14, 1:30-3:30pm** in Fellowship Hall. Due to overwhelming interest (we’ve maxed out at 125 people), we’ve increased the event from 10,000 meals to 15,000 meals! Please contact Becky Clapp at becky.clapp23@gmail.com or 301-346-4098 if 1) You’d like to be added to the **Waiting List**; or 2) **You signed up but CAN’T make it** so we can allow others to participate.



We have the wonderful “problem” of needing to raise \$1700 to cover the cost of the additional meals and you can support this effort with a donation by check (mark RISE in the memo section), cash or credit card on your way out of church at the Welcome Center on October 7 or 14. Thanks!



Leaders Return from COR Inspired!

A team of 9 of us – 4 lay leaders and 5 staff persons – just returned from the inspiring and equipping Leadership Institute put on each year by the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection (COR) in Leawood, Kansas. Host pastor, Rev. Adam Hamilton (pictured with the group above and whose books we have



Attitude Adjustment

Attitude Adjustment

(continued from page 1)

I can remember going to the Princeton Library and digging out dusty and seldom touched (or read!) commentaries as I prepared to facilitate conversations on Jesus emptying himself in humility (Phil. 2:5-11), Paul urging the Christians in Philippi to press on toward the upward call of Christ (3:14) and all of us being reminded that we “can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.” (4:13) I come back to this book time and again in my own devotional reading.

That’s why I’m so excited to announce that our next worship series, Attitude Adjustment, will take us on a 4-week journey through Philippians as together we learn about what it means to be formed with the mind of Christ. That doesn’t happen overnight and it requires that God work a major attitude adjustment in each of us. Here are some of the shifts we’ll consider:

October 21 - From Spectators to Partners (Phil. 1:3-11)

October 28 - From Burnt Out to Fueled Within (Phil 2:12-16)

November 11 - From Looking Back to Straining Forward (Phil. 3:10-21)

November 18 - From Worry to Joy (Phil. 4:4-9)

Along the way, we’ll hear testimonies from SPUMC members who live as partners in the work of Christ, find their energy from God’s Spirit at work in their lives and our church, and who have a forward-looking orientation in life.

We’ll culminate the series on November 18th with Thanks & Giving Sunday as we renew our commitments through our giving and serving. Are you ready for an attitude adjustment?

Be God’s,

Rev. Ron

3rd Grade Bibles

Congratulations to the children receiving their bibles on October 14.

Caden Joseph Gruver
Lyla Grace Baker
Patrick Raymond McHale
Elizabeth Hope Newcomb
Brayden James Kiernan
Brynn Gianna Houghton
Jacob Shawn Vaughnes
Blake Donald Meadows
Alexander Harold Tomohiro Newton
Claudia Elizabeth Somerset
Morgan Grace Johnston
Reese Isabella Pope
Nevaeh Marie Washington Callahan
Emma Abigail Bogle
Richie Ifeoluwa Owolabi
Sarah Marie McCone
Henry Thomas Snow
Elijah Jamison Brunk
Kiley Christine Linthicum
Sophia Lea Vandiver
Coleman Joseph Hoffmaster
Finn Luhta
Isabella Leilani Crockett
Bennett Jamieson Cowden
Layla Amanda Perry
Thomas Farley Swimm
Robin Lee Swimm (5th grade)
Raymond Micah Reese

Young Adult Ministries

Here's what's coming up from the Young Adult Group and Moms Connect. Childcare provided for meetings at the church.

Young Adult Group (YAG)

- "Inspired" Conversations based on the book by Rachel Held Evans, **October 11 & 25, 6-7:30 pm**
- Lunch at Ledo's Pizza, Millersville on **Sunday, October 14, 12 pm**
csurber@severnaparkumc.org

Moms Connect

Join Moms Connect **Thursday, October 18 at 6:30pm** to begin reading and discussing Heavenly Minded Mom. We will continue to meet on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30pm.
ebenjamin@severnaparkumc.org

Combined!

YAG and Moms Connect will serve together at Winter Relief, **Wednesday, November 7, 4-8pm**

Winter Relief

On **November 5-12** our church will host Winter Relief, a mission where for a week we house 45 men and women who are experiencing

homelessness. We offer shelter, meals, showers, laundry, warm fellowship and most importantly the love of God to these guests.

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. 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



Pumpkin Patch

Our Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser, sponsored by the United Methodist Men (UMM) returns **October 13-31**. We need volunteers to help unload the pumpkins this Saturday, October 13 at 11am and sales volunteers October 13-31. Sign up online at severnaparkumc.org/pumpkin. Contact Reid for info. reidr@aol.com

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**.

Attitude Adjustment

Adding Machines Ready?

For SPUMC, this is the season for putting together next year's budget. As you can imagine, with a church our size, there is a lot to take into consideration. It is the Finance Committee's job to formulate a budget over the next three months for ultimate approval by Church Council.

The Finance Committee starts the process by asking the various committees and departments, consisting of Missions, Ministries, and Operations, to submit their budget requests taking into consideration how much they received last year, how they spent what they received, their goals and visions for the upcoming year, and what monies, if applicable, they can expect from fundraisers or outside sources. The various categories are missions, music, education, hospitality, worship, stewardship, pastoral care, staff costs, church building maintenance and capital expenses, apportionments, office expenses and communications.

The Finance Committee will then look at the results of the upcoming Stewardship Campaign (set to commence on October 21st and end on November 18th with Consecration Sunday) to determine a realistic figure of the tithes to be expected by the church for the upcoming year. This is why the pledge cards to be submitted by the congregation are so important. The Finance Committee needs the information in order to prepare the new budget.

With all this information in hand, the Finance Committee creates the new budget, tweaking the budget proposals from the various committees and departments as needed to make it

all add up to stay within the projected revenue. Our current year's budget was approximately \$1.4M.

So, as SPUMC conducts the 2018 Stewardship Campaign, the congregation is asked to keep in mind the importance of the timely submission of pledge cards and that the pledge cards contain information that is as realistic and accurate as possible. The Finance Committee is **accounting** on it.

With the continuous generosity of SPUMC's members, our church will continue to flourish and be a beacon in our community and, subsequently, God's work, through our church, will thrive.

Missions Moment

There is always an opportunity to support the missions of SPUMC: through prayer.

Not everyone has regular time available or financial resources to give additionally to our missions, but we can all pray, any time, any where, for anything that is in line with God's will for us and our church.

Please watch for special suggestions for prayer from our missions committee chairpersons so that you can bolster their efforts.

Please pray... a prayer of thanks for all of the successful efforts to promote education through SPUMC.

From the **blessing of the backpacks** by the congregation earlier this month, the success of the **backpack buddies** to provide nutritional support over each weekend to children who need this help, the school supplies provided to 100 children in our county, great starts

to the **UMYF and SUPER Sixth programs** at SPUMC this fall, and even all of the **adult education** that is now underway addressing many special needs of parishioners in our community.

God is good! We have been given so many opportunities to support and promote education. Let's remember to offer our thanks as we witness the fruition of God's will and works here at SPUMC!

SPAN News

Support SPAN (Serving People Across Neighborhoods) on October 17, 4-9pm at Capiche Italiano in Severna Park. The restaurant will donate 10% of all sales to SPAN, so grab some tasty dinner and help a local mission!

Also, you can sign up to sponsor a family through SPAN for a Thanksgiving food basket and/or food or gifts for children for Christmas. Contributions are also a welcome alternative. Sponsorship forms are located in the FH or call SPAN at 410-647-0889. Please tell SPAN you're from SPUMC.

For more information, contact Francie.

fseaman@severnaparkumc.org

Endowment Committee Grants

The Permanent Endowment Committee recently agreed to fund \$8,000 in grants for 2019, a \$1,000 increase from 2018, as the SPUMC Endowment Fund continues to grow.

The goal of the Endowment Fund is to conserve principal and use the earnings for purposes above and beyond the church's programs funded by the annual operating budget. The Permanent Endowment Fund began distributing earnings in 2009 and since that time the Fund committee has approved over \$30,000 in grants for non-budget/special projects such as KidCheck and various enhancements to the sanctuary A/V system.

The SPUMC Endowment Fund is a way to give a lasting gift to SPUMC. When you give a gift or bequest to the Fund your gift will be invested to provide a legacy of support to SPUMC for many years ahead. Contact the Endowment Fund Committee for more information and opportunities for giving to the Permanent Endowment Fund.

endowment@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, October 28 at 11am** in the Parlor. Come meet with a pastor 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, November 11 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

Church Conference

You are invited and welcome to attend our Annual Church Conference which will take place on Monday, October 29 at 7pm in Room 301. The Pastors will deliver their annual report to the Conference on the state of our church, and we'll vote on lay leaders, our inactive membership report, and clergy salaries.

Thanks from Helen Carter's Family

"The family of Helen Carter would like to express their sincere gratitude for your outpouring of love and support during her illness. You were a wonderful reflection of the love of Christ and a great encouragement to our family as we gathered for the beautiful memorial service. Mom loved you all—and we now share that love for you, too. May God continue to bless and strengthen you in your loving service to Him and His people."

Grace and peace,

Nancy Gorman & Jimmy Carter

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

ALL Lunch

Do you tote your canvas around to paint landscapes? Are you a collector of unusual trinkets? Perhaps your hobby 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

ALL Theatre Trip

Sign up today to travel with Adults Loving Life to see, "The First Noel" in Lancaster, PA at the American Musical Theatre on **December 5**. Register by October 24. Questions?

ALL@severnaparkumc.org

Women's Bible Study

Our Women's Bible Study will meet in the Parlor beginning **October 9, 9:30-11am**, studying *Giving Thanks to God* by Sarah Young. Childcare available in the Cribbery. Contact Susan for more info.

thatbrunkgal@yahoo.com

October 2018

A L T U S

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.



We the People
A SPARK Music Veterans Day Concert

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11 AT 4PM
AT SEVERNA PARK UMC

*Featuring the SPARK Music Ministry
and other special guests*

FREE ADMISSION

Attitude Adjustment

Christmas Greens For Sale

The youth group will be selling Christmas greens for their annual fundraiser. We are selling a variety of live, high quality wreaths, garlands, and table centerpieces shipped fresh from Washington state. The sales will be in Fellowship Hall before and after all services on **October 14, October 21, October 28 and November 4.**

If you can't make it into Fellowship Hall on any of those days you can ask a youth group member to take your order for you. You can order items for yourself and local friends & family to be delivered to the church the week after Thanksgiving. You can also order gift items to be delivered to non-local friends & family in contiguous 48 states.

Visit our website for the full list of options.
severnaparkumc.org/youth



Will You Be Number 1,000?

Almost 1,000 of you have liked our facebook page. We post lots of great pictures and updates there. Go check it out and give us a like... you could be number 1,000! And if you see something you enjoy, please share it. It'll help others see our content as well.

facebook.com/severnaparkumc

UMYF News

Sunday, October 7, 7pm — Program, "A Million Little Things: the Importance of True Friendship."

Sunday, October 14, 7pm — Program, "Handling My Insecurities" plus games.

Sunday, October 21, 11:15am — Leave for Memory Walk in Annapolis.
7pm: "Dragon's Tail!"

Sunday, October 28 7pm: Bonfire and Halloween Party at the Harden's. **RETREAT DEADLINE!**

SUPER Sixth

All 6th graders and friends are welcome as we get started this fall!

October 14, 5pm — BINGO and games

October 28, 5pm — Halloween Party (costumes optional)

UMYF Officers

Congratulations to the following officers recently elected to lead MYF:

Senior High

President: Marlena Summers

1st VP: Reilly Mitchell

2nd VP: Erick Howard

11th VP: Anna Trull

10th VP: Tim Zyla

9th VP: TBA

Secretary: TBA

Middle High

President: Christina Smith

8th VP: Ava Meadows

7th VP: Matthew O'Donnell

Secretary: Becca Calish

UMYF Super Sundae Sunday



Do. Love. Walk.



Chili Cook-Off Event

Join us on **October 27** from **4:30-6:30pm** for music, a bounce house, and games. Submit a chili or just come and eat!

Will the Young Chefs win again? Register your chili in advance by emailing Lori Schaefer at lorichs@comcast.net with your name, recipe title, and category (*Young Chefs, Classic, Hot! Hot! Hot!, Poultry & Veggie Alternatives, Stand Out Soups*). Sign ups will also be available in Fellowship Hall on Sundays in October.

Bring your crock pot with ready to eat chili or a fall soup, labeled with your name on the back, to the Fellowship Hall by 5pm.

All in attendance get to taste all the chilis and participate in judging!

Chips and toppings will be provided. Bring a dessert to round out a great meal.

There will be a \$5 suggested donation.

If you are interested in helping with this event, please email Erica.

ebenjamin@severnaparkumc.org

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