

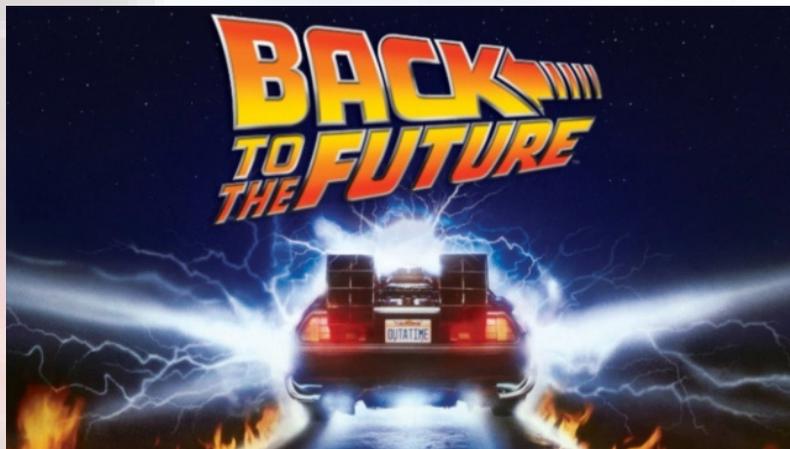


The Octagon

Severna Park United Methodist Church News

Contents

Spark in the Park	3
VBS Recap	4
Youth News	5
Super 6th	5
Wave of Sacred Water	5
Backpack Blessings	6
First Bibles	6
Fall Sunday School	6
Backpack Collection	6
Fall Adult Studies	6
Meeting Owl	8
Prison Ministry	8
ALL BBQ Picnic	8
Softball Team	9
Posts, Parking, Painting	9
Financial Snapshot	10
Heaven's Kitchen	10
YBL: Christina Smith	10
Garage Sale Cancelled	11
Addresses Needed	11
Addresses Needed	11
Worship Update	12
Music Director Search	12



Back to the Future

In 1985, *Back to the Future* became the highest grossing movie of that year (\$388 million). In the iconic film, Michael J. Fox plays the role of Marty McFly who accidentally travels back in time thanks to a super-charged DeLorean created by the eccentric and visionary Doc Brown. Since he has interrupted the flow of historical

events, Marty has to work hard to make sure his parents still meet and fall in love (if he is to have a future!) and find a way to get back to 1985 even though he has no plutonium to fuel his time-machine car (he'll have to rely on a lightning strike at the courthouse instead). The movie generated awards, sequels, TV shows...

(continued on page 2)

Back to the Future

(continued from page 1)

...a memorable theme song (“The Power of Love”), a loyal fan base, and a place in the American pop culture lexicon.

In early June as life seemed to be returning to something resembling “normal” (do we even know what that is anymore?), I thought *Back to the Future* would make a great theme for our fall worship series. However, with the rise of the Delta Variant, the return of masks, increasing cases and hospitalizations (especially among the unvaccinated) and other disruptions, things have taken an unsettling turn in just the last few weeks. Yet, though we’ve had to re-think and reshape things a bit, we’ve decided to move forward with this theme.

For one thing, the basic premise of this series still holds: post-Covid (whenever that is), things in all spheres of our lives – including here at the church – will not simply go back to the way they were. Habits have changed, trends have accelerated and businesses, government, schools, community organizations, and families are all having to adapt to the ever-changing conditions. E-commerce has boomed and we’ve all become more digitally dependent (for better and worse). And churches all over – and our church in particular – are all trying to find our way in this brave new world. As much as we might like to, we can’t go back to the past, even the recent past. Instead, the only choice we have is to brace ourselves for a wild ride as we go *Back to the Future*.

On **September 12**, we will begin this series by exploring a mixed moment in

the history of the people of Israel as the Babylonian exiles make their way back to Jerusalem for the laying of the foundation of the new temple and start to come to terms with what their future will be and feel like. In Ezra 3:12 & 13 we find this description: *Many of the priests and Levites and heads of families, old people who had seen the first house on its foundations, wept with a loud voice when they saw this house, though many shouted aloud for joy, so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the weeping.* Apparently, we’re not the only ones to live through such emotionally draining and ambivalent times.

Over the course of the series, we’ll talk about some of the changes and challenges that we expect to be with us for a while, like navigating a new mix of online v. in-person worship, remote learning as a tool for discipleship, the challenge of rebuilding particular ministries (Sunday School, youth group, outreach partnerships), adapting budgets and giving patterns. We’ll also re-engage with something that has not changed, SPUMC’s mission to Love. Serve. Follow. as we walk in the way of Jesus. We’ll also examine some of our accompanying core values. As turbulent and trying as it all has been and will continue to be, the good news is that God is with us – past, present and future. We may not have a fancy DeLorean to entice you with but nevertheless, we hope that you’ll hop on board and travel **Back to the Future** with us this fall.

Be God’s, *Rev. Ron*

Spark in the Park!

Throughout the summer families have gathered at parks and in our parking lot to reconnect! Scooters, water balloons, swings, slides and ice pops ensured fun was had by all!





VBS Recap

We welcomed 120 kids for a mostly outdoor VBS the first week of August. Throughout the week, we wondered what our God given gifts were, how to share them with others, and how others help us learn and grow in our faith.



Youth News

On September 12 UMYF will celebrate its fall kick-off with the annual SUPER SUNDAY. This is for all youth in grades 7-12. We will have introductions and skits, and a power point of our most interesting year 2020-21. The evening will include an all-you-can-eat ice cream sundae bar!

Please note our time change back to 7pm! Closing time is 8:30.

UMYF – United Methodist Youth Fellowship – is one of the backbones of our youth ministry. We affirm each youth as a child of God, with their special gifts and talents. We present and discuss topics of relevance to youth such as school, parents, dealing with change, the importance of friends, and mental health concerns. A variety of methods are used to make for fun and interesting evenings—video, games, readings, questions and discussion. We try to take two retreats a year, and participate in several service/mission opportunities.

Youth who are members of MYF will say “It’s a safe place to come be myself, learn a lot and have fun.” We welcome all youth to join us!

Super 6th

This preparatory group for 6th graders and their friends meets twice a month for group building, games, and food! It is a great way to meet friends as well as leaders in the youth program.

First meeting: **October 3, 5-6:30pm.**

If you want to be sure your child is on the list to receive the invitation, please email Rev. Lee. Iferrell@severnaparkumc.org



A Wave of Sacred Water

We have had a delightful wave of baptisms from late spring all through the summer months and we celebrate these sacred moments of grace with each and every one of these children and their families:

Madelyn McCarl	May 9
Emma Norfolk	May 30
Logan Campbell	June 6
Arthur Booth	June 13
Ellie Deltuva	June 27
Brinlee Beall	July 11
Abigail Gay	July 18
Madelyn Cammuse	July 25
Melisa Lohff	August 8

Our next Baptism Class will be **Sunday, September 19**. Please let Beth in the church office know if you need to schedule a baptism for your child and if you plan to attend. Thanks.

bfrank@severnaparkumc.org

Back to the Future

Blessing of the Backpacks

We will have our annual Blessing of the Backpacks in worship on **Sunday, September 5** in both the **9am** and **10:30am** services. Kids (and teachers!) returning to school are encouraged to bring their backpacks so we can bless them for the upcoming school year! All children will attend worship with their families; nursery care will be provided.

First Bibles

It is our tradition each fall to give Bibles to our 3rd graders (and 4th & 5th graders who have yet to receive a Bible). This year, we're giving them out on **Sunday, October 24**. All children who receive a Bible must attend a one-hour class. Visit the link below to fill out the registration form by October 3.

spumc.breezechms.com/form/bibles21

Fall Sunday School

Fall Sunday School will begin on **September 12** during the 9am worship service! Serving in Sunday School strengthens your relationship with Christ, follows in the way of Jesus, and is loads of fun. We would love teams of 4 for each age group. Here's how many volunteers we still need for each age group:

- Preschool (3-5 years): 2
- Lower Elementary (K-2nd Grade): 2
- Upper Elementary (3rd- 5th Grade): 1
- Middle School (6th-8th Grade): 2
- High School (9th-12th Grade): 4

Nursery care for children 5 and younger will be available at 10:30.

ebenjamin@severnaparkumc.org

UMW Backpack Collection

The United Methodist Women and SPUMC Sunday School classes are planning to help out children at Park and Brooklyn Park Elementary Schools who are in need of backpacks filled with school supplies. In order for us to help, we need you to help!

Visit the url below to sign up for a specific grade level and print the supply lists. Then go shop for a back pack and the supplies to fill it.

We will also have bins set up near the front and back entrances at SPUMC to collect some extra supplies for teachers: paper towels, zip bags (any size), tissues, crayons and colored pencils, cleaning wipes, liquid soap, hand sanitizer.

Thanks for helping us help these kids!

severnaparkumc.org/backpacks

Fall Courses for Adults

The Intentional Faith Development Committee is happy to announce several new classes for the fall. At this printing, we cannot say if these classes will be in person, by zoom, or possibly a hybrid system. We will pin these details down as we decide.

Sunday Morning

9:30 am. Hybrid class taught by Rev. Ken Brown beginning September 12.

Not So Minor After All - A study of the twelve minor prophets, so named because they are shorter and more succinct. Students will be exposed to powerful teachings that many of us have never read, but which attempt to bring our lives in coordination to God's will.

Disciple 4: Under the Tree of Life

Tuesdays, 7:30pm. Zoom class taught by: Rev. Byron Brought

This 4th phase of Disciple Bible study is a 32-week look at the Writings in the Old Testament -- Ruth, some history, Psalms, Proverbs, Lamentations, Daniel, and more. The second half will focus on the gospel and letters of John, James, Jude, and Revelation. The image of the tree of life frames the story, from Genesis to Revelation. No previous Disciple experience is necessary. Student books will be \$40.

Jesus and Women

Thursdays, 11am in-person OR 7pm on Zoom taught by Rev. Narae Kim starting September 30

Over 6 weeks, we will look through Middle Eastern cultural lens at several interactions Jesus had with women in the Bible. During this study, you will be working on any form of an art project of your choice, that reflects and expresses what you have learned from the study.

Faith and Food

In-person class taught by Shane Perry

We'll be making foods with religious significance and discussing how food can play a part in our faith. There may be a fee to cover costs of food.

October 5: Pretzels (praying hands)

October 12: Baklava (33 layers = 33 years of life)

October 19: Soul Cake (All Souls Day)

October 26: Fanesca (Ecuadorian Soup with 12 beans for the 12 apostles and salt cod to represent Jesus)

Women's Bible Study

Monday nights, to resume late September. Led by Brenda Shields. More info to follow.

Courage: Jesus and the Call to Brave Faith

Wednesdays, 7pm. Hybrid class taught by Rev. Lee Ferrell. Books are \$10.

Courage is a necessary element of the Christian faith. But what part does courage play in our daily lives? How does true courage help us exhibit a brave faith and live the remarkable life Jesus offers? Come find out!

Sacred Worth

The Sacred Worth Group will resume meeting on the third Tuesday, September 21 at 7:30pm via Zoom. The group is open to LGBTQ+ persons, parents/grandparents/siblings of LGBTQ+ persons, allies and anyone else in our congregation who is interested in having a safe place for important conversation and helping us to become a more compassionate and inclusive church community.

Faith & Race Group

The Faith & Race Group will resume meeting for the fall with a hybrid gathering on the fourth Tuesday of the month, September 28 at 7pm. We will be watching (not in its entirety) and discussing the highly acclaimed documentary *I Am Not Your Negro*. The film is based on James Baldwin's unfinished manuscript, *Remember this House*. This might be a good month to check out the Faith & Race group if you haven't already. All are welcome.

Meeting Owl

One of the 2021 grants from the Permanent Endowment Fund was the purchase of *Meeting Owl*, a portable system that allows for church committee meetings, bible studies, and various groups to meet in person and remotely simultaneously. When used with a large screen monitor, the system provides video conferencing that includes a panoramic view of everyone in the room as well as a view of each remote participant. The system has a 360° camera, mic and speaker and is motion and voice activated to focus on the speaker.

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 \$55,000 in grants for non-budget/special projects such as Meeting Owl, 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. Giving to the Permanent Endowment Fund is now available online by selecting "Permanent Endowment" under the Give tab on the church website. Contact the Endowment Fund Committee for more information and opportunities for giving to the Permanent Endowment Fund.

rmorgan@graymar.com

Prison Ministry Update

The pandemic has kept us from "visiting the prisoner," but your offerings are still making an impact. We have donated over 200 Bibles to Jennifer Road Detention Center in Annapolis, this past 7 months, for the JRDC Chaplain to give to detainees. We donate several translations (NIV, EVI, NKJ, KJV, English and Spanish, regular and large print). Some of our church volunteers have written "Agape" letters of encouragement to the incarcerated at the Jessup, MD State prisons. We stand ready to return inside for Prayer & Share, Bible study, and mentoring; and resume Books of the Bible study-exam grading. See more info online.

severnaparkumc.org/prison_ministry

Adults Loving Life BBQ Picnic

Adults Loving Life are hosting a picnic on **September 22 at 12noon** in the Fellowship Hall Courtyard. We will welcome Rev. Narae with some Mission BBQ, and it will be a "Meet and Greet" for those who haven't met her yet. Please call Lou and Kathie Kamm at 410-647-5914 to RSVP by September 20.

Other upcoming events for the remainder of 2021:

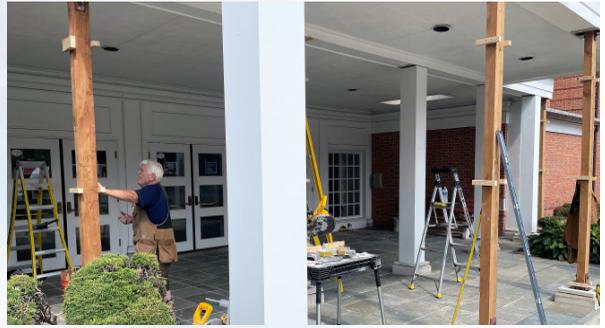
October 27: Jed Duvall as Paul McCartney

December 15: White Christmas at Toby's Dinner Theater

Softball Team Completes Another Fun Season

Our awesome church softball team competed again this year in the greater Severna Park ecumenical inter-church softball league. Coached again by Lori Sexton, there were about 20 members on this year's team. Anyone 16 and up may play. Our team included high school kids all the way up to more experienced, seasoned players. A big part of the experience for Lori is meeting new church members and bonding with them. "Softball connects the generations, and provides a chance to just enjoy your church family," said Lori.

SPUMC has been in this league for several years. Lori took over the duty of organizing from Kevin O'Donnell, who followed George Mohr, who took over from Tim Hall. Games are on Sunday afternoons. Though our team didn't exactly have a stellar win-loss record, that never matters. As Bradley Hogan commented, "The score is usually fun-to-fun!" The team would always welcome new members. The season starts at the end of April and runs into early August; watch for announcements next spring. Thanks to all who played this year and represented us out in the community!



Posts, Parking, & Painting

Your giving to our church has been hard at work this summer not just making ministry possible beyond and in our church, but also in helping us to be good stewards of our building and grounds. Facilities Manager **Dave McKinney** has been on a roll working alongside volunteers and managing contractors to care for our church. We've top-coated and re-striped the parking lot, re-wrapped the pillars at our main entrance with low maintenance materials, installed new air-conditioning in the Kitchen (Yay - finally!), hung new ceiling tiles in multiple spaces and painted three Sunday School classrooms. Look around and appreciate all the improvements next time you're here. Special thanks to Dave and to all who have helped out by donating their time and/or financial support.

Financial Snapshot

Both our giving and spending are under budget for the first seven months of the year by over 20% of our projections, which is reflective of the fact that we are not back to anywhere near full capacity in terms of people or programs. We had budgeted for 2021 (both spending and giving) with the hope that we would be farther along in the recovery from Covid than we are, so this is not surprising. As anticipated, our PPP Phase I “loan” funds (\$156K) have been forgiven earlier this month (Yay!) and prorating those across 12 months, putting us about even for the year. A shout out to Lynne Chaput, our Treasurer, for helping us through the PPP process (especially since churches are more complicated cases).

Thanks again for the ways your continued giving makes all of this possible – particularly in such challenging times. Whether you text, give online, mail, drop off or bring in your donations, we are grateful for your generosity.

severnaparkumc.org/giving-options

Heaven’s Kitchen Book Ministry

We are in need of used stuffed animals and books in ‘like new’ condition. Books for children, teens, and adults are needed. Donations can be put in Fellowship Hall. We will only be collecting these during September. Email Martha Hollidge with questions.

mhollidge@verizon.net



YBL: To & From Kentucky with Love

Earlier this summer, **Christina Smith**, a rising senior at Spalding High School, participated in the “**Youth Becoming Leaders**” program at Asbury University in Wilmore, KY. Asbury is a United Methodist affiliated college and this two-week camp is designed to encourage and equip young Christian leaders. Christina described her immersion experience this way: “YBL wasn’t a camp where I HAD to go to church three times a day, it was a camp where I GOT to go to church three times a day!”

As part of the program, Christina has been meeting with Rev. Ron for regular mentoring throughout the summer. She is also developing a community service project which will be a 4-week after-school music program for underserved elementary school children. We’ll share more details about ways you can support her in this outreach effort as they become available, but in the meantime please keep Christina in prayer as this unfolds.



Garage Sale Cancelled

At the recent VIM Meeting, it was decided that the Fall Garage Sale will be canceled. This decision was made after considerable discussion, with the emphasis on safety for the volunteers and shoppers.

Please share this information with anyone that you know who donates, volunteers and/or shops at the Garage Sale. We know that many of you have already been collecting donations for the Garage Sale. If you can keep your donations until the next Sale, that would be appreciated; but, if you need to pass your donations on before then, the following groups pick up our after-sale donations and may be able to take your donations at this time:

- AMVETS (Furniture, Household Items, Clothing)
- Mission Partners (Household Items)
- Orphan Grain Train (Clothing, Blankets, Towels, Medical)
- Parole Rotary Club of Annapolis (Books)

- SPCA (Unsaleable Towels, Bedding and T-shirts)
- Heaven's Kitchen (Clothing)
- Partners in Care (Treasures and Household Items)
- Mary's Center, Inc. (Baby Clothing, Children's Books, Stuffed Animals)
- Hope for All in Glen Burnie (furniture, children's clothing, toys, high chairs, pack-n-plays)

The next Garage Sale will be Saturday, May 7, 2022. Set-up dates will be: Wednesday, May 4, Thursday, May 5, and Friday, May 6. Please mark your calendar with these dates – we will have LOTS of donations for the next Garage Sale and will need LOTS of volunteers.

If you have any questions or comments, please email Karen.

kmyers333@hotmail.com

Addresses Needed

Addresses are needed for this year's college students and military persons. Lee's office would appreciate the preferred email and an actual mailing address. Forms are available on the Welcome Desk, or you can email Lee.

lferrell@severnaparkumc.org

Worship Update

We had plans to move back to three services beginning September 12 but with the rapid rise of the Delta variant in our county and the ongoing Music Director search, we are holding off for now. In the meantime, **we are asking ALL worshipers to be masked** regardless of vaccination status and to **practice safe social distancing**. If you prefer to worship outdoors, we have a tent and chairs set up just outside the sanctuary on the lawn. Please stay tuned for any additional changes we may have to make to our in-person worship schedule. Thanks for your patience and cooperation.

Music Director Search

We are seeking either an individual who can “do it all” (choirs, bands, coordination, etc.) as our new music director or two distinct part-time persons (a Worship/Band Leader & Choir Director). If you know of talented and dynamic musicians in your circle of connections who might be interested in one of those three positions, send them our way. They can visit our homepage for a link with more info (severnaparkumc.org) and/or email resumes. Thanks!

musicsearch@severnaparkumc.org

Severna Park United Methodist Church

731 Benfield Rd. Severna Park, MD 21146

410.987.4700 | severnaparkumc.org