



The Octagon

Severna Park United Methodist Church News

Contents

8am Worship Returns	3
Where Your Heart Is	3
Winter Relief Cancelled	3
Ushers Needed	3
First Bibles	4
Youth News	5
Moms Connect	5
Jr. Rebels, Reformers, & Revolutionaries	5
Advent 2021	6
Faith & Race	7
Sacred Worth	7
Financial Update	7
Mission Day Photos	8
Jesus & Women Study	10
Congrats, Enger!	11
Welcome Rev. Jane	11
Thanksgiving Worship	12



Sacred Bookends (And Stuffing In-Between!)

The month of November is always full of bittersweet, warm and hope-filled moments for me. In the church, the month begins every year with an observance of **All Saints Sunday**. This service always evokes a range of emotions as we recall the lives of the saints, people

we have loved and lost in the last year. A comingling of grief and gratitude, celebration and solemnity, we read the *Roll Call of the Saints Departed* knowing that each name represents a story, a web of relationships, and a storehouse of memories. All of these people are

(continued on page 2)

Sacred Bookends

Sacred Bookends

(continued from page 1)

part of our extended church community – members, friends, family, neighbors, colleagues – and when one of those names touches close to your circle of love (as it does for us this year – Holly’s stepdad of the last 8 years, Bob, is among the list), the time of naming is especially poignant. We strike chimes, light candles and mark their place among the great communion of the saints of God.

One of the saints of the church that I have been reading about recently is St. Thérèse of Lesieux. Born in 1873 in a small French village and raised with her 3 siblings primarily by a single father (her mother had died when she was 4), Thérèse grew up knowing she was loved and part of the bigger family of God. Given that one of her childhood heroes was Joan of Arc and that she loved to dress up as a nun as very young girl, it was no surprise that she ended up in a Carmelite convent in Lesieux when she was just 15. There she became known for both talking continually about and modeling “*The Little Way*,” simple, everyday acts of love and compassion that flow from following Jesus and that make all the difference in the lives of the people around us. As I spend time with families in our church following the death of their loved ones, invariably what we end up talking about more than careers and accomplishments are all the simple acts of everyday love and compassion that their husband or mother or friend will always be remembered by. *The Little Way*,

it turns out, is actually quite big and is especially woven into the fabric of All Saints Sunday.

The other sacred bookend that regularly falls in November (as it does this year) is the **First Sunday of Advent**, the beginning of our communal journey toward Christmas. Advent re-kindles a sense of hope as we await once more the birth of Jesus. In the church, we inch closer to Bethlehem lighting the candles of the Advent wreath in anticipation one by one, week by week and singing our hymns of intense longing: “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” and “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.”

In between, we get to feast with our families over Thanksgiving. I expect that the joy and the warmth of this holiday will be even greater than normal this year since we are able to travel more freely and reconnect with family and friends in a way that was not as safe or possible last year. Our tables will be full once more! Here at SPUMC, we will assemble again for our **Thanksgiving Worship Service** here on November 23 at 7pm, as well. After a year of not being able to gather in our Sanctuary for that occasion, it will be a blessing just to be together.

May your November be full of sacred bookends with a little stuffing, turkey and cranberry sauce in between!

Be God’s,

Rev. Ron

8am Service Returns Later this Month

The 8am worship service will return beginning the first Sunday in Advent, **November 28**. We'll begin with 10 minutes of pre-service music at 7:50am (mostly hymn singing) and the service will conclude by 8:30am so that we can maintain our other two services (9am & 10:30am) in their current time slots for now. We'll re-evaluate how well this schedule is working in early January before we make any permanent changes. Thanks for your ongoing patience and understanding as things continue to evolve coming out of (we hope!) the pandemic.



Where Your Heart Is

The theme of this year's stewardship campaign is **Where Your Heart Is**. We invite you to begin to prayerfully consider how you may be willing to make a commitment to faithfully serve, worship, study and give in 2022. Consecration Sunday will be **November 21** when we will begin to present/collect commitment cards in worship at our 9am & 10:30am services. We will continue to gather in

commitment cards through the end of the year. Thanks for doing your part to keep our congregation a vital witness for Christ in our community.

November Winter Relief Cancelled

For those of you who are new to the church, Winter Relief is a church wide mission where we house the homeless population of our county twice a year (November and February) for a week – providing them a place to stay overnight, a bag lunch, a hot breakfast and dinner, laundry services, showers, and much more. After considerable discussion with the Winter Relief leadership team, with Arundel House of Hope, with our clergy and with several volunteers we decided that the November Winter Relief would be cancelled. This decision was prayerfully made and was not made lightly. It was done with the emphasis on safety of our leadership team who spend countless hours in the church that week, our volunteers, and our guests. Please share this information with anyone you know that volunteers with Winter Relief.

At this point, we are not sure if Winter Relief will happen in February, but will reevaluate closer to that time. If you have any questions or comments, please direct them to Carolyn Heim.

cvheim@aol.com

Want to Help Usher?

We are looking for people to join our usher teams! Teams serve 3 or 4 months of the year, and your schedule can be flexible. Please contact Jim, if interested.

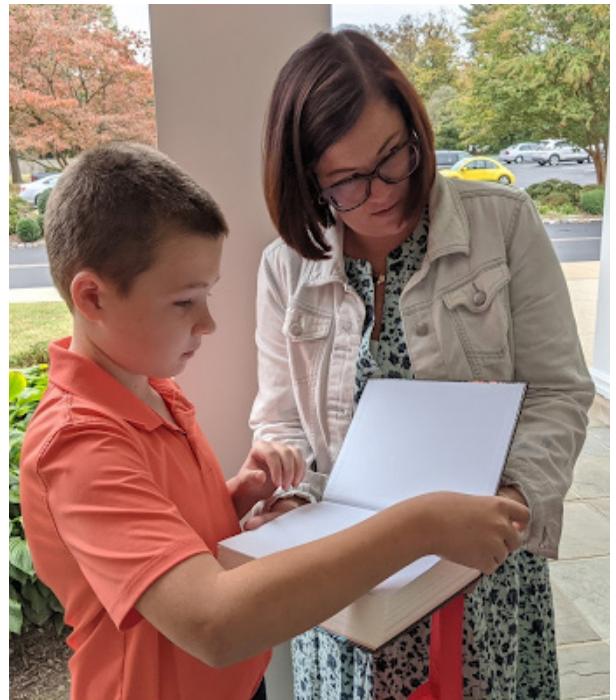
jrburkhart2@yahoo.com

Sacred Bookends



First Bibles Presentation

16 kids received Bibles from the church on Sunday, October 24! Thank you to *Judy Plymer* who made covers for each Bible and to *Rebecca Calish* who inscribed each Bible with the children's names in beautiful calligraphy.



Youth News

SUPER 6th continues on a modified schedule for 6th graders and friends.

November 7: Games, 5pm

November 21: Thanksgiving, 5pm

December 12: Christmas program and party, 5pm

UMYF continues almost every Sunday at 7pm for youth in grades 7-12. Contact Rev. Lee for retreat info.

November 7: Dragon's Tail!

****November 12-14: Fall Retreat!****

November 14: No evening meeting

November 21: Regular meeting, 7pm

November 28: Regular meeting, 7pm

December 5: Regular meeting following all-church Advent Activity

Iferrell@severnaparkumc.org

Moms Connect

Moms Connect is a gathering of moms who desire to connect and grow in their faith. The group gets together the **first Thursdays** of each month from 6:30-8:30pm for missions, fellowship, and discussion. The next meeting will take place on **December 2**. Limited childcare is available, so registration is required.

spumc.breezechms.com/form/moms

Junior RRRs

In December 9, Jr. RRRs will be talking about how we express our faith to others (wear a cross necklace, deck the hall with Christmas decor, etc.) and how other faith traditions express their faith. Visit

severnaparkumc.org/jrrebels to learn more about this group of compassionate and courageous 1st-5th graders who love all their neighbors and care deeply for God's creation as well as resources for your own family. Registration is required:

https://spumc.breezechms.com/form/RRR_Jr

During our October gathering we learned about the Protestant Reformation and how Martin Luther was a Rebel, Reformer, and Revolutionary for his time.



Like Martin Luther addressed an important issue of his day, we talked about what are important issues to us today.



Writing our 95 thesis like Martin Luther. What do we believe about God?

Sacred Bookends



Advent 2021

Here are a few of the opportunities you'll have to worship, serve, and fellowship this Advent, which starts November 28. Look for full info later this month.

Angel Tree

The Angel Tree, a beloved SPUMC tradition, will be up on the front porch beginning Sunday, November 28 and will be overflowing with tags representing gifts to children and adults in our local community! We plan to provide gifts for 100 children this year shared between SPAN and Reach Out and Serve, LLC. These gifts will be due back to the church by December 12. There will be gift card tags for SPAN Teens, and giving opportunities for many of our ministries. Please plan to grab a tag or two – and follow the instructions on the tags for returning gifts, and be sure include the tag with your gift so that we get it delivered to the right organization! Gift Cards can be placed in the lockbox on the front porch (to the right of the front doors). We invite you to share the joy of gift giving at Christmas with someone special!

S'music & S'mores

Join us for a festive evening of Christmas fun on **Sunday, December 5** (rain date December 12) from **5-6:30pm!** There will be a S'more & Hot Chocolate Bar, Live Music, Crafts, and a Live Nativity. Sign up for a 15 minute slot to play your favorite person/animal! This is open to all ages. We would also love a few volunteers to help with set up and clean up.

ebenjamin@severnaparkumc.org

Advent for Families

It is a very special SPUMC tradition that our 2nd graders are the stars in the Christmas Pageant during the 4pm Christmas Eve Service. We intentionally keep our pageants simple. There are no lines to memorize, and the costumes are provided. We will have our rehearsal on **Sunday, December 19 at 12noon.** There is a part for every child who wishes to participate and is able to attend. Please complete the online form by Sunday, December 5.

Check out our online Christmas Classroom to find some fun at-home activities for the entire Advent season.

severnaparkumc.org/christmasclassroom



Reverse Advent Calendar Bags

Reverse Advent Calendar Bags will be available starting Sunday, November 28th! If you're not in church on that Sunday, drive by during the week and pick one up from the narthex or portico. Fill it up with food items, toiletries, or personal hygiene items and return it at your convenience. We'll get it to SPAN for you.

SPAN Holiday Caring

SPAN will be collecting Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets for those in need. Drop-off is at SPAN on Monday, November 15 for Thanksgiving meals and Sunday, December 12 for Christmas meals. For shopping list and more information, email spanhelps@yahoo.com.

Advent Studies

Rev. Lee will be teaching an Advent class on Mondays at 7pm beginning November 29 using a daily devotional titled *God Is Here*. Watch for the Advent brochure to be released later this month with the full slate of study opportunities this season.

ALL White Christmas

Join Adults Loving Life for a presentation of the musical *White Christmas* at

Toby's Dinner Theatre in Columbia on **Wednesday, December 15**. Show time is 12:30pm with the buffet beginning at 10:40am. Tickets are \$60 and includes the buffet lunch with coffee and tea, the show, and gratuity. Plan to arrive by 10:30am to receive your ticket. *Please make reservations by November 14* by calling Lou and Kathie Kamm at 410-647-5914 by. Carpooling can be arranged.

Faith & Race

The Faith & Race Group will take a month off as our Thanksgiving Worship Service falls on our regular meeting night, November 23.

Sacred Worth

Our Sacred Worth Group will meet on Tuesday, November 16 via Zoom at 7:30pm. The group is open to LGBTQI+ persons, family members, allies and anyone who wants to learn more about how best we can love one another in our families, workplaces, church and community across differences in sexual and gender identity.

Financial Update

Thanks to your faithful giving and the infusion of PPP funds (\$156K) which were received in 2020 and budgeted for 2021, we find ourselves near breakeven for the year in terms of income and expenses through the end of October. This year, more than most, we are relying on strong giving in November and December to ensure that we can meet all of our ministry commitments. Please consider catching up on your pledge and/or making an additional gift if you are in a position to do. Many thanks!

Sacred Bookends

Mission Day Photos

What a Mission Sunday we had last month! Thanks to all the kids, families, youth and adults who helped pack the 20,000 meals for *Rise Against Hunger*, and to all who donated, sorted and delivered clothes to *Orphan Grain Train* and *Hope for All* for distribution. You embody what it means to **Love. Serve. Follow.** A special shout out to *Chip & Hope Linehan* (Clothing Drive) and *Becky & Rick Clapp* (Rise Against Hunger) for getting these efforts organized.



A Note of Thanks from Chip

On behalf of my fellow Clothing Drive coordinators, Karen, Craig, Katherine, and Hope, we thank you for your generous clothing contributions. With the help of volunteers who sorted, bagged, and delivered your donations we were able to donate about 80 lawn bags of clothing to *Orphan Grain Train* and *Hope for All* on behalf of SPUMC. Since we had so many donations, I also collected clothing for Heaven's Kitchen. Our thanks to you all for helping sorting when you dropped off. It allowed us to keep up as we consolidated into gender and sizes.

As with any mission opportunity, fellowship is a key part of the day. We enjoyed and had fun meeting new folks who we haven't worked with before and also having the opportunity to say "HI!" to many of you that it's been too long since we've been together!

Thanks again for making our Clothing Drive successful and supporting our mission partners who have missed us.

- *Chip Linehan*

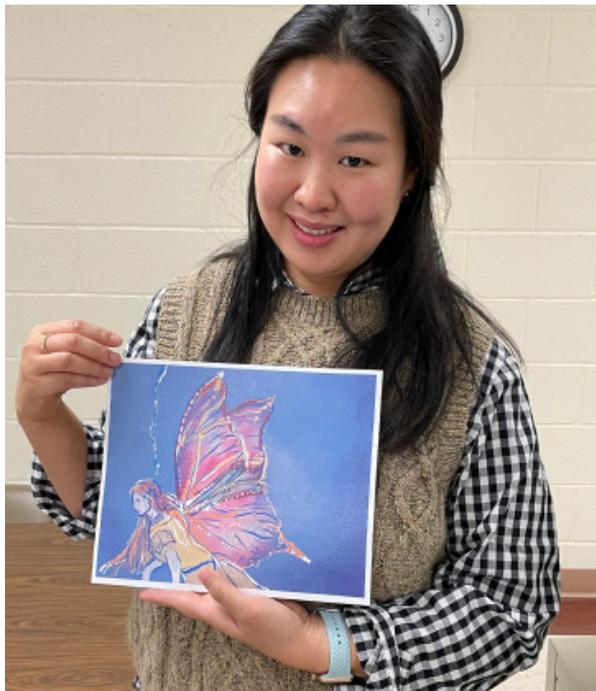


Sacred Bookends

Jesus and Women Bible Study

We finished studying five different encounters of Jesus and women in the Gospels. We saw how Jesus meets, heals, honors, transforms and loves these women. The class was asked to capture these moments in art projects. The projects were done in different forms and expressions that we felt comfortable with. Prayer bracelets, posters, quilts, paintings, and digital scrap pages were our choices - all unique and special. On the last day of class, we had a little show and tell about our projects. This study and projects gave us a chance to meditate, personalize and share our understanding of scripture in different ways.

- Rev. Narae



Holy Congrats, Enger!

Congratulations to Rev. Enger Muteteke who was ordained an Elder at the Baltimore Washington Annual Conference on October 27. Rev. Lee & Rev. Ron had the honor of being her sponsoring Deacon and Elder respectively. Enger has long ties with our congregation, having served on our staff from 2006-2008 and more recently with her family being involved in the life of our congregation until 2017. Since that time, she has been serving churches in the Greater New Jersey Conference of the UMC and is now one of the Resourcing Directors for the Conference. We are so proud of and happy for you!



Welcoming Back Rev. Jane

We had the joy of welcoming Rev. Jane Lahai to our church on October 17. She brought us greetings – and gifts like the stole you see Rev. Ron wearing – from Moyamba, Sierra Leone where we have been in partnership since 2016 with Trinity UMC and the June Hartranft Primary School for Girls helping sponsor students and upgrade church and school facilities. Over the past several years, some of the projects your offerings have made possible are: sanctuary renovations, floor repairs and window replacement in the student dorms, and providing a new video projector for church. Thank you!

Thanksgiving Worship

After a one-year hiatus due to covid-19 in 2020, our annual Thanksgiving Service is back this year on **Tuesday, November 23 at 7pm** in the Sanctuary. Join with your church family as we express our gratitude to God for the everyday and extraordinary blessings in our lives.

New Worship Schedule

We will begin an interim worship schedule on **Sunday, November 28**. Our plan is to revisit the Sunday schedule in early January. Thank you for your patience as things continue to evolve.

8am Early Service: *Pre-service music at 7:50am*

9am Contemporary Service

10:30am Traditional Service

Severna Park United Methodist Church

731 Benfield Rd. Severna Park, MD 21146

410.987.4700 | severnaparkumc.org