



The Octagon

Severna Park United Methodist Church News

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Food For Thought

During the week around noon in the SPUMC office, our staff usually gathers to eat lunch together. When it's a good sunny day, we open up the umbrella over the picnic table in the middle courtyard and put on a very festive tablecloth and we eat outside. On rainy or colder days, we gather in the Fellowship Hall or the round table in the office to eat together.

While we eat our lunch, a variety of topics are shared around the table. We update

each other on church work or people, share information, and chat about personal, ordinary, and silly things. I usually share funny pictures or stories of the girls. Since the beginning of my ministry at SPUMC, I have really enjoyed having meals with the staff and congregation because I get to know people on a deeper level.

In ancient Israel, having a meal together meant more than just eating food at the same table. Spiritual lessons were taught, and fellowship took place at “the

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table.” Eating with someone establishes a covenant relationship of friendship, which indicates your approval of that person. Respected religious leaders at that time, scribes and Pharisees quarantined themselves from those people considered the sinners because they believed that interacting with sinners would defile them. Respected Jews at that time did not touch, talk, or even look at people judged as sinners. Because of these reasons, the scribes and Pharisees questioned and murmured about Jesus eating and being friends with tax collectors and sinners several times in the Gospels.

The religious leaders’ criticism never stopped Jesus from sharing a table with his friends - tax collectors, sinners, the social outcasts of society, minorities, poor, sick and the lost. Jesus came to reach out to them. When the society said, “You are nobody,” Jesus looked into their eyes and said, “You are a beloved child of God.”

The 2022 VBS theme is “Food Truck Party.” While our children learn about the Bible stories related to food, the church will join in with their theme. Our new worship series, “**Food for Thought**” begins in July. We will start with the Lord’s table, where all are welcome to enjoy the feast that Jesus prepared for us. We will look at miracles that feed thousands of people, and how Jesus restored people’s relationship with God and society through sharing a table with them. We will have a **Summer Cookout on the 12th**, where you can actually taste the fellowship of eating together.

We are aware of our need for physical food to sustain our lives. But are we aware that our need for spiritual food to sustain our spirits is equally as important? God has prepared an amazing feast for us to join. God welcomes us to eat and enjoy the fellowship at His table and tells us to do the same for each other. Will you join us for this life giving and joyful feast? Come! You are invited! *Rev. Narae*

Join us in July: Food for Thought

Join us in worship this month as we hitch our wagon to the VBS Food Truck with our new worship series exploring stories in the Bible that involve food. Throughout the month we’ll be delving into stories like Jesus feeding the 5000, and the provision of manna in the wilderness.

We will have in-person worship services at **8am, 9am, and 10:30am** throughout July, or you can join us on *Facebook* or *YouTube* for our virtual service every week at 10:30am.

To go along with our worship series this month, we also invite you to join us for a **Summer Cookout on Tuesday, July 12 at 6pm**. Bring a dessert or side-dish to share, and enjoy music, fellowship, and burgers and dogs grilled by our UMM!

Also this month, share your favorite summer or family recipes with us to be compiled into a **Virtual Church-Family Cookbook**. Send your recipes to Ann Harrison, or drop them at the Welcome Center. All recipes will be used to create a virtual cookbook on our website so that we can share in food and fellowship together!

annharrison410@gmail.com

Sacred Scenes from our Journey

Thanks for all the prayers, support, interest and Facebook following for our 2022 Pilgrimage to Oberammergau and the Holy Land. Over the course of 12 days, our sacred journey took our 34 Pilgrims to the Passion Play in Oberammergau, the Mount of Beatitudes, Capernaum, Nazareth, Jericho and Qumran. We floated in the Dead Sea, knelt in Bethlehem, renewed baptisms in the Jordan River, did our own Palm Processional down the Mount of Olives, walked the Via Dolorosa through the old streets of Jerusalem, stood on the same Temple steps that Jesus did, and took in the wonder of Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and newer Garden Tomb. It was a transformative pilgrimage in so many ways both for individuals and for us as a group. Stay tuned in the coming months for opportunities to learn more about our trip in worship, the Octagon, on the website and through group presentations. For now, feel free to visit our Facebook page where you’ll find a running travelogue and hundreds of pictures of this ultimate road trip!

Facebook.com/SevernaParkUMC



ASP Service: August 14

The ASP team thanks you again for your very generous support in every way. Your acknowledgement of our need to buy gasoline was overwhelming! And we truly value your prayers and encouragement. Our 32 volunteers with the Appalachia Service Project had an amazing week in Magoffin County, KY. Four work crews repaired 5 homes, including two roofs, a lot of siding, spackling/trimming/painting several rooms, fixing leaks, and much more! They drank a LOT of “Ale 8,” had homemade “Cheesecake on a Stick,” and danced to a great Bluegrass band. Join us at **all services on Sunday, August 14** to hear and see the stories of an incredible week of service all revolving around the theme: “Rooted In Love!”



Serving at First Fruits Farm

Members of our congregation had a great time serving together at First Fruits Farm in June, picking plenty of tomatoes and produce to be shared with local food banks, homeless shelters, soup kitchens, and other food providers. Did you miss out on our June trip? Join us in August! A few slots still remain for families to serve together in missions. The farm is about an hour from the church. All ages are welcome to participate. Please sign up with Erica for our trip on **Saturday, August 20, 9:00-11:30am.** ebenjamin@severnaparkumc.org



UMYF This Summer

UMYF (United Methodist Youth Fellowship) meets every **Sunday night at 7:00 pm** for games, hanging out, and occasional special activities. We'll be here rain or shine! Incoming 7th graders are welcome to start attending!

Adults Loving Life Events

Save the Date for these upcoming events:
August 24 - Indoor picnic luncheon with catering by Mission BBQ and entertainment by singer/guitarist Jerry Colley.
Sept. 21-Luncheon with a presentation by Pastor Byron.
Oct. 26 - Luncheon with our own Shawn Reese joining us to play our favorite hymn requests.

Congratulations, Rob!

This year's SPUMC Man of the Year is **Rob Smith**. The SPUMC United Methodist Men presented the award at the nine o'clock service on June 19th (Father's Day), surprising Rob, who was - as usual- sitting behind the audio-visual equipment and ensuring that the streaming service was a success. The award recognizes Rob's years of service to SPUMC - he was a long-time member of the praise band (singing, playing keyboard, and playing guitar), worked at the garage sale in the electronics department, and participated in ASP, as well as his stand-out leadership during the COVID crisis. Rob played a pivotal role in SPUMC's



response to the COVID challenge by applying his technical and leadership skills to developing and expanding our streaming services. In the words of one of our pastors, he “saved the day,” committing hours and hours of service improving our technical capabilities and spending Sunday after Sunday working with our tech team. The streaming service has grown beyond a COVID emergency measure to become an integral part of our worship, reaching out to the home-bound, the traveler, and those outside the circle of regular attendees. Our congratulations to Rob on this well-deserved recognition.

Welcome Makenzie and Laura!

It is a joy to welcome Makenzie Mitchell as our new child care provider. She will be caring for children in the Nursery each **Sunday at the 9 & 10:30am services**. She is studying to become a sign language interpreter and has a 2 year old daughter.

We are also thrilled to announce that our search for a Music Director has been fruitful, bringing **Laura Young** to our church music ministry! Laura will begin her time at SPUMC on **August 1**, and we cannot wait for her to get started! Laura comes to us with a wealth of experience directing musical groups both in churches and public schools. She and her husband, Ty Young, will provide special music on **July 31**.

Make sure you give Makenzie, Laura, and Ty a warm welcome when you see them, and read a bit more about Laura below!

Hi, Congregation!

I enjoyed my visit with you in May and cannot wait to come on staff and begin making music together!



My husband, Ty Young, and I were both born on the East Coast, and raised in the Northwest. We met at the University of Oregon School of Music and were married by the Wesley Center minister.

We moved to Texas so Ty could do his doctoral studies at the University of North Texas, then settled in to raise our family. I have worked in music ministry, early childhood intervention and public school teaching, and recently finished my Master's degree in Music Education at Southern Methodist University. Ty is a professional musician and a senior IT engineer at DELL technologies.

We've long considered moving to the East Coast, and decided on Maryland when we were invited to move near our daughter and son in law, Marin and Alex Wilson. Our young adult son, Christian, plans to stay in Texas.

In mid-July, we will start our journey to our new home, a trip which is unlikely to be dull because we both love rescuing animals and will be bringing our three dogs, three cats, two cockatiels and bearded dragon lizard.



We are thrilled to live near salt water again, and excited for our new church home.

Laura Young,
Director of Music

Backpack Buddies

Our last backpack packing for the 2021-22 school year was on June 13. Thanks to all who have helped make this another successful year for Backpack Buddies! Your generous donations of food and funds allowed us to send home filled backpacks each week for 22 children. We are grateful for and also want to thank those who have shopped, helped with packing, or delivered the food to the school each week. We could not fulfill this mission without the support of this wonderful congregation. We'll be back in touch in August! Thank you,

Sandy Cuzzart and Norma Graber

Help With VBS

If you are able to be a substitute and help one day during VBS week, **July 18-22**, please let Erica know.

ebenjamin@severnaparkumc.org



Congratulations to these young graduates as they finish up their school year. Your church family is so proud of you and everything that you've accomplished. Best of luck with the next step in your journey!

High School Graduates

Annapolis Area Christian School:
Leslie Kelley

Archbishop Spalding:
Madison Gartside

Glen Burnie High School:
Cooper VanHorne

North County High School:
Tia Bixler

Severna Park High School:

Jacob Burfoot

Josie Dike

Brennan Dill

Kiefer Dill

Beverly Ellwood

Katelyn Haufe

Ben Howard

Paul Isenberg

Brady Main

Aaron Meier

Rebecca Praley

Drew Trull

Olivia Unger

Katie Wilson

Nick Wright

College and University Graduates

Grace Atkinson: BS in Public Health, minor in Community Health Promotion from West Virginia University

Madison Finnerin: BA in Social Work, minor in Psychology from UMBC

Lauren Monroe: Doctor of Physical Therapy, New York Medical College

Michael Netherland: Masters in Biology from Towson University, focus in Bioinformatics

Sara Netherland: BS in Math, Salisbury University. Will be teaching at Arundel High School in the fall

Sawyer Phillips: BS in Business Finance from East Carolina University. Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army

Chris Summers: BS in Information Science from the University of Maryland

Trevor Tan: BS in Building Construction from Virginia Tech

Ryan VanVeelen: BA in Finance, minor in Economics from West Virginia University

Spark in the Park!

This summer, our Family Ministries will be heading outside with a series of Spark in the Park meet-ups. Connect, cool off with an ice pop, and enjoy the summer sun with your church family.



- **July 11 5:00pm** Kinder Park Big Playground- 1001 Kinder Farm Park Rd.
- **July 29 6:00pm** Downs Park Playground- 8311 Downs Park Loop Pasadena
- **August 7 2:00pm** In the Parking Lot
- **August 20 9:00am** At First Fruit Farms- Advanced Sign-ups Required
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